Welcome to Fall 2018 semester

We wish all students, faculty and staff a great start to the fall semester after the summer break. I welcome Dr. Kouhyar Tavakolian, and Dr. Emanuel Grant, the new board members representing EE and CS.

The Jodsaas Center is planning to promote new programs this year to enhance the leadership skills of our students. We are planning practical and hands-on workshops which benefit students in their future employment and we are presenting more multidisciplinary Engineering projects as part of the programs being offered this year.

We welcome any comments and feedback to improve our services to the students.

Vamegh Rasouli, Director of Jodsaas Center

The Big Challenge (BIG Idea Gym)

This month’s BIG Challenge is to come up with an idea to use unmanned systems to improve the construction site of the future. This challenge is sponsored by Bobcat and will be judged by representatives from Bobcat as well as a local construction company. Eight teams are competing, including three teams consisting of distance students.

To date, over 30 teams and 100 students have participated in the BIG Challenge, earning over $10,000 in scholarships.

As they develop their ideas, they create a short video that describes their approach. These videos, which are used to select up to four finalists, typically highlight the personality and creativity of the teams. At the end of the month, the finalists give a short 3-minute pitch to a panel of judges and fellow students, who rate each team based on originality, the potential impact of their idea, quality of the presentation, and the degree to which the team used a multidisciplinary approach. The winning teams receive scholarships up to $2000.

Grand Challenge Scholars Program (GCSP)

The UND Grand Challenge Scholars Program (GCSP) is now in its third year, having begun with its first cohort of ten students in the Fall of 2016. That initial group of students consisted of eight women and two men who together represented almost every undergraduate engineering program at UND. Two members of that first cohort completed the GCSP requirements in the Spring of 2018 and another is expected to do so in the Fall of 2018. Additional cohorts were added in 2017 and 2018, bringing the total number of students involved in the GCSP to 27. In addition to the students, ten faculty members are involved in either the management of the program or mentoring student projects. The highest priority activities planned for the next year are related to fundraising and corporate engagement.
ENGR 490

With the support of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, the Jodsaas Center offers three multidisciplinary engineering design projects this year under the ENGR 490 course. All projects are sponsored partially by industry and the Department of Petroleum Engineering.

SPE Drillbotic’s Project:

A new team will continue improving the drilling rig that the team built last year to participate in the SPE competition this year. The design phase has started this fall and if the design is approved in December this year, the team will continue to complete fabricating the rig and enter the competition in May when the selected judges will be visiting campus to test the rig. We wish all the best for the UND Drillbotic’s team. This year’s team includes PE Ph.D. student Ahmed Ismail, PE master’s student Christopher Watts, undergrad students Steven Trulove (PE), Zifran Sulaiman (PE), Thomas Neisen (EE), Mohammed Alsaadi (EE), Ivan Nkwawir (EE), Tyler Maness (ME), Henry Thorpe (ME), Alec Ernst (ME).

Slurry Loop Project (SLP):

A new team will continue this year on fabricating the slurry loop which is for studying the cuttings transportation inside the pipe and annulus space. Installment of the monitoring and measurement systems and the pump are the final stage of the work before some experiments are run. The team this year includes PE Ph.D. student Foued Badrouchi, PE master’s student Scott Nygaard, PE undergrad students Derrick Ssegawa and Matthew Jelinski.

Coreflooding Project:

A group of students started to assemble a core flooding machine which is used to pressurize a small rock sample to simulate the earth stresses and inject fluid into the rock to study the fluid transportation mechanism. The new group of students from PE will continue to complete this project this year. PE master’s student Mohamed Mohamed, Ph.D. student Nidhal Badrouchi and undergrad student Bjorn Olav Hapnes are working on this project.

Special Thanks to Harry Feilen from the Institute for Energy Studies (IES) for his generous support of students in all of the above projects.

Workshops Series

This academic year, the Jodsaas Center offers the following workshops to familiarize students with some of the leadership skills necessary to know in addition to their academic studies. Industry leaders with years of experiences in each topic will run these interactive sessions:

- Sept 2018: Business plan
- Oct 2018: Managing people
- Nov 2018: Sales pitch and negotiation
- Dec 2018: Networking in a conference
- Jan 2018: Workload & schedule planning
- Feb 2019: Dealing with difficult people
- March 2018: Mock job interview
- April 2019: Finance management

Contact (WE ARE HERE TO HELP!)

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Upcoming Events

- Oct 2018: Workshop Series — Herding cats and managing people
- Nov 2018: Workshop Series — Sales pitch and negotiation
- Nov 1, 2018: presentation of ENGR 490 pro
- Dec 2018: Workshop Series — Networking in a conference