
THE REVIEW

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES



As

freshman medical students received their first “white coats,” the traditional garment of the physician; recited the Oath of Hippocrates, and heard messages about humanism in medicine during the White Coat Ceremony conducted during the first week of medical school recently.

*Here, **Dean H. David Wilson** congratulates **Isaac Grindeland**, son of Manville and **Pixie Grindeland** of Buxton, ND, during the ceremony which was witnessed by family and friends, as well as faculty and staff of the school.*

IN REVIEW



Correction: The name of **Dean Danner, Ph.D. '68**, was omitted from the caption of a picture run in the September issue of THE REVIEW featuring those who made presentations as part of a retirement event for **Robert Nordlie, Ph.D.** Danner is professor and acting chairman of the Department of Genetics at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. Our apologies for this oversight.

Above, speakers who presented their research findings at the Robert Nordlie Symposium on Metabolic Enzymes and Regulation are (front row, left to right): Michael McDaniel, Ph.D. (M.S. '66), St. Louis; Dean Danner, Ph.D. '68, Atlanta; Nordlie; Gene Ness, Ph.D. '71, Tampa; Herbert Fromm, Ph.D., Ames, Iowa; (and back row, from left): Ann Burchell, Ph.D., Dundee, Scotland; Alex Lange, Ph.D., Minneapolis; Wayne Anderson, Ph.D. '68, Bethesda, Md.; Mark Yorek, Ph.D. '81, Iowa City, Iowa, and Patrick Choy, Ph.D. '75, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Special Notice to Alums Recently Finishing Residency:

If you have recently completed residency training, we'd like to hear from you. We are looking for our physician-alumni who are now making the transition to practice, pursuing a fellowship or changing residency training programs.

Please send us this information (including your practice location (city, state) and employer (hospital or clinic)); your fellowship program (location, specialty and institution), or your new training program (specialty, your status (year) in program, institution and location).

Send to: **Kitty Monley** at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, using the information below.

Thanks very much!

Address Changes:

Please send address changes to: Kitty Monley, Office of Administration and Finance, UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Box 9037, Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037; e-mail: kmonley@medicine.nodak.edu or call 701/777-2431 during business hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Letters

Parents enjoy White Coat Ceremony

This afternoon (Aug. 11) my husband, Dennis, and I attended the White Coat Ceremony and the reception afterwards.

Words cannot express how proud we were as we watched our son, Tom Hogan, receive his coat, pins and book, and take the Oath (of Hippocrates). It was a wonderful ceremony, made even better by all the speakers. The reception was such a neat way for all of us to mingle and share this special time (all that delicious food didn't hurt anything either!).

Thank you so much for making this day so memorable for all of us.
Shirley Hogan, Grand Forks, ND

Funds raised for March of Dimes

About \$5,000 was raised for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation through the WalkAmerica event hosted by the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UNDSMHS) last spring. UNDSMHS won first place for most money generated (\$1,223) as well as having the most participants.

On behalf of the March of Dimes state board of directors, I want to thank everyone who participated and contributed time and/or money to make this a success and to promote the UND medical school in our community.

Special thanks to **Dean H. David Wilson**; **Randy Eken**, associate dean for administration and finance; **Carol Winkels**, account technician in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics; **Dorothy Elston**, administrative secretary in the Office of Medical Education, and **Mario Borboa**, information support technician in Communication Services, all of Grand Forks. And a special thanks to the medical students who took time away from their studies to contribute to this worthy cause.

Thanks again for all the hard work.
*Richard Vari, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Science in Medicine Education
Grand Forks, ND*

Visit our web site: <http://www.med.und.nodak.edu>

DEAN'S LETTER

One building project completed, another begins

New University Health Center Agreement with Altru Approved

The State Board of Higher Education has approved an agreement between UND and Altru Health System of Grand Forks which will result in construction of a new University Health Center on the north end of the campus in an area known as the Bronson Property.

The \$4 million structure will be built by Altru and, in the fall of 2001, Altru will exchange it for ownership of the Rehabilitation Hospital, located in Medical Park in Grand Forks.

The new building will house the Family Practice Center, a clinic operated by the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences where family physician-residents are trained, and other medical education functions.

The University Health Center will be part of a development, called University

Village, a complex of buildings that includes the Ralph Engelstad hockey arena, now under construction, and Barnes and Noble bookstore, retail shops, restaurants and service outlets.

The Barnes and Noble bookstore opened this month.

Family medicine recognized again for attracting medical grads

Our hats off to the Department of Family Medicine; it has been recognized again by the American Association of Family Physicians (AAFP) for the high percentage of medical (M.D.) graduates at UNDSMHS who have selected to enter training programs in this field.

The AAFP has awarded the department the Silver Award, the second-highest level of recognition, for its record

of attracting grads (29 percent) into family medicine. This percentage represents an average of alumni from three recent M.D. classes.

This is the sixth Silver Award for the department; it also has received three Gold Awards (for 30 percent or higher) in past years.

Family doctors remain a most critically necessary type of physician in rural areas, and we applaud the department and its faculty members throughout the state for this achievement. All our physician-faculty members, who love to teach, inspire and nurture students' interest in a particular field of medicine.

We congratulate North Dakota family physicians who have encouraged many students to pursue family medicine. They deserve this honor.

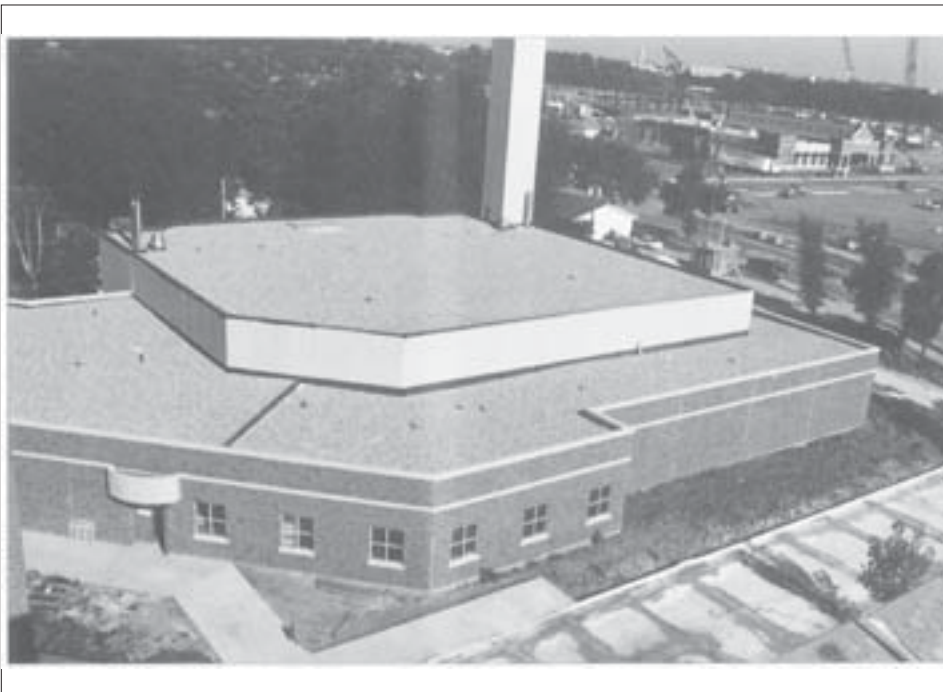
Freshman medical students: the new "crop" arrives

Last month we welcomed 58 freshman medical students to the UND medical school and to the profession of medicine. We are fortunate to have enrolled a group of bright, energetic and enthusiastic young people who represent the best of what this region produces. I look forward to getting to know them and participating in their growth as capable, caring physicians. I welcome them to the profession of medicine.

While I have heard many physicians of my era say they would never want to go through medical school again, I do not feel the same. I would begin again in a New York minute. The way the curriculum here has been reshaped and redesigned makes learning the joy it was meant to be. This faculty and staff are ready and eager to help students along the way. It is the best way to learn.



H. David Wilson, M.D.
Dean



The newly constructed Biomedical Research Facility at the north end of the UND medical school complex at Sixth Avenue North and Columbia Road, is a state-of-the-art building to house research animals, mostly small rodents. It will be dedicated during Homecoming activities this fall at UND. (The new Barnes and Noble Bookstore, which operates the University bookstore, is visible in the distance.)

Addressing New Medical Students

Mitchell Emphasizes Critical Need for Physician Self-observation

James Mitchell, M.D., the Lee A. Christoferson, Sr., M.D., Chairman of Neuroscience, Fargo, delivered the keynote address at the White Coat Ceremony last month for entering freshman medical students and their families.

"I chose as my topic today what I'm calling 'self-responsibility,'" Mitchell told the students who, he said, will be entering a medical curriculum that "is really designed with one purpose, and that is to make them self-learners.

"Medical education was very different 20 years ago...(when) we all sat around for two years memorizing things and rarely saw patients...

"Today the message to students, residents and practicing physicians is learning in medicine is a lifelong task and the sooner we learn that and start it in on our own, the better we'll be."

People in medicine tend to "complain that other people watch what we do: third-party payers look over our shoulder, medical boards are watching what we're doing," he said. "But in reality, most of the decisions we make - for better or worse - we make on our own, we make independently.

"For that reason, what we need to do as physicians is always have an acute sense of self-observation. We need to be people who watch ourselves, we need to sense the weight of the responsibility that we have," Mitchell explained.

"Self-observation,' to me, implies being self-critical and it also means being self-correcting, learning from our experience and moving forward."

He based his remarks, Mitchell told the audience, on the words of the Second Century, Roman philosopher Marcus Aurelius, who, in written meditations to himself, was "basically reminding himself to live a virtuous life."

The thoughts of this very powerful conqueror were pertinent to the gathering of first-year medical students, he said, because "there are analogies to medicine here, the first being that we (physicians)



James Mitchell, M.D.

have a great deal of power and we can influence a lot of people's lives, but we need to be self-observing, we need to be self-critical and we need to be self-correcting."

'Work yourself hard, but not as if you were being made a victim and not with any desire for sympathy or admiration; desire one thing alone.'

"We all know medicine is associated with hard work... Physicians traditionally though, many times, made the mistake of thinking that the only thing in their life was to be medicine," Mitchell said, but physicians, "to really function optimally, need to have stability in their lives in general."

He recalled the stress of his internship training in Indiana, a "blur" of a year in which he "never was well-rested." Among 20 of his classmates who were married at the start of the year, 12 were divorced or separated at the end of it - "kind of an astounding figure when you stop to think about it."

He pointed to the high rates of divorce, suicide and substance dependence that plague physicians, emphasizing to students that, as "you are flushing out this infrastructure of medical knowledge in the next few years, you also need to be thinking about consolidating your

personal life in a way that's supportive for you and that will serve you well in the years ahead."

"A large part of your efforts in the year ahead should be developing stability in your life, and in your personal life as well, if you want to be the physician you hope to be."

'Begin each day by telling yourself, Today I shall be meeting with interference, ingratitude, insolence, disloyalty, ill will and selfishness.'

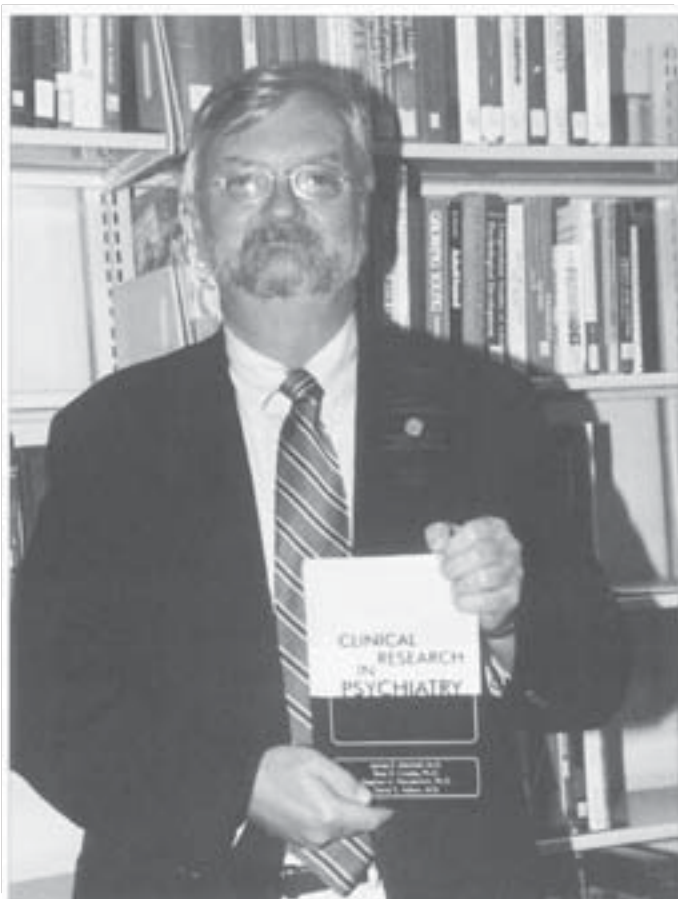
"Now, obviously, Marcus Aurelius is talking about managed care here... I say that only half in jest..." he said. For physicians "there are several social/political issues that we need... to participate in the discussion about..."

"Clearly this entity (managed care) that's been created now does not work well - at best it's impractical, at worst it's dangerous. But in the decade ahead a new system is, undoubtedly, going to evolve and we need to be part of that discussion," Mitchell said. **"We need to be at that table, and we need to be there representing the welfare of our patients and not our personal interests."**

Another issue that physicians need to involve themselves with, he said, concerns the fact that "despite the wealth of this nation, the percentage of people who do not have access to health care and...who live below the poverty line - which is a main risk factor for untoward medical outcome - continues to grow.

"I think we need to find that unacceptable, and we need to be actively involved in try to find ways to reverse that."

'Accustom yourself to give careful attention to what others are saying, and try your best to enter into the mind of the speaker. Look beneath the surface. Never let a thing's intrinsic quality or worth escape you.'



James Mitchell, M.D., professor and chairman of neuroscience and president of the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute (NRI), Fargo, is an internationally recognized authority on eating disorders, anorexia nervosa and bulimia.

Mitchell, who is **the first occupant of the NRI/Lee Christoferson, Sr., M.D., Chair in Neuroscience**, the first significantly endowed chair in the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, is the author of four books. His most recent book, *Points of View: Stories of Psychopathology*, is due out next month, according to the publisher, Wiley Press of Philadelphia.

His other books are titled:

Elements of Clinical Research in Psychiatry (with Ross Crosby, Ph.D.; Stephen Wonderlich, Ph.D., and David Adson, M.D.), published by the American Psychiatric Association Press of Washington, D.C;

Bulimia Nervosa, by University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, and

Anorexia and Bulimia: Diagnosis and Treatment, by the University of Minnesota Press.

This illustrates a lesson concerning “how we treat patients,” Mitchell said, “by trying to get into their mind, to understand what they see, to try to understand their world. We need to have a sense of their intrinsic worth.

“There’s a bad habit in medicine of referring to people as illnesses: ‘This patient’s an asthmatic; that patient’s a diabetic; this patient is a schizophrenic.’ Some people say this just a shorthand in medicine, a way of communicating. But it betrays something else. I think it betrays a certain dehumanization that can creep into our medical care unless we’re constantly vigilante about that.

“Put simply, we need to always treat patients as people. What links them is not their illness but their humanity; and what links us to them is our humanity as well.”

‘It is man’s peculiar distinction to love even those who err and go astray. Such a love is born as soon as you realize that they are your brothers (and sisters), that they are stumbling in ignorance.’

From this, students can “learn something about our attitudes towards patients,” Mitchell said. With an anecdote about a fellow doctor who - although very bright - acted punitively and caustically with patients who abused alcohol.

“This doesn’t mean that we can’t control our prejudices. The problem comes in when we deny having them: ‘We’re well-educated physicians. Why would we have prejudices?’

“Well, the simple fact is, we do - most of us do - and we need to learn what they are and flush them out if we are going to be able to control them.”

‘Death, like birth, is one of nature’s secrets. The same elements that have been combined are then disbursed. Nothing about it need be cause for shame.’

Another lesson medicine has learned in the last 20 to 30 years is that death is a part of life, he said. Using as an example from his days in training, Mitchell recalled a patient who was dying of respiratory failure, and knew he was dying.

“Every day, when we made our rounds, every time we would assure him he was going to get better. And every time he would assure us that he was going to die.

“We couldn’t talk to him about it; it just wasn’t in our vocabulary - to sit down with someone and acknowledge that they were going to die.”

Physicians have learned that “to prolong life and to deny death, in many instances, does more harm. And so one of the things we need to learn about is death, unfortunately.”

As he closed his remarks, he asked students to begin thinking in terms of having begun their “professional lives in medicine, albeit as students, and with that, means the responsibility of being in medicine.

“You’re going to be held to a higher standard than most people, and the way you’ll meet that standard is to continually watch what you’re doing... Be self-observing, be self-critical, be self-correcting.”

Growing in Popularity Among Med Students

Program Offers 'Hands-on' Experience in Rural Communities

Eight junior medical students are taking their third year of studies at four, rural North Dakota communities as part of the **Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME) Program**.

The students are spending the majority of the year learning from practicing physicians who serve as their teachers in the following communities:

Devils Lake - Rachel Hansen, Maria Loerzel, Nathaniel Reuter

Jamestown - Rosemarie Roy and Jennifer Saltmarsh

Hettinger - Kenneth Watts and Michael LeBeau

Williston - Davin Hatlestad

The ROME Program, directed by **Russ Petty, M.D. (B.S. Med. '72)**, of Lake Region Clinic, P.C., in Devils Lake, is a special option for third-year medical students who wish to spend most of their third year in a rural setting. This is the third academic year the program has been offered.

It is growing in popularity among students: last year, four students participated in the ROME; in its first year, 1998-99, two students participated.

The emphasis of the ROME program is on continuity of care, patient-centered learning and study based on problems the patients

present. The experience gives students a deeper understanding of and appreciation for continuity of care, a hallmark of family medicine and other primary care specialties.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for students who

think they may have an interest in a rural medical practice," said **Dean H. David Wilson, M.D.** "We place them with physicians who are outstanding in their fields."

Students in the eight-month ROME program receive an educational experience quite different from their classmates who are assigned to the Bismarck and Fargo medical school campuses. Normally, third-year medical students take sequential courses in internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology and psychiatry in Bismarck and Fargo hospitals and clinics.

The ROME student studies all of these topics simultaneously over the span



Maria Loerzel (left) says former ROME students sparked her interest in the optional program.



At left, Nathaniel Reuter and Maria Loerzel, third-year medical students, review an x-ray with Russ Petty, M.D. (B.S. Med. '72) at Lake Region Clinic in Devils Lake.

of eight months, according to patients' conditions. In close, daily, continuous contact with their physician-teachers, ROME students have extensive patient contact - they conduct interviews, take histories and physicals, perform procedures, work with other health professionals. They study and seek out information specific to health problems the patients present.

According to Petty, the great advantage of the program is the opportunity to have a more real-life learning experience. Students have the opportunity to follow patients through various medical conditions, depending on their health care needs.

(continued on page 10)

Harwood Fund Grows

Initiative to Honor Former Dean Tops \$158,000

A total of \$158,213 from 291 donors has been received to date for the Harwood Initiative, according to the UND Foundation which accepts and records such gifts.

The Harwood Initiative is a drive to fund remodeling and renovation of the front entrance to the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences at 501 N. Columbia Road. Plans include making the entrance handicapped-accessible on the exterior and highlighting the career of Dean Theodore Harwood in the interior lobby area.

There will be a display of all names of donors to the Harwood Initiative also located in the lobby of the east entrance, the most public of the school's entry points.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of alumni and friends who

have elected to demonstrate their support for this institution and its mission," said **Dean H. David Wilson**. "The Harwood Initiative will honor the career of Dr. Harwood, who dedicated 20 years of his professional life to the progress of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences."

Here are the most recent donations, received and recorded from May 6 to Aug. 29:

Dr. and Mrs. C. Peter Fischer, Ann Arbor, MI
Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Gilsdorf, Phoenix, AZ
Paul R. Hamann, M.D., Edina, MN
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Hedger, Oak Park, IL
Drs. Linda and Theodore Kleiman, Fargo, ND
Elden L. Mohr, M.D., Vancouver, WA
Dr. and Mrs. David O. Monson, River Forest, IL
W. Jean Snyder, Phoenix, AZ
Stephen A. Stromstad, M.D., Fargo, ND
Dr. and Mrs. Terry W. Torgenrud, Tacoma, WA

Dr. and Mrs. R. Donald McBane, Devils Lake, ND
Dr. and Mrs. H. David Wilson, Grand Forks, ND

'Wall of Honor' to Recognize Initiative Contributors

If you wish to contribute to the Harwood Initiative, please note that a "wall of honor" is being designed for the front entry of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences where the names of all donors will be displayed according to giving level.

Please send contributions to: The UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Office of the Dean, P.O. Box 9037, Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037. Make checks payable to the Harwood Initiative.

Grad Student Receives Ya-Pin Lee Award in Biochemistry

Robert Bianco has been selected to receive the Dr. Ya-Pin Lee Outstanding Graduate Student Award by faculty members in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Bianco, son of William and Dolores Bianco of Bismarck, is working toward the doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degree with **John Shabb, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, Grand Forks. He plans to complete his degree and graduate next year.

The award recognizes an outstanding student for his or her dedication, accomplishment and zeal for research, qualities displayed by the late Dr. Lee who taught in the department for many years.

Bianco is supported by a doctoral dissertation assistantship from the North Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), one of only four such awards that have been granted



Robert Bianco, a graduate student from Bismarck, is this year's winner of the Dr. Ya-Pin Lee Award in Biochemistry.

to graduate students in the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences since the program began last year. His research project focuses on interactions of specific components within the heart in response to different stimuli.

The graduate student "is developing a novel genetic approach for the rapid identification and cloning of protein interacting partners," said Shabb. "This cutting-edge technique has important applications to the field of proteomics, the study of the entire protein complement of a cell and the changes that may occur as a result of disease or altered physiological state.

"With the completion of the Genome Project, proteomics is the next great frontier in biological research."

A 1988 graduate of Bismarck High School, Bianco earned a bachelor of science degree in biology at UND in 1993.

Members of M.D. Class of 2004

Freshman Med Students Begin Education at UNDSMHS

Fifty-eight freshman medical students were cloaked in their first "white coats," the traditional garment of the practicing physician, at a ceremony Aug. 11 at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UNDSMHS). They are members of the doctor of medicine (M.D.) Class of 2004.

Family, friends, faculty members and others attended the ceremony during which students recite a revised version of the Oath of Hippocrates, an ancient vow to uphold basic professional principles.

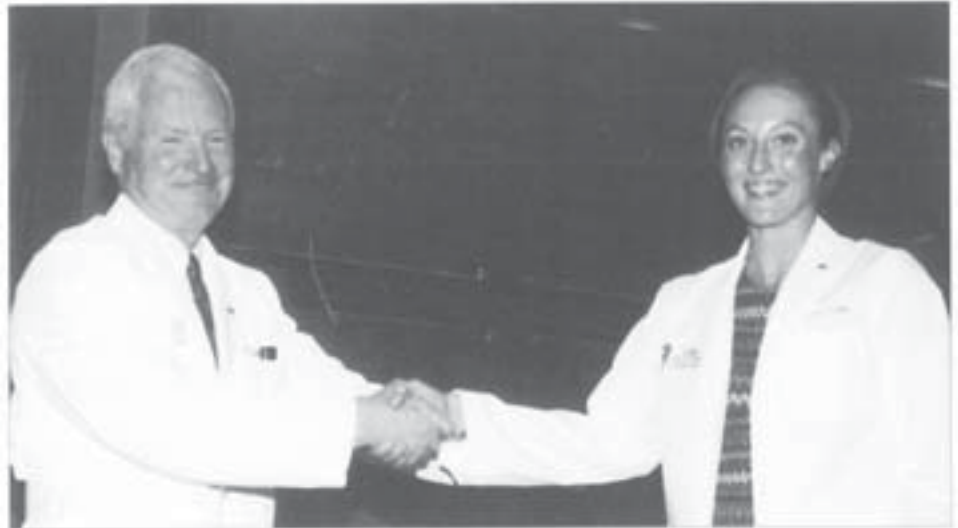
The White Coat Ceremony, which marks the end of their first week in medical school, is intended to instill in students the idea that they are professionals with all the responsibilities that that role requires.

It is an effort on the part of the school, as well as many other medical schools throughout the country, to reaffirm the importance of humanism in medicine and the primacy of the needs of the patient over any other considerations. The ceremony was initiated by Columbia University in 1993.

Keynote speaker for the event **James Mitchell, M.D.**, professor and chairman of neuroscience, Fargo, delivered a talk titled, "The Importance of Self-observation." Also president of the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute, Mitchell is an internationally recognized authority on the eating disorders, anorexia nervosa and bulimia.

Each student was given a lapel pin with the inscription, "Humanism in Medicine," provided by the Arnold Gold Foundation; a UNDSMHS pin, and a book, titled "On Doctoring," by Drs. John Stone and Richard Reynolds, noted authors in the medical field.

During the first week of medical school, freshmen participate in sessions designed to orient them to what lies ahead in their next four years. They are introduced to the medical profession, the renewed curriculum, learning resources, the small-group learning structure, among



During the White Coat ceremony, Karna Colby (right), first-year medical student, shakes hands with Dean H. David Wilson after receiving her white coat. She is the daughter of Warren Colby of Voltaire and Patricia Colby of Velva.

other topics. Students also get acquainted with faculty and administrators by meeting for shared meals.

This is the third medical class to begin study under a renewed curriculum which focuses on "patient-centered learning." The curriculum is designed to rely less on passive learning, especially through lectures, and more on small-group and independent learning.

Medical students take their first two years of study at the UND campus in Grand Forks, third year in Bismarck, Fargo or a participating ROME (Rural Opportunities in Medical Education) community, and fourth year in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks or Minot.

Here are the members of the M.D. Class of 2004:

Daniel Anderson, James Bares, Brent Barnstuble, Rimon Bengiamin, Laura Berg, Christina Broadwell, Christina Bulisco, Justin Buls, Shaun Christenson, Karna Colby, John Eickman, Kathleen Fisher, Scott

Forseen, Joshua Gapp, Mike Grant, Isaac Grindeland, Jon Grudem, Robert Guttormson,

Geniel Harrison, Andrew Hetland, Thomas Hogan, Andrea Howick, Mark Hubbell, Jason Johnson, Janelle Jones, Christopher Kallenbach, Kevin Karls, JoEllen Kohlman, William Kurtz, David Kuylen,

Heidi Lako-Adamson, Daniel Lewis, Travis Lien, Eric Lokken, Kara Looysen, Joseph Luzius,

Kenric Malmberg, Audrey Marcusen, Candelaria Martin, Gregory Mason, Ross Meidinger, Jill Melicher, Leah Metz, Francine Mousseau, Gregory Mumm,

Derek Nagle, Anthony Nardi, Morgan Niedringhaus, Todd Officer, Samuel Paczkowski,

Joey Rexine, James Schmidt, Grant Seeger, John Sillery, Heather Stoy, Amie Swanson, Jamie Vennes and Patience Woodruff

Freshman Med Students: *The Class in Capsule*

According to **Judy DeMers**, associate dean for student affairs and admissions, Grand Forks, the M.D. Class of 2004 exhibits significantly different demographics than the previous class.

Sixty-five percent of the class is male, she reports, compared to 48 percent last year and 53 percent the year prior.

"We have well-qualified students entering in the Class of 2004," she said, noting that, taken as a group, the students'



DeMers

MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) scores are all 9 or higher and overall are slightly higher than that of the class which entered last year. The collective GPA (gross point average) of the M.D. Class of 2004 is higher than last year's, too, she said.

Here are a few other facts:

Age: Range 21-47 years (mean - 25.5, median - 23, mode - 23 years)

Ethnic background: seven (12.3 percent) of the students self-report an ethnic minority background (all are American Indian)

Majors: biology (16), chemistry (11), zoology (5), medical technology (4), biochemistry (3), as well as many other science fields; interestingly, the class includes a holder of the doctor of chiropractic degree, as well as those who have earned master's degrees in agribusiness, biomedical engineering and clinical psychology, and undergraduate degrees in pharmacy, philosophy, psychology, Latin and economics

Fifteen are graduates of the University of North Dakota, nine are alumni of North Dakota State University, six are Concordia College graduates and five attended the University of Minnesota.

Med School Recognized Nationally for High Percentage of Grads Choosing Family Medicine

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UNDSMHS) has been recognized by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) for "outstanding efforts to steward student interest in family practice and produce graduates who enter the specialty," according to Perry Pugno, M.D., of the AAFP.

The school received the Silver Achievement Award which is given on the basis of a three-year average, for the period ending last October, of the percentage of its M.D. graduates who entered accredited family medicine

residency programs after graduation.

The UNDSMHS average, 29 percent, placed it in the second tier of award winners (25.0 to 29.9 percent) for the Silver Award. Gold Achievement Awards are given to medical schools with an average of 30 percent or greater.

Since the award program was initiated, the UND medical school has received six Silver and three Gold awards.

AAFP Family Practice Percentage Awards were officially presented at the annual spring conference of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine in Florida.

Muscha Named Associate Director of Med School's Bismarck Family Medicine Residency

Ben Muscha, M.D. '92, formerly of Carrington, has been named associate director of the Family Medicine Residency Program of the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Bismarck.

He replaces **Russ Emery, M.D. '82,** who resigned to accept a position with Medcenter One in Bismarck.

Muscha has "always had an interest in teaching," he said, noting that he taught medical students at his practice in Carrington.

The Bismarck family medicine program has "a good track history" of preparing knowledgeable, capable physicians, he added.

The residency program is one of four such programs in family medicine that the UND medical school conducts throughout the state. Others are located in Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot. The Bismarck program, located at a clinic at 515 East Broadway, is directed by **Guy Tangedahl, M.D. '82.** Fifteen resident-physicians are in training in the three-year program.

Muscha, a native of Harvey, took undergraduate studies at UND and, in 1992, earned the doctor of medicine



Muscha

(M.D.) degree at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

He completed residency training at the UND Family Medicine Residency Program in Bismarck in 1995. At the end of his training, he was selected to receive the William F. Buckingham Outstanding Resident of the Year Award and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha honorary medical society.

In 1995, Muscha established his medical practice at the Foster County Medical Center in Carrington, a base from which he also took care of patients at the center's several affiliated satellite clinics.

He and his wife, Carmen, have two children, Brittany and Hayden, and reside in Bismarck.

Students Receive Academic Achievement Awards for Outstanding Scholarship

Sixteen medical students have received Academic Achievement Awards, according to **Sandra Elshaug**, financial aid officer in the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions, Grand Forks.

The following students received the award which is given according to recommendations by the UNDSMHS admissions committee. Recipients were selected on the basis of superior academic achievement and potential for exemplary scholarly performance in the future.

Freshmen: **Rimon Bengiamin, Christina Broadwell, John**

Eickman, Leah Metz, Gregory Mumm and Heather Stoy

The following students were selected on the basis of academic performance during the prior medical school year. These students were named award winners due to their standing as one of the top four or five students in their class for the year:

Sophomores: **Jeffrey Geddes, Rebecca Hogan and Derek Wayman**

Juniors: **Andrew Aswegan, Robin Hape and Todd Schaffer**

Seniors: **Afsoon Bahrani, Jodi Grossman, T.J. Matzke and Sarah Vick**

ROME Program Gives Med Students Experience in Rural Primary Care

(continued from page 6)

For example, students can be involved with a mother-to-be through pregnancy, birth, pre- and post-natal care and, later, with the infant who may return with an illness.

Or, students may become involved helping elderly patients, following them after hospitalization, going into the home and actually seeing what a tremendous effort it may be for them to get around.

“This is a great way to learn,” said **Rachel Hansen**, daughter of Michael and Patti Hoffart of Devils Lake. **“It is a wonderful place to learn. They have all good teachers here.”**

Maria Loerzel, daughter of William and Kazue Jones of Glenburn, said, “You get hands-on experience in medicine. You get to be involved with patient care and the community; you get to be involved in all aspects of their lives.”

The opportunity to focus on “continuity of care was a big plus,” Loerzel said. “You get to see what they’re going through” with repeated follow-up visits.

In designing the ROME program, UND medical school officials patterned it somewhat after the University of Minnesota RPAP (Rural Physician Associate Program) which, after more than 25 years, has accrued a noteworthy record of physician-graduates who choose primary care practices in rural communities.

The ROME program has been developed, in part, based on evidence that early exposure to the practice of rural primary



Heidi Bittner, M.D. '91, watches as Rachel Hansen, third-year medical student, examines an obstetrics patient at Lake Region Clinic in Devils Lake.

care medicine is a contributing factor in graduating physicians' decisions concerning practice location.

“I’m much more open to working in a small community,” said **Hansen**. As a physician in such communities, “you never know what to expect. Now I know what to expect.”

A Lasting Legacy

Creating an Endowed Chair within UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences

The dedicated service and leadership of Dr. Lee Allen Christoferson, Sr., will live on through an Endowed Chair within the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UNDSMHS) is nationally recognized for its innovative programs, driven by a highly competent, professional faculty.

Alumni and friends of the school have an opportunity to attract and retain such outstanding teachers and researchers as these through the **UND Foundation Endowed Chair Program**.

For example, our friends at The Neuropsychiatric Research Institute have made a magnificent investment in the future of the UNDSMHS by establishing the *NRI/Dr. Lee Allen Christoferson, Sr., M.D., Endowed Chair in Neuroscience*.

Lee Christoferson, Sr., a native of Bemidji, Minn., was a founding member of the The Neuropsychiatric Institute (TNI) which was established in 1955 as a non-profit organization to provide specialized care for neurologically and psychiatrically ill patients. TNI later became NRI, an independent, non-profit, biomedical research institute.

Dr. Christoferson and his wife, the former Nancy Nelson of Williston, raised three sons and three daughters in Fargo. One of their sons, Dr. Lee Christoferson, Jr., of Fargo, is an alumnus of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Lee Christoferson, Sr., died March 19, 2000 in Fargo.

The reasons for establishing an endowed chair vary, but all donors share a common desire to give something back to the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health



Lee A. Christoferson, Sr., M.D.

Sciences and to ensure the century-old tradition of excellence in teaching, research and service is passed on to future generations.

What is an endowed chair?

An endowed chair is a highly prestigious designation usually held by a full professor, who is allowed to use the annual income from the endowment to fund his or her research, teaching or publishing interest. The creation of an endowed chair allows the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences to bring renowned researchers and clinicians to lead specific programs or departments.

Who can create an endowed chair?

Anyone can create an endowed chair. It is not restricted to those who are or were in the medical profession or are relatives of health care providers or researchers.

Why is it endowed?

When an endowed chair is created, the endowment becomes a permanent fund invested by the UND Foundation. A portion of the growth from this investment is used to financially support the occupant of the chair. The balance of undistributed growth is added back to the principal thereby creating an inflation hedge.

How much is needed to create an endowed chair?

To establish an endowed chair, direct gifts of cash or other property with a value of \$1.5 million or more can be used. A gift of \$250,000 can be used to establish a Named Professorship, a permanently invested account used to supplement a faculty member's compensation.

Where can I get more information?

Contact **Dave Miedema**, UND Foundation, 1-800-543-8764, or dave@undalumni.org, for a personal and confidential discussion.

Please contact me to discuss how an endowed chair can benefit the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

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(All contacts will remain confidential.)

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