NDSU alumnus recalls horror, hope of New Orleans after serving on Rhode Island disaster medical team

As the vehicle plowed through 3 feet of water, Jeffrey Bratberg saw a body on an interstate highway. At night he slept in an abandoned bar and used toilet paper as a pillow. His showers consisted of wiping down his body with moisturized baby wipes.

But after completing two grueling tours of disaster assistance, Bratberg, PharmD ’00, NDSU, doesn’t hesitate when asked if he would deploy to help any area of the United States battered by a natural disaster. “I would go again,” said Bratberg, an assistant pharmacy professor at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston. “It was one of the most important things I have ever done and I didn’t want to leave.”

Bratberg is just one of a handful of NDSU alumni across the country who belong to their states’ Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) and were deployed to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. He was invited to join the Rhode Island DMAT last year.

In his fourth year of teaching at the URI, Bratberg is also an infectious diseases specialist at Rhode Island Hospital and at Brown Medical School, and is a Rhode Island Department of Health consultant on the process of dispensing medications in the event of a bioterrorism event.

The Rhode Island DMAT stopped in Camp Shelby, Miss., then moved to Baton Rouge, La. “We then got the call to go to... continued on next page
the Superdome, but we had seen the news and we weren’t going anywhere that wasn’t safe. We decided to go after the National Guard responded.”

He remembers going over the Huey Long Bridge in New Orleans, seeing the Mississippi River on fire, and helicopters filling the sky. “I’ve seen tornados and I helped sandbag the flooding Red River, but this was inexplicable.”

Bratberg was in New Orleans three years ago for an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists meeting and to return after it was destroyed was almost more than he could comprehend. “I’ve seen military personnel with machine guns in Europe after the first Gulf War, but to see it here, this militaristic environment, was amazing.”

Bratberg and the disaster team set up their operation in a basketball arena across from the Superdome. Bratberg later wrote in an article for the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association: “The arena smelled of heat, sweat and doom. Fire alarms were still screaming … The only constant source of light was red exit signs around the ring of the arena. Two DMAT tents … were barely visible at one end of the arena. Opposite the loading dock entrance sat abandoned DMAT SUVs, 3 feet of dark-brown floodwater lapping at the loading dock beyond.”

Bratberg said the need was so great and the demands so extreme that he has no memory of what he did in the first four hours there.

The team’s main goal was to provide primary care for those with illnesses and injuries related to the storm and those with chronic conditions who hadn’t been able to take their medications for five days. Pharmacy staples such as antibiotics and Pedialyte were in great demand. “We treated people with seizure disorders, injuries related to being in the contaminated water, such as bacterial infections and those who were victims of violence. I treated a man who had been stabbed in the eye while trying to board a bus.”

While tending to victims, the team coped with 100-plus degree heat and their own members getting sick. “Members of the team got diarrhea and many of the National Guard members didn’t have their own medications because they responded so quickly.”

Through it all, Bratberg was struck by the courage and grace of the victims. “We had basic supplies like food and water, but these people, who had nothing, were immensely grateful. Every one of them would look you in the eye and say, ‘God bless you.’ ”

He learned his infectious disease training was critical. “I realized that we all needed plenty of waterless hand sanitizer because there was no water. The day we got portable toilets we said we were living in luxury.”

In some cases, he and his team did not have the medicines that people needed, so they dispensed medication substitutions. “I teach my students to do the best patient assessments, so they can prescribe the best medicine for the condition. In New Orleans you had to list priorities because you might actually run out of medicine.”

After New Orleans, the team was sent east to Jefferson Hospital, which was clean, secure and had power. There, the team set up a clinic and immunized more than 1,000 people who were exposed to the flooding against such things as hepatitis and tetanus.

“One person in line asked how long it would take, and the team said it would be two-and-a-half hours. ‘To save my life, I will wait as long as I have to,’ the patient said.

Revised from an article by the University of Rhode Island Department of Communications/News Bureau.

To view more photos of hurricane-relief efforts, go to: http://www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/alumni/scrapbook.htm
Paavola leads disaster team to help Katrina victims

When Rear Admiral Fred Paavola, BS ’70, retired from the military after 30 years of service, he hoped to relax in the dry Southwestern sun of Tucson.

But when you’re a former assistant surgeon general and chief pharmacist for the U.S. Public Health Service, that isn’t easy. Word of Paavola’s credentials soon spread and he was recruited to join the fledgling Arizona-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team as a pharmacist. He became its chief of staff, then its commander. Most recently, he led the AZ-1 DMAT to the South to help Hurricane Katrina victims.

DMAT teams form the backbone of the National Disaster Medical System, which provides medical care during disasters.

A typical DMAT consists of 35 health professionals, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, EMTs and paramedics. “The intent is when we go out the door, we can go anywhere in the country and survive for 72 hours without assistance from the outside world,” Paavola says.

Paavola and his unit did everything from relieving doctors in makeshift hospital wards to dispensing medications. They could be given as little as 10-minutes’ notice to set up or dismantle a pharmacy or relief station.

At one point, Paavola and his crew set up a triage in a tent outside of West Jefferson Hospital, one of the few New Orleans hospitals still open after the hurricane. “We were seeing anywhere from 160 to 200 patients in a 12-hour shift,” Paavola says.

Still, no one complained. Grateful residents gave them hugs. One patient remarked that all hospitals might be more efficient if they operated out of tents. A family was so overwhelmed with gratitude that they brought the workers one of the few things they could give – a huge bag of Mardi Gras beads. Another family, upon hearing the workers had missed lunch, brought pizza.

“Everybody was so appreciative of what we had done,” Paavola said. “I have to say I saw the best of people, even in the worst of conditions. The people were resilient and determined to bring back life. Those are the true heroes out there. They’re the ones who deserve the credit.”

— Tammy Swift

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we already have welcomed in another year. It seems as if school started yesterday, and now it is already half over. I hope your 2005 was filled with pleasant memories and 2006 brings you and your family joy, peace and contentment.

The college continues to be busy with challenges and opportunities. An evaluation team representing the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education will make an on-site accreditation visit April 11 through 13. The college has completed a comprehensive self-study report, which the ACPE will review prior to its visit and which the college will use to establish goals and priorities for the future. Thanks to all who helped us with the self-study; the input we received from our national advisory board was especially valuable.

Two other major events are growing our college. We now have our own, independently accredited, undergraduate-nursing program. And, effective Jan. 1, the NDSU Allied Sciences Program — including respiratory care, clinical laboratory sciences and radiologic sciences (two staff and 222 students) — is under the management of the College of Pharmacy. With these additions, our undergraduate enrollment became 1,500 which now makes our college the second largest on campus.

Dr. Betty Patterson recently retired her faculty position with the college. A full-time faculty member since 1988, she served as an adjunct professor several years prior to that. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Patterson on an amazing career at NDSU and extending her best wishes for her new life in retirement.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter. If you have comments, stories to share or suggestions for future issues, please let us know. For more information about the College of Pharmacy, its people and programs, visit our Web site at www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy.
Rural rotations help address N.D. pharmacist shortage

When sixth-year pharmacy student Cara Volmer was assigned to do her rotation at a pharmacy in Carrington, N.D., she was less than thrilled.

“I have a husband and a daughter who was then just 4, so no one could have been more unhappy about having to go away for five weeks to a small town that I’d never been to and to a pharmacy that I’d never been to,” said Volmer, PharmD ’04. “I got there with the worst attitude possible.”

But she was pleasantly surprised after starting work for Tom Seaburg, BS ’67, who owns two pharmacies in Carrington and one in New Rockford, N.D.

“It was awesome,” she said. “They made the five weeks fly by, they got us involved in the store and the community, they invited us over for dinner.”

As she began her rotations that year, Volmer was approached by a pharmacist in Laurel, Mont., about buying his business because he was retiring. At the time, Volmer hadn’t yet graduated and was overwhelmed by the prospect of owning a store. But later, after talking with the Carrington pharmacists about it, she changed her mind.

Volmer, the student who didn’t want to do a rural rotation, began working at Price Pharmacy in Laurel, population 6,200. Now the busy mother of two plans to take over the business in 2007.

It’s the type of story NDSU pharmacy administrators like to hear. The idea of attracting young pharmacists to rural communities, especially in-state, is precisely why rural North Dakota sites were added to the required cycle of clinical rotations in 2003-04.

Donald Miller, chair and professor of pharmacy practice, thinks exposure to small-town pharmacies may help to partially alleviate the rural pharmacist shortage. “We know that most students are not going to want to work in a rural area,” he said. “But that’s exactly why we’ve done this program. So many rural pharmacists badly need someone to take over the stores, and we’re hoping that if even a couple of students every year will think seriously about it because of their experience, it will be worthwhile.”

Wanda (Roden) Kearney, BS ’75, experiential programs director and lecturer in pharmacy practice, said the rural rotations “get students to experience what it’s like to be in a small community pharmacy. Get them to experience and be able to recognize the value in owning a store in North Dakota, and to be really connected with a community.”

Still, not all pharmacy students immediately embraced the idea.

“Despite those things that the students were afraid of, I think the program has been going very smoothly,” Miller said.

Students grew much more receptive when given a chance to set up a rural rotation in their own hometowns or surrounding areas. In fact, student interactions with their hometown pharmacists have led to new sites being added to the preceptor program.

Kearney said students who do rural rotations in their hometowns already know the people and the community, making them ideal replacements for pharmacists looking to retire.

“So far, both students and mentors have benefited from the new addition. Feedback from students showed they were learning a lot, and had more opportunity to counsel and interact with patients.”

“In some of the other rotation sites like Fargo or other bigger cities, they could not do as much,” Kearney said. “The students who have participated in rural rotations have come back very excited about the opportunity to really get involved and see what it’s like in a small town.”
The preceptors also found value in having the students work with them. “Oh, they’ve been wonderful,” said preceptor Gordon Mayer, BS ’69, owner of Service Drug in Harvey, N.D. “We learn so much from the students. We stay on top of things and get re-educated.”

Mayer said the community accepts the students with open arms, and the students, in turn, do a wonderful job of serving customers.

He hopes to encourage other students to try doing their pharmacy work in a rural area. “It’s certainly as rewarding as working in a larger area like Minneapolis, and even more so, because you get to know your customers a lot better here,” said Mayer, who employs three pharmacists at Service Drug.

Said Miller: “I think this program will be a long-term thing that will hopefully enable a lot of rural stores to remain open that otherwise might have closed due to lack of people interested in owning them. It’s not going to make a big change in practice overnight, but we’re hoping in the long-term it will really maintain the viability of small stores.”

Volmer’s own experience has given her perspective. “There’s more to pharmacy practice than having the biggest paycheck,” she said. “There are a lot of benefits in pharmacy that don’t have a lot of monetary value. You don’t have to wait for the highest offer and think that’s the best job.”

Where there’s a will, there’s a way
Determined competitors excel in both athletics and pharmacy

Lisa Parizek, P4, had already proven herself a top competitor in women’s track when she decided to train for her first marathon. In the fall of 2004 she was a full-time pharmacy student working two part-time jobs, so Monday mornings were the only time she had for her long training runs.

She’d get up early and drive the 10 miles from Fargo to the bedroom community of Harwood, dropping water bottles in the ditch along the way. “I’d park in Harwood, run back to my house near campus, then run back out to my car in Harwood again. Then I’d go sit in class from noon until 9 p.m. My legs would get so stiff and it would be such a long day.” It was the one time Parizek wished pharmacy wasn’t so demanding.

But Parizek’s regimen paid off. She not only competed in her first marathon, she qualified for the Boston Marathon, and later ran in that too. “So now I look back on that and I’m really proud I was able to do pharmacy and athletics and succeed at both,” Parizek said.

In May the College of Pharmacy will graduate three students who competed at the highest levels of their respective sports: Parizek, a top steeplechase competitor on the women’s track team, and Bison football players Kyle Ihry, P4, and Bill Wrigley, P4, who finished their careers on NDSU’s first Division I team. And in the spring of 2007, outstanding women’s soccer players Brooke Hartman, P3, and Olivia Cole, P3, will receive their diplomas.

Varsity athletes are a bit rare in the College of Pharmacy. In the spring of 2005, out of 340 students in the professional program, only six men and 10 women were involved in Bison athletics. No doubt many pharmacy students, who may have excelled in high school athletics, choose not to compete at the college level. Maintaining top grades, while performing at the top of your game, is tough.

Ihry and Wrigley started out together as red shirts and played with the team for five years. When their teammates relaxed on plane rides home from games, they studied. “It was nice having
us two together,” Ihry said. “We had the exact same schedule and lived together, so we pushed each other to study and to do well in football.”

Hartman believes playing soccer actually enhanced her performance as a student. Her GPA is 3.98. “The hardest thing is managing your time,” Hartman said, “but I think that I work better in these circumstances, so in a way it helped me. Practice always gave me an out and a break from homework, to just let loose and hang out with the team. It helped me put things in perspective and realize there is a lot more to life than studying.”

Parizek agrees with the benefits of exercising mind and body. “Running is a great way to relieve stress and have time for my mind to wander and not have to think, and pharmacy keeps me busy enough that I don’t have much time to sit and worry about races. I think I’m more efficient when I do them both.” This fall she was one of two NDSU students nominated for a Rhodes Scholarship.

Over the years, the athletes found their classmates and professors supportive. Hartman and Cole said classmates shared notes when they missed class and planned study groups around their travel and practice schedules. Professors also did their best to accommodate them, some showing support by keeping up with the soccer news. “They even brought in clippings from the newspaper. That meant a lot,” Hartman said.

As a two-year captain of the Women’s NDSU Division I Soccer Team, Cole said the time-management skills and focus she developed as a student athlete definitely will help her as a professional pharmacist. But when it comes time for rotations, Cole plans to do the opposite of what she did as a soccer team member. “I have already had the opportunity to travel a lot in soccer, so most of my rotations will be close to home,” she said.

Catherine Jelsing
Three classes reunited after 40 (give or take) years

The classes of ’63, ’64 and ’65 gathered during Homecoming 2005 to reminisce and get reacquainted with each other and with NDSU. From touring campus and dining with the dean, to searching out old haunts and watching the Homecoming parade, a good time was had by all.

Roger Kohlman, BS ’64, Williston, had his wife drop him off across campus so he could walk through the university to the Alumni Center. He was rewarded not only with familiar sights, but with the familiar sound of the bells chiming out the hour. “It was great to see old friends again after 40 years,” he said. “The weekend was well organized and appreciated.”

Attendees agreed, the only thing that could have made the reunion better was to have more alums participate.

Mike Berg, BS ’65, Minot: “Cynthia Hanson planned the event with great attention to detail, from the NDSU College of Pharmacy gift pens to the great dinner at the Red Bear. It was like you never left the College of Pharmacy. What a great time my wife, Janet, and I had talking about old times.”

Bob Kellogg, BS ’63, Mankato, Minn.: “Our class was a pretty close-knit group, so it was fun to see the people who did show up. We all had a good time. We whooped it up a little bit at the game and that night we whooped it up some more. … I found the tour of campus interesting, just to see where it has expanded and what they are doing. And I was impressed with the Alumni Center. I had never seen that before. It was our gathering spot the morning before the Homecoming parade. We reminisced about how the parade is different than when we were there. The fraternities used to spend weeks building very elaborate floats and the parade went all the way to downtown Fargo and back.”

Adolph Lilke, BS ’64, Bend, Ore.: “I had an absolutely great time, as did everyone else who attended. The ‘no shows’ don’t realize what they missed! I was impressed with the facilities and technology that were unheard of in the early 60s.”

Rich Lindseth, BS ’65, Gilbert, Ariz.: “It’s kind of ironic. You get back together with people and it’s almost like you haven’t been apart for 40 years. Sure, we’ve changed in looks, but we’re pretty much the same people. I had a wonderful time seeing classmates and learning about their families.”

Sam Phillips, BS ’63, Battle Lake, Minn.: “I was there Friday only and the whole day was good — the tour of the college and the town, dinner with the dean that evening, and visiting with people from other classes, and people who graduated in areas other than pharmacy too, that was interesting. It was an excellent day.”

Attendees at the 40th class reunion included, front row, left to right, Dave Hughes, Bill Silliman, Dick Lindseth and LeMoyne Propp; middle row, Sam Phillips; professors emeritus Bill Shelver, Leo Schermeister and Muriel Vincent; Eldora Haakenson, wife of former dean Phil Haakenson; professor emeritus Judy Ozbun; and Vern Brust; back row, Maurice Salls, Don Peterson, Linn Danielski, Betty Patterson, Dan Gulseth, Bob Tuchscherer, Jim Rystedt, John Porter, Del Shane, Kathy (Thomas) Monico, Dick Mueller, Mike Berg, Bob Kellogg, Roger Kohlman, Ken Keefner and Adolph Lilke.

To view more photos of the reunion, go to: www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/alumni

www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Gordon Strommen enjoys retirement in Fargo, Bemidji

As I travel across the country meeting NDSU College of Pharmacy alumni at receptions — and as alumni visit campus — I am continually asked about faculty, many who have now retired. Former students are curious to know if and when their professors retired, where they are living, if they are in good health, if we ever see them and so on.

Recently I had the honor of speaking with Gordon Strommen, BS ’62, who retired in June 2001 after 36 years of service to the College of Pharmacy and the university. He was formerly an associate professor of pharmacy practice and a pharmacotherapy specialist at the VA Medical Center in Fargo.

During his years at NDSU, Strommen provided didactic instruction in the areas of hematology and endocrine disorders. He also precepted students on clinical rotations at the VA Medical Center and was director of experiential programs.

Today, Strommen and his wife, Pat, with whom he will celebrate 46 years of marriage in May, live in Fargo. The Strommens also have a lake home near Bemidji, Minn., which they are remodeling and redecorating — work that Gordon likes. When not involved with renovation projects, Gordon enjoys fishing and other outdoor activities at the lake.

Indeed, Strommen stays busy. He sings baritone in his church choir and does a small amount of consulting with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota. But most importantly, Gordon spends as much time as possible with his seven grandchildren (five girls and two boys, ranging in age from 1 year to 21 years).

Cynthia Hanson

A LOOK BACK

by Muriel Vincent

Reunions have turned out to be an important part of human life, to renew associations, update information on activities of friends and relations, make new acquaintances, and hope you will be able to recognize people after a lapse of a number of years. Last fall’s 40th reunion was great fun to attend and a wonderful opportunity to become reacquainted with former students.

If your class has reached a milestone this year, I hope you’ll plan to attend the 50th reunion in May or the 25th reunion in October. You should hear from your class representatives regarding the necessary details. If you do not receive information, please contact the Office of Pharmacy Advancement at the college.

We hope to have a good response for these events. So along with your spouses, I hope to see a lot of you there and that you will find your gathering an enjoyable experience.

ALUMNI NEWS

Professionals share job tips with students during seminar

Alumni again played a big part in the annual student recruitment seminar held Aug. 26 in NDSU’s Memorial Union. Designed to help students prepare for “recruitment season,” the day-long seminar included workshops on interviewing, resume writing and a crash course on table etiquette, with students rotating between tables hosted by alums.

“The alumni gave great hints and tips. The experience definitely helps for future interviews,” said Monte Roemmich, a fourth year professional student. Kimberly Ault, also a P4, agreed: “Now we know how to start preparing to be ready for recruiters.”

Alumni volunteers like Steve Boehning, BS ’91, of Linson Pharmacy in Fargo, also benefit from participating. “I enjoyed the experience and networking with pharmacists from other fields,” Boehning said. “Everyone is so busy in their own careers, you don’t always get a chance to mix and mingle. It is a great opportunity to interact with the students and learn what is new with the college.”

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Dave Olig, BS ’75, who has mentored numerous NDSU pharmacy students in the last 26 years, was named 2005 National Preceptor of the Year by the National Community Pharmacists Association. He accepted the award in October from outgoing NCPA president Tony Welder, BS ’61, during NCPA’s annual convention in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Welder called the presentation one of the highlights of his year as NCPA president. “I was so proud to present this prestigious award to a friend and fellow North Dakota pharmacist.”

Dave and his wife, Jolette Olig, BS ’89, own The Prescription Center Pharmacy and Southpointe Pharmacy in Fargo. He began volunteering as a preceptor in 1980 and now precepts eight NDSU students each year.

“I always felt one of the best ways to learn is to teach,” Olig said. “The students bring a lot to our practice. They bring us new things, so we actually can pass information back and forth between us.”

In addition to precepting, Olig has supported the college by serving on the curriculum committee during the conversion to an all-PharmD program; helping to develop the Concept Pharmacy Instructional Laboratory; and teaching pharmacy administration.

“Dave Olig has established an innovative practice model and has successfully used this model to expose and attract pharmacy students to independent pharmacy practice,” Dean Charles Peterson wrote in his nomination letter. “He has been a true leader and role model practitioner for NDSU pharmacy students.”

Olig was previously recognized with the NCPA Leadership Award in 1990 and the Al Doerr Service to Pharmacy Award in 1993 and has served on several NCPA national committees.

On the state level, Olig has served on the North Dakota Pharmacists Association board since 1986, is vice president of the

Danielski elected to lead Texas pharmacists’ society

Linn Danielski, BS ’63, MS ’70, will become president of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists April 2. A 28-year veteran of the Army Pharmacy Service, his assignments took the Danielski family across the country and twice to Germany. He retired to San Antonio in 1991.

During the past 14 and one-half years, Danielski has worked in three different San Antonio-area medical centers/hospitals, serving as operations supervisor, director of pharmacy services, procurement manager and most recently as a contract pharmacist at Brooke Army Medical Center.

He joined the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists in 1985, when he first lived in San Antonio and signed up with the local chapter. He's twice served as the central Texas society president. As a TSHP board member he chaired the professional affairs council under four state presidents. Now it’s his turn at the helm.

“This is something I’ve wanted to do for a long time and the time is right,” Danielski said in a telephone interview. He will spend much of his one-year term traveling the state and meeting with the society’s nearly 1,600 members.

Danielski plans to focus his energy on: increasing membership, recognizing “best practices” in the state, strengthening relationships between Texas pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and maintaining alliances with pharmaceutical companies to ensure funding for quality continuing education. “As industry funding for CE becomes scarcer,” Danielski said, “the need for coordination at both local and state levels makes these alliances more imperative.”
Tony Welder, BS ’61, concluded his term as the 107th president of the National Community Pharmacists Association on Oct. 19 at the national convention in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. During his tenure, Welder flew approximately 15,000 miles to meet with colleagues in the United States and abroad. He spent three weeks attending conferences in Berlin; Cairo, Egypt; and Cape Town, South Africa, where he not only gained an international perspective on pharmacists’ shared concerns, but also got to roughhouse with a 90-pound baby lion.

Of the goals he set for his presidency, Welder said NCPA made the most progress in the area of business financing for independent pharmacists. “Before we started on this project, the Small Business Administration didn’t pay much attention to pharmacists. It’s always been a problem for pharmacists — unless the business was fairly established — to get a loan.” He believes the association has succeeded in educating and building a relationship with the SBA, which should benefit pharmacists in the future.

Jan (Gangness) McCarthy, BS ’67, pharmacy, was selected as the Minnesota Outstanding Pharmacist for 2005 by the Minnesota Society of Health System Pharmacists at its annual conference. McCarthy is a staff pharmacist at St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth, Minn., and has been a pharmacist there for 38 years. She and her husband, Dan, live in Duluth, where he is Chief Financial Officer for SISU Medical Solutions.

Larry Ellingson, BS ’69, pharmacy, was honored with the prestigious Charles H. Best Medal for Service by the American Diabetes Association during the organization’s 65th annual meeting in June.

Ellingson is the ADA’s chair of the board and has served on several local and national committees for the ADA. He is currently chair of the organization’s International Task Force. In 2004, he received the J.K. Lilly award for contributions and service in the cause of diabetes.

Ellingson retired as executive director for Endocrine Professional Relations and Advocacy in 2001 after having been involved as a leader of global diabetes care for Eli Lilly for more than half of his career.

Rayf Aboezz, PharmD ’05, wrote a research article that was published in the July/August 2005 issue of the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association. Aboezz worked with Don Miller, professor and chair of pharmacy practice at NDSU, to determine the accuracy of portable blood glucose monitors. Results of their study indicated the monitors are accurate and interchangeable. Aboezz, who originates from Saudi Arabia, is living in Detroit doing his residency.

Roger Roth, BS ’64, died Aug. 28 at the age of 65. Roth was a head pharmacist and pharmacy manager for 42 years, 30 at the Bellingham (Wash.) Fred Meyer store, and 30 of those years without a sick day. He was a life member of the Elks, an elementary and middle school boys’ basketball coach, Boy Scout leader and an avid outdoorsman and photographer. He and his wife, Kathy, dedicated several hours to Whatcom Chapter of the American Cancer Society. They had two sons, Jeffery and Gregory.
Study asks pharmacists, technicians to report mistakes

Nobody likes to admit when they’ve made a mistake, least of all highly trained, highly analytical pharmacists. But pharmacists and pharmacy technicians do make mistakes. A 1999 Institute of Medicine report found that more than 7,000 people die every year due to medication errors. As David Scott, associate professor of pharmacy practice at NDSU, says, “there's tremendous room for improvement.”

So, on Oct. 1, 2004, Scott launched a Medication Dispensing Errors Study in conjunction with the North Dakota Telepharmacy Project. The study involves 10 traditional community pharmacies; 14 telepharmacy sites, where technicians in remote areas fill prescriptions as a pharmacist supervises through audio-visual computer links; and eight central pharmacies, where pharmacists work face-to-face with patients and electronically supervise telepharmacy technicians.

Few national studies have been conducted on medication-dispensing errors in community pharmacies, but one done by Auburn University found a 98 percent accuracy rate. “That’s kind of good news,” Scott said, “but on the negative side, for every 100 prescriptions filled there are two errors.” Since the telepharmacy program has rigorous quality-control mechanisms, as assessment specialist on the project, Scott wanted to see how the error rate at remote sites compared to traditional pharmacies.

“It’s still very early in the study, but what we’re finding at this time is that the error rate at remote sites and traditional pharmacies is the same,” Scott said. Plans are to enlarge the study in October.

At first it was tough to get pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to take the time to record their errors using the Web-based computer software provided, Scott said. But participation in the study is improving with time and with encouragement from the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy, the North Dakota Pharmacists Association and the college.

Catching mistakes actually is a good thing, Scott said, especially if they are discovered in-house. Of the 2 percent of dispensing errors, most are “near misses” detected by a pharmacy’s own quality assurance system, which helps a pharmacist realize when he or she has entered the wrong information into a computer, grabbed the wrong bottle or counted out too many tablets. A mistake is labeled a “medication error” when the patient walks out the door with the wrong medicine.

Scott also hopes the study will change the way dispensing errors are handled by the medical community. “We need a paradigm shift from a culture of blame to a culture of prevention. … We’re trying to get health professionals to work on teams and work on strategies to reduce and prevent these things from occurring.”

NDSU has received $2.5 million in federal support for the telepharmacy project since 2002. The medication dispensing error study and other studies associated with the project help meet grant reporting requirements and, Scott said, should show how the program is making a difference.

Engebretson Lecture Series brings top researchers to NDSU

Dr. Arthur P. Grollman, director of the Zickler Laboratory of Chemical Biology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, will discuss his research March 20 in Sudro Hall as part of the NDSU College of Pharmacy Engebretson Lecture Series.

The series builds on the Engebretson Symposium, named for benefactors Duane and Glenn Engebretson, long-time pharmacists in Devils Lake, N.D.

The Engebretsons wanted to strengthen research collaboration between the NDSU College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic. The three institutions created an annual symposium, which they take turns hosting. The lecture series is designed to further that ideal by bringing six guest lecturers to the NDSU campus throughout the academic year.

Grollman, an attending physician in several hospitals, has published more than 175 papers in the fields of molecular biology and cancer research. His current research interests focus on the biological consequences of DNA damage as they relate to molecular mechanisms of DNA replication, mutagenesis and DNA repair.

Research in the Grollman laboratory was instrumental in establishing the mechanism of action of bleomycin and in defining an important error-avoidance pathway that protects cells against mutations produced by the miscoding effects of oxidative DNA damage.

Initiating the series Nov. 2 was James Wiesshaar, Kellett Professor of Chemistry and chair of molecular biophysics program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His topic was Biophysical Understanding of Synaptic Function: Protein-Lipid Domains. Michael Duffel, professor of medicinal chemistry at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy, presented the second lecture Dec. 20. His topic was Biochemical and Computational Approaches in Predicting the Benefits and Perils of Sulfation in Drug Metabolism.

The time and location of the Grollman lecture are to be announced.
Patterson retires

Betty Patterson, BS ’63, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, retired from the college at the end of October. Patterson was a full-time faculty member from 1988 to 2005 and an adjunct professor for several years prior to that. She also was director of pharmacy continuing education for 15 years, and has taken many leadership roles in college and campus committees. Patterson is well respected for her knowledge of neuropsychiatric pharmacotherapy.

One of Patterson’s interests is helping to develop pharmacy and public health in African countries. She has made several trips to Swaziland, Zimbabwe and South Africa, and is continuing her work in South Africa after her retirement.

Miller honored by Blue Key

Don Miller, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, has been named the 2005-2006 Distinguished Educator by the Blue Key National Honor Society.

The Blue Key award was established in 1969 to honor an outstanding educator at NDSU for his or her interest in students’ well-being, education and field of expertise as well as in the university.

Student comments on Miller’s teaching style were glowing. “He is a great instructor,” one student wrote. “He really encourages participation and really cares about the students’ needs and if we are learning the material.”

Halbur book published

Developing Your Theoretical Orientation in Counseling and Psychotherapy, a textbook co-written by Kimberly Vess Halbur, assistant dean for student affairs in the College of Pharmacy, recently was published by Allyn and Bacon.

According to Halbur, the underpinnings of counseling and psychotherapy are based on its theoretical foundation. As a result, students and practitioners are frequently asked to determine their theoretical orientation. The text provides students with the understanding and tools to develop their theoretical orientation in counseling and psychotherapy.

Schmitz heads program

Tara Schmitz, PharmD ’95, director of continuing education, is heading a new adult medicine experiential rotation in Oakes, N.D. This new site will allow more pharmacy students to gain adult-medicine experience in a rural setting. The core of the program focuses on understanding diseases as well as monitoring and consulting on medication therapy.

In November, Schmitz also led informational meetings on the new Plan D of the Medicare program in Oakes, Forman, Gwinner and Ellendale.

Schmitz, an assistant professor and director of continuing education, also teaches pharmaceutical care, is a student adviser and serves on the college admissions committee.

Hinderliter receives Biophysical Society national award

Anne Hinderliter, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received an award and presented her research at the 50th annual meeting of the Biophysical Society Feb. 20-23 in Salt Lake City.

Hinderliter is being recognized with the Margaret Oakley Dayhoff Award in honor of her research in the area of membrane biophysics and cell signaling and for her potential contribution to deciphering the mechanisms of the lipid-modulated signal transduction.

“The award is given to a junior woman scientist of high promise in the field of biophysics who has not yet reached a position of high recognition within the structures of academic society. It honors the memory of Margaret Dayhoff, former president of the biophysical society, professor of biophysics at Georgetown University and director of research at National Biomedical Research Foundation.

Hinderliter also is scheduled to present her work, tentatively titled “Protein-membrane interactions facilitate molecular interactions and domain formation” at the national American Chemical Society meeting, Sept. 10-14, in San Francisco.”
**NEW FACULTY**

Steven Qian (pronounced “Chen”) is assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences. Before joining NDSU he was an assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a staff scientist/guest researcher with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

While at NIEHS, Qian developed a novel combination technique consisting of on-line LC/MS/Electron Spin Resonance to identify and quantify lipid-derived and protein-derived free radical metabolites in vitro and in vivo.

Qian earned his doctorate from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, in 1999 and received his postdoctoral training between 1999 and 2004 with the NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, N.C. His research interests include free radical chemistry as related to problems of human health; oxidative stress, toxicology and xenobiotic disposition leading to pathogenesis in disease processes such as ALD, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), drug induced liver injury (DILI); and free radical lipid peroxidation in neurological and cardiovascular diseases.

Lawrence Patnaude Jr., PharmD ’01, is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice. His duties include instructing in the Thrifty White Concept Pharmacy, serving as a member of the College of Pharmacy admissions committee and coordinating the Native American Pharmacy Program.

After graduation from NDSU, Patnaude participated in three training programs with Indian Health Services: two in Phoenix and the other in Claremore, Okla. He previously was chief pharmacist/pharmacy coordinator for Min-No-Aya-Win Clinic in Cloquet, Minn.

**NEW STAFF**

Paul Connelley is administrative secretary for the college’s experiential programs. He assists the director of experiential programs with fourth-year student rotation interviews, helps pharmaceutical company recruiters set up presentations and job interviews, helps new preceptors set up rotations sites and maintains current preceptor sites.

Connelley earned his associate degree in information management from the Community College of the Air Force, Montgomery, Ala. Retired from the Air Force after 23 years of service, he spent five years managing an information technology shop at Minot (N.D.) Air Force Base prior to joining NDSU.

Marilyn Hedberg is life sciences librarian for NDSU libraries. She oversees the health sciences library in Sudro Hall and provides collection development for all areas in life sciences. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Minot (N.D.) State University and her master’s from Emporia (Kan.) State University.

Prior to joining NDSU, Hedberg worked at Minot State as a reference and instruction librarian for 15 years. She also has worked as library director for the McLean/Mercer (N.D.) County Library System and as an elementary school librarian in Parshall, N.D.

Lori Peterson is administrative secretary for the dean’s office. She provides support for student affairs and accounts payable and organizes activities within the college. She was previously office coordinator at the NDSU Career Center. Peterson enjoys spending time with her son, Owen, and her husband, Chris.
1 **BRUSH WITH GREATNESS:** Kimberly Ault and Tricia Dissmore, both in their final year of the professional program at NDSU, were thrilled to meet Dr. Joseph DiPiro this summer at the 2005 APhA convention in Cincinnati. DiPiro is lead editor of “Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach,” the “bible” of pharmacotherapy.

2 **SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:** An amazing $187,942 was distributed through 184 awards during the College of Pharmacy Scholarship Honors Program. More than 400 students, guests and scholarship sponsors were on hand to celebrate. Thank you to all our generous contributors.

3 **STUDENTS VISIT VEGAS:** Fourth-year pharmacy students attended the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas in early December. The group included, left to right, Cynthia Hanson, director of pharmacy advancement; Lisa Parizek; Elise Carlson; Kelli Miller; Katy Vesel; Kelly Morgan; Michelle Gail; Michael Kelsch, ASHP adviser; Don Miller, chair pharmacy practice; John Hui; Julie Seidlinger; and Mohammed Aseeri.

4 **CAREER FAIR SUCCESS:** A record-breaking 871 students and parents visited with 112 representatives of the pharmacy profession during the fifth annual Pharmacy and Nursing Career Fair held in September in the Fargodome. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Craig Schnell and former Vice President for Student Affairs George Wallman were among NDSU dignitaries attending.

5 **WHITE COATS PRESENTED:** First-year professional program students recited the Pharmacist’s Oath and were presented with their white lab coats during a ceremony on Oct. 1 at Bentson-Bunker Fieldhouse. This is the college’s fourth annual White Coat Ceremony.

6 **TOP COMPETITORS:** Fourth-year pharmacy students Katy Vesel and Elise Carlson qualified for the final round of the ASHP National Clinical Skills Competition in Las Vegas.
Mission trips change how pharmacy students see world

Last summer Megan Axtman, P3, spent 17 days in Kitwe, Zambia, as part of a mission trip with the Christian Medical and Dental Association. She spent her first week serving villagers at Ipusukilo Clinic. She also worked at Kanfinsa State Prison and a clinic for street children operating out of a local church.

The experience had a major impact on Axtman, who hopes to return to Africa this summer. “It is amazing how the people there have next to nothing, yet they are so happy because of the love of Jesus Christ,” she said.

Axtman is a member of the NDSU chapter of Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International, a group dedicated to uniting and strengthening Christian pharmacy students, faculty and staff. Charles Peterson, dean of the College of Pharmacy, is faculty adviser for the organization.

“A lot of our students are really interested in medical mission trips. It changes perspective and helps students learn things they couldn’t learn any other way,” Peterson said. “It allows the students to integrate their faith into the practice of pharmacy and also shows them that being a pharmacist is about compassion and nurturing, not just passing pills.”

Two other CPFI members from NDSU, Melisa Williams, P2, and John Deutsch, P2, participated in 10-day mission trips to South Africa in November.

Patel will receive academic support through McNair scholarship

Ami Patel, P1, was one of three NDSU students selected to participate in the McNair Scholars program.

Students chosen for the program are college undergraduates who show an interest in research and who meet the program criteria. In addition to a monthly research stipend and an opportunity to attend conferences related to their studies, the program provides educational and support services to help prepare the students in post-graduate work. The scholars are encouraged to pursue careers in college teaching and research after completing their doctorates.

Each scholar is supported by a faculty and library mentor. Patel’s mentors are Anne Hinderliter, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Marilyn Hedberg, life sciences librarian.

As we find ourselves at the beginning of a new year, I cannot help but reflect on the past year and remember the many friends with whom we connected in 2005. Some of you served on boards or committees, others volunteered on special projects or events. Some of you made generous financial contributions to sustain our tradition of excellence. A few dear ones said their final goodbyes. Our cup is indeed full when we consider the year and how fortunate we are to have had your presence and engagement with us. Please accept our most heartfelt thanks.

In anticipation of connecting further with alumni and friends, we are planning a number of events in 2006 that will allow us to gather at various functions and activities. Please see the back page of Alumni News for a calendar listing. We hope you can join us for one or more activities.

Another way to keep in touch with the college, and with fellow alumni, is by visiting the College of Pharmacy Web site. In our new alumni section, www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/alumni, you will find continuing education opportunities, a gifting guide, reunion and event information and an alumni scrapbook, featuring photos you may not find anywhere else.

It is our desire to present our best to you and as always, your comments, suggestions and updates are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for keeping in touch!

Cynthia Hanson
Director of Pharmacy Advancement

www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy

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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 fiscal year 2004-2005 (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005).

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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In memory of Dr. Mary Berg (BS ’74)
William (BS ’51) and Mary Anne Grosc

In memory of Patty Bunn and Keary Duvall
Diana Kowalski

In memory of Ken Craman (BS ’42, MS ’73)
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In memory of Andy Hoff
Lacey Schletter

In memory of Sohi Khan
Shamima Khan

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In memory of Earl Bohnsack (BS ’37)
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IN MEMORY

Earl Bohnsack, 93, BS ’37, was a pharmacist for 36 years. He started his career in Valley City and Bismarck before becoming chief pharmacist at Fargo Clinic and St. Luke’s Hospital, Fargo. Bohnsack and his wife, Evelyn, and their two children, Carol and William, moved to Mayville, N.D., in 1947, where he purchased Rexall Pharmacy. He was a lifetime member of the North Dakota Pharmaceutical Association and served as president of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy in 1964. He retired in 1971, but continued to work in the pharmacy and as interim administrator at Union Hospital, Mayville, until 1973.

Kenneth Crahan, 86, BS ’42, MS ’73, was a professor in the College of Pharmacy for 15 years. He was awarded the distinction of professor emeritus when he retired in 1984. Prior to joining the faculty at NDSU, Crahan was a pharmaceutical salesman in Montana and Wisconsin, owned Crahan Drug in Fargo from 1953 to 1969, and briefly was a pharmacist in Vail, Colo., and Las Vegas. Crahan was invited to teach a summer class at NDSU in 1969 and later became a full-time faculty member. Crahan and his wife, Margaret, were married in 1946; she preceded him in death in 1989. He is survived by his wife, Sunny.

Carl Curtis, 79, graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 1950. He and his wife, Helen, made their home in Baudette, Minn., and had five children.

Larry P. Linson, 49, BS ’78, was a pharmacist at several Fargo locations until he opened Linson Pharmacy in 1992. Pharmacist Linson’s love for the profession and students on rotation in his store prompted his desire to teach students the skills and knowledge they would need in the profession. While he maintained high expectations of the students, he took great pleasure in the progress each made by the end of their rotation. A scholarship with NDSU’s College of Pharmacy has been established in his name. He and his wife, Patty, were married in 1976 and had two children.

Dakota 100 Club members  July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005

Members of the Dakota 100 Club build professional excellence in pharmacy in North Dakota by supporting the NDSU College of Pharmacy. Contributions fund a range of projects within the college, from the purchase of cutting-edge technology to support of essential staff development. To become a member, contact Cynthia Hanson at Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu or call (701) 321-6461.

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Editor/writer: Catherine Jelsing
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Copy Editor: Kathy Laid
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HOW TO REACH US
Charles D. Peterson, dean
Phone: (701) 231-7609
Fax: (701) 231-7606
E-mail: Charles.Peterson@ndsu.edu

Cynthia Hanson, director of pharmacy
advancement
Phone: (701) 231-6461
Fax: (701) 231-7606
E-mail: Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu

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2006 Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 7 - 8:30 P.M.
APhA Annual Convention, San Francisco
If you are planning to attend the convention, or if you live in the area, join us at our college alumni reception.
Dakota Reception
Hilton Hotel, Union Square Room 23
San Francisco

TUESDAY, APRIL 11 - THURSDAY, APRIL 13
ACPE accreditation visit
Sudro Hall, NDSU

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 - SUNDAY, APRIL 23
NDPhA Annual Convention
Days Inn Grand Dakota Lodge, Dickinson, N.D.

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 10 A.M.
College of Pharmacy Hooding Ceremony
Join us in honoring our 2006 Doctor of Pharmacy candidates.
Benton/Banker Fieldhouse, NDSU

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 5 P.M.
NDSU Commencement Ceremony, Fargodome

THURSDAY, MAY 18 - FRIDAY, MAY 19
NDSU 50 Year Club Reunion
Classes of 1956, 1951 and 1946 will be inducted into their respective clubs, 50 Year, 55 Year and the 60 Year Club. NDSU

SEPTEMBER 2006
White Coat Ceremony
Benton/Banker Fieldhouse, NDSU

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Career Fair, Fargodome

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 3-5 P.M.
Scholarship Recognition Program, Fargodome

FRIDAY, OCT. 13 - SATURDAY, OCT. 14
25 Year Class Reunion
Celebrating the classes of 1980, 1981 and 1982

SUNDAY, DEC. 3 - THURSDAY, DEC. 7
ASHP Midyear Meeting
Dakota Reception
Anaheim, Calif.

For further information, contact Cynthia Hanson at (701) 231-6461 or Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu

Visit www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/alumni for additional information on these and other events.