

N O R T H D A K O T A S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

allied sciences

THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, NURSING, & ALLIED SCIENCES

news for you

SUMMER '09



Our inaugural issue

From Tiananmen to NDSU ③

Olson receives award ⑥

Career Fair ⑨



Polly Olson, director of Allied Sciences
 Phone: (701) 231-8133
 Fax: (701) 231-7606
 E-mail: Polly.Olson@ndsu.edu

a message from the director of Allied Sciences

It is my pleasure to introduce you — our alumni, students and friends — to this inaugural issue of the Department of Allied Sciences' newsletter. Our hope with this annual newsletter is to keep you informed about what's new in our college, our department and its programs — clinical laboratory science, radiologic sciences and respiratory care.

Some of you are recent graduates or current students, while others have been away from campus for some time. Let me give you a little history on our relatively new department.

When I started at NDSU in 1997, the clinical laboratory science program was housed in the Department of Microbiology, while respiratory care was located in the Department of Zoology. I was hired as academic director for both of those programs in the zoology department. The radiologic sciences program was added in 2001. In January 2006, CLS, RC and RS were transferred from the Department of Biological Sciences (merger of zoology and botany departments) to the College of Pharmacy to officially become the Department of Allied Sciences. The college changed its name to the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences in May 2006 to recognize the various healthcare disciplines under its management.

The Department of Allied Sciences is now home to approximately 350 pre-professional and professional allied sciences' majors, and partners with 17 nationally accredited hospital programs offering internships for our majors. We enjoy working with numerous adjunct faculty in affiliated hospitals who provide classroom and clinical instruction to professional students. In just the few years since becoming a department, 100 allied sciences' majors have graduated; and of those, 96 percent are employed in their respective major or continued on to advance their education. Though graduates this year will face a tighter job market, the future need for health care professionals remains positive. We hold true to our mission to prepare students with the knowledge, skills and characteristics necessary to become competent, compassionate and contributing allied sciences' professionals. To date, pass rates on national certifying examinations are 100 percent. We are grateful for the support given the department by the college and NDSU, affiliated hospitals, alumni and friends. The departmental faculty and staff are located in Sudro Hall and include program assistant, Rita Prunty (Sudro 118U); academic adviser, Angie Walswick (118T); and me (118H).

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you have comments, stories to share or suggestions for future issues, please let us know by contacting Polly.Olson@ndsu.edu or the college's director of advancement, Sara Wald at Sara.Wald@ndsu.edu.

Thank you and have a great summer!

Polly Olson

Student's path to NDSU runs through government oppression

The town square is in the middle of the town of Yanji in China ...

So begins an essay written by Haihua Jin, a second year clinical laboratory science major. In this essay, written for an English composition class at NDSU, she discusses for the first time a life-altering event that took place in the town square outside her house in Yanji, near the North Korean border. The year was 1983. Jin was 10.

The square was a place of activity for young Jin. Sunflowers, dragonflies and chickens abounded. In the summer, hawkers set up stalls and carts to sell their goods.

One day, the speakers in the square announced a public trial. The area filled with townspeople. Army trucks pulled up and unloaded a line of prisoners, who had to sit and kneel on stage for all to see. Jin knew one of the prisoners — her cousin Chun Lee. They used to play together at their grandparents' house, and they fished together when he was younger. On that day in the square, the speaker pronounced Lee's guilt in an armed robbery. He'd used a knife to steal 3,040 Yuen, about \$450 in today's conversion rates. Lee was sentenced to death.

Jin's father told her Lee deserved a second chance. He was just 18 and no one had been killed. That evening, Lee was shot in the back of the head.

Jin ends her essay, "Now I am living in the North America and enjoying the peaceful life with freedom, but I cannot forget the town square although there is the sad story in my mind. I cannot forget the town square because there are also many beautiful memories in my mind."

Jin, now 36, has walked a long road to NDSU. Part of that path ran through Tiananmen Square in Beijing. It was May 1989. Jin was 16. While waiting to take their exams in June, she and a friend decided to meet the friend's sister at the university in Beijing. They joined in the protests against the authoritarian government after the death of a pro-democracy official. Jin remembers many tents, hunger protests and the heat. After a week, Jin and her friend returned home. They were gone when the Tiananmen Square Massacre began on June 4. Hundreds of students, maybe thousands depending on the source, were killed.

Afterward, many protesters were arrested. When Jin's parents found out about the events, they told her that she was never to talk about being there. "Don't say a thing," they said. "You've never been there and just forget about it. Just keep quiet." They told others that Jin was sick for a week. Her friend's sister was never heard from again.

Jin grew up, earned a degree in electrical engineering and worked for various electronics companies for 12 years before moving to Canada with her then-husband.

Fluency in Chinese, Japanese and Korean didn't help Jin in Canada, where she only knew five bits of English (yes, no, thank you,



goodbye, hello). She worked in a food processing company on the product line and picked up what English she could by watching television. Still, she was utterly confused when she went to a clinic for treatment and couldn't ask the doctors and nurses what they were doing to her. The experience helped her make the decision to attend night classes for English and apply to colleges to learn clinical lab work. She wanted to help other immigrants to understand the tests they were undergoing.

"I had that experience so I could help them," she said. "I chose to study this major because I want to work for minorities because I am one of them."

In December 2005, Jin officially became a Canadian citizen. One month later, at age 33, she voted for the first time in her life. After applying to several colleges, she decided on NDSU and moved to Fargo to begin studying in spring 2008. She had to leave her husband behind in Canada, and her son with her parents in China. She misses them all and feels sad about being away from them for so long, but she is grateful for her family's support as she continues to study to reach her goal of helping others like herself. *Joel Hagen*

Program affiliates crucial for curriculum

The Department of Allied Sciences' mission is to prepare its students with the knowledge, skills and characteristics necessary to become competent, compassionate and contributing professionals in their career choice of clinical laboratory science, radiologic sciences or respiratory care.

In support of this mission, the allied sciences programs and its affiliates offer a curriculum that promotes the development of a graduate who thinks critically, provides safe and responsible patient care, behaves ethically and professionally, and prepares for lifelong learning and leadership in their profession.

Our mission would not be possible without the vital education provided during the internships by our hospital partners. Thank you!



MeritCare Health System, Fargo, N.D.



Rapid City Regional Hospital, Rapid City, S.D.



Mercy Medical Center, Sioux City, Iowa



St. Luke's Hospital, Cedar Rapids, Iowa



The affiliates that help our students

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Colorado Center for Medical Laboratory Science
Denver, Colo. ● Fairview Hospital
Minneapolis, Minn. ● Mercy Medical Center
Sioux City, Iowa ● Mercy Medical Center
Des Moines, Iowa ● Avera McKennan Hospital
Sioux Falls, S.D. ● Iowa Health-Iowa Methodist
Des Moines, Iowa ● MedCenter One
Bismarck, N.D. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rapid City Regional Hospital
Rapid City, S.D. ● Sanford Medical Center
Sioux Falls, S.D. ● St. Cloud Hospital
St. Cloud, Minn. ● Mercy/St. Luke's Hospital
Cedar Rapids, Iowa ● St. Luke's Medical Center
Sioux City, Iowa ● MeritCare Health System
Fargo, N.D. |
|--|---|

key

- Clinical Laboratory Science (12 month internship)
- Radiologic Sciences (24 mo. internship)
- Respiratory Care (15 mo. internship)

Olson receives award for outstanding advising



Polly Olson was presented with the 2009 Dean's Award for Outstanding Advising at the college's pharmacy hooding ceremony on May 15, 2009. This award recognizes an individual in the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences who has demonstrated exceptional advising skills and has had a positive impact on students. "Advising takes a high priority in our department," Olson says. "From the beginning, we stress the importance

of the advisee/adviser relationship in successfully navigating the university system and making the transition to a career, future advancement and education. Ultimately, students are fully responsible for their decision; however, I am committed to assisting them to make informed decisions personalized to where they are now

in their education and life and where they want to be next semester, two or 10 years from now."

Olson joined North Dakota State University in 1997 as academic director of clinical laboratory science and respiratory care. Radiologic sciences was added in 2001, and she was named director of the Department of Allied Sciences in 2006. She currently advises more than 300 allied sciences' majors and associates a face with a name "most of the time."

Olson earned her bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy from the University of Mary, Bismarck, and her master's in vocational education from the University of North Dakota. Prior to NDSU, she worked as a registered respiratory therapist at St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck, Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, and MeritCare, Fargo, and as an instructor/clinical coordinator for RT programs in Bismarck and East Grand Forks, Minn.

Prunty and Walswick join Allied Sciences team



Rita Prunty, program assistant

Responsibilities: Prunty provides administrative support for the department, keeping track of the budget and managing student records. She also offers assistance to new allied science majors as well as prospective students.

Previous experience: She has been employed at NDSU for 17 years, previously working in the Office of Admission, the psychology department and electrical engineering department.

Hobbies: Reading, playing piano and marimba, flower gardening and bike riding

NDSU objective: "I love working with the students at NDSU. I want to help students be successful in attaining their goals."



Angeline (Angie) Walswick, academic adviser and lecturer

Responsibilities: Advise students in the department and teach UNIV 189: Skills for Academic Success.

Previous experience: Walswick taught high school social studies for four years in Winona, Minn.

Degrees: Bachelor's degree in social studies education from Minnesota State University Moorhead and master's degree in college counseling and student development from St. Cloud State University

Hobbies: Backpacking, camping and volleyball

NDSU objective: "I want to build good relationships with students and really help them be successful during their time at NDSU. I hope to help them gain an appreciation for lifelong learning and be well prepared to serve as healthcare professionals."

Alumnus finds 'perfect combination' of skill and care in job

People pay attention when NDSU alumnus Darren Axemaker speaks. As a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) technologist at MeritCare Health System in Fargo, Axemaker has good reasons for saying, "Please, hold very still."

An MRI uses an incredibly powerful magnetic field, combined with radio frequency pulses, to produce detailed computer-generated pictures of organs, bones and soft tissue. Physicians examine the images to evaluate injuries or diagnose diseases.

Each sequence of images takes about four minutes to complete, and, as Axemaker will tell you, any motion can ruin a whole set of pictures. So, he brings a decidedly human approach to the high technology. His gentle, but firm, voice is what patients often remember.

"With most people, there is an anxiety factor. People are anxious about the test and about the results," explained Axemaker, BS '04, radiologic sciences. "I tell them what to expect, explain the exam to them and then talk to them between scans. I think that helps people quite a bit."

A typical MRI system carries a price tag of more than \$1 million. Usually about 7 feet tall by 7 feet wide by 10 feet long, the machine has a horizontal tube running through the magnet from front to back. That tube is where the patient is placed.

"A lot of people are claustrophobic or borderline claustrophobic, so you have that challenge of talking them through an examination. I try to calm them down to make sure they keep still – that way I'll get good images. I'm always trying for the best possible scan."

Axemaker, who splits his time between MeritCare's main hospital and its south Fargo campus, has found what he considers the ideal profession. "I love what I do. To me, this is the perfect combination of technical skills and patient care. I come to work every day happy," said Axemaker.

"This job is really interesting. Sometimes you'll get a case that is literally one in a million," he said. "I'm always learning something new. Every day."

Axemaker picked his career later in life than many students. He was in his mid-30s when he came to NDSU to be among the first graduates of the radiologic sciences program. After completing his education, Axemaker worked as a radiologic (X-ray) technologist and then with computed tomography (CT) scans.

"NDSU did a great job preparing me," Axemaker said. "I had terrific instructors."



Axemaker was among the first to graduate from the radiologic sciences program.

His advice to students is direct and based on experience. He urges studying hard, combined with volunteering as a transportation aide or working in an emergency room. Axemaker also reminds students they'll probably work nights and weekends in their first job, but the ultimate opportunities are boundless.

"Getting into a program after two years at a university is so competitive, and there are not a lot of student slots open," he said. "Students have to show that they went above and beyond, that they've worked in health care. They need to gain a competitive advantage."

Following graduation, however, Axemaker said a vast array of jobs or modalities awaits. "Career paths can lead to teaching, quality control and management." He said, "You can work at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, pediatric centers and cancer centers, and there's the opportunity to work literally anywhere in the country or the world with your skills."

Axemaker and his wife, Jill, have two children.

Axemaker recently accepted a new position. As of June 8, he is an MRI technologist at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Roseburg, Ore. *Steve Bergeson*

Respiratory Care interns speak



From left to right: Courtney Sessa, Krista Duncan, Caitlyn Weisert, Kristen Mestery, and Britt Selander

Courtney Sessa

My time at NDSU: has helped me become a better person

My hobbies include: reading, traveling and spending time with my friends and family

My greatest influence has been: my dad

I am most grateful for: my family, my friends and my health

Krista Kaye Duncan

My time at NDSU: has been the best experience and one of the greatest decisions I've ever made

My hobbies include: traveling, flowers, lake sports

My greatest strength or asset is: I'm very motivated. If I have a goal I want to achieve it as quickly as possible.

My most meaningful achievement is: spending six months in Australia. It opened my eyes to so many possibilities.

Caitlyn Weisert

My most meaningful achievement is: becoming a role model for my nieces

My greatest influence has been: my dad

My hobbies include: sitting outside (when it's nice), dancing, dinner parties

My greatest strength or asset is: my congenial personality

Kristen Mestery

My time at NDSU: has given me many opportunities and helped shape me into who I am today

My most meaningful achievement is: getting into my respiratory care internship

My hobbies include: hanging out with friends and family and watching my niece and nephews

My greatest influence has been: my mom and dad

Britt Selander

My job: phlebotomist, student and respiratory therapy intern

My hobbies include: playing tennis, swimming in my pool, reading

My greatest influence has been: my family and fiancé

My greatest strength or asset is: I am hard working



Career Fair 2008: brings students and employers together

For one day, the entrance to the Fargodome was a portal to the future. On Sept. 18, the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences presented "Career Fair 2008," a glimpse into the possibilities that lie ahead for students.

The event, which is one of the most highly regarded of its kind, drew about 200 representatives of 65 employers from across the country. An estimated 1,000 students and parents were on hand to enthusiastically ask questions and make important connections.

"Every year, we see students seeking employment and, at the same time, we have employers say, 'Where are the students looking for jobs?' This event brings students and employers together to have that conversation," said Charles Peterson, dean of pharmacy, nursing, and allied sciences. "It's a nice marriage of allowing students to get career information and also job prospects that might lead to permanent employment."

The event invites NDSU students in the college's many programs, along with area high school students who are interested in a medical-related career. Attendance by the younger students and their parents helps set the college's Career Fair apart from similar events.

"It's fun to talk about opportunities, and it's fun to get kids excited about the field," said Dave Rueter, vice president of personnel, Thrifty White Pharmacy, Maple Grove, Minn. "Most other schools' career fairs focus only on the graduating class, so you don't have a chance to talk to all of the different levels of students as they come through. Here, there is a lot more activity, a lot more people to talk to. This fair is the one we look forward to the most of all of them that we go to."

Pam Rheingans, a human resources representative for Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., said, "The programs at NDSU are top quality and this career fair is always a wonderful event for us. It's been a great recruiting tool, and we'll be back as long as they have it."

For the students, the career fair allows them to wander among the booths, shake hands, gather business cards, improve their interpersonal communication skills and explore career choices. Smiles and friendly conversations were everywhere in the Fargodome concourse, a sure sign that Career Fair 2008 had again lived up to its billing and accomplished its goals. *Steve Bergeson*

College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences names new ambassadors

The College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences has named the members of the Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences Ambassadors class of 2009. The organization welcomes 17 new members, with representation from pre-professional to graduate students from each department in the college.

The students will join the current class of ambassadors who promote the college through a variety of events serving past, present and prospective students. In its first year of existence, ambassadors helped coordinate many events, including the White Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success event, the 50-year reunion, Homecoming activities, Discover NDSU, Expanding Your Horizons and Career Day.

New ambassadors from allied sciences include Lindsey Bruner and Tania Peters. New ambassadors from pharmacy include Kailee Donner, Lexi Hoefs, Amanda Jorgenson, Jason Lind, Rupa Patel, Natasha Petry, Haylee Preabt and Mckaya Schmit. New ambassadors from pharmaceutical sciences include Namrata Bhatnagar and Praveen Shukla. New ambassadors from nursing include Amanda Booke, Anne Dunham, Brett Halvorson, Danielle Hasslinger and Ashlie Seifert.



College ambassadors connect NDSU to the outside world.

The Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences Ambassadors are co-advised by Dana Davis, director of recruitment, and Sara Wald, director of advancement. *Sara Wald*

Scholarships awarded to allied sciences students



Deans Scholarship - Allied Sciences

Three \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the Office of the Dean to allied sciences students based on high scholastic achievement, extracurricular involvement and demonstrated leadership in the college. **Nicole Bunn, Enderlin, N.D.; Alexander Shepard, Rochester, Minn.;** and **Randi Vennes, Minot, N.D.** (pictured above)

MeritCare - Mary Jo Langenwalter CLS Scholarship

A \$500 award presented to students accepted into the MeritCare School of Clinical Laboratory Science to be used toward tuition. **Dusten Unruh, Bismarck, N.D.**



Allied Sciences Alumni and Friends Scholarship

A \$250 scholarship awarded on the basis of scholarship, merit and need. Funding is provided by annual alumni and friends' contributions. **James Breen, Fargo, N.D.** (pictured above)

Michael Sologuk Memorial Scholarship

A \$345 scholarship awarded to a junior or senior respiratory care major accepted into the internship at MeritCare Medical Center. This scholarship was established to promote knowledge of cystic fibrosis; one criterion for selection of the recipient is an essay pertaining to cystic fibrosis. **Tornubari Beage, Nigeria**

A look at our students

The following is a snapshot of the current professional level students in the Department of Allied Sciences – who they are and how they are doing.

Radiologic Sciences

Males: 9	Residency:	1st year	2nd year
1st year: 6	ND	19	11
2nd year: 3	MN	7	10
Females: 41	SD	1	1
1st year: 21	MA	0	1
2nd year: 20	Internship placement:	1st year	2nd year
Average GPA:	Avera McKennan	4	6
1st year: 3.27	Iowa Health	2	3
2nd year: 3.39	Medcenter One	2	3
	MeritCare	6	5
	Rapid City Hospital	0	1
	Sanford	8	1
	St. Cloud Hospital	5	3
	St. Luke's, Sioux City	1	0

Clinical Lab Science

Males: 3
Females: 9
Average GPA: 3.25
Residency:
ND: 6
MN: 6
Internship placement:
MeritCare: 7
Fairview: 5

Respiratory Care

Males: 3
Females: 9
Average GPA: 3.10
Residency:
ND: 9
MN: 2
SD: 1
Placement:
MeritCare: 12

a message from the advancement office



Since this is our first newsletter, I would like to take a few paragraphs to tell you about myself. I graduated from the NDSU College of Business with a bachelor's degree in business administration in December 2001. Originally from South Dakota, I quickly found a home at NDSU and Fargo.

Outside of work, I spend my time volunteering with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as chair of the annual Walk MS-Fargo, and I also assist with Fargo-Moorhead Youth Leadership and Adult Leadership programs. As an avid Bison football fan, there are very few home games I miss.

I hope you enjoy this very first issue of the Allied Sciences Alumni Newsletter. Please take time and drop us a line with information we might want to feature. We are looking for newsletter articles and stories. Please contact me if you have an update in your career or have a wonderful NDSU memory to share.

We hope you have an opportunity to return to Fargo and NDSU. If you get the opportunity, please visit us in Sudro Hall.

Sara Wald
 Director of Advancement
 701-231-6461 or Sara.Wald@ndsu.edu.

Congratulations to our 2009 allied sciences graduates

Clinical Laboratory Science

Carisa Allen
 James Breen
 Alyssa Buschette
 Joshua Helmer
 Karan Herman
 Yasin Jama

Tamara Johnson
 Amber Laverdure
 Edris Otazu
 Justin Rosenau
 Alexander Shepard
 Tina Thompson
 Dusten Unruh

Radiologic Sciences

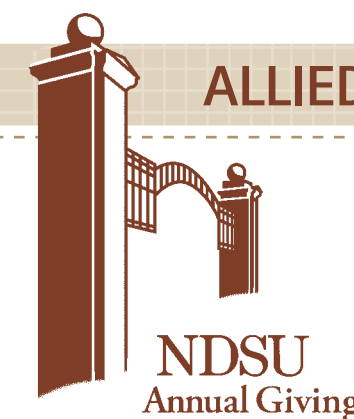
Jocelyn Bonk
 Reid Conlon
 Kyla Genereux
 Brenton Green
 Rebecca Hermanson
 Mary Janke
 Kandace Jaunich

Jodi Johnson
 Erin Lichter
 Patricia Meyer
 Keith O'Leary
 Jessica Radermacher
 Timothy Reich
 Joshua Schiefert
 Andrea Wald
 Wade Wallner

Respiratory Care

Tornubari Beage
 Krista Duncan
 Jaleesa Hageman
 Shelleane Janssen
 Stephanie Lewis
 Kristen Mestery
 Britt Selander

Courtney Sessa
 Randi Vennes
 Luljeta Vllahiu
 Caitlyn Weisert



Please consider a donation to the NDSU allied sciences program. Funds raised go to student scholarships and departmental needs to continue excellent education for students.

ALLIED SCIENCES EXCELLENCE

Name as it appears on card _____ (please print) Class year _____

Enclosed is my gift of: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$ _____ (other)

Payment options: Check (make checks payable to NDSU Development Foundation)
 MasterCard VISA Discover

Account number _____ Exp. date ____ / ____

Billing address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____

Signature (required) _____

MAIL TO: Director of Advancement, College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences
 Dept. 2650, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58105-6050

Donations to the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences are administered by the Development Foundation.

www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy

allied sciences news for you

SUMMER 2009 • VOL. I • ISSUE 1

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 818
Fargo, ND

NDSU

College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences

Dept. 2650, PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Consulting editor: Sara Wald

Editor/writer: Joel Hagen

Writers: Laurie Baker, Steve Bergeson,
Sadie Anderson, Linsey Hegvik and
Sara Wald

Designers: Brianna Ketterling/Rebekka DeVries

Photographer: Dan Koeck

Copy editor: Kathy Laid

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, Vietnam Era Veterans status, sexual orientation, marital status, or public assistance status. Direct inquiries to the Chief Diversity Officer, 205 Old Main, (701) 231-7708.

