Upcoming Events
To learn more, please visit [www.unmc.edu/alumni](http://www.unmc.edu/alumni)

**Alumni Night on the Court**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
UNO & UNMC Alumni Watch Party
@ a Maverick Men's Basketball Game

Reception: 6 PM | Game: 7 PM

This is a great, family-friendly event and a fun time to interact with alumni colleagues from UNO! Stay tuned for ticket purchasing details.

**Showdown in O-Town**

Nebraska Cornhuskers vs. Creighton Bluejays
Baseball
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Tailgate: 4:30 - 6:30 PM
Game: 6:30 PM

Stay tuned for ticket purchasing details.

**UNMC Alumni Association Cruises**

The UNMCAA and Go Next are pleased to offer exceptional cruise opportunities for you, your family, and your friends. Below are the 2020 trip offerings and more will be available in 2021! Learn more or book [here](http://www.unmc.edu/alumni).
Gaelic Inspiration

- July 12-22, 2020
- Dublin to Dublin
- Discover the lush landscapes and fascinating heritage of Ireland aboard Oceania Cruises’ Nautica on this spectacular nine-night cruise.

Forests & Fjords of Alaska

- July 30 - August 10, 2020
- Seward to Vancouver, BC
- Explore the forests and fjords of Alaska’s coastal cities on this unforgettable eleven-night trip aboard Oceania Cruises’ Regatta.

Cosmopolitan Havens

- November 3-11, 2020
- Rome to Monte Carlo
- Sail to some of the most cultured cities on the western Mediterranean on this seven-night cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ elegant Marina.

Alumni Reunion Weekend 2020

For the Colleges of Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy and the Graduate Studies Program
Honor years are those ending in 5 & 0
October 23-24, 2020
Omaha, NE

The Alumni Office is currently seeking volunteer class leaders. Learn more or volunteer by emailing Kat Hamilton.

Ways to Stay Connected to the College, UNMC & the UNMCAA

- College of Nursing Kearney Division Alumni Facebook Group
- College of Nursing Norfolk Division Alumni Facebook Group
- College of Nursing Alumni Facebook
- UNMC Alumni Association Facebook
- UNMC College of Nursing Facebook
Download the (free!) UNMC Mobile App to connect with the University and the Alumni Association!

The UNMCAA Connections Project Blog is a place for UNMC Alumni to share real-world information and advice with students and fellow #unmcalumni. Information is shared in short written or video blog posts.

- Some topics that have been covered are wellbeing, professional skills, personal finance, time, talent, and treasure. Send us an email if you'd like to learn more or get involved.
- Alumni can participate in this from anywhere in the world, so connect with us today!

UNMC Alumni Association Twitter

UNMC Alumni LinkedIn Group

Alumni News

Meet the New College of Nursing Alumni Council President

Michael Wharton, MSOM, BSN, RN '93

Mike was born April 27, 1970 in Scottsbluff, NE. He is a 1988 graduate of Morrill Public Schools and a 1993 graduate of the UNMC College of Nursing West Nebraska Division. He received a Master of Science in Organizational Management in 2015 from Chadron State College. He serves as the Stroke Program Coordinator for Regional West Medical Center, a Primary Stroke Center, in Scottsbluff.

His wife, Lisa Scheppers, is a 1998 graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine. They have two children; Zach 14 and Olivia 13. They have one dog, Max, a 6 year old Silver Lab. He enjoys camping, traveling and spending time with family.

His term as alumni council president began July 1, 2019 and concludes June 30, 2021. He also serves as the College of Nursing alumni representative on the UNMC Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Event Recap: Scottsbluff Community Reception

Tuesday, November 5th, more than 50 UNMC alumni, faculty, staff, community leaders, and friends gathered for a reception in Scottsbluff. Alumni representing seven different UNMC education programs were in attendance. It was wonderful to see familiar faces and meet new friends too!

College of Nursing Dean, Dr. Juliann Sebastian and College of Medicine Dean, Dr. Brad Britigan, along with Dr. Steven Wengel, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus
Wellness, all attended this UNMC Alumni Association-sponsored event.

Earlier that day, Dr. Wengel had the opportunity to speak to nursing students, faculty and staff about wellness and ways that they can be mindful and practice self-care tips.

Event Recap: Alumni Reunion Weekend 2019

October 11-12, 2019, College of Nursing graduates from the Omaha campus gathered during Alumni Reunion Weekend. Including the other colleges, more than 400 alumni and guests attended events during the two-day event. Alumni represented class years spanning 1954 to the future class of 2023. The BSN classes of 1954, 1959, 1969, and 1979 all gathered to celebrate, reconnect, and reminisce.

This year’s Alumni Weekend included a brand-new schedule where alumni started the weekend with the Welcome Back Lunch on Friday, featuring UNMC speakers on global health security. The afternoon afforded many tour opportunities, including an overview of iEXCEL and the Dr. Edwin G. & Dorothy Balbach Davis Global Center, a campus tour in a classroom, and a tour of the new Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

Members of the 50-year nursing class had the opportunity to attend a video recording session to capture memories of theirs from nursing school, to be archived in the College of Nursing History Museum.

Dr. Lynne Buchanan ’79, ’83, ’99, the 2019 College of Nursing Alumni Council Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient and her fellow colleagues led attendees on a tour and demonstration of the brand new, state-of-the-art telehealth education suite that is in the College of Nursing. This is the first of its kind on campus, with the sole purpose of training students.

Friday evening, the Living the Legacy Alumni Reunion Reception was held. This event offered a casual opportunity for alumni and friends to visit, enjoy musical entertainment from two medical students, recognize distinguished award recipients, and induct 50-year alumni into the honorable Half Century Club.

Saturday morning a narrated Ollie the Trolley tour of Omaha was provided or attendees took part in a tour of the Chihuly art in the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. That evening, classmates gathered for their own class parties at restaurants across Omaha. View photos from the campus activities, awards reception, and nursing class parties.
Read about the 2019 College of Nursing Alumni Council's award recipients here.

**Event Recap: Annual Pharmacology Conference**

Each year the College of Nursing Alumni Council sponsors the annual pharmacological conference for advanced practice providers. This year, the event was held July 11-12th and 50 nursing alumni received discounted registration to attend. This was the 24th year the conference was held.

**Learn How You Can Support Your College of Nursing**

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. This fund replaces the former membership dues program and is the annual fund which:

- provides educational and advancement opportunities for students, alumni, and faculty;
- funds professionalism white coat ceremonies;
- enhances innovative programming in the College;
- supports the people and programs of your Alumni Association, and more.

The work of the College of Nursing Alumni Council would not be possible without the generous support of so many alumni and friends. To see the impact of gifts to the College of Nursing Innovation Fund, click here. Pledge your donation of support here.
New Interim Leaders Appointed

Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., dean of the College of Nursing, announced new leadership appointments that began on October 1.

Louise LaFramboise, Ph.D., who has served as director of the bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) program since 2007, is serving as the interim assistant dean for the College of Nursing Omaha Division. She replaces Amy Hoffman, Ph.D., who was serving as assistant dean since 2018 and who plans to focus on her program of research and her new grant. The college has launched a national search for a permanent assistant dean for the Omaha Division.

Kati Bravo, Ph.D., '04, '14 who has served as the accelerated BSN coordinator since 2008, is serving as the interim bachelor's degree in nursing program director.

Anne Marie DeVoll-Zabrocki, D.N.P., '04, '15 who has been teaching in the accelerated and traditional BSN programs, is serving as interim accelerated BSN coordinator.

Wendy Wells Receives National Rural Health Service Award

Wendy Wells '96, '01 was named a 2018 Community Star by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health.

NOSORH assists State Offices of Rural Health in their efforts to improve access to, and the quality of, healthcare for more than 60 million rural Americans.

Wendy is an instructor at the UNMC College of Nursing West Nebraska Division and is the Education Coordinator for the Nebraska Panhandle Area Health Education Center. Read more here.

College Receives Three Grants From the Health Resources & Services Administration

- **Grant Received to Establish Nurse Practitioner Residency Program**
  The College of Nursing has received a four-year, $1.67 million grant to launch a residency program for recently graduated nurse practitioners in rural and underserved areas. Read the full story here.

- **Grant Received to Enhance Nursing Care for Veterans**
  The College of Nursing has received a three-year, $1.36 million grant to improve the health and well-being of military veterans. The grant focuses on recruiting more military veterans into the college’s bachelor’s degree in nursing program, provides pre-admission, as well as resources to facilitate student success. The grant also educates nursing students and practicing nurses on the unique health needs of veterans and military members. Read the full story here.
• **Grant Received for Nursing Fellowship**
  The UNMC PriCare Fellowship, part of UNMC’s Nurses are Primary program, funded by a four-year, $2.6 million grant will provide training in leadership, communication, management, practice transformation, payment models and more. This opportunity is available for 12 Nebraska nurses.

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**New iWall Technology Brings Statewide Connection**

In the fall of 2019, the College of Nursing Northern Division in Norfolk had an Interactive Digital iWall installed to enhance student learning and engagement.

The technology enables users to present content in real time, transforming collaboration and communication at all of UNMC's nursing divisions in Omaha, Scottsbluff, Kearney, Lincoln and Norfolk. Read more here.

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**August 2019 White Coat Ceremonies**

Scottsbluff  
Kearney  
Lincoln  
Norfolk
Omaha

Purchase a Piece of College of Nursing History

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the College of Nursing Celebrated a century of academic nursing excellence. To commemorate the occasion, a beautiful coffee-table book was 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 2017. You can purchase your very own copy of UNMC nursing history for $32. Hint, hint...this would make a great gift for that special nurse in your life! Contact LaDonna Tworek in the Dean's Office to coordinate your purchase by cash or check; ltworek@unmc.edu or 402.559.4109.

Quality CE Leads to Quality Care

The College of Nursing Continuing Nursing Education program supports the mission of the University by providing the highest quality continuing education. Programs are 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 delivered through state-of-the-art technology-based modalities are available to be completed anytime, anywhere. Click here to learn more and to see a schedule of upcoming offerings.

UNMC News

Walter 'Ted' Carter Named Priority Candidate for University President
Walter "Ted" Carter, Jr., VADM (Ret.), a higher education executive with an extensive record of growing student and academic success, has been named the priority candidate to serve as the eighth president of the University of Nebraska.

Carter, a retired vice admiral in the U.S. Navy, is the immediate past superintendent of his alma mater, the U.S. Naval Academy; a former president of the U.S. Naval War College; and a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star recipient.

He was unanimously supported by both the Board and the 23-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee that represented faculty, students, staff, business, agriculture and other university constituencies.

Clinical Teaching Resources Available

The UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Educators has established a Preceptor Toolkit for community health professions educators as a means of support in augmenting and enhancing teaching abilities.

Take a look at the various tools and resources created to help you bolster your skill set as an educator.

UNMC, UNO Launch Dual Master's Degrees for Nurses

UNMC and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) have launched a new dual-degree Master of Science in Nursing Leadership (M.S.N.)/Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) to help address workforce shortages in the state. Applications are now being accepted.

This dual degree can be earned with 56 credit hours versus 81 hours if individuals were to pursue the degrees separately. Read more here.

UNMC's Omaha Campus Has a New Front Door
In September of 2019, campus leaders and invited guests gathered to thank philanthropists Bob and Polina Schlott for their contributions in making possible the new southern entrance, which has been named the Medical Center Plaza.

The greenspace and lighted walkway, located on the northwest corner of 42nd and Leavenworth streets, features 18 ceramic columnar sculptures created by Omaha artist Jun Kaneko.

The sculptures are incorporated into a grove of mature trees. Benches line the walk and provide visitors, medical center employees, and students the opportunity to seek calmness and beauty amid a tranquil park-like setting.