

June 2, 2015

Hello Team,

It is no surprise that our UNMC and CPH community rose to the occasion during the month of May and donated to The UNMC Nepal Disaster Relief Fund with great generosity. Two hospitals – Grande International and Baidya and Banskota (B&B) – in Kathmandu have asked to receive medical support. In addition, several employees from UNMC have deployed to the area providing supplies and much needed medical and mental health care to those in need. Although this disaster will fade from the news, the recovery in these communities and efforts to make them resilient for the next large earthquake will require your continued support in the months to come.

COPH Strategic Planning Town Hall meetings took place on May 15, 18 and 20 and provided one of many opportunities to keep CPH faculty, staff and students abreast of activities related to the College's strategic planning process and also provided a forum to gather feedback on the draft strategic priorities, address questions and review next steps. Approximately 75 faculty, staff and students participated in the Town Halls. It was fantastic to have such engagement and thoughtful comments and questions that will be used to help define the College's strategic direction. Please take a moment to complete the Post-Town Hall Survey. Your feedback is important as we work together to define the College's 5-year strategic plan.

Although I previously sent an email with this news, I wanted to share again that Ruth and Bill Scott have very generously endowed the Harold Maurer, MD, Distinguished Chair of Public Health. I am extremely grateful to them for this critical new tool to recruit a renowned expert to join our College. We have had three candidates for Chair of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health visit the College and the Search Committee has reviewed the candidate evaluations and made a recommendation for finalists for the position. The new Chair will be integral in our College's effort to help Nebraska become the healthiest state in the union. I'm also pleased to share that Thomas Novotny, MD, alumni of the UNMC College of Medicine, and a national expert in public health, was nominated by CPH and awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science degree. This degree was awarded to Dr. Novotny for high distinction in science, service research, education and mentorship and took place during UNMC's commencement ceremony, May 2, 2015. During his time in Omaha, Dr. Novotny made time to meet with several on our team, for which we are very grateful.

On a more somber note, Associate Dean Shawn Gibbs will be transferring to the University of Indiana after 7 years at UNMC to fill the role of Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at their School of Public Health. He will be sorely missed but we are excited that he will bring his



unique talents as a student advocate, master teacher, and administrator to another College of Public Health. Please join me in congratulating him and wishing him well!

Because I like to end on good news, I'm excited to announce that we have two new additions to our team. Dr. Laura Jana, Associate Professor in Epidemiology and Director of Innovation and Dr. Danstan Bagenda, Assistant Professor in Epidemiology. Both join us with strong public health backgrounds and we look forward to learning from them and working with them.

Kris and I are looking forward to our first Cattleman's Ball of Nebraska at the Redbird Ranch, courtesy of a generous invite from Dr. Ken Cowan. The Ball is an annual event that is held at a different ranch each year to raise cancer awareness and as a fundraiser for cancer research. This year 90% of the proceeds will go to the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, with the remaining 10% earmarked toward regional medical organizations. I'll soon be shopping for a new pair of cowboy boots. And, although hotel options were few and far between, Josh and Cathy tell me we're sure to love the motel/laundromat we're staying at!

Always listening,
Ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean