Our inaugural issue

From Tiananmen to NDSU ①
Olson receives award ⑥
Career Fair ⑨
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 Frunzy (Sudro 118U), academic advisor, Angie Walzlik (1187), and me (1186).

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 or the college's director of advancement, Sara Wald at Sara.Wald@ndsu.edu.

Thank you and have a great summer!
Polly Olson

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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 Haibin 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 1989. Jin was 16.

The square was a place of activity for young Jin. Sunflowers, dragonflies and chickens abounded. In the summer, hawks 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 Yuan, 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 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. An Nguyen
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!

The affiliates that help our students

- 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.
- 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

Folly Olson was presented with the 2009 Dean’s Award for Outstanding Advising at the college’s baccalaureate 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 advising/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 decisions; 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, Abra Hospital in Grand Forks, and MeritCare, Fargo, and as an instructor/clinical coordinator for RT programs in Bismarck and East Grand Forks, Minn.

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 disease.

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.”

“When 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,” Axemaker said. “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,” he said. “This is the perfect combination of technical skills and patient care. I come to work every day happy.”

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, pediatrics 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 Rooshburg, Clew. Steeplehouse.

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.

Degree: 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.”

Alumni finds ‘perfect combination’ of skill and care in job

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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.

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 Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success Coat Ceremony, Nurse Pinning Ceremony, Ticket to Your Success

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 Weid
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 Bann, Enderlin, N.D.; Alexander Shepard, Rochester, Minn.; and Randi Vennes, Minot, N.D. (pictured above)

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)

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.

Michael Sologuk Memorial Scholarship
A $250 scholarship awarded on the basis of scholarship, merit and need. Funding is provided by annual alumni and friends’ contributions. Randi Vennes, Minot, N.D. (pictured above)

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

Tornubari Beage, Nigeria
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

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Clinical Lab Science

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<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
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Respiratory Care

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<th>2nd year</th>
<th>ND: 12</th>
<th>MN: 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1st year</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Internship placement: 1st year

Avery McKenney, Iowan Meah; Medcenter One, 2; Rapid City Hospital, 1

Internship placement: 2nd year

St. Cloud Hospital, 1; St. Cloud Hospital, 1; St. Luke’s, Sioux City, 1

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.

Clinical Laboratory Science

- Tamarie Johnson
- Amber Laverdare
- Edna Otamo
- Justin Rosenau
- Alexander Shepard
- Tina Thompson
- Dusten Unruh

Radiologic Sciences

- Jocelyn Bonk
- Reid Conlon
- Kyla Geneveux
- Brettton Green
- Rebecca Hermanson
- Mary Janeke
- Kandace Jauch

Respiratory Care

- Jodi Johnson
- Erin Lichter
- Patricia Meyer
- Keith O’Leary
- Jessica Rademascher
- Timothy Reisch
- Joshua Schiefert
- Andrea Wald
- Wade Wallner

Allied ScienceS eXcellence

Congratulations to our 2009 allied sciences graduates

Tina Thompson

Alexander Shepard

Britt Selander

Kendace Jauch

Jodi Johnson

Erin Lichter

Patricia Meyer

Keith O’Leary

Jessica Rademascher

Timothy Reisch

Joshua Schiefert

Andrea Wald

Wade Wallner

NDSU Annual Giving

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