Connie Ryan ’74
Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Connie Ryan earned her medical technology degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and joined the family business in 1982. She became president in 1992 when annual revenue was approximately $15 million. Since that time, the company has experienced consistent, steady growth through acquisitions and the introduction of 45 new products.

Connie led efforts to acquire Sweden-based Analys Instruments—an acquisition which immediately boosted Streck revenue. That product line now accounts for 11% of Streck’s revenues. In 2007 she completed the acquisition of the SickleDex product line from Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, a Johnson & Johnson Company. As a result, Streck became the leader in the sickle cell testing market.

Through Connie’s leadership, Streck has generously donated hematology control samples to the UNMC CLS program for fifteen years. These products help the program teach hematology to hundreds of practitioners around the country. According to CLS program leaders, the donation has been “integral to learning for CLS students. The generosity and value of this continuous support speaks for itself.”

Currently, Connie serves on the board of Creighton University. She is also a member of the board of the Omaha Community Foundation. In 2010, she became a board member for NUtech Ventures in Lincoln and in 2011, a member of the Strategic Command Consultation Committee. In 2012 she also chaired the Salvation Army’s annual Tree of Lights campaign.

She is a member of Chief Executives Organization and the World Presidents’ Organization. In 2002, she completed the prestigious Harvard School of Business Owner/President Management Program. She was recently given Creighton University’s annual Leader for Life award for the impact she has made on women’s sports at the university. In December 2011, she was also awarded an honorary doctorate from Creighton University.

Connie Ryan’s strong business acumen, generous support of the UNMC Clinical Laboratory Science Program, and active community service has led to her selection as a Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient.
Judith Thompson Weeks ‘70
Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Judith Thompson Weeks began her laboratory science career at the University of Nebraska Medical Center where she was a leader in educating laboratory science students and developing and evaluating new testing methods and technologies. This was a time when automation was just beginning to become a part of testing in the clinical laboratory. Judith was instrumental in establishing quality control and clinical quality assurance guidelines essential for the testing performed in chemistry laboratories.

After leaving UNMC in 1980, Judith spent the next three decades utilizing her expertise in the industry side of clinical laboratory science where she conducted research and developed diagnostic products, including the first home pregnancy test. This led her to the marketing of laboratory and diagnostic products for rapid testing and instrumentation focused on formats for high volume screening in the drug discovery process. While working at Agilent Technologies, Judith worked extensively on writing business plans and on strategic planning, which helped bring about the first FDA approved system for genetic profiling of breast cancer tumors and personalized breast cancer therapy to the marketplace.

Throughout her extensive and impressive career, which included numerous positions marketing laboratory products, Judith produced a number of publications on her work. These publications include the topics of oncology, drug binding and pharmacokinetics, endocrinology, and inventions and patents.

Judith now spends her time as an editor with Trimark Publications where she edits, researches, and writes market reports for the pharmaceutical, life sciences and diagnostic global markets. She also serves as a consultant for the American Society for Clinical Pathology Global Outreach projects through the President’s Emergency Plans for AIDS (PEPFAR).

According to one of Judith’s former colleagues, she is an “excellent role model for aspiring clinical laboratory scientists. From Nebraska to having an impact on the global marketplace illustrates just how Judith’s talents and skills are truly remarkable.”

Judith’s wide range of contributions to the field of clinical laboratory science have led to her recognition as a Distinguished Alumnus Award winner from the UNMC Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter.
Maheswari S. Mukherjee, PhD, MS, CT (ASCP) ‘10
UNMC Cytotechnology Program
Early Career Achievement Award

Maheswari (Manju) Mukherjee earned her Cytotechnology certificate from UNMC in 2010. Committed to furthering her education, she went on to earn her PhD in December 2012 at UNMC. While pursuing her PhD, Dr. Mukherjee served as a teaching assistant in the cytotechnology education program and she continued in this role upon graduation.

Dr. Mukherjee currently plays a key role in the UNMC Cytotechnology Education Program. Since completing her certificate program in 2010, she has worked to incorporate virtual microscopy (VM) into the cytotechnology education program as part of her doctoral dissertation. This work has been instrumental in guiding the program through the process of developing VM curriculum. VM is a technology in which glass slides are scanned and converted into digital images. In 2013, Dr. Mukherjee became the Educational Coordinator for the Cytotechnology Education Program.

According to the cytotechnology program director, “VM has enhanced the education of our UNMC campus students and has assisted in standardizing the education of distance students in the program.” Dr. Mukherjee’s work has been a leading factor in the program’s expansion, helping the program to expand from one distance education site to two in August 2013.

As a cytotechnologist, Dr. Mukherjee’s interests include: virtual microscopy, cytomorphology, and human anatomy.

Dr. Mukherjee brings global experience to UNMC. She also attended school in her native country of India. She holds a Master of Science in Anatomy from Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala, India, as well as a Bachelor of Physical Therapy from MGR University in Tamil Nadu, India. From 2000-2001, Dr. Mukherjee served as a research physical therapist in the INFIR (ILEP Nerve Function Impairment and Reaction Cohort Study) Project in the Leprosy Mission Hospitals at Naini and Faizabad, India, where she recruited patients, conducted neurophysiological testing and physiotherapeutic evaluation on patients, and managed the records database.
Kevin Haubrick MS, RD, LD ‘97  
UNMC Medical Nutrition Program  
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Kevin Haubrick earned a certificate in Dietetic Internship from UNMC in 1997. After completing his certificate at UNMC, Kevin moved to San Antonio, Texas where he began work as a clinical dietitian at Sunrise Rehab Center and then Southwest General Hospital. He climbed the ranks quickly at Southwest General Hospital, and became Director of Food and Nutrition services in just two years.

In 2003, Kevin was hired as the Director of Food and Nutrition Services and Dietetic Internship Program Director at Baptist Medical Center in San Antonio. In this position, Kevin oversees an educational program for eight full time interns and 8 Individualized Supervised Practice Pathways (ISPP) interns while also managing the hospital’s clinical nutrition and food service systems. Kevin is responsible for managing a budget of $4 million annually and implemented a $296k capital improvement program.

In 2001, Kevin earned his MS in Nutrition with an emphasis in Advanced Clinical Nutrition from the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Nutrition and Food Systems and a Certificate in Management of Childhood Nutrition Programs from the University of South Mississippi.

Always willing to promote the medical nutrition profession, Kevin is a member of the San Antonio Dietetic Association, where he served a term as president. He is also a member of the Texas Dietetic Association and the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. Kevin was awarded the Young Dietitian of the Year for 2004-2005 from the Texas Dietetic Association.

Kevin has also been very active in shaping the direction of dietetics education at the national level. He has worked with the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND), which is the accrediting agency for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. He served as a site visitor/program reviewer and then was elected as Chair of the (ACEND) Council for 2011-2012. He helped transform the accreditation standards in a manner that clarifies focus on curriculum integrity and outcomes. He has a clear vision for the nutrition profession and he is an effective change agent within the professional organization.

He is remembered from his days at UNMC as a bright student with a passion for his profession, and encouraging others to provide the best nutritional care to patients. Over time, his passion has remained strong and his influence has grown. We’re ever so proud to honor his achievements with this award.
Roger D. Wells, PA-C ‘87
Physician Assistant Alumni Chapter
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Roger Wells graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Physical Education K-12, Athletic Training and Coaching Interscholastic Sports from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1978. He continued his education at Eastern Illinois University, and graduated with a Masters Degree in Physical Education and Athletic Training in 1980. Roger then went on to the University of Nebraska Medical Center and received his Physician Assistant Degree in 1987.

Roger currently practices at Howard County Medical Center in the Family Practice Clinic. According to Marty Fattig, CEO of Nemaha County Hospital, “Roger is an excellent medical provider. You don’t have to be around him very long to realize that the well-being of his patients is very important to him.” According to John Roberts, Executive Director of NRHA, Roger has been “an unwavering protector of the health of rural Nebraskans,” and “Roger’s heart has always been with the people of rural Nebraska.”

Roger quickly rose in the ranks in professional associations and in Nebraska’s rural health care community. He has been an active member of the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants, serving on the board and ultimately as the organization’s president. He also served on the national leadership board for the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

As a member of the Nebraska Rural Health Association (NRHA), Roger quickly rose to a leadership role, serving as an advocate for addressing manpower shortages that threaten access to services for many rural Nebraskans. Roger is a member of the National Rural Health Advisory Commission. In addition, he has been instrumental in the formative stages of the Nebraska Healthcare Workforce Center, which will be responsible for maintaining all data related to the Nebraska workforce demographics and predicting shortages prior to when a crisis arises. It is evident that Roger lives and breathes rural health care.

Prior to becoming a physician assistant, Roger served as the head Athletic Trainer at UNK from 1980 until 1983, and in that role, he was responsible for the prevention and care of all 13 varsity athletic teams.

Roger serves as a preceptor for UNMC physician assistant students. According to PA program director, Michael Huckabee, “students consider him their mentor, and more PAs than I can count would say that they became a PA because of their connections with Roger. His integrity is above reproach and he emulates the model of an intelligent, forward-thinking, compassionate PA.”

Roger and his wife, Debra have been active community leaders in St. Paul, Nebraska. Roger has been involved with youth sports, fundraising for schools, and his church. Roger and Debra have three grown children: Adam, Lea & Jana.
Ben Greenfield grew up in Aurora, Nebraska and graduated from Aurora High School in 1997. After high school Ben attended Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln on the Heuermann Full tuition and fees scholarship. While at NWU he was a member of the basketball and golf teams as well as the Nebraska Wesleyan Chamber Choir. He was a member of the Student Affairs Senate, President’s Student Advisory Council, Zeta Psi fraternity, and the Tri-Beta, the Biology honors program. He majored in Biology and Chemistry and conducted breast cancer research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. This research served as his thesis for attaining his Bachelor’s degree.

After NWU, Ben attended graduate school at UNMC in Omaha, studying Perfusion Science (operation of the heart and lung machine and providing anesthesia for heart surgery). Following graduation, he has worked at the Nebraska Heart Hospital and St. Elizabeth Hospital (Heme Management) in Lincoln and has performed over 2,000 heart surgeries and over 1,500 orthopedic and neurosurgeries. He is currently employed by Heme Management in Lincoln, NE as the Director of Operations and a Clinical Perfusionist. He serves as an Adjunct Professor of Perfusion at UNMC as well as a clinical instructor and liaison for perfusion students. In addition, Ben has lobbied in the Nebraska Unicameral and currently sits as the government liaison for Perfusion in the Nebraska legislature. In 2008, as President of the Nebraska Perfusion Society, he helped to write the licensure law for perfusion for the state of Nebraska.

Ben is a published author in both breast cancer research (at UNMC) as well as in Perfusion (UNMC) for his work using pharmacological agents and surface modifications on biocompatibility of the extracorporeal circuit. Ben has most recently been added to the State of Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery as a representative who will help oversee licensure governing dental anesthesia.

Ben currently resides in Hickman, Nebraska and is married to his wife Tarah. The couple has two children, Addison (5) and Evan (4). In his spare time Ben spends time as a guest speaker on dealing with adversity and maintaining a positive attitude. He also enjoys playing the guitar and ukulele and sings in a band named SynkopE.
Gilbert “Gib” Willett earned his bachelor of science in physical therapy from UNMC in 1987, and began his career as an instructor in the UNMC physical therapy division in 1990. Since that date, Gib has built an accomplished career at UNMC as a professor, administrator, researcher and clinician. His academic achievements also include a master of science in anatomy and a doctorate of philosophy in cell biology and anatomy, both from UNMC.

Whether its patients, students, or fellow faculty, Gib is consistently recognized for going the extra mile. In 2008, Gib was appointed interim director of the PT program after its long-time director stepped down. Gib served the role for two years, and was made associate director when the new program director came on board in 2010.

In the midst of his administrative duties and clinical responsibilities, teaching has always been the highest priority for Gib – making him one of the most beloved instructors at UNMC year after year. Educating PT students has been the focus of his work at UNMC, including in his research and publications. Gib has studied best practices in PT education and worked to develop new teaching methods in anatomy. As an expert in the field of anatomy, Gib works to ensure that PT students understand the complex relationship between anatomy and musculoskeletal physical therapy. Gib is always willing to assist a student who is struggling and with his reputation for being kind and accessible, students know that his door is always open.

Gib has been recognized for excellence at UNMC, with a Chancellor’s Silver U Award and several teaching awards. He is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the Nebraska Chapter of APTA. He has published countless scholarly articles and made presentations at physical therapy conferences around the country. Furthering his passion for teaching, Gib also teaches continuing education for physical therapists.

Gib and his wife Sandra reside in Papillion, NE. Sandra is also an instructor in the physical therapy education division at UNMC. Gib and Sandy have 3 children, one in graduate school at UNL and 2 that are seniors at Papillion La Vista High School. When Gib is not busy with his work and family, you are most likely going to find him playing a pick-up basketball game or playing a round of golf.
Carol (Farha) McGlade, B.S., R.T., (R)(QM), ’81, ’82
Radiation Science Technology Education Alumni
Chapter
Distinguished Alumnus Award

Carol McGlade graduated from UNMC in 1981 with her associate’s degree in radiologic technology and worked as a staff technologist at both UNMC and Methodist Hospital while pursuing her bachelor’s degree. She graduated again in 1982 from UNMC and within six months accepted the Administrator of Radiology position at Children’s Hospital. During her tenure at Children’s Hospital, Carol served as an advisory board member of the RSTE program and on the volunteer faculty.

After many years of distinguished service at Children’s Hospital, Carol left the position in 2000 after just under 20 years. She has spent recent years enjoying the opportunity to explore a wide range of jobs and community activities. Positions she held in recent years include: standardized patient at UNMC; relief technologist at numerous offices; consultant for equipment and accessories related to pediatrics; Educator for Limited Operators; and continued in her volunteer faculty position at UNMC.

In 2010, Carol became the founding president of the UNMC RSTE Alumni Chapter and served the office for two years, lending her strong leadership skills to building the brand new organization. In this position, Carol was instrumental in forming an organization that has doubled its membership since its creation, recruiting board members, guest speakers for students, and participating countless activities and meetings. The RSTE Alumni Chapter has now established itself, hosting annual events for students and alumni, and serves as the key liaison between the RSTE Program and its alumni. Carol currently represents all School of Allied Health Professions’ alumni chapters on the UNMC Alumni Association board of directors. She also is a member of the SAHP Capital Campaign Committee.

Carol’s support for the RSTE program at UNMC is unwavering. Whether she is putting energy and enthusiasm into a volunteer lecture, or rallying alumni at events in Omaha and across Nebraska, Carol takes great pride in her UNMC education and giving back to the University, while promoting the radiography profession. She is always eager to offer advice, mentorship and support to students and colleagues in need of a guiding hand. She is also an advocate of the radiation sciences profession, and has been an active member of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists (NSRT), where she held leadership positions at the state and district levels.

Carol and her husband Mike reside in Omaha. They have two adult children, Maggie and Jacob.