



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTERSM ALUMNI

Graduate Studies Alumni Council Newsletter | Spring 2018

Editor's Note: Some content in this newsletter originally appeared in Graduate Posts, published by the Graduate Studies Office.

Message from the President



Dear Fellow UNMC Graduate Studies Alumni:

There are several ways you can get involved in our alumni council. We are preparing to select recipients for our third class of awards. It is my pleasure to be able to present these award at UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend on September 21-22, 2018. If you know a Graduate Studies colleague who has made outstanding contributions to the program or his or her profession, please take a minute and [submit a nomination](#).

Another way you can get involved is through service on our council. If you are interested in applying to serve on our council please contact [Ashley Dougherty](#).

Also, you can support our work through the Graduate Studies Innovation Fund. The Graduate Studies Innovation Fund was created in 2015 to promote academic excellence and innovation in Graduate Studies and to support the people and programs of your UNMC Alumni Association. Your investment in the Graduate Studies Innovation Fund helps provide funding for high-impact initiatives that will benefit graduate students.

Pledge your donation of support [here](#). To see the impact of gifts to the Graduate Studies Innovation Fund, view the [Impact Report](#). I'd also like to thank all the donors who have made generous contributions to our Innovation Fund.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Wayne Stuberg, PhD, PT

A message from the dean

While winter lingered here in Omaha, it didn't stop things from heating up in Graduate Studies. We have a variety of upcoming events planned for the professional development of our students. These types of training have historically proven to be some of the most popular sessions we offer, with venues normally filled to capacity. Additionally, we recently accepted applications for the Purdue Pharma Scholars program, which offers students extensive training and collaboration opportunities.



I am also honored to wish **Dr. Jim Turpen** a very happy retirement. He has been an excellent colleague and a great asset to UNMC during his tenure here. His many talents will be missed. I'm pleased to announce **Drs. Pamela Carmines and Kendra Schmid** will be filling the void left by Dr. Turpen's retirement.

Finally, be sure to [read the latest Graduate Studies annual report](#) to discover how our faculty, students and staff continue to pave the path for excellence in health science training.

H. Dele Davies, M.D.
Dean, Graduate Studies

Dr. Turpen retires after 34 years at UNMC

James Turpen, Ph.D., whose multiple roles at the med center included a long and influential imprint on graduate studies, retired Dec. 31 after 34 years at UNMC. [Read more.](#)



Drs. Carmines, Schmid assume new gRad studies roles



Pamela Carmines, Ph.D., and Kendra Schmid, Ph.D., have assumed new roles in graduate studies, following the Dec. 31 retirement of James Turpen, Ph.D. [Read more.](#)

Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy receives the University-Wide Teaching Award



The [UNMC Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy](#) has been selected to receive the 2018 University-wide Departmental Teaching Award. The UDTA, one of the [President's Faculty Excellence Awards](#), is the University of Nebraska's most prestigious honor for departmental excellence in teaching. Since 1993, the UDTA has recognized departments or units within the university that have made unique and significant contributions to NU's teaching efforts and that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the education of students at the undergraduate, graduate or professional levels. Honored departments, selected by a committee of faculty members from across the university, receive \$25,000 to be used in a manner the department sees fit, such as for travel to a conference, instructional equipment or improvements to a classroom or student resource. [Read more.](#)

Students honored, hooded at winter convocation

Cathleen Piazza, Ph.D., hugs a student at the winter convocation.

UNMC Graduate Studies feted 43 soon-to-be graduates at its recent winter honors convocation. The M.S. and Ph.D. candidates were hooded by their mentors at a Dec. 14 ceremony at the Durham Museum. The spring convocation will take place at the Durham Museum on May 4th at 2pm. The Alumni Council provides business card holders to the new graduates. [Read more.](#)



Nebraska 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.

Alumni host Networking event featuring non-academic career panel



The Graduate Studies Alumni Council and Graduate Student Association sponsored a Jan. 25 panel event and Q-and-A session. The panel included Lisa Bilek, PhD and Chris Connelly, PhD.

UNMC Graduate Studies and its affiliated organizations continue to emphasize networking, as a way to enrich the student experience, and to enhance future professional prospects. [Read more.](#)

Join the UNMC Alumni Association for Showdown



You're Invited!
SHOWDOWN IN O-TOWN
A UNMC Alumni Engagement Event

**Nebraska Cornhuskers vs.
Creighton Bluejays**

Tuesday, May 8, 2018
TD Ameritrade Park, Omaha

This event is presented by the
UNMC Alumni Association

The background image shows a baseball in a leather glove.

Nebraska Cornhuskers vs. Creighton Bluejays
Baseball Tailgate & Game

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

4:30 PM Tailgate

(The Diamond Room/Bull Pen, Omaha)

6:30 PM Game

(TD Ameritrade Park, Omaha)

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

For group seating, register by April 27, 2018.

Register [online here](#) or call 402.559.4378

Request Credentials for the UNMC Alumni Directory

The [UNMC Alumni Directory](#) is now online and is available for professional networking. Interested alumni can request their credentials and log-in to the UNMC Alumni Directory. To request your credentials, please [send us an email](#). Once you log-in, be sure to visit the Update Your Profile link to input your current contact information, employment information, and select what information you would like to be made public. The more information that is available, the more robust this tool will become.

Upcoming Events

May 4: Graduate Studies Honors Convocation - 2 p.m. at the Durham Museum

May 5: UNMC Commencement (Omaha) - 9 a.m. at the Baxter Arena

May 8: UNMCAA Showdown in O-Town – 4:30 p.m. at the Diamond Room/Bull Pen

September 21-22: Alumni Reunion Weekend

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