

COLLEGE HAPPENINGS

May 28, 2024

FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

Construction Update

As we head into summer, we anticipate seeing some big changes around the engineering complex over the next few months. Asbestos abatement has now been completed in the Engineering Administration Building, clearing the way for the demolition of this iconic building, which will likely commence sometime during the month of June. The demolition phase will certainly be disruptive, but should be completed long before students return to campus in the fall. Once we have a firmer timeline for the demolition, we will let you all know so that you can witness this historic moment that will change the look of the college as well as the campus.

As the building comes down, so too will the elevated skywalks that connect the existing buildings in the complex. The loss of these skywalks will create some additional challenges during the construction phase, as they currently provide the only means for ADA access to the second floors of the CIE and ECE buildings (the only elevators in the complex are located in Dolve and Ehly Halls). Depending on the specific construction schedule, the loss of accessibility could last throughout much of the planned two-year construction timeline. Please keep that in mind when planning activities over the next two years. We will work with the Registrar's Office to reschedule classrooms in these buildings if ADA accessibility is needed during this time.

The construction will also have an impact on first-floor access to all of the building entrances surrounding the courtyard where the Engineering Administration Building is located. We expect that most of these entrances will be closed throughout the duration of the construction cycle, forcing students, faculty, and staff to access the buildings from the outer entrances adjacent to the parking lots. While this should only be a minor inconvenience, it will certainly affect the flow of pedestrian traffic around the engineering complex.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility during the construction phase of the Richard Offerdahl '65 Engineering Complex. Our short-term sacrifices will be rewarded with long-term benefits once the new facility is complete!

Alan R. Kallmeyer, Ph.D.

Interim Dean | College of Engineering

IN THE NEWS

[North Dakota State's Iskander Inspires Future Environmental Engineers](#)

[Engineering Student Named Summit League Baseball Scholar of the Championship](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, June 3, **State FFA Conference**. The ND FFA Association hosts more than 1,300 FFA members, advisors, judges, sponsors, and presenters from across the state on the NDSU campus. Conference runs through June 6.

Monday, June 10, **Fall 2024 First-Year Student Orientation begins**. Hundreds of incoming students will be on campus throughout the month of June for orientation activities. [Full details here](#).

REQUEST FOR ORIENTATION VOLUNTEERS

Student Success Programs is requesting volunteers to assist guests during Orientation dates in June. Volunteers will guide groups to different areas on campus. This is an opportunity to showcase NDSU's hospitality and student focus to the newest members of the NDSU community.

Thank you for helping to make Orientation a success and to help students and their guests know they have made an excellent decision to attend NDSU! [SIGN UP HERE](#)

PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL FACULTY AND STAFF CONFERENCE

You are invited to [submit a proposal](#) for the annual Faculty & Staff Academic Conference to be held, Friday, August 23rd. NDSU's annual Faculty & Staff Conference is an opportunity to share ideas and developments across research, instruction, and other topics of interest to faculty and staff. The concurrent sessions will be 45 minutes in length, and should support faculty and/or staff development.

Proposals are due by Monday, June 17th.

Visit the Office of Teaching and Learning's [conference website](#) to learn more about this year's conference. Questions can be directed to Stacy.Duffield@ndsu.edu

BISONSPARK TALKS PLANNING COMMITTEE

In October 2023, the NDSU Office of Research and Creative Activity held the first-ever BisonSpark Talks on campus. These 5-minute stories served to highlight some of the amazing research happening in various disciplines at NDSU and served to spark interest, ideas, and collaborations across our research community.

RCA is considering programming for the 2024-2025 academic year and would like to form a BisonSpark Talks committee that will be charged with determining the selection, preparation, and delivery of the event.

If you are interested in being considered as a member on the BisonSpark Talks Committee, please provide your information by June 21. This will allow time for the committee to get organized and meet at least once before fall semester begins. [I want to be considered for the committee](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

University Research Collaboration Program Round 2

North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota have issued a joint call for the University Research Collaboration Program which is funded by the Economic Diversification Research Funds (EDRF) appropriated in the 2023 Legislative session. The University Research Collaboration Program has selected a first round of awards of up to

\$50,000. The EDRF funds are targeted at stimulating economic activity across the state through innovation of new technology, concepts, and products and promoting job creation and career and wage growth while providing experiential learning opportunities for students. The URCP requires projects to include faculty from UND and NDSU along with faculty or students from a third North Dakota institution. A call next fiscal year is also anticipated for the year two funds.

Deadline: June 5, 2024 [Learn more and apply >>](#)

DCL: Joint NSF and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Funding Opportunity: Supporting Foundational Research in Robotics (FRR)

The National Science Foundation (NSF), in collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA), seeks proposals to advance foundational research in agricultural robotics. These proposals should be of mutual interest to the NSF Foundational Research in Robotics (FRR) program and to USDA/NIFA. [Read full DCL >>](#)

RECENTLY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

- Juan Li (Principal Investigator). Artificial Intelligence-assisted Dementia Care and Caregiving through Health-Technology Mutual Learning: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Innovative Aging Research. \$213,072 from the National Institutes of Health. 4/1/2025 - 3/31/2030.
- Ying Huang (Principal Investigator). Enhancing Knowledge and Technology to Prevent and Mitigate Risks of Stress Corrosion Cracking (SCC) for Pipeline Integrity Management. \$210,000 from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety. 10/1/2024 - 9/30/2027.
- Clairmont Clementson (Principal Investigator), Kenneth Hellevang (Co-PI). Optimal drying temperatures for drying soybeans. \$37,648 from the North Central Soybean Research Program. 10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025.
- Carrie Miranda (Principal Investigator), Joao Paulo Cassol Flores (Co-PI). SOYGEN3: Building Capacity to Increase Soybean Genetic Gain for Yield and Composition through Combining Genomics-Assisted Breeding with Characterization of Future Environments. \$45,005 from the North Central Soybean Research Program. 10/1/2024 - 9/30/2025.
- Umamaheswara Rao Tida (Principal Investigator). When SAM Meets Weeds: AI-driven Weed Identification for Herbicide Resistant Weed Control. \$64,530 from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025.
- Long Jiang (Principal Investigator), Qian Ma (Co-PI). Transforming Soymeal and Soyhull into Building Materials. \$44,836 from the ND Soybean Council. 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

For 2024, 57 publications by authors with the College of Engineering affiliation have appeared in various journals, according to the ISI Web of Science and submissions from faculty. Here are some of the most recent publications:

- Ajayi-Banji, Ademola, Ghasideh Pourhashem, Shafiqur Rahman, and Xiaoyu Feng. "Evaluating the Environmental Impacts of Pretreatment and Nanoparticles in Solid-State Anaerobic Digestion Using Life Cycle Assessment." *BIOENERGY RESEARCH*, May 6, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12155-024-10757-0>.
- Mahmood, Yasir, Jessica Chen, Nita Yodo, and Ying Huang. "Optimizing Natural Gas Pipeline Risk Assessment Using Hybrid Fuzzy Bayesian Networks and Expert Elicitation for Effective Decision-Making Strategies." *GAS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING* 125 (May 2024): 205283. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgsce.2024.205283>.
- Soti, Abhishek, Niha Mohan Kulshreshtha, Saurabh Singh, Akshat Samaria, Urmila Brighu, Gangadhara Dontireddy, Sravan Banda, and Akhilendra Bhushan Gupta. "High Rates of Nitrogen Removal in Aerated VFCWs Treating Sewage through C-N-S Cycle." *BIORESOURCE TECHNOLOGY* 399 (May 2024): 130620. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2024.130620>.

- Tang, Fujian, Hao Cui, Yihang Kuang, Gang Li, and Zhibin Lin. “Corrosion Resistance and Bond Strength of Silica Particle Modified Enamel Coated Smooth and Deformed Steel Bars.” *JOURNAL OF MATERIALS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING* 36, no. 7 (July 1, 2024): 04024181. <https://doi.org/10.1061/JMCEE7.MTENG-17288>.

See your name on this list? Help us get the word out about your amazing work by submitting it as a **Breakthrough Alert**. [This online form](#) is an easy, step-by-step guide for summarizing published research for the general public.

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

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

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

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

Follow the College of Engineering on social media.

