Upcoming Events for College of Nursing Alumni

**Alumni Night on the Court**
A UNO & UNMC Alumni Engagement Event
UNO Basketball at Baxter Arena
February 14, 2019
6:00 PM Pre-game Reception
7:00 PM Tip-Off
Get tickets [here](#) or call 402.559.4385

**2019 UNMCAA Cruises**
*Before booking, be sure to check the UNMCAA [website](#) for other alumni events happening in 2019.*

**Masterpiece Montage**
September 30 - October 11, 2019
Rome to Barcelona Oceania Cruise
*Discover enduring masterpieces along the Mediterranean coast during an incredible ten-night cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ Sirena.*

**Cuba Charms**
October 29 - November 9, 2019
Miami to Miami Oceania Cruise
*Discover the true depth and beauty of the once-forbidden country of Cuba on this impressive ten-night voyage, with an included one-night pre-cruise Miami stay, aboard Oceania Cruises’ elegant Insignia.*

**UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend**
October 11-12, 2019 | Omaha, Nebraska
Honor years are those ending in "4" and "9"
[Nominate](#) someone for an alumni award
[Volunteer](#) to serve as a class leader
Alumni Council News

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Saturday, September 22, I had the privilege of recognizing our 2018 College of Nursing alumni who were honored during Alumni Reunion Weekend. Below are the outstanding recipients of the awards this year.

- **Janice Twiss** (BSN 1965, MSN 1979) - Distinguished Alumnus Award
  - Dr. Twiss presented a lecture entitled "A Woman's Health Career: Memories, Milestones, Mission". You can watch it [here](#).
  - And an early congratulations to Dr. Twiss who will be retiring at the end of 2018. A **reception** will be held for her on Monday, December 3 from 3:30 - 5:00 PM on the UNMC Omaha campus in the Center for Nursing Science in the third floor atrium.

- **Dieu-My Tran** (BSN 2010, PhD 2014) - Nursing Excellence Award

- **Carissa Lueck** (DNP 2018) - Nursing Excellence Award

- **Jill Thewke** - Honorary Alumnus Award

- **Kelley Hasenauer** (MSN 2001) - Dorothy Patach Spirit of Service Award

- **Audrey Nelson** (BSN 1972) - Heritage Award

You can view photos from Alumni Reunion Weekend [here](#). I encourage you to read more about the 2018 award recipients and thoughtfully consider nominating someone in 2019. Nominations are due by March 15, 2019.

Wishing you and yours a beautiful holiday season and a new year of peace, health, and happiness!

Sincerely,

Rita K. Schmitz, '83, MSN, RN
President, College of Nursing Alumni Council
Alumni Reunion Weekend 2018 Recap
September 21-22 members of the BSN classes of 1953 and 1958 reconnected in Omaha during Alumni Reunion Weekend. Alumni and guest attendees toured campus, enjoyed a welcome back lunch and learned about iExcel initiatives at UNMC, dinner with classmates, and an Ollie the Trolley Tour of the city.

Omaha BSN Class of 1968 Celebrates 50-Year Reunion
Members of the BSN class of 1968 gathered in Omaha in October to celebrate their 50th anniversary of graduating from UNMC. Attendees enjoyed touring the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center on UNMC’s campus, as well as multiple gatherings throughout the weekend to catch up and reminisce.

Omaha BSN Class of 1962 Gathers in Lincoln
Members of the Omaha BSN class of 1962 toured the new College of Nursing Lincoln Division building in November.
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 (UNMCAA). This fund replaces the former membership dues program and is the annual fund that

- 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. To see the impact of gifts to the College of Nursing Innovation Fund, click here. Pledge your donation of support here.

Seeking Volunteers for the Alumni 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 Nursing 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, contact Kat Hamilton in the Alumni Relations Office: 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 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.
Message from the Dean

Dear College of Nursing alumni, friends, faculty, students, and staff,

I am delighted to share with you that we recently received word that each of our CCNE accredited programs – the BSN, MSN, Post Masters Certificate, and DNP programs have received a full ten years of continuing accreditation.

While we anticipated an excellent outcome of this accreditation visit, one can never be complacent and of course we are always working to improve. Receiving the letter from CCNE confirming that all standards were met and there were no compliance concerns is the sort of validation that we appreciate. We are very excited about this news, but we will not rest on this excellent outcome. Each day we will continue our work to advance students’ education at all levels and push forward the frontiers of excellence through new knowledge and innovative implementation of that knowledge into practice.

Our PhD program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as part of the university’s accreditation, and that visit was in 2016 and the outcome was a full ten years of continuing accreditation.

Thank you to the alumni, faculty, staff, students, clinical preceptors, and community partners who took part in the accreditation visit this fall. The work that each and every one of you did shone through in the successful outcome. And now, we continue to move forward with our commitment to nursing education, practice, and research and to improvements in health and health care.

Congratulations, everyone!

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

Fall White Coat Ceremonies
The white coat ceremony is a rite of passage for nursing students as they begin their career in nursing. Below are photos from each UNMC College of Nursing white coat ceremony this fall.

Alumna, Dr. Susan Hassmiller ’83, senior advisor for nursing at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was a special guest speaker during the Lincoln White Coat Ceremony and she spoke about the future of nursing. She is pictured below with Jana Pressler, Ph.D., assistant dean for the UNMC College of Nursing Lincoln Division; nursing students, James D. Witter III and Julissa Bakken; and Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Nursing. You can read more about the Lincoln ceremony here.
College of Nursing History Book for Sale

In celebration of the College of Nursing's 100th Anniversary, 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!
College of Nursing West Nebraska Division Receives WIN Grant for Panhandle Geriatric Mental Health Outreach

The UNMC College of Nursing has received a $91,500 grant from Women Investing in Nebraska (WIN) to support a rural program led by the college's West Nebraska Division in Scottsbluff that provides geriatric mental and cognitive health screenings and access to mental health services.

The funding will be used to help serve the more than 16,000 older adults living in the state's 11-county Panhandle region where there is a shortage of mental health services. In 2019, the college expects to provide services to an estimated 500 people through specialized clinics and conduct around 40 comprehensive geriatric cognitive and dementia assessments. Read more.

UNMC $2.6 Million Grant Looks to Improve Patient Care with RN's Enhanced Role in Outpatient Clinics

The way health care providers are paid is shifting, demanding major changes by providers. Instead of being paid for the number of patients they see and tests ordered, the system is moving toward paying providers based on patient satisfaction, good clinical outcomes and cost effectiveness.

The UNMC College of Nursing has received a four-year, $2.6 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration to help meet some of the new demands with a focus on engaging more registered nurses in the management of patients. Read the full story.

College of Nursing Kearney Division Students Enjoy First Simulation Training

First-semester nursing students at the Kearney Division recently completed their first simulation event at the Health Science Education Complex.

The day included a scavenger hunt for items in the simulation suite (using an app called "Goose Chase") and a chance for the students to become the voice of the "patient" from the simulation control room. Students interacted with the simulated patient based on such skills labs training as aspiration precautions, incontinence care, donning personal protective equipment and responsibilities as a nurse. Read more here.
College of Nursing Lincoln Division Receives Grant

The UNMC College of Nursing Lincoln Division received a grant from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience (UCARE) program. It provided four, $2,400 stipends in the summer for students at the Lincoln Division. The students conducted research and presented their work at a summer research symposium at UNL. Read more.

College of Nursing’s DNP Program Ranked Among the Best in the Nation

RegisteredNursing.org recently ranked the UNMC College of Nursing's doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.) program as one of the best in the U.S. The UNMC program ranked eighth out of 186 schools analyzed. D.N.P. programs were assessed on factors that represent how well a program supports students and their career including published surveys, student data, and other educational data from several sources.

Learn more about the DNP program here.

Remembering Joan McVay, Ed.D.

Joan McVay, Ed.D., emeritus faculty member of the UNMC College of Nursing, passed away on Aug. 18 at age 85.

Colleagues remembered Dr. McVay as a talented educator and a skilled and caring nurse. Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., dean of the College of Nursing, said "Dr. McVay was beloved by students, faculty, staff, and members of the community." Read more.
UNMC NEWS

University of Nebraska Foundation Among Top Charities
Contributors to the University of Nebraska are receiving the recognition they deserve. The University of Nebraska Foundation, the charitable arm of the University of Nebraska and its affiliates, was ranked number 96 by the Chronicle of Philanthropy of America's top 100 favorite charities for 2018.

In an interview with the Chronicle about the rankings, Brian Hastings, president and CEO of the University of Nebraska Foundation, cited the generosity of Nebraskans and that of the university's alumni and friends around the world. Hastings noted, "This reflects the combination of a loyal and generous donor base, outstanding university leadership with big ideas and big projects to inspire philanthropy."

SIM-NE Joins iExcel

Simulation in Motion-Nebraska (SIM-NE) has officially joined iEXCEL, helping extend statewide outreach efforts by offering cutting-edge simulation training in mobile education units to pre-hospital and hospital professionals across Nebraska.

SIM-NE uses some of the most technologically advanced simulation training available to provide standardized, high-quality training to rural EMS agencies and critical access hospital emergency rooms across Nebraska. More than 3,750 healthcare providers, UNMC alumni and students, and clinical instructors have taken part in 200+ cutting-edge training events in 81 of the 93 counties in NE.

The University of Nebraska Advocates Program
Are you interested in receiving the latest updates on what's happening at the capitol, having an opportunity to share your concerns and ideas, and a platform to engage with your state representatives and other policy makers? If so, sign up for the University of Nebraska Advocates
Engage With Us on Social Media

UNMC College of Nursing Kearney Division Alumni Facebook Group
UNMC College of Nursing Norfolk Division Alumni Facebook Group
UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Facebook Page
UNMC Alumni Association Facebook Page
UNMC Alumni Association Twitter
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