



ALUMNI NEWS
SUMMER 2014

ALLIED SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY,
NURSING, AND ALLIED SCIENCES

ALLIED SCIENCES HOLDS FIRST SCHOLARSHIP AND GRADUATE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

About 70 allied sciences scholarship recipients and soon-to-be graduates received well-deserved acknowledgement during the first Allied Sciences Scholarship and Graduate Recognition Program held May 16. The event was hosted by the department and the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences.

“Previously, our department scholarship recipients were recognized along with pharmacy and nursing students in a combined program,” said Polly Olson, allied sciences director. “Over the years, the program had grown

so much that the college wanted to try separate events. The change gave our department the chance to recognize not only our scholarship recipients, but our allied sciences graduates, too. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients and the class of 2014.”

The event, which began with a social hour, included an address by Charles Peterson, dean of pharmacy, nursing, and allied sciences; the awarding of scholarship certificates; introduction of graduates; and an NDSU Alumni Association presentation.

photo caption: Among the attendees of the Allied Sciences Scholarship and Graduate Recognition Program, were (left to right) Erich Panitzke, Trisha Huffman, Abby Mattson and Ana Hartwig, who are all interns at St. Cloud Hospital.



MENTORING PROGRAM OFFERS FRIENDSHIP, ROLE MODELS

Genuine smiles and gentle laughter are clear signs of exceptional friendships between students at Fargo's Madison Elementary School and people from the NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences.

Those friendships are changing lives.

Once each week during the past school year, 18 volunteers from the college visited Madison School to foster positive relationships with the children and serve as role models for them. The NDSU faculty, staff and students were matched with a young person. Sometimes they shared a meal, played together during recess or joined in activities.

"I wanted to make a positive impact on a student," explained Beth Errett, a sophomore from Fargo who is majoring in medical laboratory science. "It has been a very rewarding program."

Errett mentored a student named Hajrija. The two often worked together on art projects or read to each other. Other times, they simply talked. "She became much more responsible and outgoing toward the end of my time with her," Errett said of the experience. "I loved being able to make a difference in her life."

The school visits are patterned after a successful Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Madison School administrators looked for additional community partners, and the college quickly joined in.

"It's important for these kids to spend time with positive role models from the community. It's dually beneficial because we come from a university and we give them contact to that world," said Dana Davis, the college's director of recruitment, who organized the project. "It's important for them to know that college can be part of their future."

People at Madison School agree. "Some of our kids don't have opportunities for adult relationships. So, this is a special thing for them," said Bobby Olson, Madison's principal. "This is a good thing overall for everyone, and we're having a lot of fun with it."

Meantime, Kris Errett, allied sciences program assistant, was matched with a girl named Gladys. "It has been such a treat to get to know her," Errett said. "She asks really interesting and challenging questions, resulting in equally interesting and challenging conversations. We discuss everything from bullying to her favorite movie, 'Frozen.'"

Connections like that are what this project is all about – positive guidance through caring, sharing and friendship.

"Whether or not I make a difference in Gladys' life, she has certainly made a difference in mine," Kris Errett said. "I'm looking forward to hearing all about her summer when I see her again in the fall."

SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY HELPS ALUMNA MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PATIENT CARE

A patient's life can hang in the balance each day Andrea Wald goes to work. As she puts on her scrubs and heads for the surgical suite, she knows her skills with the latest technology can be the difference.

Wald, BS '09, radiologic sciences, is an interventional radiology technologist at Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Using sophisticated imaging technology such as biplane fluoroscopy, she helps guide catheters, vena cava filters or stents through a patient's body to treat disease without open surgery. The procedures are often completed through a small puncture in an artery.

"The technology has gotten amazing," Wald explained. "Someone can be bleeding internally, and by accessing the femoral artery we can guide catheters into the area where they are bleeding and put in some coils that will embolize or occlude that vessel. The patient basically ends up with only a tiny puncture wound that is closed with some skin glue."

The equipment allows astonishing things, but it is the human element, the combined skills of a team of specialists, that makes everything work.

"We have a whole team with one end goal, and that's making the patient feel better," Wald said. "We really can't do anything without each other. We need the physicians; the physicians need the technologists. The nurses are needed to do the sedation. It takes all of us, together, to care for patients adequately."

Wald began her career as a radiographer, but she was introduced to interventional radiology during a clinical rotation. Wald immediately knew it was a perfect fit. "I absolutely love what I do. I wanted something in the medical field, but I also liked technology," she said. "It clicked."

She has found no two days of her work experience have been the same. "Every patient is different. Each case is unique in its own way," she said, noting her work can range from gastrostomy tubes to chemo-embolization of cancerous tumors to treating various infections.

The foundation for her expertise was built on her NDSU classes and an extensive internship at Sanford Sioux Falls, but Wald has continued to push herself. She studied a year on her own before taking her board exams. She worked at Sanford Sioux Falls before moving to Avera McKennan about two years ago.

"I like the direct feeling of making a difference in patients' care," Wald said of her job. "In some instances, the patient's life is quite literally in our team's hands. We must do our jobs correctly so the patient receives a good outcome."



"In 10 years, I see myself progressing in my personal knowledge and hopefully improving as a mentor for future students."

- ANDREA WALD

Wald shares her knowledge as a mentor to students who are studying interventional radiology. Her advice is to show initiative, aggressively learn as much as possible and strive to be a dedicated member of the surgical team.

"In 10 years, I see myself progressing in my personal knowledge and hopefully improving as a mentor for future students," she said.

Wald, who grew up on a farm near Baldwin, North Dakota, lives in Sioux Falls.

EXPERIENCES AT AFFILIATED HOSPITALS CRUCIAL FOR STUDENTS

Our affiliated hospital programs play a vital role by offering professional-level internships for our allied sciences students. The students complete prerequisite collegiate courses, followed by admission into an accredited, affiliated hospital-based program. The accompanying map shows where programs are located.

Together with our affiliates, we develop graduates who think critically; provide safe, responsible patient care; behave ethically and professionally; and are prepared for lifelong learning and leadership in their profession.

There have been a few name changes since our hospital affiliates were first published in our newsletter in 2009. Medcenter One is now Sanford Bismarck, MeritCare Health System has become Sanford Fargo and Iowa Methodist Medical Center is UnityPoint Health - Des Moines.

In addition, the Fairview Hospital medical laboratory science program has closed.

Qualified medical laboratory science students may soon have a new opportunity for an internship at Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha. A letter of intent has been submitted, with the possibility of NDSU students entering the program in May 2015. Nebraska Methodist's program was established in 1968 and accepts six to 10 students annually. Students alternate between class blocks, student labs and bench rotations in microbiology, clinical chemistry, hematology, immunohematology, immunology/serology, urinalysis, phlebotomy and molecular diagnostics. Clinical education occurs on the Methodist Hospital campus in the Pathology Center, along with rotations at the Women's Center and Children's Hospital.

KEY

- Medical Laboratory Science (12-month internship)
- Radiologic Sciences (24-month internship)
- Respiratory Care (15-month internship)



Sanford Bismarck, N.D.



St. Cloud Hospital, Minn.



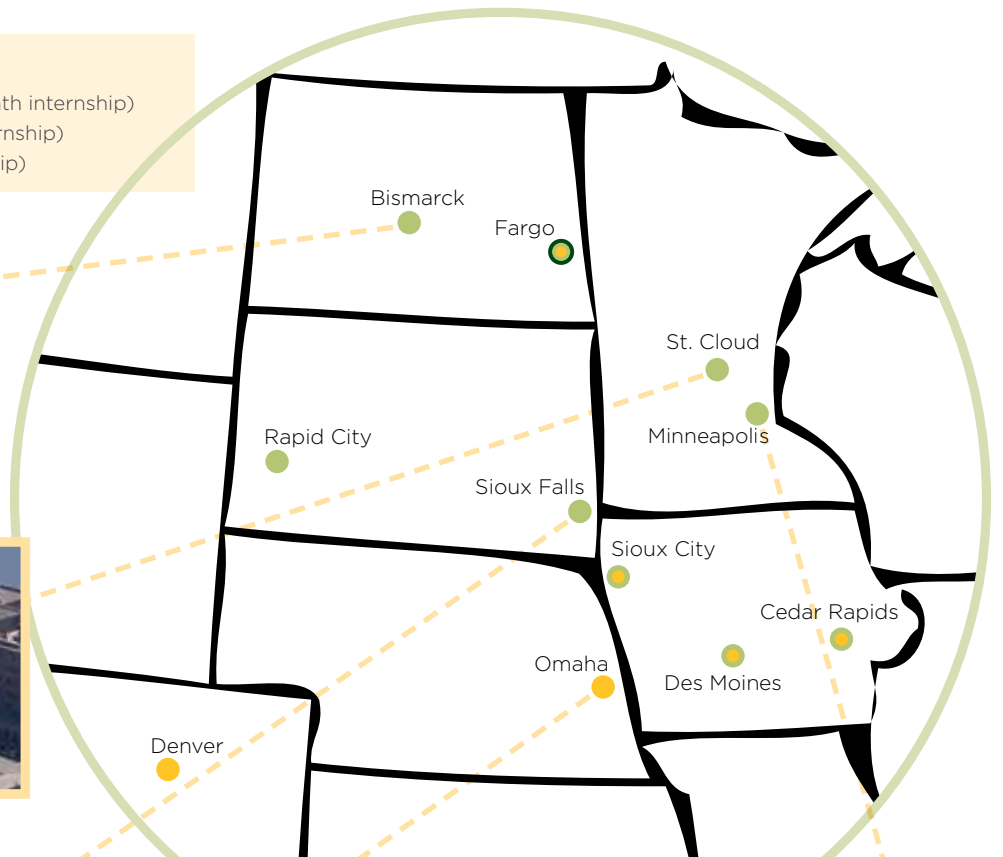
Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls, S.D.



Nebraska Methodist, Omaha, Neb.



Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minn.



STUDENTS OF ALLIED SCIENCES HAVE ACTIVE YEAR

The Students of Allied Sciences had another successful year, with a variety of speakers coming to the organization's monthly meetings. Our members heard about various topics within radiologic sciences, respiratory care and medical laboratory science.

In addition, NDSU alumni attended a meeting to discuss their careers within the allied health field and gave advice to students. Dale Olson, an alumnus of NDSU's affiliated radiologic technology hospital program at Sanford Bismarck, formerly Medcenter One, shared his experiences during a medical mission trip to Peru. He described the work he performed there and informed students of the many opportunities in the field of radiologic technology.

The Students of Allied Sciences completed many volunteer service hours during the academic year. Events included holding a Relay for Life bake sale, assisting at a food pantry and delivering handmade Valentines to the Veterans Affairs hospital. Members also took part in Trunk or Treat, the Ronald McDonald Sweetheart Ball, MLK Service Day Plunge, Relay for Life and the Big Event. The activities were fun for the students and gave them a chance to give back to the Fargo-Moorhead community.

New officers were elected at the 2014 End-of-the-Year Banquet in April. It's a great group ready and eager to plan another exciting, progressive year for the Students of Allied Sciences.

- Gretchen Rigge, medical laboratory science



CHANGE IN NATIONAL EXAM ELIGIBILITY PROMPTS ACTION

A change in national examination eligibility has moved NDSU respiratory care students to take action. And a solution has been reached.

Recently, the National Board for Respiratory Care and the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care took actions to retire Policy 13 that allows a certificate of completion to qualify respiratory therapy students for national credentialing examinations. The change was to be effective Jan. 1, 2015.

Discontinuing the policy meant students beginning the professional program or an internship at Sanford this fall would need to wait a minimum of six months after their internship to take the exams.

“Policy 13 allowed programs, such as ours, to award certificates of completion at the end of the internship, whether or not the student had course work to complete at NDSU,” explained Robyn Urlacher, Sanford Health respiratory care program director, noting eliminating the policy would require students to earn their bachelor's degree to be eligible for board exams.

“This change certainly impacts our interns who have a semester or two left to complete after their internship, as it means they will not be able

to take their boards until they have their degree,” Urlacher said. “It gives program faculty and advisers, the task of making it feasible for interns to complete all of their NDSU course work before entering the internship. So, upon successful completion of the internship, they'll graduate and are immediately eligible to take their national boards, apply for a state license and begin their respiratory therapy careers.”

NDSU students joined faculty, staff and students from programs across the country in a letter-writing campaign to voice their concerns about the change and describe the effect on students in programs that issue special certificates of completion.

In response, the National Board for Respiratory Care's board of trustees voted to authorize the special certificate as a route for admission to the Therapist Multiple-Choice and Clinical Simulation Examinations until Dec 31, 2015. The move was seen as an effort not to penalize students who are in a program that holds a special certificate of eligibility.

The extension gives programs more time to plan for the change, and allows students to complete their degree requirements concurrently with finishing their internships.

McNAIR SCHOLAR LOOKS FOR ANSWERS AT GENETIC LEVEL

An NDSU medical laboratory science and microbiology senior's research project has an important, determined goal – help save lives.

During the project, Seraphine Ngang worked in the laboratory of Nathan Fisher, assistant professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences. Ngang meticulously identified some of the genes of a new drug-resistant pathogen, called “*Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* (Sm),” that can appear in ventilator tubes or implanted medical devices. It's a serious matter, because the pathogen can cause life-threatening infections in patients.



Ngang, who is a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, produced a technical research paper, titled “Discovery of *S. malt* genes that protect *E. coli* from *Dctyostelium* predation.”

Her work with DNA sequencing dealt with discovering why the pathogen is resistant to a bacteria-eating amoeba. “By characterizing the interaction between Sm and ecologically significant predators,

“NDSU is a great place to study. It has great advisers and teachers, and it's a diverse community where everyone feels accepted.”

– SERAPHINE NGANG

we expect to discover potential targets for future therapeutics,” Ngang explained.

Originally from Cameroon, Ngang moved to Minnesota in 2006, where she graduated from Irondale Senior High School. After attending Anoka-Ramsey Community College, her interest in medical laboratory science drew Ngang to NDSU and the university's McNair program. Named for astronaut and physicist Ronald E. McNair, the program provides opportunities for underrepresented students who have a strong interest in

research and plan to attend graduate school.

“NDSU is a great place to study,” Ngang said of her decision to come to Fargo. “It has great advisers and teachers, and it's a diverse community where everyone feels accepted.”

Ngang began an 11-month internship at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa, in August. Her plans are to earn her bachelor's degree from NDSU and then move on to graduate studies. Her career goal is to conduct drug research for a pharmaceutical company.

ALLIED SCIENCES INTERNS EARN HONORS

Congratulations to interns who earned special honors during the past year.

Two NDSU medical laboratory science students, Nassir Abdi and Kathy Mok, who are completing internships at Mercy and St. Luke's Hospitals in Sioux City, Iowa, received national Siemens-ASCP scholarships. The awards are based on outstanding academic performance and leadership.

Three students also received scholarships from hospital foundations and professional societies. Abdi was recognized with the St. Luke's Hospital Scholarship, Angela Stevens was awarded an Avera Foundation Scholarship and Shaylyn Fassino received a Siouxland Society of Radiologic Technology Scholarship. All three students will graduate this summer.

Two seniors in the St. Cloud School of Diagnostic Imaging attended a student and educator seminar in Iowa, where Abby Mattson's paper on renal vein thrombosis received a first-place honor and cash prize. Also at the conference, Trisha Huffman was a member of the winning team for the student knowledge bowl. Both students will graduate in August.

Stevens and Kristi Kowalski were recognized for outstanding student achievements during graduation from their respective internship programs. Kowalski earned the Highest Academic Achievement Award from the Sanford School of Radiologic Technology, Sioux Falls, which recognizes the graduate with the highest didactic grade-point average. Stevens was awarded the Outstanding Student of the Year by the Rapid City Regional Hospital Medical Radiography program. Both have begun work as radiologic technologists at their internship hospitals.

In addition, NDSU/Sanford respiratory care intern awards were presented at the fall 2013 graduation ceremony. The honors included:

- Intern of the Year – Rebecca O'Brien
- Lambda Beta Honor Society – Marc Estes and Bethany Pelzer
- Clinical Performer of the Year – Dylan Meyer

All of the intern honorees are working as respiratory therapists. O'Brien works at Sanford Health in Fargo, Estes is at Fairview in Minneapolis, Pelzer is at St. Joseph's Hospital in Brainerd, Minnesota, and Meyer is at the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital in Minneapolis.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

A ALLIED SCIENCES ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP

Robyn Urlacher and Liban Jamal, St. Paul, Minnesota

B CAPP SCHOLARSHIP

Dale Olson; Megan Harris, International Falls, Minnesota; and Polly Olson

C DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP

Kathy Mok, Singapore; Anastasia Hartwig, Winsted, Minnesota; Kelsey Greenwaldt, Morris, Minnesota; and Dean Charles Peterson

D SANFORD HEALTH FOUNDATION - MARY JO LANGENWALTER MLS SCHOLARSHIP

Stephanie Bauer, Melrose, Minnesota, and Sara Wald

E MICHAEL SOLOGUK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kelsey Greenwaldt, Morris, Minnesota, and Angela MacAdams



Thank you, donors!

One of the ways your generous gifts support allied sciences students is through scholarships. For a complete list of donors, visit www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/donor_list.

If you are interested in funding a scholarship or contributing to the Allied Sciences Alumni and Friends Scholarship, please contact Sara Wald, director of development, at 701-231-6461 or sara.wald@ndsu.edu.



Advisory board members are (left to right) Eryn Miller, Jill Urke, Lisa McBroom, Keith Schweigert, Tausha Bolluyt and Randi Thompson. Not pictured: Robyn Urlacher

ADVISORY BOARD ADDS NEW MEMBERS

NDSU alumnae Tausha (Wasness) Bolluyt, BS '07, and Randi (Vennes) Thompson, BS '09, have been named to the newly expanded allied sciences advisory board.

Established in 2012 as a six-member board, the group helps the department build and maintain an advancement program; review program goals and outcomes, assessment and curriculum; identify resources needed for high-quality programs; and note trends, challenges and opportunities. The board tentatively meets twice each year, during NDSU Homecoming week and in March.

Bolluyt majored in radiologic sciences, and attended the Mayo School of Health Sciences Radiation Therapy program following her NDSU graduation. She has been employed by the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona, and is a registered radiation therapist with Lake Region Healthcare in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. She lives in Fergus Falls with her husband, Josh, and daughter, Madeline.

Thompson, who majored in respiratory care, was involved in Delta Epsilon Chi as a student and was active in the community as an F-M Young Professional. A respiratory therapist at Sanford Fargo, she also earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota, in 2011. She previously was a respiratory therapist, wellness coordinator and pulmonary disease specialist at Essentia Health in Fargo. Thompson said her interest in serving on the board is based on "NDSU alumni pride and an opportunity to participate in the department and college that did so much for me." She lives in Fargo with her husband, Michael, and son, Gavin.

Advisory board positions are now open for alumni from radiologic sciences and medical laboratory science. If you are interested, contact board chair Jill Urke at jurke@dchospital.com.

CLASS OF 2014

CONGRATULATIONS

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Nassir Abdi
Kismaayo, Somalia
Kirstie Abel
Chanhassen, Minn.
Stephanie Bauer
Melrose, Minn.
Allison Borsheim
Moorhead, Minn.
Nathan Braun
Lincoln, Neb.
Megan Harris
International Falls, Minn.
Liban Jamal
St. Paul, Minn.
Britta Lofgren
International Falls, Minn.
Marie Lommel
Breckenridge, Minn.
Mason Lynk
Wadena, Minn.
Kathy Mok
Sioux City, Iowa

Jason Schwartz
Fargo, N.D.
Madison Stone
Monticello, Minn.

RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES

Brianna Bergstrom
Willmar, Minn.
Kathleen Borts
New Plymouth, Idaho
Parker Breiland
Reynolds, N.D.
Nicole Caveny
Melrose, Minn.
Paige Dennison
Fargo, N.D.
Amanda Dralle
Moffit, N.D.
Kaylee Fandrich
Fargo, N.D.
Shaylyn Fassino
Hendrum, Minn.
Nicole Geck
Worden, Minn.

Christopher Gillick
Ipswich, S.D.
Taylor Grove
Mitchell, S.D.
Katie Heinsen
Rosemount, Minn.
Jordan Hendrickson
Cooperstown, N.D.
Kacey Herder
Breckenridge, Minn.
Trisha Huffman
Benson, Minn.
Charles Johnson
Fargo, N.D.
Jason Jorgenson
Fergus Falls, Minn.
Mitch Keller
Dickinson, N.D.
Kristi Kowalski
Moorhead, Minn.
Megan Kuster
Reynolds, N.D.
Kate Lachowitzzer
Canby, Minn.

Angelina Lennington
Bismarck, N.D.
Abby Mattson
Leonard, N.D.
Zachary Motis
Bismarck, N.D.
Andrea Oberloh
Worthington, Minn.
Erich Panitzke
Redwood Falls, Minn.
Laura Riestenberg
Fergus Falls, Minn.
Erin Sand
Jamestown, N.D.
Angela Stevens
Pipestone, Minn.
Catherine Weick
West Fargo, N.D.
Kristin Wittenkeller
Burnsville, Minn.

RESPIRATORY CARE

Blake Bixby
Erskine, Minn.

Jordan Daly
Fargo, N.D.
Kelli DuBord
West Fargo, N.D.
Abdirahman Farah
Fargo, N.D.
Dena Gleason
Elk River, Minn.
Kelsey Greenwaldt
Morris, Minn.
Amy Halverson
New Hope, Minn.
Jennifer Hulne
Abercrombie, N.D.
Mason Mastel
Hazelton, N.D.
Sophors Tang
Oakdale, Minn.
Noella Uwase
St. Paul, Minn.
Katrina Valder
Fargo, N.D.
Justin Wennerberg
Foley, Minn.