Pharmacy students win top honors for Heartburn Challenge

The man’s heartburn had progressed far beyond minor irritation. It was far beyond funny commercials about people popping antacids after gulping down meatball subs.

His heartburn was so painful and persistent that he could only eat by sipping water with each forkful of food. But he’d grown so used to it that he didn’t seek help. He didn’t, that is, until he dropped by the NDSU Heartburn Awareness Challenge booth at the 2004 Fargo-Moorhead Home Builders Show.

The booth was staffed by students in the Academy of Student Pharmacists’ (ASP) local chapter. They asked him to fill out a questionnaire, talked to him about the dangers of long-term heartburn and referred him to a doctor. In fact, in three different events, 35 pharmacy students put heartburn awareness information within the grasp of nearly 1,700 people. They screened 92 individuals, including 14 with severe or persistent heartburn.

“Most people screened had not discussed their condition with the healthcare professional,” they wrote in their project report. “Most did not understand the consequences associated with heartburn and many were inappropriately self-treating with over-the-counter products.”

Students in 89 ASP chapters had the opportunity to help people get heartburn smart through the national Heartburn Awareness Challenge, sponsored by their national organization, along with the American Pharmacists Association, Procter & Gamble and

continued on next page
the National Heartburn Alliance. Each chapter received materials to help prepare presentations and screenings. PowerPoint presentations were included on a CD, which students downloaded and modified to fit their audiences.

But this was more than a project; it was a national competition, and NDSU won. Several students attended the American Pharmacists Association convention in Orlando, Fla., to accept the first-place trophy, now on display in Dean Charles Peterson’s office in Sudro Hall.

“We are very proud of our students and their accomplishments,” Peterson said. “This is a prestigious honor for our students, for our college, for NDSU and for North Dakota pharmacy. This shows NDSU’s students and programs are capable of competing at the highest level nationally.”

Heartburn was targeted because it is often minimized and misunderstood, said Justin Heiser, a third-year professional student and project chair. Health-care professionals know persistent heartburn can signal a larger problem like hiatal hernia. Untreated or improperly treated, heartburn can lead to ulcerations and scarring of the esophagus as well as Barrett’s Esophagus, a precursor to esophageal cancer. “Fifty-million Americans suffer with heartburn at least twice a week,” Heiser said. “And at least 10 percent of those people suffer daily. Heartburn can be a signal that there’s more going on.”

NDSU students planned their strategy during breakout sessions at their regular ASP meetings. They identified three goals: to increase public awareness of heartburn symptoms and complications, to provide education on appropriate use of heartburn medications and to encourage those with heartburn to take control of their condition.

They decided they wanted to present their “Get Heartburn Smart” information to attendees at a major public event, residents and staff of an assisted-living facility, and state legislators during a legislative breakfast being held on campus.

Fargo-Moorhead’s Fall Home Builders Show was the ideal place to start. The event draws hundreds of people. It’s well advertised and, Heiser said, “not only are these people a little stressed with the planning and work that goes into remodeling or building a house, they are also eating on the go, all of which are factors that contribute to heartburn.”

They screened 72 heartburn sufferers during the two-day show, many of whom said they were going to talk to their pharmacists more often. “We tried to make it clear that they have to talk to their pharmacist,” Heiser said. “Pharmacists are an integral part of the community and are a vital member of the health-care team.”

Not long after the Home Builders Show, the chapter teamed up with two local pharmacists to offer health screenings to legislators attending a breakfast hosted by the College of Pharmacy. “By providing pharmaceutical care at the legislative breakfast, we wanted to impact the way legislators look at the practice of pharmacy,” Heiser says.

In early December, pharmacy students also took their message to an assisted-living facility in Hawley, Minn. They presented a one-hour slide show for residents and staff, tailoring their presentation to the holiday season, a time when many people eat and drink too much, eat foods that can trigger heartburn, and feel under stress.

Much of their education focused on proper use of over-the-counter heartburn medications. Most people will take antacids to self-medicate, even though they only neutralize acid that’s already in your system, Heiser said. Students told patients about other over-the-counter products that actually reduce the amount of acid produced by the body. In any case, patients were advised to self-medicate for no more than two weeks before seeking a doctor’s advice.

The students plan to continue the Heartburn Awareness Challenge Project next year. They’ve already sponsored four events, which emphasize educating people of all cultures and backgrounds. “We want to win that national award again and, above all, we want to make an impact in our community,” Heiser said. “We want to take that momentum and keep on building.”

Catherine Jelsing
I hope you are enjoying your summer, including lots of outdoor activities and fun with family and friends.

The College of Pharmacy recently revised its admission criteria for evaluating applicants to our pharmacy professional program. Over the past several years, the college has experienced an increasing number of nonresident applications (primarily from Minnesota), making it more difficult for North Dakota residents to be admitted into the pharmacy professional program. In the late 1990s, approximately 75 percent of students admitted to NDSU’s professional program were North Dakota residents. This figure has declined over the past few years, dropping to an all-time low of 54 percent of North Dakota residents admitted for fall 2004. For that fall, only 43 percent of North Dakota residents who applied were able to get into NDSU’s pharmacy program. The college took immediate action in August 2004 with the faculty approving revised admission criteria that gives additional preference to North Dakota residents.

The State of Minnesota formally protested this change on the basis that it violated the reciprocity agreement between the two states. In response, the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education asked the college to delay implementation of its newly revised admission criteria for one year (until fall 2006 admission class) until North Dakota had a chance to negotiate a new reciprocity agreement with Minnesota. I made a formal request to the North Dakota University System Chancellor and to the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education that NDSU’s pharmacy program be removed from the reciprocity agreement, thus allowing the college flexibility and freedom to give preference to North Dakota residents applying to its program. If approved and the reciprocity agreement is successfully renegotiated and finalized with Minnesota, NDSU College of Pharmacy will be allowed to implement the revised admission criteria giving additional preference for North Dakota residents, beginning with the fall 2006 admitted class.

Obviously, parents and students from Minnesota interested in NDSU’s pharmacy program were not pleased NDSU was making these admission criteria changes, and parents of North Dakota resident applicants who are eligible for admission in the fall 2005 class were not happy with the decision to delay implementation of this newly revised admission plan. This debate resulted in a significant drop in 2005 fall semester applications (170 applications compared to an anticipated 280-300 applications that normally would have been processed based on previous years’ trends). This dramatic decline in applications is actually benefiting North Dakota students and is giving them a greater chance to be admitted to our program than in previous years despite the delay in implementing the new admission criteria.

In other news … we had 64 pharmacy students graduating during spring commencement and 91 pharmacy students entering their experiential rotations in June who should graduate in spring 2006. Our student numbers are rising, presenting a major challenge for NDSU and the college in dealing with student advising, student admission to the professional program and higher demands on college resources.

Congratulations to our NDSU Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) for being named national winner of the Heartburn Awareness Challenge at the 2005 APhA Convention in Orlando, Fla. It is a prestigious honor for our students, college, NDSU and North Dakota pharmacy. Our students are truly representing “The Pride of North Dakota.” Also, congratulations to Betty Patterson, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, who was named 2005 YWCA Woman Educator of the Year.
Patterson in ‘63

Carolina in the early ’70s, Henderson spent his entire teaching career at NDSU. Besides instructing students in physical pharmacy, pharmaceutics, dosage form technology and pharmaceutical calculations, he was chair of the Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmacy Practice from 1974 to 1978. In addition, he headed the North Dakota Master Poison Control Center from 1974 to 1977.

His involvement with university and college governance activities was exemplary. Henderson served with distinction on University Academic Affairs, Faculty Senate and various campus committees. He also was the college delegate to the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention Quinquennial Meetings for many years and reviewer of the U.S. Pharmacopeia 20th, 21st and 22nd revisions. He retired in 1994.

Henderson earned his bachelor’s in 1956 and his master’s in hospital pharmacy in 1960, both from the University of Iowa. He continued his education at NDSU, earning a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical chemistry in 1967. He and his wife, Doris, live in Fargo.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
Retired professor keeps busy by chairing PRACS board

William Henderson, professor emeritus of pharmaceutical sciences, is chair of the institutional review board for PRACS Institute, Fargo.

The volunteer board meets weekly to review and approve all research studies before they can be scheduled. Comprised of medical professionals, clergy, university faculty and laypersons, the board’s sole purpose is to evaluate the risk versus benefit of each study and to ensure the safety of study participants.

“The government says that if an organization performs research on humans, it must have an institutional review board, which decides which projects may be undertaken, and which may not,” Henderson explained. “It is for the benefit of the participants, totally. We check the protocol for each study coming in to make sure there is no significant risk to the participants.

“This keeps me busy most all of the time now. We meet every week and it’s almost a full-time job.”

With the exception of a five-year stay at the University of South Carolina in the early ’70s, Henderson spent his entire teaching career at NDSU. Besides instructing students in physical pharmacy, pharmaceutics, dosage form technology and pharmaceutical calculations, he was chair of the Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmacy Practice from 1974 to 1978. In addition, he headed the North Dakota Master Poison Control Center from 1974 to 1977.

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SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OR TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

We like to know what our alumni are up to, so please take a moment to tell us about yourself. E-mail your name, class year, job information and other updates (career changes, honors, moves, etc.) to: Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu.
BUILDING TOGETHER

NDSU alumni get reacquainted at reunions, golf scramble, convention

Another school year has come and gone and the sound of students in the hallways has been replaced by the sounds of hammer and saw – a reminder that preparations for a new school year are well underway as one of our older classrooms undergoes a complete makeover. Soon students will be remarking on “the way it used to be” in that classroom.

Comments of change and remembrance have been frequently shared as we have had the wonderful opportunity of visiting with many former students who have stopped by the college and during spring events. The 50-Year Club Reunion, a favorite gathering each year, brought many alumni to campus. We had a great two days with this warm group. My thanks to Percy, BS ’55, and Carolyn Jolstad, BS ’57, for helping us host our pharmacy dinner. The photos below show a few of the occasions and fellow alumni we had the privilege of seeing.

Kappa Psi volunteers have asked me to pass along to you an opportunity to gather with fellow alumni, enjoy a game of golf and support student scholarships. They will host a four-person scramble golf tourney at the Moorhead Country Club on Aug. 30. For more information, contact Kappa Psi adviser, Mark Dewey, BS ’97, at mark.dewey@ndsu.edu; Pete Boldingh, BS ’94, at p_boldingh@yahoo.com; or Ross Nygaard, BS ’97, ross.nygaard@pracs.com.

Adding new acquaintances to our list of friends and catching up with those we have known for some time continues to be a pleasure we look forward to and richly enjoy. Homecoming would be an opportune time to return to your alma mater and gather with friends and former classmates. For the classes of 1963, 1964 and 1965 — this year would be perfect as a 40-year reunion is planned just for you. (See back cover for more details.)

Enjoy your summer, take time to create memories with those closest to you, and I hope to see you at Homecoming!

Cynthia Hanson
Director of Pharmacy Advancement

Pharmacy alumni gather at the 50-Year Club Reunion in Fargo.

Left to right: Audrey and Alan, BS ’56, Schuhmacher, and Pat Churchill, BS ’58, visit during the NDPhA Convention in Jamestown, N.D., in April.

Left to right: Shamima Kahn, assistant professor; Ann Rathke, telepharmacy coordinator; Crystal Lipp, PharmD ’05; and Sherry Ghabrial, PharmD ’05, clown around with “Elvis” during the convention.

Carolyn, BS ’57 and Percy, BS ’55, Jolstad helped host the 50-Year Reunion.
Pharmacy master’s work is shot in arm for homeland security

When Terry Irgens graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 1969, his pharmacist father James, BS ’40, hoped he would take over the family drug store in Williston, N.D.

But Irgens planned to serve in the military first. He joined the Navy’s Medical Service Corp, never suspecting he would spend his next 27 years in the service – mastering everything from pharmacy to computers to medical logistics.

Irgens’ military roots prepared him well for his current position, as president of DynPort Vaccine Co. in Frederick, Md. He oversees the Joint Vaccine Acquisition Program, providing development and delivery of FDA-approved biological defense vaccines to the Department of Defense.

In recognition of his distinguished career, Irgens was named the college’s master for 2005. He returned to NDSU in March to share his expertise and advice with pharmacy students and faculty.

Irgens also reflected back on his college days. After working as a Navy pharmacist for five years, he returned to NDSU in 1974 to earn a master’s in hospital pharmacy. Coinciding with his arrival was the college’s acquisition of its first “mini-computer.”

“It was about three times the size of that couch,” Irgens says, chuckling, “and it had 64K memory.”

William Shelver, then assistant dean, decided a bright, young graduate student made the perfect caretaker for a new computer. Irgens eagerly took on the project, programming a pharmacy information system for the college.

Both time, all computers had to be kept in the campus computer center, so wires ran under the parking lot to Sudro Hall. “Every time the computer crashed, I had to run over in 30-below weather and reboot the computer,” he says.

But the inconvenience was worth it. “NDSU was one of the first, if not the first, college in the nation to have automated prescription dispensing,” says Irgens, with a touch of pride.

Terry Irgens: Resume – at a glance

Education:
- BS ’69, pharmacy, NDSU
- MS ’75, hospital pharmacy; minor, hospital administration, NDSU

Military/professional:
- After graduation, commissioned in the Medical Service Corp, U.S. Navy.
- In 1969, became staff pharmacist, then interim chief pharmacist, at Charleston (N.C.) Naval Hospital
- In 1971, became chief pharmacist at Newport Naval Hospital. Other assignments included Bethesda Naval Hospital and the Philadelphia Naval Hospital.
- In 1982, career path turned to medical logistics when Irgens was assigned to the Defense Personnel Support Center (DPSC) in Philadelphia. Other assignments included chief of logistics at Naval Hospital, Bethesda; COO and CEO of Groton Naval Hospital; medical director at DPSC and CEO of the Naval Medical Logistics Command, where he managed worldwide medical and health-care contracting support for the Navy.
- In 1996, retired as captain.
- Now president of Dynport Vaccine Co.

Achievements:
- Hall of Fame, DPSC, Philadelphia
- The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Andrew Craigie Award for pharmacy and Paul Truran Award for logistics
- Navy Legion of Merit
- Defense Meritorious Service awards; Defense Superior Service awards
- Navy Meritorious Service awards and Navy Commendation medals
- 2004 Executive of the Year for Frederick, Md.

Personal:
- Married to Karen Hovland Irgens, originally of Williston, and lives in Myersville, Md.
- Has three children and four grandchildren.

The experience also prepared Irgens for his next position – returning to the Navy to work as a computer expert for the Department of Defense.

He retired from the service in 1996 as a captain, although the military remains his No. 1 client. “(Our work) is really to protect the war fighter against bio-terrorism,” he says. “Every vaccine we work on has been weaponized by somebody, sometime in the history of warfare.”

Since 9/11, renewed interest in homeland security triggered a whole new funding stream. The drive is on to develop defensive vaccines – which would deter the effects of bio-terrorism.

But vaccine development is time consuming. It can take 10 years of testing to produce one FDA-licensed product, Irgens says.

Even so, DynPort has produced several promising vaccines. In February, the company received FDA licensure for VIGIV, an intravenous immune globulin that counteracts the adverse reactions from smallpox vaccine. “It could prevent some serious complications,” Irgens says. “The problem with smallpox vaccine is just giving the vaccine can cause adverse complications, which can lead to death.”

In the next few years, DynPort executives also hope to acquire licensure on a recombinant plague vaccine, recombinant botulinum vaccine, Tularemia vaccine and a Venezuelan equine encephalitis vaccine. “Then we’ll have stockpiles of all those vaccines in case there’s an emergency need for it,” he says.

Standing at the forefront of bio-defense research? Protecting the nation’s security? It’s a long way from running the family drug store. Still, Irgens says he would like to retire eventually. He’s purchased farmland that’s adjacent to his father’s spread, and he’s always kept his North Dakota pharmacist license up to date.

Who knows? He could be a small-town druggist yet.
Jeanne (Boser) Frenzel, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, has joined the NDSU faculty. She teaches pharmaceutical care and also instructs students in the Concept Pharmacy, where she has developed an intravenous admixture experience. Director of the first-year professional pharmacy student service-learning program, she also precepts clinical rotations for fourth-year professional students and is in practice at MeritCare South University Hospital Pharmacy.

Her research article titled “Factors Related to Microalbuminuria in Non-Diabetic Elderly Males with Normal Renal Function” has been accepted for publication in the journal Hospital Pharmacy.

Frenzel earned both her Pharm.D. and a degree in microbiology, with emphasis in biotechnology, at NDSU. She completed her pharmacy practice residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Fargo.

Shamima Khan, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, is a new faculty member. Khan is co-investigator in various research projects — specifically in the North Dakota Telepharmacy Project, assists the director of North Dakota Institute for Pharmaceutical Care and teaches pharmacy administration courses.

Khan earned her doctoral degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where she majored in pharmacy administration with a focus in pharmacoeconomics and outcomes assessment.

Khan’s research interests include pharmacoeconomics, outcomes research/assessment, public health and biostatistics and educational research.

Jaclynn Davis Wallette, former head of the Native American Pharmacy Program, was appointed director of NDSU’s Multicultural Student Services Feb. 1. Davis Wallette also was inducted into the university’s Tapestry of Diverse Talents, a program that recognizes individuals who have contributed to the multiculturalism of both NDSU and the global community.

An enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Davis Wallette joined NDSU in November 1999. Prior to coming to campus, she was registrar, admissions officer and the regional coordinator for the Rural Systemic Initiative at Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, N.D.

Patterson named YWCA Woman of the Year

An advocate of adequate health-care for people in developing countries, Betty Patterson was named the 2005 YWCA Woman of the Year in Education. She was honored at the YWCA’s annual Woman of the Year banquet April 18 in Fargo.

Patterson, BS ’63, has been an assistant professor in pharmacy practice for 23 years and is former director of continuing education with the college. But she’s also worked diligently to bring pharmaceutical and health-care training to global locations as diverse as Rhodes University, South Africa, and Tehauntepec, Mexico. Among her accomplishments:

- Received a national research grant for a year-long continuing education program for pharmacists using an interactive video network, and documented improvements in pharmacy practice as a result of the program.
- Wrote curriculum and started a two-year Pharmacy Dispenser training program in Swaziland while working as a pharmacy educator for Project Hope.
- Facilitated development of a doctor of pharmacy program at Rhodes University in South Africa, wrote curriculum and assessment criteria, identified training sites and faculty, and participated in assessment of first students.
- Helped train women Health-Care Promoters in Mexico on preparation of herbal medicines.
- Through tutoring with the Giving and Learning Program, she helped a Liberian refugee woman to gain her Nursing Assistant certification.
- Developed an international rotation for pharmacy students in southern Africa as an elective.

Of all her accomplishments, Patterson says her most satisfying experience was initiating the Pharmacy Dispenser training program in Swaziland. “No dispensers had been trained for over 13 years and there were only four pharmacists in government service in the country with a population of about 700,000,” she says. “The first group of students all graduated and were placed in government clinics and health-care centers. I visited the students a year after they had graduated and could see the changes they had made in access to medications in rural areas.”
College of Pharmacy presents faculty awards for 2004-2005 academic year

The College of Pharmacy presented awards honoring faculty for outstanding performance during the 2004-2005 academic year. This year’s recipients received recognition at the College of Pharmacy Hooding and Honors Convocation May 13, 2005 at NDSU’s Bentson/Bunker Fieldhouse.

Edward O. Magarian, professor emeritus and lecturer in pharmaceutical sciences, received the 2005 Teacher of the Year Award. Each year, students from the professional program are asked to nominate teachers for this award. A student committee, containing representatives from each class, reviews the nominating essays to choose the top teacher.

Justin Welch, PharmD ’96, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and clinical specialist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fargo, received the 2005 Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award, which is selected by a vote among students in the fourth professional year of the program. It represents outstanding performance and commitment by a full-time faculty member in instructing students on clinical rotations.

Ronald Miller, BS ’76, regional pharmacy manager for Safe-way in Alaska, received the 2005 Adjunct Preceptor of the Year Award, which is chosen by a vote among graduating seniors. It represents outstanding performance and commitment by a practicing pharmacist in instructing students on clinical rotations.

Stephen O’Rourke, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received the 2005 Researcher of the Year Award. This honor is selected by an outside peer review panel, which recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence and innovation in scholarly work.

FOCUS ON RESEARCH

College continues to acquire prestigious grants and contracts

In the past decade, funds generated by grants and contracts have nearly tripled in the College of Pharmacy. With totals of more than $2.5 million annually, today grants and contracts account for more than 40 percent of the college’s total budget. Only 30 percent of the college’s operational budget is provided by the state.

“For our college to stay competitive and to sustain its quality in the future, we have to generate up to 70 percent of our total annual budget from other sources,” said Dean Charles D. Peterson. “It is paramount that we increase our efforts in attracting extramural funding through grants and contracts. Besides funding cutting-edge research on new drug discoveries, these funds also help keep the educational costs for our students affordable.”

- Competitive research grants in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences increased by nearly 400 percent between 1996 and 2004 and in fiscal year 2003-2004 the college managed a total research budget of $7.8 million.
- One of the largest grants received to date is the five-year, $8.5 million National Institutes of Health COBRE grant — awarded to the College of Pharmacy and the Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology in 2001 — to establish a Center for Protease Research at NDSU.
- In the past four years, the North Dakota Telepharmacy Project has received $2.5 million in grants, primarily from the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, Health Resources and Services Administration of HHS.
- While non-governmental organizations, like the American Heart Association, have awarded some grants to the college, most grants have come from highly competitive federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation and Department of Defense.
- The graduate program in pharmaceutical sciences has increased two-fold within three years. In addition to the graduate program, the college’s dual Pharm.D./Ph.D. program has attracted a number of professional students.
NDSU researcher receives major DoD grant to study breast cancer

Bin Guo, assistant professor of pharmaceuti- cal sciences, has received a $105,750 grant to conduct research in the treatment of breast cancer from the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. The BCRP Concept Award is for a proposal titled “A Novel Membrane-Permeable, Breast-Targeting, Pro-Apoptotic Peptide for Treatment of Breast Cancer.”

The funding agency said peer reviews of research proposals and the selection process were highly competitive, with approximately 12 percent of the proposals receiving awards.

“I hope to develop an effective new treatment for breast cancer. A kind of smart drug, that selectively kills the breast cancer cells without attacking the normal tissues,” Guo said of the research. “This will help reduce the severe toxicity often associated with cancer therapeutics.”

The proposal’s abstract describes the work as attempting to induce apoptosis, a form of cell death through which cancer cells respond to chemotherapeutic drugs. At the center of the research is a peptide called Bid, a pro-apoptotic member of the Bcl-2 family, which induces apoptosis. The peptide is expected to be able to induce apoptosis specifically in breast cancer cells and will be tested as a single therapeutic agent as well as in combination with chemotherapeutic drugs to treat breast cancer.

A member of the NDSU faculty since December 2003, Guo earned a bachelor’s degree in cell biology from the University of Science and Technology of China and a doctorate in pharmacology from the State University of New York at Buffalo.


NDSU researchers give two presentations at Engebretson Symposium

Five from the College of Pharmacy were presenters June 9 at the Engebretson Symposium on Drug Discovery and Development in Cancer Experimental Therapeutics. A total of 23 traveled from NDSU to participate in the symposium hosted by the University of Minnesota.

Assistant professor Bin Guo gave a presentation titled “Humanin is an Anti-Apoptotic Peptide Expressed on Glioblastoma Cells.”

Associate professor Satadal Chatterjee, graduate assistant Shobhan Gaddameedhi, and postdoctoral research fellow Mohammad Ahmad presented their research on “Molecular Mechanisms Responsible for Hypersensitivity to Cisplatin After Up-Regulation of GRP 78 (Glucose Regulated Stress Protein of Mr 78 Kda).”

The symposium is made possible by the support of twin brothers Duane and Glenn Engebretson, alums of the U of M who practiced pharmacy for 25 years in their hometown of Devils Lake, N.D. They founded the symposium to support collaborative research in drug discovery and development between NDSU, U of M and Mayo Clinic. The three institutions alternate hosting the symposium.
Hinderliter presents at annexin conference in Switzerland

The speakers came from places like Paris, Grenoble, London, Geneva, New York, Boston, Munster ... and Fargo. Anne Hinderliter, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to present her research at the third International Annexin Conference in Ascona, Switzerland, March 20-24.

Annexins are a family of proteins that comprise 2 percent of the proteins found in human cells. Since annexins were discovered in 1978, annexinology has blossomed as a field. Scientists organized the first annexin conference in England in 1999.

Hinderliter, who joined the NDSU faculty in 2000, also was an invited presenter at the second annual annexin conference in Banff, Alberta, in 2003.

She spoke to scientists gathered in Switzerland about “Allostery in Membrane Binding: A Common Motif of the Annexins.” In her talk and accompanying paper (recently accepted into the journal Biochemistry), Hinderliter proposed a mechanism of how annexins bind phospholipids.

“Annexins are used as markers of chemotherapeutic efficiency and as diagnostic agents for programmed cell death due to their binding of phospholipids,” Hinderliter said. “While annexins are being modified by pharmaceutical companies to act as a drug when injected to suppress side effects from organ transplantation and damage from strokes, how they work has not been understood.”

Hinderliter proposed that annexins bind calcium ion with two affinities, a lower affinity when in solution and higher when bound to membrane. “This will lead to thoughtful modification of annexins for drug discovery and optimization,” she said.

Catherine Wieser, a third-year pharmacy student and co-author on the paper, also presented at the conference. Travel grants from NDSU and the College of Pharmacy helped defray the cost of Wieser’s participation. Hinderliter’s expenses were paid primarily by conference organizers, with some help from an NDSU travel grant.

The lead author/co-author of 11 published articles, Hinderliter’s research is supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund.

Based on this work, and other recent publications from NDSU, Hinderliter has been invited to speak at Penn State University, University Park, and the University of Florida, Gainesville, in the upcoming year. Last year she was an invited speaker at her alma mater, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she completed her undergraduate degrees in advanced chemistry and biochemistry.

Before joining the College of Pharmacy, Hinderliter spent six years conducting research at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. She completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship with the NIH Training Program in Cell and Molecular Biology of the Urogenital System and then spent four years as a research associate in the Department of Pharmacology. She earned her doctorate in biochemistry, with a minor in physical chemistry, at Cornell University, Ithaca.

NDSU adds AAPS student chapter

An NDSU student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists has been approved.

The AAPS student chapter is expected to conduct activities related to graduate education in pharmaceutical sciences. One of the chapter’s first activities was to sponsor a lunch/lecture June 17 at the NDSU Alumni Center. The guest speaker was Michael Chambers, BS ’97, who co-founded the Fargo-based biotechnology firm, Aldevron.

Spring 2005 graduates

Post-graduation reports as of June 13

58 of 63 graduates responding:

- Retail/community .................. 36
- Residency .......................... 15
- Military/HIS ....................... 1
- Clinics/hospitals ................... 5
- Graduate school ................... 0
- No position at this time ........... 1

Salary averages:

- Retail ............................. $94,264
- Hospital ......................... $65,936
- Residency ....................... $32,644

States where practicing:

- Minnesota ........................ 19
- North Dakota .................... 17
- Wisconsin ....................... 5
- Arizona ............................ 1
- Colorado ......................... 3
- Alaska ............................. 3
- Connecticut ...................... 1
- Hawaii ...................... 1
- Nevada ............................ 1
- Florida ............................ 1
- Maryland ......................... 1
- Oklahoma ....................... 1

178 students applied for admission 2005-06 for 80 slots.
165 pre-pharmacy students applied as freshmen and transfer students as of May 2005.
Three classes invited to 40-year reunion

The classes of 1963, 1964 and 1965 are invited to reconnect with classmates at a 40th reunion and participate in NDSU’s Homecoming Oct. 21 and 22.

Festivities will begin Oct. 21 with a campus and city tour, and continue with a banquet and program, class pictures, Spring Sing Competition, and an all-NDSU alumni social and dance.

The Homecoming game Oct. 22 will be preceded by an open house at the Alumni Center, Homecoming parade (you'll have re- served viewing) and a pep rally.

For more information, contact Cynthia Hanson at 701-231-6461 or by e-mail at Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu or Tammy Irion at 701-231-7751 or e-mail at Tammy.Irion@ndsu.edu.

It’s all in the family for Buchholzes

When Dennis Buchholz, BS ’56, attended the awards ceremony of the annual pharmacists convention in Jamestown, N.D., he thought he was there to see his daughter, Jill (Buchholz) McRitchie, BS ’87, PharmD ’90, receive an award. He didn’t realize he would be honored as well.

But before the night was over, father and daughter would walk away with two major awards. For her outstanding contributions to research, McRitchie was named the 2005 Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Group Health-System Pharmacist of the Year. And Buchholz received the AI Doerr Award for providing outstanding service to his profession and to the community.

The awards were presented during the North Dakota Pharmacists Association-North Dakota Society of Health System Pharmacists Annual Convention April 29-May 1.

Both father and daughter are pharmacists at the family business, Lisbon (N.D.) Pharmacy.

Herbs, nutrition slated as topics of Homecoming seminar Oct. 21

“Food for thought … and herbals too!” is the title of the Pharmacy Homecoming Continuing Education Seminar set for Oct. 21 in the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo.

Designed for professionals seeking ACPE, CME or ANCC credits, the daylong seminar will be worth at least 8 credits. A brochure detailing seminar topics and registration information will be mailed to NDSU alumni in the fall.

For information on home study or vacation CE courses, visit the Pharmacy Continuing Education Web site at www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/alumni. Questions also may be directed to Tara Schmitz, director of Continuing Pharmaceutical Education, 701-231-6733, or Carol Jore at 701-231-7589.

ALUMNI NOTES

Don Brophy, PharmD ’94, and his wife, Gretchen, welcomed their second child, Sydney Blaire, to the world Oct. 20. An expert in nephrology pharmacotherapy, Brophy is an associate professor of pharmacy at Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. He won NDSU’s Horizon Award – an honor for outstanding young alumni – in 2004.

Larry Ellingson, BS ’69, is chief executive officer for Protemix Corp. Protemix was launched by New Zealand research scientist Garth Cooper, who invented amylin replacement therapy for diabetes and co-founded the billion-dollar biotech company, Amylin Pharmaceuticals. Ellingson is based at a new Protemix office in San Diego, where he will focus on helping Laszarin, the company’s lead compound, move through phase 3 (human) trials for the treatment of heart failure in people with diabetes. If successful at phase 3, Laszarin – the first treatment in its class – has a potential worldwide market of more than 2 million people with diabetic heart failure.

A former executive with Eli Lilly and Company, Ellingson was chairman of the board for the American Diabetes Association until his term ended in June. He continues to serve as a director with the association.

Rebecca Focken, PharmD ’04, is assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. She will see patients as a clinical pharmacist at the John Cochran Veterans Administration pharmacotherapy clinic, in addition to handling her teaching responsibilities.

Mary (Stoikes) Indritz, BS ’85, completed her doctorate in social and administrative pharmacy through the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota in 2004. She and her family live in Roseville, Minn.
D.C. rotation provides an inside view of policy making

Ann Richards, PharmD ’05, gained a different kind of pharmacy experience this spring during rotations in Rockville, Md., and Washington, D.C.

“I liked it a lot,” Richards said. “I got an inside view of what actually goes on in Congress and the Senate — how it all works and how busy it is.”

Richards’ inside view of the legislative process was part of a pharmacy rotation program that gives fourth-year professional pharmacy students the opportunity to work with North Dakota’s congressional delegation on projects related to the state.

Richards, a native of Wadena, Minn., split her rotation between the Food and Drug Administration and Sen. Kent Conrad’s office, where she worked with North Dakota health legislative assistant Lindsey Henjum. Richards conducted research for Medicare and Medicaid, attended meetings and wrote memos and statements for the record.

Much of her work focused on educational issues with the new Medicare drug plan. Conrad’s office is putting together a reference book to serve as a quick guide to aid seniors and pharmacists in deciphering Part D plans, which will be announced this fall.

Richards especially enjoyed attending hearings on end-of-life issues, associated health plans and drug re-importation, and attending a Supreme Court hearing. Another highlight was having lunch with Sen. Conrad.

“This experience will help me in the future,” said Richards, who is working as a retail pharmacist in Plymouth, Minn. “Now I know how each rule is accomplished and how I can help to influence decisions on the state and federal level.”

Mary Frances Casper

Student lands prestigious internship

Jackie Boike, second-year student in the professional program, was chosen to participate in the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy/Pfizer Summer Internship Program. The competition is keen for the program’s 12 intern appointments.

The internship is designed to give participants an introduction to managed care pharmacy. The interns spend eight weeks with a mentor at either a managed-care health plan or a Veterans Administration health center; one week with a Pfizer clinical education coordinator; and one week at the academy offices, during which time they are introduced to the world of peer review.

The interns also must develop a project that results in a professional poster presentation at the academy’s fall educational conference.
Pharmacy student devotes Spring Break to working with inner-city kids

Daniel Beiswenger, P2, went to California for Spring Break, but he didn't spend it riding the perfect wave at Huntington Beach or sipping his way through wine country.

Instead, the second-year professional pharmacy student spent his March vacation on a school rooftop, teaching sports skills and teamwork to inner-city kids.

The Moorhead native was one of eight NDSU students who traveled to San Francisco to volunteer for the Sports For Kids program (sports4kids.org). The nonprofit program is dedicated to bringing physical education to public school children. Budget cuts at some larger schools have limited the average amount of structured exercise time for students to just 45 minutes per week, according to the program's Web site.

Beiswenger thought the program fit his interests perfectly. “I've always had an interest in working with kids and I also like sports,” he says. “I saw it as an opportunity to do some community service and have a good learning experience at the same time.”

But first he, along with everyone else in his group, needed to pay to get to California. They raised several hundred dollars by making pizzas at Pizza Corner in Valley City and selling Krispy Kreme discount cards. The College of Pharmacy and NDSU also donated $1,000. “It was really great,” Beiswenger says. “No one expected the university to come through as much as they did.”

Beiswenger’s group was assigned Tenderloin Elementary in San Francisco’s Tenderloin District. “It was supposedly a rough part of town,” he says. “I didn’t notice anything especially rough about it.”

Still, Tenderloin Elementary has funding problems, and is considered an inner-city school. Space is so limited that the playground is on the rooftop. “They had basketball courts and everything up there,” Beiswenger says. “There were big fences all around to keep all the balls in.”

Another difference from Fargo-Moorhead schools is the multicultural atmosphere. During calisthenics, Beiswenger was delighted to hear students counting in a chorus of different languages.

“On one hand, it was quite the cultural experience, but at the same time, these kids are just kids,” he says.

The leaders emphasized skill building over competition. The kids tried activities like four-square, jump-rope, basketball drills, tag and floor hockey.

Beiswenger enjoyed seeing his students improve, and was sorry to say goodbye to them when he left. “It was so rewarding,” he says. “I could have spent a whole year there.”

Tammy Swift
Pharmacy rally day held at N.D. Capitol

A flurry of white coats invaded the state Capitol Jan. 25 as NDSU pharmacy students attended the first-ever “Pharmacy Rally Day” at the North Dakota Legislature. Approximately 100 students and pharmacists participated.

Intended to create statewide awareness of issues surrounding the pharmacy profession, and to give students an opportunity to hear proposed legislation relating to their field, rally day included a committee hearing, luncheon and legislative briefing, health screening for legislators and a traditional ice cream sundae buffet.

“Legislative Day is an important educational experience for our students,” said Dean Charles Peterson. “They benefit in many ways through this experience by learning about the issues which are of importance and concern to the profession of pharmacy today. At the same time, they learn about the legislative process and how bills are passed in the Legislature. It is well known that students are a powerful lobbying tool with legislators because they know the future of North Dakota depends on recruiting and retaining our students to stay in North Dakota to practice pharmacy.”

The students heard briefings on a proposed house bill relating to regulation of pharmacy benefits management and to provide for a legislative council study. Patricia Hill, executive vice president of the North Dakota Pharmacists Association, testified in support of the bill, which was approved.

“The pharmacy benefit management bill was a tough battle,” Peterson said. “The outcome was not entirely what pharmacy wanted to see happen, but the final bill is at least a good starting point which will set the stage for future progress to be made in this area.”

Students also heard briefings on a pharmacy ownership law introduced by the North Dakota Healthcare Association that would allow any hospital to open an on-site outpatient pharmacy or purchase a retail site from a private owner. That senate bill was defeated in a floor vote.

Using the theme “Lead with Action,” students and pharmacists provided health screenings to legislators to reinforce ways in which pharmacists benefit their patients. Available screenings included cholesterol, glucose, bone density, body mass index and blood pressure.

Following the screenings, students and pharmacists served ice cream sundaes to legislators, symbolizing the soda-fountain atmosphere still common in some North Dakota pharmacies.

“I really enjoyed visiting with the students,” said Sen. David O’Connell. “They knew the topic inside out. They definitely made an impact on the legislators they talked to.”

Said Peterson: “By participating in Legislative Day students have an opportunity to show their commitment to the profession of pharmacy and also be involved in helping advance the professional practices of pharmacists all across the state, which students will later benefit from as our future pharmacists.”

ASP group raises funds to fight cancer

The Academy of Students of Pharmacy (ASP) participated in the first-ever NDSU Relay for Life held this spring. It consisted of a competition between the University of North Dakota and NDSU to see which school could raise the most money for the American Cancer Society. NDSU won, raising $37,407 against UND’s $35,406 and bringing home the traveling trophy. ASP – whose members dressed as cops and robbers to illustrate its theme, “Taking Back What Cancer Has Stolen” – raised $1,000.

As another fund-raiser, the group decided to make Swarovski crystal bracelets and sell them around campus. The bracelets were hugely popular, resulting in $850 in sales. ASP also sold luminarias to honor those people who lost their battle with cancer and to honor cancer survivors.
Werremeeyer gives meaning to ‘hooding’ in ceremony address

Before taking “the walk” with hundreds of other NDSU graduates in the Fargodome May 13, pharmacy graduates received their doctor of pharmacy hoods in the college’s Hooding and Honors Convocation. Approximately 500 family and friends attended the morning ceremony.

Graduates in caps and gowns processed into Bentson/Bunker Fieldhouse. President Joseph A. Chapman made his greeting. Howard Anderson, executive director of the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy, conveyed the board’s good wishes. Outstanding faculty members were recognized. Student awards were presented. Next Amy B. Werremeeyer of Dickinson, N.D., addressed the senior class.

Nominated for the honor by a classmate, Werremeeyer said her preparation for the speech started with research into the meaning of “hooding.” She found several definitions — not all applicable to pharmacy — then decided to write a definition specifically for her class:

- Hooding means that C really does equal Pharm D.
- It means that late night studying and many midnight snacks in the lounge were the key.
- It means never again seeing a care plan designed by Dr. Patterson and wanting to flee.
- It means the beginning of CE.
- It means we must know a little something, because we’re finally getting our degrees.
- But it also means we don’t and won’t know everything — that’s a guarantee.

“Above all, hooding and the hooding ceremony mean responsibility. Responsibility to our communities, our patients and ourselves. Responsibility to continue to learn and grow and change the world around us — or at least try to lower its co-pay!” she said.

When all had received their hoods, Dean Charles D. Peterson led the graduates in the Pharmacist’s Oath. Together the class vowed to “consider the welfare of humanity and relief of human suffering” as their primary concern.

Graduates represent region, cities

The following individuals received doctor of pharmacy degrees during the 2004-2005 academic year:

Rayf Aboezz, Madinnah, Saudi Arabia
Andrea L. Anderson, Farmington, Minn.
Jessica Arodi, Bentley, N.D.
Briana Aurit, Bismarck, N.D.
Michael Ausmus, Baudette, Minn.
Amanda Berg, Rochester, Minn.
Gwendolyn Bisek, Bentley, N.D.
Allison Chapin, Oakes N.D.
Adrian Cook, Cohasset, Minn.
Nicole Danielson, St. Cloud, Minn.
Christopher Determan, Grey Eagle, Minn.
Suzanne Dietrich, Moorhead, Minn.
Tanya Dockter, Reile’s Acres, N.D.
Michael Dosch, Rolla, N.D.
Nathan Fleck, Bismarck, N.D.
Gina Frederick, Flaxville, Mont.
Sarah Fussy, Royalton, Minn.
Jeffrey Gaarder, Bismarck, N.D.
Amy Gaddie, Langdon, N.D.
Sherry Ghabrial, Cairo, Egypt
Gregory Glinski, Rochester, Minn.
Shannon L. Hanson, Des Lacs, N.D.
Dawn Hertz, Wing N.D.
Lucas Hoechst, Bismarck, N.D.
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Rebecca Hueltl, Las Vegas, Nev.
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Sadie James, Arthur, N.D.
Heather S. Johnson, Fargo, N.D.
Jessica Kremer, Sawyer, N.D.
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Andrea Lebrun, Lakeville, Minn.
Crystal Lipp, Aberdeen, S.D.
David Lommel, Wahpeton, N.D.
Jesse Lunde, Leeds, N.D.
Kjirsten Malmquist, Marshall, Minn.
Gregory Mann, Lake City, Minn.
Alyssa Moen, Fergus Falls, Minn.
Amy Motschenbacher, Fargo, N.D.
Rachelle Neveel, Fargo, N.D.
Amanda R. Nelson, Casselton, N.D.
Annette Nganje Buea, Cameroon, West Africa
Shawn Pritchard, Dickinson, N.D.
Dawnte’ Reed, Bowman, N.D.
Jaycee Reisenauer, Bismarck, N.D.
Kathryn Resch, Sherwood, N.D.
Ann Richards, Wadena, Minn.
Desri Rogstad, Williston, N.D.
Timothy Schard, Oroonoco, Minn.
Jennifer Schiff, Rugby, N.D.
Thomas Schmitz, Fargo, N.D.
Nathan Schwab, Hazen, N.D.
Shelly Schwantes, Fargo, N.D.
Lance Sedevie, Bismarck, N.D.
Julie Seidlinger, Las Vegas, Nev.
Charles Semling, St. Helens, Ore.
Lonnie Strom, Breckenridge, Minn.
Shantel Thomas, Harvey, N.D.
Tina Triepke, Kulm, N.D.
Joan Viets, Fairview, Mont.
Alan Weisenberger, Richardson, N.D.
Amanda Welsh, Minot, N.D.
Amy Werremeeyer, Dickinson, N.D.
A man’s love for his daughter is the basis of a legacy to benefit NDSU pharmacy students and faculty members.

NDSU alumnus Ordean Berg, 88, died Jan. 23 in Fargo, leaving an estate in excess of $1.3 million to the NDSU Development Foundation for the benefit of the College of Pharmacy.

The estate includes many diverse items, such as a vintage 1963 Thunderbird. The white and blue classic automobile has 104,000 miles and was Ordean’s pride and joy.

In the agreement establishing the “Ordean K. Berg Endowment Fund,” you will find several references to Berg’s late daughter, Mary J. Berg, an internationally recognized pharmacist in women’s health issues.

A long-time faculty member at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, Mary Berg was a 1974 graduate of NDSU. Inducted into the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame, she served in leadership positions with the International Pharmaceutical Federation and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. She died Oct. 1, 2004, at the age of 53 following an extended illness.

According to the gift’s memorandum of understanding, the first $500,000 of Ordean Berg’s estate will be used to fund the Mary J. Berg Distinguished Professorship in Women’s Health. In addition, 90 percent of the balance will establish the Mary J. Berg Scholarship Fund for students, with the remainder used to fund the Mary J. Berg Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence.

“The endowment will provide recognition in honoring his daughter, Mary, whom Ordean loved so dearly,” said Charles Peterson, dean of pharmacy, noting there are plans for a classroom in Sudro Hall to be named in honor of Mary Berg. “It allows us to continue Mary’s legacy related to her career passion in advancing women’s health as a researcher, in continuing her love and commitment to students as an educator and in fulfilling her desire to reward faculty for achieving excellence.”

“Ordean Berg was a most unusual man,” said Scott Barrett, the NDSU Development Foundation’s director of planned giving, describing Berg as a practical man with a strong business sense and an unflagging love for his family.

“He established the largest single professorship endowment in the College of Pharmacy, along with the premiere scholarship fund for the professional program for pharmacy,” Barrett said. “In all of his giving, his desire was to help the university, the College of Pharmacy, its faculty and students, and to honor the memory of his daughter, who was a worldwide leader in pharmacy.”

John Berg, a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Minneapolis, described his uncle’s generosity this way: “My uncle has made this gift for two fundamental reasons of equal importance — his lifelong interest in the stature and growth of NDSU as a very loyal alumnus, and his intense desire to honor the legacy of his only child,” he said. “Ordean wanted to recognize the significant impact the NDSU pharmacy program had in propelling Mary’s ultimate career and her achievements as a professor and a recognized pharmaceutical scientist.”

Ordean Berg, BS ’41, had a long career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, rising to director of the southeastern North Dakota district. An avid golfer and a strong supporter of Bison athletic teams, he retired in 1982. Berg’s wife, Anna, died in 2001.
Thank you to our generous donors.

Our tradition of excellence in sustaining the highest-quality teaching, research and outreach programs is made possible through the generosity of alumni and friends listed. This honor roll lists all contributions to the college received during calendar year 2004 (Jan. 1, 2004 – Dec. 31, 2004).

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, but errors or omissions may have occurred. Please bring any such errors to our attention. For more information about gifts that directly benefit the college, contact Cynthia Hanson, Director of Pharmacy Advancement, by phone at 701-231-6461 or by e-mail at Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu.

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William and Mary Anne Gross
Robert and Jackie Hoolihan

Matching Gift Companies

The following companies matched employee contributions to the college received during the fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005).

3M Co.
Albertson’s Inc.
Alliant Energy Foundation
Gapco
Johnson & Johnson
Eli Lilly & Co.
McKesson Foundation Inc.
Merck & Co.
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
SuperValu Stores Inc.
Warner Lambert Co.
2005 Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, SEPT. 22
10 A.M.-3 P.M.
Pharmacy Career Fair Fargodome
3-5 P.M.
Annual Scholarship Honors Program Fargodome

SATURDAY, OCT. 1
1 P.M.
White Coat Ceremony Bentson/Bunker Fieldhouse

Homecoming Schedule
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19
Pharmacy Advisory Board meeting
THURSDAY, OCT. 20
40-Year Class Reunion informal welcome reception
FRIDAY, OCT. 21
40-Year Class Reunion activities (1963, 1964, 1965)
CE Seminar, “Food for thought – and herbals too!” Ramada Plaza Suites

5:30 P.M.
40-Year Class Reunion social/dinner Avalon Events Center
8:30-11 P.M.
All NDSU alumni social & dance Avalon (pharmacy room open for gathering)

SATURDAY, OCT. 22
9:30 A.M.
Alumni Center open house
10 A.M.
Homecoming parade
11 A.M.
Alumni tailgate party near Fargodome (tickets available on site)
1 P.M.
Football game Fargodome (701-231-6378 tickets) (Bison vs. Univ. of California-Davis)
5:30 P.M.
Bison Bidders Bowl Holiday Inn (reservations required, 701-231-6843, reserved pharmacy tables)

For further information, contact Cynthia Hanson at 701-231-6461, Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu, NDSU College of Pharmacy, 123 Sudro Hall, Fargo, ND 58105-5055.

Visit www.ndsualumni.com for additional information on these and other events.