

# Jodsaas Center

for Engineering Leadership & Entrepreneurship

December 2020

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue IV

## End of Year Note

We are pleased that, despite the tough situations in this year, mainly due to the COVID-19, we were able to continue to offer different programs to the students. Special thanks go to Amy Whitney, the director of the UND Center for Innovation, and her team who continued to support the Jodsaas Center this year.



With their support we are hoping to improve the quality of the current activities and offer new activities in year 2021.

Also, our great appreciation to Sandy Braathen and Duane Helleloid from the School of Entrepreneurship and Management, who participated in the Jodsaas Center Board meetings. Their input and sharing their experiences were constructive in offering more useful and practical topics for the workshop series and other programs that we offered. Our thanks also go to the CEM faculty and students for their feedback and encouragements and participation in the programs offered by the Center.

## Workshop Series

The remaining workshop series of this academic year that will be offered in Spring 2021 are:

- Jan 26, 2021: Mock Job interview
- Jan 28, 2021: IP Making Decisions About Intellectual Property
- Feb 18, 2021: Jump Start
- March 2021: Understanding Negotiation
- April 2021: Personal Finance

The Mock Job Interview workshop is planned for end of January 2021 prior to the UND career fair on Feb 2, 2021 in order to provide some information to students before this important event. The second workshop on January 28, 2021 will be a presentation by Thomas A. James who is an intellectual property litigator in Chicago, and a UND electrical engineering graduate of the College of Engineering and Mines. For the full list of past workshop series and the recorded videos please visit:

<https://engineering.und.edu/outreach/jodsaas-center/workshop-series.html>

With the current situation, we anticipate to continue to offer the workshops virtually for Spring 2021.

## ENGR – 410 Tech. Venture on again in Spring 2021

Dr. Gupta will be offering ENGR-410 course again in Spring 2021. Please contact Dr. Gupta ([Surojit.Gupta@und.edu](mailto:Surojit.Gupta@und.edu)) for more information.

<https://engineering.und.edu/outreach/jodsaas-center/>

### New Board Member

We welcome Dr. Sattar Dorafshan, as the new board member and greatly appreciate Bruce Dockter for his services.

### Board Members

- Vamegh Rasouli (Petroleum Eng)
- Sattar Dorafshan (Civil Eng)
- Surojit Gupta (Mechanical Eng)
- Joseph Hartman (Geology and Geological Eng)
- Emanuel Grant (Computer Science)
- Kouhyar Tavakolian (Electrical Eng)
- Bethany Klemetsrud (Chemical Eng)
- Dustin McNally (Mechanical Eng)
- Duane Helleloid (School of Entrepreneurship and Management)
- Sandy Braathen (School of Entrepreneurship and Management)
- Amy Whitney (UND Center for Innovation)

### Jodsaas Center offers:

- Entrepreneur Coach office hours
- Industry short courses
- Business related courses counted towards your credit
- The support for hands-on projects run by students from different engineering disciplines
- The support for establishing new companies

# Big Idea Challenge

The Fall Semester Big Idea Challenge was organized jointly by the Jodsaas Center and the UND Center for Innovation. The topic for the challenge was COVID PPE Design. Four students worked with Dr. Surojit Gupta from Mechanical Engineering and Dr. Amy Whitney from the Center for Innovation for six weeks to refine their initial idea and prepare to pitch their final concept on November 30<sup>th</sup> to a panel of judges. The final pitch competition was virtual, and it featured four COVID PPE ideas from College of Engineering and Mines students. The four students and their project were: Allen Groenke (*Airline Travel Safety Mask & Seating*); Junior Beteck (*Social Distancing Proximity App*); Francis Idachaba (*Wrist Band Sanitizer*); and Shane Eiring (*UV Mask*).



The pitches were judged on criteria that included: originality, potential impact, value proposition, business and implementation case, and potential use of funds. We also want to thank our judges this year: Tyler Sletten from the Center for Innovation, and Dean Tande, Professor Anjali Sandi and Professor Minou Rabiei from the College of Engineering and Mines.

There were two \$1,000 awards given out, a judges award and an audience award (sponsored by Larson Foundation). The Judges award was given to Francis Idachaba and the audience award was given to Junior Beteck. We are excited for the winners and all four students are encouraged to keep moving their ideas forward. You can be a part of the Spring 2021 Big Idea Challenge! Information will come soon.



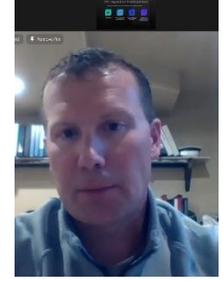
Allen Groenke



Junior Beteck



Francis Idachaba



Shane Eiring

## Student-Run Enterprises (SRE)

Thanks to Amy Whitney and Bethany Klemetsrud for their continued effort to promote the SRE initiative and following up with the necessary processes required to begin this program from Spring 2021. We provide any additional information in due course to all students but in the meantime if you are interested in being a student founder or have any questions please contact Tyler Sletten at [tyler.sletten@und.edu](mailto:tyler.sletten@und.edu).

## Proposal for Interdisciplinary Design Project

At the Nov 30 board meeting, Kouhyar Tavakolian presented the idea of an interdisciplinary Capstone project across the CEM for all students in order to enhance teamwork and take advantage of the modern approach that he has practiced in his class for the past few years. The idea is to motivate students from different engineering disciplines to work on solving real-world problems together and to evaluate the business aspects of their projects. We are discussing this initiative and expect to provide additional information in Spring 2021 to all students.

### Contact: Vamegh Rasouli

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BIG Ideas Challenge Coordinator: Surojit Gupta [surojit.gupta@und.edu](mailto:surojit.gupta@und.edu)

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