Faculty selected for endowed presidential professorships

Three NDSU faculty members have been selected to receive prestigious endowed presidential professorships. Charlene Wolf-Hall, assistant dean for the College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies and professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences, received the Jordan A. Engberg Presidential Professorship; Canan Bilen-Green, professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering, received the Dale Hogoboom Presidential Professorship; and Wenfang Sun, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, received the Walter E. and Verna Gerhts Presidential Professorship.

Craig Schnell, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said many excellent candidates were nominated. “Nominations come from colleagues, so these professors have earned the admiration of their peers.”

The Engberg and Hogoboom professorships are awarded to faculty at the rank of professor with at least eight years of service to NDSU and a balanced academic record of excellence in teaching, research and service. The Gerhts professorship is for faculty at the associate professor rank with at least five years of service. The awards come with $5,000 stipends to be used for academic purposes.

Eugene Berry, professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences, wrote in his nominating letter that Wolf-Hall’s students are consistently among the best prepared and successful in the veterinary program. “Charlene ensures that her students, both undergraduate and graduate students, know how their research fits into the big picture of her research program.”

Wolf-Hall earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in microbiology from South Dakota State University, Brookings, and her doctorate in food science and technology from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Bilen-Green earned bachelor’s degrees in statistics and industrial engineering from Middle East Technical University and Bilkent University, both in Turkey. She earned a master’s degree and doctorate at the University of Wyoming, Laramie.

“She has been instrumental in instilling the guiding principle in us all that in a university environment it is our collective responsibility to improve the conditions for the entire faculty, regardless of their gender, and the enhancement of campus climate contributes to the benefit of all,” wrote Dogan Gomez, professor of mathematics, in his nominating letter.

Greg Cook, professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, nominated Sun for the Gehrts Professorship, calling her a prolific researcher, excellent educator, outstanding colleague and leader in service.

“To say that Dr. Sun has been a productive researcher is a gross understatement. Since arriving at NDSU, she has amassed a truly impressive publication record,” wrote Cook. “Since 2001 she has published more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, half of these published since she was tenured in 2007.”

Sun earned a bachelor’s in chemistry from Wuhan University, China; a doctorate in chemistry from the Institute of Photographic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing; and did post-doctoral work at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

FORWARD announces Leadership Development Awards

Three women faculty have been awarded leadership development grants. The recipients are, Margaret Khaitsa, associate professor of veterinary and microbial sciences; Miriam Mara, associate professor of English; and Jane Schuh, assistant professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences. Khaitsa and Mara will use their awards to attend the Higher Education Resource Service Denver Summer Institute and Schuh will participate in the Lead 21 Program. FORWARD was able to make three development awards available this year as a result of co-funding provided by the Agricultural Experiment Station, the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Provost’s Office.

The Higher Education Resource Service Denver Summer Institute, sponsored by the American Council on Education, focuses on advancing women leaders in higher education administration. The two-week institute addresses topics such as preparing campuses to work with first generation college students, understanding the financial environment in higher education, maximizing different leadership styles, developing conflict management and negotiation skills, and networking.

The Lead21 program is devoted to developing leaders at land grant institutions. Specifically, the program aims to enhance application of skills and knowledge learned in nine leadership competencies; develop a peer leadership network to enhance personal leadership practice, collaboration and diversity of perspective; and develop and implement an individual leadership development process. The program includes three sessions of several days each during several months.

Information on the leadership development grants is available at www.ndsu.edu/forward/home. Application procedures and deadlines for 2011-12 will be posted there soon. Direct inquiries to Canan Bilen-Green at canan.bilen.green@ndsu.edu or 1-7040.