The Sioux Award is the highest honor presented to UND alumni and friends who have distinguished themselves through professional achievements, participation in community service and loyalty to UND. The UND Alumni Association and UND Foundation are proud to present the 2012 Sioux Award to the following worthy recipients; Benedict, '62, '63 and Dorothy Gorecki, Garfield Beckstead, '61, Kathryn Urich, '86, and Mark Chipman, '83, '85.

KATHRYN UHRICH

Kathryn Uhrich, '86, is a scientist and researcher, university dean, entrepreneur, world traveler and philanthropist.

As a high-schooler at Grand Forks Central, Kathryn’s chemistry teacher connected her with a research internship at the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center in Grand Forks. She continued that research through high school and college, and would go on to graduate **cum laude from UND with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry**. “Math, Chemistry, German — there wasn’t a class at UND I didn’t like,” she said. Her positive experience and interaction with her professors inspired her to continue her education at Cornell University, where she earned her Master of Science (1989) and Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry/Polymers (1992). She completed her post-doctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and AT&T Bell Laboratories.

As founder of the Polymerix Corporation, her continued research has focused on polymerized drugs that more efficiently deliver treatment to targeted areas such as orthopedic implants, coronary stents and arthritic joints. In 1997, she patented PolyAspirin, which is now undergoing clinical trials as a material for a new type of cardiac stent, and co-founded Polymer Therapeutics, which focuses on using PolyAspirin for wound care. In addition, she is serves as Dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at Rutgers University in New Jersey, where she oversees six departments and 300 faculty members.

“Being a woman scientist, people often say ‘Are you sure you should do this?’” Kathryn said. “Just because I’m a woman doesn’t mean I can’t run a machine or do cool science.” That prompted her to establish the Jeanette M. and Herbert W.A. Kroll Scholarship Endowment at UND, which is named in honor of her grandparents, who always encouraged her to do what she thought was best for her and is aimed at young women who are interested in science and engineering.

Her scientific honors include being named to the New Jersey’s Technology Council Hall of Fame (2006), Outstanding New Jersey Scientist by the New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research (2004), and the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award (2003). In February, New Jersey’s Star Ledger newspaper named her one of “Jersey’s 20 Biggest Brains.” “Someone forwarded me the story, and I was reading through saying ‘I know him, I know her … wait, that’s me!’” she said. “I still think of myself as some kid from North Dakota.” In her scant free time, Kathryn enjoys traveling the world and hunting for the world’s “10 Best Hikes.” She lives with her husband, Jeff Holmes, another Grand Forks native, in Plainfield, N.J.