

College of Dentistry

- The Children's Dental Day program celebrated its 10th anniversary. Since 2001, the program has provided more than \$2 million in free care to more than 4,500 needy underserved children throughout Nebraska.
- Jeffrey Payne, D.D.S., associate dean for research, is primary author of a March article in the Journal of the American Dental Association titled "Doxycycline therapy for periodontitis and biomarkers of inflammation." The study was selected as the cover story for JADA, which has a monthly circulation of 143,000-plus.
- Curt Kuster, D.D.S., retired after an outstanding 34-year academic career. Merlyn Vogt, D.D.S., assumes Dr. Kuster's position of assistant dean for students and director of admissions. David Blaha, D.D.S., becomes the director of alumni affairs, replacing Dr. Vogt.

College of Graduate Studies

- In the office of the vice chancellor for academic affairs, James Turpen, Ph.D., has been named associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. He also serves as professor and vice chairman for education in the department of genetics, cell biology and anatomy. Cheryl Thompson, Ph.D., associate professor in the College of Nursing, has been named interim assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and chief student affairs officer.
- Terri Vadovski is the new director of graduate studies, replacing Amy Schlueter. In July, Jialin Zheng, M.D., assumed additional responsibilities as associate dean for graduate studies. He also serves as professor of pharmacology and experimental neurosciences and director of UNMC's Asia Pacific Rim Development Program.

College of Medicine

- At the May commencement, 110 students graduated from the College of Medicine.
- Jennifer Larsen, M.D., assumed her new role as vice chancellor for research on July 1. Since joining UNMC in 1987 she has held many positions including the founding and current director of the Clinical Research Center.
- Bradley Britigan, M.D., began his tenure as dean of the College of Medicine on July 1. He has 24 years in academic medicine including 17 years at the University of Iowa, where he served as director of the division of infectious diseases, and the past seven years at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, where he served as the Taylor Professor and chairman of the department of internal medicine.

College of Nursing

- The dedication of the new Center for Nursing Science in Omaha occurred on Oct. 13, 2010. The LEED-certified building expands the college's space by 60 percent and makes available to faculty and students state-of-the-art classrooms, clinical labs and research space.
- The college has a record number of 10 extramurally funded education and training grants underway for more than \$6 million. These programs address critical workforce shortages for the state, for example, in psychiatric behavioral health, geriatric nursing, executive nurse leadership and nursing faculty.

College of Pharmacy

- Michael (Mike) Holcomb, Pharm.D., '90, was named Preceptor of the Year at the Spring Honors Convocation. Holcomb is a third generation pharmacist at Holcomb Pharmacy in Broken Bow, Neb.
- Dennis Robinson, Ph.D., has retired from the College of Pharmacy after 25 years of service. He joined the faculty in 1986 as an assistant professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences and later served as an associate professor and interim chairman. He was appointed chairman of the department of pharmaceutical sciences in 2003. He plans to return to New Zealand.
- Clarence Ueda, Pharm.D., Ph.D., retired from the faculty on Aug. 1. He joined the faculty as an assistant professor of pharmaceuticals in 1974, was appointed interim dean of the college in 1986 and subsequently dean in 1987. He served 20 years as dean. In late 2007, he left the deanship and returned to the faculty.

College of Public Health

- Five new faculty members joined the college this summer, and the College of Public Health accreditation site visit was completed May 23-25.
- UNMC has received renewal of a five year \$1.3 million Science Education Partnership Award to strengthen the math and science skills among American Indian youth in Nebraska and South Dakota. The grant, through the National Center for Research Resources, a division of the National Institutes of Health, has helped 130 middle school students and 83 teachers since 2005.
- Two new master of public health concentrations launch this fall: Community Oriented Primary Care and Maternal and Child Health.

Eppley Institute / UNMC Eppley Cancer Center

- The Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer celebrated its 50th anniversary with a symposium on Sept. 9. Current and former Eppley Institute faculty shared how being a member of the faculty has shaped their careers and scientific accomplishments. James D. Iglehart, M.D., of the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, delivered the Dr. Henry Lemon Lectureship.
- Eppley Cancer Center researchers are collaborating with Henry Lynch, M.D., of Creighton University's Hereditary Cancer Center to identify genes that increase cancer risk in families. Using state-of-the-art technology, researchers are performing whole genome DNA sequencing on samples from families. These studies aim to identify genes that increase familial breast and colon cancer risk.

Munroe-Meyer Institute

- With \$500,000 in funding from the Hattie B. Munroe Foundation, MMI started a neural motor development program. A collaboration involving the Magnetoencephalography (MEG) Lab at The Nebraska Medical Center, the Motion Analysis Lab at MMI and the MMI Neurogenetic Communication Disorders Lab, this new research program develops and evaluates new therapeutic approaches for children with cerebral palsy and other motor disorders.

School of Allied Health Professions

- The Physician Assistant Education program was awarded a \$924,000 Health Resources and Services Administration grant to provide scholarships and educational support to students pursuing careers as physician assistants. The funding is part of a \$30.1 million allocation under the Affordable Care Act for the Expansion of Physician Assistants Training.
- The SAHP class of 2010, consisting of 173 graduates from the school's 11 health professions education programs, had a 100 percent first-time pass rate on certification and licensure examinations.
- James Somers, Ph.D., director of the physician assistant education program, has announced plans to retire in the spring of 2012. Dr. Somers has been with the program for 30 years and has served as director since 1991.
- The medical nutrition education program has been approved to offer the master of science and/or the doctor of philosophy degrees in medical nutrition through the Medical Sciences Interdepartmental Area graduate program.