

## College of Pharmacy Alumni Association scholarship recipients

Six College of Pharmacy Alumni Association students were awarded \$500 scholarships in recognition of their outstanding achievements in academics and co-curricular activities including organizational involvement, leadership, research and philanthropy/community service.

The awardees, along with their hometowns, are: second-year student Jeremy Gieseke, Winger, Minn.; and fourth-year students, Elizabeth Boals, Sutton, Neb., Megan Nelson, North Platte, Neb., Jennifer Nesiba VanMoorleghem, St. Paul, Neb., Amanda Pekny, Meadow Grove, Neb., and Abbie Pembleton, Kearney, Neb.



## AMSA conference

Theresa Hahn, second-year medical student, is pictured with Jim Anderson, M.D., '90, chief of neuroradiology at Oregon Health and Science University, Portland. Hahn shadowed Dr. Anderson at the American Medical Student Association National Conference in Portland in December. She received a grant from the College of Medicine Alumni Association to attend the conference. "Thanks so much for the wonderful learning opportunity and leadership training," Hahn said. "I am appreciative and grateful for the funding."

## Translating research into the community

The Center for Clinical and Translational Research was created to improve the translation of research from the "bench" to the bedside and from clinical trials into the community setting. As director of the center, Jennifer Larsen, M.D., professor, diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism, brings investigators from different disciplines – both at UNMC and regionally – together to work on research and health care issues. Reducing rural health disparities is the primary focus of the center. A Web site has been created to provide and communicate resources for the center ([clinicalresearch.unmc.edu](http://clinicalresearch.unmc.edu)). Any ideas for information or resources that would be of value to one's practice or community are welcome in the community engagement section of the Web site. To participate in regional clinical trials or learn more about clinical research or clinical trials opportunities, contact the Center for Clinical and Translational Research administrator Tara Stafford, [tstafford@unmc.edu](mailto:tstafford@unmc.edu) or 402-559-6803.

## College of Medicine Alumni Association scholarship recipients

The College of Medicine Alumni Association announced that five medical students received scholarships, totaling more than \$60,000, for the 2009-10 academic year. Recipients included: Joseph Hejkal, M1, Omaha, Neb.; Alicia Hinze, M3, Omaha, Neb.; Nathan Krug, M4, Chapman, Neb.; Jared Kvapil, M4, Littleton, Colo.; and Nicole Westercamp, M2, Omaha, Neb. The students were selected from among more than 500 students for their leadership and academic success.

## Alumni Relations begins administration of SHARING Clinic

In January, the student-run SHARING Clinics came under the administration of UNMC Alumni Relations.

UNMC's SHARING (Student Health Alliance Reaching Indigent Needy Groups) Clinics are a nationally recognized group of clinics that serve the uninsured and underinsured at little or no cost.

Founded in 1997, the SHARING Clinics include:

- SHARING for general health care;
- RESPECT for STD testing, treatment and counseling; and
- GOODLIFE for diabetes care.

Students and faculty from a variety of disciplines, including medicine, nursing, physical therapy and public health, work together to provide patients with integrated, multidisciplinary care.

"We see this as a very positive opportunity," said Roxanna Jokela, director of alumni relations. "This will provide a great way to connect UNMC alumni with students while assisting in community service activities."

*If you are interested in learning more about at the SHARING Clinic, contact UNMC Alumni Relations at [alumni@unmc.edu](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu) or 559-4385 or 888-725-8664.*

## Alumni return to see classmates, campus



From the College of Medicine Class of 1959, Margaret Peterson, Carol Swarts, Rudolf Link and Marilyn Myers enjoy their 50-year reunion dinner during Alumni Weekend.



Mary Arthur, Dave Arthur, '75, Paula Barta, John Barta, '76, Michael Grutsch, '75, and Linda Jackson share stories at the Physician Assistant Reception during Alumni Weekend.



Anne Richards Ohrt, Mary White Owen, Diana Whitney Neujahr, Ruth Heins Harnopp, Donna Rice Buffington, Kathy Sealock Lewis and Daina Roze Sprude, members of the College of Nursing Class of 1959, had a wonderful time reminiscing during Alumni Weekend.

Memories abounded as more than 400 alumni and friends gathered at UNMC for educational sessions and campus tours during the annual Alumni Weekend, Oct. 2-3.

"The Alumni Reunion Weekend is always a special time and this year was no exception," said Bob Bartee, vice chancellor for external affairs. "There was a fantastic turnout and it was wonderful to see our health care professionals converge on Omaha and enjoy a weekend with friends, colleagues and faculty."

Honor classes for last year's reunion included: 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and Half Century Club members (those who graduated more than 50 years ago).

On Oct. 2, alumni toured the UNMC campus, including the new Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education and heard from five UNMC deans at the welcome back lunch.

"Our 50th reunion was a wonderful time to catch up with old classmates," said Carol Swarts, M.D., '59. "As in other reunions, we found that even though we have aged and gone separate ways, we are still proud Nebraska graduates who have retained the values and ethics we were taught."

"It's a rare treat to see classmates and their spouses with whom I shared the stress, struggle and joys of medical school," said Dan Bohi, M.D., '59. "Seeing them 50 years later and hearing what they have done with their lives, reaffirms that the 'modest midwestern medical school' that we attended, prepared us well for the path ahead. Seeing the transformation of that school into a world-class medical center is a pleasure to behold!"

The weekend also featured a trolley tour around Omaha and the Alumni Celebration Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Embassy Suites Downtown.

James Reilly, M.D., '85, outgoing president of the UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association, along with Rebecca Keating-Lefler, Ph.D., '86, '87, '92, '02, president of the UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association; John Ridgway, '72, outgoing president of the UNMC College of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Nicholas Reiss, D.P.T., '05, president of the UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter, served as emcees for the dinner.

Eleven UNMC alumni provided reflections on their careers and student days at UNMC on video. Representing their colleges and class years were, from the College of Medicine - Dan Bohi, '59 and Robert Muellemann, '84; College of Nursing - Ellie Coniglio, '04; Kathy Lewis, '59; Dorothy Patach, '44; Gretchen Vondrak, '69; College of Pharmacy - Charles Krobot, '69, '84; Maryann Skrabal, '94; College of Public Health - Jan Tompkins, '04; physical therapy - Pat Hageman, '79; and physician assistant - Pete Thiele, '99.

If you would like a copy of the 15-minute video, email your request to [alumni@unmc.edu](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu) and include your home address.

"I enjoyed having contact with classmates," Vondrak said. "How special it was to catch up."

"I haven't seen many of my classmates in 10 years," said Korie Cochran, PT, '99. "Everyone had a great time reconnecting."

"I encourage each class to attend their reunion and share news and memories," Dr. Swarts said. "Life is short."

***The 2010 UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend is slated for Oct. 8-9. Honor classes will include those ending in '00 and '05, and those graduating more than 50 years ago.***

# 2009 UNMC Alumni Award Recipients

## UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association

### Distinguished Alumnus Award

#### Kathleen E. Chavanu Gorman, M.S.N., R.N.

Kathleen Chavanu Gorman began her academic career at the UNMC College of Nursing earning a bachelor's of science in nursing degree in 1989 and a master's of science in nursing degree in 1995.

With 20 years of pediatric nursing experience, Chavanu Gorman has extensive expertise in quality measure setting and improvement, patient safety, executive nursing leadership, evidence-based practice, workforce and nursing outcomes, revenue cycle management, case management, care coordination and utilization management.

Most recently, she joined The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as senior vice president and chief nursing officer. She was previously employed as vice president of quality and clinical support services at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

## UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association

### Honorary Alumnus Award

#### Charles S. Wilson, M.D.

Charles Wilson, M.D., began his academic career at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he received a bachelor's of arts degree with distinction in 1960. He then went to Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, where he earned his medical degree in 1964.

He served on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents from 1991 to 2009 and has been a great advocate for UNMC and the College of Nursing. He also has been a clinical professor of medicine at UNMC for more than three decades.

Dr. Wilson is the medical director of BryanLGH Medical Center Ultrafast CT Scanner in Lincoln, Neb., a position he has held since 2001. He also has been medical director of the School of Allied Health at BryanLGH College of Medical Sciences since 2002.

## UNMC College of Pharmacy Alumni Association

### 2009 Early Career Achievement Award

#### Lee J. Handke, Pharm.D.

Lee Handke, Pharm.D., began his pharmacy career when he graduated from UNMC in 1999 as a doctor of pharmacy with distinction. He completed a residency in managed care pharmacy at Walgreens Health Initiatives in Deerfield. In 2005,

he received his master of business administration degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

As vice president of health network services with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, Dr. Handke has been responsible for pharmacy trend and resource management, the development and implementation of employer-based wellness initiatives, oversight of provider and facility reimbursement and service and the development of initiatives to promote quality and efficient care for all Nebraskans.

Dr. Handke also has provided a significant contribution to academia. He developed the Medical Center Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Program, which is jointly sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield and UNMC. Since 2000, he has been an adjunct faculty and preceptor at UNMC, where he has been a lecturer in the College of Pharmacy in pharmacy management and drug information courses and has been the site preceptor for the managed care clinical clerkship. He currently serves on the admissions committee at UNMC's College of Pharmacy.

## UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association

### Early Career Achievement Award

#### Scott C. Hofmann, M.D.

Scott Hofmann, M.D., graduated from the UNMC College of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree in 1990 with distinction. At UNMC, Dr. Hofmann completed an internship in surgery and a residency in anesthesiology. He was elected chief resident and selected as the outstanding resident in 1994.

Dr. Hofmann is the chief of anesthesiology at the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, a position he has held since 1997. He also is associate professor in anesthesiology at UNMC.

In 2005, Dr. Hofmann was recognized as the Outstanding Physician of the Year by the Omaha chapter of the Association of Operating Room Nurses and, in 2004, received the Internal Medicine Extra Mile Teaching award. He also has served as vice president and president of the UNMC chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha.

## UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association

### Distinguished Alumnus Award

#### Michael F. Sorrell, M.D.

Michael Sorrell, M.D., launched his career as one of UNMC's most successful and influential alumni when he received his medical degree in 1959.



Six distinguished alumni and friends received awards during the Alumni Celebration and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 3. Front row: Jesse Edwards, Kathy Chavanu Gorman and Michael Sorrell, M.D., '59. Back row: Charles Wilson, M.D., Lee Handke, '99, and Scott Hofmann, M.D., '90.

From 1960 to 1966, Dr. Sorrell worked as a general practitioner in Tecumseh, Neb. Though he enjoyed private practice, he had aspirations of becoming an academic physician. In 1966, he returned to UNMC to begin a residency in internal medicine, followed by a fellowship in gastroenterology with Fred Paustian, M.D., a legendary UNMC physician and the state's first specialty-trained gastroenterologist.

In 1971, he joined UNMC as an assistant professor in internal medicine. From 1974 to 1982, he worked at the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in Omaha. In 1981, he became chairman of the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine. From 1991 to 2005, he served as medical director for the liver transplant program and chief of the division of gastroenterology/hepatology.

Dr. Sorrell is the Robert L. Grissom, M.D., Professor of Medicine. He continues to teach and see patients on a full-time basis.

## UNMC School of Allied Health Professions Physician Assistant Founder's Award

### Jesse C. Edwards

Jesse Edwards is the cofounder of the physician assistant program in the UNMC School of Allied Health Professions. In 1971, the Nebraska Legislature mandated the establishment of a PA program at UNMC with Edwards leading the effort. In 1992, he designed and implemented a distance learning program for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree for practicing PAs to further their education. Edwards has won numerous awards and honors recognizing his contribution to the PA profession as well as the UNMC PA Program.