Congratulations to New College of Allied Health Professions

Editor’s Note: The Clinical Laboratory Science Program is part of the UNMC College of Allied Health Professions, which was formerly a School in the UNMC College of Medicine.

UNMC’s School of Allied Health Professions became the medical center’s sixth college in July 2015. And the move is more than just a mere name change.

The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education reviewed and unanimously approved UNMC’s proposal that the school officially become the College of Allied Health Professions. This followed the January approval by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

Allied health at UNMC has been on a roll lately. Enrollment has grown — it is now second-highest among UNMC colleges, behind nursing. So has funding, both by private philanthropy, with six endowed faculty positions since 2010, and in research dollars, with an increase of 64 percent from 2009 to 2014.

Becoming a college puts UNMC’s programs under the spotlight on a national stage, allowing them to better compete for faculty, research funding, and the opportunity to expand educational programming, according to Kyle Meyer, Ph.D., senior associate dean of the School of Allied Health Professions.

“We have been preparing for this day for several years, and now is the perfect time to do this,” Dr. Meyer said. “The national health care dialogue has focused attention on the necessity for accessible, affordable, high quality care, and there is a much greater emphasis on the role the allied health professions play in achieving these outcomes.”

Alum Kaylynn Rogers Joins CLS Faculty at Kearney Campus

Kaylyn Rogers, MT(ASCP)BBCM, graduated from the University of Nebraska Kearney with a B.S. in Biology in 1998 and from UNMC’s Medical Technology Program (now Clinical Laboratory Science) in 1999.

She worked for 14 years in a clinical laboratory in various roles. Most recently, Kaylyn was a Blood Bank Specialist. She was also the Education Coordinator in the clinical laboratory, coordinating and teaching UNMC CLS students during their clinical site rotation.

“I’m married and have four children,” she said. “I love to spend time with my family and attend all of my children’s activities.”

Kaylynn joins the faculty in support of the program’s expansion in Kearney with the new Health Science Education Complex on the UNK campus.

Welcome, Kaylynn!
Congratulations to the CLS Class of 2015!

In May 2015, 25 students graduated from the Clinical Laboratory Science program.

The Alumni Chapter presented each graduate with a UNMC travel coffee mug and the students were also awarded complimentary annual memberships in the alumni chapter.

“We are so proud of our graduating class,” said Kevin McGuire, CLS faculty member and alumni chapter board member. “Each year our students continue to impress us, and this group was no exception. I am certain the class will go on to do great things.”

In fact, one member of the graduating class, Kevin Nicholson, will join the alumni chapter board of directors.

The students participated in the UNMC commencement ceremony held on May 9 at the Ralston Arena.

Members of the Class of 2015 Include:

- Briana Adams
- Jayne Ellenwood
- Becky Frerichs
- Megan Gunderson
- Anh Hoang
- Josh Keim
- Christina Lechuga
- April Mueller
- Kevin Nicholson
- Cody Pachta
- Karly Rose
- Kasey Schroeder
- Christopher Woslager
- Liz Chizek
- Kaylee Freese
- Jessica Grable
- Natalie Harmon
- Justin Janecek
- John Kummer
- Jayne McGovern
- Sara Murray
- Stephanie Omer
- Jenna Potts
- Krista Schaeffer
- Michele Stretch

Program Director Karen Honeycutt Named “Professor to Know”

Karen Honeycutt, Clinical Laboratory Science Program Director, was recently named one of 20 “Clinical Laboratory Science Professors to Know” by medicaltechnologyschools.com.

According to the site, her student-focused teaching style earned her the UNMC Faculty Senate Teacher of the Year Award (1996) as well as the Outstanding Leadership & Service Award (2005). Her research, which has been published in Clinical Laboratory Science and Radiology Management Journal, focuses on improving the rigor of CLS program materials.
I believe that our profession needs a ‘bigger voice’ and in order to accomplish that we need to work together. Getting involved in the alumni chapter is an excellent way to connect with experienced alumni and to stay connected with the new graduates.”

- Kevin Nicholson ’15

Alumni Feature: Kevin Nicholson, class of 2015

Kevin Nicholson is originally from San Diego, CA. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Toxicology from University of California Davis and moved to Omaha with his fiancée who is a 3rd year medical student at Creighton University.

He enrolled in the Clinical Laboratory Science Program at UNMC because he has always loved science and working with his hands. “Clinical laboratory Science allows me to combine two of my passions into a profession where I can make a positive difference in society through patient work,” Kevin said.

While a student at UNMC, Kevin enjoyed the clinical rotations as the most exciting part of the program. While each part of the laboratory he rotated through was very different, he liked that each experience built upon itself. After rotating through the majority of the laboratories on the Nebraska Medicine campus, he had a new perspective on laboratory work and the sheer amount of effort and time that goes into producing excellent patient results. This has prepared him for his career in the field.

Now, Kevin works as a CLS teaching assistant for the UNMC CLS program, but will start at Children’s Hospital as a full-time medical technologist in the core lab. He has previously worked at Transgenomic, Inc. as a genetic analyst and for the California Environmental Protection Agency as a scientific aid.

Kevin also volunteers his time as a member of the UNMC Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter. He recently transitioned from student representative to a full alumni member. “I believe that our profession needs a ‘bigger voice’ and in order to accomplish that we need to work together. Getting involved in the alumni chapter is an excellent way to connect with experienced alumni and to stay connected with the new graduates,” Kevin said.

In his free time, he enjoys woodworking, biking, fishing, and board games.
The CLS Alumni Chapter hosted the second annual picnic and potluck for alumni and students on June 6.

Originally scheduled for Omaha’s Elmwood Park, inclement weather caused the picnic to be moved indoors to the UNMC Alumni House on UNMC’s campus.

The picnic was well-attended by current CLS students, who were presented with their “order of the draw” keychains as welcome gifts from the Alumni Chapter.

The gifts were a huge hit with the students and were fun for the alumni to assemble.

One of the alumni chapter’s most important goals is to develop meaningful relationships between current students and alumni.

Events such as the picnic and other meetings throughout the school year help the students form a close association with the alumni chapter.

Alumni: Submit Your News for Class Notes

The UNMC Connect magazine for UNMC alumni and friends is published twice per year. In the Connect magazine we share important milestones in the lives of our alums, including:

Professional news: New job, promotion, retirement, presentations, etc.

Personal news: Marriages and births

Awards/community service: Volunteering for a board of directors, community or professional recognition

To submit your news, use this link or email your news to alumni@unmc.edu.

The next issue of Connect will go to publication in late summer 2015.

Class of 1965 To Host 50 Year Reunion

The CLS Alumni Chapter would like to congratulate the Class of 1965 on their 50 year anniversary reunion.

The class is organizing a reunion to be held in Omaha in September.

“This is an exciting milestone,” said Amy McDermott, president of the Alumni Chapter. “I am so glad this class has decided to celebrate this occasion and I look forward to the opportunity to greet them when they convene in Omaha.”
Upcoming Events

Health Science Education Complex at UNK (new College of Allied Health Professions facility)
- Ribbon cutting: August 20
- UNK campus - Kearney, NE

CAHP Professionalism Ceremony
- September 19
- UNMC Truhlsen Campus Events Center

CLS Class of 1965 - 50 Year Reunion
- September 24-26, 2015
- Omaha

UNMC Alumni Association Tailgate Party
- September 12, 2015
- 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Prior to the South Alabama at Nebraska football game
- The Grand Manse
- Lincoln, NE
- $15/person
- Purchase tickets online at www.unmc.edu/alumni

For more events, visit: www.unmc.edu/alumni

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