

Virtual cell project featured in science journal

The NDSU Worldwide Web Instructional Committee's (WWWIC) Virtual Cell (VCell) project is featured in the Dec. 2 issue of the journal *Science*.

The NDSU Virtual Cell is an immersive virtual environment where students explore the interior of an interactive cellular world. Students identify organelles, diagnose diseases, and conduct experiments designed to illuminate their understanding of cellular processes. VCell has been used in a variety of NDSU courses and by a number of other institutions around the region.

The VCell project has developed a suite of animations of cellular and molecular biological processes designed for use in conjunction with the VCell immersive virtual environment as an aid to scientific visualization. The VCell Web site is found at <http://vcell.ndsu.edu/>.

The VCell development scheme consists of creating highly graphical simulations of biological processes such as respiration and photosynthesis, using the Academy Award-winning Maya software package. The simulations developed using Maya are then rendered using the parallel processing power of the NDSU Center for High Performance Computing producing three- or four-minute movies for each biological process.

The animations are posted on the VCell animation Web site, <http://vcell.ndsu.edu/animations/>, and Web-based presentations are created for each animation. In addition, the 3-D models developed for the animations are imported into the Virtual Cell immersive educational environment insuring that the animations and the interactive simulations have the same look and feel.

The VCell development team includes Phillip McClean, professor of plant sciences; Lisa Daniels, assistant professor in the School of Education; Brian M. Slator, professor of computer science; Jeffrey Terpstra, associate professor of statistics; Alan R. White; Brad Vender, programmer analyst in computer science; Christina Johnson, computer graphics manager in biological sciences; Roxanne Rogers, 3-D modeling technician in biological sciences; computer science graduate students Kellie Erickson, Jacob Halvorson and Mei Li; and School of Education graduate student Mensur Muftic.

The print version of *Science* has more than 700,000 readers weekly, and the Netwatch section of *Science* online receives nearly 2,000 site visits per week. The VCell article will be online through Dec. 9 at www.sciencemag.org/netwatch/.

Wallman retirement party planned

President Joseph A. and Gale Chapman, and the Division of Student Affairs, invite the campus community to a party celebrating George Wallman's 30 years of service to NDSU. The party is scheduled for 2-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, in the Memorial Union Ballroom. A program is planned for 3 p.m.

Wallman, who has been NDSU's vice president for student affairs for 15 years, is set to retire Dec. 31.

You're invited to
President Chapman's
Holiday Open House
2-4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 7
Old Main

Holiday hours announced

Holiday hours for NDSU staff will run from Monday, Dec. 19-Friday, Dec. 30. Hours will be 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., with a 30-minute lunch break. Regular hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 3.

'It's Happening at State' holiday schedule reminder

The final issue of "It's Happening at State" for 2005 will be published on Dec. 14. Regular deadlines apply. There will be no issues Dec. 21 or Dec. 28. The regular schedule resumes Jan. 4. The deadline for that issue is noon Thursday, Dec. 29. Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Jan. 16, the deadline for the Jan. 18 issue is Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Next Issue

Publication date: Wednesday, Dec. 14
Submissions due: noon Dec. 8
Old Main 204
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ellen.puffe@ndsu.edu
www.ndsu.edu/news

Computer cluster reservation procedures announced

In preparation for fall semester 2006, and the transition to new scheduling software, the Computing and Information Technology Planning and Goals committee (CITPG), has recommended the prioritization of computer cluster resources in order to meet the needs of regularly scheduled classes, and to eliminate room double bookings. CITPG has established the following cluster reservation procedures.

Priority one reservations are given to those classes scheduled through the Office of Registration and Records, appear on the regular course schedule and meet for the full length of the course. Priority one reservations must be requested through the Office of Registration and Records using departmental class scheduling procedures. Classes that meet for the full length of the course will be given priority.

Priority two reservations will be given to University 189 classes. Priority three reservations will be given to all other clusters on a first-come, first-served basis. This includes classes requested after the deadline and requests for special meetings or events. Priority three reservations must be made online at <http://alice.cc.ndsu.nodak.edu/cgi-bin/equipment/reserve.pl>.

Departments will be notified of any scheduling conflicts, and Information Technology Services will send cluster reservation confirmations by e-mail each semester after the new course schedule is published.

For questions or more information on priority one and two reservations, contact Gene Blumhardt, records officer in registration and records, at 1-7986 or Gene.Blumhardt@ndsu.edu. For priority three reservations, contact Jim Sellner, programmer analyst in Information Technology Services, at 1-6231 or Jim.Sellner@ndsu.edu.

Policy Updates

The following policies have recently been added or revised. To see the complete policy, go to www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/.

Section 101—Personnel Definitions

Language was added in sections 2.1 and 2.2 regarding employment status expanding on the 17 hours per week. The 17 hours per week are for those hired before Aug. 1, 2003, and for those hired on or after Aug. 1, 2003, 20 hours per week applies. It also changed the language concerning “regular” employment status from five months to 20 weeks each year. The changes were made to match NDUS policy language.

Section 103—Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy on the Announcement of Position Openings

Wording was changed from “permanent employee” to “regular employee” throughout the policy. “Regular employee” is defined in NDSU Policy 101; there is no definition for “permanent employee.” Appointment of .44 FTE was changed to .50 FTE.

Section 126—Salary-Regular Employee

Wording was changed from “permanent employee” to “regular employee” throughout the policy.

Section 133.1—Tuition Discount -Spouse and Dependents

Excludes internships from the spouse and dependent 50 percent tuition discount. (Rationale: Some clinical internship programs charge a contracted amount per student, which is based on an assumption that full tuition will be paid by the student. The arrangements are self-supporting similar to Continuing Education.)

Section 171—Staff and Faculty Recruitment and Moving Expenses

Wording was changed from “permanent employee” to “regular employee” throughout this policy.

Libraries publishes Ukraine letters book

The NDSU Libraries has published “The Old God Still Lives: German Villagers in Czarist and Soviet Ukraine Write Their American Relatives, 1915-1924,” a book by Ronald J. Vossler and Joshua J. Vossler.

According to the book, at least three of four ethnic Germans living within Czarist Russia did not immigrate to the United States. What happened to these German-speaking villagers is the primary focus of the volume of 150 translated letters. Written by ethnic Germans to their American relatives and friends between 1915 and 1924, the letters form a companion volume to “We’ll Meet Again in Heaven: Germans in the Soviet Union Write Their American Relatives, 1925-1937,” published in 2001.

The letters present a look into three very different periods in the German villages in Ukraine: the final years of the Czarist regime; a chaotic interim period including both the Russian Revolution; and the first years of Bolshevik rule, marked by famine, caused, in part, by Lenin’s ruthless policies, when armed requisition squads removed grain from villages.

Cost of the book is \$35 plus \$4 postage payable to the NDSU Libraries. Mail to Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, The Old God Still Lives Book, NDSU Libraries, P.O. Box 5599, Fargo, ND 58105-5599. The book also may be ordered online at www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/order/nd_sd/still_lives.html.

Weather announcements reminder

The campus is reminded that the best source of information about NDSU weather-related announcements is the NDSU Web site, www.ndsu.edu.

Personnel are asked to consider the Web site as their primary source of information, if they have access to the Internet. The media are also informed of decisions to cancel classes, postpone events or close the campus.

According to David Wahlberg, director of University News, several questions were raised during the winter storm that closed the campus Nov. 28 through noon Nov. 29.

“While the media did a fine job getting the word out to people that the campus was closed, some people were unsure of the terminology used by some media outlets. That led to uncertainty about whether to report to work,” he said. “Broadcast media often have only a few seconds to report each announcement, and so complete information may not be provided. We urge faculty, staff and students to visit www.ndsu.edu as their first option to get the latest, most complete information on weather-related decisions at NDSU.”

NDUS approves updated computer and network usage policy

NDUS Chancellor Robert Potts approved Nov. 2 updated computer and network usage policy 1901.2. The revised policy is up-to-date with information security standards and guidelines, and is in compliance with current federal and state laws and mandates.

The policy defines authorized use and authorized users, responsible use of resources and control of access to information. It also explains procedures for termination of access, due to situations such as termination of employment, graduation, retirement and position or responsibility changes.

The policy reads, in part, "When an authorized user changes status, the user must coordinate with the unit responsible for initiating that change in status to ensure that access authorization to all institution resources is appropriate."

Departments should contact the Help Desk at 1-8685 to report changes in status of employees.

The policy also identifies security standards with which NDUS institutions must comply.

NDUS data classification and information technology security standards state that "Public data is defined as data that any entity either internal or external to the NDUS can access. Open record laws of North Dakota may apply." Public data includes employee name, job title, home address and salary; student directory information; and other data such as financial information on publicly sponsored projects, course offerings and budgets.

"Private data includes information that the NDUS or institution is under legal or contractual obligation to protect," including employee identification numbers, birth dates, location of assets, gender, ethnicity, citizenship, veteran and disability status, and non-directory student information such as grades, courses taken, student identification number, advising records, disciplinary actions and educational services received. This information may only be distributed to authorized users within the NDUS.

"Confidential data is information that is not to be publicly disclosed," and includes legal investigations conducted by the institution, sealed bids, trade secrets or intellectual property, health records, passwords, social security number and the value and nature of fringe benefits.

NDUS server information technology security procedures state that "Systems administrators shall configure their servers based on the assumption that the network they are connected to is insecure. All unused services shall be disabled. Any access to a server other than a "public" server (i.e., public Web server) shall be authenticated and access permissions based on minimal need. File access permissions shall be set to restrict access to confidential or sensitive data to authorized personnel only."

The complete policy is available online at www.ndus.edu/policies/ndus-policies/subpolicy.asp?ref=2551. Questions should be directed to Theresa Semmens, information technology security officer, at Theresa.Semmens@ndsu.edu or 1-5870.

People

Littlefield receives national forensic award

Robert S. Littlefield, professor of communication, was awarded the Larry E. Norton Award for Outstanding Scholarship by the Pi Kappa Delta National Forensic Honorary at the National Communication Association convention held recently in Boston.

Littlefield was credited with having four manuscripts published in 2005, three of which appeared in *Argumentation & Advocacy*, the leading national refereed journal for argumentation and forensic studies in the United States. His recent forensic research explores uncertainty reduction strategies for college students making the transition between high school and collegiate individual events competition, the efficacy of high school debate as an educational activity, the role of collegiate students in the high school competitive debate and argumentation strategies used by culturally diverse groups in the United States.

The award is named for former Bradley University professor Larry E. Norton, a past president, national secretary-treasurer, historian and journal editor for Pi Kappa Delta for 50 years.

Olson receives NASPA award

Audrey Olson, administrative assistant in the Office of the Dean of Student Life, received the Support Staff Recognition Award from the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) at its Region IV conference held Nov. 10-12 in Kansas City, Mo.

In a letter of nomination from Deanne Sperling, coordinator of university conference programs in Student Life, Olson was recognized for her outstanding commitment and service to the students and staff of NDSU, and her extraordinary service to NASPA Region IV-West.

Sperling's letter credits Olson with creating an office environment where students feel welcomed and respected. The letter reads, in part, "What makes Audrey outstanding and deserving of this award is her ability to fully embrace and engage in the continuum of student development; combine a polite, tactful and pleasant approach for students who are in the office for difficult disciplinary situations; guide students and staff with a myriad of daily questions and problems, often saving professional staff a great deal of time; and serving as a resource of information on behalf of the dean of Student Life."

The letter added that in addition to her daily responsibilities, Audrey has enthusiastically embraced NASPA by becoming a member, helping at conferences and assisting the dean in his role at regional vice president.

The nomination letter concludes, "The list of Audrey's skills and responsibilities is extensive and can easily be listed—what is more challenging to convey is Audrey's warm and caring personality; her willingness to help in any way necessary, regardless of the task; of her overall positive attitude about students, staff and her work."

Olson has worked in student affairs for more than 25 years. She also was nominated for the award by Laura Oster-Aaland, director of Orientation and Student Success, and NASPA executive director Gwendolyn Dungy.

Events

Four to be inducted into Tapestry of Diverse Talents

Prashanth Balakrishnan, Joshua Boschee, Febina Mathew and Christi McGeorge will be inducted into the Tapestry of Diverse Talents in a ceremony scheduled for noon Friday, Dec. 9, in the Memorial Union Prairie Rose Room. Everyone is invited.

Balakrishnan and Mathew were nominated for their work to educate the campus and community through programming efforts by the Association of Students from India.

Boschee was recognized for his work with the TOCAR anti-racism team, the Safe Zone Ally program and other work to promote diversity at NDSU.

McGeorge was recognized for her work to advance women's issues; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues; and other diversity-related issues at NDSU and nationally.

The Tapestry of Diverse Talents is a pictorial mosaic of individuals who have contributed to the promotion and multiculturalism at NDSU. It is located across from the second floor administrative offices in the Memorial Union. The program recognizes students, faculty, staff and alumni for the diversity and contributions they bring to NDSU, and Fargo-Moorhead community.

For more information, contact Melissa Wright at 1-7350 or Melissa.N.Wright@ndsu.edu.

Videoconferencing seminar scheduled

An interactive workshop "Maximizing Your Investment in Videoconferencing," is scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, in EML 183.

The session is designed for administrators, department chairs and faculty interested in sharing or exchanging classes on multiple campuses, or who wish to connect multiple campuses for a lecture or speaker. It also will provide information on "real world" student programming aligned to curricular goals, problem-based learning experiences, the ability to provide an audience for student presentations and resource sharing.

Planned topics include supervising/mentoring field experiences for pre-service teachers without leaving campus, exposing education majors to public school diversity and connecting students face-to-face with experts actively working in their field.

Faculty members who currently teach via the Interactive Videoconference Network (IVN), or who wish to explore options on using IVN in their classes are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Tammy Cummings, digital conferencing coordinator in ITS, at 1-1090 or tammy.cummings@ndsu.edu.

Baseline Safety Training schedule set

The December schedule for annual Baseline Safety Training has been announced. The annual training is mandatory for all NDSU employees, and must be documented with the Office of Safety and Environmental Health.

The sessions are scheduled for 9 a.m. Dec. 7, 3 p.m. Dec. 15 and 9 a.m., Dec. 21. All training sessions are scheduled for the Memorial Union's Meadow Lark room.

The training is also available online at the OSEH Web site at <http://facilities-mgmt.ndsu.nodak.edu/oseh/> for out-state employees as well as those housed on campus.

For more information, contact Marilyn Koehlmoos, loss control and claims specialist, at 1-6740.

Shorts and Reminders

Positions Available

Positions open and screening dates through the Office of Human Resources, Room 205, Old Main:

Custodian/#00019661
Residence Life
\$17,340+/year
Dec. 7

Instrument Technician
M-F; 20 hours/week; flexible hours between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Psychology
\$10,400+/year
Open until filled

Network Engineer
Information Technology Services
Salary commensurate with experience
Open until filled

Research Specialist/#00019519
Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
Salary is competitive
Open until filled

Laboratory Technician
Coatings and Polymeric Materials
\$30,000+/year
Open until filled

Position openings also are available through the NDSU Web site at www.ndsu.edu/jobs.

Union Food Court specials for Dec. 7-14**Soup of the day**

Wednesday: chicken tortilla and broccoli cheese
 Thursday: turkey rice and baked potato
 Friday: beef noodle and tomato
 Monday: California medley cheese and vegetable beef
 Tuesday: cream of potato and chicken noodle
 Wednesday: minestrone and cream of broccoli

The Corner Deli

Wednesday: turkey bacon
 Thursday: Italian
 Friday: your choice
 Monday: chicken
 Tuesday: turkey club
 Wednesday: ham

A La Carte

Wednesday: carved turkey breast
 Thursday: chicken Parmesan
 Friday: scalloped potatoes and ham
 Monday: sweet and sour chicken
 Tuesday: cavatini hot dish
 Wednesday: carved pork loin

Pizza Express

Wednesday: creamy garlic chicken
 Thursday: Hawaiian
 Friday: taco
 Monday: Tuscan
 Tuesday: farmhouse
 Wednesday: Thundar

Hot wrap (available in Grab and Go)

Wednesday: ham and cheese
 Thursday: chicken Cordon Bleu
 Friday: barbecue chicken
 Monday: chicken strip
 Tuesday: Philly steak
 Wednesday: Italian

Entrée salad (available in Grab and Go)

Wednesday: popcorn chicken
 Thursday: taco
 Friday: chicken Caesar/Caesar
 Monday: turkey Cobb
 Tuesday: Southwest chicken salad
 Wednesday: popcorn chicken

Items are subject to change without notice. Call the Dining Services Lunch Line at 1-9501 for all of the daily specials. Questions or comments may be dropped in the suggestion boxes located in each dining center and the Union Food Court or call Shelly at the Union Buffet at 1-8122.

Calendar**December**

- Through Dec. 16 Baccalaureate exhibition, Reineke Gallery
- 7 YMCA of NDSU—brown bag seminar, “Binge Drinking and Power Hours: A Mom’s Heartfelt Story,” noon, Memorial Union Peace Garden Room
- 8 Entomology—Claire Strom, assistant professor of history, “Making Bait Out of Government Boys: Southern Violence and Cattle Tick Eradication,” 1 p.m., Northern Crop Science laboratory conference room
- 8 Percussion ensemble concert, 7:30 p.m., Festival Concert Hall. Call 1-9442 for tickets.
- 9 Last day of classes
- 9 Ceramics and printmaking sale, noon-6 p.m., Downtown Gallery
- 9 Plant pathology—Seong-Hee Lee, graduate student, “Host Resistance to Septoria Speckled Leaf Blotch and Population Genetic Structure of *Septoria passerinii*,” 1 p.m., Loftsgard 114
- 9 Animal and range sciences—Scott Fahrenkrug, University of Minnesota, “Monitoring and Manipulating the Pig Genome for the Development of Xenotherapeutics and Disease Models,” 3 p.m., Hultz 104
- 9 Plant sciences—Mike Christoffers, assistant professor of plant sciences, “Review of the ‘Get That Grant’ Workshop,” 3:30 p.m., Loftsgard 114
- 10 Musical Theatre Troupe production of “Strictly Sondheim,” 7:30 p.m., Askanase Auditorium. Free.
- 11 Baroque Festival presents Handel’s “Messiah,” 2 p.m., Festival Concert Hall. Call 1-9442 for tickets.
- 12 Late night breakfast, 9-11 p.m., Residence Dining Center
- 13 Women’s basketball vs. Minnesota State University Moorhead, 6 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 13 Men’s basketball vs. University of Denver, 8 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 15 Western Dakota Crops Day, Hettinger, N.D., Armory. Call (701) 567-4323 for details.
- 16 USDA-ARS —Tracey A. Bodo Slotta, researcher geneticist in plant sciences, “Canada Thistle in North America: Distribution, Evolution and Diversity,” 10 a.m., Biosciences Research Laboratory large conference room
- 16 Commencement, 5 p.m., Fargodome
- 16 Women’s basketball vs. University of Minnesota Duluth, 6 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 16 Wrestling vs. North Carolina State, 8 p.m., Bison Sports Arena

- 17 Men's basketball vs. Idaho State University, 7 p.m.,
Bison Sports Arena
- 18 Men's basketball vs. Manhattan, 7 p.m., Bison
Sports Arena
- 20 Women's basketball vs. University of Alabama,
7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 22 Entomology—Kelley Tilmon, South Dakota State
University, "Biological Control By Native and
Introduced Natural Enemies in Multiple Habitats,"
1 p.m. Northern Crop Science laboratory conference
room

January

- 5 Men's basketball vs. Utah Valley State University,
7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 14 Men's basketball vs. South Dakota State University,
7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 17 Women's basketball vs. Valley City State University,
6 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 17 Men's basketball vs. University of Missouri-Kansas
City, 8 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 20 Wrestling vs. Portland State University, 7:30 p.m.,
Bison Sports Arena
- 21 Women's basketball vs. Indiana University-Purdue
University Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 24 Men's basketball vs. University of Idaho, 7 p.m.,
Bison Sports Arena
- 27 Wrestling vs. Air Force, 7:30 p.m., Bison Sports
Arena
- 28 Wrestling vs. University of Wyoming, 2 p.m., Bison
Sports Arena
- 28 Women's basketball vs. Texas A&M University-
Corpus Christi, 7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena

February

- 4 Men's basketball vs. Indiana University-Purdue
University Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 7 Women's basketball vs. University of Wisconsin-
Green Bay, 7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 8 Men's basketball vs. Jamestown College, 7 p.m.,
Bison Sports Arena
- 10 Men's basketball vs. Mayville State University,
7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 18 Women's basketball vs. South Dakota State
University, 7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena
- 20 Wrestling vs. American University, 7:30 p.m., Bison
Sports Arena
- 22 Men's basketball vs. University of Mary, 7 p.m.,
Bison Sports Arena

March

- 4 Women's basketball vs. Central State University
(Ohio), 7 p.m., Bison Sports Arena

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