



Celebrating Work Anniversaries for March 2020

Thank you for all your hard work & dedication!

- Julie Westberg – 29 years
- Doug Raynie – 21 years
- Jan Matson – 8 years
- Joao Santos – 7 years

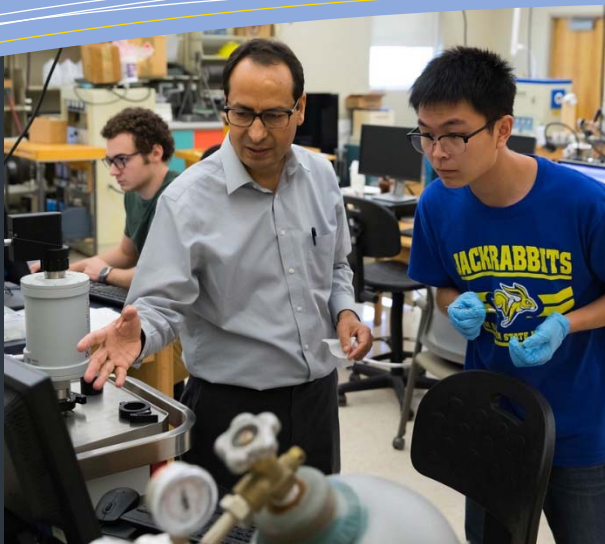
Congratulations to Dr. Bücking

Dr. Heike Bücking has been named Head of the Biology & Microbiology Department! She will begin her new duties on May 22, 2020.

Search Update

The search for Assistant Department Head of Physics is nearing completion. A name will be announced soon. Candidates:

- Geoffrey Bonvallet
- Robert Matson
- Robert McTaggart



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Updates from Dean Charlene Wolf-Hall

Thank you to all for adapting quickly to our changing world as the COVID-19 pandemic expands. A crisis has a way of bringing out the best in people, and it has been heartening to witness the kindness and empathy displayed.

Health and safety are the top concern for you and your family and friends. Moving the courses online quickly has been disruptive and we all continue to adapt. Students, please know our faculty and staff care deeply about you and your learning. We will continue to adapt to support your learning and preparation for the next steps on your career paths.

We know students are struggling with this rapid change. Please reach out to your instructors and advisors. We are here for you to help you deal with your unique circumstances. Resources are available, and more resources are being sought through fundraising activities like the [Rabbit Raisers campaigns](#) to raise

funds for the Student Emergency Fund and Jack's Cupboard.

Faculty and Staff, we care about your wellbeing. Please reach out to your supervisors, mentors, and colleagues when you are struggling to adapt. We have been collecting resources and connecting for referrals as needed to support your needs. If you or yours become ill, take care and don't hesitate to let others help.

Look for the positive stories in all of this, and please share them with us. I have personally found it uplifting to be in online meetings and getting to meet the children and pets that inevitably enter our conversations. The sense of family in our still new college grows stronger. What have been the silver linings in this cloud that you have noticed?

Resilience and compassion will help us get through.

Stay strong Natural Sciences family.

University Budget Oversight Committee (UBOC)

The College of Natural Sciences presentation is scheduled for 11:20 to 11:50 PM on Tuesday, April 7. Look for more information to come regarding the participation mechanism for the UBOC meeting. We will be scheduling a college open forum meeting after the UBOC sessions are complete.

“Dr. Scott Pedersen is the anatomy professor here on campus. He is incredibly passionate about both the subject and his students. He constantly supports his students in their endeavors and is always willing to speak on their behalf. Overall, Dr. Pedersen is a fun, compassionate, well-spoken professor.”

-student nominator

Teacher of the Year Award - Dr. Scott Pedersen



Honors Convocation

The College of Natural Sciences would like to give special recognition to our faculty & students who were awarded during the 2020 Honors Convocation. Congratulations, & thank you for all your hard work!

Faculty Awards

Fishback Honors College
Teacher of the Year
Dr. Scott Pedersen

Fishback Honors College
Teacher of the Year nominee
Dr. Julie Leibold

Honors Faculty Interest Group:
Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Dr. Madhav Nepal

Dr. Pedersen is only the second faculty member at SDSU who has won this award twice. He was first named “Teacher of the Year” in 2014.

Student Awards

Excellence in Leadership Award
Moriah Flanagan

Excellence in Service Award
Jerrod Fedorchik

Excellence in Athletics Award
Sydney Bormann

Excellence in Professional Preparation Award
Cole McDougall
Sophie McKee

Campus Champion Award
Elise Braswell

Excellence in Research and Scholarly Activity
Abdullah al Maruf
Sarah Schweitzer

Land Grant Mission Award
Molly Kroeger

Recognition of students who have completed all requirements in fulfillment of the honors independent study

Kyle Lampert
Cole McDougall
Anna Milbauer
Juliana Pederson
Kacey Rosenthal
Amber Schuster
Sarah Schweitzer

Recognition of students who completed the 2019 First Year Fellowship program

Kyra Hintz
Camille Massmann (*special thanks for chairing the program*)

Recognition of students who were awarded an Honors scholarship in 2019-2020
Sydney Bormann

SDSU's 11th Goldwater Scholar Named

Out of 5,000 applicants nationwide, SDSU student **Timothy Paris** was one of just 396 students to be named a Goldwater Scholar this year. He will receive a \$7,500 a scholarship from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.
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American Chemical Society – ACS Graduate Student Awardee in Environmental Chemistry

Joshua Kennedy
Chemistry & Biochemistry

Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences – Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Zachary Lehmann
Physics

Fishback Honors College – Schultz-Werth Award for Undergraduate Research

Jace Waybright
Physics

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi – John E. Miller Scholarship

Vivian Osei Poku
Chemistry & Biochemistry



Club Info

- **What:** Drone Club
- **When:** 1x per month
- **Where:** SJAC or Hillcrest Park
- **Who:** anyone interested in drones
- **Club Leadership**
 - President: Cade Schoenauer
 - VP: Austin Pham
 - Treasurer: Cody Watkins
 - Faculty advisor: Bruce Millett
- **How to join:** Click here to message Drone Club on Jacks Club Hub and get on the email list



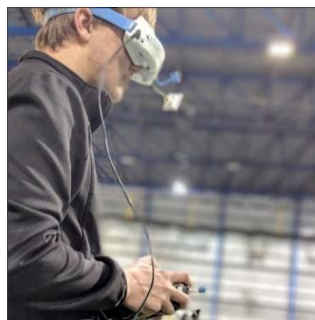
Student Club Spotlight: Drone Club

The Drone Club at South Dakota State University is relatively new, but the students have high hopes for where their club can go.

Drone Club was granted full student club recognition in October of 2017. It was founded by a group of students who wanted to create a community of people to build and fly drones. Since then, they have expanded their goals and are aiming to create an FPV drone racing team which can compete against other colleges around the US.

Racing aside, the club is open to anyone who is interested in **flying, building, or learning** about drones. The club typically meets monthly all throughout the school year, and currently plans to resume their normal meetings

this fall, after everyone is back on campus. If you'd like to learn more or get involved with the club, message Drone Club on Jacks Club Hub to join their email list. You'll receive club information and meeting times.



What is "FPV"?

FPV stands for "First Person View" which is a method used to steer a radio-controlled drone from the pilot's view point

Academic Tips: How to Calculate Your GPA

Q: Why should I calculate my GPA?

A: Having a grade point average (GPA) over 3.0 can make you eligible for more scholarships and can help make finding a job after college easier!

A: Catalog requirements often stipulate a minimum GPA to be earned in major-specific courses.

A: if you want to graduate with Honors, you'll need at least a 3.5 GPA. Here are the minimums:

- Cum Laude = 3.5 or 3.6
- Magna Cum Laude = 3.7 or 3.8
- Summa Cum Laude = 3.9 or 4.0

Q: How do I calculate my GPA?

Letter grades carry point values:

- A = 4 points
- B = 3 points
- C = 2 points
- D = 1 point
- F = 0 points

Multiply the number of credits a course was by the point value shown above. For example, if you earned an A in a 3-credit course, that would be $3 \times 4 = 12$. Do this step for every course you've taken and keep a running total.

Divide that total by the number of credit hours you have completed. That number is your GPA!

Did you know?

You can repeat a course to raise your GPA. Both courses will show up on your transcript, but only the course with the higher grade will be used to calculate your grade point average.

SDSU's 11th Goldwater Scholar named *cont.*

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Paris is triple-majoring in Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Psychology. After graduating from SDSU, he plans to pursue his M.D. / Ph.D and a career in therapeutic research at a clinical laboratory.

A junior from Rapid City, Paris came to SDSU on a baseball scholarship and spent the 2018 season with the Jackrabbits. However, an introduction to undergraduate research led him to step

away from the sport and go full speed into research.

“A big part of my Goldwater application was about how hard it was to make that decision. Initially, I was drawn to research as an academic extracurricular, something that looks good to do, but I learned it's way more than that. I learned what I can do in Brookings can make a scientific impact to people all over the world—that was really inspiring and motivated me toward research.”

Special thanks to all who helped support Tim and his application!

- The scholarship team
- Camille Massmann (Honors GA)
- Jace Waybright (current SDSU student in Physics and Math, and 2018 Goldwater recipient)
- Coach Rob Bishop
- Dr. Rachel Willand-Charnley (research PI mentor)
- Chris Schwartz (RAWC Lab post-doc mentor)
- Dr. Fathi Halaweish (mentor)

Research Spotlight – Dr. Parashu Kharel

“The primary goal of our research is to provide Physics undergraduates with important research skills in materials synthesis and characterization, preparing them for quality graduate programs or industry jobs.”

A recent example of these efforts is the paper titled ‘Magnetocaloric effect in $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_x\text{Fe}_y\text{In}_z$ Heusler alloys with second-order phase transition’, which was published in *AIP Advances*. It was also presented at the 64th Annual Conference on Magnetism and Magnetic Materials. There is a growing interest in the investigation of

magnetocaloric materials due to their potential applications in MR technology.

What is “MR”?

Magnetic Refrigeration: energy-efficient and environment-friendly solid-state technology based on magnetocaloric effect

Magnetic refrigeration is expected to replace the normal, existing vapor-compression-based cooling systems.

Many variables were evaluated during this research, and the results suggest that the $\text{Ni}_2\text{Mn}_{1.32}\text{Fe}_{0.08}\text{In}_{0.60}$ alloy has a high potential for room-temperature magnetic refrigeration applications.

Congratulations to undergrad Zachary Lehman, post-doc Bishnu Dahal, Dr. Yung Huh, and Dr. Parashu Kharel!

Where did your interest in science begin?

Dr. Rachel Willand-Charnley
Chemistry & Biochemistry Department

“My interest in science began in the lab of my grandfather's veterinary clinic. He served both large and small animals. I would spend summers on “the ranch” in Illinois with my grandparents. During this time, I would go to “the clinic,” where I would watch him in the operating room and in his lab. I distinctly remember wearing scrubs and a lab coat while looking at

parasites from various “patients” under the microscope. This was the beginning of my interest in science.

Later, I began my undergraduate studies at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha prior to transferring to Creighton University. During my time at Creighton, I was a biology major and pre-med. I distinctly remember being nervous to take organic chemistry, so much so, I delayed taking the course until my junior year. Then, and even

now, it is rumored to be a “weed-out course” for pre-professionals due to the difficulty of the course. I was surprised, pleasantly, to find that I truly loved organic chemistry. I ultimately declined my acceptance to medical school to join a PhD program at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in Chemistry.”

To read the full story, visit the Sioux Falls Development Foundation website by clicking here.