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SNRS Graduate Student *Data Dump* Updates & Resources

February 23, 2018

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- SNRS Shut Up and Write – Fridays**
Organized by SNRS graduate students, these sessions provide a structured opportunity to write or make progress on similar work. 9:00 – 10:30 in Hultz 272.
- NDSU General Scholarship application due – 3/1/18**
See “Funding Opportunities” on page 1 for more details.
- NDSU Grad Student Council Symposium – 4/6/18**
Abstract due 3/1/18, see page 2 for more details.
- Gamma Sigma Delta Symposium – 4/12/18**
Abstract due 3/16/18, see page 2 for more details.
- NDSU Ag Week Poster Symposium – 4/18/18**
Title due 3/30/18, see page 2 for more details.
- Science Olympiad – 4/21/18**
See “Service Opportunities” on page 1 for more details.

Funding Opportunities

- NDSU Scholarships**
To apply for general NDSU scholarships and scholarships selected by the academic colleges for 2018/2019, complete the application at the Scholarship website by March 1, 2018:
www.ndsu.edu/onestop/finaid/scholarships/
- Soybean Council Graduate Scholarship**
Available to graduate students in CAFSNR who are involved in some aspect of production research that would benefit the soybean industry. Deadline is March 26, 2018. For more information: goo.gl/9m5xGG

Service Opportunities

Science Olympiad 2018 – Volunteers Needed
Become one of the more than 140 volunteers at the North Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament held at NDSU on April 21. Follow the link to view a list of event descriptions and/or register to volunteer: goo.gl/uPs4cB

SNRS Graduate Student Reps

Thanks to Jasmine Cutter (pursuing a MS degree in Range Science) for being willing to be the graduate student representative to SNRS faculty meetings. Jasmine will be attending faculty meeting, providing you with some quick overviews of what is happening, and get feedback on issues relevant to graduate students. There are still openings to serve as student representative on other SNRS committees. Interested parties should email diane.pennington@ndsu.edu



Conference/Presentation Opportunities

Northern Plains Biological Symposium

The Biological Sciences Graduate Student Association will be hosting the 15th annual Northern Plains Biological Symposium on March 22nd, 2018 and is open to all graduate and undergraduate student presenters. Abstracts are due to liz.cambron@ndsu.edu by March 1st. For registration, please visit <https://goo.gl/forms/2LkjkU1Ap5QrIBlw1>.

NDSU Graduate Student Council (GSC) Second Annual Research Symposium

An opportunity to share your research collaboratively with other NDSU graduate students from all disciplines. Please email a 250-word abstract to Priyanka.swami@ndsu.edu by March 1st if interested. The symposium will take place on Friday, April 6th in the Great Plains room (Memorial Union) from 8 am - 4 pm. For more information: goo.gl/o87PdV.

1st Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Faculty & Student Symposium

The NDSU chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta is hosting their 1st annual research symposium that will include oral or poster presentations on April 12, 2018 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm in the Hidatsa Room (Memorial Union). A 250-word abstract is due by March 16th to anuradha.begi@ndsu.edu. For more information: goo.gl/rfC4cH

AgWeek Collective Research Poster Symposium

On April 18th, there will be a Research Poster Symposium and Competition as part of NDSU AgWeek. The event will be held in the Badlands room (Memorial Union) from 9 am – noon. No abstract is required but title of poster should be submitted to david.s.buchanan@ndsu.edu by March 30th. For more information: goo.gl/BHTioj

Advice from a Grad Student

Advice I wish I received on my first day of graduate school: Advocate for yourself

Megan Dornbusch, Range MS student

The transition from an undergraduate program to graduate school can be a confusing, and often intimidating, adventure. It comes with a new set of responsibilities and obligations to complete tasks like fieldwork, proposals, reports, and manuscripts for your advisor(s), committee, funding agencies, and others beyond just holding yourself accountable for completing your own homework on time. With all of these new demands, it can be easy to get overwhelmed and confused about how you can possibly accomplish all of these new expectations.

As mentioned previously, no grad student is an island, and you're not expected to know and figure everything out on your own. That's not to say you should ask for help with every little detail and expect your hand held in the process, but if you're stuck, overwhelmed, or confused there's an array of people around you that are willing to help and offer advice.

Since your advisor is often the person assigning the majority of your tasks and expectations, it can be easy to feel intimidated by them or that your questions and concerns are simply a nuisance. This, however, often is not the case. As an audience doesn't look for a speaker to fail, which is embarrassing and uncomfortable for everyone involved, your advisor is also not looking for you to fail. You can avoid the embarrassment and discomfort of potential failure by just asking for clarification or assistance along the way. Most advisors are more than willing to help, but they won't know how to help you if they don't know what you're struggling with or what you're confused about. For instance, if you've received edits on a draft but don't understand what they mean or what your advisor is looking for instead, your advisor won't know to provide clarification unless you go to them. Without clarification, you can easily get stuck in rounds and rounds of editing that would otherwise be unnecessary.

Graduate school is centered on self-direction, but it's also about learning to use your resources and to admit what you don't understand. Next time you're stuck or confused about what or how you're supposed to accomplish something, don't be afraid to ask for clarification from your advisor, or anyone else for that matter.



Megan Dornbusch
Range Science
MS

Spotlight on Graduate Student Resources

Graduate Center for Writers

Why might I need it? Whether it is for classes, professional communication, or the ever-present dissertation, you do a lot of writing in graduate school! Moreover, it is often writing that is quite different than things you've done in the past. The Graduate Center for Writers "aims to help graduate students...to become more successful writers". If you are having difficulty with any type of writing or just need a little extra help, this can be a great resource.

What can they do to help? One of their most helpful services is the **1-on-1 sessions** they offer. It's a unique and extremely valuable opportunity to get help and advice from one of their consultants. They also offer a number of events including **workshops, seminars and a writing bootcamp**. In addition, they have a number of **writing resources** to help your writing.

For more information: <https://www.ndsu.edu/gcfw/>

Advice from a Grad Student

Feeling Stuck? | Lesley Lubenow, Entomology PhD Student

Graduate school: we exist in a dual environment of classwork expectations and research projects. For classroom worries, there is a guide! The syllabus outlines learning goals and classroom expectations.

However, graduate school isn't just classroom work. Each of us are members of a scientific team. Part of our professional development is learning how to achieve our goals within the context of our team's goals. Our advisor and project group members all have expectations, but sometimes these expectations can be a wee bit fuzzy. Also during that first year, similar questions keep popping up like "do you know what your project is going to be?" or "how are the stats going to work?" Have you ever felt like you weren't sure what the next steps should be or just totally overwhelmed? I've been there.

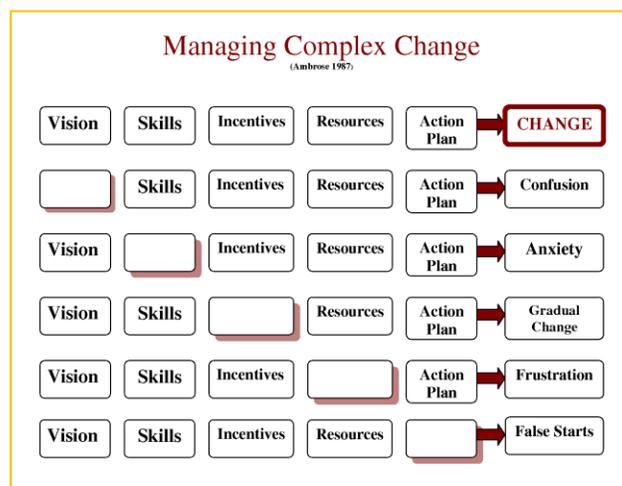
Ambrose (1987) proposed a matrix which uses feelings associated with the "I'm stuck" mode to figure out what is missing in accomplishment of your goals. This matrix pinpoints the missing piece. The piece that you need accomplish your goals. I've kept a copy of this matrix on bookshelf for many years.

The end goal is to change, i.e., become unstuck. Ambrose proposes that change occurs when a team has the shared vision, the skills, incentives, resources and an action plan to accomplish their goals. Lose one of these components and "change" can turn into confusion, anxiety, or other emotions.

Using the matrix pictured, if you are confused, seek out a conversation that helps you know the vision of the project. If anxious, look at what skills can you learn or develop. If frustrated, ask if you are missing resources and then find them. Had a false start? Examine your action plan. If things are happening too slowly, maybe incentives are needed to invigorate the project.

I've used this matrix to frame conversations with teams that I've worked with who were kinda stuck in "we meet to meet" mode. I hope you find it useful, too!

From: Ambrose, D. (1987). *Managing complex change*. Pittsburgh, PA: The Enterprise Ltd.



Lesley Lubenow
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