

NORTH DAKOTA MEDICINE

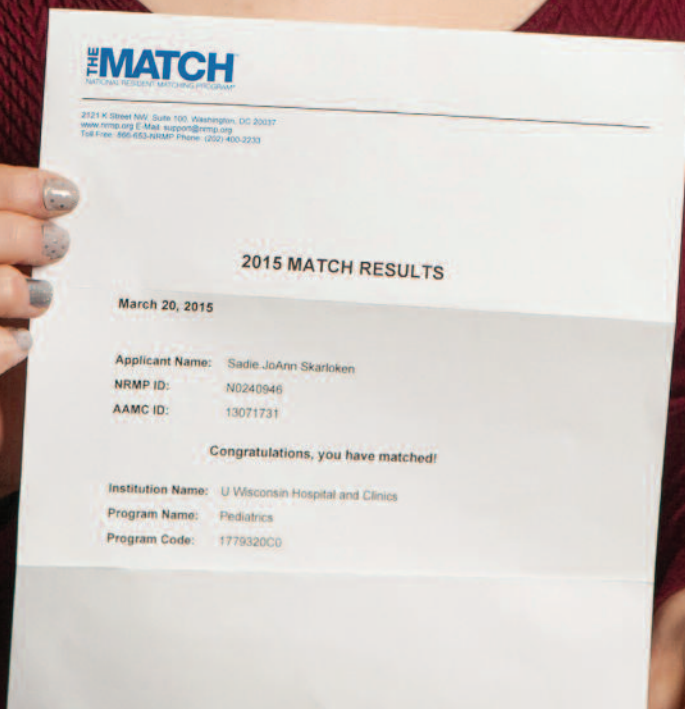
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

Playing HOST

Julie Blehm

**Designing Twenty-First
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**Dakota Conference on
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2015 MATCH RESULTS

March 20, 2015

Applicant Name: Sadie JoAnn Skarloken
NRMP ID: N0240946
AAMC ID: 13071731

Congratulations, you have matched!

Institution Name: U Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Program Name: Pediatrics
Program Code: 1779320C0

Summer 2015
VOLUME 40, NUMBER 2
www.ndmedicine.org

UND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
& HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

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Thank you very much for your scholarship donations. Your support helps to give us the best education and opportunities possible.

*—Dan Himmerick, first-year physical therapy student,
Minot, N.Dak, native*

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FOUNDATION

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NORTH DAKOTA MEDICINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

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On the cover: **Sadie Skarloken, MD '15** displays her Match Day results. See the story on page 10.



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NORTH DAKOTA MEDICINE is available online at www.ndmedicine.org

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www.ndmedicine.org

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NORTH DAKOTA MEDICINE (ISSN 0888-1456;
USPS 077-680) is published four times a year (March, June,
September, December) by the University of North Dakota
School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Room 1106,
501 N. Columbia Road Stop 9037,
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037.
Periodical postage paid at Grand Forks, ND.

Printed at Forum Communications Printing, Fargo, ND.

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Cultivating Growth



With the close of the 2014–2015 academic year, here is a brief update regarding a variety of important topics and projects related to the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

- **Graduation** — Perhaps most importantly, the SMHS now has 55 new medical and 208 new health sciences alumni following medical school graduation on May 9 and UND graduation on May 16. Our newest physician graduates have matched at outstanding residencies both in North Dakota and elsewhere, and the health sciences graduates are headed to great practice opportunities as well. As we did last year, we led the nation in the percentage of our graduates who are going into family medicine (based on a rolling three-year average determined by the American Academy of Family Physicians). Although this year, the most popular residency choice was pediatrics with family medicine just behind.
- **Student Debt and Philanthropy** — Over the past several years, we've been able to significantly lower medical student debt at graduation through increased philanthropy and our RuralMed Program. Over the past five years, thanks to generous donors, the School has been able to increase its scholarship awards by about 50 percent. But with continued focus on the importance of philanthropy to mitigate student debt, we hope to do even better in the future.
- **Construction** — The new building continues to be on schedule — and on budget. All of the concrete for the floors and roof has been poured, many of the internal walls are up, and a good deal of the HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) ductwork is in place. On May 19, several beams that had been signed by hundreds of well-wishers were hoisted into place as part of the building's Beam Topping Ceremony. We are on schedule to open

the doors of the new home for the SMHS in the summer of 2016. But some SMHS units will remain where they currently are located. One long-awaited renovation finally is underway, as lab space on the first floor of the current building is being renovated to accommodate members of the epigenetics group (which investigates how cells change because of factors other than an alteration in genetic code). The epigenetics research is supported by a \$10.5 million five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health.

- **Legislature** — North Dakota's 64th Legislative Assembly adjourned recently and the enacted legislation showed continued strong support of the School and its focus on healthcare workforce generation as well as biomedical innovation and research. Funding was appropriated to complete the construction of the new building, fully fund the Healthcare Workforce Initiative (HWI), the RuralMed Scholarship Program, and all of our base funding needs. We — and you — should be extremely grateful to the members of the Legislature and Governor Jack Dalrymple for their terrific support.
- **LCME Update** — The Liaison Committee on Medical Education accredits medical school curricula, and as you know, we were cited for some deficiencies when a survey team visited us in March 2014. We have been working hard on an Action Plan to address all of the citations, and we are scheduled for a limited revisit on October 18–21 of this year. Preparations for the visit are in high gear, and are being coordinated by Associate Dean for Educational Administration and Faculty Affairs Dr. Ken Ruit, under the supervision of Senior Associate Dean for Education Dr. Gwen Halaas. Further updates will be provided as we get

even closer to the visit, but please mark your calendar if you are or may become involved in the reaccreditation process.

- Recruitment — As a consequence of class size expansion and funding from the HWI, increased philanthropic support, retirements, and programmatic expansion, we are in the midst of perhaps the largest recruitment effort the School has ever experienced. Over the past year, the following outstanding faculty members have been recruited to positions at the SMHS:
 - Associate Dean for Health Sciences — Dr. Tom Mohr
 - Associate Dean for Medicine — Dr. Marc Basson
 - Chair, Physical Therapy — Dr. David Relling
 - Chair, Population Health — Dr. Gary Schwartz
 - Eva L. Gilbertson, MD, Distinguished Chair of Geriatrics — Dr. Donald Jurivich
 - Associate Dean, Southwest (Bismarck) Campus — Dr. A. Michael Booth
 - Associate Dean, Southeast (Fargo) Campus — Dr. Cornelius Dyke
 - Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning and the Dr. David and Lola Rognlie Monson Endowed Professor in Medical Education — Dr. Richard Van Eck
 - Chief Medical Program Accreditation Officer — Dr. Stephen Tinguely
 - Assistant Professor of Basic Sciences (bioinformatics) — Dr. Junguk Hur

But that's not all! We have several more planned over the next few years, largely as a consequence of the HWI. Here are the current searches:

- Chair, Internal Medicine
- Chair, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science
- Assistant Dean, Northwest (Minot) Campus
- Associate Professor, Basic Sciences — Magnet investigator for the epigenetics program

So there is much going on at the School. And although we stumble now and then, we continue on the path that we've

set for ourselves a number of years ago — to be the best community-based school in the country. We are closer to reaching that goal in some areas than others, to be sure, but I see positive movement in all areas — educational, scholarly and research, service, and administrative. An important factor in our continued growth will be a better incentive and reward system for faculty members. I've asked the Faculty Academic Council to come up with a suggested plan to do so, and under Chair Dr. Robert Sticca, the FAC is taking this challenge on and should report back to me later in the 2015–2016 academic year. I'll keep you posted!



Joshua Wynne, MD, MBA, MPH
UND Vice President for Health Affairs
and Dean

Jonathan Geiger garners the UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Research

Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Therapeutics Jonathan Geiger, PhD, in the Department of Basic Sciences at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, was honored with the UND Foundation/Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Research at the Founders Day Banquet in February. You can read Geiger's Founders Day citation at <http://tinyurl.com/mcfsyез>.



Jonathan Geiger

Brittany Slagle named student employee of the year for UND and the state of North Dakota

Brittany Slagle, a senior majoring in communication sciences and disorders, has been named the University of North Dakota and North Dakota Student Employee of the Year.

Slagle, a native of Port Orchard, Wash., works as a morgue technician in support of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences' Deeded Body Program. She was nominated by Denelle Kees, manager of the Deeded Body Program, and Mandy Meyer, director of the program. Please read more at <http://webapp.und.edu/dept/our/uletter/?p=54577>.



Brittany Slagle

Fairley wins an Advanced Undergraduate Research Award

The North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) has announced the 2015 Advanced Undergraduate Research Award (AURA) winners at the University of North Dakota. The goal of AURA is to encourage undergraduate students to consider a career that involves research in science, engineering, or mathematics. Among the eight winners was Jessica Fairley of Grand Forks. Her faculty mentor will be Assistant Professor Lucia Carvelli, PhD, in the Department of Basic Sciences. Jessica will participate with Carvelli in the research project titled "Epigenomic patterning associated with trans-generational inheritance of drug addiction."

Deb Kroese and MaryBeth McGurran honored with UND Meritorious Service Awards

Deb Kroese, administrative officer in the Department of Basic Sciences, and MaryBeth McGurran, an administrative assistant in the Medical Laboratory Science Program, were honored with the prestigious Meritorious Service Award from the University of North Dakota at the 2015 Annual Staff Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon on Tuesday, May 12. At the ceremony, Patricia Hanson, UND director of Human Resources, read the citations about Deb's and MaryBeth's service to the students, faculty, and staff at the School at <http://tinyurl.com/1ef744d>.



Deb Kroese



MaryBeth McGurran

Doctor of Medicine Class of 2015 Award Winners

Medical students of the MD Class of 2015 and faculty of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences were recognized by the School at the Commencement Awards presentation on Saturday, May 9.

For a complete list of award winners, please read more at <http://tinyurl.com/nagveb5>.

CHOPped—NIH grants \$1.4 million to study cutting dietary link to Alzheimer's

The National Institutes of Health has granted \$1.4 million to Associate Professor Othman Ghribi, PhD, in the Department of Basic Sciences at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, to pursue research on a possible dietary link to Alzheimer's disease. The five-year R01 grant from the NIH's National Institute on Aging funds research that focuses on a specific dietary agent and its role in the expression of genes that are disease related. R01 grants are the highest level of research supported by the NIH. Please read more at <http://tinyurl.com/nhk7s69>.



Othman Ghribi

UND doctors honored with Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards

David A. Billings, MD, clinical associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and an OB-GYN for Trinity Health in Minot, N.Dak., was honored with the prestigious Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Faculty Award at the School's commencement on May 9. Craig A. Meiers, MD, a 2015 UND medical school graduate, received the Tow Award for graduating medical students.

Each year, Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards are presented to a graduating student and faculty member at 99 of the nation's medical schools. The Gold Foundation began this award in 1991 at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey began replicating these awards nationwide in 1998, with participation from the Gold Foundation. In 2003, with a generous donation from Leonard Tow, these awards became solely sponsored and administered by the Gold Foundation. This award is given to those who best demonstrate the Foundation's ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care; respect for patients, their families, and healthcare colleagues; and clinical excellence.

David Billings

"Dr. Billings has been a teacher for me for most of my professional career," said Kimberly Krohn, MD, MPH, FAAFP, program director of the UND Center for Family Medicine Residency Program in Minot and a graduate of the UND SMHS. She nominated Billings for the award. "He has performed many services for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences."



David Billings

"He constantly has medical learners, including medical students and residents. He has an extremely large practice and is one of the busiest OB-GYNs in the state," she said. "He has been a fabulous role model for me and many medical learners his entire career in Minot. I was lucky enough to have rotations with him as a resident back in the late 1990s."

A San Francisco, Calif., native, Billings has been a faculty member of the UND SMHS since 1996. He is a 1992 graduate of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and completed his residency training at Michigan State University/Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. He is a board-certified OB-GYN and a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as a member of the North Dakota Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.

"He is one of the most enthusiastic physicians that I have ever worked with," Krohn said. "He is extremely respectful of patients, staff, and colleagues. He is quite brilliant but also compassionate with all the patients he cares for. He is a wonderful consultant for all of us in primary care."

"Without Dr. Billings, our educational endeavors in Minot and our medical endeavors as well would not be as successful," she said. "Dr. Billings' unlimited energy, knowledge, commitment to medicine, and compassion for people are inspiring. He does medicine the way it should be done."

Craig A. Meiers

In June of 2014, Minot, N.Dak., native Craig A. Meiers, MD, 2015, was nominated by his peers to be one of 10 inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Nominees were chosen based on the characteristics of humanism — integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect, and empathy.



Craig A. Meiers

Meiers was then chosen from the ten inductees by the School's Gold Humanism Honor Society Selection Committee to receive the Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. The committee is composed of the third- and fourth-year class presidents and six faculty members.

In his recommendation to nominate Meiers, Charles Christianson, MD, associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the SMHS and the chapter adviser for the School's Gold Humanism Honor Society said, "While managing the demands of medical school, Craig Meiers served for four years as our representative to the Organization of Student Representatives of the Association of American Medical Colleges. He served as a bridge between our students and the national medical student body, monitoring the activities and opinions of classmates, communicating them at regional and national meetings, and bringing back information about national programs and opportunities to our students."

"Our accreditation process requires an independent student assessment of our medical education and of the students' experience," Christianson said. "During the latter part of the second year, when most classmates are under stress studying for the upcoming Step 1 of the national licensing examination, Craig took on leadership of the group performing the independent student assessment. The group completed a thorough and constructive review on schedule. We on the faculty were envious; we didn't work as efficiently and effectively. We are grateful to the entire group for their contribution and to Craig for his leadership of the group."

UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences recognizes volunteer faculty

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences presented the Dean's Special Recognition Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Faculty to the following physicians during commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 9.

- Aaron J. Chalmers, MD, Clinical Instructor of Surgery and alumnus, MD Class of 2007, Bismarck, N.Dak.
- Siri J. Fiebiger, MD, MPH, Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and alumna, MD Class of 1985, Fargo, N.Dak.
- Rena Nordeng Zimmermann, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine and alumna, MD Class of 2007, Dickinson, N.Dak.
- Jennifer M. Peterson, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and alumna, MD Class of 1997, Grand Forks, N.Dak.
- Nasser Saffarian, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Minot, N.Dak.
- Gary L. Wease, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, Minot, N.Dak.

- Ryan M. Zimmermann, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine and alumnus, MD Class of 2007, Dickinson, N.Dak.

“As a community-based school, we could not carry out our educational mission without the dedication and sacrifice of our voluntary faculty members,” said Joshua Wynne, MD, MBA, MPH, UND vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. “In large measure, the quality of our medical education program is dependent on the many physicians throughout the state who serve as volunteer faculty members. They have added and incorporated this activity into their daily medical practices and welcomed our medical students to learn from them and their patients.”

“These physicians have gone above and beyond the call of duty in giving our students the benefit of their time, experience, knowledge, and wisdom gained from years of caring for patients,” Wynne said. “By example, they have served as superior role models and encouraged our students to define and adopt the highest standards of medical service.”

AAFP honors SMHS with national Top-10 Award for fifth consecutive year

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences received the American Academy of Family Physicians Top-10 Award for its consistent contributions to building the family physician workforce. The award, presented on April 26 during the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine annual spring conference, marks the fifth consecutive year the School has received the honor. For the second consecutive year, the School was No. 1 in the nation, this year at 20.8 percent.

Accepting the award for the UND SMHS was Kwanza Devlin, MD, associate director of the Minot Center for Family Medicine; and James Beal, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine in Grand Forks. Please read more at <http://tinyurl.com/pmzkm2y>.



Kwanza Devlin, AAFP President Robert Wergin, and James Beal

Frank Low Research Day award winners named

We want to thank all of you who participated in making the 35th Annual Frank Low Research Day a success. We appreciate the high level of participation by students, faculty, and staff at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Special thanks to UND Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences Joshua Wynne, MD, MBA, MPH, for ongoing support of this important annual event and for providing opening remarks at the oral session.

We were pleased to have Bethany B. Moore, PhD, professor, Departments of Internal Medicine, and Microbiology and Immunology; director, Graduate Program in Immunology; and director, Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research Postdoctoral, Translational Scholars Program, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, present her keynote address titled “Regulation of Innate Immunity Post-Stem Cell Transplant.”

Ninety-seven posters were presented. Invited talks were given by Bibhuti Mishra, PhD, assistant professor, Basic Sciences, UND SMHS; and David K. Ann, PhD, professor and associate chair, Molecular Pharmacology, Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope, Duarte, Calif.

Special thanks go to Associate Professor David Bradley, PhD, Microbiology and Immunology Program in the Department of Basic Sciences; Associate Professor Scott Garrett, PhD, Department of Pathology; Elizabeth Sandquist, PhD candidate in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Program in the Department of Basic Sciences; and Frank Low Research Day Coordinator JoAnn Johnson whose efforts ensured the success of the event.

For a list of the winners of the best student poster awards by category, please read more at <http://tinyurl.com/mn87v7c>.

Jim Rudd inducted into Hall of Fame of Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association

The Mid-America Athletic Trainers' Association held their 22nd Annual Honor and Awards Banquet Friday, March 20, in Omaha, Nebraska. The evening event was held in conjunction with the Association's 36th Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposium.

This year's Hall of Fame Inductees included Jim Rudd, elected posthumously. Rudd received his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from St. Lawrence University in 1973 and became a certified athletic trainer the following year. He later earned his Master of Science in Biology from the University of North Dakota. Rudd's athletic training career began in 1973 as an assistant athletic trainer with the Philadelphia Eagles Football Club, before accepting the graduate assistant athletic trainer position at the University of North Dakota in 1974. After two years in Grand Forks, Rudd served as the head athletic trainer at Mercer County Community College for one year, moving on to Kansas State University in 1984. He served as the curriculum director at West Virginia University for one year, and then moved to Valdosta State College, where he worked until the spring of 1989. His final stop brought him back to the University of North Dakota, where he first served as the head

athletic trainer, then as assistant professor and director of the Division of Sports Medicine.

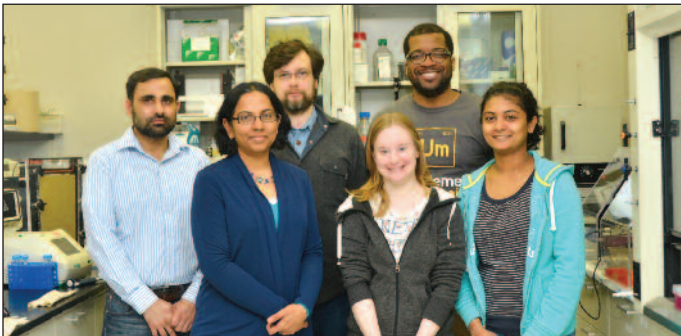
Rudd was a recipient of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Service Award and had served as a member of the NATA Program Director's Council, and chair of the NATA Memorial Resolution Committee.

At the state level, Rudd was elected as the inaugural president of both the Kansas Athletic Trainers Society, where he initiated the Licensure Committee in the state, and the Athletic Trainers' Society of New Jersey, where he was an original member of the New Jersey Licensure Committee. In addition, Rudd is a member of the North Dakota Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame, as well as the 2008 recipient of the Legacy Award given by the North Central Conference.



Jim Rudd

Scientists publish epigenetic research on breast cancer metastasis



Front row, from left, are Archana Dhasarathy, Jessica Warns, and Ann Samarakkody. In the back row, from left, are Ata Abbas, Sergei Nechaev, and Oscar Nnoli.

The research of Assistant Professors Archana Dhasarathy, PhD, and Sergei Y. Nechaev, PhD, in the Department of Basic Sciences at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, has been published in *Nucleic Acids Research*.

This research was supported by the National Institutes of Health, the North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty Seed Grants.

Nucleic Acids Research publishes the results of leading-edge research into physical, chemical, biochemical, and biological aspects of nucleic acids and proteins involved in nucleic acid metabolism or interactions. Please read more at <http://tinyurl.com/q9ffva4>.

INMED and MPH programs offer American Indian students new opportunity

American Indian students at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences have a new opportunity to pursue a graduate degree in public health. UND's

Indians Into Medicine Program (INMED) and the Master of Public Health Program have partnered to provide training for four students each year to study and earn a master's degree. INMED and the MPH programs are a part of the UND SMHS. Through discussions between the directors of the INMED and MPH programs about the value of public health for American Indian communities, a plan was developed to create an INMED–Public Health collaboration similar to that between INMED and UND's clinical programs. Please read more at <http://tinyurl.com/pckasye>.



Raymond Goldsteen and Eugene DeLorme

Playing HOST

The School's program helps students reduce expenses during residency interviews.

By Jessica Sobolik

Sadie Skarloken, MD Class of 2015, admitted she “played the statistics game” when it came time for her to apply for pediatric residencies in 2014. (She is pictured on the cover.)

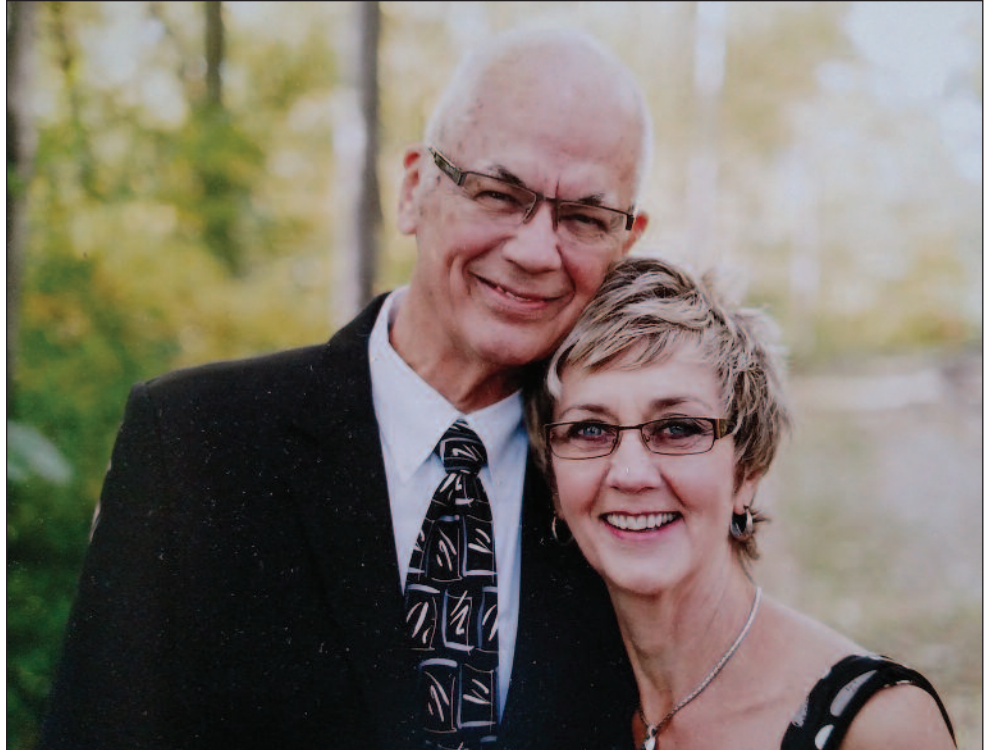
“I applied to 20 programs,” she said. “I was offered and accepted 11 interviews in 10 cities: Sioux Falls, S.Dak.; Omaha, Neb.; Des Moines, Iowa; Kansas City and Columbia, Mo.; Marshfield and Madison, Wis.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Chapel Hills, N.C.; and Norfolk, Va.”

Statistics provided by the National Resident Matching Program's *Charting Outcomes in the Match* publication say that U.S. senior medical students who accept eight or more interviews have more than a 95 percent chance of matching in a pediatric residency.

Still, playing the statistics game involves a lot of travel that can be expensive. So Sadie took advantage of the School's HOST Program (Housing Our Students as they Travel), implemented in 2011. Modeled after HOST programs at other medical schools, the UND program aims to utilize its vast alumni network to find complimentary lodging, transportation, meals, or general information for its fourth-year medical students during residency interviews. “I'm very adventurous,” Sadie said. “I enjoy meeting new people.”

For her interview in Norfolk, she was paired with Dr. Steve and Oronah Hanson who lived in Virginia Beach, about 20 miles from the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters. Dr. Hanson had just celebrated his 50-year reunion in Grand Forks, where he earned his BS Med degree in 1964 before going on to get his MD from the University of Minnesota. The Minneapolis native was a family physician in Alexandria, Minn., before moving to the East Coast. Both Sadie, a Davenport, N.Dak., native, and the Hansons enjoyed their visit.

“They went above and beyond, and made me feel so welcome,” Sadie said. “We talked about being from North Dakota and Minnesota. Oronah and I both went to Concordia, so we had that in common.” They also did some sightseeing. The



Dr. Steve and Oronah Hanson

Hansons took Sadie to the historic Jamestown settlement, and on Sadie's way to her interview in Chapel Hills, Oronah accompanied her to the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, N.C.

“It was almost like having a daughter in the house again,” Dr. Hanson said shortly after Sadie's visit. “She's a class act and will do well wherever she goes.”

On March 20, Sadie learned she had matched at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics in Madison. She starts orientation June 15. “I've never lived far from home, so it was a tug-of-war to go away from the security of friends and family, or stick closer to the area,” she said. “I wanted an in-between place where I could branch out but drive home. All the programs were great. I could have been happy at any of them.”

To sign up for the HOST program, visit <http://www.med.und.edu/community/host-program.cfm>.

RESIDENCY SITES: CLASS OF 2015

NAME	RESIDENCY	LOCATION
ANESTHESIOLOGY		
Thomas Botsford	Cleveland Clinic Foundation	Cleveland, Ohio
Sean Cooley	University of Minnesota Medical School	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Nathan Hoaglund	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Medical Education Program	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Kyle Wilebski	TRANSITIONAL YEAR: University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences	Fargo, North Dakota
	ANESTHESIOLOGY: Indiana University School of Medicine	Indianapolis, Indiana
DERMATOLOGY		
Collin Parker	Southern Illinois University School of Medicine	Springfield, Illinois
EMERGENCY MEDICINE		
Paul German	University of Nebraska Medical Center	Omaha, Nebraska
Kevin Torkelson	HealthPartners Institute/Regions Hospital	St. Paul, Minnesota
Erin Wenzel	Ohio State University Medical Center	Columbus, Ohio
FAMILY MEDICINE		
Brittany Azure	University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences	Bismarck, North Dakota
Charity Bishop	University of New Mexico School of Medicine	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Thomas Erickson	Memorial Hospital of South Bend	South Bend, Indiana
Elizabeth Gray	Altru Health System	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Clifford William Hall III	Altru Health System	Grand Forks, North Dakota
Naomi Light	Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals (Columbia-St. Mary's)	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Travis Waswick	Altru Health System	Grand Forks, North Dakota
James West	Kootenai Health Program	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
GENERAL SURGERY		
Mathew Malek	University of South Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences	Sioux Falls, South Dakota

NAME	RESIDENCY	LOCATION
INTERNAL MEDICINE		
Amanda Blanchard	Abbott Northwestern Hospital	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Jean Canham	Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education	Rochester, Minnesota
Daniel Field	Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation	La Crosse, Wisconsin
Matthew Fischer	Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation	La Crosse, Wisconsin
Andre Genreux	Abbott Northwestern	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Ana Velic	Hennepin County Medical Center	Minneapolis, Minnesota
NEUROLOGY		
Jacob Hvidston	INTERNAL MED-PRELIMINARY: University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics	Iowa City, Iowa
	NEUROLOGY: University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics	Iowa City, Iowa
OBSTETRICS-GYNECOLOGY		
Brendan Boe	University of Colorado School of Medicine	Aurora, Colorado
Sarah Clausen	Akron General Medical Center/NEOMED Program	Akron, Ohio
Thomas Grindberg	Baystate Medical Center	Springfield, Massachusetts
Ciara Johnson	Creighton University Affiliated Hospitals	Omaha, Nebraska
Alexandra Mathern	University of Illinois St. Francis Medical Center	Peoria, Illinois
OPHTHALMOLOGY		
Michael Jordan	TRANSITIONAL YEAR: Hennepin County Medical Center	Minneapolis, Minnesota
	OPHTHALMOLOGY: University of Minnesota Program	Minneapolis, Minnesota
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY		
Joshua Johnson	Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education	Rochester, Minnesota
Lucas Teske	Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center	Winston-Salem, North Carolina
OTOLARYNGOLOGY		
Philip Gardner	University of Texas Health Science Center	San Antonio, Texas

NAME	RESIDENCY	LOCATION
PATHOLOGY-ANATOMIC AND CLINICAL		
Jessica Corean	University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals	Salt Lake City, Utah
Jamie Lombardo	San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium	San Antonio, Texas
PEDIATRICS		
Kirk Bjella	University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals	Salt Lake City, Utah
Elizabeth Donner	University of Florida College of Medicine-Shands Hospital	Gainesville, Florida
Danielle Herington	University of Arkansas	Little Rock, Arkansas
Bethany Kaemingk	Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education	Rochester, Minnesota
Bianca Lamb	Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education	Rochester, Minnesota
Emily Lenz	University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics	Iowa City, Iowa
Jennifer Nelson	University of Oklahoma College of Medicine	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Amanda Peterson	Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education	Rochester, Minnesota
McKayla Schmitt	University of Minnesota Medical School	Minneapolis, Minnesota
Sadie Skarloken	University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics	Madison, Wisconsin
PLASTIC SURGERY-INTEGRATED		
Andrew Mills	Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education	Rochester, Minnesota
PSYCHIATRY		
Annah Preszler	University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals	Salt Lake City, Utah
Lisa Schock	University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences	Fargo, North Dakota

NAME	RESIDENCY	LOCATION
RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC		
Daniel Fetzer	SURGERY-PRELIMINARY: Einstein/Montefiore Medical Center	Bronx, New York
	RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC: Loma Linda University Program	Loma Linda, California
Aaron Frenette	SURGERY-PRELIMINARY: University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals	Seattle, Washington
	RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC: University of Kansas School of Medicine	Kansas City, Kansas
Thomas Johnson	INTERNAL MED-PRELIMINARY: University of Vermont Medical Center	Burlington, Vermont
	RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC: University of Vermont Medical Center	Burlington, Vermont
Austin Lindsey	TRANSITIONAL YEAR: University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences	Fargo, North Dakota
	RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC: University of Oklahoma College of Medicine	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Craig Meiers	TRANSITIONAL YEAR: University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences	Fargo, North Dakota
	RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC: University of Florida College of Medicine-Shands Hospital	Gainesville, Florida
Joshua Morrell	TRANSITIONAL YEAR: University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences	Fargo, North Dakota
	RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC: University of Missouri Hospitals	Columbia, Missouri

Julie Blehm

Longtime dean has witnessed significant changes in medicine and medical education.

By Juan Pedraza

Julie Blehm, MD, Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP), who graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences in 1981, recently announced her retirement, after more than three decades putting all those letters to very good use.

The associate dean since 2007 of the SMHS Southeast Campus, Fargo, also is clinical director of Sanford Health's internal medicine residency outpatient clinic in Fargo. Blehm is a board-certified internist and geriatrics specialist. She has the certificate of added qualifications in geriatric medicine. She is also certified by the American College of Medical Practice Executives. Blehm served as the American College of Physicians North Dakota region governor.

"Yes, I'm retiring from my position as associate dean, and I'm retiring from my position as director of internal medicine residency outpatient clinic," Blehm said.

"But I'm going to go per diem, so I will be working in the resident clinic when they need me, and I'm going to work on several projects for Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota that they're going to want physician input on," said Blehm, a native of Hatton, N.Dak.

The difference now is that she'll be working flexibly. "Kind of on my time," she said. "I'll do that as long as I enjoy it."

She said a brilliant flash of medical inspiration as a child wasn't what got her into medicine (even though, her mother reminded her, Julie chose brain surgery for her future in a sixth-grade composition). Nor did she always want to be a doctor.

"That's really not my story," said Blehm, who got a degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. "Even when I was in college, I didn't really know what I wanted to do with my life. I was diagnosed in college with Type 1 diabetes, but that didn't drive me to medical school, either. After college, I chose med school because, in part, I

knew that I wanted to work with people."

"What eventually drew me into internal medicine was the potential to develop long-term relationships with patients," Blehm said. "I enjoyed getting to know my patients and their families, and I appreciated the complexity of chronic disease and long-term care. I especially enjoyed helping patients learn to manage their own diseases, like diabetes."

"We're at the forefront of educating future physicians," said Blehm, who works part-time for UND while holding down an appointment as a practicing physician and administrator with Sanford Health.

Blehm notes that today's physicians are working in medical teams, much more so than they did when she started her medical education. "That's critically important now because no physician can take care of patients alone anymore," said Blehm.

Blehm has served in various capacities in a variety of roles over her career. She's supported diabetes care and education, including as director on the boards of the state, regional, and national American Diabetes Association; she's worked as camp physician at Camp Sioux for children with diabetes, taking vacation time to be in service to children. She has also served on the board of directors for ND Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

She's particularly enjoyed — and valued — that kind of variety.

At heart, she said, medicine and healthcare are globally challenging and interesting professions.

"I've never been bored."



Julie Blehm

“We’re at the
forefront
of educating future
physicians.”

Designing Twenty-First Century Healthcare Education

Richard Van Eck will help design the learning environments that will produce real-world-ready healthcare providers.

By Juan Pedraza



Richard Van Eck

If you're looking for a good nap, try a long lecture with text-dense slides.

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences delivers a bright, wide-awake alternative. The model for teaching and learning is patient-centered, problem-based learning from day one.

The School aims to enhance that model with a new faculty member and administrator imported from UND's own College of Education and Human Development.

Richard "Rick" Van Eck was recently named the founding Dr. David and Lola Rognlie Monson Endowed Professor in Medical Education.

Van Eck is a widely published and respected expert in digital game-based learning and former graduate director of the Department of Instructional Design and Technology at the College. He built that program in less than 10 years from a handful of students to more than 70 now, including several online.

Van Eck, who is part of the newly created Educational Resources — formerly called the Office of Medical Education — thinks in terms of learning environments. He reports to SMHS Senior Associate Dean for Education Gwen Halaas, MD, MBA.

"These are spaces that line up with good pedagogy," said Van Eck, who notes that he has previously collaborated with several

SMHS faculty and administrators, and has spoken at an SMHS curriculum retreat.

“But we do know the goals: improve curriculum, ensure that it’s effective, and innovate, which involves technology. But it’s not just about technology,” Van Eck said.

“A big part of improving curriculum and assessment is to study if what you did works,” he said. “The SMHS already has a continuing assessment model — it’s a pretty rare culture. We’ll be helping faculty improve assessment and teaching methods.”

“The more you study education, you understand that there’s no magic wand that solves all problems, but the core ideas are true no matter what the subject area is,” Van Eck said. “Instructional design is an interdisciplinary field: we are education, communication, and psychology. We like to say we’re content neutral.”

That means it’s not about what you’re teaching; it’s more about the total learning environment.

“Teaching is only half of the process,” Van Eck said. “People can get up there and ‘teach.’ But I think that all that you can really do is to create an environment that will promote learning. The teacher is a part of that; so is the room, the physical space that you do it in. So are the tools that people have on hand.”

As in the patient-centered model of education that helps to get medical students to an MD, it’s about connecting what’s going on in the classroom to the real world.

“To me, the core of all of this is that you have to understand what people are going to do as practitioners,” Van Eck said.


“We aim to provide environments that will get them there,” he said. “That’s why the patient-centered learning model in use here is a direct reflection of that — students have cases that they go through. Study a case, figure out what you need to know for that case, and then they go as a group and figure that out — that’s one of the most effective ways to teach.”

Van Eck believes the new building is a key advantage.

“Space constrains or supports what you can do,” he said. “The new building has many informal, social collaboration spaces and spaces for interprofessional education. It’s the Mayo model of interdisciplinary teams.”

“I believe in starting with the final outcome and understanding what people are supposed to be able to do,” Van Eck said. “Traditionally, most education starts with the curriculum. We say to students, ‘We already know what our curriculum is, this is our textbook, and this is what we’re teaching.’ ”

But, he argues, it’s far more effective to teach in ways that help learners connect with the real world.

“To me, that means it should be authentic, problem-centered, real-world kinds of teaching,” Van Eck said. 

“The SMHS already has a **continuing assessment model** — it’s a pretty rare culture.”

Coming Together

With the major structural elements completed, work shifts to complete the exterior and the finer details of the interior of the new building.

By Lonnie Laffen
President and CEO, JLG Architects



On May 8, UND Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean Joshua Wynne, UND Vice President for University and Public Affairs Susan Walton, and UND President Robert O. Kelley signed one of two beams that were placed on top of the new UND SMHS building during the Beam Topping Ceremony on May 19.

It is snowing as I write this on May 11, 2015 — unusual weather even for Grand Forks and unfortunate timing since this latest update on the status of the new University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) building is for this summer issue of *North Dakota Medicine*. With the cold hopefully

on its way out, you will start to see even more activity out on site as the trades push hard to stay ahead of schedule to prepare — believe it or not — for the upcoming winter months, which I am told by the project team are only seven months from now.

We are now 56 weeks from completion, and on schedule — and on budget — to

open in May 2016. Since the spring issue of this magazine, much of the mechanical and electrical infrastructure have been put in place and framing complete. Door frames have also been hung, making it look much more like a school and less like a roller rink. Tuesday, May 5, was a banner day on site, as it was the twenty-fifth and final concrete pour for the project.

For students, faculty, and staff, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences has completed Phase 1 of the Transition Management Plan, so be on the lookout for the “Coming Together” logo that signals information about upcoming events and news on the move to the new space. Norby’s and Gaffaney’s/Hannaheer’s set up furniture mock-ups in the lower level of the existing school to allow people to test out some of the desks, chairs, and other furnishings that will be in the building. At the same time, PCL constructed a full-size office mockup for people to envision the finishes and layout within some of the offices and workstations.

A few facts from PCL and Community Contractors, the construction managers on the project:

- As of Friday, May 8, the project has completed 155,035 worker hours with zero lost time. PCL has created an on-site safety program called “Stop the Drop” in order to minimize objects being dropped by the trades. This may seem obvious; however, with dozens of people working on multiple open floors, something as simple as a loose grip on a tool handle can accidentally injure someone working below.
- Over 533 submittals have been issued. In our industry, documents like specifications and drawings are the peanut butter and jelly of the project. Submittals are the project detail information that is outlined in the project specifications and created in tandem with the construction documents to verify the specific building products that the subcontractors will install in the building. Submittals range from light fixtures and stair fabrication to mechanical louvers and carpet. When you have hundreds of people working on a building, you need documents

such as these as one of many forms of checks and balances to ensure that what is designed gets built.

- We have received many comments from passersby interested in the choice of yellow for the exterior shell of the building. Not to worry; the color is a result of the air barrier spray that is applied to ensure a tight seal before the brick is laid.
- There is 70,783 square feet of exterior masonry on the building, equivalent to 15 college basketball courts.
- The elevated decks poured to date contain enough concrete to fill two Olympic-sized swimming pools. The first deck was poured on August 26 and was equal to the weight of five Boeing 747s.
- There is enough interior framing in place to run the length of a hockey rink more than 37 times.

The grand amphitheater stair recently arrived, and crews will begin fabrication and installation soon. This staircase is a central point in the building for both circulation and gathering, and will be made of terrazzo and wood. With the concrete structure complete, the main tower crane will shift focus to construct the mechanical penthouse that occupies a large portion of the roof, after which the crane will have done its duty and will be removed from the site. With the interior and exterior framing well underway, the Learning Halls will also start to take shape over the next few months. Most visibly, the brick, metal panel, and glass will be installed on the exterior.

While JLG, Steinberg, Perkins+Will, PCL, Community Contractors, and the SMHS students, faculty, and staff directly influence the new building project every day, the new SMHS building has given everyone the opportunity to leave their mark for future generations. I hope you had the opportunity to sign one of the two steel beams that were placed in the penthouse. If not, please know that your support and interest are as important and long lasting. Have a great summer, and I look forward to updating you again as the next school year begins.



Making It Work in the West

North Dakota: the land of opportunity. Not just in oil work, but in healthcare as well.

By Stacy Kusler



Dr. Sheila Ponzio examines a patient at Mercy Medical Center.

The medical communities of Williston and Watford City don't have to look very far to see the opportunities made possible by oil. "The Williston community has grown substantially, and because of that, we have been able to grow the medical services we provide as well as the facilities themselves," said Matt Grimshaw, CEO of Mercy Medical Center in Williston. A little farther down the road in Watford City, ground was broken last spring for a \$59 million medical complex to support the needs of the growing community. Scheduled to be completed in 2016, the new McKenzie County Healthcare Systems campus will combine the hospital, clinic,

and nursing home into one central location. Simultaneously, new high schools are being built in both Williston and Watford City. "Without the influx in population and money from oil, these upgrades would not have happened," said McKenzie County Healthcare Systems' Chief Administrative Officer Michael Curtis.

For both Williston and Watford City, expansions within their medical systems have provided the opportunity to increase and expand service lines and, subsequently, job openings. "There is a depth of resources we have not had before," said Grimshaw. "For example, we now have a full-time plastic surgeon who can do not just cosmetic things but hand surgery and reconstructive surgery. We have radiology, general surgery, orthopedics, and cardiac rehab. Without the oil boom and the population increase it brought with it, we would have never had the opportunity to offer these types of services."

With the increased variety of medical services offered at both of these hospitals, the variety of physician employment opportunities have increased as well, allowing for some providers to find work close to home. Theresa and Ryan Hegge, both natives of Williston and graduates of the University of North Dakota's School of Medicine and Health Sciences, were thrilled to be able to find jobs at Mercy Medical Center in their hometown. Dr. Theresa Hegge (MD '08), is a plastic surgeon and Dr. Ryan Hegge (MD '08), is a radiologist. "The practice opportunities for plastic surgery and radiology are good in most places at the moment, thankfully

giving us some choices. We came back [to Williston] to be closer to family and to help our hometown,” Theresa said.

Though Williston today is quite different now than when the Heggges were growing up, the changes have provided great opportunities for them and for patients in the community. “The changes have been immense!” Theresa said. “It has improved the specialties we can bring in to this town so more individuals can obtain the needed care closer to home. Ryan has brought the availability of many interventional radiology procedures, while adding a plastic surgery practice has allowed us to treat hand injuries, burns, skin cancers, breast issues, and facial trauma that would otherwise need to be treated in a different city. Many people have traditionally traveled great distances for specialized care, and our availability has limited some of that.”

Pediatrics is also an expanded specialty in Williston because of the community’s growing younger population. Pediatrician Dr. Sheila Ponzio, a native of Turtle Lake, N. Dak., and a 1988 graduate of the UND SMHS, spent her entire career after residency working in Yorba Linda, Calif. She moved back to North Dakota in 2013 to take a job in Williston as one of three pediatricians for Mercy Medical Center, where there are plenty of patients to go around. “We could use three more,” she said. For Dr. Ponzio, moving back to North Dakota gave her medical career new life. “Working in California, everyone is so over-doctored. There are specialists for everything. The hospital I worked for didn’t give privileges for me to see my patients in the hospital because there were hospitalists employed to do that. Coming to Williston rejuvenated my love for medicine. I get to do a variety of things every day in the clinic, and I get to see my own patients in the hospital,” she said.

Recruiting physician workforce in the west is not any easier because of the oil boom, but it has shifted the demographic of the type of physician being sought. Grimshaw said they have changed their perspective on the type of physician they are looking for. “Our typical physician demographic from five or 10 years ago was someone who was interested in a slower

paced, low-key, small-town type of practice. Now, our desired physician profile is someone who has a tie to the region, who wants to be a part of rapid growth and rapid changes, and is excited to contribute and be a part of a growing and changing community . . . someone who sees Williston in a ‘Wow, look what could be’ kind of light,” Grimshaw said.

At McKenzie County Healthcare Systems (MCHS), the strategy for physician recruitment has also changed to include more specialties than just primary care. The former staffing model used all primary care providers to cover clinic, nursing home, and ER duties. Because of the growing acuteness of conditions seen in its ER, MCHS had to diversify its ER staff by moving toward primary care physicians who focus on emergency medicine rather than those with generalist tendencies in emergency medicine and chronic disease management. “We used to be able to interchange physician staff to cover the ER side and the clinic side, but the invisible line of being able to cover both sides has been crossed,” said Curtis. In addition to offering more diverse physician employment opportunities, the health system’s growth is attracting other professionals in the healthcare field as well. “I moved here a little over a year ago with my family,” Curtis said. “I sought out this job on my own because I was drawn to the rapid growth going on.” Curtis and his wife are now both employed by MCHS and are cheerleaders for the positive impact of oil. “Most rural hospitals around the country don’t have such a positive story to tell. When I was looking into this job, I ultimately decided to take it because I saw optimism, a good board of directors, and a community heading in the right direction,” Curtis said. “When you talk about rural hospitals, they are either growing or they’re dying. There’s no ‘flat.’ Watford City is definitely growing and that’s exciting.”

“We came back to be closer to family and to help our hometown.”

For more information about McKenzie County Healthcare Systems or Mercy Medical Center, please visit McKenzie County Healthcare Systems — www.mckenziehealth.com Mercy Medical Center — www.mercy-williston.org

Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health Celebrates 30 Years

Longtime statewide gathering of health professionals helps to improve the health of North Dakotans.

By Nikki Massmann



Dakota Conference Government Panel, 1992

The Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health is celebrating a milestone this year: its 30th annual gathering of health professionals from across North Dakota and neighboring states. When the conference began in 1985, hot topics in health discussions were workforce supply and demand, the viability of health organizations such as rural hospitals, and the advent of a new payment system.

“Back then we were getting used to a new payment methodology called prospective payment systems. Fast forward to 2015 and now we’re talking about how we move from volume to value as a payment system,” said Brad Gibbens, MPA, deputy director of the Center for Rural Health.

While some of the themes have remained the same, the Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health has grown tremendously. It began after identifying a need to pull together providers, educators, researchers, and

community members to focus on and discuss rural health issues. The initial year’s conference was held in Bismarck, N.Dak., at the end of February. Dr. Cecil Sheps, a professor from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, delivered the keynote address, and Congressman Byron Dorgan provided a congressional perspective on national healthcare policy. Presentations covered topics such as “The Computer as a Communication Tool for Health Care Providers,” “Wellness: Choice not Chance,” and “Diabetes and the Changing Disease Patterns of American Indians.” The event was successful, and from there became an annual occurrence. In 1994, the conference incorporated public health topics, which was the result of a collaboration with the North Dakota Public Health Association.

“Many of the attendees for the public health conference also attended the rural health conference annually,” said Gibbens. “It’s a great example of working together to

eliminate duplication and harnessing resources. For both conferences to be sustainable, they needed to merge. The collaboration has provided an opportunity for rural health and public health to work together, not just on the annual conference, but on projects and initiatives for the improvement of the health of rural North Dakotans.”

The number of attendees has grown over the years as well. Kylie Nissen, senior project coordinator at the Center for Rural Health, said, “Since I started on the planning committee in 2007, I’ve seen attendance grow from about 200 people to consistently being around 350 each year. We have outgrown some of the conference venues where it was originally held.”

Another change is the time of year the conference takes place. For its first 26 years, the Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health occurred in February or March each year. After the 2011 conference, it moved to be a late spring or early summer event.

“We didn’t cancel the 2011 conference,” said Nissen, “but we had some major interference from a blizzard. It was in Mandan that year, and everyone who did make it pitched in to help somehow. Hotel employees were stranded at their homes due to the road conditions, so conference attendees were vacuuming floors. One of our planning committee members even went out in the blizzard and helped change the sign lettering of the hotel to state that the conference was still taking place.”

Lynette Dickson, MS, RD, LRD, associate director at the Center for Rural Health, said, “Even with the uncooperative weather, we still had quite a few attendees that year. To me, it really speaks to the dedication North Dakotans have to the conference and the value they place on it. Attendees know that they will take information back to their communities that they can implement to improve rural health and wellness right at home. It’s such a great opportunity to learn from each other and work collaboratively. Not even a classic North Dakota spring blizzard could keep everyone from attending.”

The conference provides attendees with continuing education units (CEUs) for various health professions. Nurses, physicians, dietitians, public health professionals, and

social workers have been able to receive CEUs. “This year is the first that we’re able to offer CEUs for emergency medical services certifications,” said Nissen. “It is one more way that the conference has expanded and continues to grow.”

“It’s also an economical way to receive continuing education credits,” said Dickson. “Many times, health professionals have to travel out of state for continuing ed. Dakota Conference provides the CEUs at no extra cost to attendees, plus the travel costs are significantly less than if you had to travel out of state for a conference.”

The Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health has had many memorable moments since 1985.

“The gubernatorial debate during the 1992 conference is a favorite memory of mine,” said Gibbens. “All of the candidates attended to discuss rural and public health issues. It was right before the primary election, so it wasn’t a typical panel discussion. A full debate occurred that year.”

“There isn’t one moment that sticks out for me, but rather the dedication of the members of the planning committee,” said Dickson. “It’s all volunteers, and has involvement from many health organizations. The planning committee’s employers often provide support and in-kind donations to cover everything from honorariums for speakers to scholarships for student attendees to technical and sound equipment.”

“I have enjoyed watching the student participation increase over the years,” said Nissen. “Health mentors and educators keep encouraging the next generation of the healthcare workforce to attend the conference, which speaks to its value in providing the big picture of rural and public health in North Dakota to students.” The longevity of the Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health is a testament to its ability to adapt to the ever-changing environment of healthcare. A dedicated planning committee, sponsors, and attendees have helped build the conference’s reputation for being an efficient use of participants’ time and resources. The Dakota Conference celebrates its 30th year, and continues to be committed to providing a forum for the improvement of rural and public health. 🌱

“Attendees know that they will take information back to their communities that they can implement to improve rural health and wellness right at home.”

Spring 2015 MPH and PhD Grads

Diverse backgrounds drew women to pursue careers in healthcare and research.

By Juan Pedraza



Kendra Christensen

Kendra Christensen

Kendra Christensen collected a master's degree in public health, or MPH, from the University of North Dakota. That degree follows a couple of years of intense work nurtured by a lifelong passion for healthcare and a degree in biology from UND.

That passion came from home in Rapid City, S.Dak. Her dad Michael, now

retired after a stroke in 2012, was a physician who started medical training through INMED at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences for two years and then chose to transfer to Washington University in St. Louis to finish out his medical training.

"I had always planned to go to medical school, mostly because of my dad," said Christensen, who moved to UND in 2009 as a sophomore. "After my dad had his stroke, I wasn't sure I could be a physician," she said. "It took a toll on me emotionally and made me realize there was a high need for better prevention efforts in health. I knew for sure that I still wanted to be in a healthcare-related field because that's always what I've wanted to do — I never wanted to do anything else."

So she took six months off after graduating from UND.

"Then I decided to go in a different direction," Christensen said. "A friend suggested that I apply to the MPH Program."

Christensen, who, like her dad and most of his family, is an enrolled member of the Fort Berthold Reservation (Three Affiliated Tribes), said she didn't actually know a lot about the MPH Program when she applied.

"I grew up wanting to be a physician,

and I liked healthcare, working all through high school in a medical office," Christensen said. "I followed physicians around until I got to college. I knew healthcare was where I wanted to work."

Christensen translated her interest in medicine into the MPH Program here, where she focused on the health analytics track.

"I learned a lot about statistical analysis in this track, which is heavily research-based," she said. "I really like this focus — and it's been great because I'm still going to be working in a field I really enjoy."

Christensen said public health plays a huge role in people's lives, "even though most of us don't necessarily realize it."

"I value the preventive aspect of public health," she said.

During her undergraduate years, Christensen worked as a research assistant in the lab of Dr. Barry Milavetz, the university's acting vice president for research.

"I stayed there once I graduated from the MPH Program, working as a lab tech, involved in research, which I really enjoy," Christensen said.

She plans to stay in the region, where her fiancé works in agriculture, searching for an MPH-related job that will be a good fit for her research and statistical skills and interests.

Katie Collette

Katie Collette this spring earned her doctorate in Physiology, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics.

Collette has developed an expertise in adrenergic receptors in the brain — essentially a type of molecular brain chemistry — and is headed to a postdoctoral position and a future in full-time scientific research, perhaps with some teaching along the way. She worked as an undergrad in the lab of UND neuroscientist Van Doze, under whose tutelage she got her PhD.

In a 2010 interview while she was an undergraduate studying chemistry, Collette

“ I value the preventive aspect of public health.”

noted that she never had imagined herself as a scientist. She was most of her life aiming to be an artist. And that's her story today.

"In fact, when I applied to UND, I didn't have enough science and math credits to be admitted," said Collette, a Grafton, N.Dak., native and single mom whose son graduated from high school last year.

"As an art person, I fell asleep in chemistry class in high school," Collette said. "And when I first was admitted to UND — after my guidance counselor sent a letter saying I was a capable student — I was a visual arts major. I soon realized that was not a career for me, so I quit school to figure out what I wanted to do."

During that time off from school, Collette decided to join AmeriCorps VISTA doing social work.

"I knew from that experience that being a social worker wasn't for me," she said. "However, during my free time, I found myself a lot on the Discovery Channel website and others like it, reading about scientific research. I found that fascinating, more interesting than anything else. So I took a look at my interests and remembered that I'd been good in math in high school."

"When I got back to UND under the McNair Program (for people who are the first in their family to go to college), I really enjoyed the science classes," said Collette, who said she didn't figure all that out until her midtwenties. At that point, it wasn't unexpected, because I had realized that I was interested in science during my social work stint and from career assessments. I went back specifically to pursue a degree in chemistry.

"As for the challenges of being a woman in science, I haven't seen a lot of barriers, but I've heard from other women that they have," she said. "So far in research at UND, I've felt very welcome."

Now Katie Collette, PhD, the first person in her family to get a bachelor's degree, thus the first to get a graduate degree, sees herself doing full-time research, perhaps even at the National Institutes of Health, the world's largest biomedical research funding institution.

So how does a single mom get it all done?

"It was a challenge that I really struggled with at first, but I found the right balance," Collette said. "My son was in junior high when I was an undergrad and

in high school when I was in grad school. It became easier, because in high school he could now drive himself around, but I still had to be a parent. When I was first in college, I used to study a lot when he went to bed, but during my chemistry degree and graduate school, he stayed up later, so I had to make time to study while he was in school or at work."

Collette said her curiosity about mental illness — stimulated by her social work stint — got her into science.

"The stigma surrounding mental illness really bothered me, so I wanted to know about the neurobiology of mental illness. I wanted to study that," she said. "Today, we depend on self-description for psychiatric diagnosis to define who has a mental illness, but someday we'll know a lot more about what goes on in the brain. If we know what's going on, we'll be able to diagnose and treat mental illnesses better."

The big challenge is that illnesses such as bipolar disorder and depression were once thought to be distinct in terms of what was going on in the brain.

"But there are overlapping symptoms, such as working memory problems, that characterize several mental illnesses," Collette said. "And we know that there are genetic factors, but it's not one gene but a mixture involved in all of these illnesses."

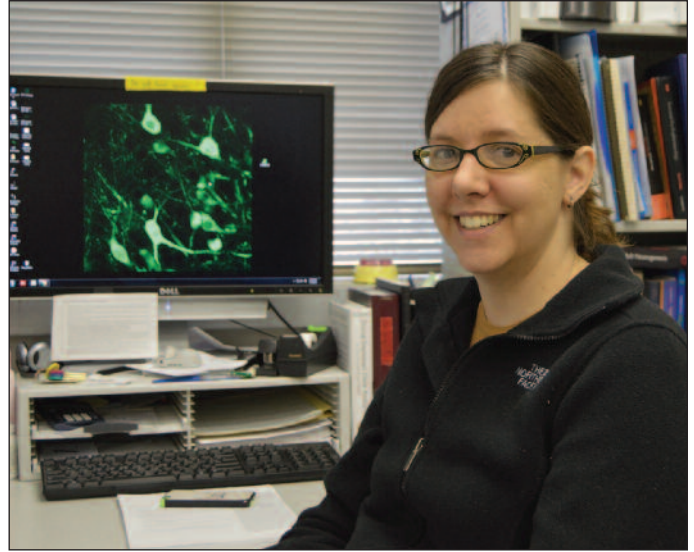
So where's the art in her life these days?

"That's how I decompress, or manage stress," Collette said. That means knitting, sewing, and baking — and writing a science blog.

She's also an avid tweeter.

Now she follows all kinds of scientists and science-related people: physicists and science artists, for example.

"It's been hugely helpful," Collette said. "At least two of the postdocs I applied to were recommended to me by people I met on Twitter."



Katie Collette earned her doctorate in Physiology, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics.

“The stigma surrounding mental illness really bothered me, so I wanted to know about the neurobiology of mental illness. I wanted to study that.”

'10s

Eric Mjelde, MPAS '14, is now at Essentia Health Clinic in Park Rapids, Minn. He is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

Idil Mohamed, MPAS '14, is now at Madelia Community Hospital and Clinic in Madelia, Minn. Mohamed says she enjoys working in family medicine, especially helping patients and families manage diabetes and other chronic diseases.

Jed Doxtater, MS MLS '13, has been appointed as clinical assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Wyoming. He will serve as program director of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program

Matthew Massmann, MPAS, '12, has joined the emergency department at Essentia Health St. Mary's in Detroit Lakes, Minn.



Paula Barry, DPT '10, has graduated from an Orthopaedic Residency Program through Therapeutic Associates in Port Angeles, Wash., where she is employed.



Kathryn Polovitz, MD '07, is a board-certified neurologist and epileptologist practicing in Parker, Colo. She has been the medical director of the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at Littleton Adventist Hospital since 2014 and was recently named the president of the Colorado Society of Clinical Neurologists.



Ann Hoff, MD '06, will be starting a fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine at the University of Minnesota in July of 2015. Hoff has been practicing emergency medicine at Trinity Health in Minot, N.Dak., for six years.



Brad Wehe, DPT '05, has earned the distinction of board certification in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Wehe is currently chief operating officer at Altru Health System in Grand Forks, N.Dak.

'00s



Jon Kolberg, MD '09, is now at Altru Clinic in Cavalier, N.Dak. Kolberg specializes in concussion management and injury prevention. He is board-certified in sports medicine and in family medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine. Before completing his fellowship at Oregon Health and Science University in primary care sports medicine in 2013, Kolberg finished his residency at Altru Family Medicine Residency in 2012.

Michael LeBeau, MD '02, is among three new members of Sanford Health's Board of Trustees. LeBeau is with the Sanford Bismarck Clinic and is an internal medicine physician and nephrologist certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He also practices at outreach locations in New Town and Fort Yates, N.Dak.

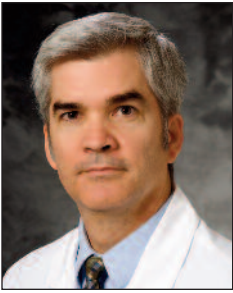


John Hoyt, MD '07, has received his board certification in interventional cardiology by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is also board-certified by the National Board of Echocardiography and the American Board of Internal Medicine in the subspecialty of cardiovascular disease. He is currently an interventional cardiologist at CHI St. Alexius Health Heart & Lung Clinic in Bismarck, N.Dak.

'90s

Steven Magill, MD '90, and PhD, is now seeing patients at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, Wis. Magill is board-certified in endocrinology and metabolism.

'80s



Howard Bailey, MD '85, has been named the director of the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center. Bailey, a native of Wyndmere, N.Dak., worked under and alongside Dr. Paul Carbone, for whom the cancer center is named. He has led the development of three different state and nationwide clinical research networks to expand access to cutting-edge research for patients.



Guy Tangedahl, MD '82, has been awarded the Benedictine Spirit Award by CHI St. Alexius Health in Bismarck, N. Dak., in recognition of his efforts to provide distinguished service to his patients and upholding the mission and values outlined by the Sisters of St. Benedict of Annunciation Monastery. For more than 22 years, Tangedahl has contributed to the growth and well-

being of CHI St. Alexius Health and exhibits a strong ethical stance to the medical community. Tangedahl is currently the associate program director; he previously served as program director from 1994 to 2006 for the UND Center for Family Medicine Residency Program and was recently appointed to CHI St. Alexius Health's Board of Directors.



Got news?

We want to hear it!

Please send your news items for the next issue of **North Dakota Medicine** to Kristen Peterson:
kristen.peterson@med.und.edu
 or call 701.777.4305.

“I saw a need”

Judy DeMers and others take advantage of naming opportunities while supporting students at SMHS.

By Alyssa Konickson

The new School of Medicine and Health Sciences building will be funded with appropriations from the North Dakota Legislature. But while the Legislature has provided the funds to build and equip the building, the School will continue to need ongoing financial support for our students, faculty, and programs.

So alumni and friends like Judy DeMers, '66, are stepping up. Judy recently established the Judy L. DeMers Scholarship Endowment at the SMHS, while also naming the Judy L. DeMers Office of Student Affairs and Admissions.

Judy, who served as associate dean for Student Affairs for almost 28 years, said that, first, she saw a need.

“During my time at UND, I just totally loved my job and loved the students so much. I worked with the group that gave out scholarships at the medical school, and I saw an area where there was a need,” Judy said.

Second, she saw an opportunity to permanently leave her legacy at the School's new building.

“It's really a great honor, particularly in student affairs and admissions,” Judy said. “I worked for over a quarter-century in that capacity, and I felt like that would reflect what a good portion of my life was all about.”

Others have followed suit.

G. Frank and Rosemary Welsh established the G. Franklin Welsh, MD Endowment while naming the Frank and Rosemary Welsh Office of Alumni and Community Relations. A full list of naming opportunities can be found at med.und.edu/naming-opportunities/index.cfm.

Rising to the Challenge

In addition to satisfying a need for more scholarships and finding a way to permanently leave her legacy in the new School of Medicine and Health Sciences building, Judy also capitalized on an incentive from the North Dakota Legislature that would match every \$2 she gave with an additional \$1 from the State.

With a gift of \$116,669, Judy was able to establish a permanent scholarship endowment worth \$175,000 through the Higher Education Challenge Fund.

“The Higher Education Challenge Fund was a terrific opportunity to increase the amount I was able to give. It made my gift go that much further,” Judy said. “These things all worked together really well in terms of timing.”

In 2015, the Legislature has once again approved the Higher Education Challenge Fund By allocating \$7 million to the University of North Dakota: the first \$2 million must be used for scholarships; when that has been fulfilled, \$5 million can be used for scholarships and faculty academic positions.

From July 1, 2015, through December 31, 2016, the state will match \$1 for every \$2 raised by the UND Foundation on gifts over \$50,000 to endowments supporting scholarships and faculty academic positions. Pledges can be made over a period of seven years.

To learn more about the North Dakota Higher Education Challenge Fund or naming opportunities at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, contact Dave Miedema, Senior Director of Development, at davem@undfoundation.org or (701) 777.4933.

For additional information on how to best structure your bequest or gift to benefit the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, please contact:

Dave Miedema,
Senior Director of Development
School of Medicine and Health Sciences
UND Foundation
davem@undfoundation.org
(701) 777-4933
(800) 543-8764



Jessica Sobolik,
Director of Alumni and
Community Relations
jessica.sobolik@med.und.edu
(701) 777-6048

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Audrey Crum, BS OT '59, BS Ed '85, of Fort Collins, Colo., has established the Audrey Crum Endowment, which provides scholarships to occupational therapy students at UND. She is now a retired occupational therapist.

Mike, MD '84, and Ronda Kincheloe, BS Nursing '80, of Green Bay, Wis., have established the Dr. Mike and Ronda Kincheloe Scholarship Endowment, which provides scholarships for medical students with preference given to North Dakota residents. Dr. Kincheloe is an obstetrician-gynecologist at Aurora Health Care in Green Bay.

Janice, BS MT '68, and Clifford d'Autremont of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., have established the Janice and Clifford d'Autremont Scholarship Endowment, which provides scholarships to students majoring in medical laboratory science with preference given to students from Oakes, N.Dak., Janice's hometown.

Janice retired as the general manager and executive vice president of Long Beach Genetics in Rancho Dominguez, Calif., in 2001. The company is one of six in the United States that provide paternal testing results.

New Building Naming Opportunities

\$100 million

UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences building

\$40 million

Health Sciences Education Building (adjacent)

\$15 million

Biomedical research facility (adjacent)

\$1 million–\$5 million

Endowed chair, dean of the School \$5 million

Office of the Dean suite \$4 million

Simulation suite \$3 million

Endowed faculty chair \$2.5 million

Health Sciences suite \$2 million

Center for Rural Health suite \$1.25 million

Endowed faculty professorship \$1 million

Auditorium \$1 million

Grand staircase \$1 million

Center for Health Promotion and

Prevention/Family and Community Medicine/Population Health suite \$1 million

\$500,000–\$975,000

Office of Education Resources/Physician Assistant suite \$975,000

Administrative conference room \$950,000

Information Resources suite \$925,000

Basic Sciences/Pathology/Research Affairs \$825,000

Learning communities (8) \$750,000

Anatomy lab \$650,000

Clinical Sciences suite \$625,000

Resource Management suite (library)* \$775,000

Research labs (3 of 6) \$600,000–

\$775,000

Basic Sciences suites (3) \$575,000–875,000

Teaching lab*

Research cores (2 of 7) \$525,000*–\$675,000

Large plinth lab \$500,000

\$200,000–\$475,000

Office of Administration and Finance suite \$475,000

Event space*

Café \$400,000

Office of Education and Faculty Affairs suite \$400,000

Indians into Medicine suite \$350,000

Research labs (3 of 6) \$325,000–\$475,000

Atriums (2) \$325,000–\$400,000

Multipurpose therapy lab \$275,000

Research core (1 of 7) \$275,000

Communicating stairs \$250,000–\$400,000

Lobby \$250,000

Classrooms (9 of 13) \$225,000–\$375,000

Small plinth lab \$225,000

Simulation skills lab \$225,000

Faculty/staff lounges (2) \$225,000

Learning communities: Student lounges with practice exam rooms (4) \$225,000

\$225,000

Patios (2) \$200,000–\$400,000

\$50,000–\$175,000

Office of Student Affairs and Admissions*

Main streets (3) \$150,000

Anatomy dry lab*

MLS clinical lab \$125,000

Collaboration zones (3) \$125,000–\$175,000

Classrooms (4 of 13) \$100,000

Office of Alumni and Community

Relations suite*

Simulation debrief rooms (5) \$75,000

Conference rooms (11 of 12) \$50,000–\$125,000

Research cores (4 of 7) \$50,000–\$100,000

Simulation rooms (6) \$50,000

Standardized patient exam rooms (14) \$50,000

Small-group learning rooms (12) \$50,000

* Reserved

For more information, visit
www.med.UND.edu/naming-opportunities



Bob Gehring, BS Med '70, age 72, of Rockwall, Texas, went to be with the Lord on November 15, 2014. He was born on February 25, 1942, in Bismarck, N.Dak., to Emanuel and Elsie (Vetter) Gehring. He was an Eagle Scout and valedictorian of the Washburn High School Class of 1960. Bob went on to proudly serve his country in the United States Army. After attending the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Bob practiced OB-GYN at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas. Bob was a bestselling author and enjoyed public speaking with appearances on Oprah and the Phil Donahue Show. A member of Lake Pointe Church for 28 years and a resident of Rockwall for 37 years, he loved fishing, traveling with friends, and had a lifelong interest in history, particularly World War II. Known to his grandchildren as Pop, he was highly skilled at making homemade ice cream and pickles.

Dr. Robert L. Gunderson, BS Med '41, Sugarloaf Township, Pa., passed away peacefully at his home on February 28, 2015. His long life began 98 years ago in Aneta, N.Dak. He was a graduate of the University of North Dakota, where he was a brother and president of Sigma Nu Fraternity, and Northwestern University School of Medicine. He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery, and certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He was a staff member of St. Joseph's Hospital and Hazleton General Hospital. He was an orthopaedic consultant at White Haven Center; orthopaedic examiner for Pennsylvania State Crippled Children's Clinic; a charter member of Eastern Orthopaedic Association; and a member of the American Medical Association, Pennsylvania State Medical Society, Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society, and Luzerne and Hazleton area medical societies. Gunderson was a medical adviser for the Department of Hearing and Appeals, Social Security Administration, and a member of the Board of Directors of Hazleton General Hospital. He was also a member of several civic and charitable organizations and served as a board member of United Rehabilitation Services. He attended retreats with the Men of Malvern faithfully for over 50 years, and was honored by the Hazleton General Hospital with the dedication of the Robert L. Gunderson Rehabilitation Center on the hospital's sixth floor.

Milton Everett Nugent, BS Med '40, of Wheeling, W.Va., beloved husband of Joan S. Nugent, died from leukemia on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at Ohio Valley Medical Center. The son of Milton E. and Vera G. Nugent, Milton celebrated his Irish heritage. He was born on March 17, 1918, in Glen Ullin, N.Dak. He was educated at the University of North Dakota and graduated from Rush Medical College in Chicago. He interned at Youngstown (Ohio) Hospital Association and later received specialized training in ophthalmology at Washington University (St. Louis) and the University of Wisconsin. He was trained in the treatment of retinal vascular disease at Johns Hopkins University.

Delano M. Pfeifle, BS Med '57, died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Riverside, Calif., February 3, 2015. Born January 2, 1934, in Wishek, N.Dak., Del married Mary Louise Nash, "Lou," at the First Baptist Church of Taylorville, Ill., June 17, 1959. They lived in Bismarck, before retiring to Lake Lure, N.C., in 1999 and moved to Riverside, Calif., in 2012. Del graduated from Wishek High School in 1952. He received bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees from the University of North Dakota and attended the University of North Dakota Medical School, later transferring to and graduating from Northwestern University Medical School in 1959. Interning at Evanston Hospital in Evanston, Ill., Del then became a fellow in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., in the early '60s. At Mayo, Del was also trained in the then new medical art of oncology, the chemical treatment of cancer. Del practiced medicine with Quain & Ramstad Clinic (Q&R) from 1964 until his retirement in 1998, serving on Q&R's board of directors and leading Q&R as president during the 1980s, during which time Q&R built a new clinic building. As a founding member of the North Central Cancer Treatment Group headquartered at the Mayo Clinic, Del was a member of the clinical investigative program until his retirement. The program investigates and tests the efficacy of new cancer treatment drugs. Del was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, where he served as deacon, chair of the board of deacons and chair of the committee responsible for choosing a new Casavant Frères Limitee organ for the church. He was a director of Northwestern Bank from 1985 until his retirement and a founding board member of the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra. Del was an accomplished organist, member of the Bismarck-Mandan chapter of the American Guild of Organists and an avid horticulturist throughout his life.

Jennifer Lee Vacura, MS MLS '07, the daughter of Arlen Vacura of Greenbush, Minn., and Lujean Irwin, of Motley, Minn., was born on October 19, 1974, in Grand Forks, N.Dak. Following high school, she attended the University of North Dakota and graduated with a Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Science. At the time of her death, she was lab manager at Rainy Lake Medical Center, International Falls, Minn. Jennifer passed on February 28, 2015, at the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, N.Dak., two days after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. She was 40 years of age.

For the full text of the obituaries, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/2015-Summer-In-Memoriam>.



Master of Physician Assistant Studies Class of 2015

First Row: (from left) Heather Watkins, William Cody, Nicholle Rothengass, Jenna Schiefelbein, Lindsay Kyte, Jessica Curcio, Christina McOwen, Cristin Altendorf, Lindsey Siemens, Taylor Fontaine, Tamara Berg, Jody Bauer, and Morgan Reese.

Second Row: Jessica Lahti, Sarah Winter, Michael Trimble, Lucas VanEmelen, Lena DeLuca, Troy Thompson, Ethan Morris, Parker Martin, Austin Heneman, James Ramos, Brittany Michels, and Kayla Olson. Not pictured is Randy Yergenson.



2015 Department of Basic Sciences PhD Graduates

Doctoral graduates of the Department of Basic Sciences are Patrick Osei-Owusu, PhD '15 Program in Microbiology and Immunology; and Katie Collette, PhD '15 Program in Pharmacology, Physiology, and Therapeutics. Not pictured is Lalitha Kurada, PhD '15 Program in Pharmacology, Physiology, and Therapeutics.



Indians Into Medicine graduates were honored at the 45th Wacipi Powwow on April 17 at UND.

Front Row: (from left) Stephanie Parisien, PhD Clinical Psychology; Kendra Christensen, MPH; Shyleen Hall, MPH; Lisa La Fontaine, BS Nursing.

Back Row: Austin Lindsey, MD; Clifford William Hall, MD; Brittany Azure, MD; Maria Sundsted, Master of Occupational Therapy; Kayla Cagle, MD.



Doctor of Medicine Class of 2015

- Front Row:** (from left) Assistant Dean William Newman, Assistant Dean Susan Zelewski, Associate Dean Kenneth Ruit, Associate Dean Randy Eken, Dean Joshua Wynne, Senior Associate Dean Gwen Halaas, Associate Dean Joycelyn Dorscher, Associate Dean Julie Blehm, Assistant Dean Patrick Carr, Associate Dean A. Michael Booth, and Assistant Dean Martin Rothberg.
- Row 2:** Amanda Blanchard, Jean Canham, Andrew Mills, Amanda Schwenn, Amanda Peterson, Sarah Clausen, Jamie Lombardo, Bethany Kaemingk, Alexandra Mathern, Ciara Johnson, Jacob Hvidston, Emily Hvidston, Jessica Corean, Elizabeth Gray, and Bianca Lamb.
- Row 3:** Joshua Morrell, Lisa Schock, Charity Bishop, Austin Lindsey, Sadie Skarloken, Annah Preszler, Naomi Light, James West, Danielle Herington, Jennifer Nelson, Elizabeth Donner, Kyle Wilebski, and Brittany Azure.
- Row 4:** Thomas Grindberg, Erin Wenzel, Sean Cooley, Travis Waswick, Thomas Botsford, Nathan Hoaglund, Mathew Malek, Andre Genereux, Kevin Torkelson, Thomas Johnson, McKayla Schmitt, Lucas Teske, Daniel Field, and Joshua Johnson.
- Row 5:** Paul German, Collin Parker, Daniel Fetzer, Philip Gardner, Matthew Fischer, Michael Jordan, Craig Meiers, Brendan Boe, Aaron Frenette, Thomas Erickson, Ana Velic, Jacqueline Huber, Kirk Bjella, and Clifford Hall.



Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2015

- Front Row:** (from left) Daniel Johnson, Krista Moorman, Jacqueline Maddock, Samantha Stegman, Jordan Braun, Alex Wohl, Robert Whittaker, Jamie Bowman, Kjersten Skjold, and Christine Gillespie.
- Row 2:** Kassandra Kertz, Brittany Olson, Alexandra Jares, Kylie Palmiscno, Kathleen Breuer, Andrew Taylor, Samantha Braegelmann, Sarah Erickson, Maleeka Rozeboom, Kayla Skersick, Allison Vosgerau, Jessica Bruns, and Rachel Bothun.
- Row 3:** Leah Tunseth, Jessica Jones, Angela Kumm, Calvin Crawford, Richard Morgan, Dylan Kent, Anthony Pohl, Lisa Yonker, Lindsey Altringer, Brady Meyer, Ian Whitney, Shaun Seaburg, and Zachariah Kvidt.
- Row 4:** Brandon Szklarski, Kip Thorstenson, Noah Helgerson, Patricia Bisek, Hannah Krause, Joshua Anderson, Joshua Burrer, Thomas Ebertowski, Samir Maleki, Scott Holm, and Brian Storhaug.



MPH Class of 2015

- Left to right:** Muna Omar, Michael Mudgett, Kendra Christensen, and Shyleen Hall.



Athletic Training Class of 2015

- Front Row:** (from left) Olivia Daly, and Garyt Haagenon-Buck.
- Row 2:** Claire Harnell, Victoria Ledahl, Kenna Olsen, and Todd Jensen.
- Back Row:** Janelle Berg, David Allard, Aaron Storey, and Lindsay Knight.



Department of Medical Laboratory Science Master of Science, Bachelor of Science, and Certificate Graduates for August 2014, December 2014, and May 2015

Students enrolled in the BS degree or MLS certificate program are required to complete an on-campus summer session immediately before completing a two-semester internship in their final year of academic study. This summer session (also known as Summer Practicum) is an intensive 40-hour-per-week experience that consists of 13 credits of academic study. In the photo are the students who completed the 2014 Summer Practicum.

August 2014 Graduates

Bachelor of Science: Amy Johnson, Amanda Modrow, Kayla Moehnke, Lisa Parlich.

December 2014 Graduates

Bachelor of Science: Kathleen Bruzik, Christine, Howell, Stephanie Nett, Kelsey Peterson, Marsha Prytz, Julianne Reese, Jennifer Van Cuyk.

May 2015 Graduates

Bachelor of Science: Alisha Birgin, Ashley Brateng, Kaitlin College, Mallory Custer, Anna Danielson, Holly Gaugler, Rosala Gleisner, Alison Harrison, Tanner Hoffmeyer, Heather Howatt, Brandon Johnson, Larissa Kranz, Elizabeth Krueger, Aaron LaMontagne, Kayla Mayer, Heather Novak, Nikki Omoniyi, Tiffany Peterson, Judd Prasnick, Nedi Shanka, Robin Siewert, Amanda Stevens, MacKenzie Swick, Jessica Szuberski, Jamie Whitmire, Sarah Williams, Habtamu Woldea.

Master of Science: Matthew Cooley, Stacie Lansink, Brenda Mraz, Connie Sessions, Michelle Steiner, Michaela Suess, Lauren Turner, Bouachao Yang, Kent Yuen, Debbie Zabel.

Certificate: Suleiman Abdinasir, Kawthar Ahmed, Stephanie Allison, Jaclyn Bateman, Keri Baumberger, Mary Benda, Courtney Berumen, Morgan Bidlake, Danielle Boehm, Jacob Boys, Zachary Charette, Courtney Dennis, Nelly Dikosso, Amber Duff, John Eisenbeis, Stephanie Fey, Megan Flanigan, Kevin Grimm, Heather Halsey, Bryce Hauf, Richard Herron, Mitchell Hilgart, Tran Hoang, Megan Holman, Hillary Kambeitz, Ermias Kebede, Kallie Kohler, James Konkel, Kayla Kuhn, Kacy Kuscienko, Matthew Meindel, Sarah Metz, Nicholas Miller, Julianne Nowak, Molly Olson, Crystal Paul, Emma Radzak, Jessica Rosin, Sarah Scherrer, Danielle Schneider, Kathryn Stigen, Jordan Stone, Samantha Tooze, Erin Westby, Marissa Wilson, Adam Wolf.



Occupational Therapy Class of 2015

Front Row: (from left) Katelyn Mari, Shalyn Hample, Marlee Wheelhouse, Katie Huot, Hayle Pratt, Sarah Faehnrich, and Maranda Myrold.

Row 2: Ilse Coleman, Jamie Knudsvig, Allison Sussman, Amy Feller, Danielle Nelson-Deering, Emily Terhaar, Taryn Wagner, Kalee McCann, and Gemma Saxon.

Row 3: Whitney Josephson, Meg O'Brien, Bailey Stotts, Sarah Peterson, Smantha Hoy, Alexandra Marvel, Vanessa Dvergsten, Alissa Haugen, and Jaclyn Swangstue.

Row 4: Maria Sunsted, Hanna Eickenbrock, Abby Wicklund, Alexie Traiser, Erica Myers, Blake Sweney, Madeline Aandal, Will Creel, Alexis Nims, Katherine Spitzmueller, and Kayli Schumacher.



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