

Wayne Seames, Ed Kolodka and Darrin Muggli (all from UND chemical engineering) were awarded a three-year, \$367,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop polymers and composites from crop oils. The program, titled "Bio-based Polymeric Materials from Cracked Canola Oil," will focus on converting canola oil into several polymers commonly used in building materials, coatings, adhesives and many other products traditionally derived from petroleum or natural gas.

The Department of Energy has awarded a three-year, \$352,000 grant to Burghaus titled, "Characterization of fundamental catalytic properties of MoS₂/WS₂ nanotubes and nanoclusters for desulfurization catalysis – a surface chemistry study." In this project nano-desulfurization catalysts will be characterized in collaboration with R. Tenne's group at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Michael Mann, UND professor of chemical engineering, and Hossein Salehfar, professor of electrical engineering, were awarded a three-year grant for \$301,268 from the Department of Energy titled, "Development of a Renewable Hydrogen Production and Fuel Cell Education Program." Their research team will take advantage of the infrastructure and programs established through SUNRISE to provide a comprehensive renewable hydrogen production and fuel cell education program.

Principal investigator Wayne Seames, UND associate professor of chemical engineering, along with co-principal investigators Darrin Muggli, Brian Tande (both UND chemical engineering) and Alena Kubatova (UND chemistry) were awarded a one-year, \$110,000 grant by the North Dakota Soybean Council to continue their research into processes to produce fuels, chemicals and polymers from soybean oil. This is the fifth straight year the North Dakota Soybean Council has provided funding to the SUNRISE crop oil conversion technologies program.

The North Dakota Soybean Council also awarded a \$15,000 one-year grant to principal investigator Michael Mann, UND professor of chemical engineering, and co-principal investigator Wayne Seames to study the benefits of co-locating soybean processing facilities with sugar beet factories.

SUNRISE is a student centered, faculty led research program at the University of North Dakota, NDSU and other North Dakota universities. The mission of SUNRISE is to conduct research that contributes to solving complex energy-related problems, investigate development of sustainable energy options, leading toward economic development and job creation for North Dakota, increase UND and NDSU research competitiveness in sustainable energy, and produce graduates to develop and promote sustainable energy in North Dakota, the region and the nation, all within a unified, interdisciplinary program that translates fundamental research into commercial solutions.

McNair media specialist wins award

Delores Pavicic, media specialist for the McNair Scholars Program at NDSU, received two awards in the 2007-08 North Dakota Professional Communicators' communications contest. The awards were presented during the annual conference in Grand Forks, N.D.

Pavicic received a first place award for the McNair Scholars Directory and a second place award for the McNair Scholars newsletter. First place awards advance to the national competition. National contest winners will be announced during the National Federation of Press Women conference in Idaho Falls, Idaho, in September.

Three join Department of Residence Life



Bollig



Paradis



Lenarz

The Department of Residence Life has hired three new hall directors. Katie Bollig, Megan Paradis and Bill Lenarz will serve as hall directors in Burgum Hall, Dinan Hall and Niskanen Hall, respectively.

Bollig recently earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and professional and organizational communication at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. While there, she was involved in the National Residence Hall Honorary, Hall Council and the Leadership Development and Service Committee. She also was a campus radio disc jockey and participated in intramural sports. Bollig also was employed as a resident assistant and hall manager at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Originally from Alexandria, Minn., Paradis completed a bachelor's degree in journalism at NDSU in 2008. She was involved in the Lambda Pi Eta honor society, employed by the Office of Admission and was a member of the 2007 Conference Orientation and Recruitment Team.

Lenarz majored in geology at Iowa State University, where he worked in the residence life department for three years. He also worked at the Iowa State Center, helping coordinate major concerts and conventions on campus. Before accepting a position at NDSU, he was employed by the Fargo Police Department and MeritCare.

The hall director position includes responsibilities in leadership and management of hall programs, supervision of student staff and advising of hall government. Bollig, Paradis and Lenarz also will be responsible for portions of facilities management, judicial affairs and summer housing within their residence halls.

NDSU faculty and students participate at animal sciences meeting

Members of the animal sciences department attended the Midwestern section of the American Dairy Science Association/American Society of Animal Science meetings in Des Moines, Iowa, March 17-19.

Kim Vonnahme, assistant professor, presented an invited paper titled, "Influence of maternal nutrition on offspring performance."

The Quadrathlon Team, consisting of NDSU students Abby Fettig, Whitney Haux, Megan Friedt and Jayme Fiesel, took first in oral presentation, fourth in the quiz bowl and fourth overall of 11 teams.

Erin Harris, Megan Minten, Haux and Leslie Renisink represented NDSU in the undergraduate division. Haux placed second for her oral presentation. Leslie Lekatz placed fourth for her oral presentation, and Nick Bork placed first for his poster. Bryan Neville, Jake Galbreath, Trent Gilbery, Beth Stoltenow and Erin Windorski all gave research poster presentations.

The competition involves students from seven Midwestern universities. This is the second year for the Midwest to host a poster competition, and the second year in a row that an NDSU animal sciences graduate student has captured first place honors. Last year's winner was Penny Nester.