



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTERSM ALUMNI

Graduate Studies Alumni Council Newsletter Spring 2019

Message from the Alumni Council President



Spring Greetings to you!

I would like to begin by saying thank you to Dr. Pat Leuschen '74, '76 for sharing her time, talent, and treasure with the Graduate Studies Alumni Council and UNMC. Dr. Leuschen was the founding member of the Council and has helped to propel it to where it is today. As she transitions from her leadership role on the UNMC Alumni Association Board of Directors, we say thank you for your service.

Also, a big congratulations to our December 2018 and May 2019 graduates! We wish them all the best in this next chapter of life and we proudly welcome them into the UNMC Alumni Association!

If you are interested in getting more engaged with the Graduate Studies program and your alma mater, click [here](#) to read more and apply for consideration to serve on the council. We look forward to engaging you and connecting you back to UNMC.

Please help me welcome Geoff Thiele, PhD '85 as the new Alumni Council President, taking over for me on July 1, 2019. Dr. Thiele has been a member of the GS Alumni Council since it's inception and will do an excellent job in the leadership position.

Sincerely,
Wayne Stuberg, PT, PhD, FAPTA '77, '80, '89

Second Annual Networking Event & Panel Presentation Held



On January 24th, the Graduate Studies Alumni Council and Graduate Student Association sponsored the second-annual alumni networking event and panel presentation. The two alumni panelists were:

Agnes A. Lenagh, PhD '11

Business Development Associate, Streck; and

Nicholas M. George, PhD '08

R&D Scientific Manager, Streck.



More than 30 people attended the event that offered the opportunity not only to hear about the work that Dr. Lenagh and Dr. George are both doing at Streck, but to ask questions and seek career advice about opportunities outside of an academic setting.

Thank You for Supporting the Graduate Studies Innovation Fund



Watch a special thank you message from student Nick Wojtynek.

Your investment in the UNMC Graduate Studies Innovation Fund supports student engagement, provides networking and professional development opportunities, enhances research and continuing education for students and alumni, and supports the people and programs of your UNMC Alumni Association.

Today's 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.

You can make a difference for today's students with a gift to the [Graduate Studies Innovation Fund](#). View the [FY 18 Impact Report](#) for a summary of recent initiatives that were made possible through generous donations by alumni and friends.

Congratulations to the May 2019 Graduates



Thomas Gross, MD, PhD '88 was the featured alumni speaker at the May 2019 convocation. He serves as the Deputy Director of Science for the Center for Global Health at the National Cancer Institute in Rockville, Maryland. Click [here](#) to view photos and [here](#) to view a listing of the graduates.

Convocation Offers a Walk to Remember



Three years ago, Urmi Basu, Ph.D., and her husband Soumitra Bhuyan, Ph.D., were newly-minted UNMC Ph.D.'s who went to Memphis, Tenn., for their respective postdocs. As rising scientists, they were ready for their future and then something terrible happened.

Mere days before they were to return to Omaha for the December 2018 convocation and commencement, where Dr. Basu was to receive multiple accolades, she was hit with a devastating stroke.

[Read more here](#) about her long road back and her triumph over adversity.

A Message from the Dean



Many important activities have taken place this semester, including professional development events offered in partnership with the other NU campuses and networking collaborations with Bio Nebraska. We are also making great progress and moving forward with our assessment initiative to help ensure all graduate students meet certain universal core and co-curricular competencies. Kudos to all members of the

Graduate Council and our Assistant Dean for Assessment, Dr. Kendra Schmid, for their hard work on this major strategic initiative.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the students who graduated in December and May. It has truly been an honor to celebrate your significant accomplishments during our Graduate Studies Honors Convocation ceremonies.

I hope you enjoy this spring 2019 newsletter and be sure to also read our Impact Report, which highlights all our student and faculty accomplishments for the last academic year.

H. Dele Davies, MD
Dean, Graduate Studies

Alumnus Paves MD-PhD Path at UNMC



Colin Weekes, MD, PhD, '98, '00 delivered the keynote address for the December 2018 Honors Convocation for Graduate Studies. He is on the faculty at Harvard Medical School as an associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology. He also serves as director for medical oncology research for pancreatic cancer in the Tucker Gosnell Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers at the Massachusetts General Hospital. [Read more.](#)

Graduate Students Earn Prestigious Early Career Opportunities



Laura Flores

UNMC graduate students Laura Flores and Kimiko Krieger have recently earned prestigious early-career opportunities.

Laura Flores, is an MD-PhD scholar, is in the current cohort of the Yale Ciencia Academy for Career Development. The year-long program provides graduate students with opportunities for mentoring, peer support, and networking; for developing skills that are important for career advancement; and for contributing to their communities through science outreach.



Kimiko Krieger

Kimiko Krieger, a graduate student fellow in the Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases, was selected as one of 16 early-career cancer scientists from around the country to participate in Early-career Hill Day through the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). This marks the second straight year Krieger was selected to participate in the event.

[Read more.](#)

UNMC Alumni Association News

Alumni Reunion Weekend 2019

For Alumni of the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy & the Graduate Studies Program

October 11-12, 2019

Omaha, Nebraska

More information [here](#).



Connect with the UNMC Alumni Association Through New 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 #unmc alumni. 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](#).

Topics covered are wellbeing, professional skills, personal finance, time, talent, and treasure. If you want to see a specific topic covered or if you want to provide content for a blog post, please [contact us](#). Alumni can participate from anywhere in the world, so connect with us today!

Amazing Travel Opportunities

The UNMC Alumni Association has partnered with Go Next to offer exceptional travel opportunities for you, your family, and your friends in 2020. To learn more about these trips or to book, please visit the UNMCAA's group website. *Please note, some trips are showing "waitlist", because the trip brochures have not mailed out yet.*

[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.

Request Credentials for the UNMC Alumni Directory

The [UNMC Alumni Directory](#) is available for professional networking. Alumni who would like to participate must first request login credentials from the Alumni Relations Office by [emailing](#) or calling 402.559.4385.

Learn more about the University of Nebraska Advocates

The University of Nebraska Advocates program is a coalition of individuals who are passionate about their University, informed about the issues impacting higher education, and prepared to raise awareness of the University's contributions to the state of Nebraska and beyond.

Interested alumni can sign up for the [University of Nebraska Advocates](#) program to learn more.

UNMC News

Brian Boerner to Lead Teaching Academy



Brian Boerner, MD, has been named the director of UNMC's Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE). Dr. Boerner, an assistant professor in the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine, received his MD from UNMC in 2006, then completed his internal medicine residency and endocrinology fellowship at UNMC. He was inducted as a member of the IAE in 2017. Read [more](#).

The IAE is a vibrant community of educators, with representation from every college on campus, whose shared goal is to work toward making the learning experience and environment at UNMC the best in the world. Each year, the IAE honors and inducts new members who exemplify dedication to teaching and have a passion for furthering UNMC's educational mission.

UNMC's Impact on Rural Nebraska

UNMC has long focused on serving the medical education and training needs of rural Nebraskans. In January, UNMC College of Medicine leaders highlighted the university's efforts to combat workforce shortages and boost access to health care training. To read the full story click [here](#).

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. Read more [here](#).

The University of Nebraska has a direct impact on every district in the state. NU is educating students across Nebraska who, after they graduate, broaden the state's workforce. It has graduated countless alums who live, work, and raise families across the state. And, it directly employs many residents across Nebraska. You can now [view and download](#) printable information sheets for each legislative district in the state to see the University's impact there.

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

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