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UNIVERSITY LETTER

UND'S FACULTY/STAFF NEWSLETTER

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TOP STORIES

Robert Kelley named UND's 11th president

Robert Kelley, dean of the College of Health Sciences and professor of medical education and public health at the University of Wyoming since 1999, will be the 11th president of the University.

The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education selected Dr. Kelley after interviewing him Monday, Feb. 4, at the UND Memorial Union River Valley Room. Kelley accepted the position Thursday, Feb. 7, and will start July 1, 2008. He succeeds Charles Kupchella, who was named UND's 10th president on April 20, 1999, and who announced his retirement in January 2007. Kelley was recommended by the UND Presidential Search Committee.

Robert Otis Kelley will be the 11th president in UND's 125-year history. Dr. Kelley has been dean of the College of Health Sciences and professor of medical education and public health at the University of Wyoming since 1999. Before his present post, he was associate vice chancellor for research and executive associate dean of the graduate college at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and professor of biological sciences at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor of anatomy and cell biology at the College of Medicine, both at the University of Illinois at Chicago. At the University of New Mexico, he served as chair of anatomy and senior executive associate dean, as well as other faculty capacities. He has also taught at the University of California, Berkeley.

Kelley earned his bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas, in 1965, and his master's degree in 1966 and doctorate in 1969, both in cell and developmental biology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kelley has served as chair of the Assembly for the Association of American Medical Colleges, chaired the Council of Academic Societies for the AAMC, and was a member of the executive board of the National Board of Medical Examiners, which is responsible for the U.S. medical licensure examination. In addition, he has served the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on several study sections, served on the director's advisory board for NIH strategic planning, and chaired the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program advisory committee in the NIH Division of Research Resources. That program helped support research for historically black universities, tribal colleges, and "minority-majority" institutions. He is currently principal investigator for the University of Wyoming/Northern Rockies INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence), an NIH program which promotes biomedical research and connects the state's community colleges with the University of Wyoming.

He and his wife, Marcia Bell Kelley, a lecturer in the University of Wyoming Department of Communication Disorders, have four children.

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EVENTS TO NOTE

Institutional Review Board meets March 14

The Institutional Review Board will meet at 3 p.m. Friday, March 14, in 305 Twamley Hall to consider all research proposals submitted to the IRB office before Feb. 19.

Clinical medical projects must be reviewed by the clinical medical subcommittee before being brought to the full board. Proposals for these projects were due in the Institutional Review Board office before Feb. 12.

Minutes from the meeting will be available in the IRB office approximately one week after the meeting.

-- Kara B. Wettersten, Ph.D., IRB Chair, Department of Counseling, kara_wettersten@und.nodak.edu, 701-777-2729

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Geography forum set for Feb. 13

The Department of Geography invites you to the February Geography Forum from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Feb. 13, in 157 O'Kelly Hall. Raedawn Ruffner, a representative from Garmin International, will discuss "Put Yourself on the Map." Everyone is welcome.

-- Enru Wang, Assistant Professor, Geography, erwang@und.edu, 7-4590

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Memorial Union Spring Leadership Series

Tim Schroeder, professor and program coordinator for recreation and leisure services, will present "Generational Differences in Leadership" at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in the Badlands Room, second level, Memorial Union, as part of the Spring Leadership Series. The series is sponsored by the Memorial Union, and it is free and open to the entire University community. Faculty, please announce this event to students.

Next week Steven Light, professor of political science and public administration, will present "Organizational Leadership in Government and Business."

-- Kaleigh Lindholm, Project Coordinator for Leadership Development, Memorial Union Center for Student Involvement & Leadership, leadership@und.nodak.edu, 777-3665

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Spring Career Fair set for Feb. 13

The Spring Career Fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, in the Hyslop Multipurpose Gym.

The Career Fair is presented by Career Services and is designed to help students learn more about professional career options. The Career Fair will include hundreds of businesses from across the country looking for future employees. Students should dress professionally and bring copies of their resume. Students and employers can register at Career Services in 280 McCannel Hall, or online at www.career.und.edu.

-- Kim Krueger, Events Coordinator, Career Services, kimmers55@aol.com, 701.777.4100

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Women's Center Meet, Eat and Learn meets Feb. 13

The Women's Center Meet, Eat and Learn will meet from noon to 1 p.m. at the International Center Wednesday, Feb. 13, from noon to 1 p.m.

"Women With Wrinkles," a one-act play by Kathy Coudle King, brings together two elderly women in a nursing home in Louisiana. As the play unfolds, years of racism are peeled away. It's never too late for an "old dog to learn new tricks" -- or make a new friend. Aging, racism, and friendship are all themes that will be expressed in this humorous and poignant staged-reading. This script-in-hand reading will be performed by Jennifer Payne, UND senior, English; Pat Jordheim, UND graduate student, communications, and reprising her role of "Robyn," Kay Mendick, Women's Center director.

Lunch will be served, everyone is welcome.

-- Patty McIntyre, Program Associate, Womens Center, undwomenscenter@und.nodak.edu, 777-4302

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Salman Rushdie book discussions are part of 125th celebration

The University of North Dakota 125th Anniversary Great Conversations committee will present three book discussions on Sir Salman Rushdie.

Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, assistant professor of English, and Brian Schill, lecturer in the honors program, will lead the conversations about Rushdie's award winning novels, including "Midnight's Children" and "Satanic Verses." Both are well versed in the writings of Rushdie. Books are available through local bookstores and libraries.

Book discussions will be held:

Focusing on "Midnight's Children":

* Thursday, Feb. 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Barnes & Noble Coffee Shop. Parking available on-site.

And a book discussion focusing on "Satanic Verses"

* Tuesday, Feb. 26, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Empire Arts Center Gallery, downtown Grand Forks. Parking available off-street, or ramp on Fifth St. and Kittson.

Sir Rushdie will be in Grand Forks for the UND 125th Anniversary's Great Conversation Series and the 2008 Writer's Conference at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the Chester Fritz Auditorium. As the opening speaker for the 2008 Writers Conference, the Great Conversation offers an opportunity for attendees to participate in a dialogue with Sir Salman Rushdie. Following a reading by Sir Rushdie from his works, Professor Rebecca Weaver-Hightower will facilitate the discussion between Rushdie and the audience. The focus of the discussions will come from his novel, "Midnight's Children" (1981) which catapulted him to literary fame. This work won the 1981 Booker Prize and, in 1993, was awarded the Booker of Bookers as the best novel to have received the prize during its first 25 years. It still receives accolades for being Rushdie's best, most flowing and inspiring work.

For more information on the UND 125th, visit 125.und.edu.

For more information on the 2008 Writer's Conference, visit www.undwritersconference.org.

-- Benjamin Klipfel, Marketing Coordinator, UND 125th Anniversary, benjamin.klipfel@und.nodak.edu, 7-0857

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Dan Rice to speak at Faculty Lecture Series Feb. 14

"Higher Education: Where We've Gone Wrong!" is the next talk in the University Faculty Lecture Series. Dan Rice, dean of the UND College of Education and Human Development, will give the talk Thursday, Feb. 14, at the North Dakota Museum of Art. A reception starts at 4 p.m., followed by the lecture at 4:30 p.m.

In honor of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the University and the 10th anniversary of the re-establishment of the lecture series at UND, the committee of Chester Fritz Professors coordinating the University Faculty Lecture Series invited the deans of colleges to speak on their research. This occasion will allow the deans to reflect on the important role that their scholarly work plays not only in their career path but in their work on campus today. And, again to break precedent a little, the committee commemorated President Charles Kupchella's tenure at UND by inviting him to give the opening lecture ("Chickens") Oct. 18.

The next lecture in the series is Wednesday, Feb. 27, by Paul LeBel, dean of the UND School of Law. Other upcoming lectures: Thursday, March 13, Denny Elbert, dean of the UND College of Business and Public Administration; Thursday, April 10, Martha Potvin, dean of the UND College of Arts and Sciences; and Thursday, Sept. 11, Bruce Smith, dean of the UND John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences.

Dr. Rice, dean of the College of Education and Human Development and professor of educational leadership, holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Dakota Wesleyan University, the M. Div. from Yale Divinity School, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in educational administration from UND. He received a certificate from the Management Development Program at the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education. Rice has been with the Department of Educational Leadership since 1986, serving as chair and associate professor until being named interim dean. From 1989 until 1998 he was the director of UND's Office of Instructional Development (OID). Prior to his work at OID, Rice served as the director of the UND Graduate Center in Bismarck.

Rice has been active in many campus activities, including University Senate (chair, 1999-2000) and he served as a faculty representative on the previous presidential search committee and is a full member of the graduate faculty. Beyond the UND campus he has served as the chair for the South Dakota Committee on the Humanities, affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the chair for the steering committee of the Bush Regional Collaboration in Faculty Development. Rice has also been a member of the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE), and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), and recently served a term as Chair of the North Dakota Deans and Directors of Teacher Education (NDAACTE). He received the President's advisory Council on Women Award for the Advancement of Women (1996) and the Educational Service Award from the North Dakota Indian Education Association (2005). Rice is the author of several publications including his book, "The Clifford Years: The University of North Dakota 1971-1991."

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Prairie Thaw series showcases poetry of Thom Caraway

It's time for the English Department's first Prairie Thaw reading of Spring 2008! Thom Caraway, soon-to-be-graduated English doctoral student and published poet, will read from his book, "A Visitor's Guide to North Dakota," at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, in 300 Merrifield Hall. Copies of his book will be available for sale at the reception which follows on the first floor of Merrifield Hall.

Below is a poem excerpted from Thom's book:

Eastbound on the Empire Builder

You see the backs of buildings,
the yellow-lit loading docks, heavy men
slogging pallets at 1 a.m. Warehouse bars
and industrial parks, brick stacks
shouting steam at low skies.
Fork-lift drivers load trucks
with tomorrow's commerce.
You pass whole cities of ruined cars
and scrap iron, an empire of delivery trucks.
What a strange congress they make.
The culvert under I-90 has been dry for years
and still the trains whistle past.

And I am eastbound,
soon for the twisting wind of North Dakota,
where these men have never been,
but dream of in their dreams
of uninterrupted sky. A world built
of unknown language. When they wake,
they look for the low mountains
surrounding Spokane, know that some
terrible landscape lies beyond.

-- Jennifer Groucutt, Graduate Teaching Assistant, English, jennifer.groucutt@und.nodak.edu, 701-777-2374

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Student Technology Fee Committee calls for proposals; open meeting Feb. 14

The Student Technology Fee Committee is calling for proposals for fall 2009 (AY091) technology fee dollars.

The committee will make recommendations for proposals based on the following:

Descriptive criteria

Dean's ranking

How does this project address your unit's strategic plan?

Impact on the curriculum and/or on research

Innovation

Student benefit

Demographic criteria

Number of disciplines served

Number of students served

Unit support

Access to equipment

Matching funds from the department/unit

Technical support

Technology available for redeployment

*Note: Above criteria listed alphabetically – not in priority order.

PLEASE NOTE: All proposals must be submitted using the fall 2009 (AY091) STF Request Form. Forms may be accessed at: www.und.edu/org/stf/forms.html or you may request one via e-mail from Carol Hjelmstad at carolhjelmstad@mail.und.edu. Departments/units should submit the proposals to their deans or directors for review

and prioritization. Units which answer directly to vice presidents should submit proposals to them for review and prioritization. Vice presidents, deans and directors may have earlier deadlines.

The deadline to submit proposals to the Student Technology Committee at Stop 9041 is Wednesday, March 5.

Proposal writers must consult with the various support offices on campus for costs associated with installation of equipment, accessibility issues, security concerns and adaptive technology. Unless departments are prepared to pay for these out of their own budgets, proposal writers should obtain estimates and include them as a part of the budget for the proposal. In addition, proposal writers must consult with Disability Support Services regarding adaptive technology needed for the proposal and with the Center for Instructional and Learning Technologies regarding the equipment requested for compatibility, installation issues, and ensuing issues.

The STF committee will hold an open meeting to address questions for those writing proposals for fall 2009 (AY091) funding. This open meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 14, from 11 a.m. to noon in the Memorial Union, Memorial Room. Please feel free to drop by as your schedule allows. If the above date and time does not work for you, please give us a call and we will schedule a private appointment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposal process, please contact Carol at 777-3171.

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Giving Hearts Day is Feb. 14

The College of Nursing and Dakota Medical Foundation of Fargo invite you to make a difference. Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF) established the Giving Hearts Day match program to inspire others to support health-related nonprofits in the region.

DMF will match, dollar for dollar, online donations of \$25 or more on Thursday, Feb. 14, only (midnight to 11:59 p.m.).

Contributions must be made through www.impactgiveback.org - Dakota Medical Foundation Giving Hearts Day match program.

The College of Nursing asks that you consider supporting us when making a donation. We ask that you encourage others to give as well. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference for non-profit organizations in our region.

How to Donate:

1. Go to www.impactgiveback.org
2. Click on the "Giving Hearts Day" match program
3. Choose which non-profit you would like to support
4. Fill in the requested information.

That's it; it's that easy!

Why Donate?

Your gift will have double the impact!

\$25 = \$50; \$100 = \$200; \$1,000 = \$2,000

It will support nursing education at UND!

With one click of the mouse you can make a difference!

-- Becky Cournia, Alumni & Development Officer, Nursing, beckycournia@mail.und.edu, 777-4526

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Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics seminar is Feb. 15

Detlev Boison, associate scientist and director, epilepsy program, RS Dow Neurobiology Laboratories, will present a seminar titled "The Adenosine Kinase Hypothesis of Epileptogenesis" at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, in the Clifford Haugen Lecture Hall, Room 1360, School of Medicine.

This seminar is sponsored by the Center of Biomedical Research Excellence Pathophysiological Signaling in Neurodegenerative Disorders and the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics. All are welcome to attend.

-- Deb Kroese, Administrative Officer, Pharmacology, Physiology & Therapeutics, dkroese@medicine.nodak.edu, 701-777-6221

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Instructional leadership academy offered to regional educators

The College of Education and Human Development and UND Professional Development for Educators will sponsor an Instructional Leadership Academy Friday, Feb. 15, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. This premiere academy will provide area school administrators, lead teachers, and university master's and doctoral students information on how to create and sustain long-term, professional development strategies for their school district.

The sessions of this premiere Instructional Leadership Academy will focus on collaboration among educators, the development of a Professional Learning Community (PLC), and leadership within school districts. Academy speakers are nationally-known experts on PLC and accurate assessment who bring passion, knowledge, and credibility to the teaching profession:

Eric Twadell is an award-winning practitioner and an accessible and articulate authority on PLC concepts. Using his hands-on experience, Dr. Twadell consults with schools and districts nationwide to advance the successful implementation of the PLC model.

Janel Keating gives educators the practical advice they need to create their own PLC. She also shares effective strategies for utilizing assessment data and methods for analyzing student work, detailing how to make timely instructional changes to meet the learning needs of all students.

Dennis King specializes in the power of PLC and assessment for learning from a district perspective. Dr. King connects with educators as a fellow practitioner, inviting them to explore PLC strategies and develop a plan that meets their unique needs.

Participants may register as an individual or part of a school team. Registrations are still being taken for a fee of \$224 for individuals and \$204 for each member of a school team (includes conference materials, continental breakfast and lunch). The academy is coordinated by the UND Office of Conference Services.

For a registration form, complete academy schedule and more information, visit www.conted.und.edu/ila; call UND Office of Conferences Services at 701-777-2663 or 866-579-2663 (toll free); e-mail conferences@mail.und.edu (ATTN: ILA).

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Order tickets now for Feast of Nations

The University of North Dakota student-led International Organization is proud to announce the 46th annual "Feast of Nations" celebration. From humble beginnings, the annual event is now a semi-formal banquet and world entertainment showcase. Every year the International Student Organization coordinates the Feast of Nations, which is an event that works to promote cultural awareness on our campus and in our community. It is the largest event of its type in our area, seeing an average attendance of 950 people. This year's affair will be held Saturday Feb. 16, and will feature the Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble — a vibrant 40-person dance spectacle. Enjoy a five-course ethnic meal of Latin American, Iraqi, Russian, Senegalese, and Mediterranean cuisine. The program will also exhibit various

international student performances including a special presentation from the Hmong students on campus. Be sure to stick around for a night of dancing to live Latin-jazz music from the Clave del Sol band. The program starts at 6:15 p.m. with doors opening at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and children. Tickets are on sale through Feb. 15, at the Alerus Center (www.Aleruscenter.com), and Ticketmaster (www.ticketmaster.com), Hugo's), as well as Feb. 11-15 at the International Centre. Reserved seating is available in groups of 10 for \$180.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alicia Miller, International Organization president at alicia.miller@und.edu.

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EGF High School presents "A Friend Like Artie"

East Grand Forks High School will present the one-act play, "A Friend Like Artie" Sunday, Feb. 17, at 4 p.m. Special guest performers will join them at the East Grand Forks Performing Arts Center.

"A Friend Like Artie" explores the question of why we treat anyone who is "different" so cruelly? Why must we recede into our own narrow social world of friends as part of the rite of passage from childhood to adulthood? "A Friend Like Artie" will tear at your heartstrings—and your conscience.

The message of "A Friend Like Artie" is: Growing up is painful. Jennifer "Britts" Britain is 13 years old today. She has planned a party for herself and her best friend, Artie. Artie is 17, but he's more like seven. Britts is the brightest thing in his life. She teases him, big-sisters him, teaches him how to have fun. But now Britts is 13. A teen-ager. A young adult. Her peers remind her that it's time to put away childish things. Including Artie. It's time for her to grow up. But what about Artie? He'll never grow up...

The cast of Artie recently won second place honors at the Minnesota State Subsection One Act Play Competition in Stephen-Argyle, and performed at the Section One Act Play Festival in Crookston. The play is directed by Benjamin Klipfel.

There is no cost to attend the production.

-- Benjamin Klipfel, Director, East Grand Forks High School Theatre (One Acts), ben@benklipfel.net, 7-0857

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Astronomy talk, telescope observing session is Feb. 19

The physics department will hold a public astronomy talk and telescope observing session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, in 116 Witmer Hall. The talk, "From the Ground to Space: Rocketry Through the Years" will be presented by the Frozen Fury Rocketry Team (Physics/UND). Following the talk, attendees will be given the opportunity to observe the night sky through a telescope (weather permitting).

-- Wayne Barkhouse, Assistant Professor, Physics, wayne.barkhouse@und.nodak.edu, 777-3520

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Global Visions Film Series shows "Duck Season"

Global Visions Film Series presents "Duck Season" (Mexico) Tuesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. FREE

"One of the beautiful things about the movies is how they can burrow into our beings, turning a public expression into a private ritual...Mr. Eimbcke, who also wrote the fine screenplay, throws a precise frame around a world, which emphasizes the sterility of the characters' lives and makes their gradual deliverance from that sterility all the more meaningful. A story about friendship and the ecstasy of communion (not coincidentally, the story opens on a Sunday morning), "Duck Season" suggests that transcendence arrives when you least expect it — sometimes it comes with a pizza, sometimes it materializes in a kitsch painting and, sometimes, in a pan of chocolate-flavored euphoria. More

important, transcendence comes in small moments of kindness, in a hand offered with gentleness, in a kiss delivered without regret. In the end, we are always home alone. But as "Duck Season" reminds us, we don't have to live there forever" (Manohla Dargis - New York Times, March 10, 2006).

The Department of Anthropology's popular Global Visions Film Series brings an exciting array of films to the community of Grand Forks for the fifth consecutive year. The Global Visions Film Series presents two films per month in the Memorial Union Lecture Bowl on the campus of the University of North Dakota. The series is currently the only venue in Grand Forks to view award-winning, nationally recognized independent films from a wide variety of contemporary film makers around the world.

All films will be at 7 p.m. on various Tuesday evenings between now until the end of April at the UND Memorial Union Lecture Bowl. The series, free and open to the public, is partially funded by the Multicultural Awareness Committee. Filmgoers are encouraged to come early to ensure a seat.

Other movies will be:

- March 11 – The Fast Runner (Canadian/Inuit)
- March 18 – The Weeping Meadow (Greece)
- April 8 – The Clay Bird (Bangladesh)
- April 22 – The Wind Will Carry Us (Iran)

This series is funded by the Multicultural Awareness Committee, and the Department of Anthropology and the Anthropology Club.

-- Marcia Mikulak, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, marcia.mikulak@und.nodak.edu, 777-4718

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Student Health Services hosts director candidate forums

Save the dates: UND students, faculty, administration, and staff are invited to attend one of two presentations/open forums by the Student Health Services director candidates to be held as follows:

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2 to 2:45 p.m. – first session

2:45 to 3:30 p.m. - second session

Memorial Union, River Valley Room – Dan Jensen, education administration, currently an assistant professor, College of Professional Studies, University of Mary, Bismarck, and who lives in West Fargo, N.D.

Monday, Feb. 25, 2 to 2:45 p.m. – first session

2:45 to 3:30 p.m. - second Session

Memorial Union, Lecture Bowl–Michelle Eslinger, M.B.A, business administration, currently business manager for the Center for Family Medicine, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Bismarck, who lives in Mandan.

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2 to 2:45 p.m. – first session

2:45 to 3:30 p.m. - second session

Memorial Union, River Valley Room – Molly Soeby, M.P.A., currently at Altru Health Systems, manager of Diabetes Center, Bariatric / Weight Management Center, Grand Forks.

Additional information about the candidates will be available at the forum, or you may request this information by contacting:

-- Phyllis Norgren, Administrative Secretary, Student Health Services, phyllis.norgren@und.edu, 777-2097

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Theatre arts presents absurdist comedy

The Department of Theatre Arts will present its spring opener, the comedy "Swimming in the Shallows," by Adam

Bock. A slightly absurd look at relationships, "Swimming in the Shallows" is the third offering of the Department of Theatre Arts 2007–2008 production season. Performance dates are Tuesday, Feb. 19, through Saturday, Feb. 23. There is a free preview performance Monday, Feb. 18. Performances and matinee show times begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Burtness Lab Theatre.

"Swimming in the Shallows" examines the intimate relationships of three couples, including one in which a man has fallen in love with a shark. Playwright Adam Bock offers a uniquely amusing view of the contemporary life where even the love between a man and a shark is no less confusing than our emotions in any relationships. "Swimming in the Shallows" is the recipient of numerous awards since its premiere in 1999. Debra Berger, a graduate student in the Department of Theatre Arts is the director of the production, and Sara Schaal, also a graduate student in the department, is the set designer. Two students in the theatre arts undergraduate program are also involved in the design aspects of the production: Kim Mortenson who is the costume designer, and Eric Voight, who is the lighting designer.

The production does contain mature themes and scenarios. For more information and reservations please call the Burtness Theatre box office at 777-2587. All tickets are \$12 or \$6 with a student I.D. Free reserved parking is available on campus.

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17th annual Elwyn B. Robinson Lecture is Feb. 20

The librarians and staff of the Chester Fritz Library invite all members of the UND community to attend the 17th annual Elwyn B. Robinson Lecture Wednesday, Feb. 20, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the East Asian Room, Chester Fritz Library (fourth floor). Wayne Seames will speak on "Energy and Modern Human Civilization." A reception will follow his presentation.

Dr. Seames received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at the University of Arizona in 1979. After a 16-year industrial career as a process engineer, engineering supervisor, and project manager, he returned to Arizona and earned his doctorate in chemical engineering in July 2000. Dr. Seames joined the chemical engineering department in 2000 where he currently serves as an associate professor.

Among his academic awards are the 2007 University of North Dakota Award of Individual Excellence for Research, the University of North Dakota School of Engineering and Mines 2006 Professor of the Year and 2004 Olson Professor for outstanding research, and the University of Arizona School of Engineering and Mines 1998 Faculty Award of Excellence at the Student Interface recognizing his teaching and advising contributions to the chemical engineering department.

Dr. Seames is the director of the Sustainable Energy Research Initiative and Supporting Education (SUNRISE) group and is the state's Department of Energy EPSCoR program director. He is named on six submitted UND patent applications, including the principal inventor of UND's biojet fuel technology, one of the University's first commercially licensed technologies. He has authored over 20 peer-reviewed journal articles plus over 120 public and private reports and other publications. Dr. Seames currently manages a research portfolio of over \$4 million.

The Robinson Lecture series began in 1991 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Professor Elwyn B. Robinson's publication, "A History of North Dakota." Professor Robinson, whose career spanned 35 years at UND, was a distinguished member of the History faculty. The Lecture, together with the Library's compilation of a bibliography of faculty and staff publications, is designed to recognize the scholarly and creative accomplishments of the UND community. -- Chester Fritz Library.

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Rodney Ewing presents next LEEPS lectures

Rodney Ewing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, presents the next LEEPS lectures Friday, Feb. 22. At noon Ewing

will discuss "Nuclear Energy Issues: Plutonium vs. Carbon," in 100 Leonard Hall. At 3 p.m. he will present "Pyrochlore: The Elegant Response of a Simple Structure to Extreme Conditions," in 109 Leonard Hall.

The Department of Geology and Geological Engineering Leading Edge of Earth and Planetary Science lecture program (LEEPS) brings nationally and internationally known scientists and others to UND to give talks on cutting edge science and engineering. Lectures cover a wide range of topics, including academic science, applied engineering, and environmental issues of current significance.

For more information, contact Dexter Perkins at 777-2991.

-- *Connie Larson, Administrative Secretary, Geology & Geological Engineering, connielarson@mail.und.nodak.edu, 777-2248*

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Linton community forums will discuss health care

Concern for the future of rural health care has prompted the Linton Hospital to join forces with the Center for Rural Health to hold two community forums in Linton Wednesday, Feb. 27. The forums, to be held in the KEM Electric meeting room, are open to anyone with an interest in the health and well-being of rural people and communities across the upper Midwest.

The forums will focus on the future of rural health care and feature keynote presentations by Roger Unger, Linton Hospital administrator, and Brad Gibbens, associate director for community development and policy at the UND Center for Rural Health in Grand Forks.

"Hosting community discussion is a great way to gain fresh insights into health policy perspectives, learn what is happening around the area and develop new contacts with people dealing with issues similar to their own," said Unger. "Citizens can voice their concerns as well as offer ideas for solutions to make rural health care in North Dakota better."

The first forum will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and the second from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Attendees will participate in facilitated discussions on items such as health care costs, maintaining access to quality services, and health care workforce availability.

"Our goal in having these community meetings is to offer health care consumers a chance to learn more about rural health at the national and state level," said Gibbens. "Health care is in the national spotlight and is an important subject in the upcoming elections. A community meeting allows people to also share their thoughts on what they see as issues, what they see that is working, and how health care should be reformed."

The community forums are open to the public and will include refreshments.

-- *Wendy Opsahl, Communications Coordinator, Center for Rural Health, wopsahl@medicine.nodak.edu, 777-0871*

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Carmina Burana plays in Grand Forks Feb. 23

Four Grand Forks arts organizations are collaborating to produce a rare, fully-staged version of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana, the world's most often performed piece of classical music. Set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, the spectacle of voice, music, dance and color will feature more than 250 musicians and dancers from the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, Grand Forks Master Chorale, University of North Dakota Choirs, and North Dakota Ballet Company.

The cooperative venture is made possible in part by a grant from the Greater Grand Forks Marketing Services Partnership, an initiative supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Carmina Burana premiered in 1937 as a choreographed "theater cantata," but now is usually presented as a concert piece. The Grand Forks production will be one of the few in North America this year that captures the grand spectacle that Orff originally intended, says James Hannon, Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra musical director and conductor. This approach, he said, should make it a destination event for music lovers from a large region.

Along with Handel's Messiah, Carmina Burana is the recording most often owned by people who don't consider themselves classical music fans, Hannon said. The most recent performance in Grand Forks was in 1991, when it sold out at St. Michael's Catholic Church. This year's venue, the 2,300-seat Chester Fritz Auditorium, will provide the space, lighting and technical apparatus for a theatrical version.

Why is this music so popular? In part, Hannon said, because of the frequent use of the spectacular opening chorus, "O Fortuna," in movies, soundtracks and television commercials. The work also has influenced many of today's pop rock musicians, Hannon said, making Orff's masterpiece accessible to a young audience. Student tickets will be available for as little as \$5.

Orff, 1895-1982, based the work on 13th-century poems and songs written by a group of dissident monks known as the goliards. He set 24 of them to his own symphonic music.

Carmina Burana is divided into three parts framed by its famous prologue and epilogue suggesting the indifferent turn of Fortune's wheel. The main sections evoke the optimism of spring time, the pleasures of tavern life, and a celebration of love.

The songs, sung mostly in Latin, vary in length from less than 30 seconds to four minutes. The huge chorus alternates with three soloists in collaboration with the powerful orchestral music, Hannon said, all the while testing the artistic boundaries of the human voice.

The soloists include soprano Anne Christopherson, UND associate professor of music who performs internationally in opera, musical theatre and other genres. Joining her will be tenor C. David Bryan, a professional choral singer from New York, and baritone Peter Halverson of the Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company.

Preparing the collaborating performers are Master Chorale and UND Choral Studies Director Joshua Bronfman and North Dakota Ballet Company Director and Choreographer Job Christenson.

Tickets are available now at the Chester Fritz Auditorium or from Ticketmaster. Prices: adults, \$20/\$17/\$15/\$10; students (age 12-22), \$15/\$12/\$10/\$5; children under 12 are free but require a ticket.

For more information, contact GGFSO Executive Director Jenny Tarlin at (701) 740-2902.

-- Tammy Mulske, Technology and Marketing Supervisor, Music, tamara.mulske@und.nodak.edu, 777-3271

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Starbucks kicks off University Children's Center fundraiser with book drive

Running until the UCC annual fundraiser event on March 29, Starbucks on 32nd Ave. S. will give away a free tall coffee to anyone who brings in a new or gently used book.

Literacy is the theme of this year's UCC event, with the children creating books inspired by Rick Kupchella's "Tell Me What We Did Today," a celebration of a child's day through literature and art. Honorary chairperson Adele Kupchella liked the idea of the fundraiser following the close of the Writer's Conference. UCC director JoAnne Yearwood appreciates Starbucks' recognition of quality childcare and literacy specifically.

-- Jo-Anne Yearwood, Program Director/Instructor, University Childrens Center,

joannyearwood@mail.und.nodak.edu, 777-3947

2008 Founders Day tickets now on sale

The 2008 Founders Day banquet will be held Thursday, Feb. 28. Because this year's event will serve as the opening event to UND's Quasquicentennial celebration, it will be held at the Alerus Center with a reception beginning at 5:45 p.m. and banquet at 6:30 p.m. Displays depicting the "From Tradition to Tomorrow" theme will be open at 5:30 p.m. so guests should arrive early.

This year's Founders Day banquet will be something special. There will be more than 20 historic exhibits including the original charter of the University, first issue of the Dakota Student, first issue of the UND yearbook, and the world's smallest book from UND's Special Collections at the Chester Fritz Library. Also on display will be pieces from the UND art collection and interactive exhibits from a variety of campus units. Negotiations are currently under way for a couple of surprise displays, too – things you won't want to miss.

Musical entertainment will be provided during the reception by the jazz duo of John Behling and Matt Strand. In the UND Founders Day tradition, retirees, 25-year honorees, and department and faculty award winners will be recognized during the banquet. The 125th anniversary Founders Day video will also be shown for the first time at the banquet.

Family members of Vernon Squires, first dean of Arts and Sciences, will be in attendance as well as the granddaughter and great granddaughter of George Walsh, author of the bill establishing the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Both families will be introduced throughout the evening. Join us in welcoming them back to campus!

Banquet tickets for the Founders Day event are only \$20 each and must be reserved by Tuesday, Feb. 19, by contacting Terri Machart in the Office of the Vice President for Student and Outreach Services at 777-2724 or by e-mail at terrimachart@mail.und.nodak.edu. Or, you can print out a registration form at http://sos.und.edu/foundersday/foundersday2008_r3.pdf and mail it to Terri at Stop 7140. Parking is free at the Alerus Center.

-- Dawn Botsford, Events Coordinator, Office of Ceremonies and Special Events,
dawnbotsford@mail.und.nodak.edu, 777-6393

Theology for Lunch series begins April 2

On behalf of the Campus Ministry Association (Newman Center, Christus Rex, Wittenberg, and United Campus Ministry), we invite you to mark your calendar for the upcoming spring semester Theology for Lunch series scheduled to take place at noon April 2, 9, 16, and 23,

at Christus Rex. The spring series is titled "4 Faiths 4 Stories, Part II." The following faiths are scheduled to present:

April 2 - Roman Catholic (Newman Center)

April 9 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Christus Rex)

April 16 - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (Wittenberg)

April 23 - Presbyterian (First Presbyterian Church)

Join us for soup and great conversation! Bring a friend along with you!

-- Lisa Burger, Director, Student Success Center, lisaburger@mail.und.nodak.edu, 777-4706

UND to host NCAA regional women's golf tournament

The NCAA Division II Championships Committee has announced that the University of North Dakota has been approved as host for the 2008 NCAA Division II Womens Golf North Region Championship to be held May 5-7.

Kings Walk Golf Course in Grand Forks will serve as the host site for the event. The tournament will be the final Division II championship event hosted by UND, which will begin Division I-Football Championship Subdivision competition in 2008-09.

"We are extremely pleased to be selected as the host for this tournament," said UND co-acting athletic director Betty Ralston. "Hosting an event of this caliber will serve as a wonderful farewell to Division II for UND athletics."

The North region in NCAA Division II womens golf includes the North Central Conference (NCC) and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Athletics Conference (NSIC) and the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA).

Last season's North regional field included UND, Augustana, Nebraska-Omaha, Winona State, Truman State and host Upper Iowa. The Fighting Sioux won the tournament and eventually finished sixth at the NCAA championship, the best finish in school history.

The top two teams, along with the top two individuals not with a team, will advance to the national championship, hosted by Rice University May 13-16 in Houston, Texas.

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North Dakota Arts and Humanities Summit is Oct. 9-10

The North Dakota University System 2008 Arts and Humanities Summit Oct. 9-10 is hosted by Bismarck State College, and includes:

- Live performances
- Visual arts exhibit
- Scholarly papers
- Readings of creative literature
- Workshops from professionals and entrepreneurs
- Receptions
- Guest scholars
- Collage concert with performers in many disciplines

All North Dakota University System faculty and students are invited to participate in this fourth summit. Tribal and private colleges and the public are invited and encouraged to attend the summit.

The students and faculty of the North Dakota University System meet every two years to celebrate the arts and humanities and share their works. The public is invited to participate in what is produced, taught, and studied in our colleges and universities.

The 2008 Arts and Humanities Summit is sponsored by the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, Bismarck State College, and the Council of College Faculties. For more information, call Lynn Severson at 701-224-5521.

-- Patrick Luber, Professor of Art, Art, patrick_luber@und.nodak.edu, 777-2230

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hammami named acting director of information resources

Nasser Hammami has been named acting director of information resources at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He assumes a portion of the position held by Judith Bruce, who retired in December.

His responsibilities include the overall administration and management of information resources and supervising personnel within the IR units: computer services, medical media, classroom support and information management.

A UND graduate, Hammami earned a bachelor's degree in biological and chemical sciences in 1994, a master's degree in biochemistry in 1998, a master's degree in clinical laboratory science in 2000, and a master's degree in industrial technology in 2006. An assistant professor, Hammami joined the UND medical school in 1999 as a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Pathology. He and his wife, Renae, are the parents of two daughters, Bailey, 9, and Sara, 7. The family resides in Grand Forks.

-- Shelley Pohlman, Admin Secretary, Public Affairs, spohlman@medicine.nodak.edu, 701-777-4305

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Faculty awarded public scholarship funds

The Center for Community Engagement has announced funding awards to support four faculty and community research collaborations that will benefit Grand Forks and the region.

The newly funded projects will explore tourism resources in the Red River Valley, develop community-university research opportunities through a forum to be held in April, create an economic impact model for farmers' markets in rural North Dakota, and study the possible role of radon and other factors in the development of multiple sclerosis, according to center director Lana Rakow.

This is the fourth year the Center has provided funding for research partnerships through its public scholarship program, made possible with support from the UND Office of the Vice President for Research. This year's proposals were reviewed by a committee made up of Carenlee Barkdull (social work), Matsimela Diop (multicultural student services), Douglas Marshall (aviation), Sandi Marshall (Development Homes, Inc.), Marcia Mikulak (anthropology), and Kimberly Powell (honors).

Proposed projects must involve a community partner in the design and produce results of benefit to the public. The funded projects are as follows:

- "Rural Tourism Resource Inventory for the Red River RC&D," is a project with the Red River Resource Conservation and Development Council, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and UND faculty members Tim Schroeder (recreation and leisure services and counseling psychology and community services) and Brad Rundquist (geography). The project was awarded \$3,165 and will inventory tourism resources in the counties served by the Council.
- "Expanding the 'Public' Dimension of Public Scholarship: A Community-University Forum and On-Going Dialogue," is the second stage of a three-stage initiative with the Grand Forks Housing Authority and Grand Forks Homes, Inc.; Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and Region; United Way of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and Area; the North Valley Arts Council; and UND faculty Greg Gagnon (Indian studies), Rodney Hanley (Earth systems science and policy), and communication doctoral candidate Diana Nastasia. The project was awarded \$4,620 and will generate collaborative knowledge through a campus-community forum.
- "Town Square Farmers' Market: A Demonstration Project in Assessing Economic Impact," is a project with the Grand Forks Town Square Farmer's Market, the North Dakota Farmers' Market Growers Association, and UND faculty Steven LeMire (educational foundations and research) and Curtis Stofferahn (sociology). The project received \$4,715 and will create a model of the economic impact of the Grand Forks Farmers' Market with the potential for assessing other markets in North Dakota.
- "Environmental Radon Exposure and Multiple Sclerosis," is the second stage of a project with the Grand Forks Red River Valley Multiple Sclerosis Education and Support Group and UND faculty members Glenn Lykken (physics), David Marshall (English), and Berislav Momcilovic (physics). The project received \$7,500 in funding and will collect and analyze information from area individuals with multiple sclerosis.

-- Lana Rakow, Director, Center for Community Engagement, lane.rakow@mail.und.edu, 7-2287

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Schedule an SGID in your classroom

Arrangements for SGIDs (small group instructional diagnosis, a process for soliciting student feedback at midterm) can be made now. SGIDs are done by trained faculty who work as facilitators for the process in colleagues' classrooms. A facilitator will collect information from your students, write it up into a report for you, and provide you with high-quality student input regarding their learning at mid-semester, rather than waiting until semester's end when course evaluations are completed. Furthermore, the interactive nature of the process can motivate students to think more carefully and deeply, so SGID feedback is often more thorough, providing you with a clear understanding of student perceptions. SGIDs are intended to be formative (i.e., for your own benefit as a teacher) rather than summative (for a promotion and tenure file). To schedule an SGID, please contact Jana Hollands at jana_hollands@und.nodak.edu or 777-4998.

-- Anne Kelsch, Director, Office of Instructional Development, anne.kelsch@und.nodak.edu, 777-4233

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Funding available for assessment retreats

"Closing the Assessment Loop" funding will again be made available to academic departments conducting assessment retreats. The best and most useful assessment occurs when there's a mechanism for yearly conversations about data collected. These retreats are intended to serve that purpose by providing opportunities to bring faculty together to review, discuss, and use findings from assessment efforts.

Funds have been set aside by the VPAA/Provost's office (funds expiring June 30, 2008) to support departmental retreats; a department may request a maximum of \$500. Funding will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for qualifying departments until the available funds are exhausted. However, if requested funding exceeds the dollars available, preference may be given to departments which did not receive retreat grants in 2007. Funds awarded may be used for food (consistent with University guidelines), duplicating, and/or faculty stipends for pre-retreat organization, retreat facilitation, or data analysis.

To apply for retreat funding, please submit a one- or two-page memo that includes a proposed retreat agenda and budget, as well as a narrative description of both. Also include a letter of support from the chair (unless the chair is submitting the proposal). Inquiries or applications should be directed to Joan Hawthorne <joan_hawthorne@und.nodak.edu> or 777-4684. Proposals will be acted on within two weeks of receipt as long as funding remains available.

-- Joan Hawthorne, Assistant Provost, VPAA/Provost, joan_hawthorne@und.nodak.edu, 7-4684

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Applicants sought for freshman program student assistants

The Student Success Center is seeking applicants for Freshman Getting Started 2008 student assistants. If you know of a current UND student who would excel in this position please forward the following job description to them.

Student assistants are needed for Freshman Getting Started 2008 (freshman advisement and registration for fall semester) May 27-July 11. Full- and part-time positions are available. Applicants must be current undergraduate students enrolled at UND for at least one academic year. Apply online at

<http://und.studentemployment.nelnet.net>. Contact the Student Success Center, Memorial Union 201A, 777-2117, for more information. Application deadline is Friday, Feb. 29. Thank you.

-- Lindsay Kuntz, Academic Advisor, Student Success Center, lindsaykuntz@mail.und.nodak.edu, 777-2117

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Rural Health Research features new listserv

Rural health research findings from eight national research centers, supported by the federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), are now featured at one convenient location, the Rural Health Research Gateway Listserv. This initiative is designed to help move the most up-to-date findings of the Rural Health Research Centers to policy

makers, health care providers and others as quickly and efficiently as possible.

New information is launched on the listserv and its corresponding web site to provide easy and timely access to projects, research, and findings of these national research centers. The web site has abstracts of both current and completed research projects addressing issues such as rural health quality and behavioral health, related publications, and information about the researchers and research centers.

The Center for Rural Health at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences is a partner in the Rural Health Research Gateway project. The Center is also a member of the Upper Midwest Rural Health Research Center, one of eight national research centers that provide valuable findings on a variety of rural health-related topics.

Sign up now to start receiving rural health research news! <http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/listserv/>
-- Wendy Opsahl, Communications Coordinator, Center for Rural Health, wopsahl@medicine.nodak.edu, 777-0871

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Presidents Day holiday hours listed

In accordance with State Board of Higher Education directives, Monday, Feb. 18, will be observed as Presidents Day by faculty and staff members of the University. Only those employees designated by their department heads will be required to work on this holiday. -- Greg Weisenstein, vice president for academic affairs and provost, and Diane Nelson, director, human resources.

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Chester Fritz Library lists Presidents Day weekend hours

The Chester Fritz Library Presidents Day weekend hours follow: Saturday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 17, closed; Monday, Feb. 18, 1 p.m. to midnight (Presidents Day).
-- Karen Cloud, Administrative Assistant, Chester Fritz Library, karencloud@mail.und.edu, 7-2618

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Law Library posts Presidents Day hours

The Law Library will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Presidents Day, Feb. 18.
-- Jane Oakland, Circulation Manager, Law Library, oakland@law.und.edu, 7-3482

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Library of the Health Sciences lists holiday hours

The Library of the Health Sciences will be open the following hours over the Presidents Day weekend: Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 16, 1 to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 17, 1 to 5 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 18, 1 p.m. to midnight.
-- April Byars, Administrative Assistant, Library of the Health Sciences, abyars@medicine.nodak.edu, 777-3893

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ITSS lists holiday hours

Information Technology Systems and Services will close for the Presidents Day holiday at midnight Sunday, Feb. 17, and will reopen at 5 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19. -- ITSS.

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Institutional research briefs now available online

The latest issue of the Institutional Research office newsletter is available online at <http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/datacol/newsletter/Jan2008.pdf>

Two items highlighted in this issue:

The UND student experience from the 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The three areas highlighted are 1) what students are saying about their UND experience, 2) how UND student responses compare to

peer data in high-impact educational practices, and 3) how UND compares on the NSSE-developed benchmarks. To view the complete NSSE survey report online, see

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/dataacol/reports/subFolder/NSSE2007/NSSE2007.htm>

The UND Fact Book has a new look. To view the fact book directly, go to

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/dataacol/factbook/index.htm>

-- Carmen Williams, Director, Institutional Research, carmenwilliams@mail.und.nodak.edu, 7-4358

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Motorpool rate changes effective Feb. 1

The following rental rates were effective Feb. 1 per the North Dakota State Fleet.

VEHICLE TYPE - UND rate per mile/hour

Sedan - \$0.293

Minivan - seven passenger - \$0.413

Van, 12 and 15 passenger - \$0.573

Compact 4x4 SUV - \$0.493

Suburban, five passenger - \$0.473

Suburban, nine passenger - \$0.573

Compact 4x4 pickup - \$0.473

Cargo van-full size - \$0.573

Mini cargo van - \$0.473

Handicapped van-six seats - \$38.230 - one wheelchair

-- Mary L. Metcalf, Manager, Transportation, marymetcalf@mail.und.edu, 777-4123

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2007 CIRP survey now available online

New entering freshmen were invited to participate in the 2007 Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) survey. While attending Getting Started during the summer of 2007, 1,125 students (61 percent of the total entering freshman class) completed the 42-item survey along with 18 UND-supplied questions. The results of the survey are now posted to the web at

<http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/dataacol/reports/subFolder/cirpFreshman2007/cirpfreshman2007.htm>

The CIRP survey has been conducted at UND nearly 40 times. The last survey was administered in the summer of 2005.

The CIRP survey is designed to assess the demographic characteristics, past experiences, current opinions, as well as the aspirations of new incoming freshmen. UND responses can be compared to freshmen responses from national public institutions. Some of the findings from the survey are:

- o The top five reasons noted as very important in deciding to attend UND were
- o this college has a very good academic reputation (UND 64.8 percent; national 66.8 percent),
- o this college's graduates get good jobs (UND 53.5 percent; national 53.7 percent),
- o this college has a good reputation for its social activities (UND 38.9 percent; national 41.6 percent),
- o the cost of attending this college (UND 31.7 percent; national 36.2 percent),
- o I wanted to go to a school about the size of this college (UND 29.4 percent; national 29.0 percent).

A larger percentage (57.3 percent) of UND freshmen report having some concerns about their ability to finance their college education, than the national group (51.2 percent).

About two-thirds (67.1 percent) of UND's new freshmen respondents stated that their permanent home was over 100 miles away from the University, in contrast to a smaller percentage (48.3 percent) of national freshmen. A large majority (85.8 percent) of UND freshmen respondents plan to live in the college dormitory, compared to 83.3 percent of national group.

UND freshmen report that their parental involvement was at the right amount; the UND freshmen' rates were higher than freshmen at the national level.

Nearly half (48.4 percent) of the respondents report that their average high school grades were A-, A, or A+; nationally, 55.4 percent of the freshmen report "A" grades. When asked if any special tutoring/remedial work was needed, UND freshmen responded at the following rates: mathematics 25.9 percent, science 13.8 percent, and writing 10.6 percent.

46.3 percent of UND freshmen report spending between one to five hours per week on online social networks such as MySpace and FaceBook, compared to 50.6 percent nationally.

For questions about this survey, please contact Carmen Williams (Institutional Research) at 777-2456.

-- Carmen Williams, Director, Institutional Research, carmenwilliams@mail.und.nodak.edu, 7-4358

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Senate Scholarly Activities Committee awards travel grants

The Senate Scholarly Activities Committee received 47 travel grant applications, requesting a total of \$53,573.78 in response to the January call for proposals. The following awards were made at the Jan. 29 committee meeting:

Alaska, Hawaii, and foreign travel awards:

Sharon Carson (English), \$757.67

Emanuel Grant (computer science), \$1,491.48

Luke Huang (technology), \$1,120.10

William Lesch (marketing), \$462.75

Domestic and Canadian travel awards:

Mary Askim-Lovseth (marketing), \$374.73

Anamitro Banerjee (chemistry), \$425.82

Olaf Berwald (modern and classical languages and literatures), \$400.46

Frank Cuzzo (anthropology), \$377.34

Steven Dennis (finance), \$425.82

Dee Ann Ellingson (accountancy), \$357.21

Kim Fink (art), \$456.39

Bonni Gourneau (teaching and learning), \$410.16

Devon Hansen (geography), \$435.88

Dana Michael Harsell (political science and public administration), \$305.75

James Haskins (finance), \$357.21

Hill, Michael J. (Earth System Science and Policy), \$435.88 Awarded

Xiaozhao Huang (English), \$402.70

Bette Ide (family and community nursing), \$423.21

Jason Jensen (political science and public administration), \$371.38

Arthur Jones (art), \$425.82

Mohammad Khavanin (mathematics), \$513.65

Steven LeMire (educational foundations and research), \$410.16

Steven Light (political science and public administration), \$372.50

Michael Loewy (counseling psychology and community services), \$416.87
Jacquelyn Lommen (communication), \$410.53
Iraj Mamaghani (civil engineering), \$509.87
Barry Milavetz (biochemistry and molecular biology), \$378.09
Juana Moreno (physics), \$437.75
Alexei Novikov (chemistry), \$428.43
Grace Onchwari (teaching and learning), \$431.78
David Pierce (chemistry), \$377.34
James Porter (pharmacology, physiology and therapeutics), \$431.04
Joelle Ruthig (psychology), \$337.07
Elizabeth Scharf (anthropology), \$521.48
Katherine Scheurer (political science and public administration), \$447.82
Nuananong (Lek) Seal (family and community nursing) \$372.87
William Semke (mechanical engineering), \$425.44
Kathy Smart (teaching and learning), \$337.07
Jeffrey Sun (educational leadership), \$410.16
Brian Urlacher (political science and public administration), \$419.85
Enru Wang (geography), \$298.30
Crystal Yang (art), \$425.82
Timothy Young (physics), \$393.75
Julia Zhao (chemistry), \$469.82
-- Patrick A. Carr, Ph.D., Chair, Senate Scholarly Activities Committee, Anatomy and Cell Biology,
pcarr@medicine.nodak.edu, 701/777-4278

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Note international call information

International calls placed with UND authorization codes that terminate on international cellular telephones are now charged at a higher rate than standard international calls. This is due to foreign telephone providers who charge surcharges to terminate these calls on cellular phones. As of Jan. 26, 2008, the surcharge for international calls made to international cellular telephones will be passed along to the caller on a journal entry at least one month later. A detailed memo with examples has been sent to the telephone counselors.

-- Jan Laventure, Telecommunications Analyst, Telecommunications / ITSS, janlaventure@mail.und.edu, 701-777-4720

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U Relations seeks comment on new web site design

University Relations is in the process of redesigning the main UND web site. We welcome your comments on the ongoing design blog at http://www2.und.edu/our/redesign_blog/. -- Jan Orvik, web manager, University Relations.

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U2 lists workshops

The University within the University (U2) lists the following sessions:

Blue Cross, Blue Shield Presentations: Stress Relief

Feb. 19, noon and 12:30 p.m., Memorial Union, River Valley Room

Everyone experiences some form of stress throughout their lives. Whether it's good or bad, it's always helpful to know effective ways to manage. This presentation will present tips to dealing and living with stress effectively.

Everyone in attendance will receive a free stress relief kit. Presenter: Millisa VanEps.

Basic Windows**

Feb. 19, 1 to 3 p.m.. 361 Upson II

Introduces very basic Windows features: keeping your desktop tidy, change desktop color, create a desktop shortcut, change or set the date/time, Windows XP Start Menu, change themes, menu features, Windows XP taskbar overview, organize files, work with windows, create an efficient work environment, and find information. Presenter: Heidi Strande.

Keep Them Alive Until the Ambulance Arrives

Feb. 19, noon to 1 p.m. or 5 to 6 p.m., Lecture Bowl, Memorial Union

Once you've called 9-1-1 and the dispatcher has help on the way, what can you do to help the patient? This session will describe some basic lifesaving techniques you can provide until professional help arrives and will cover such topics as emergency resuscitation, including CPR and automatic defibrillation, allergic reactions, burns, bleeding injuries, seizures, fainting, dislocation, sprains and strains and other medical emergencies. Presenter: Tim Shea, NREMT-P.

Budgets Overview Inquiry (NEW)**

Feb. 20, 8 to 10 a.m., Room 9, Gamble Hall Lanterman Center

Requirements: PeopleSoft user ID and password for finance module, a local fund number, and/or an appropriated fund number. This is for new PeopleSoft users or those PeopleSoft users needing a refresher. This training provides the tools necessary to navigate through PeopleSoft to find your department's budget and cash balance; utilize PeopleSoft to track your department's budget, cash, revenue, and expenditures; and complete a budget journal. The session also includes hands-on practice activities. Presenter: Shannon Smidt.

Defensive Driving

Feb. 20, 6 to 10 p.m., 211 Skalicky Tech Incubator

This workshop is required by state fleet for all UND employees who drive state vehicles on a regular (monthly) basis, received a traffic violation, or had an accident while operating a state vehicle. Employees are encouraged to bring a family member (spouse and/or dependents). This workshop may also reduce your North Dakota insurance premiums and could possibly remove points from your driving record. Presenter: Dan Lund.

Performance Management and Progressive Discipline

Feb. 21, 9 to 11 a.m., 305 Twamley Hall

Supervisors will learn the fundamentals of conducting honest, fair, and consistent evaluations and receive guidelines for using a progressive discipline system. Presenters: Joy Johnson and Desi Sporbert.

Data Protection and Privacy**

Feb. 21, 1 to 3 p.m., 361 Upson II

This workshop will introduce secure practices for handling and storing sensitive University and personal data. Topics will include:

- A discussion of the types of information to protect and why it needs to be protected.
- Practices and configurations for securing your operating system, web browser, email, and other software applications.
- Protecting your personal information online.
- Must-have security software for your computer.
- Encrypting sensitive data.

Presenter: Brad Miller, IT security officer.

"BaFa BaFa" Cultural Simulation Exercise

Feb. 28, noon to 2 p.m., Swanson Hall, Rooms 10-12 and 16-18

BaFa BaFa is a cultural simulation game that teaches participants a great deal about cultural differences, assumptions, and misunderstandings. The overall purpose of the game is to increase cultural awareness and sensitivity among participants, to improve their ability to work with and relate to members from cultures that differ

from their own. Participants are divided into two groups, each adopting a previously unknown culture. When members from the differing cultures visit each other's group, observations are made and conclusions discussed. This activity increases cultural awareness and sensitivity among participants, and assists employees, students, and professionals from all areas in working with diverse populations.

Presenter(s): American Indian student services staff.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training - March 11, 18, 25, and April 1, 5 to 9 p.m.* (16 hours total). This training program prepares community volunteers to respond in the event of a disaster or other large scale emergency. CERT training provides basic disaster response skills, such as fire suppression, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. At the end of the training, each volunteer will put their skills to the test during a disaster simulation. Those completing the training receive a free CERT T-shirt and backpack filled with disaster supplies. Please note there is a Feb. 29 registration deadline for this training. Sponsored by the Office of Civic Leadership, Memorial Union and FirstLink Volunteer Center, Grand Forks.

To register: <http://www.conted.und.edu/u2/>

777-2128 or U2@mail.und.nodak.edu

-- Kathy Williams, Coordinator, U2 Program, U2@mail.und.edu, 777-2128

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Graduate students form new organization

Graduate students in the Department of Teaching and Learning have formed a new campus organization. The Teaching and Learning Graduate Student Association will facilitate communication among education graduate students, provide opportunities for professional growth, increase the visibility of the department and cooperate with other UND groups to sponsor campus forums and workshops on the latest educational research relating to good teaching and learning practices.

Association members will assist each other in finding solutions to the challenges many graduate students face as they complete their programs of study. Organizers plan to create and install teaching and learning displays in the Education Building and Memorial Union, contribute articles of interest to the T & L Newsletter and The Dakota Student and sponsor informal, social events for teaching and learning graduate students.

Membership is open to all teaching and learning graduate students, T & L faculty and interested UND community members. T & L graduate students or faculty interested in learning more about the new association or who want to become involved in its programs are invited to contact one of the organizers listed below:

Barry Striegel, 777-3153 b.striegel@und.edu

Rachael Waller, 777-6173 rachael.waller@und.edu

-- Barry Striegel, GTA, T&L, b.striegel@und.edu, 741-6985

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Studio One features HDTV, grief counseling

Learn why many people are concerned about the rapid changes in television technology on the next edition of Studio One. The federal government requires that all televisions switch to digital formats, also known as high-definition television, by Feb. 27, 2009. Many consumers worry they will have to buy a new television as the date nears and, as a result, the sale of high definition televisions is on the rise. Find out how the switch to digital formats may affect many television owners.

Also on the show this week, everyone deals with death at least once in their life. Grief Counselor Glenda Trochmann recently started a local grief center. She shares the best ways to prepare and deal with the loss of a loved one.

Studio One is an award-winning news and information program produced at the University of North Dakota Television Center. The program airs live on UND Channel 3 on Thursdays at 5 p.m. Re-broadcasts can be seen at 7 a.m., noon, 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. daily and on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Prairie Public Television airs Studio One on Saturday at 6 a.m. The program can also be seen by viewers in Fargo, Bismarck/Mandan and Minot, N.D.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Denver, Colo.; and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

-- Meghan Flaagan, Director of Marketing, Television Center, meghan.flaagan@und.edu, 777-3818

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Friday, Feb. 15, is a special Denim Day

A special Denim Day Friday, Feb. 15, will support the Grand Forks Breast Cancer Coalition. Founded in 1995, the coalition provides mammograms for women between the ages of 40-50 who have no health insurance or cannot afford to pay for a mammogram. Women who meet certain financial criteria pay only \$5 for their mammogram.

Pay your dollars to your Denim Day coordinator, enjoy going casual, and know your funds are going to a good cause.

Need more buttons? Call me and I'll send them out to you.

-- Patsy Nies, Special Project Assistant, Enrollment Services, patsynies@mail.und.nodak.edu, 777-3791

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Studio One to begin spring telecast schedule

Studio One, the University of North Dakota's award-winning television show, will begin its spring telecast schedule Thursday, Feb. 14. The hour-long program features a variety of news, weather, sports, entertainments, and guest segments. Nearly 40 student interns deal with every facet of producing and telecasting a live television show including reporting, anchoring, photography, graphics, marketing, television production, web design, and more.

Studio One airs before a live studio audience during the fall and spring semesters at UND. To request tickets to be a part of our live studio audience, please contact the UND Television Center at 777-4346 or visit

www.studio1.und.edu.

The program airs live on UND Channel 3 Thursdays at 5 p.m. Re-broadcasts can be seen at 7 a.m., noon, 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. daily and on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Prairie Public Television airs Studio One on Saturday at 6 a.m. The program can also be seen by viewers in Fargo, Bismarck/Mandan and Minot, N.D.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Denver, Colo.; and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

-- Meghan Flaagan, Director of Marketing, Television Center, meghan.flaagan@und.edu, 777-3818

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Alumni Association visits alumni across country

Alumni Association is around the U.S.A in 70 days! From Arizona to Florida and across country in between, the Alumni Association will host hundreds of alumni between February and April. We're excited to share campus accomplishments and goals for the future to spread the spirit of UND.

For more information, visit www.undalumni.org (<http://www.undalumni.org/>).

The spring Alumni Review issue is here - if only spring weather were too! This issue focuses on UND's 125th anniversary, the 40th anniversary of aviation on campus and Studio One's 20th. The UND Foundation has proudly granted \$19,302.80 this fiscal year from unrestricted funds at the discretion of Executive Vice President Tim O'Keefe. Funding supported various campus projects such as: MLK Jr. Day celebration hosted by Multicultural Student Services, Student Government Readership Program, Social Work Hooding Ceremony, National Indian Education Conference, Children's Writer's Conference Emily Award, Conflict Resolution Center annual meeting, Cultural Programming, UND Math Track Meet, Student Government Athletic Hanky promotion, Varsity Bards reunion, Summer Send-Offs. If your department or organization would like to apply for grant support from the Foundation, please

contact the Foundation at 777-2611. -- Alumni Association and UND Foundation.

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Element Spa offers Valentine's Day special

Save \$20 when you purchase two one-hour massage or reflexology gift certificates, Feb. 4-14 (not valid with any other discount or coupon).

Your body is the most important thing you will ever possess. Make the time to take care of it. To purchase gift certificates or schedule massage or reflexology appointments, contact Bridget Hoffman at the Wellness Center, 701-789-1203 or e-mail bridgetghoffman@yahoo.com. Bridget Hoffman is a graduate of the University of North Dakota and the Sister Rosalind Gefre School of Professional Massage. She has been a licensed massage therapist and licensed reflexologist since 2003.

-- *Bridet Hoffman, licensed massage therapist and licensed reflexologist, Wellness Center,*
bridgetghoffman@yahoo.com, 701-789-1203

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Internal job openings listed

The following position vacancies are available only to regular UND staff employees who have successfully completed their six-month probation period, earn annual and sick leave, receive BC/BS health insurance and TIAA-CREF or ND PERS retirement benefits. Current UND faculty, please contact Human Resources for eligibility.

TO APPLY: Please complete UND Application/Control Card form. Send letter of application and resume, referencing position name and number, to: Human Resources, University of North Dakota, Twamley Hall, Room 313, 264 Centennial Drive Stop 8010, Grand Forks, ND 58202-8010. Applications MUST be received by the deadline date.

EXECUTIVE/PROFESSIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE/ATHLETIC COACHES:

POSITION: Mechanical Designer, Facilities, #08-227

DEADLINE: (I) 2/14/2008

SALARY: \$45,000+/year

POSITION: Research Scientist/Engineer, EERC, #08-226

DEADLINE: (I) 2/13/2008

SALARY: \$60,000+/year

POSITION: Research Scientist/Engineer, Energy & Environmental Research Center, #08-225

DEADLINE: (I) 2/13/2008

SALARY: \$40,000+/year

POSITION: Assistant Director Enrollment Services-Graduate Student Recruitment, #08-224

DEADLINE: (I) 2/13/2008

SALARY: \$40,000+/year

POSITION: Enrollment Services Representative-Graduate Student Recruitment, #08-223

DEADLINE: (I) 2/13/2008

SALARY: \$28,500+/year

POSITION: Project Coordinator, Center for Rural Health, #08-222

DEADLINE: (I) 2/13/2008

SALARY: \$31,500+/year

POSITION: Technology Support Specialist (Re-advertised), Nursing, #08-190

DEADLINE: (I) 2/15/2008

SALARY: \$40,000+/year

TECHNICAL/PARAPROFESSIONAL: No vacancies.

OFFICE SUPPORT: No vacancies.

CRAFTS/SERVICE/TRADES:

POSITION: Kitchen Manager (flexible schedule including weekends) Dining Services, #08-228

DEADLINE: (I) 2/15/2008

SALARY: \$13.45+/hour

NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM POSITION OPENINGS:

PeopleSoft Tech Security Specialist

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IN THE NEWS

Cindy Anderson receives nursing award

Dr. Cindy Anderson (nursing) has received the 2008 MNRS Harriet H. Werley New Investigator Award from Midwest Nursing Research Society. She will receive the award at the annual conference Sunday, March 30, at 4:15 p.m. at the Marriot Ballroom 5 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Harriet Helen Werley, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, FACMI, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.), October 12, 1914-October 14, 2002

Dr. Harriet Werley was passionate about nursing research. She lived to the age of 88, and attended nursing research and MNRS conference nearly to the end. A wonderful bio on her appears at:

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=150375>. In the late 1950s, she was the first officially designated nurse researcher at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. She was very supportive of young nurse investigators and took time to visit posters presentations and talk with them about their research even when the effects of osteoporosis made walking difficult. She was the first Director of the first Nursing Research Center in the country-at Wayne State University, established in 1968. In 2004, UWM College of Nursing faculty honored her legacy by naming the Harriet H. Werley Center for Nursing Research and Evaluation.

This highly prestigious award is only given to one nurse researcher in the nation annually. -- Chandice Covington, dean, College of Nursing.

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Sociologists in the news

Abdallah Badahdah received the Great Plains Sociological Association Teaching Award at the annual meeting. Kathleen Tiemann was appointed to the position of executive editor of the journal *Humanity & Society*. Daphne Pedersen Stevens is president-elect of the Great Plains Sociological Association and was also named editor of the *Great Plains Sociologist*. Clifford Staples published "Cross-Border Acquisitions and Board Globalization in the World's Largest TNCs, 1995-2005" in *Sociological Quarterly*. He is giving an invited paper titled "The Transnational Corporate Elite: Evidence from the 2006 Global Fortune 500" at a conference on "Solidarity and Citizenship in World Politics" at the University of Helsinki, Collegium for Advanced Studies, Helsinki, Finland. Janet Kelly Moen is one of the planners of the Community University Forum (April 18-19) and the subsequent journal. She is also working with Britney

Sudman on a Carter Center entrepreneurship grant. Frank White, Tim Driscoll, Abdallah Badahdah and Krista Lynn Minnotte were all named as Faculty Stars by UND Presidential Scholars.

-- Kathleen Tiemann, Professor and Chair, Sociology, kathleen.tiemann@und.edu, 7-2188

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Faculty Q&A with Graduate Dean Joseph Benoit

Editor's Note: Joseph Benoit, dean of the University of North Dakota Graduate School, seven years ago launched the annual Scholarly Forum, which has become the premier occasion on campus for faculty and graduate students to showcase their research, scholarship, and creative activity projects. But it's also developed into a much more broadly purposed event that includes an increasingly popular networking opportunity for undergraduates looking to open doors into grad school.

Additionally, faculty now see the Scholarly Forum as a yardstick to help them assess whether and to what extent their grad students are cutting the academic mustard.

In the following Q&A with UND Office of University Relations writer Juan Miguel Pedraza, Dean Benoit, who holds a faculty appointment as full professor in the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics talks about how got the Scholarly Forum going, what he sees as important to this event, and where it's going.

Click on the audio link to listen to Dean Benoit talk more about cross-disciplinary collaboration, the SUNRISE model for this kind of research program, and the expanded opportunities for assessment that go hand-in-hand with the forum.

See <http://www.graduateschool.und.edu/html/events.html> for details about this year's forum.

OUR: What is the Scholarly Forum and when did it start?

JB: The Scholarly Forum features the outstanding research and creative activities of UND graduate students and faculty. The forum on the UND campus began in 2002, shortly after I arrived as dean in 2001. I initiated the Forum as a means to feature the outstanding research and creative activities of our students and faculty.

OUR: What's the concept behind the forum?

JB: The Scholarly Forum is designed on a model that exists at many campuses to feature scholarship. But we've expanded it here to include all things creative and scholarly. It includes performances, it includes artwork, it includes everything that our faculty and students do in the creative realm.

The forum has grown from about 50 papers to well over 100 and is really maturing well. I am really very pleased that the Scholarly Forum has continued to prosper. It has become the most significant research event on the UND campus and, as far as I know, it's the largest showcase of research and creative scholarship within the North Dakota University System.

This year we continue the tradition with more than one hundred presentations over the two-day event.

This forum provides an opportunity for our faculty and students to present their work, to get feedback on their work. As we move forward as a major research university, we need to be more aware of the types of activities that are going on here. The interaction that results from the forum has already produced activity between departments.

This year's forum will feature a session with the SUNRISE group on campus, which represents a real model for interaction between two departments in different colleges.

As a major research university, we need to be able to have opportunities for our faculty to find out that the collaborator they need isn't half way round the world but just a block away.

OUR: You've noted the forum's growth; any other significant changes?

JB: This year forum has changed its format slightly: rather than having external keynote speakers, we are focusing on UND faculty and students.

With that, we've instituted two Dean's Lectures. I did that in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of the University, to highlight some of our new, younger faculty members who will really contribute significantly to the next 100 years of the University of North Dakota. We are changing the format slightly to feature some of our own who are gaining national and international acclaim.

This year's lectures will feature Rebecca Weaver-Hightower from the Department of English and Diane Darland from the Department of Biology. Editor's note: for specifics about the time and place for these lectures, see <http://www.graduateschool.und.edu/html/events.html>; hard copies of the Forum lineup will be available at the event. Rebecca Weaver-Hightower's presentation will be based, in part, on her recently published book "Empire Islands: Castaways, Cannibals, and Fantasies of Conquest"; see http://www2.und.edu/our/uletter/print_article.php?uletterID=2386

And see this page about Diane Darland: <http://www.und.edu/dept/biology/darland.htm>

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UND economist sees good news for Grand Forks region, state

University of North Dakota economist David Flynn says the fiscal stimulus package making its way through Congress would deliver many benefits to Grand Forks, the region, and the state of North Dakota.

The plan specifically promises \$600 to single filer taxpayers making less than \$75,000 per year and \$1,200 to joint-filer taxpayers. In addition, there is a \$300-per-child tax credit. Other provisions provide payments to service disabled veterans and other demographic groups.

"The economic impact in Grand Forks County could be as much as \$32.5 million. This spending would typically support approximately 290 jobs," notes Flynn, director of the UND-based Bureau of Business and Economic Research. "For the state of North Dakota, the economic impact could be as much as \$351 million. The number of jobs supported from this spending level would be around 3,000."

These estimates assume consumers spend the entire amount received and should be viewed as maximum impacts, notes Flynn, who also is an associate professor of economics in the UND College of Business and Public Administration. The estimates also don't account for additional impacts related to payments under the fiscal stimulus package to service disabled veterans and other groups.

"If history is any indicator, it is unlikely that consumers will spend the entire amount" that they'll receive under this package, says Flynn, who also is associate state director of the North Dakota Small Business Development Center. He says people might also spend the windfall on mortgage payments, credit card debt, and they might put some of it into savings.

"While these items—mortgage payments, etc.—do not create an immediate impact, they would likely support further spending," Flynn says. "The result would be a longer time for the projected spending impacts to be realized."

For more information about Flynn's analysis of the federal fiscal stimulus package, see

Theatre arts students place in competition

Jesi Mullins, a senior in the Department of Theatre Arts, with her acting partner, senior Joe Bussey, advanced to the Irene Ryan Scholarship acting finals at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival held in Omaha, Neb., earlier this month. Mullins was only one of 16 competitors who advanced to the finals from an overall field of 343 competitors in the initial round, and 32 competitors in the semi-final round. Mullins, who is from Crookston, Minn., was also the recipient of an award honoring best classical scene work in the semi-final round with her partner Bussey who is from Phoenix, Ariz. Their scene was an excerpt from William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." Both Mullins and Bussey can be seen in the upcoming Department of Theatre Arts production, "Swimming in the Shallows," Feb. 19-23.

The Department of Theatre Arts also received three commendations of meritorious achievement for last spring's production of "Comedy of Errors," by Shakespeare. Recipients of the certificates were faculty members, Tracey Lyons for costume design, Jim Williams for physical farce and comic movement, and former faculty member Patricia Downey for physicalization and choreography.

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival is a national theatre education program that identifies and promotes quality in college-level theatre productions. Over 1,300 productions involving 200,000 students nationwide participate in the festival each year. This year the UND Department of Theatre Arts sent five Irene Ryan Scholarship actor nominees and their partners to compete at the festival in Omaha. Also attending were several design and technical theatre students. The nominees, actors from the department's 2007 productions, are selected by an outside adjudicator and a faculty member from the department to compete in the regional competition.

The Irene Ryan Scholarship Award is named for the actress best known for playing Granny on the television sit-com, The Beverly Hillbillies. Ryan, an Emmy and Tony Award-nominated actress, died in 1973 and left her \$1,000,000 estate to fund the Irene Ryan Foundation.