



From the left, UND President Charles Kupchella, EERC Director Gerald Groenewold, and U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan.

## Dorgan Awards EERC \$13.9 Million

**O**n January 9, 2008, U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) presented the EERC with a check for \$13.9 million.

Chairman of the Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee within the Appropriations Committee, Dorgan said, “This legislative-directed funding that I’m going to talk to you about and present to Gerry [Groenewold]—\$13.9 million for this fiscal year for the EERC—is, I think, an unbelievably good investment by this country in a search for the opportunity to unlock the mysteries of energy and the use of energy and protecting our environment. I’m pleased that this investment, which is the biggest in history made here, is one that’s going to prove big dividends for this country, as well. Thanks for all of your work. I’m enormously proud of what you do.”

EERC Director Gerald Groenewold said Senator Dorgan “is a dear friend of this Center. He has been, by far, the greatest champion we’ve ever had. He truly understands what this place is about, what we’re doing that’s of great value, and has been a tremendous supporter.”

Senator Dorgan said, “This, as you know, is one of the great energy research centers in all of the world, in my judgment, and I’m pleased to have been a part over these years of what you’re doing.”

Groenewold invited UND President Charles Kupchella up to the stage to accept the check with him. President Kupchella then said, “I think of how lucky we are to have the Energy & Environmental Research Center not only here for our country but especially here as part of the

University of North Dakota. I, too, am enormously proud of the work you do here.”

The legislative-directed funds will be used on such programs as hydrogen technology research, fossil energy research and strategic national energy security solutions, biomass utilization, groundwater quality studies, alternative fuels, and advanced tactical fuels.

– Trish McGuire

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The University of North Dakota (UND) EERC recently conducted a feasibility study to determine the most economical solutions to provide biomass energy to the Chugachmiut Tribal Community in the village of Port Graham, Alaska, located about 180 miles southwest of Anchorage on the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula. The community comprises 140 members, mostly of Aluig descent. The village is only accessible by air or water, making traditional energy ...

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Screen capture shot of the new EERC home page.

## EERC Launches Redesigned Web Site

“I am extremely pleased with this new Web site!” says Derek Walters, EERC Communications Manager. “The new design is fresh and pleasing to the eye. It gives us the opportunity to communicate new information about the EERC in real time. It will also take advantage of some of the most cutting-edge technology available for the Web.

“The Web is a key marketing tool,” Walters continued. “It’s a reflection of our organization, so this Web site should be as timely, vibrant, and dynamic as the EERC. Our research is current and cutting-edge, so our Web site should be the same.”

In 2007, the EERC Web site was visited by 859,704 people from outside the EERC. Eleven percent of those visits, or “hits,” were international, and the average length of all external hits was 17 minutes. When the total hits from external visitors, EERC staff, and Web

search engines were combined, the number increased to over 10 million. It is hoped that the EERC’s Web site redesign will help visitors find what they need faster.

Walters spearheaded the redesign of the Web site. The site went live January 15 after the design, programming, and testing were completed.

“We made those things people want easier to access: our stats, employment opportunities, press releases, our publications, how to get here, our staff, contact information, administrative phone numbers, lab contacts, do you want to be on our mailing list, do you want to schedule a tour, and so on.”

The most noticeable new feature is the front page, where Walters posts recent and breaking news stories for the EERC.

“Eventually, every day when you come to the site, you’ll see something different. We’ll constantly have new things, as we can put news on automatically as it happens—updates on events and anything else that occurs. We also improved navigation to make it easier for users to find their way through the site,” said Walters.

Another feature Walters says will be especially useful is that the site will soon be able to be accessed by personal digital assistants or PDAs, such as the Blackberry, for a text version of the Web site while users are traveling or are without access to a computer.

Walters applauds the Web site team for the new look and functionality of the Web site. The team explored different design concepts for several months, and the programming then began in earnest.



“I really want to stress that the team deserves the credit,” Walters says. “Earl Battle designed the entire site and was in charge of the graphics, Paul Gronhovd contributed a majority of the photos, Jean Vorachek and Madhavi Marasinghe handled all the programming needs, and Austin Theisen and Andy Palmiscno connected the site to all of the necessary databases.”

–Sandy Van Eck

*Communications Manager Derek Walters demonstrates accessing the text version of the EERC Web site on a Blackberry.*



*The core EERC Web site redesign team consisted of Programmer/Analyst Jean Vorachek, Walters, Programmer/Analyst Madhavi Marasinghe, and Graphics Designer Earl Battle.*



*Carsten Heide, EERC Associate Director for Intellectual Property Management and Technology Commercialization; Rick Mac Pherson, President of EECT; and Gerald Groenewold, EERC Director, work on technology commercialization at the EERC.*

## First Corporate Partner Collocates at EERC

**E**ERC Director Gerald Groenewold has long had a vision of having corporate partners located on-site as part of the EERC's continuing focus to serve as a major regional hub for technology commercialization.

"I've long felt that the close proximity of collocated offices would benefit both the EERC and our partners in our collaborative efforts to commercialize technology," said Groenewold.

The first of those corporate partners recently collocated an office at the EERC. Energy Efficient Combustion Technology, Inc. (EECT), a new start-up company, has established its office headquarters within the EERC at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

EECT commercializes technology that improves combustion efficiency, operation, and the environmental signature of large utility boilers. The company will be working with EERC researchers to further enhance and demonstrate combustion additives.

Rick Mac Pherson, President of EECT, is excited about the opportunities provided by working with the EERC and said, "This is a perfect opportunity

to improve and commercialize our core technology by teaming with the EERC's world-class energy technology capabilities."

"Energy Efficient Combustion Technology's corporate office is just a first step," said Groenewold. "Our long-term plan is to build a Technology Commercialization Center on the east end of our current facilities, which would allow numerous corporate partners the opportunity to collocate an office in Grand Forks near the EERC team.

"We do not build buildings at the EERC in hopes that clients will come to fill them. If they come, we will build it, and this year they have arrived," Groenewold said.

EECT is renting office space at the EERC until the Technology Commercialization Center is built sometime in the not-so-distant future.

Carsten Heide, EERC Associate Director for Intellectual Property Management and Technology Commercialization, said, "At this point, we have entered into the next phase of a business relationship with EECT. The ultimate goal for us is to see EECT succeed in

commercializing its product."

The EERC has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to develop ongoing partnerships with national and international corporations in the private sector. Thanks to the combined efforts of every EERC employee, the EERC has had more than 1000 clients from 50 countries and all 50 states. The EERC is committed to aggressively moving technologies out of the laboratory and into the marketplace, and the new Technology Commercialization Center will provide infrastructure necessary to allow for closer collaboration between the EERC and its partners to assist them in their commercialization goals. The Center will also greatly enhance the opportunity to promote economic development within the region.

A major corporate partner is also in the process of establishing an office in the EERC, and the EERC is currently in discussions with several other key business partners regarding office space at the EERC.

–Sandy Van Eck

# 25-year Honorees

**O**n February 28, University of North Dakota employees who have been at the University for 25 years or more were honored at Founders Day 2008. As the EERC's Founders Day 2008 honorees gathered in the Discovery Hall lobby for a photo shoot, two of the 25-year veterans of UND and the EERC reminisced about their first days at the University of North Dakota.

Richard Shockey, Research Engineer, laughed when he said, "We were only going to be here a year. 'It's too cold!' 'There are no hills!'"

Karen Uhrich, Engineering Technician, smiled and said, "We were only going to be here 6 weeks."

"Remember back then when Ed Bitzen used to tell stories about his years at the EERC? We always thought that was funny because we were just starting

out here," said Uhrich. "Now we're the ones telling the stories."

The honorees not only have a wealth of memories, but they also have a wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise.

Our thanks to all of you for your many years of hard and smart work, dedication, and loyalty!

-Trish McGuire



*Pictured are the following employees:*

**Front Row:** Joyce Sundby, Personnel Assistant; John Hurley, Senior Research Advisor; Jean Vorachek, Programmer/Analyst; Karen Uhrich, Engineering Technician; Stan Miller, Senior Research Manager

**Second Row:** Ken Grohs, Facility/Safety Coordinator; Don McCollor, Technical Manager; Richard Shockey, Research Engineer; Doug Hajicek, Research Manager; Ray DeWall, Research Scientist; Steve Benson, Senior Research Manager; Mike Jones, Senior Research Advisor; Don Toman, Research Scientist

**Back Row:** Paul Gronhovd, Graphics Designer; Greg Weber, Senior Research Advisor; Butch Riske, Technology Development Operations Supervisor; John Lutheran, recently retired Technology Development Operator; Al Lilke, Technology Development Mechanic Supervisor; Mike Swanson, Senior Research Manager; Mark Kobe, Building Services Supervisor

**Honorees not pictured include** Wayne Blegen, Technology Development Operator; Craig Eken, Technology Development Operator; Dean Evenstad, Research Specialist; Jim Ford, Technology Development Mechanic; Buddy Hackett, Technology Development Operator; Randy Lillibridge, Technology Development Operator; David Miller, Research Scientist; Ed Olson, Senior Research Advisor; and Connie Wixo, Research Specialist.



Jean Vorachek throws a rock toward the “button.”

## The Focus Is on Fun and Friendships



Jean Vorachek sweeping.

Jean Vorachek, a Programmer/Analyst in the EERC’s Research Information Systems group, grew up in Inkster, North Dakota, a small town northeast of Grand Forks. Vorachek had an active childhood in Inkster, climbing fences and trees. After college at Mayville State University, Vorachek moved to Fordville, North Dakota, some 15 miles west of her hometown. That was 1970 and when Vorachek discovered curling.

“I was a math teacher in Fordville and wanted a winter activity to get me out of the house,” said Vorachek.

Little did she know back then that she would curl every winter for the next 38 years.

Vorachek even met her future husband while curling in Fordville in 1973. Then in 1979, when they moved to Grand Forks, they often curled on mixed/women’s/men’s teams. When

their children were old enough, all of them curled as a team for a year.

“My husband and daughter are competitive curlers. My son and I are social curlers,” said Vorachek. “I curl because it’s fun.”

Curling is played by athletes from ages 8 to 80 and is oftentimes referred to as “shuffleboard on ice” or “chess on ice.”

“You have to think two to three shots down the line,” said Vorachek. “It’s more about finesse and strategy than power.”

Curling also takes balance to stay on the ice, flexibility to deliver the rocks, and endurance for sweeping the rock as it glides toward the house.

“Even though I play for fun, it doesn’t mean that I don’t want to win,” said

Vorachek. "You do your best, and whatever happens, happens."

Over the years, Vorachek has amassed friendships, trophies, and friendship pins from curling events throughout the United States and Canada. When asked how many medals she had won, Vorachek remarked, "too many to count."

Highlights of Vorachek and her teammates' accomplishments include winning the 2003 U.S. Senior Women's Championship and the 2006 24th United States Women's Curling Association (USWCA) Senior Women's Bonspiel (a bonspiel is a tournament). They were also 4th Event Winners at the 2007 USWCA Senior Women's tournament. In 2006, Vorachek was part of the Grand Forks Curling Club Curling for a Cure Bonspiel. Not only did they raise funds for the American Cancer Society, it was also a chance to introduce people to the sport of curling.

"The Curling for a Cure Bonspiel is a wonderful opportunity for curlers of all levels of expertise to enjoy curling in a relaxed atmosphere, to experience the fun and camaraderie, and, at the same time, contribute to the American Cancer Society," said Vorachek.

One of the most memorable events for Vorachek was held in 2006 when she was on the sixteen-member USWCA Senior Women's Friendship Tour with women from ages 50 to 70. It was a 12-day, nine-club tour throughout Manitoba, Canada, that began in Winnipeg, traveled through southern Manitoba, then headed north to Dauphin, and ended back in Winnipeg.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in a USWCA-sponsored international event. Meeting, curling, and bonding with the 15 other women from clubs across the United States (from Alaska to Maine) is a experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life," said Vorachek. "Although I am not sure if all of us will ever be together again in one

place, minireunions occur at various bonspiels and meetings throughout the year."

Vorachek serves as the database manager for membership and business supporters for the Grand Forks Curling Club; is the treasurer of the USWCA, which comprises five geographical regions and 21 states; and is also the Team Services Chair of the 2008 World Men's Curling Championship, which will be held in Grand Forks on April 5-13, 2008.

Curling may be played on ice and in a cool if not cold facility, but the players are warm and friendly in the tradition of the spirit of curling. The U.S. Curling Association says it now has more than 13,000 curlers and 135 clubs, enough so that curlers are oftentimes recognized while traveling.

"It's great when you travel with your game bags," said Vorachek. "People always ask, 'Where do you curl?' Then you find out that even though they may not be a curler, they know a friend, neighbor, or relative of a curler. It's great fun."

Vorachek reminisced about all the friends she has met and shared the Curler's Grace:

Give us heart to do what is right,  
Like curlers true and keen.  
To be good friends along life's road  
And sweep our slide aye clean.

- Trish McGuire

The following Web sites provide more information on the sport of curling:

Grand Forks Curling Club - [www.gfcurling.com](http://www.gfcurling.com)  
United States Women's Curling Association - [www.uswca.org](http://www.uswca.org)  
USA Curling - [www.usacurl.org](http://www.usacurl.org)  
2008 World Men's Curling Championship - [www.worldmenscurling2008.com](http://www.worldmenscurling2008.com)



Memorabilia from the 2006 Friendship Tour.

# New Employees



**Janet Crossland** is a full-time Research Scientist working with the Plains CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction (PCOR) Partnership at the EERC. Crossland works on regulatory issues

pertaining to carbon sequestration, researches information on terrestrial sequestration and carbon markets, and assists with field sampling. Previously, she worked part-time for the EERC with the Red River Water Management Consortium, researching tile drainage in the Red River Valley.

“I enjoy conducting research and being out in the field. No day is the same, and I love the challenge of learning new ideas and technologies,” Crossland says of working at the EERC. “But the best part about working at the EERC is the people. They are friendly and very knowledgeable. If I don’t know an answer, I can always find somebody who does.”

Crossland earned a bachelor of science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology in 2000 and a master of science degree in Industrial Technology in 2007, both from the University of North Dakota. A native of Leoville, Saskatchewan, Crossland graduated from high school in Fairview, Montana, came to Grand Forks for college, and has lived here for the past 10 years.

Crossland’s areas of interest and expertise include wildlife and environmental research, sampling, and monitoring; water quality and quantity issues; habitat identification; construction and delineation (wetland and prairie); and public education regarding environmental issues. As an

undergraduate, she worked for the UND Biology Department on various research projects including turtle and gecko reproduction/development and small mammal population sampling in North Dakota. She also worked for the Corps of Engineers for 5 years monitoring threatened and endangered birds along Lake Sakakawea.

Her other passion couldn’t be much further removed from wildlife and environmental issues. Crossland taught gymnastics for 13 years during and after college. For the last 6 years, she was the director of the recreation program and various satellite programs throughout the area at Red River Valley Gymnastics.

Also an avid photographer, Crossland loves to travel and enjoys geocaching, an outdoor treasure-hunting game.

“Most of my excursions get planned with geocaching in mind,” she says, “which allows me to explore and learn a little about the area I am visiting.”



There is a new addition to the Workflow area. **Dean Ekkaia** has been hired as a Research Information Associate, where he assists in the development

of contract-funded research programs (proposals) and provides administrative support in the successful production and completion of research projects, including preparing proposals, reports, technical papers, presentation materials, and other documents. Although he is still new at the EERC, he is finding it to his liking.

“I like the people here, the culture, and the mission,” Ekkaia says of the

EERC. “I feel like we’re doing our part here to actually improve the world and tackle many issues that face us as a society.”

Ekkaia received a bachelor of arts degree in Economics from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and worked at the Max Planck Institute for Economic Research in Jena, Germany, as an Economic Research Intern. Originally from West Fargo, Ekkaia worked as a freelance Graphic Artist and 2D/3D Designer there for 2½ years before coming to work at the EERC.

Ekkaia and his wife moved to Grand Forks when she was hired as an International Student Advisor for the International Center at the University of North Dakota. The two feel fortunate they were able to stay in the area and hope to raise a family here as well as pursue more advanced degrees.

The couple likes to travel, go camping, and play chess and ping-pong. Ekkaia’s hobbies also include running, swimming, cycling, science fiction, and reading.



**Janelle Ensrud** is a Research Information Associate in the Workflow area, where she assists in the development of research proposals and provides administrative

support in preparing proposals, reports, technical papers, presentation materials, and other documents.

“I like the people, of course!” Ensrud says of her new job. “Everyone is so friendly and willing to help. I love learning new things and enjoy all the paperwork. I like to stay busy! And, I like the attitude and philosophy of the EERC.”

Ensrud holds a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences with an emphasis in Psychology from the University of North Dakota. Ensrud has had a variety of work experiences because she likes to try new things and, as she says, "sometimes you just can't pass up a new opportunity!"

Prior to the EERC, Ensrud worked at Altru Hospital as a Neurodiagnostic Technician performing EEGs for a year. Before that, she worked as a secretary at the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 in Grand Forks for 3 years until the local office was closed.

Ensrud also served as an executive assistant for Express Scripts, Inc., in Bloomington, Minnesota, for over 3 years. "That was my absolute favorite job, and it was a really tough decision to leave. I loved it for the travel, the great group of pharmacists and the VP that I worked with, the tons of paperwork, the editing of drug formularies for clients, and the arranging of travel and meetings for 12 people—everything that goes along with being an executive assistant," Ensrud says.

Her professional areas of interest also include event planning and resume writing. As a board member of the St. Paul Jaycees, she led many successful events and won several awards, including a Presidential Medallion and a national award as editor for the Newsletter of the Year in 2002 for the Minnesota Jaycees.

When not at work, Ensrud enjoys relaxing at the cabin on Lake Melissa and fishing at Lake of the Woods, traveling, camping, or just spending quality time with her boyfriend. When her niece and nephew (ages 4 and 5, respectively) from Fargo stay with her, she spoils them with trips to whatever is happening in town—the circus, the

pumpkin patch, hockey games, and the swimming pool. "They are the light of my life!" she says.



**Rudy Rivera** is a new Building Services Technician at the EERC, where he performs custodial duties to keep the buildings and offices comfortable and looking good.

Because he works the late shift, he doesn't get the chance to interact with most EERC employees, but he says he enjoys working with his coworkers in Building Services and appreciates the environment of the EERC.

A Texas native, Rivera and his family moved to the Grand Forks area in 1986. Before he came to work for the University of North Dakota, Rivera worked at the Thompson Bean Company for 5 years, where he was a forklift operator.

Rivera is married and has three sons and one daughter, all adults now, and three grandchildren. Rivera and his family like to travel together and spend time barbecuing when the weather is nice. Rivera's hobbies include golfing, fishing, and taking his grandchildren to the park. He also enjoys a good conversation.



**Leah Verke** is an Administrative Clerk at the EERC, where she works in the Financial Services Department and is responsible for the Purchasing area as well as coordinating

and completing the annual minor equipment inventory process and performing Shipping and Receiving and Tool Room duties as necessary.

"I like that it's busy and it's steady work," Leah says of her work in Purchasing. "I like the variety of job duties day to day, but I especially like placing orders and reconciling statements for vouchers and credit card purchases." She has found the people she works with to be "friendly and helpful."

Verke received a B.S. in Business Administration from Mayville State University in May of 2006. Prior to her position at the EERC, she worked as an Administrative Clerk in UND Accounting Services for over a year and as an Accounts Payable Specialist with GFG Foodservice, Inc., of Grand Forks for 7 years before that.

Verke keeps busy when she's not working too. In the winter, she reads, mostly horror and popular fiction, and she plays on a dart league weekly in her home town of Hatton, watches her 14-year-old daughter's community hockey team (the "MayPort Ice Dawgs") play every weekend, and serves as a volunteer "first responder" on the Hatton Rescue Squad. In the future, she plans to continue her training and become an Emergency Medical Technician.

In the summer, she plays softball once a week and likes to go fishing, either off area riverbanks or on a pontoon at Devils Lake.

—Sandy Van Eck

# Transitions



Administrative Clerk **Dee Heisler** has been promoted to supervisor of Purchasing, Shipping, and Receiving at the EERC. Prior to this

promotion, Heisler served as an Administrative Clerk in Purchasing, Shipping, and Receiving and as the Lead in charge of the Purchasing area. She holds an Associate in Applied Science degree – Administrative Assistant as well as a Marketing and Management/Office Education degree from Minot State University – Bottineau. Prior to her position at the EERC, she served as an Account Technician in Fiscal Affairs at UND’s Aerospace Sciences.

“It is a lot more responsibility and a challenge, but I am ready for it,” Heisler says of her new position.



**Kelly Hodgson** has been promoted to Lead Research Information Associate at the Front Desk area at the EERC, where she oversees

two other Research Information Associates and provides a variety of office and product finalization services, including producing documents, fielding incoming telephone calls, and providing initial contact for EERC visitors, Centerwide contact, and information dissemination services. Prior to this promotion, Hodgson worked in the Front Desk area as a Research Information

Associate. She holds a Secretarial degree from Northland Community and Technical College. Prior to her position at the EERC, she worked for Brady Martz and Associates.

“I work with a great team,” says Hodgson. “They are very efficient, friendly, and customer service-oriented.”



**Jimmie Kennedy** is a new Project Resource Analyst in the Resource Management Systems Group, where she works to support researchers, project managers, and

upper management in the areas of cost management, personnel planning, cost projections, developing detailed cost proposals, managing and overseeing multiple project budgets, and maintaining the Resource Management Systems databases. Prior to this position, Kennedy was a Lead Research Information Associate in the Workflow area of Administrative Resources.

“I am enjoying my new responsibilities and getting to be more involved in the day-to-day operations of our projects,” says Kennedy.



**Nola Pithey** has been hired as an Administrative Assistant to provide direct support to the Manager of the Particulate Research Laboratory and associated

technical staff, including scheduling, communications, document production, and other related activities. Prior to her new position, Pithey

served as a Research Information Associate in the Workflow area of Administrative Resources at the EERC.

Pithey says, “I really enjoy working directly with the technical staff and assuming new responsibilities, along with expanding my knowledge of and using different computer software programs.”



**Stephanie Wolfe** has been hired as a Research Specialist with the PCOR Partnership at the EERC, where her duties include

management of risk assessment issues and reports; assisting with financial management of projects; serving as a Task Leader for project assessment of Task 12 in Phase III; and facilitating the development of project plans for research data, presentations, technical reports, peer-reviewed articles, and proposals for projects involving CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration technologies. Wolfe’s previous position at the EERC was as a Project Management Specialist for the PCOR Partnership.

“There are so many highly talented and diverse individuals here,” said Wolfe. “The pace at which the EERC works, as well as the size and variety of projects that we work on, creates a truly dynamic environment.”

–Sandy Van Eck

## SNAPSHOTS:



*Ila and John Lutheran are pleased with the name on this retirement cake.*

### John Lutheran Retires after 30 Plus Years

Technology Development Operator John Lutheran retired in January after more than 30 years at the EERC. Lutheran was honored at a reception at the EERC on January 24, 2008, which was attended by most of the EERC staff. With his wife, children,

and significant others in attendance, Lutheran was serenaded by the EERC Choir with a specially adapted rendition of Bob Hope's "Thanks for the Memories" and their very own "Glory, Glory, You're Retiring" (sung to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic").

Lutheran received accolades and retirement gifts from coworkers. EERC Director Gerry Groenewold lauded Lutheran's integrity and his ability to not just train but teach new employees what they needed to know. EERC Associate Director of Business and Operations John Hendrikson told of how he first worked with Lutheran in 1972 at the Stearns Roger Company in Rapid City, South Dakota, before both moved to Grand Forks in 1977 to what was to become the EERC.

"You always worked hard, and you always had the best interests of the Center at heart," Hendrikson told Lutheran. "We will really miss you."

"I am proud to be a part of the EERC," said Lutheran. "When I started here, there were about 120 people. Now there are about 312. All of those employees have much to be proud of. I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you."

Never one to sleep in or put his feet up to rest, Lutheran sees retirement as a way to devote more time to his topsoil- and gravel-hauling business, Jets Black Dirt and Road Gravel of Grand Forks.



*Larry Holm (left), North Dakota National Guard, presents Ken Grohs (right), EERC Facility and Safety Coordinator, the Patriotic Employer Award as Master Sergeant Jess Hernandez looks on.*

### Grohs Receives Patriotic Employer Award

Facility and Safety Coordinator Ken Grohs of the EERC was presented with a Patriotic Employer Award from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in January. The award is given to an employer who contributes to and protects liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in the U.S. National Guard and Reserve Force.

*Continued on page 12*

*Snapshots continued*

Master Sergeant Jess Hernandez, a facilities and safety assistant at the EERC and a University of North Dakota senior, has been a member of the North Dakota Air National Guard since 1989. Hernandez was deployed to Iraq in February 2007, where he served as a munitions specialist at Balad Air Base.

Upon hearing of Hernandez's deployment, Grohs told him that his

job would be waiting for him when he returned. Hernandez nominated Grohs, his supervisor at the EERC, for the award.

"When I got back, I thought, how can I thank Ken and the EERC for supporting me and allowing me to go? This award was my solution," Hernandez said.



The Employee Recognition Awardees and their respective awards are, from left to right, Teresa Bonev, Assistant to the Deputy Associate Director for Research – Leadership; Kelly Hodgson, Lead Research Information Associate – Attitude; Angie Morgan, Administrative Assistant – Team Player; and Joyce Sundby, Personnel Assistant – Customer Service.

## Employee Recognition Awards

Deb Haley, Associate Director, Marketing, Outreach, and Administrative Resources, was pleased to announce the initiation of the Administrative Resources (AR) Employee Recognition Awards at the Annual AR Holiday Party. The AR group, of over 40 individuals, includes the areas of Public Relations and Marketing, Education, and Outreach; Human Resources; Graphic and Editing; Administrative Assistants and Workflow; and Library and Information Systems. Awardees were nominated by their fellow employees, who included a brief reason as to why the employee was worthy of a specific award. The

award categories were Leadership, Attitude, Team Player, and Customer Service.

Anne Fiala, EERC Deputy Associate Director for Marketing, Outreach, and Administrative Resources, said, "The AR Awards provided a great opportunity to recognize the talents that so many individuals bring to our daily interactions with each other and our clients. The nominations were extremely wide-ranging in each of the four categories, which were a pleasure to share, and confirm that we have an exceptional group of people in Administrative Resources!"

## Upcoming Events

See [www.undeerc.org](http://www.undeerc.org) for details.

INTERNATIONAL  
**BIOMASS '08**  
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW  
Power, Fuels, and Chemicals  
April 15-17, 2008 Minneapolis, MN

**BIOMASS '08**  
**WORKSHOP**  
July 15-16, 2008, Grand Forks, ND

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**AIR QUALITY VII**  
Mercury, Trace Elements, SO<sub>2</sub>, Particulate Matter, and Greenhouse Gases  
October 25-29, 2009, Arlington, VA

## Recent Event

See [www.undeerc.org](http://www.undeerc.org) for highlights.

**Coal Ash**  
Professionals  
Training Course  
March 11-13, 2008, San Antonio, TX

## EERC EDGE

The EERC Edge is published for employees of the Energy & Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota. Send comments and story suggestions to Trish McGuire, Editor, (701) 777-5025 or [tmcguire@undeerc.org](mailto:tmcguire@undeerc.org).

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