Four honored at ‘Celebration of Faculty Excellence’

Four outstanding NDSU faculty members were recognized with prestigious annual campus awards during the 12th annual “Celebration of Faculty Excellence” on May 6 at the Alumni Center.

Christina Weber, assistant professor of sociology, received the Odney Award for Excellence in Teaching, which is selected primarily on comments from students describing a faculty member’s ability to stimulate interest, demand rigorous thought and generate enthusiastic responses. “It’s an honor to be recognized by my students,” said Weber. “Connecting with students is really important and I love getting to know them. I’m always learning things from all my students, which is great.”

Weber joined NDSU in 2005. She is a member of the NDSU FORWARD Team, Women’s Studies Advisory Committee and is an alternate member of the Institutional Review Board. She is active in Women in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology, and is a faculty sponsor of Sociology Club and Feminist Majority Student Organization. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington, and master’s degree and doctorate in sociology from State University of New York at Buffalo.

The Waldron Award for Excellence in Research went to Won Koo, professor of agribusiness and applied economics and director of the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies. “It’s a big honor and I love getting to know them. I’m always learning things from all my students, which is great.”

Koo joined the NDSU faculty in 1981. His honors include Best Paper Award from Global Academy of Business and Economic Research, Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Professorship, Faculty Lectureship, Eugene R. Dahl Excellence in Research Award and Outstanding Research Awards from the Western Agricultural Economics Association and the American Agricultural Economics Association. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Chunbuk National University, master’s degree at Korea University and doctorate in economics from Iowa State University.

Herbert Snyder, associate professor of accounting, received the Peltier Award for Innovation in Teaching, recognizing the manner he teaches his accounting students how to search for fraud. “What we try to do is create situations where students can actually go out and investigate real and simulated crimes,” he said. “The innovation is the ramping up of the work, so that their skills are good enough when they go out into the real world that they can do good work.”

Snyder is active in the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Institute of Internal Auditors, National White Collar Crime Institute and American Library Association. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Babson College and his doctorate in information science from Syracuse University.

Robert Littlefield, professor of communication, was acknowledged as the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Professor for his many contributions in support of public speaking and debate education. “It is really a humbling experience,” said Littlefield. “It’s a very wonderful feeling, and I’m happy that the relationship that I have with the community is recognized as being a positive thing.”

A member of the Hall of Fame of the Pi Kappa Delta National Forensic Honorary, Littlefield has received the President’s Leadership Medal from Lions Clubs International. In addition, he received the Wayne Brockreide Award for Research, Ralph E. Carey Award for Distinguished Career Service and Double Diamond Coach Award from the American Forensic Association. He received the Outstanding Educator Award from the NDSU College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and was twice named the Debate Coach of the Year by the North Dakota Speech and Theatre Association. Littlefield earned his bachelor’s degree at Minnesota State University Moorhead, master’s degree at NDSU and doctorate at the University of Minnesota.
More than 1,000 to participate in spring commencement

More than 1,000 students will don a cap and gown for this spring’s commencement ceremonies on May 15-16 at the Fargodome. For the first time in the university’s history, commencement will be split into the graduate and professional ceremony planned for Friday at 4 p.m. and the undergraduate ceremony on Saturday at 10 a.m.

“We’re looking forward to the implementation of two ceremonies for the spring format,” Rhonda Kitch, associate registrar, said. “It gives us a chance to feature the two separate programs.”

As of May 7, Kitch said nearly 800 students indicated they intend to participate in the undergraduate ceremony. Nearly 300 students indicated they intend to participate in the graduate and professional ceremony. A total of 1,305 undergraduates and 323 graduate students are eligible to participate.

University officials are pleased to see the number of graduate and professional students participating in the ceremony has grown by almost 60. “That’s exciting,” Kitch said. “We attribute this huge growth of graduate and professional participants to the increased interest and availability of graduate programs at NDSU,” she said.

NDSU alumnus Robert Challey will be awarded an honorary doctorate during the graduate and professional ceremony. A 1967 graduate, he studied business and the sciences. He was student body vice president, a member of Blue Key Honor Society, producer for the student musical “Oklahoma” and drum major and trombonist with the NDSU Gold Star Band. He has enjoyed a highly successful career, becoming chair of the board of The Park Place Group, a real estate development and investment company in Walnut Creek, Calif. He also is a director and treasurer for the Smuin Ballet of San Francisco. Challey has an exemplary and dedicated connection with NDSU. In fact, the lobby of NDSU’s Festival Concert Hall is named the Challey Atrium in his honor.

Joe Heilman, 2008-09 NDSU student body president and business major with a minor in accounting, is the student commencement speaker. He will speak about the NDSU theme, “students are paramount,” and how that phrase has changed for him during his student career. Following graduation, Heilman plans to pursue a Master of Business Administration degree and hopes to join a local company that has opportunity for growth.

Both ceremonies will stream live on the Internet. For more information, go to www.ndsu.edu/registrar/commencement.

Fewer students engaging in high-risk drinking

Results from the 2008 CORE Alcohol and Drug Survey indicate that fewer NDSU students are engaging in high-risk drinking (five or more standard drinks in one sitting) than two years ago. The 2008 results show that 51 percent of students report engaging in high-risk drinking in the previous two weeks. That is down from 2006, when 53.5 percent of students reported binge drinking in the previous two weeks.

The CORE survey also indicated that the number of drinks consumed per week by students is down to 5.37 drinks in 2008, from 6.51 drinks in 2006. The survey also showed that a lower percentage of students have used marijuana in the past 30 days than two years ago, from 9.3 percent in 2006 to 7.5 percent in 2008.

The CORE Alcohol and Drug Survey was developed to measure alcohol and other drug usage, as well as attitudes and perceptions among college students attending two and four year institutions nationwide. This survey has been administered to NDSU students in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 and in 2008 in an attempt to measure drinking and drug use behaviors, as well as their perceptions of how their peers are using alcohol and drugs.

All undergraduate students at NDSU had the opportunity to be included in the survey through a random sampling procedure, which included 1,271 students. Students were drawn from all ethnic backgrounds, academic colleges, and classes.

The NDSU President’s Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs will use the data to improve and create programs, services and policies to address high-risk drinking and other drug use at NDSU. Prevention efforts include increasing late-night programming options, targeted alcohol education for students who violate NDSU’s alcohol and other drug policy, classroom activities about alcohol and other drugs and maintaining compliance with the drug free schools act.

For more information regarding the CORE Drug and Alcohol Survey or prevention efforts, visit www.ndsu.edu/alcoholinfo or contact Laura Oster-Aaland, director of Orientation and Student Success at 1-7750 or via e-mail at laura.oster-aaland@ndsu.edu or Jane Vangsness, Alcohol and Other Drug Coordinator at 1-5478 or via e-mail at jane.vangsness@ndsu.edu.

NDSU hosts 101st annual Academy of Sciences meeting

NDSU hosted the 101st annual North Dakota Academy of Sciences meeting on April 30. A total of 21 undergraduate students, 32 graduate students and nine professionals presented their research.

Students participated in the annual Dennison competition at the Academy of Sciences meeting. Each student was judged on a 15-minute oral presentation plus a five-minute discussion.

In the undergraduate competition, Dennison awards were presented to Erich Wilkerson, a senior studying chemistry and molecular biology, and Anuradha Sakhuja, a senior studying biotechnology. Wilkerson received first place and Sakhuja received second place.

In the graduate competition, Dennison Awards were presented to Leslie LeKatz, animal science; Keith Benton, biochemistry; Amali Samarasinghe, molecular pathogenesis; and Namrata Bhatnagar, pharmaceutical sciences. LeKatz received first place. Benton and Samarasinghe received third place. Bhatnagar received third place.

Meeting organizers are thankful to the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence, Center of Biological Research Excellence and the College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources for sponsoring the event.
Red flag plan in place to deal with NDSU data security

NDSU has taken extensive steps to protect personal data stored on the university’s network and servers. And one of those steps is to ensure that a plan is in place if security fails.

The Identity Theft Prevention Program Plan, which was recently signed by NDSU President Joseph A. Chapman, provides a comprehensive plan in case personal information on NDSU’s network is compromised.

“We do everything in our power to protect personal information, but even the best security systems can fail. The Identity Theft Prevention Program Plan is really a game plan that allows us to respond to security breaches in a rapid, systematic way,” Theresa Semmens, information technology chief security officer, said.

The plan provides procedures for dealing with security concerns, including a process for employees to follow if they discover a “red flag” to indicate a security breach. These warning signs can include the appearance of forged documents, unusual financial activity or even inconsistent information in an individual’s records.

The plan was a joint project of the Finance and Administration Division, the NDSU General Counsel and the Information Technology Division.

The Identity Theft Prevention Program Plan and a variety of useful information regarding identity theft are available at www.ndsu.nodak.edu/general_counsel/identitytheft.shtml.

North Dakota Climate Office acknowledged

The services of the North Dakota State Climate Office were acknowledged at a subcommittee hearing on Energy and Environment in the U.S. House of Representatives on May 5.

The House Committee on Science and Technology and the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment held a hearing titled “Expanding the House Committee on Science and Technology and the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment in the U.S. House of Representatives on May 5.acknowledged at a subcommittee hearing on Energy and Environment in the U.S. House of Representatives on May 5.

Nolan Doesken, state climatologist for Colorado and president of the American Association of State Climatologists, presented a witness testimony during the hearing. The testimony covered the activities of the state climate offices in the U.S., state climate office relationships with the existing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate service program and the American Association of State Climatologists’ role in the National Climate Services. He cited three state climate offices that provide national recognition of our services,” said Adnan Akyüz, assistant professor of climatology and the director of the North Dakota State Climate Office in the NDSU soil science department.

North Dakota Soybean Council pledges greenhouse support

The North Dakota Soybean Council has made a $750,000 commitment to the greenhouse complex at the Agricultural Experiment Station’s main station on the campus of NDSU. The council approved the pledge during its April 17 board meeting.

“This commitment is important to the completion of our greenhouse facilities, which will be as exceptional as any you will find anywhere,” said NDSU President Joseph A. Chapman. “The research conducted will have a profound impact on North Dakota’s agriculture industry for many years to come.”

According to Dennis Feiken, chair of the North Dakota Soybean Council, valuable soybean research is expected to result from the greenhouse facility at NDSU. “As always, our board is serious and very committed to quality soybean research for our North Dakota soybean producers,” said Feiken of LaMoure, N.D. “Research continues to be a top priority for our board.”

“The entire Experiment Station greenhouse project is a true public-private partnership,” explained D.C. Coston, vice president for agriculture and University Extension. “This commitment by the council will allow us to have some specialized capabilities that will allow our researchers to do exciting, important research that will place North Dakota at the leading edge. It will assure the long-term productivity of agriculture in our state.”

The North Dakota Soybean Council’s commitment comes through the NDSU Development Foundation’s current $3 million campaign, which is part of the university’s efforts to raise a total of $5 million in private contributions for the ongoing project.

“The council is serious about soybean research, and serious about soybean research being done at NDSU,” said Jared Hagert of Emerado, N.D., who is the council’s treasurer.

“In the future, the council very much looks forward to excellent, cutting-edge soybean research proposals coming before the council from the NDSU campus faculty,” said Monte Peterson, vice chair of the North Dakota Soybean Council and chair of the council’s Research Committee. “We are confident the new NDSU greenhouse program will better serve the soybean farmers in North Dakota.”

Soybean farmers across the state are represented on the North Dakota Soybean Council Board, which oversees a grass roots promotion, research, education and marketing program funded by soybean check-off dollars. The mission is to create an environment through investing soybean check-off funds to increase profit potential for North Dakota soybean producers.

World iView speakers sought

The Office of International Programs is seeking speakers for the 2009-10 World iView series. Held monthly during the academic year, the World iView series is an opportunity for faculty, staff and scholars to present topics with an international focus to the campus and Fargo-Moorhead community.

To volunteer or for more information, contact the Office of International Programs at 1-7895 or Lisa Hauck at lisa.hauck@ndsu.edu.
Steckler announces changes to benefits

Britnee Steckler, NDSU benefits coordinator, says the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) health plan will be undergoing significant changes effective July 1.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota is eliminating the Exclusive Provider Organization (EPO) option of our health plan as of June 30. All employees currently on the EPO plan automatically will be transferred to the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan, effective July 1. There is no need to complete paperwork to facilitate this process.

In addition to this change, the NDPERS health plan has added the health club reimbursement effective July 1. A packet of information will be sent to each participant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota.

Also, a reminder to employees traveling out of state or country, please refer to the information provided from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota on the Blue Card program at www.bcbsnd.com/members/doctor/bluecard.html.

For more information, contact Steckler at brittnee.steckler@ndsu.edu or 1-8965.

“Ice People” documentary premieres on Sundance Channel

The scientific discoveries of NDSU geoscientists Allan Ashworth and Adam Lewis are highlighted in the documentary “Ice People,” that premiered on the Sundance Channel on May 5. In the documentary, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Anne Aghion offers a rare glimpse of scientists at work under extreme physical conditions. The film documents the geologists’ fieldwork, while capturing the austere beauty of Antarctica.

As noted in a USA Today article titled “Ice People takes you to scientists’ extreme lab,” the film shows the cold and sometimes backbreaking fieldwork conducted by scientists Ashworth and Lewis and NDSU students Kelly Gorz and Andrew Podoll. An international team of scientists headed up by Ashworth, Lewis and David Marchant, an earth scientist at Boston University, combined evidence from glacial geology, paleoecology, dating of volcanic ashes and computer modeling, to report a major climate change centered on 14 million years ago.

Ashworth, University Distinguished Professor of geosciences, notes in the film, “To be in a place which is so underexplored, as a geologist, and to have the opportunity of making a discovery is pretty powerful medicine for a geologist.” According to Lewis, the discovery of lake deposits with perfectly preserved fossils of mosses, diatoms and ostracods are particularly exciting to scientists. “They are the first to be found even though scientific expeditions have been visiting the Dry Valleys since their discovery during the first Scott expedition in 1902-03,” said Lewis.

Documentary filmmaker Aghion spent four months at the U.S. research station McMurdo, camping out for seven weeks with Ashworth and his research crew as they studied fossilized vegetation in Antarctic lakebeds. The film “Ice People” has been screened at science museums and film festivals in Australia, Vancouver, New York, Paris, San Francisco, Jerusalem and Fargo. Select theaters across the U.S. also will show the film in the coming months.

Institute of Barley and Malt Science co-sponsors symposium

The Institute of Barley and Malt Science, a center based in the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, co-sponsored a China and United States symposium on barley, malt and brewing. The symposium was held in Wuxi, Jiangsu, China, April 27-29.

“This symposium offered a great opportunity for the exchange of information,” said Paul Schwarz, institute director. “The Chinese beer market is perhaps the most dynamic in the world. China surpassed the U.S. to become the world’s largest producer of beer in 2002 and of malt in 2006.”

North Dakota leads the U.S. in the production of malting barley. Speakers from the United States included Greg Casey, Miller-Coors Brewing; Rich Horsley, NDSU; Schwarz; and Xiang Yin, Cargill Malt.

“The general theme of the symposium focused on the influence of raw materials on final beer quality,” Schwarz says. “Topics cover many aspects of the barley-to-beer chain and include breeding, scientific/technical advances and food safety.”

Additional sponsors are the American Society of Brewing Chemists and the School of Biotechnology at Jiangnan University.

Northern Crops Institute holds short course on flax

Flax was center stage at the Northern Crops Institute April 28-30. The “Flaxseed: Adding Functional Food Value” short course attracted food processors from Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota and Ohio. The short course was co-sponsored by Ameriflax, the trade organization that represents North Dakota flax producers. Sheri Coleman, Ameriflax executive director, and three members of the Ameriflax board also attended the course.

North Dakota, Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota are the top-ranked flax producing states in the U.S. “Flaxseed is an important crop for our region and can be utilized in many ways to improve nutritional and functional attributes of food products,” says Mehmet Tulbek, institute technical director. “Our main objective in this program is to educate participants on production, quality, shelf life and processing of U.S. flaxseed.”

Course speakers included Clifford Hall III, NDSU Department of Cereal and Food Sciences; Hans Kandel, NDSU Department of Plant Sciences; Thunyaporn Jeradechachai, Northern Crops Institute crop quality specialist; Frank Manthey, NDSU Department of Plant Sciences; Rilie Morgan, Northern Crops Institute processing specialist; and Tulbek.
Finance and Administration announces FACE Award

The Division of Finance and Administration is seeking nominations for the first annual Finance and Administration Conscientious Effort (FACE) Award. The award is a way for NDSU to recognize and commend staff members of the Division of Finance and Administration for their efforts to make NDSU a better institution.

These are the employees that take the extra step, go above and beyond and put their best FACE forward. The Division of Finance and Administration will send out nomination forms through campus mail and e-mail in the next few weeks.

Staff members who qualify for the award are from Accounting/Accounts Payable, Customer Account Services/Accounts Receivable, Budget, Facilities, Grant and Contract Accounting, Human Resources and Payroll, Purchasing, University Police and Safety Office, Student Loan Services and the Vice President for Finance and Administration’s immediate office staff.

Couple and Family Therapy Program wins Impact Award

The NDSU Couple and Family Therapy program is this year’s recipients of the President’s Diversity Impact Award. The award was presented to Tom Stone Carlson, Christine McGeorge and Kristen Benson by Evie Myers, vice president for equity, diversity and global outreach.

The Impact Award was created in 2007 to recognize individuals, groups and units that have demonstrated a significant contribution to advancing diversity as related to the strategic plan of the President’s Diversity Council. Myers said all of the 2009 nominees were very deserving.

The NDSU Couple and Family Therapy program was selected for its outstanding commitment to the support of marginalized people. Staff members are recognized as visible allies on campus and in the community for their outreach to underserved populations and for their social justice activism, in particular on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

Brooks, Koriko, Mathers inducted into Tapestry of Diverse Talents

An enthusiastic crowd welcomed the latest inductees into NDSU’s Tapestry of Diverse Talents program. Kevin Brooks, an associate professor in the English department, Amoussa Koriko, a senior in the Theater Arts programs, and Angela Mathers, a graduate assistant in the equity and diversity office, were all on hand to weave their chosen strip of cloth into one of the frames that stand near the Tapestry photographs on the second floor of the Memorial Union. The second, color-filled frame is now nearly full, as the Tapestry Program ends its 15th year.

The Tapestry of Diverse Talents is a program of the Memorial Union that recognizes students, faculty, staff and alum for the diversity and contributions they bring to NDSU.

Colleagues and friends who submitted the nominations shared some of the contributions of their nominees. Brooks is deeply involved with African relief and resettlement, especially related to Southern Sudan. Koriko wrote and recently directed a play about his homeland and is involved in Togo relief efforts. Mathers is a dedicated campus and community volunteer working, in particular, on social justice issues. A reception was held following the induction ceremony.

Bauroth publishes article

Nick Bauroth, assistant professor of criminal justice and political science, has published “Quasi-Governmental Institutions as a Form of Local Boundary Change: Explanations for the Proliferation of Economic Development Corporations in Texas” in the May 2009 edition of “Public Administration Quarterly.”

According to Bauroth’s research, the United States has experienced a proliferation of quasi-governmental institutions during the last three decades. He says the formation of such institutions represents an important form of local boundary change. Local cont.
boundaries determine service delivery, economic development and intergovernmental relationships.

“It remains unclear, though, how the process of boundary change unfolds. Using U.S. Census and Texas State Comptroller data, I examine the ability of four explanations of boundary change to account for the use of economic development corporations across Texas,” Bauroth wrote in his abstract. “I find that their creation is not driven by economic need or the desire to circumvent institutional constraints. Instead, local entrepreneurs and prior boundary change are associated with new corporations.”

**Chisholm and Ulven receive funding for materials research**

Bret Chisholm, director of NDSU’s Combinatorial Materials Research Lab in the Center for Nanoscale Science and Engineering, and Chad Ulven, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, have been awarded a multi-year $395,000 research grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, a combat support agency of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Research conducted by Chisholm and Ulven will explore transparent materials that absorb the force or energy of strong impacts. Their proposal is titled “An Investigation of Polycarbonate/Polysiloxane Multiblock Copolymers Produced Using Hydrosilylation Coupling Chemistry.”

Polycarbonate has been used as a thermoplastic that is transparent with high impact resistance, used for many things such as bullet-proof glass and canopies for military jets. However, the material also shows a tendency to undergo brittle failure in notched impact tests. The objective of Chisholm and Ulven’s research is to develop extensive structure-property relationships for polycarbonate-polysiloxane multiblock copolymers using a novel synthetic method that will allow precise control over block copolymer architecture. The structure-property relationships obtained as a result of the proposed research will enable the design of novel impact-resistant materials. The project will be a joint effort with NDSU and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

Chisholm holds 25 U.S. patents and has written more than 100 publications. He earned a doctorate in polymer science from the University of Southern Mississippi and a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from NDSU. He was employed by General Electric for 11 years before joining NDSU in 2004.

Ulven earned a doctorate and a master’s degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a bachelor’s degree from NDSU. He joined the faculty at NDSU in 2005. In 2007-08, Ulven received the Researcher of the Year Award from the College of Engineering and Architecture.

**NDSU is eligible for National Institutes of Health grants**

The NDSU Research Office has determined that NDSU is eligible for the National Institutes of Health Academic Research Enhancement Award grants (R15). “This had historically been a popular program for NDSU researchers until it was determined NDSU was ineligible in recent years,” said Kay Sizer, manager of faculty development and special projects. “Now, eligibility has been extended to institutions that have received no more than $6 million (was previously $3 million) in funding from the National Institutes of Health, so NDSU is again eligible.”

Academic Research Enhancement Award grants support small research projects in the biomedical and behavioral sciences conducted by faculty and students in health professional schools and other academic components that have not been major recipients of National Institutes of Health research grants funds. Students will benefit from participating in meritorious research and will be encouraged to continue studies in the biomedical sciences. The Academic Research Enhancement Award grant is a research award and not a training award, so the focus is not on course work but on hands-on meritorious research.

The three goals of the Academic Research Enhancement Award program are to support meritorious research, strengthen the research environment of the institution, and expose students to research.


**Padmanabhan publishes article in international journal**

G. Padmanabhan, professor of civil engineering, co-wrote the article, “Improving Non-Point Source Pollution Model Input Parameters Using Substance Flux Analysis,” which will appear in the Journal of Applied Sciences.

The other authors are Kitipan Kitbamroong, former doctoral student; and Penjai Sompongchayakul, professor at the National Center for Environmental and Hazardous Waste Management of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Padmanabhan served as the international adviser on the doctoral committee of Kitbamroong.

The study for the article is part of a comprehensive study to improve the phosphorus and cadmium loadings from a predominantly agricultural area draining into a major lake in Thailand. Spatially distributed parameter models are commonly used for modeling non-point source pollution transport via surface runoff. One of the difficulties of using distributed parameter models is lack of quality input data on pollutant loading spatially. In this study, Substance Flux Analysis is investigated as a potential tool to obtain better estimates of phosphorus and cadmium loadings.
NDSU professors publish article on benefits of active lifestyles

Desiree Tande, Rhonda Magel, Brad Strand and Donna Terbizan wrote an article that will appear in the spring/summer issue of the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance Journal of Research. The article is titled "Active Lifestyles are Associated with Favorable Anthropometric Measures for U.S. Adults."

According to Tande, who is lead author and NDSU Extension specialist and coordinator for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and the Family Nutrition Program, the study used anthropometric measures, which are noninvasive, quantitative techniques to estimate obesity by measuring and analyzing specific body dimensions. The study is the first to assess abdominal obesity risk based on intensity and frequency of physical activity for a sample representative of U.S. men and non-pregnant women 20 years and older.

"Physical activity is related to obesity. Adults should aspire to meet current physical activity recommendations," Tande said. "Waist circumference should be measured in addition to body mass index for evaluation of physical activity in weight management. Public health may benefit from programs that target middle-aged adults for increased physical activity to lower obesity rates."

Tande originated the study and participated in study design and data analysis. Magel, professor and chair of the statistics department, guided data analyses and interpreted findings. Magel and professors of health, nutrition and exercise sciences Strand and Terbizan were involved in conceptual aspects of the project and reviewed and edited drafts.

Groberg gives presentation at symbolism conference

Kris Groberg, assistant professor of visual arts, presented a lecture at a conference at the University of Illinois at Springfield April 22-26. The conference, titled "Symbolism: It’s Origins and Consequences," featured several speakers from around the world to discuss their research on art and literature from the period 1890-1910.

Groberg’s lecture, titled "Sympathy with the Devil: Russian Symbolist Art," is the result of years of research into images of the devil in Russian Decadent and Symbolist Art. She concluded that such work proliferated in times of political crises in Russia. "The late 19th century through early 20th century was a particularly unusual era in Russian History as Imperial Russia was collapsing, church and state were crumbling and revolution was at hand," Groberg said. "Under the influence of French Decadents and Symbolists, Russian artists reacted to the political chaos by producing varied images of Satan or the devil – especially in the aftermath of the short-lived revolution of 1905, when censorship was briefly lifted."

The focus of the conference was exploring the origins of symbolism, a variety of symbolist manifestations in art, literature, music and philosophy; its consequences in art and literature; and to understand how ideas moved from one European country to another.

Zabelina receives fellowship for creativity research

Darya (Dasha) Zabelina has been awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to support her research to better understand the motivational processes contributing to creativity or its lack. This work will contribute to educational practices conducive to creativity, a central goal to the foundation’s broader mission.

Zabelina is enrolled in the master’s program in experimental psychology, with James Council as her major adviser. The fellowship, which provides three years of support totaling $121,000, will begin this June.

An artist herself, Zabelina’s personal interest in creativity dates many years back. She became involved in creativity research as an undergraduate sophomore under the Advanced Undergraduate Research Award from the National Institutes of Health EPSCoR Foundation. Her research interests primarily revolve around cognitive processes, affective processes, motivation and personality aspects involved in creativity and intelligence.

Doctoral students present at Social Science meeting

Three doctoral students from the NDSU history department presented papers at the annual meeting of the Western Social Science Association held April 15-18 in Albuquerque, N.M.


Lewis and Mott also were panelists for the book critique session of the Rural Studies Section of the association, discussing "Mockingbird Song: Ecological Landscapes of the South," by Jack Temple Kirby.
Cwiak named executive director of new consortium
Carol Cwiak, lecturer of sociology, anthropology and emergency management, has accepted the position of executive director of the newly formed Emergency Management Higher Education Consortium.

The purpose of the Emergency Management Higher Education Consortium is to represent the interests and concerns of the emergency management higher education community. Presently there are more than 130 higher education institutions offering emergency management programs in the United States. NDSU is the only program in the nation to offer a doctorate in emergency management.

Cwiak was asked to fill the position based on her active participation and investment in the emergency management higher education community.

Additionally, Cwiak will give several presentations at FEMA’s Emergency Management Higher Education Conference. She will present on the results of two surveys she does annually for the FEMA Higher Education Program (The Body of Knowledge Report and The Survey of Higher Education Programs Report), teaching strategies for business continuity and crisis management, emcollaborative (a joint project with colleague and presidential fellow Jessica Jensen) and NDSU’s partnership with Ghana to develop an emergency management higher education program. This is Cwiak’s sixth year presenting at the Emergency Management Higher Education Conference.

Cwiak, who has been a lecturer with the department for three years, recently accepted an assistant professor position with the department for fall 2009.

Larson named assistant director of study abroad
Christina Larson has been appointed to the new position of assistant director of study abroad in the Office of International Programs within the Office of Equity, Diversity and Global Outreach. She will administer and develop faculty-led short term study abroad programs, coordinate study abroad advising to students, aid in organizing visits by overseas partner institutions and assist with campus internationalization efforts.

Larson is a native of Moorhead, Minn., and earned a bachelor’s degree in Scandinavian studies and studio art from Concordia College. She brings a variety of overseas experience as well as a background in short-term faculty-led and semester-year study abroad programs from Concordia College and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

Development Foundation presents awards and grants
Several NDSU Development Foundation awards and grants were announced during the 12th annual “Celebration of Faculty Excellence” held May 6 at the Alumni Center.

Faculty receiving Board of Trustees Endowment Awards include:
• James Du, College of Science and Mathematics
• Ron Johnson, College of Business
• Reza Maleki, College of Engineering and Architecture
• Sarah Wagner, College of Agriculture, Food Sciences and Natural Resources

Centennial Endowment Award recipients are:
• Erika Berg, College of Agriculture, Food Sciences and Natural Resources
• Jimmy Kim, College of Engineering and Architecture
• Bill Law, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
• Michael Miller and Tom Isern, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection and Department of History
• Michael Thrasher, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
• Yechun Wang, College of Engineering and Architecture

Gordon A. Larson Agricultural Research Awardees are:
• Birgit Pruess, College of Agriculture, Food Sciences and Natural Resources
• Scott Pryor, College of Agriculture, Food Sciences and Natural Resources
• Mark Sheridan, College of Science and Mathematics

Recipient of Libraries Endowment Awards are:
• Kevin Brooks and Allan Ashworth, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Department of Geosciences
• Kevin Brooks, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
• Kris Groberg, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
• Michael Thrasher, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Knapp to lead performance tour
Erich Knapp, an NDSU graduate student in choral conducting, will lead the Park Rapids Classic Chorale on a 10-day performance tour of Norway, May 11-21. In his ninth year as artistic director and conductor of the chorale, Knapp also will give organ recitals as part of most of these concerts.

A joint choir performance in Oslo with the Eidsvoll Korforening at Eidsvoll Kirke is planned. Other concerts are planned at the Glass Cathedral in Hamar, at Maihaugen Open-Air Museum, at the Tonjum Kirke in Lærdal and at the recital hall at Troldhaugen in Bergen. Several performances are scheduled for Syttende Mai (Norway’s constitution day on May 17), as well as marching in the Syttende Mai parade in Voss.

Knapp is a conducting student of Jo Ann Miller and Michael Weber, and an organ student of Michael Olson. Amanda Hill, an NDSU senior in vocal music education, and Brendan Schultz, an NDSU junior in vocal music education, will perform as part of the chorale.
Residence Life recognizes faculty contributions

Twenty-nine members of the NDSU academic community volunteered as mentors and greeters for the Living-Learning Program during the 2008-09 academic year. The program, developed by the Department of Residence Life, builds on a foundation where faculty can become more actively involved with students outside the classroom through interaction in the residence halls.

The Living-Learning Program is designed to help all students who live on campus to be successful during their time at NDSU. It also fosters skills and experiences to assist them in becoming successful personally and professionally throughout their lives. The foundation of the program is in creating communities that not only meet the basic needs of students, but also where community members positively influence the experiences of others.

Faculty-related components of the Living-Learning Program include the Faculty in Residence Education program, the First-Year Experience program, Faculty in Residence and faculty greeters who volunteer on move-in day and welcome students to campus. These initiatives help students connect with faculty in a variety of methods including social and community events, academic support sessions, hall government meetings and community service activities.

The following individuals have contributed to developing and promoting student success at NDSU during the past year:

**Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources**
- Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, plant sciences
- Kirk Howatt, plant sciences
- Jeff Stachler, Extension plant sciences
- Alan Zuk, plant sciences

**Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**
- Chris Biga, sociology/anthropology
- Linda Fricker, English
- Heather Gill-Robinson, sociology/anthropology
- Kate Gronewold, communication
- Don Larew, theatre arts
- Andrew Mara, English
- Miriam Mara, English
- Charles Okigbo, communication
- Maureen Scott, English
- Gwen Stickney, modern languages
- Nadene Vevea, communication

**Business**
- Maggie Jorgenson, accounting and information systems
- Jin Li, management, marketing and finance

**Engineering and Architecture**
- Wei Lin, civil engineering

**Human Development and Education**
- Nancy Kaler, child development and family science
- Sherri Stastny, dietetics
- Anita Welch, education
- Lynette Winters, health, nutrition and exercise

**Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences**
- Kim Vess Halbur, associate dean for student affairs

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**Science and Mathematics**
- Peggy Biga, biological sciences
- Fu-Chih Cheng, statistics
- Jim Coykendall, mathematics
- Ben Duncan, mathematics
- Lonnie Hass, mathematics
- Pinjing Zhao, chemistry

If you are interested in learning more about the Living-Learning Program or becoming a faculty mentor, contact the Department of Residence Life at 1-7106.

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**Miller receives music educator Distinguished Service Award**

John Miller, director of the NDSU Division of Fine Arts, recently received the 2009 North Dakota Music Educators Association Distinguished Service Award. The honor goes to one individual per year who demonstrates above and beyond what is required in the normal music classroom.

Miller, with his many years of teaching and inspiration, has distinguished himself on the local, state and regional levels. “John’s motivation of his music students and that of his colleagues at the collegiate level are what distinguished him above all others,” Randy Hall, North Dakota Music Educators Association president, said.

Before coming to NDSU in 1998, Miller’s career included faculty appointments in music theory and music technology at the University of North Dakota and Northwestern, DePaul and Eastern Illinois Universities, as well as experience as a commercial composer and arranger in Chicago.

Miller is active in the National Association of Schools of Music as regional chair, visiting accreditation evaluator and as an elected member of the Commission on Accreditation. He has served as president of the board of directors of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra and vice president of the board of directors of the Fargo-Moorhead Opera. His academic specialties include analysis of early music, counterpoint and pedagogical technology.

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**Winter appointed to national board of directors**

Stacey Winter, director of purchasing, has been appointed to the board of directors for the National Association of Educational Procurement. Winter is the current president of the association’s Minnesota/Dakota Manitoba region. As president, one of her primary duties includes coordinating the annual regional education meeting.

The association is a non-profit professional organization primarily dedicated to serving higher education purchasing officers in the United States and Canada. There are more than 1,500 colleges and universities that are members of the association, which provides professional development and working opportunities.
NDSU communicators win awards

Several NDSU communicators received awards in the 2008 North Dakota Professional Communicators communications contest. The awards were presented during the organization’s annual conference in Minot on May 2. First-place awards advance to the National Federation of Press Women communications contest. Winners of that competition will be announced in September.

Sadie Anderson, information specialist in University Relations, received second in the one- to three-color category for the newsletter “It’s Happening at State.”

Laurie Baker, public relations director in university relations, received first place in the category of section edited by the entrant in a publication for general circulation and creative verse. She received second place in the category of a personality profile of more than 500 words for her story on the struggles of soldiers returning from war. She also received second place in the personality profile of more than 500 words category on an NDSU graduate who started a translation, tutoring and language interpretation service. She received third place in the category of feature story for a publication, magazine or supplement for general or specialized circulation on an instructor who helps her students learn German with music.

Ellen Crawford, information specialist in agriculture communication, received first place in the annual external report category for “Annual Highlights: Investing in North Dakota’s Future,” the annual general report category for “BioFocus: North Dakota Advancing BioOpportunities,” and the special articles, agriculture category. She received second place in the news reporting in a publication, magazine or supplement for general or specialized circulation category for an article on the Healthy North Dakota 4-H Club program and single color or spot color display ad in The Forum on NDSU research and Extension efforts. She received third place in special articles, education.

Mary-Anne Fiebig (not pictured), public information office for the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, received first place in the photography in a printed publication other than a newspaper category for a feature photo of an NDSU student inspecting a wheat crop. She received second place in the feature story for a publication, magazine or supplement for general or specialized circulation category on coordinating biomass research at NDSU.

Joel Hagen, staff writer for Publication Services, received first place for the feature story for a publication, magazine or supplement for general or specialized circulation category on DNA. He received second place in the special articles, education category.

Becky Koch, Agriculture Communication director, received first place in the magazine/tabloid one- to three-color category for the Weeds Ag Mag.

Delores Pavicic (not pictured), formerly a media specialist for the McNair Scholars Program, received first place in the four-color newsletter category.

Noone and Horvik to participate in Theatre B production

The NDSU Theatre faculty member Katherine Noone will portray Ramona in the Theatre B production of “Zara Spook and Other Lures” by Joan Ackermann. Lori Horvik, assistant professor in the NDSU theatre department, is the director. “Zara Spook” will run from May 7-9 at 7:30 p.m. and on May 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the box office at (701) 729-8880. Theatre B is located at 716 Main Avenue in Fargo.

Noone and Horvik also will be instructing a week-long intensive course for high school students in the area of musical theatre, June 22-27. The students will study voice, acting and dance. The course will culminate in a musical theatre review performance on Friday, June 26, in Askarnase Auditorium. The performance is free and open to the public.

Defensive driving course set

Robin Reidman, North Dakota Department of Transportation, is scheduled to give a defensive driving course at NDSU. The class is planned for Wednesday, May 20 from 8 a.m. to noon and Tuesday, June 2, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Both classes will be held in EML, room 183.

Fleet Services requires people who operate fleet vehicles, on at least a monthly basis, to take the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course as soon as possible after accepting employment and every four years thereafter. Training for people who operate fleet vehicles less than monthly is at the discretion of agency trainers or risk managers.

Fleet Services also requires people who have been involved in a motor vehicle accident with a state fleet vehicle or individuals who have received a traffic citation while operating a state fleet vehicle in the past 12 months to attend the course within the calendar year of the accident or citation.

The University Police and Safety Office encourages people who operate state fleet vehicles less than monthly to attend the course, keeping in mind that priority will be given to participants who meet the requirements above.

For registration, contact Tammy Aronson, safety and compliance specialist, at tammy.aronson@ndsu.edu or 1-5637.
Miller to host Dakota Memories Heritage Tour

Michael M. Miller, director of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, will host a three-day bus tour through some of the state’s most treasured German-Russian sites in south-central North Dakota, including Streeter, Linton and Strasburg. Planned for Sept. 18-20, the tour will depart from Fargo on Friday morning. Members also can join the tour at Jamestown and Streeter.

Travelers must register by Aug. 15. The cost for the tour is $250 per person based on double-occupancy. If you want your own room, the cost is $275 per person. The cost includes all meals and lodging. Should a reservation need to be canceled, a full refund less a $50 administrative fee will be made if received on or before Aug. 1.

Participants will enjoy strudels, borscht, kuchen, plachenda, knoephla soup, homemade sausage, German potato salad and kase knoephla (cheese buttons).

Allan Ashworth, NDSU Distinguished Professor of geosciences; Thomas Isern, NDSU Distinguished Professor of history and project scholar; Bob Dambach, director of television at Prairie Public Broadcasting; and Jessica Clark, Dakota Memories Oral History Project coordinator and childhood historian, will give special presentations on the tour.

The Dakota Memories Heritage Tour mission is to organize educational tours in North Dakota in order to provide participants with direct cultural heritage and learning experiences. To register for the tour or for more information, contact Acacia (Jonas) Stuckle at 1-6596 or acacia.stuckle@ndsu.edu. For additional information, go to www.ndsu.edu/grhc/dakotamemories.

SHORTS & REMINDERS

Positions Available

- Research Technician/#00025001
  Center for Nanoscale Science and Engineering
  Salary commensurate with experience
  May 19

- Associate Director for Residence Life Staffing
  Residence Life
  $60,000+/year
  May 15

- Graduate Writing Coordinator/#00019010
  Graduate School
  Commensurate with experience
  June 6

- Sheep Unit Manager
  Animal Science
  $40,000+/year plus house and utilities
  Provided
  Open until filled

- Nursery Manager/#00020162
  North Dakota Forest Service
  Salary commensurate with experience
  Open until filled

- Assistant Director, Planning and Construction Services/#00025488
  Facilities Management
  $60,000+/year
  Open until filled

- Internal Auditor
  Budget Office
  $50,000+/year
  Open until filled

- AM Catering Supervisor/#00019714
  Dining Services
  $11+/hour
  Open until filled

- Athletic Equipment Assistant/00020196
  Athletics
  $24,500+/year
  May 14

CALENDAR

MAY

14 Community of Science Workshop, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., IACC 114

14 Baseball vs. Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, 6:30 p.m., Newman Outdoor Field

15 Residence halls close

15 Last day of classes for spring semester

15 Baseball vs. Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, noon, Newman Outdoor Field

15 Baseball vs. Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, 3 p.m., Newman Outdoor Field

15 Spring Graduate and Professional Commencement, 4 p.m., Fargodome

16 Spring Undergraduate Commencement, 10 a.m., Fargodome

16 Baseball vs. Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, 1 p.m., Newman Outdoor Field

18 Summer hours begin – NDSU offices are open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a 30-minute lunch break. Regular hours resume Aug. 17.

19 – Aug. 7 Full Summer Session

19 – June 12 Standard Four-Week Session
University Relations
North Dakota State University
NDSU Dept 6020, PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

NExT ISSUE
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SEND SUBMISSIONS TO THE EDITOR  Sadie Anderson  ndsu.itshappening@ndsu.edu
Library 16, NDSU Dept 6020, PO Box 6050, Fargo, NDSU 58108-6050  Voice: 231-8326  Fax: 231-8969

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUESTS FOR IT’S HAPPENING AT STATE  char.goodyear@ndsu.edu

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CALENDAR

20 Fleet Services – Defensive Driving Course, 8 a.m. to noon, EML 183. To register, contact Tammy Aronson at tammy.aronson@ndsu.edu or 1-5637.

25 Memorial Day holiday observed. NDSU closed.

JUNE

2 Fleet Services – Defensive Driving Course, 8 a.m. to noon, EML 183. To register, contact Tammy Aronson at tammy.aronson@ndsu.edu or 1-5637.

4-26 P.E.A.R.S. Exhibit, Renaissance Gallery, 650 NP Ave., Fargo

12 Office of Orientation and Student Success – Scholars’ orientation day

15 Office of Orientation and Student Success – Scholars’ orientation day

19 Office of Orientation and Student Success – Transfer drop-in orientation day

22 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

23 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

24 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

25 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

26 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

JULY

7 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

8 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

9 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

10 Office of Orientation and Student Success – First-year and family orientation day

12 Office of Orientation and Student Success – Scholars’ orientation day