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UNIVERSITY LETTER

UND'S FACULTY/STAFF NEWSLETTER

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University Letter is published electronically weekly on Tuesday afternoons. Submissions are due at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

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UND is tobacco-free environment

TO: UND Campus Community

FROM: Charles E. Kupchella
RE: Tobacco-Free Environment
DATE: Dec. 21, 2007

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas/holiday season. If this reaches you after the holiday season I hope you had a good one, and I wish you all the very best for the new school year. I am pleased to have been given this public opportunity to thank tobacco users who have chosen to respect our campus tobacco-free policy. I know this has been difficult for some, but the policy obviously reflects the wishes of a broad cross-section of the campus community, including faculty, staff, and students. We all thank you for respecting these wishes.

Several individuals have indicated to me that they have used our policy as an extra incentive to quit smoking. A few others have indicated the policy will help them carry-out their New Year's resolution to quit for real this time. Among the help resources available: North Dakota Quit Line 1-866-388-QUIT or contact the Student Health Promotion Office 777-2097. Another good resource is our Freedom from Smoking group at the Wellness Center 777-0210. Employees should know that our policy provides for the use of sick leave to take smoking cessation classes.

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Presidential candidate interviews set

Five candidates for president of UND will interview on campus in January. Information about the candidates is posted on the presidential search web site, at <http://www.und.edu/presidentialsearch/resumes.html>. The campus community and the public are invited to meet each candidate at 3:30 p.m. on the afternoons listed below, followed by a public forum beginning at 4:05 p.m., a question and answer session, and a reception ending at 5:30 p.m. Those sessions will be held in the Ballroom at the Memorial Union.

Candidate - Date of public forum

Robert Kelley - Friday, Jan. 11

Kathleen Long - Monday, Jan. 14

Phyllis Johnson - Thursday, Jan. 17

Bruce Smith - Tuesday, Jan. 22

Dennis Elbert - Thursday, Jan. 24

The search committee will provide a feedback form online and in hard copy at each of the sessions. Those forms may be returned to the committee electronically or via campus mail.

January will be a busy month, and the committee hopes you will take advantage of the opportunities to spend time with the candidates.

-- Paul LeBel (<mailto:lebel@law.und.edu>), Dean, UND School of Law
chair, UND Presidential Search Committee.

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Dale Lennon resigns; UND to conduct internal search

UND co-acting athletic directors Betty Ralston and Steve Brekke said that an internal search for Lennon's replacement has begun. An internal candidate cannot be named head coach earlier than the close of business next Friday (Jan. 4). UND will not name an interim head coach.

"We thank Dale for his many years of dedication to UND athletics," Ralston said. "Dale was not only a successful coach, he was a great ambassador for the University of North Dakota. We think it's a natural to give our current staff the opportunity to sustain UND's highly competitive program as we transition to the Division I Football Championship Subdivision."

Said President Charles Kupchella: "I want to thank Dale Lennon and his entire family for their contributions to the University of North Dakota and to the Grand Forks community. They have represented the University very well. Coach Lennon has had an excellent career as a player and coach at UND. I wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors."

Said Vice President for General Administration Phil Harmeson: "As loyal UND sports fans and alums, Bonnie and I didn't ever want this day to arrive. Dale Lennon has been, is, and will continue to be not only a wonderful coach but also as great developer of young men to succeed in life. We had hoped he would stay at UND for many more years working his magic on and off the field but opportunity came knocking. We wish him, Chris, and the boys only the very best in the future and wherever his career may ultimately take him. I am certain that he will always be a UND guy because we know that he bleeds green and he, like us, will always be grateful for his time with UND athletics."

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New scholarship aimed at high achieving students

A new scholarship initiative at the University of North Dakota will mean more than money to qualifying beginning freshmen: it also means they will become integrated into UND's learning community. The Community of Learners Scholarship guarantees \$1,000 annually -- up to \$4,000 -- for students who qualify for, and remain eligible for, the scholarship.

To be eligible, students must be admitted to UND by Feb. 5, the priority deadline for applying for scholarships. A new web site, <http://www.go.und.edu/better/>, provides the details. To qualify for the initial scholarship, students must meet four criteria:

- * Have a composite score of 24 or higher on the ACT (American College Test);
- * Have a 3.0 or better high school GPA (grade point average);
- * Live in the residence hall for the first year and either the residence hall or Greek housing for the second year;
- * Join and participate in one of UND's more than 200 officially recognized student organizations.

"The new initiative provides a new funding opportunity for higher achieving students -- those who do well in school and who score 24-28 on the ACT. But it also helps set the bar a little higher for incoming UND students," said UND President Charles Kupchella. In effect, he said, the scholarship sets the expectation that the students become active learners, involved in extra- and co-curricular programs, as well as more traditional academic programs, and live on campus with other active learners.

The new initiative addresses the financial needs of those bright students who do well in school and score in the mid-20s on the ACT, but, said Kupchella, it also invites those students to become part of the learning community at UND and helps sets the expectations for success. Kupchella said the initiative connects directly to a number of goals outlined in UND's Strategic Plan, such as increasing UND's overall enrollment and graduation rate, increasing the overall ACT scores for the campus and thus "enhancing even more the sizzle of our campus climate," increasing the focus on leadership training, and providing more scholarship support so that fewer students will have to support themselves with jobs.

"UND has an excellent and competitive scholarship program, and this new scholarship makes it even better. Excellent students who have not traditionally qualified for any UND scholarships will now be afforded that opportunity," said Robert Boyd, vice president for student and outreach services.

To continue to receive \$1,000 a year for up to three more years, students must:

- * Maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average;

- * Successfully compete at least 12 credits each semester;
- * Live in a residence hall or Greek housing for a second year;
- * Belong to and participate in at least one UND-recognized student organization each semester;
- * Attend a one-hour Keep Going session in the first semester;
- * Attend a one-hour Learning Fair in the first semester;
- * Provide documentation of an official meeting with the student's academic advisor each semester.

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EVENTS TO NOTE

Admissions director candidates will take part in open meetings

Open meetings for the director of admissions position have been scheduled and you are invited to take part in the process. There are three internal candidates being considered.

- * Linda Baeza, admissions officer, Graduate School, Thursday, Jan. 3, 9 a.m.. 303 Twamley Hall, and 1 p.m. in 305 Twamley Hall
- * Marci Mack, administrative officer, Career Services, Friday, Jan. 4, 9 a.m., 305 Twamley Hall, and 3 p.m. in 305 Twamley Hall
- * Deborah Melby, associate director, Housing, Friday, Jan. 4, 11 a.m. in 305 Twamley Hall, and 1 p.m. in 303 Twamley Hall.
- Alice Hoffert, associate vice president for enrollment management.

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Freestyle Motocross appears at Ralph Engelstad Arena

Live Nation Motor Sports announces that UND faculty, staff and students receive a UND discount for Freestyle Motocross, which will appear for one night only, Saturday, Jan. 5, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. UND faculty, staff, and students will receive \$7 off the regular adult tickets now through the event date.

Freestyle Motocross riders will throw their 250cc bikes an unbelievable 35 feet in the air. Numerous riders will participate in a no-holds barred competition, throwing out some of the most awe-inspiring tricks. The stunts performed include a variety of thrills such as the superman seat grab, rock solid, backflip and more. The riders participate both in a 45-second preliminary run as well as a 60-second semi-final run, intended to narrow the field down to the final four. The "run" consists of riders hitting metal take-off ramps, launching 30 to 40 feet into the air and landing on customized metal landing ramps. The finalists then try to put it all together for an 80-second final run. The last man sitting in the "hot seat" is the one who can get the crowd at their feet by getting the biggest air.

UND faculty, staff, and students can purchase tickets for \$13 at the Ralph Engelstad box office only. Please have your employee number or student ID with you at the time of purchase. Regular adult ticket prices are \$20. Kids seats are just \$5.

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Freedom from Smoking classes to be held in January

Start the New Year off right ... no ifs, ands, or BUTTS! Freedom from Smoking classes will be held on campus, starting Jan. 7 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Swanson Hall, Room 17. These classes are free of charge to all UND faculty, staff, students, and spouses. Benefited employees are eligible to use sick leave to attend. Call or e-mail Theresa Knox at 701-787-8140 or tknox@grandforksgov.com to register.

Freedom From Smoking is a seven-week stop-smoking program developed by the American Lung Association.

Professionally trained instructor, Theresa Knox, MPH, RN, will help each tobacco user to develop an individual plan for quitting.

In the sessions, emphasis will be on long-term freedom from tobacco. The ex-tobacco users will identify the pitfalls of relapse, and carefully plan to prevent it. The program includes the latest improved skills for good stress management, weight control, assertive communication and exercise, skills needed to help them succeed.

The group approach teaches step-by-step methods to change behavior and quit smoking or chewing tobacco. The instructor focuses on positive thinking, alternative behaviors, one-on-one help, rewards and group support to help participants to quit.

-- *Amanda Eickhoff, Assistant Director for Work Well, Wellness Center, amandaeickhoff@mail.und.edu, 701.777.0210*

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OLLI holds open house

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will hold a free open house Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom. Meet and visit with our knowledgeable instructors and explore the many classes we'll be offering during the winter semester. Join us for refreshments and learn all about OLLI @ UND! RSVP by Thursday, Jan. 3, for a chance to win a free course or membership. Call Connie at 777-4840 for more information.

-- *Connie Hodgson, Program Specialist, DCE, Osher Life Long Learning Institute, conniehodgson@mail.und.edu, 777-4840*

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Astronomy talk, telescope observing is Jan. 15

The Physics Department will hold a public astronomy talk and telescope observing session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, in 116 Witmer Hall. The talk, "Black Holes: A Mysterious Talk," will be presented by Timothy Young (Physics). 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, 701-777-3520*

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Participate in wellness study, receive half price membership

You have an opportunity to participate in a randomized study looking at various wellness coaching models and their effects on health outcomes. What will you do?

- Complete a health risk assessment
- Go through a basic fitness assessment
- Receive a biometric health screening
- Participate in physical activity a minimum of three days per week for at least 30 minutes

What will you get?

- You will be provided with a half price or two for one Wellness Center membership opportunity.
- Depending on random placement into groups, participants may receive some method of social support or wellness coaching at no cost, whether it's face-to-face, telephonically, or via a social support group. There will be one control group that doesn't receive any wellness coaching.

The study begins Tuesday, Jan. 22, and will be 10 months in duration at the Student Wellness Center. For more information contact Leah Wagner at leahwagner@mail.und.edu or 777-0842 no later than the morning of Jan. 10.

*To be eligible, you must be a benefited UND employee.

-- Leah Wagner, Coordinator of Wellness Programming, Wellness Center, leahwagner@mail.und.edu,
701.777.0842

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Abstract deadline extended for the Scholarly Forum

The Graduate School has extended the deadline for abstracts for the 2008 Scholarly Forum to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan 11. Please visit our web site at www.graduateschool.und.edu for submission guidelines and our online submission form.

The Scholarly Forum is a two-day series of oral presentations and poster session highlighting the breadth of research and creative scholarship by graduate students and faculty across our campus community. The Graduate School encourages participation and attendance by all. This year's Scholarly Forum will be held Feb. 11 and 12 in the Memorial Union.

For further information please contact susancarاهر@mail.und.edu or www.gradschool@und.edu.>
-- Susan Carاهر, Marketing & External Relations, The Graduate School, susancarاهر@mail.und.edu, 7-2524

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Nominations sought for distinguished thesis and dissertation awards

The Graduate School is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Thesis and Dissertation Awards, which will be presented during the March 17 general graduate faculty meeting.

Only one nomination per Ph.D. or master's program is allowed. Nominations should be sent to Joseph N. Benoit, Dean, Graduate School by Tuesday, Jan. 15. Only master's theses and Ph.D. dissertations from summer 2006, fall 2006 and spring 2007 are eligible for the current year competition.

Nomination packets must include:

1. Two copies of nominated thesis or dissertation
2. A nomination letter from the major advisor that addresses why the work should be considered for the award
3. A support letter from the graduate program director
4. Current contact information for the nominee

-- Susan Carاهر, Marketing & External Relations, The Graduate School, susancarاهر@mail.und.edu, 777-2524

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Chester Fritz Library lists spring semester hours

The Chester Fritz Library lists their spring semester hours beginning Monday, Jan. 7: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to midnight; Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to midnight.

-- Karen Cloud, Administrative Assistant, Chester Fritz Library, karencloud@mail.und.edu, 777-2618

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Martin Luther King, Jr. luncheon tickets available

The Era Bell Thompson Multicultural Center (EBTMC) wishes to offer UND faculty and staff the opportunity of purchasing tickets for the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. celebration luncheon Friday, Jan. 25, at the discounted price of \$7.50 each. They may be purchased from the Era Bell Thompson Multicultural Center, the

Memorial Union Info Desk, or by RSVPing to invitation.

Please show your University of North Dakota ID at the time of purchase and indicate your luncheon selection (lasagna or vegetarian meal).

-- Dianne Stam, Adm Secretary, MLK Celebration Committee, diannestam@mail.und.nodak.edu, 777-4406

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U2 lists workshops

Below are the U2 workshops for Jan. 3-9. Visit our web site for more.

Personnel Budget Application

Jan. 15, 9 to 10:30 a.m., 361 Upson II

This is a hands on workshop for individuals who use the budget web application during the annual budget process, a walk through of what gets downloaded into the budget web application, the fields that are changed in the web application, and what gets uploaded into HRMS will be provided. Presenter: Cindy Fetsch.

Photo Editing with Adobe Photoshop Elements

Jan. 3-4, 1 to 4 p.m., 211 Skalicky Tech Incubator

Fee is \$25

This workshop will be a hands-on approach to learning and using Photoshop elements for digital photo edits. Retouching, recoloring, and restoring will be covered, as well as image selection and composition. Presenter: Brian Barclay.

Budgets Overview Inquiry

Jan. 7, 1 to 3 p.m., Room 9, Gamble Hall Lanterman Center

Requirements: PeopleSoft user ID and password for Finance Module, a local fund number, and/or 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.

Tax Questions

Jan. 7, 2 to 3:30 p.m., 211 Skalicky Tech Incubator

The Village Financial Resource Center and the North Dakota Society of CPAs have partnered to answer your most taxing questions as you prepare for tax season. There will be information on frequently asked questions regarding tax preparation and planning. Good financial organization and tax planning allows you to better use tax advantages that may be available to you. Presenter: Marybeth Vigeland, certified consumer credit counselor, The Village Family Service Center.

Family Medical Leave

Jan. 8, 9 to 10 a.m., 305 Twamley Hall

Who is covered and how do you apply? Presenters: Joy Johnson and Desi Sporbert.

Laboratory Safety

Jan. 8, 10 a.m. to noon, Badlands Room, Memorial Union

Learn general lab-safety principles for the use of chemicals in laboratories. The workshop covers potential health hazards in the laboratory, protective measures, and response to incidents and emergencies. This training is required for all University employees working in a laboratory. Presenter: Eric Pearson.

Facilities Discoverer Reports Training

Jan. 8, 11 a.m. to noon, 361 Upson II

The billing charges from Facilities will be posted to PeopleSoft in a summarized format. To access the detailed information, each department will need to have access to Discoverer reports and be trained on how to access the detail and summary information for their departments. These reports will break down the charges by individual work orders and/or projects. Presenter: Laura Thoreson.

Supervisory Approaches to Conflict Resolution

Jan. 9, 8:30 to 10 a.m., Memorial Union Lecture Bowl

Dealing with conflict is a component of management and supervision that many would rather avoid. There is uncertainty in how to address it, when to step in, and how to recognize when conflict is becoming damaging to your workforce. This presentation will cover these areas, along with myths about conflict in the work setting. Identified in this workshop are the general characteristics of conflict and some suggestions for solutions that you can use the next time conflict arises. Dealing with the angry employee who exhibits desk rage will also be addressed.

Themes and Objectives

- To identify levels of conflict and ways to address those effectively.
- To learn the various styles of conflict management and the benefits of each.
- To address "desk rage," on the job anger, and conflict management skills.

Presenter: Kari Schoenhard

Managing Negativity

Jan. 9, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Memorial Union Lecture Bowl

Managing negativity in our work and home environment will help make those atmospheres more positive, productive and supportive. We may not be able to control the situation causing the negativity, but we can choose ways to better handle the behavior and attitude of the "negaholics" in our lives to avoid joining them in the negativity.

Themes and Objectives

- To identify "negativity" and how it impacts ourselves and others.
- To learn ways to deal with negativity around us.
- To learn our responsibility for change, and what we can and cannot control in others.

Presenter: Kari Schoenhard.

-- Sara Satter, U2 Program Assistant, Continuing Education, sarasatter@mail.und.edu, 777-2128

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Staff Senate names 31 Days of Glory winners

Recent winners of the Staff Senate 31 Days of Glory fundraiser are:

Wednesday, Dec. 19, Cindy Kozojed, off campus, \$100

Thursday, Dec. 20, Steve Kraft, Social Work, \$100

Friday, Dec. 21, Phyllis Vold, Affirmative Action, \$100

Saturday, Dec. 22, Cathy Anderson, Accounting Services, \$100

Sunday, Dec. 23, Diana LeTexier, \$500

Monday, Dec. 24, Leyton Rodahl, Facilities, \$100

Tuesday, Dec. 25, Karen Skoglund, off campus, \$100

Wednesday, Dec. 26, Lynn Lee and Marci Mack, Career Services, \$100

Thursday, Dec. 27, Del Larson, off campus, \$100

Friday, Dec. 28, Mitchell Holter, off campus, \$100
Saturday, Dec. 29, Sue Bartley, EERC, \$100
Sunday, Dec. 30, Lisa Spencer, Student Success Center, \$500
Monday, Dec. 31, Caryl Pederson, ITSS, \$100

The proceeds from the 31 days of Glory fundraiser are used to fund scholarships given by Staff Senate. -- Kayla Hotvedt (Registrar's office), Staff Senate secretary.

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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: Head Football Coach, UND Athletics, #08-177

DEADLINE: (I) 1/4/2008

SALARY: Commensurate with qualifications and experience

POSITION: Research Assistant (32 hrs/week), Surgery, #08-174

DEADLINE: (I) 1/02/2008

SALARY: \$15.02+/hour

TECHNICAL/PARAPROFESSIONAL:

POSITION: Storekeeper (variable schedule), JDOSAS Aircraft Maintenance, #08-173

DEADLINE: (I) 1/02/2007

SALARY: \$26,000+/year

OFFICE SUPPORT: No vacancies.

CRAFTS/SERVICE/TRADES:

POSITION: Lead Cook (variable schedule), Dining Services, #08-176

DEADLINE: (I) 1/02/2008

SALARY: \$10.61+/hour

NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM POSITION OPENINGS:

Executive Director Academic, Research and Learning Technology (ARLT)

-- Jan Orvik, Writer/Editor, University Relations, janorvik@mail.und.nodak.edu, 777-3621

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IN THE NEWS

UND awarded \$299,416 to develop aero resource manual

A University research team, consisting of Kimberly Kenville, Jim Higgins, and Warren Jensen of UND Aerospace, Rosanne McBride of Family and Community Medicine, and Thomas Petros of Psychology, were awarded a \$299,416 contract by the National Academies through the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) which is under the direction of the Transportation Research Board (TRB).

The UND team was chosen over three other teams to develop a resource manual for airport and airline employees coping with traumatic events. The award runs from December 2007 to January 2009.

The Transportation Research Board's mission is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary and multimodal.

It is one of the six major divisions of the National Research Council (NRC) — a private, nonprofit institution that is the principal operating agency of the National Academies in providing services to the government, the public, and the scientific and engineering communities. The NRC is jointly administered by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. TRB's varied activities annually engage more than 7,000 engineers, scientists, and other transportation research and practitioners from the public and private sectors and academia, all of whom contribute their expertise in the public interest by participating on TRB committees, panels, and tasks forces. The program is supported by state transportation departments, federal agencies including the component administrations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other organizations and individuals interested in the development of transportation.

The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) was authorized in December 2003 as part of the Vision 100-Century of Aviation Reauthorization. In October 2005, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) executed a contract with the National Academies, acting through its TRB, to serve as manager of the ACRP. Program oversight and governance are provided by representatives of airport operating agencies.

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"Disappeared" art exhibit recognized

"The Disappeared" art exhibit, which was curated by Laurel Reuter at the North Dakota Museum of Art, was named one of the top 10 2007 events by Newsday. Here's what they said:

"THE DISAPPEARED (LOS DESAPARECIDOS)." It's easy to forget that art really can unsettle and wound. The works in "The Disappeared," at El Museo del Barrio, dealt with the horrors wrought by state-sponsored terrorism in Latin America. They got under your eyelids and stayed there even after you turned away.

-- Laurel Reuter, director, North Dakota Museum of Art.

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UND team earns spot in NASA's top national rocket challenge

University of North Dakota student team, Frozen Fury 2, or F2, got the "go for launch" from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for a top national rocket contest next May. NASA's 2007-2008 University Student Launch Initiative rocketeering challenge includes 11 college and university teams in eight states.

The annual NASA challenge aims to inspire students to pursue careers in science, engineering, math, and technology, all areas that are vital to NASA's ongoing mission in space and to the continued economic prosperity of the nation, says Tim Young, an astrophysicist and associate professor of physics who coaches the UND rocket team.

"Their experience with several successful launches as part of the North Dakota Student Rocket Initiative Project (STRIPE) really convinced these students to get into this major national competition," says Young.

NASA's University Student Launch Initiative was founded in 2006 as a sister program to its rocket-building initiative for high school students. The initiative is hosted by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and state Space Grant Consortiums (including North Dakota's) with ATK Launch Systems of Brigham City, Utah, as the primary corporate sponsor. Space Grant Consortiums are coalitions of state colleges, universities, and other institutions funded by NASA to promote interest in technical careers through innovative space-related courses, hands-on science and engineering programs, and interactive outreach opportunities.

The rocket challenge gives students practical experience in managing aerospace and engineering projects similar to those found in a professional environment, Young notes. Guided by NASA's Marshall Center engineers and their own science and math professors, the teams will spend eight months designing, building, and launching rockets with built-in, working science payloads, according to a NASA project description.

"Students also must raise funds for their rocket projects; they're off to a great start with the UND Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) donating half of the funds needed," Young says. So besides building their rocket, they'll have to raise additional cash for the project.

For more information about the student's progress on the Frozen Fury rocket, see <http://www.frozenfury.und.edu> (<http://www.frozenfury.und.edu/>). For more information about STRIPE, see <http://www.rocket.und.edu/>. For more information about the NASA Student Launch Initiative, see <http://education.msfc.nasa.gov/usli>

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UND climate change expert shares global warming news

Renowned University of North Dakota climate scientist Andrei Kirilenko says the 11th hour international global warming accord paves the way for measurable action to stem the effects of human-generated greenhouse gases.

This agreement at a global UN-sponsored meeting in Bali came only after the Bush Administration and China relented and chose to go with the flow of world scientific consensus to take substantial action on climate change, Kirilenko notes.

"Twenty countries signed a resolution that clears the way for a new agreement to replace the Kyoto protocol, which expires in 2012," says Kirilenko, an associate professor of aerospace sciences of Earth System Science and Policy.

Kirilenko says we're now much closer to the radical steps that everyone will have to take to cut greenhouse gas emissions — mostly from the transportation use of fossil fuels — to slow the human impacts on the global climate system.

"It is possible that the Bali meeting has finally terminated the indecisive period of fruitless attempts to reach an international agreement on the climate change problem," says Kirilenko, a key co-author of this year's report

from the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which, along with former U.S. vice president Al Gore, received this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

"Throughout my scientific career, I have been working on the problem of providing quantitative forecasts of environmental change, especially in relation to human impacts," says Kirilenko. However, despite unequivocal evidence of global warming and climate change, Kirilenko notes, the United States officially has been reluctant to push for major greenhouse (GHG) reductions. Therefore, Washington's new stance at the Bali meeting is a key event in changing global action on climate change.

"It was the first major international event to negotiate the future post-Kyoto treaty," and it could not have happened effectively without U.S. and Chinese participation, he says.

Kirilenko says that it's hard to emit CO₂ in large quantities without detection. For example, he says, "we can compute CO₂ emissions from the amount and efficiency of a country's power, or electricity, generation. Such computations will give you right away and fairly precisely what that country's emissions are."

The big problem is that CO₂ is a gas with a very long residence period in the atmosphere.

"The entire turnover of naturally occurring CO₂ is relatively fast and pretty balanced. However, the sink, or flow, back into the biosphere or the ocean of the CO₂ that we add into the atmosphere takes hundreds of years," he explains. "Moreover, even though we're adding this CO₂ into the atmosphere today, the actual climate change impacts from these additions won't be apparent for 20 to 30 years, which means that the effects of today's emissions are beyond the borders of our normal human thinking in terms of time frames."

Unfortunately, there is no silver bullet, but the new agreement reached in Bali is a significant and very optimistic step in the right direction, Kirilenko says.

For more information about Kirilenko, this year's Nobel Peace Prize, and a UND Faculty Q&A with Kirilenko, check out the following UND Web sites:

<http://www.und.edu/instruct/kirilenko/> (Kirilenko's home page)

http://www.und.edu/faculty_qa/06082007.html (UND Faculty Q&A with Kirilenko)

http://www2.und.edu/our/uletter/print_article.php?uletterID=3156 (Nobel Prize story)

http://www.und.edu/faculty_qa/web_assets/AndreiKirilenko.wav (Kirilenko audio clip)

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Remembering Diana Wells

Diana L. Wells, professor emeritus of mathematics, died Dec. 27 at her home in Grand Forks. She was 54.

Wells, daughter of Arvil Wesley and Evelyn (Wheeler) Wells, was born Sept. 19, 1953 in Miles City, Mont. She was educated in Miles City and graduated from high school there in 1971.

She earned her B.A. degree in mathematics from Carroll College at Helena, Mont., and taught high school mathematics in western North Dakota and eastern Montana, as well as in Washington, D.C. She later earned a master's degree in mathematics from UND and her Ph.D. in mathematics from Washington State University. She returned to Grand Forks as an associate professor of mathematics at UND until she retired in 2002. Wells loved mathematics and teaching of mathematics.

Wells enjoyed quilting, gardening and fishing, especially fishing trips to Alaska. She also enjoyed traveling in the Canadian Rockies.

She married James R. Carlson Jr. Feb. 2, 1974 at Missoula, Mont. He survives, along with sisters Arlene Crowfoot, Miles City, Mont.; Eileen McMunn, Dayton, Wash.; Glapha Cox, Idaho Falls, Idaho; and uncle Earl (Annmarie) Wheeler, Williston, N.D.

Wells was preceded in death by her parents and by a brother, Wesley Wells.

Funeral services were held Dec. 31 in Grand Forks. The family prefers memorials be directed to The Huntington's Disease Society of America, HDSA, 505 Eighth Avenue, Suite 902, New York, NY 10018.

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