

## NDSU'S BOROWICZ WINS SCIENCE HONOR

### Source: David Bullock, For the Herald

A Polish graduate student whose North Dakota State University research focused on pregnant women has received the North Dakota Academy of Sciences' highest award for exemplary research by a student.

Pawel Borowicz accepted the A. Rodger Denison Award during the Academy of Sciences dinner Thursday night in UND's Hilton Garden Inn.

M. Laura Parnas, a UND graduate student in biochemistry and molecular biology, earned one of two honorable mentions. NDSU graduate student Shamus Funk received the other.

A. Rodger Denison is a highly involved person in the Academy[sic] of Sciences around the country. The NDAS calls for student research papers in his name.

A native of Poland with a veterinary degree, Borowicz focused his research on the ages of women at the time of their first pregnancy. His work involved comparing early age pregnancies with later ones, and he examined factors such as placental development, as it pertains to low birth weight.

"I found out that the younger the female, the higher the risk of low birth weight and embryonic loss," said Borowicz, a student at NDSU's Center for Nutrition and Pregnancy.

Borowicz's work was under NDSU advisers Larry Reynolds and Dale Redmer.

Minot State University swept the undergraduate research awards. Top honors went to Jamie Nett, while Cory Mattern and Shanna Mazurek received honorable mentions. Nett's research at Minot was in chemistry.

Before even Mattern knew about his award, he politely explained the research in chemistry he was doing at Minot State. As he ate dinner with four of his peers and professor Ryan Winburn, Mattern talked about their research on the numerical analysis of complex mixtures of solids. The group finds out the make-up of these mixtures from calculated X-ray diffraction patterns.

"Minot has been working intensely with its undergraduate program," said Holly Brown-Borg, past president of the North Dakota Academy of Sciences. "It's the fine mentors that really stimulate the undergraduates with their research."

Brown-Borg talked of the students who get involved with teachers funded by the Investigator/Mentor Research Project of North Dakota Idea Networks for Biomedical Research Excellence (ND INBRE), sponsored by the National Institutes [sic] of Health.

A new federal grant project, ND INBRE integrates efforts across the state's tribal, undergraduate and research institutions.

Brown-Borg spoke highly of local student science and their work ethic, adding, "It's great to have Valley City, Dickinson and Minot involved."

"NDAS encourages these students' work so they would go to graduate programs after they got the mentor experience from the North Dakota undergraduate programs," she said.

"It's a good commodity to have interest in research throughout the state," Brown-Borg added. "The stimulation of research across the state encourages higher education across the state, and that puts North Dakota on the map."

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