Meet the Team

Meet the people behind the Dakota Foundation.

Our Officers

A. BART HOLADAY
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN-EMERITUS

Bart is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), former Air Force officer, federal civil servant, venture capitalist and philanthropist.

As a cadet at the USAFA, he was a varsity athlete, class president, Cadet Wing Commander and earned a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University.

In more than 20 years as a venture capitalist, he was an industry leader ultimately serving as an officer and board member of the National Venture Capital Association. He co-chaired an industry task force that established the first portfolio valuation and performance measurements standards for private equity. In these positions he advanced his vision of building the American economy based on innovation, entrepreneurship, investment and hard work.

ANDREW J. SELLERS
CHAIRMAN

Andrew Sellers grew up in Colorado Springs and graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy as the valedictorian of his class. He attended the University of Oxford as a Holaday Scholar and a Truman Scholar, earning both a Master's degree and a PhD.

Andrew served as a U.S. Air Force Senior Cyberspace Operations Officer with expertise in large-scale heterogeneous network design, deep-web data extraction, and data theory who led enterprise network modernization and design efforts for the Air Force and large Dept. of Defense initiatives. He concluded his Air Force service as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He is an Iraq war veteran.

Andrew has since held leadership roles in data and technology

KELSEY NOLAN
PRESIDENT & CEO

Kelsey graduated Cum Laude with a B.A. from Scripps College, holds a Philanthropy Professional Certificate from Stanford, and is pursuing her MBA at the University of Oxford as a Director's Award scholarship recipient.

As President & CEO of The Dakota Foundation, she pursues program-related investments that get the highest social return out of initiatives fostering self-sufficiency. Kelsey comes with a background in launching venture-backed start-ups, including social enterprise and B-corp companies. With a passion for social impact, she has spearheaded public-private partnerships to scale programs in criminal justice, child welfare, and financial empowerment, and serves on multiple nonprofit boards addressing homelessness, education and economic development within Colorado.

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entrepreneurial, non-profit organizations that help people help themselves in achieving greater economic self-sufficiency.

PETER B. VILLELLA
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Peter B. Villella was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM. He has a BA with Distinction in History and Spanish from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in History from UCLA. He currently lives in Colorado Springs, CO, where he is Associate Professor of History at the United States Air Force Academy.

Villella's research and teaching expertise pertains to Latin American and world history. He is the author and co-editor of several works pertaining to Mexican history, including *Indigenous Elites and Creole Identity in Colonial Mexico* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), and *History of the Chichimeca Nation* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2019). He is also a contributing editor to the *Handbook of Latin American Studies,* a project of the Library of Congress, and is an executive officer with the American Society for Ethnohistory.

Before and during his academic career, Villella traveled, lived, and worked in many countries,

JUDY VILLELLA
ACCOUNTING & LOAN MANAGER

Judy was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM. She attended University of New Mexico where she played basketball and earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting. Upon graduation, she earned her CPA and would spend the next 8 years working in public accounting in New Mexico and North Carolina. Her primary focus was performing financial statement audits for private, government, and not-for-profit clients.

Judy currently resides in Colorado Springs and is enjoying discovering all that Colorado has to offer with her husband and three young daughters.

CATHARINE M. HOLADAY
VICE-CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Cathy grew up in Colorado and loves outdoor sports. She graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1973 and began a business career.

When, in 1986, her third child was born, she left the work world to raise her children and become actively involved in the community as a volunteer.

She currently serves on the board of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and is a board member of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Widowed twice, she married Bart Holaday in 2013.

children lacking educational opportunities in Ecuador and children living on the streets in Brazil. In the US, in addition to his work with the Dakota Foundation, he has been involved with local chapters of the ALS Association. He enjoys hiking and snowboarding, ACC basketball, playing the piano, and spending time with his wife, Judy, and three daughters.

Our Advisory Board

T. JUSTIN BRONDER

Justin Bronder is a Distinguished Graduate from the US Air Force Academy, where he had the good fortune to earn the first Alberta Bart Holaday Scholarship to attend Exeter College, Oxford.

After completing his DPhil in Astrophysics, Justin went on to Air Force assignments at the Air Force Research Laboratory and deployed to the Middle East to support rapid acquisition programs for US Special Operations Command. In 2010, Justin graduated from the USAF Test Pilot School and then led test programs on the CV-22 and various C-130 aircraft while being named Air Force Materiel Command's Flight Test Engineer of the Year in 2013.

Selected for the Olmsted Scholarship that same year, Justin and his family moved to Poland,

ERIN A. FINGER

Erin is a financial crimes investigations specialist, and currently leads an Anti Money Laundering/Counter Terror Finance investigations team at Bank of America in Charlotte, NC. She has previously held investigative positions in AML, internal investigations, and mortgage and loan fraud. Prior to her career in private sector financial crimes investigations, Erin served in the US Air Force as a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, leading federal criminal investigations across the globe.

Originally from Louisville, KY, Erin is a Distinguished Graduate from the US Air Force Academy with a major in Political Science and a minor in Spanish. She attended Exeter College at the University of Oxford as a Holaday Scholar, earning an

science education outreach programs for both children and adults throughout his career.

America.

Erin began practicing yoga while deployed in Kandahar, Afghanistan and earned her 200-hour yoga teacher training certification in 2016. She currently teaches at NoDa Yoga in Charlotte, NC and also serves as an Ambassador and yoga teacher for the Veterans Yoga Project, teaching veterans and specializing in trauma-informed yoga. Erin has also played the cello since the age of four and still enjoys going to concerts and playing chamber music with friends. She and her husband, Patrick, are avid travelers and enjoy exploring the world together whenever possible!

KATRINA HANCOCK

Katrina Hancock is a Strategy and Fundraising Consultant working with a number of UK based charities which are aiming to set up or develop their strategic philanthropic initiatives. Clients include those in the Higher Education, Healthcare, and Children's Services sectors and her work includes mentoring, capacity building, and strategy development and implementation.

She was previously the Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Exeter College, Oxford, Oxford where she raised over £50m which has funded the creation of a portfolio of student scholarships and bursaries, an endowment for teaching and research posts, and

SAM POTTER

Sam Potter, from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, is pursuing a JD at Stanford Law School. She graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a bachelor's degree in English literature and legal studies and minored in Russian. She also earned an MPhil in international relations from the University of Oxford as a Holaday Scholar.

Sam aspires to promote the safe and equitable use of outer space. She has interned with the General Counsel of the Air Force, NASA's International and Space Law Practice Group, and served as an advisor with the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Previously, Sam was an Acquisition Officer in

century teaching facilities.

Under her leadership there, the undergraduate alumni participation rate rose to 49% in 2014, the 700th Anniversary Year - the highest globally in Higher Education outside the USA.

She is a strategic thinker and leader who is passionate about enabling individuals and organizations to partner together and transform the lives of others through effective philanthropy.

She serves as a trustee and Board Member of her local branch of the UK initiative, Street Pastors, and theological college (seminary), Wycliffe Hall.

35,000 military police as well as overseeing a $15M deployment.

Sam will continue her dedication to service as a Judge Advocate where she hopes to influence outer space policy and law in the U.S. Air and Space Forces.

WILL KUSLER

Will Kusler grew up in Kulm, ND and attended the University of North Dakota for both his undergraduate Finance degree and M.B.A.

While attending UND, he was a member of their football team and contributed to a national championship and national runner-up. Additionally, Will was one of the original five managing and founding directors of the Dakota Venture Group. Through this organization, he was introduced to the Dakota Foundation and has served as its North Dakota representative for several years.

Currently, Will is the Location

chapter, serving as the head powerlifting coach for the last five years.

Will lives in Grand Forks with his wife and two children.

Our Staff

AVERY POLACEK

Avery grew up in Colorado Springs and graduated from Rhodes College with a bachelor's degree in history. She also earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. She has worked for more than 10 years in grants management, helping several foundations in Colorado Springs and Denver manage their grant portfolios.

Avery enjoys hiking, making pottery, and exploring Colorado with her husband and two daughters.

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