

## UNMC College of Nursing News

### A Note from the College of Nursing Dean



Greetings to you from the UNMC College of Nursing! I am excited to share with you that the College is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the 2017-2018 academic year.

The College of Nursing is the state's oldest publicly-supported nursing college. Since its first class began with 13 women on Oct. 16, 1917, in the "University of Nebraska School for Nurses," more than 14,500 students

have graduated. With 1,135 students currently enrolled, it is the largest nursing program in the state with five campuses: Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Scottsbluff, and Norfolk.

Throughout history, UNMC has led the way with programs to prepare nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse scientists and faculty. In the 1950s, the school offered a bachelor's degree program, which was rare at the time. It also offered a three-year nursing diploma program. The college started Nebraska's first doctoral nursing program in 1989 and the state's first nurse practitioner program in 1992. Faculty adopted the use of technology early on so citizens across Nebraska could access its programs.

The theme for the yearlong centennial celebration is *A Century of Academic Nursing Excellence: Transforming the Future*. Activities will be held on all five campuses beginning in the summer of 2017 and running through the summer of 2018 and will include: white coat ceremonies, educational lectures, an alumni reunion in Kearney, the alumni reunion in Omaha, the opening of the CON Lincoln Division, and much more.

Our 100th year is a special milestone for the college, our alumni, and our partners across the state. Our graduates have made immeasurable contributions to the quality of life of Nebraskans. With a mission of education, research, and outreach—our faculty, staff, and students have been at the forefront of the evolution of the profession of nursing across Nebraska, the U.S., and the world.

We hope to see you sometime during our year-long celebration and especially at the Gala on October 20, 2017 in Omaha.

All the best,



Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor  
UNMC College of Nursing

### Newsletter Editor

Kat Hamilton  
UNMC Alumni Relations

### Contact Us

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888.725.8664

Tickets are still available for the May 10<sup>th</sup> Showdown in O-Town baseball tailgate and game in Omaha. Get yours [here](#) or by calling 402.559.4385

### Engagement Council Leadership

#### President

Amy Thimm BSN '91

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Dotti Easter BSN '91

#### Council Members

Teresa Anderson ADN '81,  
BSN '83, MSN '87  
Diane Brage Hudson MSN  
'83

Audrey Nelson BSN '72  
Joy Okoruwa BSN '06, MSN  
'09, DNP '14

Danielle Reab BSN '15  
Dana Samson BSN '78, MSN  
'82

Rita Schmitz MSN '83

## College of Nursing Establishes Hall of Fame

The UNMC College of Nursing Hall of Fame was established in 2017 to identify distinguished and notable graduates and to recognize their extraordinary contributions. This is the highest honor of the College and candidates may be nominated posthumously. Nominations are now being accepted for the first class of inductees. This class will be inducted during the UNMC College of Nursing Centennial Gala on Friday, October 20, 2017 in Omaha. Nomination forms can be found [here](#) and they are due June 1, 2017. For questions or to submit your nominations, email [conhalloffame@unmc.edu](mailto:conhalloffame@unmc.edu).

## Dr. Carithers takes nursing leadership role at Kearney



Cathrin Carithers, D.N.P., has been named assistant dean for the UNMC College of Nursing Kearney Division. She succeeds Michael Bleich, Ph.D., who served as interim assistant dean since July 2016 and Mary Ann Mertz, Ed.D., who served as interim assistant dean from 2014 to July 2016. Read more about Dr. Carithers [here](#).

## Awards

[Bernice Yates](#), PhD, RN was named an Outstanding Mentor of Junior Faculty.

[Catherine Binstock](#), MSN, RN, ANP-BC, was named an Outstanding Teacher.

## Nursing online program ranked with nation's best

The UNMC College of Nursing is ranked as one of the nation's Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs by U.S. News & World Report. In the 2017 rankings, the college's graduate online nursing program is tied for 61st out of 144 schools -- moving up from 73rd in last year's ranking. [Read more here](#).

## UNMC RN to BSN program ranked 13th in the country

TheBestSchools.org has ranked the UNMC College of Nursing's R.N. to B.S.N. program 13th out of 50 best RN to BSN online programs in the country. TheBestSchools.org is a resource for campus and online education. Read more [here](#).

## McGoogan Library's Digital Commons

Which course did you take your second year and who was your faculty? Find out by perusing the [Bulletins of the College of Nursing](#), as digitized by the Special Collections department at the McGoogan Library of Medicine. The Bulletins are course catalogs dating from 1919-1996, which list faculty, administration, course descriptions, facilities, and more information for nursing students. The 1951-1957 Starch and Stripes yearbooks can be found [here](#) and the UNMC History Book 1917-1987 can be found [here](#).

*As a part of the CON Centennial Celebration, the CON Historical book is being updated. Stay tuned to see how you can purchase your copy.*

## Continuing Education Opportunities

[Effective Teamwork: The Keys to Managing Others & Yourself](#)

June 22, 2017

Norfolk, NE

Shelly Stansbury BSN '82  
Michael Wharton BSN '93

### Dean

Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD,  
RN, FAAN

### Assistant Dean-Omaha

Connie Miller, PhD, RN,  
CNE

### Assistant Dean-Norfolk

Liane Connelly, PhD, RN,  
NEA-BC

### Assistant Dean-Lincoln

Jana Pressler, PhD, RN

### Assistant Dean-Kearney

Cathrin Carithers, DNP,  
APRN, FNP-C

### Assistant Dean-Scottsbluff

Susan Wilhelm, PhD, RN

### Get Engaged Online

[CON Alumni on Facebook](#)

[UNMC Alumni on Facebook](#)

## [Annual Pharmacological Conference](#)

July 13-14, 2017

Locations: Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Scottsbluff, and Norfolk.

Registration opens May 12, 2017

To see more CE courses that are available, click [here](#).

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# Alumni Engagement Council News

## 2017 Alumni Events

**September 16, 2017** — [UNMC College of Nursing—Kearney Division Alumni Reunion](#), will be Kearney's first alumni reunion. The Kearney Campus is celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year and their reunion theme, 40 Years of Transforming Lives, pays homage to that. All alumni, current and former faculty and staff are invited to attend this reunion during UNK Homecoming Weekend. [Nominate](#) someone for a distinguished alumnus award. Nominations are due July 1, 2017.

**October 20-21, 2017** — [UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend](#) for the colleges of Nursing and Medicine. Honor years are those ending in 2 and 7. [Nominate](#) someone for a distinguished alumnus award. Nominations are due May 15, 2017.

**October 20, 2017** — during the [UNMC College of Nursing Centennial Gala](#), there will be an induction of inaugural members into the UNMC College of Nursing Hall of Fame. This is the highest honor of the College and serves to recognize these notable alumni for their extraordinary contributions. [Nominate](#) someone for the Hall of Fame. Nominations are due June 1, 2017.

## An Update on the New Era of Engagement

The [New Era of Engagement](#) for the UNMC Alumni Association continues to bring together alumni and students. In an effort to reach and connect with more alumni of UNMC, the Alumni Association now offers automatic membership to all graduates and has refocused its work on deeper collaborations between alumni and campus leaders. The CON Alumni Engagement Council's focus continues to be on the big ideas of:

- providing critical support to UNMC students through facilitating the formation of meaningful student to alumni relationships, including support for the Nightingale White Coat ceremonies on all five campuses;
- providing alumni with opportunities to engage in the life and promotion of the University, specifically alumni reunions including the CON Kearney Division Reunion, the Reunion in Omaha, and CON Centennial Celebration, all in 2017, and
- supporting the all-inclusive Alumni Association with engagement opportunities for all alumni through outreach events and volunteer opportunities.

Nursing alumni have come out strong for current students, alumni programming, and more during 2016-17. This fiscal year to date, the College of Nursing Innovation Fund has received more than \$29,000 from more than 290 donors, a significant increase in both dollars and donors during the same period last year. The College of Nursing Innovation Fund provides opportunities to students, supports the people and programs of your Alumni Association, upgrades technology, funds White Coat ceremonies, enhances innovative programs and more. The Innovation Fund replaces membership dues as a comprehensive annual giving program. You can make a gift to the CON Innovation Fund [here](#).

## Our Students Our Future



Nebraska's future begins now, with every current and future student on a University of Nebraska campus. *Our Students, Our Future*—an initiative to raise \$200 million by the end of 2017—aims to positively impact those students and our state's future by providing scholarships and enhancing programs that benefit student learning. Gifts to this effort will touch the lives of students now and well into the future—students who may otherwise be unable to afford an excellent education. Visit [nufoundation.org/ourstudentsourfuture](http://nufoundation.org/ourstudentsourfuture) to learn more.

## UNMC News

### UNMC's Chancellor Gold also to lead UNO



University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds said that as of April 27, he has indefinitely paused the chancellor search at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and appointed UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., to lead both the UNO and UNMC campuses on an interim basis. The appointment will deepen collaboration between NU's Omaha-based institutions and ensure steady leadership at a time when both are poised to grow their impact in Nebraska and beyond. Read the story [here](#).

### Med center, NSRI play role in training exercise

The Nebraska Biocontainment Unit was one of five treatment centers that received patients during a practice drill organized by the U.S. State Department that began on April 17. During "Operation Tranquil Shift," a total of 11 American citizens suspected of having or having been exposed to a simulated highly infectious disease were transported from Africa to the United States for treatment. Read more about the training exercise [here](#).

### Dr. Sikorski new wellness education director



Jonathon Sikorski, Ph.D., is not entirely new to campus, despite joining the psychiatry department on Jan. 1 as UNMC's new director of wellness education.

Dr. Sikorski recently worked as a post-doctoral research faculty member at the Munroe-Meyer Institute. Prior, he was a behavioral pediatric intern in the institute.

Now, as director of wellness education, he helps students in all colleges navigate the stresses associated with health care education and training, an area UNMC has emphasized for more than a year.

### The Office of Community Engagement

The Office of Community Engagement (OCE) was established in 2015 upon the designation as the first Academic Health Sciences Center Community Engaged Campus by the Carnegie Foundation. The vision is to cultivate educated, engaged, healthy communities based on the sharing of knowledge and experience, collaborative education, and generation of scholarship driven by the needs of partners.

The OCE is interested in building partnerships with alumni to strengthen the overall community. If you would like to learn more about the program, please click [here](#).

## NIH funding for UNMC increases by nearly 25 percent

Research awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the University of Nebraska Medical Center increased by more than \$14 million in 2016, an increase of nearly 25 percent, with each UNMC health science college improving its NIH-funding ranking. Read more [here](#).

## Groundbreaking ceremony held for iExcel



The ceremonial groundbreaking for the Dr. Edwin Davis & Dorothy Balbach Davis Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning was held on April 3. The 191,884-square foot, \$118.9 million facility is already under construction and it will house UNMC's iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup> (Interprofessional Experiential Center for Enduring Learning) program and expose students to interprofessional clinical simulation training exercises, surgical skills training and realistic environments through virtual and augmented reality, holographic and visualization techniques. It also will house the National Center for Health Security and Biopreparedness. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the center will enable UNMC to teach federal health care personnel procedures in treating highly infectious diseases. The project was funded by a combination of private donations, public funding, and funding from the State of Nebraska and the federal government.

## UNMC Retiree Association is launched

Staying connected. That's the goal of the [UNMC Retiree Association](#), a newly formed group that has been launched this year after nearly 18 months of planning and discussion. The organization is open to all UNMC retirees, including faculty, administrative personnel, managerial-professional employees, office and service staff. Spouses, partners and guests are also welcome at retiree programs and activities.

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