A Message from Dean Keith Olsen, PharmD

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am honored to be back at the College of Pharmacy serving as your dean. Since my tenure started on January 7, it has been an exciting period of meeting with faculty, students and our alumni and preceptors. I have planned a series of visits across Nebraska this spring and summer, with the intent to make as many visits as possible to keep in touch with you. I am looking forward to working alongside you. If you are ever in Omaha, please don't hesitate to stop by the College to say hello.

Keith Olsen, PharmD
Dean, UNMC College of Pharmacy

Pharmacy Alumni Council News

Gary Stroy '67 Awarded Distinguished Alumnus Award

Congratulations to Gary Stroy, class of 1967. He was awarded the College of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus Award at the College's spring honors convocation on Friday, May 3. Gary Stroy is widely recognized as an inventor, an entrepreneur, and an influential leader in both the laboratory and pharmaceutical industries. His career began with management and senior executive positions with divisions of four large pharmaceutical and medical device firms, SmithKline, American Hospital Supply, Syntex, and Bayer.

Mr. Stroy has a long record of accomplishments in identifying new life science and medical business opportunities. He co-founded a company called LifeScan, which pioneered the concept of personal blood glucose monitoring for managing diabetes.
He was an initial investor in ChemTrack, which was a firm that developed the first home cholesterol test. He is a co-inventor on several patents, and he is recognized worldwide for his pioneering contributions in the area of immunoassay technology for therapeutic drug monitoring and diabetes management. Gary is currently the Chairman and CEO of Xip Diagnostics, a firm that he co-founded to develop the world’s first single-use digital-read blood analyzer. The platform can instantly measure up to a dozen analytes in a drop of whole blood. This technology is initially being applied in veterinary medicine; with the next application for the measurement of troponin, which many of you know is the accepted biomarker for a heart attack. This product will enable the rapid confirmation of a myocardial infarction in a hospital emergency department—minutes after a patient admits with symptoms—as opposed to what could take several hours to report to clinicians using current lab tests. These are just a few highlights of his career.

Congratulations!

Alumni Council Hosts Welcome Events for Dean Olsen

A series of welcome events for Dean Olsen began Tuesday, May 14 at a reception at Happy Hollow Club in Omaha. Thanks to all the College of Pharmacy alumni who attended.

Upcoming events include visits to pharmacies across Nebraska, and other welcome events. Currently scheduled includes: visits to central Nebraska May 20-22, northeast Nebraska June 10, and Lincoln and southeast Nebraska on June 26. More visits to other parts of the state will be forth-coming. For more information, contact Catherine Mello.
Alumni Reunion Events for College of Pharmacy Alumni
The UNMC Alumni Relations Office is seeking volunteers from College of Pharmacy honor years ending in "4" or "9." We will help you plan and facilitate a class reunion this fall as part of UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend, October 11-12, 2019. If you'd like assistance with contacting classmates and organizing a class party, please contact Catherine Mello.

Check out these photos from College of Pharmacy class parties held in 2018.

UNMCAA Launches Connections Project blog
On January 2, 2019, the UNMCAA launched the Connections Project Blog, a place for UNMC Alumni to share real-world information and advice with students and fellow #unmcalumni. Information is in short written or video posts. All content lives on the blog https://blog.unmc.edu/alumni-association/ and is shared via the UNMC Alumni Association’s Facebook and Twitter.

Several Pharmacy alumni have already been featured on the blog, with more to come:
♦ Jeff Hines, PharmD '82: How to Advocate for the University of Nebraska and your Profession
♦ Greg Schardt, PharmD '09: Making Time for Growth
♦ Joshua Hite, PharmD '06: Understanding and Evaluating Company Benefits

Overall, topics covered are well-being, professional skills, personal finance, time, talent, and treasure. The videos are between one and two minutes in length. Alumni can participate from anywhere in the world via Zoom. If you’re interested in sharing a message with current students and emerging alumni, send us an email.

Thank you for Supporting the Pharmacy Alumni Innovation Fund
Your investment in the Pharmacy Alumni Innovation Fund supports the people and programs of your alumni association, which now welcomes all graduates with automatic membership. It also supports student engagement, promotes access to the latest technology resources and provides networking and professional development opportunities. Today’s pharmacy students will be as grateful for your gift as you were for the gifts that enhanced your education. Many of them will continue this tradition of giving because they'll understand their contributions will help launch careers just as your generosity helped launch their own. To learn more about the Pharmacy Alumni Innovation Fund, view the FY18 Impact Report.
Congratulations to the Class of 2019!

The class of 2019 participated in the scholastic honors convocation ceremony on Friday, May 3 at the Joslyn Art Museum.

Students participated in Spring Honors Convocation on Friday, May 3. Commencement was held on Saturday, May 4.

Students Present Annual Preceptor Awards

As part of the doctorate program at UNMC College of Pharmacy, the final year is known as the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience. This features opportunities spent with preceptors and represent incredible learning experiences for the students. During convocation, the following preceptors were honored for their hard work to make the fourth year excellent for the class of 2019.

**Outstanding Non-faculty Preceptor of the Year**
Jeff Kildow, PharmD '99; Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff, NE

**Outstanding Faculty Preceptor of the Year**
Jennifer Foster, PharmD '01; UNMC College of Pharmacy and One World Community Health Center

**Outstanding Preceptor Site of the Year**
Grand Island VA
Brent Bollwitt PharmD, Lourdes Heuermann PharmD '82, Paula Carlson PharmD '04; and Lisa Bilslend, PharmD.
Save the date! 10th Annual Preceptor Retreat

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
10th Annual
Preceptor Development Retreat
UNMC Center for Drug Discovery
Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education

Friday, August 9, 2019

Space will be limited. You will receive an email invitation in June, so please be sure to check your email.

• Interested in presenting? Have a great topic idea? Contact the OEP office. •

We hope you are able to attend!
Office of Experiential Programs, College of Pharmacy
College of Pharmacy to Host Biopharmaceutical Research & Development Symposium

With the aim of nurturing collaboration and student learning objectives, the College of Pharmacy is organizing the 6th Annual Biopharmaceutical Research & Development Symposium on September 4th-5th, 2019. This day and a half symposium will include speakers from both academia and industry speaking about various topics in infectious disease research. Through talks and poster sessions, this meeting will help identify the scientific, clinical and regulatory hurdles that remain in infectious disease drug discovery. Speakers from academia, and industry will provide a multidisciplinary forum for scientists to educate, interact and discuss recent advances and challenges. In addition, students (post-doc and/or graduate students) will be selected to give an oral presentation. Pre/Post-doctoral graduates will be encouraged to make poster presentation. Additional information can be found here.

Don Klepser Recognized as Distinguished Scientist

Don Klepser, Ph.D. was honored at a campus ceremony as one of UNMC's 2018 Distinguished Scientist Award recipients. Dr. Klepser's research focus is point-of-care testing in pharmacies. To see the full award profile click here.

Jeff Baldwin Retires from UNMC and the College of Pharmacy

A retirement reception for Jeff Baldwin, Pharm.D., a 45-year employee in the UNMC College of Pharmacy, was held January 30th. Dr. Baldwin served as professor over the last 10 years of his career and was vice chair for education for the College of Pharmacy from 2008-2017. To read more about his career click here. He heads into retirement with one more major challenge ahead of him -- dealing with Parkinson's disease. To read that story click here.

Ally Dering-Anderson assumes presidency of Nebraska Pharmacists Association

Ally Dering-Anderson, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has assumed the role of president of the Nebraska Pharmacists Association. In addition to her faculty appointment and research portfolio, Dr. Dering-Anderson continues to serve as a practicing pharmacist, and is passionate about patient-centered community pharmacy. To read the full story click here.
Gary Yee Named Associate Vice Chancellor

Gary Yee, Pharm.D., has been named UNMC's next associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, pending approval by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Dr. Yee is a professor of pharmacy practice and science and associate dean for academic affairs in the UNMC College of Pharmacy. He has been with the College of Pharmacy 10 years. Congratulations! To read the full story, click here.

UNMC News

UNMC team plays key role in pancreatic cancer discovery
UNMC has established itself as one of the leading research centers in the country for pancreatic cancer -- perhaps the most deadly form of cancer. Taking on pancreatic cancer is a monumental task. It's estimated that 92 percent of people diagnosed with pancreas cancer will die within five years. Thankfully, incremental strides are being made.

One of the recent breakthroughs was reported earlier this month in Nature Medicine, and a UNMC research team under the direction of Pankaj Singh, Ph.D., professor, Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases, played a key role in the discovery. Read more.

Hank Bounds, PhD Steps Down as President of University of Nebraska system

University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds informed the university community on Monday, March 25 that after four years leading NU through a period of transformational collaboration and momentum, he is stepping away from administration to transition to other educational and consulting work.

Bounds, a Mississippi native who became NU's seventh president on April 13, 2015, will step down late this summer and return to the South with his family. Bounds said that after more than 20 years in executive roles, he had decided to spend his time differently going forward. Read More.

University grows state's economy by $4.5 billion annually
The teaching, research and outreach activities of the University of Nebraska grow the state's economy by $4.5 billion every year, according to an independent new analysis of the university's significant and far-reaching impact on Nebraska's growth and prosperity.

The analysis, presented to the NU Board of Regents, was conducted by Tripp Umbach, a leading national consultant with expertise in economic impact studies. Tripp Umbach's findings, which for the first time detail NU's impact by region and legislative district, show that the University of Nebraska generates $7 for every $1 the state invests -- a return that President Hank Bounds,
Ph.D., said demonstrates the vital role the campuses play in ensuring Nebraska’s continued economic competitiveness. Read more.

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