CAPSTONE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to issue six of the NDSU Computer Science Capstone newsletter for the 2021-22 school year. The spring semester has flown by and we are now in the finalization phase of the Capstone project. For most projects, that means the final capabilities are being added, hand-off documentation is being created, and the final review meeting is being planned.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

MAY 2ND-6TH
Target window for end of semester project reviews

MAY 5TH
College of Engineering Capstone / Senior Design Expo

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING SENIOR DESIGN EXP

I would like to invite you to the NDSU College of Engineering Senior Design Expo on Thursday, May 5th from 12-4 in the Memorial Union Ballroom.

The expo has been an annual event for some of the engineering disciplines for several years, but this year's event is bigger and better… and not just because Computer Science is participating in it for the first time! There will be over 80 senior design / capstone projects presented at the expo, including all 18 projects from Computer Science. Each project team will display large scale posters to provide a project overview, will be set up to demo their work, and will be ready to discuss any aspect of their project.

If you are a project sponsor, this will be a great opportunity to see how your team summarizes their project as well as survey other projects. If you are considering a project in the future, this will be a your chance to get ideas for projects. And you'll get to see a cross section of the many talented students in the NDSU College of Engineering.

Please look for me and introduce yourself if we haven't met in person. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

GUEST LECTURES

Following a pattern established in previous years, we dedicated three class sessions to guest lectures in April. The goal was to give the class, all of whom are seniors that are graduating this spring or next fall, some perspective on career options and growth. We were fortunate to have three excellent sessions.

Tony Ambrose from Nexus Innovations spoke about the importance of team culture, finding your 'sweet spot', and the need to always be growing. Nicole Haugen from Microsoft spoke about growing your career through the many options at a large company, the importance of non-technical skills, and the benefits of getting different experiences early in your career.

Becky Newell from Stoneridge, Paul Bramel from FarmQA, and Steve Ernst from FargoRate provided an excellent session as our startup panel. They hit on topics like the differences working for a small company vs. a large company, finding a business niche, and listening to customers.
Thank you to all five guest lecturers!

LOOKING AHEAD

As the semester comes to a close, I will be asking for survey feedback from the students as well as the mentors and the primary contacts at this year's sponsor organizations. The information from the surveys that you will fill out will provide student feedback for this year and influence the program as we start to look forward to 2022-23.

Thank you in advance for feedback on this year's projects and the overall program. And thanks again for all the support this year!