Class of 2018 Match Day Results

One of the biggest events a fourth-year medical student experiences is Match Day. Friday, March 16, 2018, hard work, determination, and sacrifice paid off for 121 students when they found out where they will be spending their next several years in a residency program.

To see photos of Match Day 2018, click [here](#). To see a list of where students matched, click [here](#).

For those of you who will have a family member graduating in 2019, be sure to mark your calendars for March 15, 2019, you won’t want to miss it!

Gold Humanism Honor Society Inducts New Class

UNMC inducted its fourth class of Gold Humanism Honor Society members on April 28. Nineteen third-year medical students, six residents and five members of the faculty were recognized.

The Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) was established in 2002 by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, which was established by Drs. Arnold and Sandra Gold at Columbia University. The national organization has more than 26,000 members in training and practice.

Since 1988, the Gold Foundation has partnered with medical schools and teaching hospitals to infuse humanism into medical training. The honor society is one more way the foundation is working to achieve this goal. Read more [here](#).

Meet the 2018-2019 PFA Advisory Council

**President:** Susan Wilson  
**Treasurer:** Dan Dudley

**Council Members**
- Jan & Dan Dudley  
- Laurie Hanna  
- Mary Hegemann  
- Joan Keit  
- Cynthia Lambert  
- Cindy Otten  
- Carolyn Schmitz  
- DeeJay January  
- Jean Thomsen, MD  
- Kelly Thedinger

*The next meeting of the PFA Advisory Council is October 9, 2018.*
A Letter from the PFA President

Dear Fellow UNMC College of Medicine parents and families:

Please allow me to introduce myself as the new president of the College of Medicine Parents & Family Association. I recently took over the position from Wendie Grogan.

My daughter, Madeleine, is an M4 and is planning to graduate in May of 2019. We are incredibly proud of her and can’t believe she is about to start her fourth year of medical school. It seems like just yesterday we attended Family Day and now Match Day is right around the corner.

UNMC offers amazing opportunities for your students and with your continued support these students are on the path to success. We hope you will still support our student-focused endeavors with a tax-deductible donation to the University of Nebraska Foundation directed to the College of Medicine Parents & Family Innovation Fund.

If you have any questions about our organization, please don’t hesitate to contact the UNMC Alumni Relations Office at 402-559-4385. I sincerely thank everyone who has provided ongoing support to our organization. We appreciate it and know the medical students do as well.

I look forward to working on behalf of our students in the year ahead. It will be an outstanding year! Thank you for supporting the Parents & Family Association!

Sincerely,

Susan Wilson

Make a Gift to the Parents & Family Innovation Fund

You can help support the work of the Parents & Family Association with a tax deductible gift to the Parents & Family Innovation Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Visit www.nufoundation.org/unmc and search for fund number #14245. Thank you for your generous support!
Student Feature: Adam Robinson

Hometown:
Stockton, California

Program/Year:
College of Medicine Class of 2019

Education:
BS, MS - Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
DMD - Midwestern University, Arizona College of Dentistry

Hobbies:
Running watching sports, and watching my children in their activities (soccer, basketball, and ballet)

Staying Balanced:
Spending time with the family.
Learning new things such as woodwork, crochet, sewing, fixing whatever breaks around the house, and gardening.
Reading good books.

Three things people may not know about me:
1. I did research in college regarding cigarette smoke exposure in mice and factors leading to lung changes seen in COPD - I killed a lot of mice.
2. I ran two half marathons in the last six months.
3. I built a chicken coop over spring break.

M1 Fiesta in the Park

The Parents and Family Association sponsored the annual M1 picnic again this year. The students were led by M1 representative Justin German who chose to stick with theme of Fiesta in the Park. The event included a taco truck and yard games at the Hanscom Park Pavilion and dog park. A total of 57 students and their guests attended the picnic. This event was created as a time to relax after completing the M1 year.
Medicine and Dentistry Shift to Pass/Fail for Some Courses

The UNMC colleges of medicine and dentistry are now grading some courses as pass/fail, following a national trend that has shown increasing numbers of academic medical centers adopting this grading system in the past decade. The University of Missouri School of Medicine has employed pass/fail for 20 years.

Some courses at the College of Dentistry will be pass/fail, while most first- and second-year courses remain on a letter-grade scale. The College of Medicine has gone to pass/fail for its preclinical years (M1-2).

Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the College of Dentistry, notes that pass/fail grading tends to result in a favorable impact on student wellness. It is a move in congruence with UNMC’s greater emphasis on campus wellness and resiliency.

But, a survey of medical schools that have made the move, conducted by UNMC’s Gary Beck Dallaghan, Ph.D., assistant dean for medical education and director, Office of Medical Education, found an equally compelling benefit of the pass/fail system, also in line with UNMC’s new way of delivering health sciences education.

In addition to decreases in depression and anxiety, pass/fail also eliminated what one respondent called “grade grubbing” and another referred to as “point fishing.”

Instead of rewarding “gunners” for individual achievement, the new system incentivizes collaborative teamwork.

“The pass/fail grading system reduces the competitiveness of those at the top of the class and encourages shared learning amongst students,” said Gerald Moore, M.D., senior associate dean for academic affairs at UNMC.

Yun Saksena, D.M.D., dentistry’s associate dean for education, said clinical “global” pass/fail courses, “place focus on patient-centered comprehensive care rather than on grades, and takes some of the stress off our students.”

Scientific studies also confirmed “greater group cohesion” with pass/fail, in addition to reduced stress.

Schools in Dr. Beck Dallaghan’s unscientific survey reported students doing as well as under previous grading systems, often better.

Medical school match rates appear largely unchanged – pass/fail has become an accepted standard nationwide. All of the Ivy League schools, for example, have gone to the new grading system.

But Dr. Moore said the College of Medicine will develop a mechanism to identify those who excel at the top of the class in medical school, in order to best position students for matches and scholarships. Dr. Saksena said the College of Dentistry offers rigorous feedback within modules, and will mirror examination-agency grading scales while preparing students for licensing exams.
College of Medicine Student Calendar

Semesters
First Semester (M1) August 20, 2018 – December 14, 2018
First Semester (M2) August 13, 2018 – December 14, 2018
First Semester (M3-M4) July 2, 2018 – December 14, 2018
Second Semester (M1) January 7, 2019 – June 2, 2019
Second Semester (M2/M3) January 7, 2019 – March 31, 2019
Second Semester (M4) January 7, 2019 – April 28, 2019
Phase 2 Class of 2021 (M3) April 1, 2019 – June 23, 2019

Recesses & Holidays
Independence Day July 4, 2018 (Wednesday)
Labor Day September 3, 2018 (Monday)
Thanksgiving (M1-M4) November 22, 2018 – November 23, 2018
Winter Recess (M1 – M4) December 15, 2018 – January 6, 2019
New Year’s Day (Holiday) January 1, 2019 (Tuesday)
Martin Luther King, Jr. January 21, 2019 (Monday)
Spring Recess (M1/M2) March 9, 2019 – March 17, 2019
Spring Recess (M3/M4) March 30, 2019 – April 7, 2019
Memorial Day May 27, 2019 (Monday)

Special Events
J-Term (Class of 2020 requirement)
June 25, 2018 – June 29, 2018
First Year Orientation August 13, 2018 – August 17, 2018
2018 White Coat Ceremony (M1) August 17, 2018 (Friday)
FIRST DAY OF CLASS (M1) August 20, 2018 (Monday)
FIRST DAY OF CLASS (M2) August 13, 2018 (Monday)
Honors Convocation (M4) May 3, 2019 (Friday)
Commencement (M4) May 4, 2019 (Saturday)
Block exams (M1-M2) TBA (Announced by the Office of Medical Education)

Remembering One of Our Own
Alison (Ali) Slosburg, a second-year medical student at UNMC, died June 28 after a brave battle with leukemia. She was 24.

Slosburg received her master’s in anatomy in 2016 from UNMC and completed her first year of medical school when she became ill. She had been undergoing treatment over the past year, so she decided to put her studies on hold while she received treatment. Read more here.
Renovation Project to Include New Wigton Heritage Center

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents recently approved the construction and naming of a welcome and campus history center that will showcase the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s unique heritage. The Wigton Heritage Center will be built in conjunction with the Wittson Hall renovation project on UNMC’s Omaha campus.

The multi-level glass addition and resulting budget increase—from $18 million to $26 million total—incorporates building the privately-funded $8 million Wigton Heritage Center in the center of campus, while also updating the nearly 50-year-old Wittson Hall with significant modernization of the library and the current building safety codes.

Major funding has been committed by Robert Wigton, MD, a 1969 alumnus of the College of Medicine who served as professor in internal medicine at UNMC. The Wigton legacy spans three generations with several physicians within the family serving on the faculty of UNMC.

The 10,000-square-foot Wigton Heritage Center will celebrate and memorialize UNMC’s history, while also serving as a campus welcome center. In addition, the fully privately-funded project will replace the existing walkways between Wittson Hall and University Tower. The buildings will be connected through a multi-floor space.

The center will tell UNMC’s story through gallery and digital exhibit space; showcase the McGoogan Library’s vast special collections, artifacts, archives and rare books; and expose University Hospital’s historic facade and iconic columns within a planned atrium that will serve as a welcoming space for alumni, visitors, new and prospective students and others. Read more.

Howard Liu, MD Named Interim Chair of Psychiatry

In February 2018, Howard Liu, MD was named interim chair of the UNMC Department of Psychiatry. He replaces Steve Wengel, MD who was named assistant vice chancellor for campus wellness for UNMC and the University of Nebraska Omaha. Read more about Dr. Liu’s appointment here.

Med Center Orchestra to Serve as Creative Outlet

Faculty, staff and students who play an instrument are invited to be part of an inaugural campus orchestra that is launching this fall.

In partnership with the UNO School of Music, the orchestra will play under the baton of Matthew Brooks, D.M.A., director of orchestras at UNO. Players of all orchestral instruments (woodwinds, strings, percussion and brass) are needed. All are welcome to play with no audition required. To join, click here.
Students Drive Library Renovation Decisions

Student involvement in planning for the library renovation is helping to shape changes to the library space.

In early 2018, the McGoogan Library of Medicine surveyed UNMC students about the upcoming library renovation. The survey was created in cooperation with the architectural firm HDR, and consisted of questions about the physical space and the needs and preferences of students. HDR also hosted in-person sessions for students to provide further input.

Of 153 survey responses, the majority of students indicated that they come to the library to study. The prevailing theme from the survey data was a desire for closed individual spaces for study, rather than open group spaces. Students prefer to study in a single-user space (67 percent) and in smaller rooms (58 percent), rather than in large open spaces. Study rooms were preferred over study carrels, and most respondents preferred the use of frosted glass over clear glass.

Throughout campus, there are opportunities for students to study in larger rooms and areas; however, as noted in the survey results, the larger rooms are more conducive to group study. Students spend a great deal of time studying alone, with a need for silence and minimal distraction. To accommodate individual study needs, the library plans to increase the number of individual study rooms available for reservation and incorporate sound-reduction building elements and frosted glass for privacy.

Other survey questions focused on the study environment: whiteboards, technology usage and seating. Among the responses received through the survey, as well as during the student discussion session, students preferred using whiteboards (77 percent) versus other types of technology, such as smartboards or monitors. Students noted the need to write, draw and create diagrams to help them learn and study and a preference for wall-sized whiteboards.

Other study environment preferences include chairs without trays or attached tables (59 percent), and space to spread out, with functional areas for their books and laptops.

Better lighting (including natural light) and increased accessibility of the library also emerged as major themes. In the renovated library, removal of some exterior concrete plates on Wittson Hall’s upper floors (six through eight) will allow natural light to enter the building. The library also will offer 24/7 access after the renovation is complete. UNMC users will be able to access the library by using ID badge readers after 5 p.m. and during weekends.

The items above are only a few of the topics explored with students. Feedback on other topics, such as the preference for healthy food options, or social media notifications, was reviewed and will be revisited as work continues to improve the library’s space and service to students. Students will continue to have a voice in the library renovation throughout the design process. Further updates are forthcoming.
Mission Trip to Nicaragua

Spring break conjures up images of sunny beaches and a warm surf, but for four first-year UNMC medical students it was a mission trip to the high forests of Nicaragua.

The students conducted vision screenings and provided glasses by using the First Sight kit offered by Nizar and Marsha Mamdani’s First Sight Foundation. Sponsored by the Student Alliance for Global Health (SAGH), the March trip was made possible through a partnership with Aspire Global Health, a non-profit organization located in Esteli, Nicaragua, the country’s third largest city.

Students worked in schools and health facilities in Esteli and nearby Jinotega, Nicaragua’s coffee producing capital. Assisted by two Nicaraguan physicians, the students screened 161 adults and 135 children. Corrective glasses were given to 143 adults and 20 children at no cost.

Sara Pirtle, SAGH adviser and trip organizer, said the group’s hosts and clients provided a warm reception. “Our students developed a close camaraderie and were satisfied to know that their service made a difference in the lives of nearly 300 Nicaraguans.”

The students were relieved that they averted a new round of violence in the country that erupted about a month after they left. “The chaos and civil disobedience continues to grow. We hope that when the dust settles, we can again offer vision screening and other needed medical/health services to Nicaragua.”

Student Haley Mathews wrote a story that recounted her experience in Nicaragua. It was published in the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians (NAFP) quarterly publication, Cornhusker Family Physician, in appreciation for a travel grant she received from the organization.

Accompanying Mathews on the trip were five UNMC medical students - Santiago Rozo, fourth-year, student trip leader, Lee Sleightholm, third-year, student trip leader, and three second-year students, Lauren Greufe, Kaitlin Hehnke and Kevin Real. They were joined by Shirley Delair, MD, assistant professor, pediatric infectious disease, and Sara Pirtle, SAGH adviser and trip organizer.
Third Annual Medical Marriages Dinner Held

February 9th over 70 current medical students, their spouses, and alumni attended a medical marriages dinner. There was an alumni panel made up of Dr. Jeremy Hartley (COM 2012) and his wife Natalie, Dr. Sara May (COM 2009) and her husband Dr. Joel Michalski (PhD 2011, COM 2013), and Dr. Megan Hedlund (current resident), and her husband Joe. Together, they shared advice and tips with the students about how they sustain and enhance their relationships, how they make the most of their time with their spouse, even though schedules are busy, resources to be aware of, and more. The event was facilitated by Marcia Shadle-Cusic, College of Medicine Student Advocate.

All Students Invited to Campus BBQ August 22

The BBQ featured free food, giveaways, music and backyard games.
Medical Student Priya Maillacheruvu earns Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

Priya Maillacheruvu, a third-year medical student, earned the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. Faculty member Dan Coulter, MD, was also honored with the award.

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards recognize a faculty member and graduating medical student who demonstrate both clinical excellence and outstanding compassion in the delivery of care and who show respect for patients, their families, and healthcare colleagues.

The Gold Foundation launched this award in 1991 at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons. The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey began replicating these awards nationwide in 1998, with participation from The Gold Foundation. In 2003, thanks to a generous donation from Leonard Tow, these awards became solely sponsored and administered by The Gold Foundation.

Nominator Charity Evans, M.D., assistant professor of surgery-general surgery, said Maillacheruvu, a Gold Humanism Honor Society member, exemplified the qualities recognized by the award: integrity, excellence, collaboration and compassion, altruism, respect and resilience, empathy and service.

“I was present as Priya cared for a young child in the neurology clinic,” Dr. Evans said. “She approached the anxious parents with kindness and compassion, understanding the gravity of the situation. She played with the young boy, easing his fears of being in the doctor’s office. She acted with respect for both the parents and child, and articulated the parents’ concern to the attending physician.”