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May 11, 2016

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Alumni,

It has been my privilege, as a UND Civil Engineering Department alumnus, to serve as Chair of the UND Civil Engineering Department since 2010. Now, I am about to embark on a new chapter in my life and career. Having just recently completed our EAC of ABET accreditation visit and follow-up work and having planned for possible retirement in 2018, it was my intent to help the Civil Engineering Department transition to a new leadership direction. I was recently approved to participate in the UND Tenured Faculty Voluntary Separation Incentive Plan and will be leaving the employment of UND effective June 30, 2016. I have been offered employment with AE₂S, a Grand Forks based consulting engineering firm with which I have been associated since 1993. I am looking forward to using my previous consulting experience and my academic background to meet new professional challenges and contribute to the successes of my new employer and clients as a Senior Project Manager.

I will surely miss the department faculty (Bruce Dockter and Drs. Jerath, Mamaghani, Suleiman, Gedafa, Lim, Xiao), our administrative secretary (Mary Winters), our undergraduate and graduate students, the College of Engineering and Mines (CEM) Dean (Dr. Hesham El-Rewini), CEM staff (Tammy Hendrickson and Anita Perez), the CEM Student Experience staff (Courtenay White, Janet Honek, Joan Jensen) and all the other CEM and other engineering discipline faculty and staff (too many to list here). You have made my experience at UND wonderful and memorable.

As I leave UND and if you would indulge me, I would like to reflect briefly on my undergraduate and graduate experiences and on my 23 years on the Civil Engineering faculty and in the College of Engineering and Mines. While I was an undergraduate and Master's student at UND in the 1970s, I had the incredible good fortune to be involved in materials and environmental engineering research and more than \$350,000 in successful external agency funded grant writing. All students would benefit from similar opportunities, and I hope the department can increase such opportunities for future students, especially our graduate students. While I served as a member of the Civil Engineering faculty, I was fortunate to bring in more than \$600,000 in externally-funded research and to advise twenty-four Master's and one Ph.D. student, in addition to work on numerous graduate committees in other engineering departments. Research is an important mission for our department's future, and we are positioning ourselves to meet that mission through hiring of entry-level faculty members and critical equipment purchases for both teaching and research applications.

Despite recent emphasis on budget shortfalls and challenges at UND, the Civil Engineering Department is in a strong position and its destiny is not written. Its destiny is fully in the control of the faculty,

students and alumni to be determined by ingenuity, collaboration and on-going efforts. I am confident that the Department's best days are still ahead. When I joined the faculty in 1993, student enrollment at UND in Civil Engineering dropped briefly to a low enrollment of 60 students and typical annual program graduations of about 15 students. After implementing participation in the online delivery mode in the early 2000s, our BSCE program enrollment grew steadily to the current level of nearly 300 students (200 FTE) and typical annual BSCE program graduations of 35 to 40 students. This growth required professional and personal dedication, sacrifice, and cooperation of the faculty members, staff, contracted instructors, and students, not only of Civil Engineering but of the entire College of Engineering and Mines. I am convinced that UND is a great value in civil engineering education. I have received many letters from our alumni thanking me for the great UND engineering education and career opportunities made available to them.

At the same time, our Department has transitioned from a primarily teaching role to a more robust role including research, discovery, and dissemination of knowledge through publication and conferences. We went from a faculty consisting of 6 tenure-track positions to 7 tenure-track positions plus a Sr. Lecturer/Lab Manager. We successfully established a Ph.D. of Civil Engineering degree program in 2015 and currently have four Ph.D. students. We have increased our appropriated three graduate teaching assistantship (GTA) stipends to seven GTA stipends through application of revenues generated from enrollment growth. We have invested in and been gifted new technology and new teaching and research equipment that will advance our research and service missions. More needs to be accomplished to help our undergraduate and graduate students be prepared to contribute to state, regional, and global solutions of problems associated with the 14 Grand Challenges.

As I leave UND, I am thankful for all the interactions I have had with all of you. I am thankful for the contributions all of you have made to the mission of the Department. I challenge you to continue to stay in touch with the Civil Engineering Department and, if you are not already doing so, consider giving your talents, your monetary support, and your visionary input to the Department. Serve on the Professional Advisory Board, volunteer to be a guest speaker to student organizations or classes, give to the Ronald Apanian Civil Engineering Graduate Research Support fund, help encourage cooperative education/internship opportunities, etc. You are needed now more than ever before. I assure you that your efforts will not go unnoticed and that you will make a great difference in the education of our future civil engineers.

As Dr. Sukhvarsh Jerath assumes his new role as Chair of Civil Engineering, he will be able to seek my input and counsel. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Jerath and offer him and the Civil Engineering Department your support for the future. Alumni support is critical for the advancement of the Civil Engineering Department endeavors to educate civil engineers for the future. I have spoken at length with Dr. Jerath about what would be the one greatest impact on our department and our programs. We concluded that the greatest single game-changer would be increased funding of our graduate programs, which can, in turn, improve the undergraduate program experiences, too. How can this happen? It can happen through the ability to fund more GTA and graduate research assistantship (GRA) positions, which would allow expansion of our undergraduate and graduate student enrollments and associated tuition, fee, and research revenue generation streams. Dr. Jerath suggested the possibility of corporate-

sponsored ¼-time GTA or GRA positions, named after the corporate sponsor. I think this is a phenomenal and affordable corporate impact (the cost of a ¼-time GA stipend is currently about \$8,000 per academic year)! The GA stipends could be structured to direct the work effort of the receiving student to a project of corporate interest and could be structured with annual corporate opportunity to renew or terminate at the discretion of the corporate sponsor.

If your company or agency would like to be a GA stipend sponsor, please contact Dr. Jerath (701-777-3564), Andrew Bjerke (701-777-1428), or me. If you wish to impact the department and our students, but you do not wish to sponsor a GA stipend, please join me in giving to the Ronald Apanian Civil Engineering Graduate Research Support fund or to the Civil Engineering Department fund via the UND Alumni Foundation in whatever amount you wish to donate.

God Bless You All,



Harvey Gullicks (1976 & 1979)
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