











# Bobby Feaster

**Bobby Feaster**  
Dakota Student

I came to North Dakota for the first time in my life during the summer of 2014. I was a professional baseball umpire at the time working in the American Association professional league. It is an independent baseball league, meaning not affiliated with MLB teams but it was still professional baseball nonetheless. I was driving up to Winnipeg and the guy I was working with at the time asked me if I had ever seen the University of North Dakota campus and I said no, I hadn't, so we pulled off and took a short detour in Grand Forks.

It was later that summer while I was umpiring up in Winnipeg that I met my current girlfriend out after a game. It's not the most romantic story and so I'll spare you the details, but fast forward to January of 2015 and I was still dating my Winnipeg girlfriend while living in Florida working the college baseball circuit and I realized that if I wanted to try and make this relationship work with my girlfriend I would need to close the distance. I figured out that I needed to get a college education and I could also close the distance between me and my girlfriend from a four hour flight, down to a two hour drive and that is how I landed on the University of North Dakota.

I started in the fall of 2015 as a non-traditional 21 year old freshman and it was very difficult being back in school after being out of school for three years. Not only that, but it was also difficult being an "older" freshman, especially considering that I looked much older than my age and my interests have always been on the older side. It was difficult for me to connect with my fellow incoming freshman and I enjoyed spending my free time with my girlfriend. But it was also difficult because lots of people at UND are either from North Dakota or Minnesota, and from experience, it is very difficult to break into that group. Lots of people from their respective states came to UND already knowing people from back home or from the surrounding area. I did my best to try

to break in and I got in contact with the local USA hockey officials assignor. I had hoped that by getting out off campus, but still around a job likely being done by college kids, I could find people with mutual interests and make friends, but it was not as easy as I had hoped.

When I started school I thought that I wanted to be a teacher. I started with an undeclared major and getting my required classes completed with the plan of heading into a teaching degree. I realized rather quickly that teaching wasn't going to be my calling. I then started looking for something new. I thought that maybe something in the financial sector would be intriguing since I liked learning about money and I liked making money. It turns out that as soon as I had to take my first accounting class I realized that the financial sector would not be for me. I hated everything about accounting. To this day I am concerned and confused when I meet people and they tell me that they are accounting majors. Needless to say, I immediately went to see my academic advisor and I asked her what business major I could pursue and take the least amount of accounting classes as possible.

I landed on the business major of management. I also discovered that there was a sports business minor and I knew that would be right in my wheelhouse. I have loved everything about the sports business minor program and I am so thankful that I was able to take classes in that minor. All of my favorite classes have come from that minor and most of my favorite professors/instructors have come from taking these classes. I would encourage anyone considering the sports business minor to definitely 100% take the minor.

All throughout school I continued to date my girlfriend and while this may sound sappy or pandering, she was my rock. I can admit that there were many days during my college career that I was not very happy. I hated going to class, I hated doing the homework, I hated some of my professors at times and it made me a very angry person. Add on to the fact that my first two years I

walked to campus every day including in the winter when it was snowy and windy and that made for some extra miserable days. But lucky for me, I had a person who was right there with me the entire time, not physically standing by my side because we were still long distance, but emotionally supporting me in the very best way possible. I am so thankful that I had her to support me, but I know that not everyone has a person like that who is able to help them through the struggle of school, work and everything else going on in your life.

This is another great time to mention that there is never any shame in reaching out and asking for help. Some people may not understand but the people that need to be in your life will and you will be better off for it. That is all that matters.

I umpired one more summer after I started school, but I ended up getting fired midway through the season for issues relating to some of my ejections. After that situation, I became fed up with umpiring and I haven't umpired in two years. The following summer I stayed in Grand Forks. I realized that if I took a full summer schedule and added an extra class in each semester plus a summer internship before my final year, that I could graduate in three and half years. And so, I got a job at a local sporting goods store after having a difficult 4-6 week job search and I took my full summer schedule of classes setting myself up for being able to graduate early. I met some really great people at the job and although I didn't like the work/boss aspect of the job, I am very thankful for taking that job and meeting more people because I still stay in touch with those guys today.

During that summer I rediscovered my love for the game of hockey and thinking about the game from a management perspective. I had grown up around hockey because of my dad's job but it had never been something I pursued until that summer when I was working and realized how much I hated doing something I wasn't passionate about. I decided that I wanted to try and work for the men's college hockey team and so I did some digging and tried to use my dad's contacts to get in touch with Coach Brad Berry. I was able to do so and after talking with Coach Berry, he allowed me to come on board as a volunteer for a year and then take over

one of their student worker roles the following year. That decision has been one of the best decisions of my life and I am so thankful for having had the opportunity to sit and talk with Coach Berry that day.

Now, I am in my final semester at UND and I can confidently say that I am very excited to be closing in on a college degree. I would not say that it has been an easy journey but it has been a journey nonetheless. I can honestly say that when I first picked UND I never had any grandiose dreams of working for the men's hockey team and trying to pursue a career in hockey when I was finished but I am happy to report that I have never been more excited about a potential career in my short lived life. I am still dating my girlfriend and we are very happy together. I had a very non traditional route to UND but I believe all things in life happen for a reason and UND fits into that belief.

Finally, if you ever see me around campus feel free to wave or say hi. If I don't respond it's not because I'm trying to ignore you. I more than likely didn't see you or was too consumed by a podcast between my ears.

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Photo by Bobby Feaster  
Bobby Feaster is a business student here at UND



Photo by Trevor Alveshere  
Joonghwa Lee is an assistant professor from South Korea

# Joonghwa Lee

**Madison Feltman**  
Dakota Student

Dr. Joonghwa Lee is an assistant professor of communication here at UND. He has been a part of the department since 2015. Dr. Lee is originally from South Korea where he began his secondary education and in 2006 he immigrated to the United States. He started a new path in advertising at Michigan State University. Upon receiving his masters Dr. Lee also received a PhD in journalism and strategic communication at the Missouri School of Journalism. Dr. Lee then moved on to work at Middle Tennessee State University for three years as an assistant professor. While working in Tennessee Dr. Lee also got engaged to his wife Dr. Soojung Kim, who brought him to Grand Forks and the University of North Dakota. Before coming to the University, many changes became a part of Dr. Lee's life as he has started a family. Things were not always easy and mapped out for Dr. Lee, yet he persevered.

**What brought you to the United States?**  
"When I was a college student in my 20s, I was not a good student, I had no dream and no purpose to go to college. I started out with my major

as civil engineering with the idea that I would earn money, that is all I was focused on. I had no interest or motivation within that area. I didn't study, I didn't go to class a lot, I had no dream, I had no motivation. I changed my major and university three times, started over and I had a lot of people tell me that I screwed up my life. When I started the third university at 26 years old, I found my motivation and my passion within education. I had a chance to visit the US for eight weeks during a cultural exchange program at the University of Oregon. I was shocked it was a new environment but instead of getting discouraged, I had curiosity. I was encouraged by professors from the cultural exchange program and my own curiosity to come to the US.

**What was life like when you first came to the United States?**  
"It has been over ten years since I came to the US. It was challenging and hard to survive with new changes. Everything was new and English is not my first language. It was hard to understand the new culture, I had no idea where Michigan was. I experienced a lot of new cultures. It took me a year to order Subway, there are a lot words I did not know, but after a year I thought it was time to try it. I don't want to say that it was

a culture shock, more so culture differences."


**What were some of the hardships of coming to the states?**  
"The most difficult thing for me was leaving my parents. My sister had come to the U.S. earlier than me. I am the first son and in South Korea the first son has a lot of responsibility, but my parents supported me. Since I first came I hadn't been back to South Korea until 2009 when I got a call from my mom. When I got home my dad was in the hospital and didn't recognize me, he had been sick for over a year, but did not want to bother my education. I stayed with my dad for a week. I was told my dad had six months so I came back to the U.S.. About ten days later I got the call that my dad was passing away and I said goodbye to him. I was shocked, I never expected this. I felt guilty I couldn't be with my dad during his time."

**How did you decided you wanted to teach?**  
"I had never thought about becoming a professor, but after my dad passed away, I found out that my dad had


written two books but was unable to publish them. He was also a professor. His former students got together, collected money, revised his manuscripts and published the books for him. When I was young I didn't understand why he took care of his students, but with these books, I understand his purpose. This is why I decided to become a professor, like my dad."

**What is your favorite part of teaching?**  
"My favorite part of teaching is my students. I have received thank you notes, Christmas cards and wedding invitations. I never expected this kind of relationship or these things. They make me feel as if my job is meaningful. Obviously being a professor is a job, it earns me money, but I don't think of it that way. It think of it as my calling."

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Michael Wittgraf plays the piano at UND.

Trevor Alveshere/Dakota Student

# Michael Wittgraf

**Maddie Two Crow**

Dakota Student

Michael Wittgraf is known for his role at UND as a music theory teacher, bassoon instructor and composer here at the University. His path to music was unexpected, but was a solid path of exploration.

“My mom was my piano teacher and I started playing piano when I was six. Even earlier, I remember taking my dad’s baton and conducting along to recordings of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony. My dad was a public school music teacher. He taught me elementary music in fourth grade and he was my high school band director. I learned to play a lot of instruments. I learned saxophone, and recorder. My dad actually had a full set of recorders, he had one of the little soprano ones, an alto, a bass. I learned to play them all.

When I was in seventh grade, my dad brought home a bassoon from one of the storage closets at his school and told me to learn to play it. He gave me a book and told me to figure it out, he didn’t know how to play it. I didn’t know anything about it, but I figured it out. In eighth grade, I learned to play the organ.

My church needed an organist, so I learned. It was really natural. I discovered the symphonies of Anton Bruckner and I listened to two of them every day for a year. They’re like an hour long and I just listened to the same ones over and over.

In high school, I’d go to school early in the morning with my dad, rather than ride the bus or take my bike.

I’d sit in the band room and one morning I saw an electric bass in there, so I learned to play it. After that, I learned tuba because it was loud. You can’t really

play bassoon in pep band and marching band and I didn’t want to play saxophone again, cause it was quiet. I found a trombone in a back closet one day and learned to play that too.

I went to college for math, but while I was there I played in all the music ensembles. The music professors tried to get me to become a music major, but I didn’t. I graduated with a math degree and went for a masters, but I failed my first year. I then took a few years off. I was a delivery van driver in Minneapolis. You can give me any address in the city and I can find it. I also played in a bunch of rock bands. I played electric bass or saxophone, depending on the band. I did that for a few years, then I got married in ‘92, had a kid in ‘94, and I was still playing in rock bands.

I went back to school for a masters in music. That was when I studied composition. I was still playing in rock bands and driving delivery vans too. We moved from Minneapolis to Chicago so I could do my doctorate in composition at Northwestern. I didn’t have my first real job and make my first real money until I got my first professor gig. I was 34.”

This untraditional journey to music led to a wide open future in composition and Dr. Wittgraf’s current position at UND. Dr. Wittgraf has performed all over the world and has been invited to come share his music with the world. Specializing in electronic music, most of his compositions incorporate different softwares and instruments, producing out of this world music.

**Maddie Two Crow** is a columnist for Dakota Student. He can be reached at [maddie.ardelean@und.edu](mailto:maddie.ardelean@und.edu)

# Laike Higginbotham

**Molly Andrews**

Dakota Student

Laike Higginbotham may just seem to be your local barista with the cool hair but she is really a coffee master at Archives Coffee house.

“I honestly had never been here before until I came to pick up my job application. I had just quit my old job and my aunts were working here helping Kyle set up pride and they were telling me that he needed a new employee and so I was like okay, sure, and I thought I would check it out. And I’ve been here for two years now. I just like the people. I like interacting with people and meeting people. I love my regulars. I love talking to them and getting to know them.”

Higginbotham loves her job and she loves making people’s day with a simple cup of coffee, giving her the title of Master Barista at Archives. There are many things that are important to her, but one in particular seems to stand out, and that is making other people happy.

“I really like making other people happy, that is huge for me and that is why I like working here. I think because everyone is happy when they leave with coffee, that makes everyone happy and I just really enjoy making people happy. That’s a huge part of what gets me going, of what keeps me going.”

Her passion for coffee is shared with a passion for music as well.

“I went to an art school when I was in highschool for violin and that was always a huge part of my life. Then I came here and I thought I would get away from that and I guess I just gave that passion to coffee.”

Higginbotham said she had missed violin and she had recently picked it up again. She started playing when she was eight but now she is going on to her 13th year.

She had also moved a few times in her life and these moves have made a positive impact on her life.

“I didn’t move a lot but I moved a couple times. It’s a lot of meeting new people and starting over a lot and it helped me realize different things about myself. When you meet new people, you’re like ‘oh I’m totally not who I thought I was last year’ and moving was a big part of helping me become who I am.”

Higginbotham was originally from North Dakota and has lived in both Montana as well as Florida. She loves Disney World and she is still an annual pass holder and goes at

least once every time she visits. She has always wanted to work there but she said she would have a hard time leaving where she is at right now.

“I care about a lot. I care really hard about a lot of things you shouldn’t care about but that would be one of them. Passionate. When I care about something I put all of everything into it so like this job I started out not caring too much about coffee but here I am two years later and it’s just like my whole life is here, in this shop. And I really enjoy it.”

Not only is Higginbotham an inspiring person, she is also inspired by trying to make other people’s days. Even if it is just the little things, she will do everything she can to put a smile on someone’s face.

“As of right now, seeing everything that has been going on in our country that hasn’t been good inspired me to do as best as I can and just try to make people’s day, even if it just makes their day better because it can really help. Just by being nice to someone or making cute latte art in someone’s drink. It can really improve their day and that is all I can really ask for.”

Her beautiful latte art and genuine personality is not the only thing that she is known for.

“I haven’t had a natural hair color in three years. For the past year it’s been purple. I started out like a blueish black, then I turned it grey, then purple grey, then blue grey, then I turned it purple, then I went pink and then I went blue and then I went back to my purple phase and that’s where I’ve been for awhile.”

Looking back, Higginbotham said she could see different parts of herself in her hair color. Purple reminds her of happy times in her life and when her hair was blue, it matched her feelings at the time. After reflecting, she noticed that maybe the different hair colors represented different stages in her life.

Lastly, Higginbotham wanted to send a message to her regulars at Archives:

“It’s really hard having regulars that just come in and only see you as a barista. So many times I care about my regulars and I want to know what’s happening in your life and I want you to tell me everything because I just care about you so much.”

**Molly Andrews** is an A&C writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at [molly.andrews@und.edu](mailto:molly.andrews@und.edu)



Laike Higginbotham is a barista at Archives Coffee House.

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Izaiah is a Student at UND and the founder of HER clothing

Photo courtesy of Izaiah Reynolds

# Izaiah Reynolds

**Madison Overby**  
Dakota Student

Izaiah Reynolds is a face that many would recognize walking through the University of North Dakota campus. He is someone who puts the utmost value in his connections with those around him and the impact that he leaves behind him.

“I think one way UND has shaped my life has been personally,” Reynolds said. “The way I interact with people and the way people interact with me and how are we benefiting from each other, those are the most important things to me.”

A marketing and entrepreneurship major with a minor in Chinese, Reynolds is not waiting around to graduate to

start pursuing his future.

“I would love to see people come forward with different ideas,” Reynolds said. “We have a great business program at UND, but I don’t think there’s as much of a push for students to create things while they’re here. The program is set up for when you leave here, but this is the spot to get things up and running. You don’t need to be waiting to act.”

Reynolds full-heartedly embraces this idea. He has started up his own clothing company just recently called HER. It is socially driven and a big reason behind why it came to be has to deal with Reynolds’ upbringing. He was raised by his single mother and saw the hardships that come along with not only being a single parent but also being a woman in today’s society. He does a lot of work with the CVIC, the multicultural center on campus and the Women’s Center here in Grand Forks.

“I want to be able to give back to all different groups of women,” Reynolds said. “I’m bringing something that I love, which is fashion, and connecting that with my appreciation for women. I want to make a new avenue in that sense of having a clothing line that isn’t just pumping things out. I want to have clothing that has values standing behind it.”

Reynolds is currently working out the details but planning on donating a portion of the proceeds to a local outlet such as the CVIC or the Women’s Center.

One thing that makes Reynolds stand out at UND is his passion for the growth of the University as well as the growth of the community.

“I want to be someone who pushes the envelope,” Reynolds said. “Not only as I’m here at the school but I want to be able to, as they say, leave that legacy. That being said, if I leave something here, I want it to kind of be a blueprint for future growth. I want to create something that changes with the times and can adapt to what people need.”

The thing that Reynolds really stressed was all that Grand Forks and UND has brought to him. Reynolds grew up in North Carolina and moved here with his family a year before starting at UND. Although the move made him a little bit nervous because of the huge change, he was welcomed by the community which made the transition that much easier.

“The thing that’s really different between Grand Forks and North Carolina is that people here really care,” Reynolds said. “There’s a willingness to help here on campus. There are so many people that don’t mind putting in just a little bit of extra work to see you be successful.”

Izaiah Reynolds is a name that will be seen and heard throughout the Grand Forks community for many years to come. He truly is someone who is passionate about building a legacy that can change the path of UND to produce graduates ready to take on the world.

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# Colton Poolman

**Kyle Kinnamon**  
Dakota Student

Poolman. A name that has become synonymous with University of North Dakota hockey in recent years. Starting with strength and conditioning coach Mark Poolman, who has helped create an NHL caliber program for the North Dakota players.

To NHL defensemen and former North Dakota defensemen Tucker Poolman, who helped lead North Dakota to their eighth NCAA National Championship in the 2015-2016 season. Tucker was a key piece to the North Dakota defensive core for three seasons and looks to be a key piece of the Winnipeg Jets future.

To newly appointed captain, junior defenseman, Colton Poolman. Poolman encompasses every attribute a captain should embody. Poolman’s attitude, ability and work ethic are unmatched. While Poolman embodies incredible abilities on the ice, his humbleness is what sets him apart. Poolman’s down to earth attitude and “do your job” mentality is what has made him who he is today. Constantly working hard day in and day out no matter the circumstances. His teammates and coaches made note of it.

“Colton Poolman is one of those leaders that was appointed by his peers to be our captain, which is exactly what the coaching staff thought too,” head coach Brad Berry said.

“Colt really has what it means to be a Sioux. He is a great leader

on and off the ice,” senior alternate captain Hayden Shaw said. “He is such a great player and works incredibly hard, especially in the weight room. He sets the tone with how he competes every day in practice.”

Poolman grew up in East Grand Forks and has been around this area for nearly his whole life. He understands the responsibility that comes with being the captain of such a historic program like North Dakota.

“It is an honor,” Poolman said. “It is a very humbling thing to be named captain here, especially growing up here seeing all the great players play here. Seeing what this program meant to them and has meant to me. It is just a huge honor.”

Over his first few seasons at North Dakota, Poolman has taken every opportunity available and ran with it to the fullest, while constantly remembering the privilege he has to play at North Dakota. Poolman exemplifies an unwavering work ethic that inspires those around him on and off the ice.

“He is a guy who does not cut any corners. Whether it is in the classroom, on the ice or in the community he is a guy who does everything to the fullest,” Berry said. “He does everything at the highest level, where it makes the accountability on the part of the rest of the players in the locker room get to that level.”

Poolman’s work ethic has been noticed by many NHL teams as well. Poolman was asked to join the Vancouver Canucks this past

summer at their 2018 development camp. Once again, Poolman jumped at the opportunity and ran with it to the fullest.

Poolman has spent the beginning of his time at North Dakota setting the tone for himself when it comes to on and off the ice. Now, he must not only set the tone for himself but the rest of the team as well. That should not be an issue for him.

“You try not to do anything differently,” Poolman said. “You got to where you were just by being yourself, and I don’t think you want to change up anything or try

and do anything differently. There is obviously more responsibility when it comes to the team. I need to make sure everyone is up and ready to go. But, overall it is about being yourself.”

Poolman will continue to set the tone for this season with his work ethic and attitude, all while leaving even more of a legacy for the Poolman name in North Dakota hockey history.

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Russ Hons/Dakota Student

Colton Poolman looks to the puck during a game against St. Cloud State





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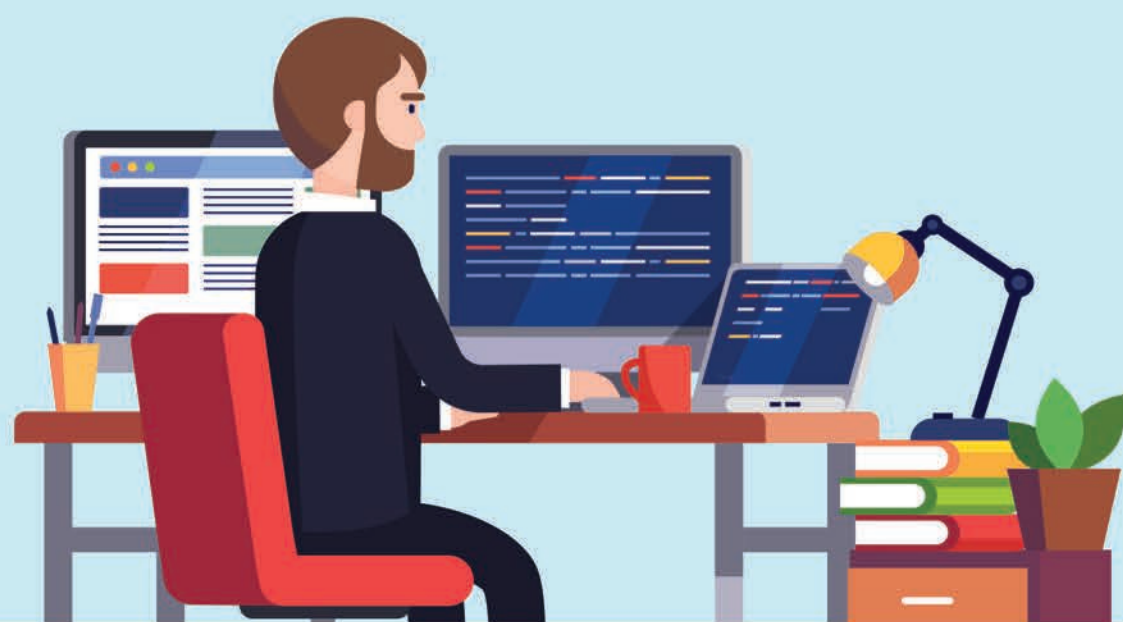
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