A Note from the Alumni Engagement Council President & Dean

The College of Allied Health Professions is having its second All-College Reunion on Saturday, June 10, 2017 in Omaha. The College hosts an All-College Reunion every four years and we hope you are able to join us in June.

This year, the College (formerly a School) is celebrating its 45th Anniversary, and the reunion theme, Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future, pays homage to that. Reunion will offer a great opportunity to connect with alumni and colleagues in the College, learn about program updates, and congratulate the 2017 distinguished alumnus awardees.

View the reunion invitation here and register online or by calling Kat Hamilton in the Alumni Relations Office at 402.559.1063.

Our best,

Kate and Kyle

Kate Kuester, '08, PT, DPT
CAHP Alumni Engagement Council President

Kyle P. Meyer ’79, ’85, PhD, MS, PT, FASAHP
Dean, College of Allied Health Professions

Alumni Engagement Council News

Reunion 2017 — Alumni Awards

Congratulations to this year's distinguished alumnus awardees:

- Chelsea Dockins Reischl, MBA, MLS(ASCP)CM '08
  Medical Laboratory Science – Early Career Achievement Award

- Dave Arthur, PA-C '75
  Physician Assistant – Distinguished Alumnus Award
• Sue E. Schuerman, PT, GCS, MBA, PhD ’75, ’98  
  Physical Therapy – Distinguished Alumnus Award

• James B. Temme, MPA, RT(R)(QM), FASRT, FAEIRS ’73, ’74, ’84  
  Medical Imaging & Therapeutic Sciences – Distinguished Alumnus Award

• Mary F. McGaughey, CT(ASCP) ’10  
  Cytotechnology – Distinguished Alumnus Award

• Todd M. Stover, BSRS, CCP, LP ’87, ’92  
  Clinical Perfusion – Distinguished Alumnus Award

• Barbara Robertson, MA, RD, CNSC, LMNT ’82  
  Medical Nutrition – Distinguished Alumnus Award

CAHP Innovation Fund

The CAHP Innovation Fund was created in 2015 to support the work of the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions. This fund replaces the former membership dues. The Fund helps support projects that engage students and alumni, including the professionalism and white coat ceremonies, convocation and Alpha Eta reception, the all-college reunion, and continuing education.

At the beginning of the second quarter in 2017, the Fund has had 163 donors, which is up 41 donors from the same time last year. Over $15,000 has been contributed since January 1, 2017, and we are grateful for the generous support. Read more about the impact of the CAHP Innovation Fund.

Donor Spotlight

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. Since that time, the RSTE Alumni Committee has hosted numerous annual events for students and alumni. Carol was also an active 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.

Alumni Spotlight

Michelle DiBaise is a full professor and the Director of Admissions at A.T. Still University Physician Assistant Program in Mesa, Arizona. In addition to teaching, she volunteers her time at a free clinic for the homeless and individuals undergoing substance abuse rehabilitation.

She graduated from the UNMC PA Program in 1990 and has worked in various specialties particularly dermatology before moving to Arizona and entering academia full time.

She has served on the American Academy of Physician Assistant's Board of Directors, the PA Foundation Board of Trustees, and currently serves as an editorial board member for the Journal of Dermatology PAs and on the Governance Council for the PA Educators Association. She has served as President of four constituent organizations including Nebraska, Iowa, Arizona, and the Society of Dermatology PAs. She has also served on the UNMC Alumni Engagement Council since 2009.

Michelle is married to John DiBaise, a graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine in 1992, and has three children. Their oldest, Samantha is finishing up her first year of medical school at UNMC. Michelle loves Phoenix Suns basketball, Husker football and tap dancing and still performs as frequently as she can.

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 to learn more.

College News

UNMC College of Allied Health Professions at a Glance
- Third largest enrollment among UNMC’s educational programs
- Average entering student GPA greater than 3.5
- Total Student Body of more than 700 students, including distance students located all over the world
- On average, more than 80% of on-campus students are Nebraska residents
- First-time pass rates (for the past 10 years) on licensure or certification exams that exceed the national means for their profession’s pass rate

**Award Recognition & Updates**

Dawn Venema '99, '07, will receive an Outstanding Teacher Award on May 3.

Ben Greenfield '03, will receive an Outstanding Teacher Award on May 3.

Maheswari (Manju) Mukherjee '10, '12, is the recipient of this year's CAHP Innovative Scholarship Award.

Corri Hanson '10, received the Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Graduate Students Award. In May, she will attend the European Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) Annual Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, where her research poster, *Levels of Pro-vitamin A Compounds and Tocopherol in Mother-infant Pairs from Midwest USA and Correlations with Fetal Growth*, was chosen as a “poster of distinction.”

She will also give an oral presentation of a second abstract, *Retinol Status in Mother-Infant Pairs from Midwest USA: Is it a good indicator of vitamin A sufficiency in clinical practice?*

Kyle Meyer '79, '85, was honored with a 2017 University of Nebraska-Omaha College of Public Affairs and Community Service Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service.

Lisa Bartenhagen '93, associate professor and program director of radiation therapy was named chair of the newly-formed Medical Imaging and Therapeutic Sciences (MITS) department.

Laura Bilek '88, '94, and Joseph Norman are two CAHP researchers who received 2016 UNMC Research Awards. Laura received a New Investigator Award and Joe a Distinguished Scientist Award.

Gregory M. Karst, executive associate dean in the CAHP, was elected to a Distinguished Fellowship in Physical Therapy by The National Academies of Practice. And on May 3, he will be recognized for his **Outstanding Service** to the College of Allied Health Professions.

Ryan Splittgerber became the CAHP assistant dean at the Health Science Education (HSEC), leading the College's efforts in Kearney. He was also the recipient of the CQuence Distinguished Professorship for Innovation in Health Care.

**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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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℠ (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.