

# NDSU NEWS

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- [Newswise – 11/4/11 – NDSU and COMSATS to develop solar water heating system for harsh climates](#)
- [Minot Daily News – 11/4/11 – NDSU donates items for MSU flood victims](#)
- [Innovations Report – 10/25/2011 – NDSU develops innovative laser enabled electronic packaging technology](#)
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- [Canadian Business – 10/9/11 – Fargo company marketing product to protect bronze](#)
- [The Forum – 10/7/11 – Local universities are learning a lot from babies](#)
- [Grand Forks Herald – 10/7/11 – Supermarket sweep: Save money with tips from NDSU food specialist](#)
- [Agweek – 10/3/11 – New Potato Clone Touted as a Potential Boon for Red River Valley](#)
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- [Star Tribune – 9/22/11 – Thundering herd coming down I-94 for Gophers-Bison game](#)
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- [The Forum – 9/6/11 – NDSU researcher finds link between mother's diet, child's cancer risk](#)
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- [Agweek – 8/4/11 – NDSU's high-tech feeding site crosses enterprise disciplines](#)

## Mathematics departments hosts Sonia Kovalevsky High School Day

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The NDSU mathematics department hosted the 15th annual Sonia Kovalevsky High School Day Sept. 24. High school teachers from throughout North Dakota and western Minnesota were invited to bring their female students to Fargo to meet NDSU mathematics faculty, professional women from the Fargo area who use math in their careers and other high school students who are interested in math. The day was divided into morning and afternoon sessions with mathematics activities for the young women.

James Coykendall, NDSU mathematics professor, presented the first workshop of the day, "Mathematics of the Rubik's Cube." He demonstrated solution strategies for the Rubik's Cube and explained the mathematics behind it. Each student received a Rubik's Cube as part of the workshop.

In the second workshop, NDSU graduate student Elizabeth Sattler gave examples of fractals and how they can be created from simple shapes.

A career roundtable rounded off the morning session. Students got to speak with Maria Alfonseca-Cubero, NDSU mathematics department; Marvita Busching, Microsoft; Brenda Derrig, City of Fargo; and Elizabeth Mossberg, National Security Agency.

Mossberg then delivered the keynote address where she described the role of barcodes and gave a brief introduction to codes used for compression and error-correction.

In the afternoon session, graduate student Aaron Feickert discussed winning strategies of some simple games such as tic-tac-toe and rock-paper-scissors in the workshop "Mathematical Games."

William Martin brought the day to a close with his game of "Math Jeopardy."

Participants came from several high schools from North Dakota and Minnesota, some traveling almost 300 miles. A total of 47 female students participated; up from 27 students last year. Alfonseca-Cubero and Dogan Comez, both from the NDSU mathematics department, and William Martin from the School of Education organized the event.

The 2011 Sonia Kovalevsky Day was supported by a grant from the Association for Women in Mathematics, National Security Agency (Department of Defense), Elizabeth City State University, NDSU Office of the Provost, NDSU FORWARD, College of Science and Mathematics, College of Engineering and Architecture and Department of Mathematics.

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