NDSU approved for NCAA Division I status

NDSU has been approved as an active, certified member of NCAA Division I. The announcement was made today by the NCAA Management Council.

“This is an important and exciting day for NDSU and the state we serve,” said President Joseph A. Chapman. “The NCAA announcement illustrates the tremendous support our students, faculty, staff and the state have shown to make NDSU a top-tier institution, both academically and athletically.”

“This is the day we’ve been waiting for since we made the decision to move to Division I. This is a great and historic day for our athletic program and the university,” said athletic director Gene Taylor. “It is a culmination of a lot of hard work, dedication and commitment by our staff, coaches and, most importantly, our student athletes. We also have had tremendous support from President Chapman, his cabinet members, faculty, university staff, our student body, our community and our alumni. We would not have made the transition without all of these wonderful and supportive individuals.”

The university’s decision to seek NCAA Division I status was announced in August 2002. The transition process included NCAA site visits, searches for conference affiliations and a year-long, campuswide self-study of NDSU’s athletics operations that explored the areas of academic integrity, governance, rules compliance, equity, diversity and student athlete welfare.

“In 2002, we began what we knew would be a challenging transition to Division I,” Chapman said. “Our commitment to being a nationally ranked land-grant institution played a key role in pushing through that challenge. Reaching for Division I was the right thing to do for our athletic program, this university and our state. I am extremely proud of the many people who have contributed their talents and resources to this effort.”

NDSU is a member of The Summit League, the Missouri Valley Football Conference and the Western Wrestling Conference.

NDSU delegation travels to Uganda

NDSU President Joseph Chapman and his wife, Gale; David Wittrock, dean of the graduate school; Kerri Spiering, director of international programs; and Marinus Otte, chair of the NDSU biological sciences department, traveled to Uganda to meet with Makerere University administrators and faculty about establishing a partnership that would allow students from both institutions to earn dual degrees in the area of veterinary sciences and microbiology.

Makerere University in Kampala is Uganda’s premier institution of higher education with a student population of more than 30,000. It ranks as one of the largest in East and Central Africa and plays an important role in the East Africa Consortium that includes the countries of Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. There also are relationships developing with Sudan and Ethiopia.

Published by the Office of the Vice President for University Relations.
NDSU initiates Web-based hiring system

NDSU has implemented PeopleAdmin, a Web-based hiring system changing the current paper-based system to a paperless online system. It includes everything from creating a requisition to screening applicants.

According to Colette Erickson, associate director of human resources and payroll, the benefits of a paperless approval process and resume distribution will make a huge difference, especially during peak hiring times.

The university will go live with the system in the next three to four months. The software allows individuals to create and submit requests to recruit online. This allows approved hiring managers to submit job requisitions directly to the Offices of Human Resources or Equity and Diversity for review, approval and posting.

The user can collect employment materials such as applications, resumes and cover letters online. They can distribute applications electronically, allowing hiring managers and entire search committees to review employment applications, resumes, cover letters and other materials online. Hiring managers can track search results and enter reasons for non-selection online.

The system allows the user to provide automated status updates. Candidates can access job information via a secure Web account. In addition, candidates will receive an e-mail confirmation from the system when their application is received and if they are not selected for a position.

It also improves control and oversight, allowing the Offices of Human Resources and Equity and Diversity to track the status of all recruitments on campus using a variety of standard reports and queries.

If you have questions, contact Erickson at 1-8788, or Chris Winjum, equal opportunity specialist, at 1-5693.

NDSU receives federal energy funds

The U.S. Department of Energy has released $5.9 million in federal funding for research at NDSU’s Center for Nanoscale Energy-Related Materials. Through the funding, faculty and staff researchers at NDSU will work to develop nanomaterials to improve energy efficiency. The research will examine new materials for the next generation of solar cells and develop new catalysts to convert plant material into products currently derived from petroleum.

“NDSU possesses technology with great potential for making third generation solar cells and photovoltaic devices a reality,” according to Philip Boudjouk, vice president for research, creative activities and technology transfer at NDSU. “The long-range goal is to provide options that will lead to cost-effective solar alternatives to fossil fuels.” NDSU has developed a new form of liquid silicon which could allow more precise control of the formation of silicon nanotubes and nanocrystals, known to be very efficient converters of solar energy to electrical energy. In addition, NDSU has patented technology that could convert seed oils to commercial feedstocks using combinatorial science and technology.

U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan, chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, made the funding announcement. “This project is another example of the cutting-edge technology coming out of the Red River Valley Research Corridor,” said Dorgan.

The Forum newspaper noted the role Sen. Dorgan played in the funding and highlighted NDSU’s research expertise. A June 30 editorial in the Forum stated: “NDSU’s nanoscience research and development is recognized as among the best in the world, having been established only a few years ago and already doing work with international implications.”

Hettinger Research Extension Center breaks ground for new addition

Through funding from the 2007-09 legislative session and the support of the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education, the NDSU Hettinger Research Extension Center broke ground for an addition to the center’s office and conference complex on July 8.

The addition will be used to improve research programs in agronomy and agriculture economics, plus animal, range and natural resource sciences.

Pictured from left to right: Ken Grafton, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station director and College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources dean; Rodney Howe, State Board of Agricultural Research and Education vice chair; D.C. Coston, NDSU Agriculture and University Extension vice president; Shawn Arndorfer, Hettinger Research Extension Center Advisory Board chairman; Duane Hauck, NDSU Extension Service director; and Christopher Schauer, Hettinger Research Extension Center director.
NDSU to expand computing center

Funding of $7.8 million secured at the federal level for fiscal year 2008 will allow NDSU to expand its Center for High Performance Computing, according to Sen. Byron Dorgan who held a press conference at NDSU on June 23 to announce the funding.

In addition, $3.25 million secured in fiscal year 2007 will make it possible for NDSU to connect to the Northern Tier Network, a regional initiative providing a robust research network connection for educational institutions in the upper-northern states.

Expansion of the Center for High Performance Computing will give researchers powerful, new tools for their projects. When completed, it will allow the center to perform blazing-fast calculations up to an estimated 25 trillion functions per second. It also will position NDSU in the top five fastest computing centers in the region of Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

“This is a major milestone for the Red River Valley Research Corridor,” said Dorgan at the news conference. “The university is already a regional leader when it comes to research and development, and these projects will dramatically increase NDSU’s R&D capabilities. Investments in these programs equip the region with the big power and big pipes it needs to participate in the most complex scientific problems and research. The just released Milken Institute report showing that North Dakota is the fastest developing state in technology research and development is proof that these investments are benefiting our state by creating new jobs and economic activity.”

Completion of the Northern Tier Network also will offer opportunities for NDSU researchers. “The network will connect with NDSU and its Center for High Performance Computing to offer even faster and more robust computer network technology,” said Philip Boudjouk, vice president for research, creative activities and technology transfer at NDSU.

“The Network will assist NDSU in attaining the next level of research growth,” said Boudjouk.

“This project provides cyber-infrastructure to researchers to compete for grants and conduct cutting-edge research,” said Bonnie Neas, vice president for information technology at NDSU. Neas is also a co-founder of the Northern Tier Network Consortium and recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Education Award from the Information Technology Council of North Dakota. “While we have worked to provide academic institutions in the region access to high-speed information networks, this new Northern Tier infrastructure provides 100 times the bandwidth of our current connection with the National Research and Education Network,” said Neas.

NDSU photosynthesis video ranked No. 1 on YouTube

A photosynthesis animation created by the NDSU Virtual Cell Project team and the World Wide Web Instructional Committee is the No. 1 watched video in the educational section of the YouTube Web site.

The NDSU Virtual Cell team has developed animations to introduce students to new concepts. By walking through the still images and movies included for each topic, viewers can easily choose between studying a specific step from one of the processes or taking a more immersive look at the process in its entirety.

The Virtual Cell Animation Project is supported by National Science Foundation grant #DUE-0618766 awarded to Phil McClean, principal investigator and plant sciences professor; Lisa M. Daniels, adjunct lecturer of Teacher Education; Brian M. Slator, head of computer science; Jeff Terpstra, associate professor of statistics; and Alan R. White, adjunct lecturer of biological sciences.

The Virtual Cell development staff includes Christina Johnson, Gerry Gallenbeck and Brad Vender.

To view the video, go to www.youtube.com and search for NDSU Virtual Cell or go to http://youtube.com/browse?&fj&c=27&l=&b=0&e=zh_HK.

Wimba to provide education software to North Dakota campuses

The North Dakota University System has selected the Wimba Collaboration Suite to facilitate online instruction at 11 public universities across the state. The software aims to enhance learning, improve accessibility and increase retention rates.

The system will use Wimba to extend video to the desktops of faculty and students. In addition to seeing instructors and classmates live online via video in the Wimba Classroom, students will interact via voice with Wimba Voice, via instant messaging and voice with Wimba Pronto and course notes with Wimba Create.

Jerry Rostad, director of the North Dakota Interactive Video Network, said Wimba can be used in different locations and departments for a variety of uses.

“We were looking for an online desktop tool that would provide synchronous voice, video and data collaboration; some kind of solution to give all our faculty and students the opportunity to take classes at their desktop,” Rostad said.

“Other main attractions to Wimba were pricing and scalability – we are able to deploy Wimba to all 11 institutions in the university system while at the same time, allowing each to maintain its own unique branding and identities.”

The Wimba system allows students and instructors to connect via video from their personal computers using broadband Internet access and an inexpensive Web camera. For example, an individual in a remote community or a student participating in an internship in another state could regularly attend classes without traveling to one of the state’s colleges or universities.
NATURE Summer Camp held at NDSU

Tribal college students are pictured with camp instructors. Front (left to right): Harold Counts, Floyd Lavender, Ivonna Yellow Earrings; Danielle Brown Otter, Brady Falcon, Maria Gonzalez, Danielle Poitra, Lynn Duchaine, G. Padmanabhan. Back (left to right): Robert Pieri, Zachary Maruska, James Henry, Kristen Leel, Logan Hayes, William Thompson, Robert Lofromboise, Robin Ironshield, Austin Lofromboise, Chad Ulven.

A two-week science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) summer camp for American Indian tribal college students and faculty and reservation high school teachers was held June 2-13 at NDSU. The annual camp, a component of a more comprehensive project Nurturing American Tribal Undergraduate Research and Education (NATURE) to attract American Indian youth to STEM careers, is funded by the National Science Foundation and the North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR).

In its fourth year of operation, NATURE currently has four component activities: summer camp for tribal college students and faculty at NDSU, summer camps for high and middle school students at tribal college sites, Sunday Academy directed to high school students in the five North Dakota Reservations and undergraduate research capacity building in tribal colleges.

The camp at NDSU opened with a traditional Native American prayer and ceremonial drumming followed by a luncheon in the Memorial Union. This year, 16 Native American students from four tribal colleges participated in the camp. Concurrently, five tribal college faculty and six reservation high school mathematics and science teachers worked together with the faculty from NDSU and the University of North Dakota to develop lesson plans for the high school summer camps that were held June 16-27 at the tribal college sites and for the upcoming Sunday Academy sessions, one Sunday each month through the academic year 2008-09.

Camp activities for students included laboratory visits and demonstrations in physics; chemistry; computer science; civil, mechanical, electrical and industrial and manufacturing engineering; field visits; mathematics lessons; and project work. Students also spent a day at UND visiting selected departments. NDSU and UND instructors introduced science, math and engineering disciplines and career opportunities to the students. The topics covered in the projects included water quality analysis, alternative energy, composite materials, wetland ecology and electron microscopy.

The six student presentations on the closing day of the camp showcased the collaboration of the students from tribal reservations across North Dakota and faculty and graduate students from UND and NDSU. The Office of Multicultural Student Services staff provided recreation and social interaction opportunities for the students so they could experience campus and city life, which added fun to the rigor of the camp.

The camp concluded with a closing ceremony, prayer and a luncheon at the NDSU Alumni Center.

G. Padmanabhan, professor of civil engineering and EPSCoR coordinator of the NATURE project; Robert Pieri, professor of mechanical engineering and summer camp coordinator; Chad Ulven, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and the Sunday academy coordinator; Uwe Burghaus, assistant professor of chemistry and molecular biology; Sivapalan Gajan, assistant professor of civil engineering; Eakalak Khan, associate professor of civil engineering; Prakash Ranganathan, UND instructor of electrical engineering; Marinus Otte, chair and professor of biological sciences; Thomas Freeman, professor of plant pathology; Hanying Xu, director of the UND environmental analytical research lab; and Julia Zhao, UND assistant professor of chemistry were the primary resource faculty for instruction and mentoring in the camp. Jaclynn Wallette, director of multicultural services, coordinated the recreational and social activities. Zachary Maruska, graduate student in civil engineering, and Austin Lofromboise, undergraduate student in civil engineering, assisted in instruction and all other logistics of the camp. Other faculty members helped in department tours, lab demonstrations and mentoring the students on their projects.

Central Grasslands Center hosts
Coteau Symposium

D.C. Coston, vice president for NDSU Agriculture and University Extension, speaks during the Coteau symposium about NDSU’s role in natural resource development.

North Dakotans have a new understanding and appreciation for the state’s Missouri Coteau region and its natural resources. The NDSU Extension Service’s Center for Community Vitality and NDSU’s Central Grasslands Research Extension Center near Streeter co-sponsored a daylong symposium titled “Natural Resources of the Coteau: Past, Present and Future” at the Central Grasslands Center June 26.

The Coteau region runs diagonally across the state from the northwestern corner through central North Dakota. It’s a highland of rock, gravel and other soil deposited by a receding glacier about 10,000 years ago. Its rolling, grassy hills are dotted with potholes and lakes. While many acres have been converted to cropland, much of the land is highly erodable, making it best suited to producing perennial forages.

“The Coteau region of North Dakota is often overlooked for its many natural resources,” said Paul Nyren, director of the Central Grasslands Center, which covers 5,300 acres of the Coteau. “It has been described as the Red River Valley of beef production. A leading birding magazine has listed Kidder...
County in the top 10 birding destinations in the U.S. This symposium was developed to inform and enlighten those who attend about the many attributes of this unique region, the largest of its kind in the world.”

The symposium gave people a chance to discover the uniqueness of the region and the possible rural business opportunities that it provides, according to Kathleen Tweeten, director of the Center for Community Vitality.

Attendees learned about the Coteau’s geology, archeology, early and current residents, wildlife and agriculture; the impact of invasive plant species on the area’s mixed-grass prairie; opportunities for tourism and other economic development; the future of natural resource development and NDSU’s role in that development; and the future of the region’s natural resources.

Faculty from NDSU, United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck and Minot State University-Bottineau; state legislators; a representative from the North Dakota Division of Tourism; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s director of Native American programs were among the speakers.

The event wrapped up with a performance by Keith Bear, a world-renowned flute player, flute maker and storyteller from the Three Affiliated Tribes in Fort Berthold.

Horizons celebration recognizes 21 North Dakota communities

Walhalla was one of 21 communities recognized at a July 9 celebration in Bismarck for completing the Horizons program led by the NDSU Extension Service. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Kevin Dvorak, president and CEO, North Dakota Community Foundation; Deanna Arce, Northwest Area Foundation interim program director; Deirdre Lee; Gov. John Hoeven; (front row) D.C. Coston, NDSU vice president for agriculture and university extension; Kathy Stremick; Leann Zeller.

Twenty-one North Dakota communities were recognized on July 9 in Bismarck for completing the Horizons program. Horizons is an 18-month project for rural communities of fewer than 5,000 with poverty rates of at least 10 percent. The program is supported by the NDSU Extension Service and funded by the Northwest Area Foundation with the goal of helping communities move from poverty to hope, from population and economic decline to prosperity.

At the celebration, project director Lynette Flage recognized the communities that have completed the program: Anamoose, Bowdon, Cando, Cooperstown, Dodge, Gackle, Grant County, Harvey, Hazelton, Lidgerwood, Linton, Maddock, McKenzie County, New Town, Rock Lake, Rolette, Rutland, Sheyenne, Stanley, Steele and Walhalla.

Gov. John Hoeven congratulated the representatives for providing the leadership their communities need to develop not just economically, but also socially. D.C. Coston, vice president for agriculture and university extension, explained how the communities’ work melds with NDSU’s Grow 21 efforts.

The communities accomplished a variety of tasks for their Horizons projects. Just a few examples:

- Steele formed a nonprofit organization for its local food pantry.
- Cooperstown, Anamoose and Harvey set up community foundations for long-term philanthropic efforts.
- Lidgerwood gained high-speed Internet access in its public library for individual use at all income levels.
- Rolette developed a walking trail for family activity.
- Stanley has two new certified child care facilities to assist the children of working families.
- Gackle, Anamoose, Sheyenne, Cando and Bowdon now have farmers markets to assist local produce entrepreneurs and to help people receive fresh produce.
- New Town has started a Neighborhood Watch program.

To learn more about the Horizons project and accomplishments on the communities’ blogs, see www.ag.ndsu.edu/horizons.

Faculty present research at Society for the Study of Reproduction meeting


Larry Reynolds, professor of animal sciences and director of the center, gave a presentation titled, “Vascularization and Expression of Fibroblast Growth Factor (FGF)2 and FGF Receptor (FGFR) 2 IIIc Protein in Uterine Tissues During Early Pregnancy in Sheep,” co-written by Pawel P. Borowicz, Joel S. Caton, Anna T. Grazul-Bilska, Justin S. Luther, Jacqueline M. Wallace and Dale A. Redmer.

Grazul-Bilska, associate professor of animal sciences, gave a presentation titled, “Expression of Luteinizing Hormone Receptor (LHR) and mTOR Protein in Sheep Corpora Lutea during the Estrous Cycle and Prostaglandin F2α (PGF)-Induced Luteal Regression,” co-written by Jerzy J. Bilski, Jessica Nyberg, Kurt Rudolph, Ewa Borowczyk, Reynolds and Redmer.

Bilski, research specialist, gave a presentation titled, “Maternal Dietary Restriction Affects Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) Receptor (R) Protein Expression in Fetal Ovaries of Sheep,” co-written by Melissa Erickson, Rebekah Caton, Kimberly A. Vonnahme, Caton, Borowicz, Reynolds, Redmer and Grazul-Bilska.

Redmer, professor of animal sciences, gave a presentation titled, “Influence of Maternal Nutrition on Placental mRNA Expression of Angiogenic Factors (AF) and Their Receptors (AFR) in Adolescent Sheep at days 50 and 75 of Pregnancy,” co-written by Raymond Aitken, John Milne, Mary Lynn Johnson, David Carlson, Reynolds and Wallace.
Reynolds presents research in Austria

Larry Reynolds, professor of animal sciences and director of the Center for Nutrition and Pregnancy, made an invited presentation titled, “Placental microvascular growth: Implications for compromised pregnancy,” at the Reproductive Bioengineering meeting held April 1-5 in Wenns im Pitztal, Austria. The presentation was co-written by Pawel P. Borowicz, Joel S. Caton, Anna T. Grazul-Bilska, Justin S. Luther, Jacqueline M. Wallace and Dale A. Redmer.

The conference was an international multi-disciplinary meeting on all scientific topics that require integration of either bioengineering or biophysical aspects with biological and physiological knowledge in the study of all areas of reproduction from the molecular to organ levels. Reynolds also participated as a member of the International Scientific Committee that assisted in the planning of this conference.

NDSU staff members awarded at national conference

Three NDSU staff received awards at the Association for Communication Excellence conference June 10-13 in Traverse City, Mich.

Becky Koch, Ag Communication director, received the Award of Excellence for overall work in Distance Education and Instructional Design.

In the Critique and Awards program, Bruce Sundeen, Ag Communication electronic media specialist, received the silver in informational or non-credit educational video production for “Eat Smart. Play Hard. Thundar’s New Game Plan.” Randy Wald, Information Technology Specialists instructional services consultant formerly with Ag Communication, received the bronze in video news and features for “Sheyenne River Archers 4-H Team.” Koch received the bronze in targeted publications for the biofuels Ag Mag.

FORWARD group presents results of institutional transformation research

Members of the FORWARD Group presented their research on institutional transformation and advancement of women faculty at the Women in the Engineering ProActive Network national conference held June 8-11, in St. Louis.

Canan Bilen-Green, associate professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering; Elizabeth Birmingham, associate professor of English; and Ann Burnett, associate professor of communication and director of women studies, presented “Institutional Transformation at North Dakota State University.”


Burnett named full-time women’s studies director

Ann Burnett, associate professor at NDSU, is now the full-time director of the Department of Women’s Studies. Previously, she also spent half of her time in the Department of Communication.

Her responsibilities will include developing the women’s studies academic program, including attracting students to the major and minor, providing additional class offerings and fund raising. “The Women’s Studies program has a great deal to offer for many students on campus. This full-time position will allow me the opportunity to create and promote Women’s Studies to its full potential,” Burnett said.

Burnett joined NDSU in 1997 and was named part-time Women’s Studies director in 2002. Her research interests are examining how women communicate about the fast-paced of life and on how rape cultures are fostered on college campuses.

Originally from Colorado, she earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at Colorado College and a master’s degree in communication at the University of Northern Colorado. She earned her doctorate in communication at the University of Utah, studying jury decision-making. In her spare time, she engages in legal consulting.

SUNRISE researchers awarded $2,786,268 in external grants

Several faculty members in the Sustainable Energy Research Initiative (SUNRISE) have received external competitive grant awards.

Alena Kubatova, UND assistant professor of chemistry was awarded a five-year, $640,000 National Science Foundation CAREER award titled, “Formation pathway of polar derivatives of nitro-PAHs.” The research aim of this proposal is to elucidate the gas-particle (heterogeneous) reaction mechanisms of PAH nitration and oxidation with a focus on the identification of reaction products.

Sivaguru Jayaraman, NDSU assistant professor of chemistry was awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER award titled, “Imprinting Molecular Chirality in Solution During Photo-Transformations.” This four-year, $575,000 award will build upon preliminary data from a SUNRISE Department of Energy EPScOR Infrastructure Improvement Program seed grant Siva used to develop methods and data that he utilized in his winning proposal.

Uwe Burghaus, NDSU assistant professor of chemistry, was awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER award titled, “Chemical Activity of Copper Oxide and Gold Nano Model Array Catalysts Towards CO Oxidation.” In this five-year, $426,000 project Burghaus and his students will study the catalytic activity of model-nano-array catalysts by surface chemistry techniques. Those catalysts belong to the class of so-called model catalysts, which consist of nano-sized metal particles on a metal oxide support and can resemble realistic model systems for industrial catalysts.

Principal investigator Brian Tande, UND assistant professor of chemical engineering, and co-principal investigators
Wayne Seames, Ed Kolodka and Darrin Muggli (all from UND chemical engineering) were awarded a three-year, $367,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop polymers and composites from crop oils. The program, titled “Bio-based Polymeric Materials from Cracked Canola Oil,” will focus on converting canola oil into several polymers commonly used in building materials, coatings, adhesives and many other products traditionally derived from petroleum or natural gas.

The Department of Energy has awarded a three-year, $352,000 grant to Burghaus titled, “Characterization of fundamental catalytic properties of MoS2/WS2 nanotubes and nanoclusters for desulfurization catalysis – a surface chemistry study.” In this project nano-desulfurization catalysts will be characterized in collaboration with R. Tenne’s group at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Michael Mann, UND professor of chemical engineering, and Hossein Salehfar, professor of electrical engineering, were awarded a three-year grant for $301,268 from the Department of Energy titled, “Development of a Renewable Hydrogen Production and Fuel Cell Education Program.” Their research team will take advantage of the infrastructure and programs established through SUNRISE to provide a comprehensive renewable hydrogen production and fuel cell education program.

Principal investigator Wayne Seames, UND associate professor of chemical engineering, along with co-principal investigators Darrin Muggli, Brian Tande (both UND chemical engineering) and Alena Kubatova (UND chemistry) were awarded a one-year, $110,000 grant by the North Dakota Soybean Council to continue their research into processes to produce fuels, chemicals and polymers from soybean oil. This is the fifth straight year the North Dakota Soybean Council has provided funding to the SUNRISE crop oil conversion technologies program.

The North Dakota Soybean Council also awarded a $15,000 one-year grant to principal investigator Michael Mann, UND professor of chemical engineering, and co-principal investigator Wayne Seames to study the benefits of co-locating soybean processing facilities with sugar beet factories.

SUNRISE is a student centered, faculty led research program at the University of North Dakota, NDSU and other North Dakota universities. The mission of SUNRISE is to conduct research that contributes to solving complex energy-related problems, investigate development of sustainable energy options, leading toward economic development and job creation for North Dakota, increase UND and NDSU research competitiveness in sustainable energy, and produce graduates to develop and promote sustainable energy in North Dakota, the region and the nation, all within a unified, interdisciplinary program that translates fundamental research into commercial solutions.

McNair media specialist wins award

Delores Pavicic, media specialist for the McNair Scholars Program at NDSU, received two awards in the 2007-08 North Dakota Professional Communicators’ communications contest. The awards were presented during the annual conference in Grand Forks, N.D.

Pavicic received a first place award for the McNair Scholars Directory and a second place award for the McNair Scholars newsletter. First place awards advance to the national competition. National contest winners will be announced during the National Federation of Press Women conference in Idaho Falls, Idaho, in September.

Three join Department of Residence Life

The Department of Residence Life has hired three new hall directors. Katie Bollig, Megan Paradis and Bill Lenarz will serve as hall directors in Burgum Hall, Dinan Hall and Niskanen Hall, respectively.

Bollig recently earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and professional and organizational communication at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. While there, she was involved in the National Residence Hall Honorary, Hall Council and the Leadership Development and Service Committee. She also was a campus radio disc jockey and participated in intramural sports. Bollig also was employed as a resident assistant and hall manager at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Paradis majored in geology at Iowa State University, where he worked in the residence life department for three years. He also worked at the Iowa State Center, helping coordinate major concerts and conventions on campus. Before accepting a position at NDSU, he was employed by the Fargo Police Department and MeritCare.

Lenarz majored in geology at Iowa State University, where he worked in the residence life department for three years. He also worked at the Iowa State Center, helping coordinate major concerts and conventions on campus. Before accepting a position at NDSU, he was employed by the Fargo Police Department and MeritCare.

The hall director position includes responsibilities in leadership and management of hall programs, supervision of student staff and advising of hall government. Bollig, Paradis and Lenarz also will be responsible for portions of facilities management, judicial affairs and summer housing within their residence halls.

NDSU faculty and students participate at animal sciences meeting

Members of the animal sciences department attended the Midwestern section of the American Dairy Science Association/American Society of Animal Science meetings in Des Moines, Iowa, March 17-19.

Kim Vonnahme, assistant professor, presented an invited paper titled, “Influence of maternal nutrition on offspring performance.”

The Quadrathlon Team, consisting of NDSU students Abby Fettig, Whitney Haux, Megan Friedt and Jayme Fiesel, took first in oral presentation, fourth in the quiz bowl and fourth overall of 11 teams.

Erin Harris, Megan Minten, Haux and Leslie Renisink represented NDSU in the undergraduate division. Haux placed second for her oral presentation. Leslie Lekatz placed fourth for her oral presentation, and Nick Bork placed first for his poster. Bryan Neville, Jake Galbreath, Trent Gilbery, Beth Stoltenow and Erin Windsorski all gave research poster presentations.

The competition involves students from seven Midwestern universities. This is the second year for the Midwest to host a poster competition, and the second year in a row that an NDSU animal sciences graduate student has captured first place honors. Last year’s winner was Penny Nester.
Mallik receives grant from National Cancer Institute

Sanku Mallik, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has received a five-year, $1.46 million standard RO1 grant from the National Cancer Institute. D. K. Srivastava, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, is the co-investigator on this award.

The grant will allow the investigators to prepare selective, “multi-prong” inhibitors for the matrix metalloproteinases using lipid-based nanoparticles. They also will use the nanoparticles for isozyme-selective detection of these enzymes. It relies on the complementary scientific expertise of Mallik and Srivastava. This award will strengthen the ongoing collaboration substantially. In addition to this grant, Mallik and Srivastava currently have two other major research grant awards, one from the National Science Foundation and another from the National Institutes of Health.

“Dr. Mallik’s research program has impacted the mission of NDSU in many positive ways. Dr. Mallik has maintained a sustained record of publications (10 publications per year) and continuous extramural funding that have contributed significantly to increasing the strength of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences research mission. Dr. Mallik is an outstanding researcher. In addition, he is a prolific teacher. Dr. Mallik received Teacher of the Year Award of Pharmacy in academic year 2007-08,” said Jagdish Singh, chair of pharmaceutical sciences.

Nyggaard joins Development Foundation

Peter Nygaard has joined the NDSU Development Foundation as the assistant director of development for major gifts. He began his new duties on July 7.

“We are very excited and fortunate to have Peter join our staff. He brings with him a unique perspective as a lifelong resident of western North Dakota who enjoyed a successful career in agriculture,” said Jason Wohlman, NDSU Development Foundation associate executive director. “I am certain that our university’s many alumni and friends will find him to be an enthusiastic advocate for NDSU.”

A native of the Williston, N.D., area, Nygaard comes to campus after a long career as a farmer and rancher. He also helped raise funds for the foundation of Mercy Hospital in Williston.

Nygaard said he has developed a strong connection with NDSU through his service as chair of the advisory board of the Williston Research Extension Center and as a member of the Agriculture Consultation Board.

“I’m excited to be at NDSU. The university is going through many exciting changes and moving forward, and I’m glad to be on board to help with those changes,” Nygaard said. “NDSU has a great reputation and it is doing great things for the state of North Dakota and the region.”

Nygaard earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and business from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. He and his wife, Lynette, have one daughter, Juliet, and two sons, Peter and David. David is a senior at NDSU.

NDSU chapter fares well at Gamma Sigma Delta conclave

Gamma Sigma Delta, the International Honor Society of Agriculture, held its biennial conclave at the University of Kentucky from June 18-20. Gamma Sigma Delta is 103 years old and has 53 chapters with more than 100,000 members. Its objectives are the advancement of agriculture in all its phases, maintenance and improvement of the relations of agriculture and related sciences to other industries, and recognition of the responsibilities of those engaged in all aspects of agriculture to humankind.

Awards received by the NDSU chapter at the conclave included best poster presentation which came with $100 for the NDSU chapter, the most-improved chapter award and a silver award for chapter activities. Other chapters receiving awards included Louisiana State University for outstanding chapter and Gold Awards for University of the Philippines at Los Bonos, University of Tennessee, University of Kentucky, Pennsylvania State University and University of California-Davis. Silver Awards went to North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina State University, Kansas State University and West Virginia University, and bronze awards went to Purdue University, Texas A&M University, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Mississippi State University and Colorado State University.

The NDSU chapter representative at the conclave was past-president Charlene Wolf-Hall, associate professor in the Department of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences. Wolf-Hall was elected to the International Gamma Sigma Delta executive position of president elect. She also will serve two years as president elect, two years as president and two years as past president of International Gamma Sigma Delta.

NDSU’s Gustafson honored

Cole Gustafson, professor of agribusiness and applied economics and Extension Service biofuels specialist, has received the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teacher Fellow Award.

He received the award at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture’s annual conference at Utah State University, Logan, Utah. The organization is a professional society that focuses on promoting, recognizing and rewarding excellence in teaching agriculture and related areas at the post-secondary level in North America.

Gustafson said he is especially honored to receive this award because selection was based on his long-term classroom contributions and innovations. Students who took his classes in the past 20 years wrote letters of support that praised him for his positive impact on their educational program.

In addition to teaching regular classes, Gustafson has developed two entirely online courses.

“These are really the future of education as they enable students to learn when they are most prepared,” he says. His research on when students complete their work online found that more than half of the exams were completed between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.
His other research focuses on developing financial management strategies for farms, ranches, agribusinesses and agricultural lenders, including investment in new biofuel production facilities. He also evaluates pilot crop insurance and alternative risk management programs.

He has written more than 30 peer-reviewed journal articles and has obtained more than $1 million in grant funding. He also has served as chair of the agribusiness and applied economics department and associate dean of research for the NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources.

Gustafson earned a bachelor of science degree in agricultural business and a master’s degree in agricultural economics from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois.

Wells gives opening keynote address at national conference

David L. Wells, professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering at NDSU, delivered the opening keynote address at the Society of Manufacturing Engineers’ Manufacturing Education Leadership Forum June 26-27 at Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh.

The forum was the first Society of Manufacturing Engineers meeting on manufacturing education strategies in a decade. More than 40 delegates from across the United States examined key issues for university-level learning in manufacturing for the 21st century. Much motivation for the forum was due to a shortage of educated manufacturing engineers in many industries that produce consumer or industrial products. The shortage has been cited as one of two principal threats to continued growth in the U.S. economy and in the standard of living throughout the world. Delegates were invited from major universities, influential manufacturing companies and government agencies. Represented organizations included Boeing, Dassault Aerospace, Bombardier, Intel, Medtronic and the National Science Foundation.

Wells’ keynote address delivered a retrospective of his 25 years in leadership positions for national and international conferences, workshops and book publication on themes about manufacturing engineering education. The presentation extracted lessons and guidance from six major conferences he has chaired and for which he has edited the proceedings, as well as from participation in more than a dozen workshops and preparation of a book on manufacturing education models in 17 countries. He also drew upon his experience as a manufacturing engineer, manager and educator, working in energy, aerospace, commercial sheet metal and automotive parts industries, as well as in universities in Ohio, Missouri, Michigan and North Dakota.

Wells is a member of the editorial board for proceedings of the forum and will serve on the planning groups for subsequent events.

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers is the primary professional organization for engineers, technologists and managers engaged in manufacturing science and operations. Its members represent large and small companies in aircraft, automotive, electronics, consumer products, medical device, capital equipment and other industries, as well as the education community from leading universities to community colleges throughout the United States and abroad. Last year, the society celebrated its 75th year of service to the global manufacturing engineering community.

Information Technology Services fills three positions

Kim Owen is the advanced applications coordinator for Information Technology Services. She transferred from EduTech, where she previously was the coordinator of instructional services. EduTech is the NDSU-based agency that provides technology services to North Dakota’s K-12 schools. Owen’s position will provide leadership for research, learning and outreach for NDSU and its partners in the exploration and utilization of advanced networks such as Internet2 and Northern Tier.

Previously, Owen supported K-20 collaborative learning in North Dakota by facilitating the Mega Conference, an annual event that showcases technology usage in order to promote global collaboration among students. Owen also worked on a grant project for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, which promoted the inclusion of agriculture in K-12 science classrooms. She says the project not only established a stronger relationship between K-12 students and NDSU, but also raised awareness of the different aspects of agriculture and of the broad spectrum of career opportunities available.

Owen’s experience in EduTech and strong leadership ability will enable her to lead NDSU in promoting high-tech applications and connecting people with technology. She earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics education and master’s degree in educational leadership from NDSU.

Steve Beckermann has been hired as a classroom technology specialist and Carissa Swenson as the northwest region information technology specialist for EduTech.

Beckermann, a native of Melrose, Minn., was previously the director of operations for the Plains Art Museum. He earned bachelor’s degrees in music and elementary education from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Swenson was employed as the technology coordinator, business education teacher and business manager at Halliday Public Schools in North Dakota. A native of Kaycee, Wyo., Swenson earned her bachelor’s degrees in business education and business administration from Dickinson State University.

Suzen joins Air Force Research Laboratory Summer Faculty Program

Yildirim Bora Suzen, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, has been selected to participate in the 2008 Air Force Research Laboratory/Air Vehicles Directorate Summer Faculty Program. He is conducting research of Micro Air Vehicles at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, this summer.

Suzen’s research specialty is computational fluid dynamics and aerodynamics. At the base, he is researching numerical simulations of Micro Air Vehicles applications and turbulence/transition model development for these applications.
Micro Air Vehicles typically have maximum dimensions on the order of 10-15 centimeters or less and are at the extreme end of small size and low speed in the spectrum of man-made flight vehicles. With a small size, low speed and low Reynolds numbers, the vehicles are capable of performing missions such as environmental monitoring, surveillance, assessment of hostile environments and various homeland security applications. Because of their wide range of application potentials, there is an increasing interest and effort in Micro Air Vehicle research led by the U.S. Air Force.

Recent research has focused on configurations with fixed wings with large flexibility to overcome potentially devastating degradation of flight performance due to gusts and hover-capable configurations based on rotary concepts or even flapping wings. Due to the low Reynolds numbers of these applications, biomimetic approaches based on the flight of insects, humming birds and bats have been considered solutions to cruise efficiency, flight agility and gust tolerance.

Suzen is working on development of computational simulation capabilities for unsteady aerodynamics of oscillating/plunging wings for Micro Air Vehicle applications in collaboration with the researchers at the Air Force Research Laboratory performing benchmark experiments for these applications.

**Tulbek named technical director of Northern Crops Institute**

Mehmet Tulbek is the new technical director at the Northern Crops Institute. The announcement came from Brian Sorenson, institute director, on July 1. Tulbek has served as the institute’s pulse and oilseed specialist since January 2006.

Tulbek will provide leadership in technical services for processors and end users of crops grown in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. He also will assist in developing educational short courses and provide technical assistance to food processing companies to expand utilization of regional crops.

“The technical director position is vital to the success of our efforts in promoting our regional crops through educational programming and technical services,” says Sorenson. “Mehmet will be responsible for the technical aspects of our short courses and will oversee our crop utilization efforts and pilot-scale processing activities. He has made significant contributions to regional agriculture, working to expand the use of pulse and oilseed crops in the domestic and international food markets, and will continue to provide leadership with those crops, as well as the other crops produced in our four-state region. Mehmet has earned a great reputation as an expert in northern grown crops and I am eager to have him serve as our new technical director.”

“I am very excited to be promoted as the NCI technical director,” says Tulbek. “In addition to our current pulse and oilseed market development programs, I am looking forward to working with wheat, corn, oat, barley grains and developing new short courses. NCI is such an important organization for the global agricultural education that I am very glad to be part of it.”

Tulbek’s experience includes more than 10 years of research and process development experience in pulse, oilseed and wheat quality and processing. He has conducted research on characterization of fermented chickpea in dough and bread systems; evaluation of physical, chemical, microbiological and sensory properties of roasted flaxseed; evaluation of roasted North Dakota durum wheat quality; and evaluation of North Dakota dry pea quality. He also has worked with the development and characterization of pre-cooked dry pea flour, navy and pinto bean snacks fortified with milled flaxseed; and the utilization of commercial Turkish wheat flours in Asian noodle making.

Tulbek earned his doctorate in cereal science at NDSU. He has a bachelor’s degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Ankara, Turkey, and a master’s degree in food engineering from the Istanbul Technical University. He is a member of the American Association of Cereal Chemists’ Society and the Institute of Food Technologists.
NDSU and Innovis Health to sponsor smart discipline workshop

Larry Koenig, a nationally known speaker, author and trained family therapist, will present “Smart-Discipline – Program for Parents,” on Tuesday, Aug. 12, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Festival Concert Hall. Koenig has been featured on PBS, NPR and in People Magazine. The event is sponsored by NDSU and Innovis Health and is free and open to the public.

The workshop teaches parents how to banish the top seven misbehaviors of children. It focuses on the importance of a good discipline plan and how to design effective rules. It also demonstrates how to build high self-esteem in children and the five-step process in utilizing important beliefs.

NDSU Distance and Continuing Education also will offer “Dealing with Children Today: Discipline, Bullying, and Emotions” a program for professionals on Wednesday, Aug. 13, from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at Festival Concert Hall.

“Dealing with Children Today: Discipline, Bullying, and Emotions” is a program for teachers, childcare workers, social workers, counselors or anyone who works with children. Topics to be covered include smart discipline, bullying and helping children with difficult emotions develop emotional intelligence and respectful behavior. Presenters include Koenig, Wendy Troop-Gordon, assistant professor of psychology at NDSU, and Joel Hektner, associate professor in child development and family science at NDSU. Registration for the professional day is $49.

To register, contact NDSU Distance and Continuing Education at 1-7015 or 1-800-726-1724. Participants also can register online www.ndsu.nodak.edu/dce/html/workshops.htm. Space is limited.

Radiation safety course scheduled

A “Laboratory Use of Radioactive Material” course has been scheduled for Thursday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Memorial Union, Lake Agassiz room.

The course is designed for requested new or potential users of radioactive materials in the laboratory or field application. It also serves as a refresher course for those currently using radioactive materials. Successful completion of the course is required in order to use radioactive materials on campus and will be verified by a passing quiz score.

Topics include basic theory of radioactivity, biological interactions with radiation, radiation protection, minimizing exposure level, rules and regulations, safe handling and decontamination and lab procedures. The instructor is Mike Borr, radiation safety officer.

The fee is $25 for NDSU and cooperative agreement institutions and $50 for all others. Participants should bring a scientific calculator.

To register for the radiation safety short course, contact Stephanie Wegner, office manager of the University Police and Safety Office, at stephanie.wegner@ndsu.edu or 1-7759.

Policy Updates

The following policies recently have been added or revised. To see the complete policy, go to www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy.

Policy 166: University Health & Safety Policy (New Policy)

The policy will act as an integral part of the University Safety Program as it incorporates university, local, state and federal requirements that are not addressed elsewhere in policy. It also will act as a catalyst in the safety requirements addressed in the employee annual responsibility reviews. Currently, there are no consequences for non-compliance with university safety requirements. Our hope is that through policy, the safety culture will grow to provide a safe and healthy work environment.

Policy 182: Severance Pay Policy (Reduction in Force)

This policy change is to add a statement that severance pay agreements must be in writing with the employee releasing the university from liability and all employment rights. This is state board language being added to NDSU policy.

Policy 509: Electronic Financial Transaction Policy

This policy reflects the requirements and standards needed to comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard and the Gramm Leech Bliley Act, which protect personal financial information.

Policy 710: Computer and Electronic Communications Facilities

Changes have been made to add new provisions for security of servers, remove references to Customer Information Control Systems, and add references to State Board of Higher Education policy and North Dakota University System procedures.

Staff Senate seeks candidates

The NDSU Staff Senate currently has three openings in the 6000-7000 (crafts, trades and service) employment bands. Classified staff members in those job categories are encouraged to nominate themselves and others for Staff Senate.

Nominators are asked to check with the person they are nominating before sending in the nomination. Nominees are encouraged to discuss with their supervisors the opportunity of serving before being nominated.

Contact Barb Geeslin, election committee chair, at 1-8805 or barb.geeslin@ndsu.edu or Gretchen Bromley, Staff Senate president, at 1-5619 or gretchen.bromley@ndsu.edu for more information.

Membership in Staff Senate consists of approximately 5 percent of the members of the broadband staff. Each member serves a two-year term, and may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

Among the activities sponsored by Staff Senate are Employee Recognition Week, the scholarship fund for classified staff members and their families, staff development programs, Campus Kudos awards and the annual Holiday Blood Drive.
Positions Available
Positions open and screening dates through the Office of Human Resources, Room 205, Old Main:

Office Assistant/#00023215
Office of the Vice President of Research, Creative Activities and Technology Transfer
$26,000+/year
July 16

Dairy Herd Manager/Instructor #00021214
Animal Sciences
$40,000+/year, plus housing option
Open until filled

Hall Director/#00019287
Residence Life
$29,000+/year, plus partially furnished apartment, meal plan, competitive benefits package
July 16

Communications Specialist/#00026440
Office of Research, Creative Activities and Technology Transfer
Salary commensurate with experience
Open until filled

Digital Initiative Librarian
NDSU Library
Salary commensurate with experience
Open until filled

Serials Librarian/#00026404
NDSU Library
Salary commensurate with experience
Open until filled

Programmer Analyst
NDUS ConnectND
Fargo
$50,000+/year
Open until filled

Position openings also are available through the NDSU Web site at www.ndsu.edu/jobs.

CALENDAR

August

1    Last day of summer classes
20   Resume weekly schedule of “It’s Happening at State”
25   Classes begin at 4 p.m.
26   First full day of classes

September

1    Labor Day holiday observed – university closed

Non-discrimination Policy
North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, Vietnam Era Veterans status, sexual orientation, marital status or public assistance status. Direct inquiries to the Executive Director and Chief Diversity Officer, 202 Old Main, 1-7708.

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