

# Nursing News

North Dakota State University

College of Pharmacy

136 Sudro Hall

NDSU

Fargo, ND 58105

Non Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 818

Fargo, N. Dak.

## CALLING ALL NURSING ALUMNI ... WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ...

*We like to know what our alumni are up to, so please take a moment to tell us about yourself. Feel free to also share a story or memory of your time spent in the nursing program. E-mail your name, class year, job information and other updates (career changes, honors, moves, etc.) to: [mary.mooney@ndsu.edu](mailto:mary.mooney@ndsu.edu).*

### Make a difference in the future of nursing ...

Would you consider making a gift to support nursing education? Gifts are made through the NDSU Development Foundation which will acknowledge and direct your gift to the Department of Nursing. Please return this form to the

NDSU College of Pharmacy, 123 Sudro Hall, Fargo, ND 58105-5055. For further information, contact Cynthia Hanson, director of advancement, College of Pharmacy, by phone at 701-231-6461, or by e-mail at [Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Hanson@ndsu.edu).

#### Gift designation

- ☐ Direct this gift toward student scholarships.
- ☐ Direct this gift to where the need is greatest in nursing education, service and research.

Please show this gift was made by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Giving method

##### **By check** (made payable to the NDSU Development Foundation)

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

##### **By credit card** (please circle one)

Visa      MasterCard      Discover

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

##### **By pledge**

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will make \_\_\_\_\_ payments

in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_ years,  
beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (month) of \_\_\_\_\_ (year).

Enclosed is my first pledge payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Send annual reminders.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Spring  
'06



*"To provide professional nursing education, to advance knowledge of the discipline, and to serve as a resource for the health-care needs of society."*

NDSU

# Nursing News

North Dakota State University

Department of Nursing

## Can you hear me now?

Nurse's research aims to prevent hearing loss in farmers

By Tammy Swift

The farmer never worried about his hearing. After all, he purchased a state-of-the-art tractor, rated to keep noise levels at less than 85 decibels during an eight-hour workday.

What he doesn't realize is the muffler and door seals are no longer in mint condition. When he runs the air conditioner and radio, the cab grows even noisier. And when he isn't in the tractor, he's running other farm equipment that is even louder.

And so the hearing damage continues, until he has trouble hearing his wife's voice and has to keep turning up the TV.

In her 10 years of studying hearing loss in farmers, Marjorie McCullagh has heard such stories many times.

"They don't have the protections in place for their hearing that workers do in general industry," says the associate professor in nursing. "To me, they really get a double whammy. They get the higher risk, accompanied by lower levels of protective services."

Now she has received \$142,500 from the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health to study factors influencing farmers' use of hearing protection. She has designed a telephone questionnaire to survey a random sample of 800 farmers from North and South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota. She also will record video interviews with farmers who successfully use hearing protection.

While previous studies have been done on the hearing status of farmers, McCullagh's is one of the first to address solving the problem. "My research is focused on identifying the exact attitudes and beliefs of the farmers that are amenable to change, so we can craft an intervention that will be successful in modifying the behavior of protecting one's hearing."

A main obstacle to preventing this health problem has been the farmer's status as an independent



*Most farmers don't wear hearing protection, despite working on noisy equipment for long hours.*

operator. "Farmers have lobbied Congress since the 1970 OSHA Act to be excluded from all (OSHA regulations)," McCullagh says. "They're fiercely independent and very resistant to any outside intervention concerning their operations."

Another challenge is the prolonged length of the farmer's workday. While an auto plant worker may be exposed to loud machinery, he or she is required to wear hearing protection, McCullagh says. That worker also will go home after his eight-hour shift, giving his ears time to recover. Farmers, on the other hand, often work marathon days, moving from one noisy task to another.

Over time, they experience noise-induced hearing loss. Noise-induced hearing loss is characterized by diminished hearing in the higher frequencies, which tends to get worse with accumulating years of work-related or recreational noise exposure. Those with noise-induced hearing loss typically have difficulty hearing women and children's voices, using the telephone and communicating in a crowded environment. They often experience

continues on page 2



3

NDSU Student Nurses Association honored for membership increase.



4

Associate program important part of NDSU nursing history.



6

Alums' gift supports nursing program.

## Hearing loss continued from front page

unrelenting ringing in the ears, psychological problems and diminished quality of intimate relationships.

Still, farmers cite a variety of reasons for not protecting their ears. They say ear plugs make it hard to communicate with their workers or to hear if their machinery is operating properly. "If they perceive that it interferes with their work task, they're certainly disinclined to do it," McCullagh says.

But she hopes her latest research will reinforce a smaller study she conducted several years ago, in which she interviewed farmers at a farm show. She found survey respondents who were praised by others for using hearing protection were "seven times as likely" to protect their ears than those who didn't receive that support.

"That is enormously powerful information," McCullagh says. "What that means – to us as family members, health-care providers, Extension agents – is we may have an opportunity to significantly influence that behavior. By helping farmers to adopt use of hearing protection, they can maintain good hearing and avoid the many negative consequences of noise-induced hearing loss while improving their quality of life."

McCullagh has partnered with the on-campus National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to conduct the study. The study's tie to NASS is surely one reason she received the grant: The organization offers the most complete list of farmers in the nation, staff who are skilled at conducting surveys, and software that can quickly and accurately record the data McCullagh needs.

But McCullagh's reputation as a scholar has undoubtedly helped, too. One of her earlier articles, which used the Pender health promotion model to predict use of hearing protection among farmers, appeared in the world's most prestigious nursing research journal, *Nursing Research*. In 2004, it was named as one of the most frequently ordered reprints from publisher Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

## Greetings from the chair



Mooney

Today – between the memos from here and there, the degree audits, the student papers, the notices of impending doom, and the ads for instructional aids one cannot live without – two pieces of reading material surfaced from the piles on my desk. One was an article titled, "What Do Nurses Really Do?" The other was a small book, "Sacred Stories."

The article addressed both the public's unawareness of nursing's impact on the health and welfare of people and

nurses' reluctance to speak precisely about their contributions both as individuals and as a profession. The author concluded that she knew what nurses do. They "save lives, prevent complications, prevent suffering, and save money." Her theory is that nurses identify more with the soft virtues than with the hard data of their practices and thus obfuscate their work.

The book is a compilation of vignettes written by nurses and others about healthcare situations and institutions. Compassion

## Caution: Farm kids at play

Studies help make farm safer environment for children

The average farmstead – with its powerful equipment, livestock and chemicals – presents a battery of potential hazards for children. Marjorie McCullagh has conducted two studies on how to make farms more kid-friendly.

A 2003 study, conducted with a North Dakota Farm Bureau researcher, examined how farm families can get quality child-care so their children aren't exposed to as many dangerous situations.

"We found families were constrained by the availability of quality childcare during their wild production schedules," McCullagh says. "They have long work days and unusual hours and daycare generally isn't available during those times. Another big concern was paying for it."

Ultimately, McCullagh learned families were more willing to use child-care if the care provider was within a 15-mile radius and some financial assistance was provided.

The study also used educational techniques to help parents recognize the risks associated with bringing their kids along while doing farm work. "And also we helped families to more appropriately match farm tasks to the developmental abilities of their children," she says.

A second study, conducted in 2004, examined ways to create safe play environments on the farm. McCullagh learned families would greatly enhance the quality of their play areas when given the correct information. For instance, parents learned to enclose fences or other borders around play areas and to install soft surfaces beneath certain playground equipment.

"We were able to provide the families with some limited funding to do (improvements), but mostly they put a lot of sweat equity into it," McCullagh says. "And a little bit of money created quite the change."

pervades each narrative. The authors emphasize the common humanity shared by the characters in each story and underscore the healing power of all persons, young and old, technically expert and not, professional and lay.

The article and the book could be interpreted as being in opposition to one another, as being a duel between head and heart, between data and compassion. But I do not think they are. They are simply different aspects of the same story. The virtues of compassion, integrity and civility are essential threads in the fabric of nursing. They cannot, however, support the weight of caring by themselves. To weave the fabric of nursing we also need the threads of intelligence and scientific knowledge. Nursing has always been about the laying on of soapy hands – powered by an open heart and positioned by a thinking head. And in the midst of this, remember to take as good a care of yourselves as you do of others.

**Mary Margaret Mooney**  
Department of Nursing



## NDSU Student Nurses Association revitalized this year

By Linsey Hegvik

From an organization struggling to gain members to a large, dynamic group that hosted this year's state convention, NDSU's Student Nurses Association has come a long way in one year. Today members of the revitalized organization enjoy one accomplishment after another.

SNA is a national association that represents and mentors students who are preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses. Members can be involved at the local, state and national levels and enjoy benefits such as professional networking opportunities, community service experience and increased awareness of professional nursing issues.

NDSU's history with SNA dates back to 1985 when NDSU and Concordia formed a cooperative chapter. The joint chapter started losing members in 1997 and never recovered. By 2004 the organization was almost nonexistent. "When I joined in 2004, the only remaining members were on the board," said Susie Schmaltz, the current chapter president.

Today, "inactive" is the last word you'd use to describe NDSU SNA. The change occurred in July of 2005. When the tri-college nursing program split up, so did the joint SNA. The NDSU executive board took the opportunity to resurrect the struggling organization.

"Attracting new members was our number one goal of the year," said Kayla Preskey, 2005 NDSU SNA chapter president. "We started by sending pamphlets and registration forms with university acceptance letters sent to incoming freshmen in the summer. We also did classroom presentations, created a Web site and sent invitations via e-mail. But the biggest thing we did was open membership to pre-nursing students instead of restricting it to students already accepted into the program. We went from 14 members during the 2004-2005 rotation, to more than 70 in one year."

The dramatic membership boost earned NDSU the membership challenge plaque at the 2006 state convention, which by the way, NDSU hosted.

That's right, shortly after being voted an official chapter,



*Kayla Preskey, Susie Schmaltz and Lisa Steffen hold the award the chapter received for the largest increase in enrollment.*

NDSU hosted the 2006 state convention Feb. 3 and 4. The convention gathered more than 120 members from the seven chapters across the state.

At the convention, NDSU received several honors. In addition to receiving a plaque for the greatest national membership increase, NDSU had three students, Brenda Haug, Dawn Cox and Susie Schmaltz elected to the state board.

Another member, Sarah Maack, was named "Student Nurse of the Year," for which she received a \$200 scholarship, free admission to the state and national conventions and a plaque. "It's a very big honor to be rewarded for working hard, especially in a class of students who have such high standards," Maack said.

Besides organizing and hosting a successful convention, the campus SNA has been active in serving the community. In the past year, its service projects included attending bingo night at Churches United for the Homeless, holding blood drives and food drives, and participating in Relay for Life.

3



### Winter grads

*The following students graduated from the MeritCare LPN to RN program in December: (back row, left to right) Angelia Hage, Deborah Hogan, Cheri Haugen, Kristi Michels, Locki Carlson, Dean Rodacker, Timothy Ringdahl; (front row) Cindy Schmitz, Sarah Coombs.*

## NDSU associate's program was shorter, but just as challenging

By Rebecca Stich

What began as a necessity to the community has become a community in itself.

When St. John's Hospital, Fargo, closed its nurse-training program in 1969, North Dakota State University took on the task of educating future nurses. "The associate's program was needed in our community," said Elizabeth Clark, who taught in the nursing department from 1969 to 1983.

The new associate's degree program, which continued at NDSU until 1987, was based on a model designed by two nurse educators in New York. "At that time nurses had very little educational background," said Clark. They learned on the job in hospital-based training programs. The nurse educators believed in order to raise nursing to a professional level, preparation needed to be done in an academic setting.

Designed, promoted and taught by nurses, the program focused on all aspects of the person – physical, sociological and physiological. It required two rigorous years of sciences, liberal arts and nursing courses. "It was very intense," said Clark. "One had to have desire and determination if they were going to make it through." In the first several years the dropout rate was incredibly high, "almost humorous," said Clark, because of the challenging curriculum.

That same intensity brought students and instructors together. "We hung together. We were in the same boat, so we would help each other out," said **Peggy (Abrahamson) Syverson, ADN '86**. Syverson, a critical care nurse at Innovis Hospital in Fargo, remembers a time when she was too sick to get out of bed. Without being asked, a classmate recorded her classes and brought them to Syverson to help her stay on track.

"It was a very intense program," said Syverson, who has returned to NDSU to earn her bachelor's degree, "but within the whole nursing program there was a very solid sense of family. You were there because you wanted to be there."



*Critical-care nurse Peggy Syverson, '86, brightens up a patient's day.*

Often students took longer than two years to finish the program, sometimes taking basic science classes before tackling the nursing courses. But regardless of the amount of time students were in the program, they left with all the skills they needed to have successful careers.

"I felt it very well prepared me for what I needed to know," said Syverson. When she started her career as a floor nurse, Syverson said she often knew more than her colleagues. "When we were going through the program, we were taught to do so many things, so when we hit the floor doing our clinicals we knew just what to do."

Students graduated from the associate degree program as registered nurses. They also graduated as part of a community. Clark has not taught for 23 years but her students still greet her when they see her at the grocery store and tell her they enjoyed her classes.

"It definitely felt like you were part of a family," Syverson said.

## Web tool gives instructor more one-on-one time with students

By Linsey Hegvik

With so much to learn in so little time, nursing students can use online tools to make the most of each class. Just ask Sandra Alberty, assistant professor of nursing, who uses a Web site that allows her to spend more time talking with students – not just talking in front of them.

This is her second semester using "Bates' Visual Guide to Physical Examinations." As the name implies, it is a Web site that uses video streaming to show step-by-step demonstrations of health-care providers conducting patient assessments. It is identical to watching a video, but instead of being restricted to a single viewing in the classroom, students can watch the videos as much as needed on their own computers and on their own time.

For students, the site provides added flexibility. For instructors, it means more one-on-one time with students.

"Instead of taking class time for basic demonstrations or showing videos, I have more interaction with students in a lab-like setting," Alberty said. "I give students guidelines for watching the videos ahead of time. They are able to come to class prepared."

The guide consists of 14 student tutorials, varying from "approach to the patient" to "the nervous system, sensory system and reflexes." Along with the step-by-step examinations, the videos provide rationale for a clinician's actions, expanded discussions of health history taking and interviewing techniques.

Just like any other learning material, the site comes with a price tag. (The nursing department pays a total fee of \$5,200 for students to have access). However, Alberty thinks it is worth the cost. "I like it because I can better utilize my time in class. Now, I have more quality time with my students."

## Nursing professor works to help people of different cultures, countries

By Rebecca Stich

Since her mother died of metastatic breast cancer, Norma Kiser-Larson knew she would spend the rest of her life helping the sick. She did not know that by doing so she would touch lives the world over.

Kiser-Larson graduated from NDSU in 1981 with a master's degree in counseling. She earned another master's degree in mental health nursing and a doctorate in nursing from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. And since then she hasn't slowed down.

The assistant professor works extensively with Native Americans throughout the region. As a Native American Programs council member, she helps create health care awareness in the community. "Our council recently initiated a comprehensive health survey for Native Americans living in the Fargo area," Kiser-Larson said. "As a council member, I continue to work on developing health programs for Native Americans in the community." She has taught a nutrition course and served on a science advisory board at the White Earth Community College, Mahanomen, Minn. She also helped develop the groundwork for a future nursing program at the Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, N.D.

Kiser-Larson thrives on cultural diversity. As a parish nurse for First Assembly of God in Fargo, she has led three health-care missions to Nicaragua and traveled the world providing aid to thousands of individuals, some who had never seen a health-care professional in their life. "(The trips) were about 10 days, and we saw probably 1,000 individuals, so we just wanted to make



"It is just so exciting to get to know other people even for just a few days. It helps me understand my responsibility to other people in other countries because of how much we have here in the United States."

— Norma Kiser-Larson

every minute count," said Kiser-Larson. She and her companions set up outpatient clinics to treat patients and help them connect with community health resources. "They are just so happy to have some kind of health care," she said. She has been to Mexico, Cuba, Ukraine and Russia on other mission trips.

"It has been such a blessing to me," said Kiser-Larson of her mission opportunities. "It is just so exciting to get to know other people even for just a few days. It helps me understand my responsibility to other people in other countries because of how much we have here in the United States."

Above all, Kiser-Larson enjoys helping students of all backgrounds become successful nurses. She continues working to bring more Native American students to the field. She rejoices in teaching people from Nigeria, Sudan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Nepal and all over the world.

"Students in general are very motivating and bring a wealth of experience and information to the classroom," she said. "I have learned so much from students."

## College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences

### Proposed name change brings new recognition to nursing department

By Linsey Hegvik

The name may be more of a mouthful, but it's good news for the NDSU Department of Nursing. For the first time, the department will be included in the proposed name change to College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences.

The change is primarily a matter of recognition, something that is important to Charles Peterson, dean of the college. "When you have different programs under the same roof, you want everyone to feel equally recognized and valued for the important contributions that they make," Peterson said. "Our family has grown and we want everyone to feel like a full-fledged member."

The change also is needed to increase the visibility of nursing at NDSU. "We have added a major component of health care and we want people to know about it," Peterson said. "In the past the name was buried under pharmacy; we want to bring it to the surface."

Indeed, the new title marks an exciting time for the century-old College of Pharmacy. "We are thrilled with the expansion that has taken place. We have a number of opportunities we haven't had in the past," Peterson said.

The addition of nursing has helped create a more interdisciplinary environment for students and faculty. "Nursing students now can get to know the role of pharmacists and pharmacy students can get to know the role of nurses. When students begin working, they are expected to work collaboratively and cooperatively together as members of a health care team. Students now can begin practicing this interdisciplinary approach to patient care before they graduate," Peterson said.

The proposal is currently going through the approval process, including seeking the support of the State Board of Higher Education. Dean Peterson hopes to have it approved by July 2006.



## Fargo couple chooses to give their support to nurses

By Catherine Jelsing

It was a natural. Dr. Richard and Beth Marsden are NDSU alums. Dick has served at least a dozen years on Alumni Association committees. So, when NDSU announced its \$75 million Momentum campaign, the Marsdens knew they would participate. It was simply a matter of choosing where they wanted their contribution to go.

They were of like minds. Both wanted to support scholarships. And then – motivated by professional and personal reasons – they decided the NDSU students they most wanted to help were those enrolled in nursing.

The Marsdens know and value what nurses do. As head of radiology at MeritCare Broadway in Fargo, Dick works with nurses every day. "They really are on the frontline of care. Patients depend on them 24 hours a day," Dick said. As a health-care administrator, he's also well aware of nursing shortages in the region.

Beth developed an even deeper appreciation for the nursing profession when her mother became ill with cancer. "It wasn't just in the hospital; we were in and out of the clinic and the nurses were always there for us," Beth said. "Mom had chemotherapy, so we were in the infusion center many times and those nurses were just priceless. They were so good with all of those people and interacted with them so beautifully. And they showed such a huge concern for Mom. ... Nurses do have a major impact on people's lives."



So that's why **Dick Marsden**, who graduated from the College of Science and Mathematics in 1971, and **Beth (Davidson) Marsden**, who earned her bachelor's in business administration in 1990, decided to throw their support behind NDSU's Department of Nursing.

Not only did the Marsdens help create a new scholarship, they – and other alums – helped match a \$20,000 Dakota Medical Foundation grant for nursing scholarships. "That was really nice," Dick said. "At least for this year it makes for a greater amount of money with which to start the scholarship."

### 2005-2006 Nursing Scholarship Awards

In grateful acknowledgment of the many gifts provided by private and corporate contributors, the following awards totaling \$57,272 were made possible:

#### **AMVETS Dakota Sad Sacks Nursing Scholarship**

Jennifer Ching, Dempster, S.D.  
Brenda Collins, Fargo  
Rachael Niemeyer, Cedar, Minn.  
Kayla Preskey, Glenburn, N.D.

#### **The Hazel B. Berve Trust**

Matthew Vincent, Delano, Minn.

#### **Albert and Celeste Brauer Scholarship**

Tara Stundahl, Gary, Minn.

#### **Georgia Lee Crowe Memorial Fund**

Dawn Cox, Fargo  
Sheila Friedt, Mott, N.D.

#### **Dakota Medical Foundation Scholarship**

Amanda Brenny, Brainerd, Minn.  
Joel Gregory, Brandon, Minn.  
Kristi Krueger, Fargo  
Denise Tollefson, Moorhead  
Brittany Vigen, Buxton, N.D.

#### **Deans' Scholarship - Nursing**

Carrie Hansen, Esteline, S.D.  
Sara Maack, Fargo  
Kayla Preskey, Glenburn, N.D.

#### **EM Eggert Scholarship**

Jennifer Prudlick, West Fargo  
Shanna Wohlenhaus, Wheaton, Minn.

#### **Sister Catherine Herten Nursing Scholarship**

Dawn Cox, Fargo

#### **Justesen Scholarship Fund**

Julie Krick, Sauk Centre, Minn.

#### **Helge and Ingeborg Melby Lindbo Scholarship**

Marilyn Liu, Sichuan, China

#### **MeritCare - Alyce Ovidia Grangaard Scholarship**

Megan Emerson, West Fargo  
Christine Johnson, Fargo  
Brandi Wald, Edgeley, N.D.

#### **MeritCare - Albert Ronice Scholarship**

Brenda Collins, Fargo

#### **MeritCare - Oswald Ronice Scholarship**

Lisa Steffen, Perham, Minn.

#### **MeritCare Loan Forgiveness**

Lockie Carlson, Glyndon, Minn.  
Angelia Hage, Fargo  
Brenda Idso, Casselton, N.D.  
Kristi Michels, West Fargo  
Timothy Ringdahl, Mapleton, N.D.  
Dean Rodacker, Fargo

#### **North Dakota Board of Nursing Award**

Brenda Collins, Fargo  
Dawn Cox, Fargo  
Sheila Friedt, Mott, N.D.  
Ashley Hansen, Litchville, N.D.  
Kristi Krueger, Fargo  
Andrea Lee, Hatton, N.D.  
Lisa Thompson, Bismarck, N.D.  
Denise Tollefson, Moorhead  
Lindsay Weidler, Velva, N.D.

#### **Nursing Alumni Scholarship**

Jennifer Ching, Esteline, S.D.  
Jenna Clark, West Fargo  
Annie Nelson, Fargo  
Deb Warnsholz, Fargo

#### **Prairie St. John's Scholarship (Fargo)**

Jenna Clark, West Fargo

#### **Xi Kappa-At-Large Sigma Theta Tau**

Dawn Cox, Fargo  
Kayla Preskey, Glenburn, N.D.  
Lisa Steffen, Perham, Minn.

## Alumni notes

**LAURA (MEBERG) LANGEMO, ADN '74**, works at MeritCare Southpointe Clinic in the obstetrics and gynecology department. She and her husband have three children – Matt, Nathan and Anna. Matt, the eldest, graduated from NDSU in May 2005. Laura's first job was in the hospital in Park River.

**JEAN (VINING) FITZPATRICK, ADN '83**, was selected as the Avera Brookings (S.D.) Medical Center Employee of the Quarter. She works at the Brookings Center as well as at Avera Volga Rural Health Clinic. She previously was employed at McKenna Hospital in Sioux Falls, S.D., and at MeritCare Health System in Fargo.

**LAURIE (NELSON) MASS, ADN '84**, fondly remembers the Apothecary Olympics where her team won the birth control relay and bedpan relay. She is a school nurse and teaches kindergarten at Ortonville (Minn.) Public School. She has a master's degree from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, and a post master's certificate in K-12 Leadership from Capella University. Her husband Scott, BS '85, is a senior vice president at Minnwest Corp. They have two children – senior Amanda and sophomore Andy.

**ERICA (EKLUND) COOPER, BSN '01**, is clinical educator for the nurse residency program at Children's Hospital of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She writes that she loves being a nurse and is proud to be an NDSU alumna. Cooper also hopes to see some NDSU students on internships or preceptorships at Children's Hospital.

**MONICA (FETZER) MELHOFF, BSN '03**, works at Cavalier County Memorial Hospital in Langdon, N.D. She says she uses all the skills she learned in school — and others she has learned since. Soon after her marriage to Andrew Melhoff, he was deployed to Iraq. On his return she and their son will join him in Oklahoma.

**MONICA JO (WYUM) PTACEK, BSN '03**, is operating-room coordinator — and has many other duties — at Oakes (N.D.) Community Hospital. She writes that her education at NDSU prepared her well for the autonomy needed in a rural hospital. Ptacek and her husband, Darren, have a son, Landon.

**JACKI (OSENDORF) FISCHER, BSN '04**, worked at St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck, N.D., after graduation. She then moved to Bowman where she finds rural nursing to be an exciting experience. Jacki says her NDSU education was a great experience and unforgettable.

**LEAH (ANDERSON) PETERSON, BSN '04**, is a hospice case manager in Lake Havasu City, Ariz. She and her husband Jonas travel to Las Vegas and Phoenix whenever their schedules and budget allow. They are expecting their first child in April.

## In memorium

**RITA ROHLOFF RICE, 52, ADN '78**, lived in Fargo and worked at Villa Maria Nursing Home, Elim Nursing Home and Noridian Insurance. After graduating from NDSU, Rita earned a bachelor's degree at Minnesota State University Moorhead. She touched many lives, not only as a caregiver, but also as a mentor and friend.

**ZACHARY STROMME, 30, BSN '01**, enrolled at NDSU following service in the U.S. Army. He is fondly remembered by his teachers and classmates both at NDSU and at Mount Marty College, Yankton, S.D., where he earned his graduate degree. Stromme lived in Becker, Minn., and was a nurse anesthetist at St. Cloud Hospital.

### **Thank you to the following alumni and friends for their gifts from Jan. 1, 2004 to Dec. 31, 2005.**

*These gifts allow us to carry on the tradition of excellence in nursing.*

Eric (1991) and Karen Anderson	Norma Kiser-Larson (1978)
Darin and Julia (2000) Anderson	and David Larson
Mary and Buddy Awalt	Laura (1974) and David Langemo
Karen (1974) and Gerald Beutler	Brenda (1974) and Gerald
Dan and Cheryl Breitbach	Luedeman
Dawn (1995) and Jeff Brenamen	Jean (1988) and Thomas Madsen
Linda M. Burchill (1992)	Dianne (1975) and Marilyn Matzke
Andrew and Erica (2001) Cooper	Marjorie McCullagh
James and Marjorie Crowe	Nicole (1994) and Keith Medalen
Patricia DeMers	Miranda L. Mikkelsen (2004)
Sonya (1997) and Jon Drechsel	Mary Margaret Mooney
Donna (1995) and Leon Dunham	Sandra L. Mork (1982)
Keith Eberhardt (1994)	Terry and Lisa Nelson
Jodie (1981) and Thomas Fetsch	Cynthia (1975) and Dale
Melody Fjestad	Neubauer
Carol (1973) and K. Funfar	Diane (1976) and John Nevers
Jill (1983) and Thomas Furrer	Dawn (1983) and Ernie Nygord
Renee Geske (1971)	Karen (1983) and Gayle O'Leary
Lisa (1988) and Ernest Goettlich	Rebecca L. Olson (1987)
Sylvia (1966) and Robert	Matthew and Therese Opat
Gonzales	Monica (2003) and Darren Ptacek
Elizabeth S. Grandbois (1990)	Donna and Stanley Quam
Dean and Carla Gross	Kathy (2000) and John Reichert
Patricia (1985) and Daryl	Richard and Connie Richter
Hendricksen	Dan and Maria Roark
Deborah (1973) and Robert	Robert (1994) and Michelle
Hinderliter	Schmieg
Robert (1977) and Jonell (1973)	Deb (1979) and Randal Schneibel
Hinnenkamp	Joan (1982) and Franklin Shepel
Cindy (1980) and George	Arvada and Loren Simcoe
Hopkins	Marcia (1974) and Steven Sjulstad
Chuck and Cathy Hounshell	Madelon Streeter (1970)
Bryan L. Howard (2001)	Remar (1973) and Mark
Joan Huso (2005)	Thorsness
Peggy L. Janecky (1972)	Judith (1986) and Terry Trader
Wanda (1978) and Keith Jasch	Julie Uhernik (1979)
Kari (1984) and Timothy Joachim	Julie (1989) and Mark Waldera
Derek (2002) and Corrie Johnson	Judith Ward (1986) and Frank
Sarah Kaspari Baker (1984)	Lilley
and Raymond Baker	Karen Worthy (1977)
Karen (1979) and Frank Kiesz	Anne (1982) and Jeff Zarling

## Department meets its match

You did it! The last newsletter included an article about the Dakota Medical Foundation's generous grant of up to \$20,000 for scholarships, providing each dollar was matched by new funds. Thanks to the generosity of many nursing alumni — as well as Dr. Richard and Beth Marsden — we actually exceeded the DMF challenge. Many students will find the stresses of paying tuition and fees greatly eased through these scholarships.