Class of 2023 Officers

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Meet the Class of 2023

There are 132 new students entering their first year of medical school, bringing the total enrollment to 544, which includes 40 students in the M.D./Ph.D. Scholars Program. The new students in the college, about 86% of whom are Nebraska residents, were selected from a total of 1,618 applicants.

Family Day & White Coat Ceremony

On Friday, August 23, 2019 the PFA hosted Parents and Family Day. This annual event is for M1 parents, families, and spouses. The orientation program included short presentations from College of Medicine Dean, Bradley Britigan, MD; Director of Counseling and Student Development, David Carver, PhD; President of the Student Senate, Keith Ozanne; Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Wendy Grant, MD; McGoogan Library Associate Professor, Teri Hartman, MLS; PFA President, Laura Hanna; and a panel made up of medical students and their families. Following Family Day, the White Coat Ceremony took place at the Joslyn Art Museum. Photos of College of Medicine Legacy families are available online here.
A Letter from the PFA President

Dear Fellow UNMC College of Medicine Parents and Families:

I hope all is going well with your medical student and with your family! For our family, year three has been an interesting view of our M3’s journey through rotations and shelf exam studying. Surgical, Rural Family Practice, and Pediatrics are complete and OB-GYN is in process. M3 families, let your M3 talk about their experiences if they want to... they are in a time of trying to zero in on what type of medicine they want to focus on if they don’t already know. For those of you with M1 students, hang in there! Keep letting your students know you are there...even if on the periphery. It means a lot to your students! For M2 families, know that your student is likely studying as they never have before! My son was home for the holidays last year while he was studying for the Step 1, but I learned very quickly to just be thankful for his presence in the house with no expectations as far as our family’s busy holiday schedule. M4 is still to come, so I don’t have any advice on that yet, but I know Match Day is just around the corner! Exciting times ahead!

As you likely know, we recently sent out letters asking parents and family to support the PFA. These generous contributions help support the events and programming we offer the students in conjunction with the dean of the College of Medicine and the UNMC Alumni Association. We truly appreciate your ongoing support, and so do our medical students!

If you ever have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the UNMC Alumni Relations Office at 402-559-4378.

Happy Holidays from the UNMC College of Medicine Parents & Family Association!

Sincerely,
Laurie Hanna
PFA President

Make a Gift to the Parents & Family Innovation Fund

You can help support the work of the Parents & Family Association with a tax deductible gift to the Parents & Family Innovation Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Visit [www.nufoundation.org/unmc](http://www.nufoundation.org/unmc) and search for fund number #14245. Thank you for your generous support!
Student Feature

Kristian Ramage

Hometown
Bellevue, NE

Program/Year
College of Medicine, second-year

Education
B.S. in Chemistry health sciences and biology minor from Wayne State College

Hobbies
Baking, hiking, and reading

Staying Balanced
I spend lots of time playing with my two crazy labradoodles, and I take advantage of opportunities to spend time with family and friends.

Three things people may not know about me:

- I am a long distance newlywed excited about visiting my airman in Colorado Springs on long weekends.
- My favorite experience with UNMC was spending spring break in Jamaica on a medical service trip.
- If I wasn’t in medical school, I’d want to be the proud owner of my own food truck.

M1 & M2 Buddy Lunch During Orientation

Orientation week for the new students consists of events to help introduce them to other students and become more familiar with campus. The M2 class coordinates a buddy program where new students are paired with a second year student. Lunch is provided by the College of Medicine Alumni Council. This provides a great opportunity for students to feel welcome and ask questions to a fellow medical student who has recently been in their same position. Other events that happen during orientation week are The Significant Other Meet and Greet, Parents and Family Day, and the White Coat Ceremony.
PFA Hosts Spouses & Significant Other Reception

The Parents and Family Association sponsored the annual Spouses and Significant Others Reception on August 19th, to kick off the 2019-2020 school year. Students were joined by College of Medicine Dean, Dr. Bradley Britigan and College of Medicine Student Advocate Dr. Kim Schenarts to enjoy an evening of hors d’oeuvres, beverages, and mingling with fellow students.

The event was a momentous occasion as it is served as the first social event during orientation week for the new M1s and brings together students from all four medical school classes. 50 students and their guests attended this year.

College of Medicine Alumni Sponsor M4 Interview Night

On September 11th, the College of Medicine Alumni Council sponsored the 5th annual M4 Interview Night. This event was created in order to help the third and fourth year medical students prepare for resident interviews. Dr. Kim Schenarts starts the evening with a presentation titled “The Interview: Rx for Success” and is followed by a panel of residents in varying specialties. To conclude the evening a reception is held offering hors d’oeuvres and beverages allowing the medical students more time to discuss their questions with the residents one-on-one. Pictured from left to right: Katharine Armstrong, MD (General Surgery), Cade Craig, MD (Family Medicine), Cason Christenson, MD (Internal Medicine), Blaine Schlawin, DO (Anesthesiology), Evan Symons, DO (Internal Medicine), Rishi Batra, MD (General Surgery), CJ Hanson, MD (Orthopaedics), and Erin Stockwell, MD (Orthopaedics).
College of Medicine Student Calendar

Semesters
First Semester (M1): August 26, 2019 – December 20, 2019
First Semester (M2): August 26, 2019 – December 20, 2019
First Semester (M3-M4): July 8, 2019 – December 20, 2019

Second Semester (M1): January 6, 2020 – May 29, 2020
Second Semester (M4): January 6, 2019 – May 1, 2020

Recesses & Holidays
Labor Day: September 2, 2019
Thanksgiving: November 28-29, 2019
Winter Recess: December 21, 2019 – January 5, 2020
Martin Luther King Day: January 20, 2020
Spring Recess: March 9 - 13, 2020

Special Events
Class of 2020:
Honors Convocation: May 8, 2020
Graduation: May 9, 2020

2019-2020 Upcoming Events for COM Students

Grapes, Grub, and Greetings
Match Day
M1 Picnic

Click here for more information on the COM curriculum.
UNMC Cancer Researcher Featured on NU Podcast

On October 16, the podcast “Leading Nebraska” released a new episode featuring Christina Hoy, D.N.P., who is a project coordinator for a UNMC study that could help lead to a blood test to screen for the deadly form of cancer, which has a five-year survival rate of less than 9 percent. There is currently no early detection method for the disease. Dr. Hoy and her team are studying individuals with a higher-than-average risk to develop pancreatic cancer, including those with a family history. Every six months, study participants answer questions and undergo blood draws -- all with the hope of benefiting future generations of patients.

Dr. Kelly Caverzagie Receives the Dedication to Student Excellence Award from UNMC Alumni Association

Kelly Caverzagie is a 2001 graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine and resides in Omaha. He completed his residency in the Department of Internal Medicine at UNMC, where he also served as chief resident, and completed a fellowship in medical education at the University of Pennsylvania. Currently the Associate Dean for Educational Strategy at UNMC and the Vice President of Education for Nebraska Medicine, Dr. Caverzagie has dedicated his career to advancing medical education at all levels. The passion that Dr. Caverzagie has for medical education arises from his own experience in schooling. He is the first to admit that he was far from an exemplary student, but that the challenges he encountered convinced him that there had to be a better way to educate physicians in training. Read full bio here.
In September of 2019, campus leaders and invited guests gathered to thank philanthropists Bob and Polina Schlott for their contributions in making possible the new southern entrance, which has been named the Medical Center Plaza.

The greenspace and lighted walkway, located on the northwest corner of 42nd and Leavenworth streets, features 18 ceramic columnar sculptures created by Omaha artist Jun Kaneko. The sculptures are incorporated into a grove of mature trees. Benches line the walk and provide visitors, medical center employees, and students the opportunity to seek calmness and beauty amid a tranquil park-like setting.

Click here to see photos from the event.

The 13-foot columnar sculptures, hand-painted slip and glaze on high-fire ceramics, each weigh 3,000 pounds. Kaneko’s columnar sculptures, a public art project titled Origin, are only the latest addition to a campus that also features the “Hope Tower” by world-renowned artist James Carpenter and “Search” Tower, also by Kaneko.
Have you heard?

The UNMC Alumni Association created a special blog for students, The Connections Project, where you can access real-world information from #unmcalumni to enhance your time while you’re at UNMC. See a new written or video post every Wednesday.

Topics that have been covered so far: wellbeing, personal finance, professional skills, organizational tips, and so much more!

Click here to subscribe to the blog

You can also view posts on social media:

@UNMC_AA UNMC Alumni Group

@UNMCalum Download the UNMC App

Contact Us

The Parents & Family Association Advisory Council gets administrative support from the UNMC Alumni Relations Office. For more information contact:

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