

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

January 22, 2019

FROM THE DEAN

Mentoring

Thinking back through your years in school, who was your favorite teacher? Did you have a teacher who made a big impact on your life? I suspect that most of us have one. For me, it was my high school physics teacher. And while he had excellent knowledge of the subject and good teaching technique, what separated that teacher from all the others was his belief in me. He saw my potential, encouraged me to pursue science and engineering, and “coached me up” to help me gain confidence. In many ways, he embodied the traits of a master mentor.

Mentoring is an important element of a healthy academic culture, not just between faculty and students, but also between senior faculty and staff and junior faculty and staff. It is important for all of our senior faculty/staff to take a mentoring mindset towards the junior faculty and staff. One example of a way to do this is for senior faculty to intentionally invite junior faculty (where appropriate) to participate as co-PI's on multi-investigator research proposals.

For all of us, it is important to realize that no one person will likely be able to meet all of our mentoring needs, which may include (1) access to opportunities, (2) professional development, (3) substantive feedback, (4) role models, and (5) emotional support. Rather, a network of mentors, each with their unique insights and expertise, is likely to be the most effective at meeting our multifaceted needs. As author Julie Winkle Giulioni puts it, “Today, the lines between mentoring and networking are blurring. Welcome to the world of mentworking.” This semester, I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and into intentional relationship building by creating a network of mentors.



IN THE NEWS

[NDSU professor appointed Duin Endowed Fellow](#)

[Inspiring Teacher: Chad Ulven, associate chair and professor of mechanical engineering](#)

[Precision Agriculture from an eagle eye view](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

Mijia Yang from the **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering** has been named associate editor of the **Journal of Materials in Civil Engineering**.

Wenjie Xia from the **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering** had his new paper on the mechanical interphase of confined polymer featured as the front cover of the journal **Soft Matter**.

Trung Bao Le from the **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering** was recently invited to the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University to deliver a presentation at the **Center for Translational Imaging**.

Please let [College Happenings](#) know about honors, awards, new grants and other announcements so we can share them with other faculty and staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 24. The **Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Equity** will be hosting a presentation from the local Rape and Abuse Crisis Center on recognizing and responding to signs of Intimate Partner Violence. **10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** in the **Memorial Union Hidatsa** room.

Wednesday, January 30, **Responsibility Review Training**. A Responsibility Review is meant to be a developmental tool used to build a partnership between the employee and the supervisor. **3:00 – 4:30 p.m.** in the **Memorial Union Mandan** room. [Register Here](#).

Wednesday, February 6, **Spring Career Expo**. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Fargodome. [More Information](#).

CLASSROOM CLICKER VENDOR DEMOS

Last spring, NDSU ITS issued an RFP for vendors to submit proposals that would allow a university-wide site license for clicker software and devices.

A committee reviewed proposals and narrowed the field to three vendors. Faculty and staff are invited to attend presentations by these vendors and to provide feedback before the committee makes a selection.

All presentations will be in the Century Theatre at Memorial Union.

- iClicker – Tuesday, January 22, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Turning Technologies – Wednesday, January 23, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- Top Hat – Thursday, January 24, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

FACULTY AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations for [Excellence in Mentoring Award](#) and [Chamber of Commerce NDSU Distinguished Faculty Service Award](#) by February 1, 2019.

Nominations may be submitted by faculty, staff, students, alumni, unit administrators or deans. Self-nominations will be accepted to ensure that there are multiple pathways to nomination.

For information on faculty awards please see the [awards page](#).

RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The College of Engineering Graduate and Research Committee is now accepting nominations for the CoE Researcher of the Year Awards.

Each year the college recognizes the outstanding achievements of CoE faculty and graduate students by awarding Two CoE Researcher of the Year Awards: one for a pre-tenured faculty member and the other for a tenured faculty member, and One COE Graduate Research Assistant of the Year Award.

Nominations and supporting materials are due by February 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Contact [Xiangfa Wu](#) for more details on eligibility requirements, nomination procedure, required supporting materials and selection criteria.

W-CHALLENGE WRITING CONTEST

Who were your finest or most motivated undergraduate writers during fall semester? Please nominate these students for the fourth annual W-Challenge writing contest!

The NDSU English Department is looking for excellent submissions for the academic, professional/technical/scientific, creative, everyday, and foreign language categories of the W-Challenge. [Information about the W-Challenge can be found here.](#)

Nominations are due by Friday, January 25 and may be submitted with [this form](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DOD/DOE/NSF/USDA: National Robotics Initiative

The National Robotics Initiative – Ubiquitous Collaborative Robots program ([NRI-2.0](#)) builds upon the original National Robotics Initiative (NRI) program to support fundamental research in the United States that will accelerate the development and use of collaborative robots (co-robots) that work beside or cooperatively with people. The focus of the NRI-2.0 program is on ubiquity, which in this context means seamless integration of co-robots to assist humans in every aspect of life.

The program supports four main research thrusts that are envisioned to advance the goal of ubiquitous co-robots: scalability, customizability, lowering barriers to entry, and societal impact – more details on these are provided in the [program solicitation](#).

Application deadline: February 19, 2019

DOE: Early Career Research Program

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science (SC) invites grant applications for support under the Early Career Research Program ([DE-FOA-0002019](#)) in the following program areas: Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR); Biological and Environmental Research (BER); Basic Energy Sciences (BES), Fusion Energy Sciences (FES); High Energy Physics (HEP), and Nuclear Physics (NP). The purpose of this program is to support the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and to stimulate research careers in the areas supported by SC.

Required Pre-Application Deadline: February 6, 2019

Full Application Deadline: April 29, 2019

RECENTLY FUNDED GRANTS

- Nurun Nahar (PI). Evaluating Soybean Quality Stored in Commercial Grain Bags. \$21,046 from the ND Soybean Council. 01/01/2019 – 06/30/2019.
- Scott Christopher Smith (PI). Turning Visual Noise into Hardware Efficiency: Viewer-Aware Energy-Quality Adaptive Mobile Video Storage. \$150,444 from the National Institutes of Health. 11/01/2018 – 09/30/2021.

RECENTLY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

- Beena D Ajmera (PI). Degradation in Undrained Shear Strength Due to Cyclic Loading in Overconsolidated Fine-Grained Soils. \$272,965 from the Department of the Army. 08/01/2019 – 07/31/2022.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

For 2019, 6 publications by authors with the College of Engineering affiliation have appeared in various journals, according to the ISI Web of Science and submissions from faculty. Here are some of the most recent publications:

- Eslaminejad, A., M. Hosseini-Farid, M. Ziejewski, and G. Karami. 2018. “Brain Tissue Constitutive Material Models and the Finite Element Analysis of Blast-Induced Traumatic Brain Injury.” *Scientia Iranica* 25 (6): 3141–50. <https://doi.org/10.24200/sci.2018.20888>.
- Mattson, Jeremy, Jill Hough, and Amiy Varma. 2018. “Estimating Demand for Rural Intercity Bus Services.” *Research in Transportation Economics* 71 (November): 68–75. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.retrec.2018.11.001>.
- Xia, Wenjie, Xin Qin, Yao Zhang, Robert Sinko, and Sinan Keten. 2018. “Achieving Enhanced Interfacial Adhesion and Dispersion in Cellulose Nanocomposites via Amorphous Interfaces.” *Macromolecules* 51 (24): 10304–11. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.macromol.8b02243>.
- Zhang, Feng, Huanhai Xin, Di Wu, Zhen Wang, and Deqiang Gan. 2019. “Assessing Strength of Multi-Infeed LCC-HVDC Systems Using Generalized Short-Circuit Ratio.” *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems* 34 (1): 467–80. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TPWRS.2018.2868958>.

College Happenings is distributed to the NDSU College of Engineering staff and faculty every other Tuesday.

Read past issues of *College Happenings* [here](#).

Deadline for submissions to *College Happenings* is 12:00 p.m. Fridays.

Contact kyle.bosch@ndsu.edu to submit items for *College Happenings*.

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