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We at the UNMC Alumni Association wish you all the best during this time. Please enjoy the contents of this e-newsletter to stay up-to-date on what's going on at the UNMCAA, the Graduate Studies Program and UNMC.

Alumni News

Message from the Alumni President



Our Graduate Studies Alumni Council remains committed to offering engagement opportunities and building a stronger sense of community between our alumni and our students. We have had some good successes and are continually in search of new ideas and ways to involve our alumni and our students.

I am pleased to share with you that the Graduate Studies Alumni Council has identified three very worthy recipients of awards we normally present during the UNMC Alumni Reunion weekend. Due to COVID-19, the weekend has been postponed and the recipients will be given their awards at a date to be determined.

These awards include:

- **Graduate Studies Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient**
Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD, Dean, Chicago Medical School, Rosalind Franklin University
- **Graduate Studies Early Career Achievement Award Recipient**
Sara A. Myers, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biomechanics, UNO
- **Graduate Studies Honorary Alumnus Award Recipient**
Joyce Solheim, PhD, Professor, Eppley Institute for Cancer Research, UNMC

As with the previous winners of these awards, all have made a substantial impact in their professions and have set a high bar for the rest of us. Their head shots and biographies are available below.

This academic year, our Alumni Council has continued to build the continuity and interactions between our alumni and students. We will continue these efforts even in the face of the challenges due to COVID-19. Additionally, we are always trying to increase our profile with respect to any fundraising opportunities that may be helpful in supporting our students, and we are open to any thoughts or suggestions.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas, or you are interested in getting more engaged with the Graduate Studies program and your alma mater, please feel free to contact me. Most importantly, we look forward to engaging you and connecting you back to UNMC.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Thiele, PhD'84
President, Graduate Studies Alumni Council

Dean Davies Provides Special Message for Graduate Studies Alumni



The UNMC Alumni Relations Office hosted a series of special briefings for the alumni of each of UNMC's colleges and programs. Graduate Studies Dean H. Dele Davies, MD, MHCM, provided his briefing on June 24.

If you were not able to join the event live, a recording is available [here](#).

UNMCAA & UNOAA Partner for Alumni Virtual Lunch and Learn Events



**ALUMNI VIRTUAL
LUNCH & LEARN**

ALUMNI

**UNMC
ALUMNI**

The UNMC and UNO Alumni Associations teamed up to produce eight Facebook Live events that were held April – June to address various topics surrounding COVID-19.

The next event will feature UNMC and UNO Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., and he will discuss the return to school for the fall semester. More information is coming soon, but here are some details to help you plan ahead:

- Wednesday, September 30, from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. central time

- You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch
- Previous Lunch & Learn sessions are available on the UNMCAA's [YouTube](#)

UNMC Talent Treasure Trove Created



The UNMC Alumni Association, along with the UNMC Campus Wellness Program, led by Steve Wengel, MD '86, '90, created an online video mini-series, the [UNMC Talent Treasure Trove](#). These short videos are meant to provide viewers with a daily dose of positivity, perhaps laughter, helpful insight for life or just a pleasant time-out from the daily norm, all while showcasing the talents of faculty, staff, students, fellow colleagues, and alumni.

To get involved or learn more, send an email to alumni@unmcalumni.org.

Alumni Reunion 2020 Postponed



As you may already know, the UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend scheduled for October 23-24, 2020 has been postponed. In 2021, we will host honor years from 2020 along with the 2021 honor years for Alumni Weekend in Omaha.

Congratulations to our Graduate Studies Alumni Award Winners!



Distinguished Alumnus
Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD
 Class of 1993



Early Career Achievement Award
Sara A. Myers, PhD
 Class of 2011



Honorary Alumnus Award
Joyce Solheim, PhD

Despite the postponement of Alumni Reunion Weekend, the Graduate Studies Alumni Council selected recipients for the Graduate Studies alumni awards for 2020. These recipients will be honored with a special celebration (with more details coming soon) and will officially receive their awards in front of their peers during Alumni Reunion Weekend in 2021. Click [here](#) to read their bios.

Thank You for Your Support of Students in the Graduate Studies Program



The Graduate Studies Innovation Fund provides a way for alumni to support students, alumni programming, your alumni association (where all alumni are members), and more. This work would not be possible without the ongoing support of generous alumni and friends. Watch the thank you [video](#) to see how much your support means to students. The FY20 Impact Report will be available this fall and will be shared with alumni.

College News

Message from the Dean



During this COVID-19 crisis, the work and creative abilities of our alumni, faculty, staff and students are more important than ever. Although the way we teach has shifted, our dedication to exemplary training has not. While some things continue to change, and the 2020-2021 academic year will be different than those of the past, our educational mission remains central.

We are equally committed to providing a safe environment for both the campus and the communities we serve. As our students return to campus this fall, we continue to rigorously monitor our safety guidelines and adapt them as needed to ensure everyone's health and well-being.

Despite the challenges COVID-19 has presented, our faculty and students continue to excel in extraordinary ways. From creating new training programs to receiving top honors for their dedication and hard work, they steadily move forward on a journey of excellence and discovery.

I hope you enjoy reading this news and more as we continue to make UNMC among the best places for graduate students to train in the country.

H. Dele Davies, MD, MHCM
Dean, Graduate Studies Program

Graduate Studies Fall 2020 Video Update



[Watch](#) as Dr. Dele Davies, UNMC Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies, and PhD students Pranita Atri and Paul Lovell describe the changes for the fall 2020 semester due to COVID-19.

Adam Case, PhD Named Distinguished Graduate Student Mentor



Adam Case, PhD, assistant professor of cellular & integrative physiology and director of the Physiological Environment Research Facility at UNMC, was honored with the Graduate Student Association's 2020 Distinguished Graduate Student Mentor Award.

This award recognizes a faculty member who has provided exemplary mentorship in the areas of research, critical thinking, communication skills and career preparation. Dr. Case was presented with the award at the Graduate Studies' virtual convocation and commencement ceremonies in May.

Read more about Dr. Case and excerpts from the student nominations [here](#).

MD-PhD Student Safwan Elkhatib Among Winners of Lasker Essay Contest



Safwan Elkhatib, a student in the MD/PhD program is among 11 winners of the Lasker Foundation's seventh annual Lasker Essay Contest. This contest invites young scientists from around the world to discuss topics in biomedical research and policy. This year's essay topic asked students how a notable scientist has inspired them.

Elkhatib wrote about Jonas Salk, MD and Albert Sabin, MD, who invented the polio vaccine and introduced the oral vaccine respectively. Specifically, Elkhatib was inspired that the polio vaccine was never monetized, and he discussed how the monetization of health care dramatically affects those already marginalized by the medical and scientific community.

Read more about Elkhatib and his essay [here](#).

UNMC News

Ted Carter Installed as President of the University of Nebraska & 5-Year Strategy Unveiled



On Friday, August 14, Ted Carter's investiture ceremony was held and in it, he outlined a [multi-year plan](#) for growth and success across the NU system, calling for decisive action to serve the needs of students and the state during a time of great change for higher education. Read [more](#).

Governor Signs Bill Supporting NExT Project



Thursday, August 20, 2020, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts hosted a ceremonial bill signing for legislative bill 1107. UNMC Chancellor Jeff Gold, M.D. participated in the ceremony.

Among other things, the bill supports Nebraska's bid for a major federal investment in UNMC's [NExT Project](#) by providing

state support for an academic medical facility to help the United States address future pandemics and other disasters.

Stay up to date with how the University partners with state government by [signing up to join the University of Nebraska Advocates](#).

Dr. Strong Named Director of Inclusion at UNMC



Sheritta Strong, MD'04, was named director of inclusion at UNMC, effective July 1. She serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and in her new role, she will help UNMC meet and expand its goals in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion, at a time when the nation as a whole is continuing to come to grips with the longstanding effects of structural racism. Read [more](#).

Three UNMC Programs Merge to Create the Office of Global Engagement

Recently, UNMC merged International Health and Medical Education, the Asia Pacific Rim Development Program and International Business Development into one new program; the Office of Global Engagement (OGE). This change is a more effective way to support UNMC's international students and to bring all global engagement activities on campus into one space. Read [more](#).

A New Way to Show Your UNMC Pride



UNMC has worked with the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to offer the specialty license plate featured above. This proposed plate has been approved by the DMV, but 250 applications are necessary for the state to begin manufacturing the plate.

If you are interested in learning more or requesting a license plate, please click [here](#). Each applicant must commit to paying the \$70 fee annually for this special plate. *Please note that this is only available for those who live in Nebraska.*

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



- [UNMC Alumni Page](#)



- [UNMCAA Twitter](#)



- [UNMC Alumni Group](#)



- The **UNMC mobile app** is free to download, so check it out and connect with the University and your Alumni Association!



- UNMC & UNO partnered to create the **1-Check COVID** screening app. Read more about it [here](#) and download it for free from the App store.



- [The UNMCAA's Connections Project Blog](#) is a place for alumni to share real-world information and advice with students and fellow #unmcalumni. Information is shared in short written or video blog posts. 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! Check it out and subscribe!

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