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NDSU Multicultural Alumni E-Newsletter

NDSU Always a Part of You Spring Semester 2013

Hello Multicultural Alums! The NDSU Division of Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach is proud to share with you our Multicultural Alumni E-Newsletter. By creating this newsletter, NDSU hopes to create a sense of belonging amongst our Multicultural Alumni as well as keep you connected and in touch with developments affecting the university and alumni communities. By staying updated and informed about the university's diversity initiatives, we can help the campus become a more diverse, unified and welcoming community for all. You can also stay connected by LinkedIn or visiting our [FB Page](#) as well. For more information please contact Vice President Myers: Evie.Myers@ndsu.edu

NDSU

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

NDSU Student from South Sudan receives Scholarship

Story from Fargo Forum By: Charly Haley - 09/28/2012

While growing up in a mountainous area of South Sudan, David Lukudu liked to play with rocks. Now, the 46-year-old is a geosciences student at North Dakota State University and recipient of a 2012 Subaru Minority Student Scholarship of \$1,500 from the Geological Society of America. "I am very excited about that," Lukudu said. "I feel very honored." Lukudu was nominated for the scholarship by Bernhardt Saini-Eidukat, chairman of the geosciences department at NDSU. "When I got the email announcing (the opportunity for) this award, I immediately thought of David," Saini-Eidukat said. "Seeing what a hard worker he is and how dedicated he is, it made him, in my mind, the perfect person for this." He pointed out that Lukudu works 40 hours a week supporting a wife and two children while

taking on a full class load to complete his degree. Saini-Eidukat was thrilled to find out Lukudu received the scholarship. "David is an extremely deserving person who works hard, and I'm sure (he) will be successful in geosciences," Saini-Eidukat said. Lukudu said he left South Sudan to escape political wars and moved to Egypt. He lived for 13 years in Egypt, where he started his undergraduate education. He was unable to complete his degree because he and his wife were resettled by the United Nations to the U.S. in 2000. After getting his family settled, Lukudu looked to pursue a geology degree. "I was looking for a program with good geology because I love geology," he said. He decided on NDSU after also considering the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, and began classes in 2009. Lukudu will graduate

sometime next year. "When I graduate, I'm looking for jobs at oil companies back home," Lukudu said. He would also consider jobs in the Middle East because he is fluent in Arabic. "It's preferable if I could go back home," he said. Lukudu said he is grateful for the Subaru scholarship because it is helping him achieve his dream. "That chance (to get a degree) was not there before, but I got the chance here," he said. "I can live my dreams today, even if I'm older." Lukudu said he often compares people who help him to someone in South Sudan who gave him a pen while he was in grade school there. "If someone bought you a pen, you don't forget him, because he contributed to giving you knowledge," Lukudu said. He's grateful for his NDSU professors. "They contributed a lot to giving me that knowledge."



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NDSU Student's Harvard Research Published

Harvard Gazette Press Release:

Most of us want to swim in a lake where we can see our toes. Clear, oxygen-rich water supports not only human swimmers, but also intricate webs of animal and microbial life. That life can be disrupted when too many nutrients — from fertilizers, pollution, and other factors — overload the system. In those cases, aquatic ecosystems can cross a tipping point: the nutrients cause algae to bloom, and the extra bacteria eating the extra algae use up all the oxygen in the water. The end result is a murky, green lake that is difficult to

restore, despite herculean interventions.

Promising new research out of the [Harvard Forest](#), funded by the National Science Foundation and published today in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) (PNAS), offers insights on how and why these tipping points occur. "The first step to preventing tipping points is to understand what causes them in the first place," said Aaron Ellison, senior ecologist at the forest and co-author of the study, "and for that you need an experiment where you can demonstrate cause and effect."

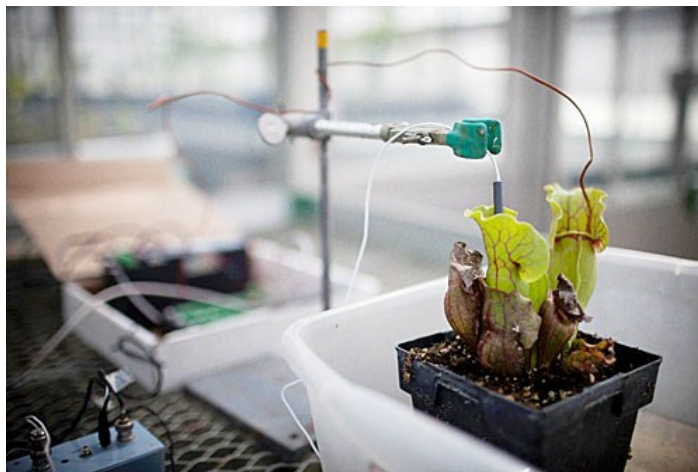
In the PNAS study, the Harvard research team demonstrated how to reliably trigger tipping points by continually adding a set amount of organic matter — comparable to decomposing algae in a lake — to a small aquatic ecosystem.

Jennie Sirota, an undergraduate at North Dakota State University, is the lead author of the PNAS study. Sirota led the field and lab components of the study as an intern in the Harvard Forest Summer Research Program.

For more information:

[Harvard Gazette](#)

[National Science Foundation](#)



Oxygen sensors inside a northern pitcher plant reveal when an ecosystem tipping point has been reached. *Photo by John Hirsch*





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NDSU Always a Part of You Spring Semester 2013

NDSU Alumni Achieves Entrepreneurial Success

NDSU Alumni Courtney Samuel has always had the dream of owning his own successful business and today he can say that through hard work and dedication that dream has come true.

Courtney attended NDSU from 1996-2000. "My NDSU experience was pretty awesome, besides the cold winters... Fargo is an awesome community with great support for the college." Courtney was a student athlete, involved in Black Student Alliance and majored in CIS.

Upon graduating from NDSU, Courtney was ranked as a top 25 corner back for the 2000 NFL draft! After a short stint with NFL tryouts, Courtney ended up getting an offer from SUN Microsystems as a network storage engineer and decided to pursue that opportunity with great enthusiasm. However, after years in corporate America Courtney could no longer put his true dreams and passions on hold. In 2005, Courtney left corporate American and pursued his dream of becoming the best personal trainer in the world. "I opened Bodies By

Perseverance, a personal training gym dedicated to helping anyone accomplish his or her fitness goals. Entrepreneurship is in my blood. Growing up my dad owned a very successful construction business, being my own boss was a goal that I wanted at a very young age."

Since then Courtney's business has continued to grow and prosper and in 2012 he was recognized in ColoradoBiz Magazine as one of the top fifty minority owned companies in Colorado. Courtney also holds ten first place natural bodybuilding trophies. Even with all this success Courtney still believes his biggest achievement is providing opportunities for others, "My biggest business achievement thus far is the ability to create employment for others. We currently have 6 full time trainers and are still growing. All these goals were reached through PERSEVERANCE and hard work."

The focus of Courtney's gym is to train the average individuals like an athlete in a private environment. Bodies By Perseverance has two separate entities - one

for one-on-one training and one for group fitness.

We asked Courtney about advice he would give to aspiring entrepreneurs and he responded, "develop a work ethic that is 2nd to none, approach every situation with confidence and remember that perseverance is life."

Courtney is a great example of how hard work, passion and perseverance can help one to reach their goals. We are proud to call Courtney an NDSU Alumni and wish him much continued success in his future endeavors!

For more information on Bodies By Perseverance:

<http://www.mybbp.com/>



Courtney Samuel



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NDSU Always a Part of You Spring Semester 2013

Spectrum Editor Leads Paper to Top Prize

Article originally published in NDSU news with some revisions

On a January day, Spectrum Editor-In-Chief Linda Vasquez sits behind the desk in her private office.

"I'm kind of nervous," she says about the interview she is about to be the subject of. She is usually asking the questions.

On this day, Vasquez had a semester as editor-in-chief behind her, but it doesn't look like she's moved into her office. Later, she reveals why. She rarely uses the office. She spends 20-plus hours a week in the newsroom lined with white iMACs. In fact, she has spent much of her NDSU college career in that newsroom banging out concert reviews, health stories and fashion features.

Soon after she enrolled at NDSU, she took the advice offered to new students: Get involved. She joined the Spectrum staff as an office assistant and staff writer for arts and entertainment. By her second semester, she was promoted to features editor. For her senior year, she landed the Spectrum's top leadership job after facing stiff competition and a committee of 15 interviewers.

At the Spectrum, she built her portfolio, with the goal of becoming editor-in-chief. And she started forming a vision for the newspaper. On her watch, she wanted to make an impact on campus, to build readership and to produce stories and papers effectively.

Under Vasquez's leadership, the Spectrum won first place in its category at the Associated Collegiate Press' Best of the Midwest College Newspaper Convention in February. She says it is the first time since 2003 that the Spectrum took the top honor in the four-year, non-weekly newspaper category in the convention's Best of Show competition. "Our reaction when our name was announced was pretty much screams, hollers and claps," Vasquez says. "My reaction was 'after all our hard work, we did it! I did it!'"

Vasquez attributes the Spectrum's success to strong collaboration by staff members, new processes and risks with design, stories, photography and social media.

"This has been a year of tremendous growth for the Spectrum, especially in expanding its social media presence," says Andrew Pritchard, Spectrum adviser and graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Communication. "I've been pleased to watch Linda take charge of that process and move the staff in that direction."

After graduation in May, Vasquez plans to stay in Fargo and to launch a magazine someday.

For full story:

http://www.ndsu.edu/news/banner_stories/lindavasquez/



Linda Vasquez
Spectrum Editor in Chief



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Thanks for Donations!

A special thank you to all who have donated to the Division of Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach at NDSU!

Your donation has truly helped the NDSU campus and will continue to help create a community where students can learn and expand their education in a welcoming environment.

If you would like to donate to the NDSU Division of Equity, Diversity, and Global Outreach please use the following link with the designation Equity, Diversity, and Global Outreach.

DONATE NOW

We give our sincerest thank you for all donations made. Your contributions help to transform this campus into a diverse and united community where all can benefit from the numerous opportunities in higher education.

If any alumni are interested in mentoring NDSU students, providing internships or employment opportunities, or are interested in providing scholarships for NDSU students please contact:

VP Myers
Evie.Myers@ndsu.edu

These opportunities benefit and prepare students extensively while also providing them with tools to learn and grow as individuals.

NDSU Upcoming Events Calendars

Please use the following links to see NDSU's upcoming events and activities:

[Diversity Events Calendar](#)

[NDSU Events Calendar](#)

[NDSU Bison Athletics Schedule](#)

Attention Alumni!

Do you have announcements or happenings of your own that you would like submitted into our Multicultural Alumni newsletter? We encourage you to submit any updates, announcements or articles to us and we will gladly share them in our next newsletter with fellow NDSU alumni!

For more information please contact: Kara.Gravley-Stack@ndsu.edu