Big Idea Challenge

The first Big Idea Challenge in 2020 was to provide a solution for a sustainable environment. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has outlined three key principles for Circular Economy, (a) design out waste and pollution, (b) keep products and materials in use, and (c) regenerate natural systems. Based on these principles, the College of Engineering and Mines students were challenged to propose an engineering solution to the global plastic problem based on fossil fuels for Circular Economy. The proposed solution could be based on following ideas: (a) how we can develop new technologies to eliminate single user plastic usage, (b) how novel plastics can be designed which can recycled or reused, and (c) how we can circulate plastic items.

The competition was run on March 12th and coordinated by Dr. Surojit Gupta. Three students group participated in this challenge with the following ideas:


• Group 2: Michael Hill: “Proposal is taking existing plastic bags and making them thicker to be more durable “

• Group 3: Tina Whiteside: “Let’s pool UND’s brainpower to reduce plastic waste. Build a test community on campus of different majors in order to tap into each person's unique way of approaching problem solving.”

The competition was competitive. The team of judges composed of Profs. McNally, Yang, Klemetsrud, and Rabiei announced Group 1 as the winner.

New Internship or ENGR 490 Opportunities

This opportunity is available for students to work in the new full scale drilling & completion lab that the department of Petroleum Engineering received as a donation.

Students from all programs can do hands on and practical projects in the future as internship, elective course or ENGR 490. Mr. Harry Feilen, who is managing this labs will be the instructor of the course and help students to work on different equipment set up and run projects in their areas of interest. To obtain further information or enroll in summer courses please contact Harry.Feilen@UND.edu or Vamegh.Rasouli@UND.edu.

Initially, it was planned to offer this opportunity in Summer 2020, however, we may push back to Fall 2020 unless the situation with COVID-19 changes. Further updates will be given in due course.
ENGR 410 Course

The spring Technology Venture course delivered by Dr. Surojit Gupta made a great start helping over 15 students enrolled in this course in developing business ideas and learn how to canvas business plans. The course is moving forward very well. The student teams will present their business plans during last week of April.

Strength Finder Assessment

The CliftonStrengths for Students is an online assessment of normal personality from the perspective of positive psychology. Invented by Don Clifton, the CliftonStrengths assessment presents individuals with 177 items, each consisting of a pair of potential self-descriptors. Through completing the web-based assessment and participating in a classroom conversation with a Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach you will discover your top five strengths; identify dominant talents and how to maximize them and have tools and resources to implement strengths into your life and academic pursuits.

CliftonStrengths is used at more than 600 schools and universities in North America. More than 16.8 million people have used CliftonStrengths to gain insights into how to use their talents to achieve academic success, to explore careers, and in leadership development. CliftonStrengths™ is a way to identify the sources of our strengths; a common language to describe human strengths; a way to understand behavior; and a path to a strengths-building environment.

For the first time at CEM, coordinated by Dr. Kouhyar Tavakolian, 40 students completed this online assessment and the results were presented and interpreted on March 26th, by Stephanie Lee who is a certified coach by Gallup. Due to Covid-19 situation the meeting was hosted using Zoom. This actually provided a forum that students could share their findings on the portal and initiate discussions. Thanks to Dr. Tande, the Dean of the CEM for covering the registration costs of the students who participated in this assessment.

Workshops Series

Due to the COVID-19 and the instructions from UND to change the classes to the online mode the workshops of March and April was cancelled. We are hoping to offer them in Fall semester.

Following workshops are expected to run during the Spring 2020:

**IP for Engineers and Entrepreneurs (April 6):** Mountain Regional United States Patent and Trademark presented by Molly Kocialski, the Director of the Rocky Mountain Office (USPTO).

**Dealing with difficult people (April 9):** Presented by Emily Holth, the founder and owner of Sustainable Solution Services, LLC, Grand Forks.

Contact (WE ARE HERE TO HELP!)

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