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## Alumni Council News

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*Editor's Note: Some content in this newsletter originally appeared in Graduate Posts, published by the Graduate Studies Office.*

### Message from the President



Greetings to all!!

First, let me say how honored and humbled I am to serve as the Alumni Council President. I have really big shoes to fill following Dr. Pat Leuschen '74, '76 and Dr. Wayne Stuberg, PT, PhD, FAPTA '77, '80, '89. Dr. Leuschen was the founding member of the Council and if it were not for her passion it is safe to say we would not be as far along as we are today. Dr. Stuberg was an excellent leader with strong organizational and logistical talents that resulted in the Council becoming more focused and productive. With the guidance and help of Catherine Mello (Director, Alumni Relations), Karli Burt (Strategic Engagement Coordinator) and the rest of the UNMC Alumni Association, I hope we can further expand on the accomplishments the Council made under both Drs. Leuschen and Stuberg. If you are interested in getting more engaged with the Graduate Studies program and your alma mater, [click here](#) to read more and apply for consideration to serve on the council. If you have any questions, comments or ideas please feel free to contact me. Most importantly, we look forward to engaging you and connecting you back to UNMC.

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey M. Thiele, B.S., Ph.D., '79 (UNL), '84 (UNMC)

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**Graduate Studies Alumni Award Recipients**  
**Awards will be presented Friday, October 11th at UNMC**



**Honorary Alumnus**  
David Crouse, PhD



**Distinguished Alumnus**  
Gary Sieck, PhD



**Early Career Achievement**  
Christine Cutucache,  
PhD

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## Thank You for Supporting the Graduate Studies Innovation Fund

Your investment in the UNMC Graduate Studies Innovation Fund supports student engagement, provides networking and professional development opportunities, enhances research and continuing education for students and alumni, and supports the people and programs of your UNMC Alumni Association. Today's students will be as grateful for your gift as you were for the gifts that enhanced your education. Many of them will continue this tradition of giving because they'll understand their contributions will help launch careers just as your generosity helped launch their own.

You can make a difference for today's students with a gift to the [Graduate Studies Innovation Fund](#).

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## Connect with the UNMCAA through a New Blog

On January 2, 2019, the UNMCAA launched the [Connections Project Blog](#), a place for UNMC Alumni to share real-world information and advice with students and fellow #unmcalumni. Information is in short written or video posts. All content is housed on the blog <https://blog.unmc.edu/alumni-association/> and is shared via the UNMC Alumni Association's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Topics covered are well-being, professional skills, personal finance, time, talent, and treasure.

If you want to see a specific topic covered or if you want to provide content for a blog post, please [contact us](#). Alumni can participate from anywhere in the world, so connect with us today. Here are some samples from the blog:



[Click here](#) to learn more from Alicia Schiller, PhD '15 and her tips for research. (This is a written blog post).



This video blog includes Kelly Caverzagie, MD '01 sharing advice for all students to remember while pursuing a health professions education.

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## Amazing Travel Opportunities



### [Gaelic Inspiration](#)

July 12-22, 2020

Dublin to Dublin

*Discover the lush landscapes and fascinating heritage of Ireland aboard Oceania Cruises' Nautica on this spectacular nine-night cruise.*



### [Forests & Fjords of Alaska](#)

July 30 - August 10, 2020

Seward to Vancouver, BC

*Explore the forests and fjords of Alaska's coastal cities on this unforgettable eleven-night trip aboard Oceania Cruises' Regatta.*



### [Cosmopolitan Havens](#)

November 3-11, 2020

Rome to Monte Carlo

*Sail to some of the most cultured cities on the western Mediterranean on this seven-night cruise aboard Oceania Cruises' elegant Marina.*

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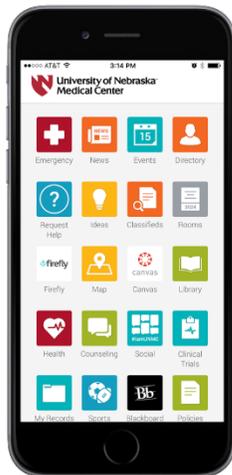
## Submit your news for Class Notes

The UNMC Alumni Relations Office publishes class notes twice a year in the UNMC [CONNECT magazine](#). We want to hear from you.

Please consider [using this link](#) to provide your personal or professional news, including:

- Employment news: new job, promotion, or retirement
- Awards: Professional or service related recognition
- Personal: Weddings and births

**Submit your class notes and based on publication space, we will share your good news in the an upcoming issue of Connect.**



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## Stay Connected to the UNMCAA Through the UNMC App

The UNMC Alumni Association now has a button in the UNMC Mobile App.

Features of the UNMCAA button include: Events, Resources, Alumni Directory, Alumni Councils, Social Media links, Connections Blog, and much more.

You can download the official UNMC app from the App Store or from Google Play.

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## Graduate Studies News

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### Message from the Dean



As Graduate Studies prepares for the fall semester, I want to extend my congratulations again to all our May graduates. It was an honor to celebrate your accomplishments at the Spring Convocation ceremony. The upcoming semester will offer a variety of support in networking and training sessions for students to expand their professional skills. The months ahead will also see continuation of our ongoing comprehensive assessment

initiative, which has already reached several important milestones. As we aim to be the best place in the nation to train graduate students, we need to ensure that we have the appropriate metrics to guide our progress. Additionally, we will continue gathering and analyzing data from Ph.D. students and alumni regarding their career paths after graduation.

H. Dele Davies, M.D.  
Dean, Graduate Studies

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### UNMC Graduate Students of Distinction



**Katherine Brown**  
Member, Association for



**Laura Flores**  
2019 Fellow, Yale Ciencia



**Ciobha McKeown**  
2018 Sidney W. & Janet R.

Behavior Analysis International  
Practice Board (2017-2020)

Academy for Career  
Development

Bijou Grant, presented by the  
Society for the Advancement of  
Behavior Analysis

Recognition as a **Graduate Student of Distinction** is reserved for students who have received:

- a fellowship based on review of applications from a national/international pool of candidates (NIH, NSF, AHA, etc.);
- an award based on presentation of research results at a national meeting (abstract-based awards do not qualify);
- an appointment to a standing committee of a national scientific society or professional association (ASPET, AAI, APS, AHA, AAUW, etc.);
- or similar accomplishments.

View a complete list of all [previous award winners here](#).

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## Request Credentials for the UNMC Alumni Directory

The online [UNMC Alumni Directory](#) is available for professional networking. Interested alumni can request their credentials and log-in to the UNMC Alumni Directory. To request your credentials, please [send us an email](#). Once you log-in, be sure to visit the Update Your Profile link to input your current contact information, employment information, and select what information you would like to be made public. The more information that is available, the more robust this tool will become.

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## UNMC News

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### For the First time ever, Researchers Able to Eliminate HIV from Animal



In a major collaborative effort, researchers at UNMC and the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University (LKSOM) have for the first time eliminated replication-competent HIV-1 DNA -- the virus responsible for AIDS -- from the genomes of living animals. The study, [reported online July 2 in the journal \*Nature Communications\*](#), marks

a critical step toward the development of a possible cure for human HIV infection. [Read more.](#)

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## Susan M. Fritz, Ph.D., Named first woman to lead NU



The University of Nebraska Board of Regents made history by naming Susan M. Fritz, Ph.D., a 30-year veteran of NU who has served as executive vice president and provost since 2012, as interim president-elect. Fritz will become the first woman to lead the university since the system office was created 51 years ago. Current President, Hand Bounds, Ph.D., stepped down from the position earlier this year and will depart in August.

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## Learn more about the University of Nebraska Advocates

The University of Nebraska Advocates program is a coalition of individuals who are passionate about their University, informed about the issues impacting higher education, and prepared to raise awareness of the University's contributions to the state of Nebraska and beyond. Interested alumni can sign up for the [University of Nebraska Advocates](#) program to learn more.

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Connect with UNMCAA on Social Media!



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