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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 President



Greetings to all!

In these difficult times, I hope that this note finds you and yours healthy and safe. Since my last note, we have encountered a unique opponent, the coronavirus outbreak. This has resulted in many changes to the way we have had to teach, and the students have had to change their work habits. It also led to our first totally virtual graduation. It was a very interesting experience, and for our new graduates, I am hoping it at least gave you a feeling of closure and accomplishment. The Graduate Studies Alumni Council presented each student with a small token of their accomplishments and wishes them well in the next steps of their journey.

In addition, we have been working with the UNMC Alumni Association to support the students still on campus and help them through these unique times. Importantly, we have seen an increase over the last few years in engaged alumni, which has translated to resources that have been utilized to support our graduates and current students in many ways. With the guidance and help of Catherine Mello (Director, Alumni Relations), Laura Olson (Alumni Engagement Coordinator) and the rest of the UNMC Alumni Association, I hope we can further expand on the accomplishments the Council has made on behalf of you, its members.

If you are interested in getting more engaged with the Graduate Studies program and your alma mater, [click here \[unmc alumni.org\]](http://unmc alumni.org) to read more and apply for consideration to serve on the council. If you have any questions, comments or ideas please feel free to contact me. Most importantly, we look forward to engaging you and connecting you back to UNMC.

My very best to you,

Geoffrey Thiele, Ph.D.'84

Alumni Briefing with Dean for Graduate Studies on June 24th



*H. Dele Davies, MD, MS, MHCM
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Dean for Graduate Studies*

Many aspects of our daily lives have changed, and that includes the way Graduate Studies educates today's students and post docs.

Alumni are invited to join H. Dele Davies, M.D., Dean for Graduate Studies, for a special zoom session to discuss the impact of the pandemic and other relevant topics for the program.

The Graduate Studies Alumni Virtual Briefing will be on Wednesday, June 24th at 12:15 p.m. Please [RSVP here \[unmc alumni.org\]](http://unmc alumni.org) if you plan to participate, or use the RSVP link to submit questions in advance. Alumni will have the opportunity to ask questions during the session and it will also be recorded for later viewing.

UNMC Alumni Association Launches New Virtual Programming

Virtual Lunch & Learns



Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D. presents at the first Lunch and Learn.

Since March, the UNMCAA, in partnership with the UNO Alumni Association, has hosted 30-minute Facebook Live Lunch and Learns on a variety of topics pertaining to COVID-19.

Our next session will be an Alumni Town Hall with Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., UNMC & UNO Chancellor. It will take place at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 18th. Dr. Gold will discuss recent events impacting both campuses and share updates on plans for the fall semester.

Questions can be submitted in advance to alumni@unmcalumni.org or asked during the live session via the comments section. If you would like to attend but do not have a Facebook account, you can still watch the session, but you can't ask questions live--so email them in advance please.

[Click here \[unmcalumni.org\]](https://unmcalumni.org) on June 18th at 4:00 PM to participate in the Facebook Live Alumni Town Hall.

Our past sessions have included:

- *UNMC and the Search for a COVID-19 Vaccine*
- *The Pandemic & Pocketbooks: The Economic Impact of COVID-19*
- *Avoiding COVID-19 Scams*
- *COVID19: The Reign of the Crowned Viral King*
- *Caring for and Teaching Children at Home in the Time of COVID-19*
- *The Wisdom of Elders in the Midst of COVID-19*
- *Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic*

You can watch any of our past sessions at this [link \[unmcalumni.org\]](https://unmcalumni.org).

Talent Treasure Trove



The UNMC Alumni Association, along with the UNMC Campus Wellness Program, led by Steve Wengel, MD '86, '90, created this mini-series, the 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.

A playlist of our Talent Treasure Trove videos is available at this [link. \[unmcalumni.org\]](https://unmcalumni.org)

To share your talent or learn more, send an email to alumni@unmcalumni.org.

Alumni Reunion Weekend for 2020 Postponed

We believe it is in the best interest of everyone's health and safety that we postpone Alumni Reunion Weekend scheduled for Oct. 23-24, 2020. The UNMC Alumni Association is working on alternative plans, and will let you know more soon. Until then, please stay in touch and let us know how you are doing. You can contact us at 402-559-4385 or via email to alumni@unmc.edu.

Event Recap: Graduate Studies Alumni & Student Networking Night



The annual Graduate Studies Networking Night was held this year on January 23, 2020 at Corkscrew Wine and Cheese in the Blackstone District. Three alumni panelists spoke at the event and answered questions from current students. The panelists were Tim Bielecki, PhD'17; Carolyn Schaeffer-Kozioł, PhD'15; and Seth Stauffer, PhD'18. Approximately 35 alumni and student attendees were able to network with one another after the panel discussion.

This annual event is sponsored and organized by the Graduate Student Association, the Graduate Studies Alumni Council, and the UNMC Alumni Association.

Thank You for Your Support of Graduate Students



[\[unmcalumni.org\]](http://unmcalumni.org)

Madeline Olson thanks donors

Your investment in the [Graduate Studies Innovation Fund \[unmcalumni.org\]](http://unmcalumni.org) 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. To see the impact of gifts to the GS Innovation Fund, click [here \[unmcalumni.org\]](http://unmcalumni.org) and watch a thank you video from Madeline Olson, a current graduate student, to see how much your support means to students.

Graduate Studies Program News

Researchers at UNMC Working to Prevent Weight Loss in Cancer Patients



Pankaj Singh, Ph.D.'07

Pankaj Singh, Ph.D.'07, professor, Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases, and his colleagues recently published a study identifying a key cell signaling pathway that drives devastating muscle loss, or cachexia, suffered by many cancer patients as well as a potential treatment to prevent this syndrome. Find more details about Dr. Singh's work [here \[unmcalumni.org\]](http://unmcalumni.org).

Dr. Davies Recruited to American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Initiative



Dean H. Dele Davies, M.D., M.S., M.H.C.M.

Dean H. Dele Davies, M.D., M.S., M.H.C.M. was recruited by the American Academy of Pediatrics to join their initiative “AAP COVID-19 ECHO: Emergency Readiness & Response.” This initiative brings expert faculty from across the country together to teach U.S. pediatricians how to navigate the practical challenges associated with COVID-19, including how to best prepare, protect their practices and staff, and treat and interact with patients and their families. Read the full story [here \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org).

Graduate Studies Spring Convocation Held Virtually

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, spring commencement and convocation were held virtually this year. The event featured remarks from Chancellor Jeffrey Gold, M.D., Dean H. Dele Davies, M.D., M.S., M.H.C.M, and President of the Graduate Studies Alumni Council Geoff Thiele, Ph.D. before moving into presentation of awards. Saswati Karmakar, Ph.D. '20 was the student speaker. 28 Master of Science degrees and 25 Doctor of Philosophy degrees were conferred.

You can watch the pre-recorded ceremony [here \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org) or view the program [here \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org).

UNMC News

UNMC/Nebraska Medicine Show Support during National White Coats for Black Lives Event



UNMC Interim Director for Inclusion Sheritta Strong, M.D., kneels during White Coats for Black Lives on June 5, 2020.

Hundreds of providers, staff, faculty and students from Nebraska Medicine and UNMC united in silence on June 5. All across Nebraska Medicine/UNMC hospitals and clinics, colleagues knelt for eight minutes and 46 seconds of silent reflection and commitment to improving the health and safety of people of color. It was part of a national campaign called White Coats for Black Lives. The observance took place at noon at hospitals and health clinics across the country in recognition of the death of George Floyd and continued racial injustice. Read more about the event at UNMC [here \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org).

Global Center for Health Security works with University to Create a Pandemic Recovery Guide

The University of Nebraska, with the assistance and guidance of the UNMC Global Center for Health Security at UNMC, has developed a Pandemic Recovery Guide to assist higher education institutions as they make plans to reopen in the fall. The Global Center for Health Security

specializes in biopreparedness, infectious diseases and infections research, education and clinical care at UNMC and Nebraska Medicine.

The recovery guide spans 19 pages and provides three steps for higher education institutions to safely reopen. The checklist includes many suggestions, including improved air flow, physical distancing, adjusted sick leave policies, COVID-19 education and testing, and more. To learn more about the pandemic recovery guide, click [here \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org).

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 \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org). 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 UNMC and the UNMC Alumni Association



UNMC Alumni Page [\[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org)



UNMCAA Twitter [\[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org)



[UNMC Alumni Group \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org)



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



UNMC & UNO partnered with Apple to create the **1-Check COVID** screening app. Read more about it [here \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org) and download it for free from the Apple App store. Please note, it is not available for download to Android (yet).



[UNMCAA Flickr \[unmc alumni.org\]](https://unmc alumni.org): View and download photos from past events.



The Connections Project Blog [\[unmcalumni.org\]](https://unmcalumni.org) is a place for UNMC 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](mailto:alumni@unmc.edu) 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!



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University of Nebraska Medical Center Alumni Association

985200 Nebraska Medical Center

Omaha, NE 68198-5200

alumni@unmc.edu

It's easy to [update your Email Preferences \[unmcalumni.org\]](https://unmcalumni.org). Be sure to add alumni@unmc.edu to your address book or safe senders list so our emails get to your inbox. You may also review our [Privacy Policy \[unmcalumni.org\]](https://unmcalumni.org).