Class of 2015 Earns Pins at Professionalism Ceremony

25 Students Participate in Professional Induction Ceremony

Each year, the School of Allied Health Professions hosts a professionalism ceremony to welcome students into their chosen profession. The ceremony was held on Saturday, September 6, 2014.

The Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter plays a key role in the ceremony. Alumni Chapter President Amy McDermott ’12 helped distribute the pins to the students. The alumni chapter is also responsible for selecting an alumni speaker for the event, which is attended by the students, their families, and loved ones.

Heather Traynor ’11, the featured alumni speaker, discussed her professional experience and shared words of advice with the students. She is a Technical Integration Specialist at a laboratory equipment company.

Among the twenty-five students participating in the ceremony, six were from UNMC’s clinical-affiliate sites.

“The pinning ceremony is an exciting experience for all of us,” said Kevin Nicholson, Clinical Laboratory Science student. “This marks an important milestone in our journey to become laboratory professionals.”

First Annual Summer Potluck a Success

Alumni, students gather in Omaha

The CLS Alumni Chapter hosted its first Summer Potluck for alumni, faculty and students in July 2014.

The Alumni Chapter invited all graduates and students to gather at Stinson Park in Omaha’s Aksarben Village neighborhood on a steamy summer Saturday.

Attendees enjoyed fried chicken provided by the alumni chapter and all guests brought a side dish or dessert to share.

The 50 attendees enjoyed the opportunity to network with fellow laboratory professionals and learn what the students were up to in their curriculum at UNMC.

Each year, the alumni chapter hosts three or four social events for its alumni and students. A date has yet to be selected for the next summer potluck; but this event was a favorite of the guests and will be held again in the summer of 2015.

see PHOTOS on our Facebook page
It is an exciting time for our alumni chapter! We had an exciting past few months with our summer potluck and the student pinning ceremony.

At our summer board of directors meeting, we discussed the results of a membership survey that was conducted this spring. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. We are in the process of reviewing your feedback and developing action steps to help further improve the benefits to membership.

In January, our board of directors will convene for our strategic planning retreat. At this meeting, we will review the UNMC strategic plan and determine how our alumni chapter can continue to contribute to UNMC’s mission, vision and goals. We will also develop a plan for our chapter to guide us in the year ahead. And finally, we are refining our mission statement based on the feedback you provided in the membership survey.

You may also notice the layout of this newsletter is different. Please see more information about this new look, and UNMC’s new brand, on page 4 of this newsletter.

If you have any suggestions for us, please don’t hesitate to contact me via e-mail at amygmcdermott@yahoo.com.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Amy McDermott ’12, MLS/(ASCP) CM
President
Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter
University of Nebraska Medical Center
“Our students are the best and brightest. I enjoy the opportunity to both teach and learn from the students each day.”

Susanne Bishop, ’07

Alumni Feature: Susanne Bishop
Class of 2007

Now a member of the CLS Program faculty

Susanne earned her bachelor’s degree in Education in 2005 from UNO and her bachelor’s degree in Clinical Laboratory Science at UNMC in 2007. She went on to earn a Master’s degree in Clinical Laboratory Science from the University of North Dakota in 2014. In addition, she is certified as a Specialist in Blood Banking by the ASCP.

In the summer of 2014, Susanne joined the faculty at UNMC as an assistant professor. In addition to teaching, Susanne will start researching the possibility of developing a Masters level Clinical Laboratory Science degree for the program.

She first became interested in pursuing a career in laboratory science after learning about the profession while enrolled in a Microbiology course at UNO.

Prior to joining the faculty at UNMC, Susanne worked at Bryan Medical Center in Lincoln, NE for one year as the Laboratory Section Coordinator of Transfusion Medicine. Before that, she worked at the American Red Cross in Omaha, NE for six years in the Immunohematology Reference Laboratory.

The future of laboratory science will require highly trained professionals, Susanne said. She recommends that all new professionals get involved in their professional organization. She also recommends finding a mentor or mentors to seek out for advice and guidance.

In her new position, she really enjoys working with students. “Our students are the best and brightest,” Susanne said. “I enjoy the opportunity to both teach and learn from the students each day.”

Susanne is also a member of the Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter board of directors. She serves in a leadership role as the secretary/treasurer.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and her dogs. She also enjoys gardening and hiking.
UNMC Now Shares Logo with Hospital Partner, Nebraska Medicine

The Nebraska Medical Center, Bellevue Medical Center and UNMC Physicians - once three separate but interconnected organizations - are now one operating under one name: Nebraska Medicine.

Nebraska Medicine will continue to deliver the same familiar promise of “Serious Medicine. Extraordinary Care,” and will provide it to all of its patients wherever they may need it, whether it’s at their doctors’ office, a hospital, or an outpatient facility in Omaha, Bellevue, Plattsmouth or elsewhere throughout the region.

The newly integrated organization, which includes more than 6,100 employees, allows Nebraska Medicine to strengthen its services by expanding collaboration among its partners and providing patients with increased access to approximately 1,100 physicians and 678 licensed hospital beds as well as 39 ambulatory clinics in Omaha and the surrounding area.

Nebraska Medicine will continue to serve as the primary clinical teaching partner for the University of Nebraska Medical Center and its health sciences programs. UNMC, with about 4,700 employees, will remain a separate entity from Nebraska Medicine, but will share a new logo to more closely align the two organizations.

The three entities have been moving toward becoming one, clinically integrated organization for more than two years. Patients will now receive billing, communication and care in a more unified manner from Nebraska Medicine rather than from multiple organizations.

The logo, or “emblem” - a shield featuring a subtle red “N” in the upper right corner - provides a visual representation of both organizations’ deep Nebraska roots and their shared mission to improve the human condition. Three white parallelograms around the N represent the education, research and patient care missions that were reflected previously in UNMC Physicians’ “ring” logo.

The shield is a symbol that The Nebraska Medical Center, Bellevue Medical Center and UNMC each used in their previous brands. It symbolizes leadership, courage and protection.

While Nebraska Medicine will adopt the “Serious Medicine. Extraordinary Care” tagline used by The Nebraska Medical Center, UNMC will retain its “Breakthroughs for Life” tagline.
CLS Alumni Chapter Board of Directors

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Amy McDermott ’12

Vice President
Kevin McGuire ’11

Secretary/Treasurer
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Julie Richards ’81
Donna Kruger ’91

Student Member
Kevin Nicholson ’15

Alumni Relations
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Omaha, NE 68198-5200
402.559.4385
unmc.edu/alumni

Upcoming Events

December 12, 2014
CLS Program Winter Party

January 31, 2015
CLS Alumni Chapter Board Member Retreat

April 8-10, 2015
AS-CLS Nebraska State Meeting and Social

April 28, 2015
CLS Alumni Chapter Spring Board Meeting

This publication is available online

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