



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
MEDICAL CENTER<sup>SM</sup>

**ALUMNI**

## College of Nursing Alumni Council Newsletter - Spring 2018

### Upcoming UNMC Alumni Association Events

#### [UNMCAA Showdown in O-Town Baseball Tailgate & Game](#)

May 8, 2018 - Omaha, Nebraska

Tailgate: 4:30 - 6:30 PM | The Diamond Room (Bull Pen)

Game: 6:30 PM | TD Ameritrade Park

Tickets are \$25 each and include dinner, beverage, and game ticket.

Buy your tickets [here](#).

#### [UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend](#)

September 21-22, 2018 | Omaha, Nebraska

For the Colleges of Medicine & Nursing

& Graduate Studies Program

#### **Kick-off with the UNMCAA | Husker Tailgate Party**

October 20, 2018 | Nebraska vs. Minnesota

Lincoln, NE

More information coming soon.

*Tickets will only include the tailgate and not game tickets.*

### Engage With Us Socially



[UNMC College of Nursing Kearney Division Alumni Facebook Group](#)

[UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Facebook Page](#)

[UNMC Alumni Association Facebook Page](#)

[UNMC Alumni Association Twitter](#)

[www.unmc.edu/alumni](http://www.unmc.edu/alumni)

[UNMC College of Nursing Facebook](#)

## ALUMNI COUNCIL NEWS

### Message From the CON Alumni Council President

Rita K. Schmitz '83, MSN, RN

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Our College of Nursing, the state's oldest publicly-supported nursing college, is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the 2017-2018 academic year. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 240 alumni, students, and friends of the College came together in Omaha to mark the occasion with a [Centennial Gala](#). The oldest alumni present were from the BSN classes of 1951 and 1953 and the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas were represented.

During the Gala, the inaugural College of Nursing Hall of Fame induction took place and I would like to congratulate these alumni on this recognition:

Kathryn E. Barnard, PhD, RN, FAAN (BSN 1960)  
Susan B. Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN (MSN 1983)  
Beatrice J. Kalisch, PhD, RN, FAAN (BSN 1965)  
Joan M. Lappe, PhD, RN, FAAN (BSN 1981, PhD 1992)  
Major General (Ret.) Kimberly A. Siniscalchi, MSN, RN (MSN 1988)  
Gladys E. Sorensen, EdD, RN, FAAN (BSN 1945)  
Carol M. Wilson, MA, RN (BSN 1951)

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts proclaimed the week of October 15-21, 2017 as [University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing Centennial Week](#). A big thank you to the work of the Centennial Planning committee for their efforts with the gala and the other celebratory events that have and will take place yet this academic year.



In celebration of the Centennial, a beautiful coffee-table book has been created to showcase the history of the College. The book features historical information taken from the 1917-1987 College of Nursing book and continues through present day. You can purchase yours online [here](#) or call 402.559.4455. Don't miss out on an opportunity to take home a piece of UNMC Nursing history!

I wish you and yours all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita K. Schmitz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rita K. Schmitz '83, MSN, RN

## **The College of Nursing Innovation Fund: Learn how your donations matter**

The College of Nursing Innovation Fund was created in 2015 to support the work of the UNMC College of Nursing in partnership with the College of Nursing Alumni Council and the UNMC Alumni Association (UNMCAA). This fund replaces the former membership dues program and is the annual fund that provides opportunities to students, supports the people and programs of your Alumni Association, upgrades technology, funds professionalism ceremonies, enhances innovative programs, and more. The work of the alumni council would not be possible without the support of so many generous alumni.

Pledge your donation of support [here](#). To see the impact of gifts to the CON Innovation fund, click [here](#).

## **Seeking Volunteers for the Alumni Engagement Council**

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of current and future students and alumni of your UNMC College of Nursing!? If so, apply for consideration to serve on the CON Alumni Council. Serving on the Council is a great way to stay engaged with your College, the University, and the lives of our students. A helpful packet of information has been created for your review [here](#). Please thoughtfully consider this opportunity to reconnect with your alma mater and to give back. For questions, please contact Kat Hamilton in the Alumni Relations Office: [kat.hamilton@unmc.edu](mailto:kat.hamilton@unmc.edu) or 402.559.1063.

## **The UNMC Alumni Directory is Now Available**

Alumni can [request login credentials](#) and access the directory to search for classmates and colleagues. Please be sure to go to the "update your information" tab to keep your information current in the directory.

## **Class Reunions**

Did you know that the UNMC Alumni Relations Office can help assist you in planning a class reunion? Reach out to [Kat](#), and see how easy it is to plan a time for you and your colleagues to reconnect. This year, classes ending in "3" or "8" are considered honor years.

## COLLEGE OF NURSING NEWS

### Message from the Dean



Momentum means change, dynamism, growth. It is something we have been talking a lot about in the College lately. I see it as something purposeful with direction. While change can be challenging, it can also bring zest, cohesiveness, and shared purpose. Eleanor Roosevelt said, “The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience”.

Our momentum as a College leads us to the amazing work that each and every faculty and staff member are doing each day – constantly striving for optimal ways to teach, generate new knowledge, and provide exemplary clinical care. Our students in every degree program bring incredible dedication and talent to their learning and career growth, and you, our alumni are changing the world.

April 16-18, 2018, we will be hosting an accreditation visit that will give us in the College, the opportunity to showcase the momentum that has propelled the College forward since the last visit in 2009 and our ongoing plans for continued growth and improvement.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your leadership, talent, and dedication to the momentum that carries us all forward as we further the conversation about the importance of the nursing profession in the state of Nebraska and beyond.

My best to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juliann G. Sebastian". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Dean and Professor  
UNMC College of Nursing

### Quality CE leads to Quality Care

The UNMC College of Nursing Continuing Nursing Education program supports the mission of the University by providing the highest quality continuing education through programs designed for registered nurses with advanced and basic professional degrees in Nebraska and beyond. Activities aim to enhance the knowledge, skills, attitudes, competence, and performance of nurses, ultimately improving patient outcomes and community health. To meet the needs of adult learners, live programs and educational activities are delivered through state-of-the-art technology-based modalities that can be completed anytime and anywhere. Click [here](#) to learn more and to see a schedule of upcoming programs.

## Nursing student's passion for children's health shines in HuskerThon



Nursing student Madison Ober, right, and Jake Kingsley, who has been accepted into UNMC's medical school in the fall, were part of a contingent of organizers and volunteers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln HuskerThon.

Madison Ober, a senior nursing student at the UNMC College of Nursing Lincoln Division, has been involved in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln HuskerThon since she was a UNL freshman. She was one of an estimated 1,000 college students involved in the two-day dance marathon held in February that included attendance by current and former pediatric patients and their families. She has been a family representative which enabled her to spend a day with a miracle family/child. As a senior she joined the executive team as a family relations director which put her in charge of all of the miracle kids and their families. This year, the annual event raised \$200,000 to benefit the local Children's Miracle Network at Children's Hospital & Medical Center. Read the full story [here](#).

### Award Recognitions

[Connie Miller, Ph.D., '93, '05](#): Top 25 Nurse Award from the March of Dimes. Leah Grovijohn (Norfolk-Division student) and Dhanya Mathew (Omaha-Division student), and Allison Hansen (Lincoln-Division student) received Student Nurse Awards from the March of Dimes.

[Lynnette Leeseberg Stamler, Ph.D., D.Litt.](#): Impact in Education Award from UNMC.

[Bunny Pozehl, Ph.D., '76, '78, '83](#): named the second Dorothy Hodges Olson Chair in Nursing

[Kathleen Hanna, Ph.D., '75, '81](#): UNMC Distinguished Scientist Award

[Marcia Shade, Ph.D., '16](#): Edna Stillwell Writing Award

[Windy Alonso, Ph.D., RN](#): was recognized at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions by the Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing.

## Recent and Upcoming Retirements

Congratulations and thank you for your service!

**Marlene Cohen** – Professor – Omaha Division

**Kathy (Tackett-Morris) Wulf** – Assistant Professor – Omaha Division

**Jo Miller** – Assistant Professor – Kearney Division  
BSN 1980 – Kearney Division

**Mary Filipi** – Assistant Professor – Omaha Division  
BSN 1985 – Omaha Division  
MSN – 1993  
Post Masters Certificate – 1997  
PhD – 2005

**Susan Wilhelm** – Assistant Professor & Assistant Dean - West Nebraska Division

**Julia Houfek** – Professor - Omaha Division  
MSN – 1975

**Connie Miller** – Associate Professor & Assistant Dean - Omaha Division  
MSN – 1993  
PhD – 2005

## UNMC NEWS

### Legislative Update

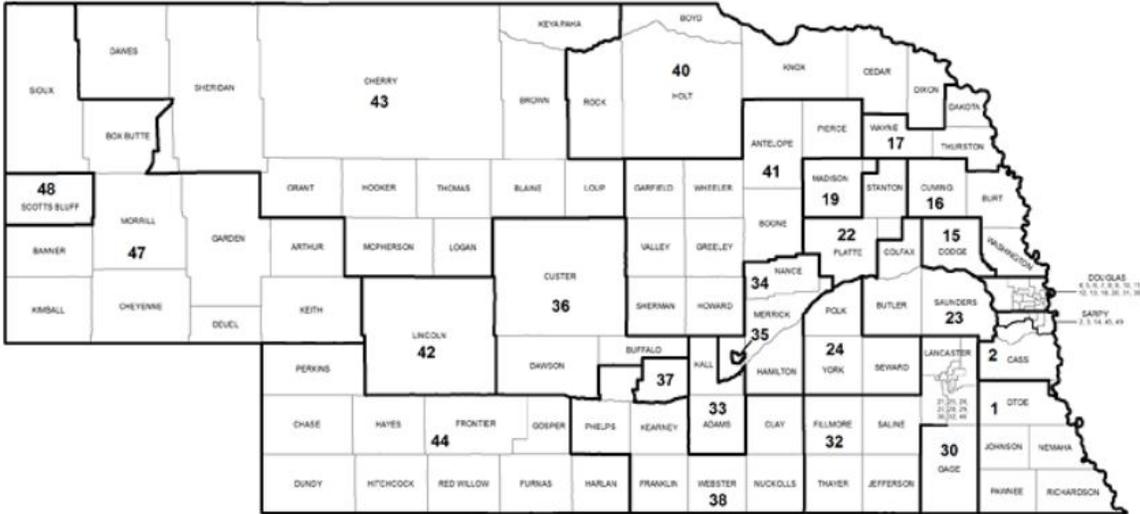
On Wednesday, April 4th, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts signed the state budget package approved by the legislature with no vetoes. Under the budget, the University of Nebraska's funding will be reduced about \$11 million in the current year, and next year's appropriation will be cut about \$6 million. An original proposal had called for a \$23 million cut to NU for 2018-2019.

President Hank Bounds, Ph.D., issued the following statement thanking the many Nebraskans who have spoken out in support of the University over the past few months: "This budget puts the University of Nebraska in a much better place than where we were a few months ago. I am extraordinarily grateful to the thousands of students, faculty and staff, business and agricultural leaders, and Nebraskans across this state who have lifted up their voices for an affordable, competitive public University that transforms lives and grows the economy. The chancellors and I are humbled by their support."

Read more [here](#). To continue to stay informed, alumni are welcome to sign up for the [University of Nebraska Advocate](#) program.

## UNMC's Impact on Nebraska's Legislative Districts

As Nebraska's only public academic health science center, UNMC is committed to the education of a 21st century health care workforce, to improving the health of Nebraska and beyond through its premier educational programs, innovative research and the highest quality patient care, and to serving the state and its communities through award-winning outreach. Click [here](#) to view UNMC's impact in Nebraska.



## UNMC Hosts the Society of Student-Run Free Clinics Conferences

In February, UNMC hosted the 2018 annual national conference of the Society of Student-Run Free Clinics, where more than 300 attendees from across the U.S. attended. Students and faculty involved in the SHARING Clinic from the colleges of medicine, allied health professions, public health, pharmacy and nursing were the hosts for the interprofessional conference, which presented separate tracks for students and faculty. There were workshops, poster presentations, and oral presentations where students and faculty had the opportunity to present their clinic models with student-run free clinics from various institutions.

## Siblings say sacrifice, hard work, family key to success



Left to right: Lindsay Peterson, Landon Peterson and Lori Peterson.

The demands of an education in the health professions has brought three siblings closer together though the rigors of their programs kept them from seeing each other on a regular basis.

If any of them went home to Osceola, Neb., for the weekend, most of their time was spent studying.

Until Lindsay Peterson graduated in December from the UNMC physician assistant program on the Kearney campus, the three Peterson siblings were all enrolled at UNMC at the same time. Landon and Lori Peterson currently are enrolled on the Lincoln campus in the dentistry and nursing programs, respectively. Lori plans to graduate in 2019. Landon plans to graduate this spring and then will enter UNMC's orthodontic residency program in Lincoln. Read the full story [here](#).

[Home](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Email Preferences](#)



University of Nebraska Medical Center Alumni Association  
985200 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5200  
[alumni@unmc.edu](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu)

[MAKE A GIFT](#)

[ALUMNI DIRECTORY](#)