

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

March 22, 2022

FROM THE DEAN

Student Mental Health

Heightened by the disruption over the past two years from the COVID-19 pandemic and world events, colleges across the country are grappling with a rise in student mental health issues. For our students earning degrees in arguably the most rigorous undergraduate programs at NDSU, those disruptions combine with academic pressures to hit students particularly hard. In some cases, our students' stresses are compounded by programs with unnecessary high-stakes testing cultures, gatekeeping mentalities, and heavy workloads. As we begin advising students for classes next semester, one of the recommendations from advisors is for students not to exceed the recommended credit load of 15-18 hours, reducing stress and anxiety.

Several years ago, I attended a National Effective Teaching Institute training, where the instructor, Professor Richard Felder, provided us with the following scenario.

A student in your first-semester sophomore course stands in front of your desk in obvious distress. He starts talking about the test he just failed, and then he tells you that he had a B average in his freshman year but things are falling apart this semester and he's failing most of his courses. As he talks, he gets more agitated and seems to be fighting back tears. Then it's as if he suddenly thinks "Hey, this is my professor—I can't lose it right in front of him." He makes a heroic effort to pull himself together, apologizes to you for taking your time, and turns and heads for the door. What should you do?

After discussing the issue in small groups, Felder led a discussion about the step-by-step procedure he would follow, which included (1) stopping the student from leaving, (2) passing him the box of Kleenex in his office drawer for just such occasions, (3) carefully listening to what he says, (4) getting him into the hands of a qualified counselor, and (5) following up.

How do we get a student into the hands of a qualified counselor? [NDSU Counseling Center](#) is an essential resource that all faculty and staff should be aware of for referring students. Counseling Services is located in Ceres Hall (Room 212). The Counseling Center has a useful [Decision-Making Tree for Faculty and Staff](#), which can help one know what to look for and take action to get students the assistance they need. I recommend that you print a copy of the brochure or bookmark it in your browser and have it ready with the box of Kleenex in your office drawer.

A related resource every faculty and staff member should know about is the [NDSU Care Team Reporting Form](#). If you aren't sure how to respond or who should know about concerns you have related to a student's emotional or psychological well-being or unusual behavior, you should fill out the form. The Care Team will review the information and determine the next steps.



IN THE NEWS

[Battle of the Cents-es to benefit NDSU student's family](#)

[Computer science professor featured on Scholars Strategy Network](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

Amirhadi Alesadi and **Sarah Ghazanfari**, Ph.D. students in the **Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering**, won IBM-Zerner Graduate Student Awards for their presentations at the 61st Sanibel Symposium, one of the most prestigious conferences in the fields of quantum mechanics and computational materials science and physics.

The **NDSU Clean Snowmobile team** finished 2nd in the diesel division of the SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge and won awards for best handling and best fuel efficiency. They're holding an open house Friday, March 25 at the Auxiliary Enterprises Building. Doors open at 6:30.

Please let [College Happenings](#) know about honors, awards, new grants and other announcements so we can share them with other faculty and staff.

NEW HIRES

Susan Anderson has joined the **Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering** as the Office and Budget Coordinator.

Joy Navratil has joined the **Department of Computer Science** as an Administrative Assistant.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 24, **War in Ukraine: NDSU Student Perspectives**. You're invited to a panel discussion featuring Ukrainian students currently attending NDSU. 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Room of Nations.

Wednesday, April 6, **Strategies of Antiracist Action in STEM Labs**. This virtual session is presented by Dr. Bala Chaudhary from Dartmouth College. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Register here](#).

COLLEGE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year the College of Engineering is proud to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, staff and graduate students in the areas of teaching, research and service.

Nominations for our annual teaching and research awards are open through April 15. Nominations for our annual staff awards are open through July 15.

For more information on how to nominate a colleague and for a look at past winners head to our [College Awards website](#).

UNIVERSITY AWARD NOMINATIONS

Staff Recognition Award

The NDSU Staff Senate, in partnership with the Office of Human Resources, invites you to recognize current broadbanded staff members for making NDSU a better place. The awards are given to acknowledge outstanding achievement on the job; exceptional contributions toward effectiveness and efficiency of operations; outstanding service to other employees, students, or visitors; and distinguished efforts in staff development.

Award recipients will be announced at the Staff Recognition Social on April 29th from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom. For more information and to complete the online nomination form please go to: http://www.ndsu.edu/staff_senate/staff_recognition_award/. Nominations are due by April 6.

THE GREEN BANDANA PROJECT

You may have heard about The Green Bandana Project or seen green bandanas on backpacks across campus. So far NDSU has had over a thousand students, staff and faculty take the pledge.

The goal of the Green Bandana Project is to be a safe individual to support with mental health- related issues and that they know where the resources are. You too can become an advocate and create proactive change for those struggling with mental health at NDSU through The Green Bandana Project.

The next staff and faculty training session is this **Wednesday, March 23rd at 12:00pm (Noon) on Zoom**. Sign up for a training session on our website, [here](#). Click “Training 1 Registration.” You will receive a Zoom link via email before the training session.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DoD: Air Force Young Investigator Program

The Fiscal Year 2023 Air Force Young Investigator Research Program ([YIP](#)) intends to support early career scientists and engineers who have received PhD or equivalent degrees by April 1, 2015, or later showing exceptional ability and promise for conducting basic research. The program objective is to foster creative basic research in science and engineering; enhance early career development of outstanding young investigators; and increase opportunities for the young investigator to recognize the Air Force and Space Force mission and related challenges in science and engineering.

Whitepaper Deadline: April 18, 2022

NIH: Bioengineering Partnerships with Industry (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) [[PAR-22-123](#)] solicits applications from research partnerships formed by academic and industrial investigators to accelerate the development and adoption of promising bioengineering tools and technologies that can address important biomedical problems. The objectives are to establish these tools and technologies as robust, well-characterized solutions that fulfill an unmet need and are capable of enhancing our understanding of life science processes or the practice of medicine. Awards will focus on supporting multidisciplinary teams that apply an integrative, quantitative bioengineering approach to developing technologies. The goal of the program is to support technological innovations that deliver new capabilities which can realize meaningful solutions within 5-10 years.

Upcoming Deadlines: May 26 and September 26, 2022

RECENTLY FUNDED GRANTS

- Ademola Monsur Hammed (PI), Ewumbua Monono (CPI), Niloy Chandra Sarker (CPI), Ademola Ayodeji Ajayi-Banji (CPI). Waxing of corn starch to produced waterproof film for bale-net wrap. \$36,848 from the ND Corn Utilization Council. 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2023.

RECENTLY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

- Jordi Estevadeordal (PI). Experimental Investigation of Passive Control of Dynamic Stall Using Micro. \$45,001 from the U.S. Air Force. 03/01/2022 – 09/01/2022.
- Majura Fortunatus Selekwu (PI). Functional Coatings for Vehicle Autonomy – Phase III: Development of a Robotic Vehicle for Testing PPG Coatings. \$203,899 from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. 03/02/2022 – 09/25/2023.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

For 2022, 30 publications by authors with the College of Engineering affiliation have appeared in various journals, according to the ISI Web of Science and submissions from faculty. Here are some of the most recent publications:

- Dey, Arup, and Nita Yodo. 2022. “Conservative Confidence Interval Prediction in Fused Deposition Modeling Process With Linear Optimization Approach.” *ASCE-ASME Journal of Risk and Uncertainty in Engineering Systems Part B-Mechanical Engineering* 8 (1): 011101. <https://doi.org/10.1115/1.4051750>.
- Rolle, Braxton, Ravi Kiran, and Jeremy Straub. 2022. “A Pathfinding Algorithm for Lowering Infection Exposure of Healthcare Personnel Working in Makeshift Hospitals.” *Healthcare* 10 (2): 344. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare10020344>.
- Shariatnasab, Mahshad, Farhad Shirani, and Elza Erkip. 2022. “Fundamental Privacy Limits in Bipartite Networks Under Active Attacks.” *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications* 40 (3): 940–54. <https://doi.org/10.1109/JSAC.2022.3142299>.

See your name on this list? Help us get the word out about your amazing work by submitting it as a **Breakthrough Alert**. [This online form](#) is an easy, step-by-step guide for summarizing published research for the general public.

College Happenings is distributed to the NDSU College of Engineering staff and faculty every other Tuesday.

Read past issues of *College Happenings* [here](#).

Deadline for submissions to *College Happenings* is 12:00 p.m. Fridays.

Contact kyle.bosch@ndsu.edu to submit items for *College Happenings*.

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