Match Day 2020

Hard work, determination and sacrifice paid off for 126 UNMC medical students who received their residency assignments on March 20, 2020. The traditional Match Day ceremony was canceled because of the restriction on group size due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and so instead, the students received their “envelope” via email to find out their match.

Match Day is one of the biggest days for medical students nationwide—the day when they find out where they will spend the next three to six years of training in their chosen medical specialty. The match is meant to remove pressure and bias from both students and institutions during the process of choosing a residency program, but it is laced with the unknown and lack of control of where you go, and what you do next. It is a unique rite of passage for physicians as they launch into the years of training after earning their MD. View a listing of the students’ residency assignments.

Jordan Bowman, from Murdock, Neb., matched in her top choice in Med/Peds at the University of Rochester in New York. She is pictured above celebrating Match Day with her fiancé as they prepare to relocate across the country on the next step in Jordan’s medical school journey.

“\text{I took off four years before starting medical school to play football in the NFL. I was with the Giants for two seasons, and the next two seasons was in training camps with the Cowboys and Vikings. When I started medical school in 2016 I had been married for three years, and we have had two sons (Noah is 3, Ben is 1) during medical school.}”

Steven Goodin matched to Spectrum Health/Michigan State University in Orthopedics in Grand Rapids, MI.

44% of the class of 2020 will be staying in Nebraska.
A Letter from the PFA President

Dear Fellow Parents:

When I first volunteered for the Parents & Family Association at the beginning of my son Kevin’s medical school journey in the fall of 2017, I never envisioned that during his third year we would be grappling with a global pandemic. We are disappointed that this will impact his traditional medical school experience and that of your children and loved ones, but I wanted to take a minute to reflect on what this will mean in their preparation to become physicians.

First of all, resiliency is an important skill for everyone in their professional lives – but especially in medicine. The challenges our students face today as they navigate their new normal will help build resiliency that maybe they didn’t know they had.

Secondly, some of us may get the opportunity to spend more time with our loved ones – including our medical students. If so, I encourage you to enjoy this extra time together. While studying will still be their number one priority, the additional opportunities to support our students will be beneficial to us both in keeping spirits high.

Finally, I believe this experience is going to teach our students valuable lessons about their chosen profession. Providing health care during a global pandemic is going to require all hands on deck and will teach providers new ways to treat patients, interact with families, and plan for scenarios that are out of their control. They will certainly benefit from these lessons learned, and I know this will be helpful to all of us should we ever find ourselves in this situation again.

In closing, I want to congratulate the class of 2020 and their families on their “match.” While the ceremony was cancelled, this should not take away from the pride you and they feel in reaching this important milestone. Well done to this group of students as they embark on the next chapter in their education.

Be well,

Laurie Hanna
President
COM Parents & Family Association
Student Advocate Hosts Snack Day and Trivia Night Sponsored by the PFA

College of Medicine students and residents took part in the annual Trivia Night supported by the College of Medicine Alumni Council and organized by the College’s Student Advocate, Kimberly Schenarts, Ph.D., and House Officer Assistance Program Manager, Susan Smith. The 125 participants had an “absolutely fantastic” time. This event came at a pivotal time when the students had just completed intense testing, so it was great to see everyone take a break from the rigors of their daily schedule and enjoy time together in a relaxed environment.

All-American Gymnast Embarks on Med School Career

By the time he was in his early 20s, four-time, all-American gymnast Anthony Stephenson had undergone two major surgeries. One to repair a torn meniscus in high school and the other to repair his rotator cuff in college.

Both times, Stephenson, a first-year medical student at UNMC, noticed the particular way his doctors cared for him. All of them had the same goal, he said, to help him return to competition safely.

"Being an athlete, having a body that aches, and still needing to perform at the highest level, I know first-hand how impactful a health care team is and I know I want to help other athletes," Stephenson said. Read more about Anthony and his M2 brother Chris here.
UNMC News Briefs: COVID-19 and More

U.S. Again Reaches Out to Nebraska During Health Crisis

With the spread of the novel coronavirus, the UNMC Global Center for Health Security has been working constantly with federal, state and local partners.

The list of initiatives involving biopreparedness on the med center campus is extensive. The Global Center for Health Security features the Nebraska Bioccontainment Unit, National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC), National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) training and the recently opened Training, Simulation and Quarantine Center (TSQC), just to name a few.

The TSQC is a facility designed to train federal personnel to treat highly infectious diseases and to create a place to monitor people who may have had a high-risk exposure. The TSQC, made possible via a contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is not being used for monitoring in this case because of the large number of people involved.

Remote and Small Group Learning and No Clinical Rotations

Effective Monday, March 16, UNMC made the decision to take the proactive step of moving away from large-group classroom teaching to remote education, small groups, simulations and one-on-one mentoring. This means that now many students are getting their education remotely and are not coming to campus.

Effective Wednesday, March 18, the College of Medicine suspended all medical student participation in clinical activities that involved direct patient care until at least March 31.
Kelly Caverzagie, M.D., associate dean for educational strategy for the college, said “Clinical training and direct patient care are the foundations of medical education. Our suspension of this training is a serious matter and not something that we took lightly. The rapidly progressing pandemic and the effect it is having, and will continue to have, on the educational experience of students has been profound.

Students have been asked to work with preceptors, faculty and residents to ensure that assigned tasks and responsibilities are appropriately handled to ensure continuity of safe patient care.

The college is establishing a new rotation, in which students will learn about key topics related to leadership, ethics, crisis management, population health and advocacy while working through a wide variety of service learning opportunities.

Third-year medical students are expected to start their clerkships and new fourth-year students their sub-internship rotations in July, Dr. Caverzagie said.

“While not ideal to have occurred this way, we are very excited about the opportunity that is now presented for students to learn about the wide-spread impact of emerging infectious disease and provide valuable service in support of our collective efforts to fight this pandemic,” Dr. Caverzagie said.

To read more about UNMC’s response for students, faculty and staff, click here.

For up-to-date, science-based information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and/or Nebraska Medicine websites.

**Counseling and Stress Management Services Available for Students**

UNMC has resources available for students who may be experiencing new sources of stress with the changes they are now experiencing in their new learning environments and with the present climate. Learn more here.
Updates from Students RE: COVID-19

“When I imagined my first year of medical school, I never thought we would be in a global pandemic and that our most important task would be to stay home and learn through online platforms. I am grateful for this opportunity to practice adaptability and for the support of the administration and faculty in ensuring that we are still on the path to becoming caring and competent physicians. Our learning now involves Microsoft Zoom meetings and recorded lectures to absorb the material. Faculty have been attentive to our questions through email, review sessions, and by providing an abundance of resources. UNMC has been able to continue to foster an environment of community and support through communication with our Wellness Advocate and fellow classmates. Despite the changes in learning, I know that UNMC has given us all the tools to succeed and takes pride in witnessing our success”.
– Rebecca Brooks, Class of 2023

“My second year of medical school began with studying for my first set of board exams and hearing about an illness called COVID-19 in the news. I believed, like other viruses that surface every so often, that it would soon disappear and be long gone by the time I had taken STEP 1. Two months later, I returned from my dedicated study period to witness something I thought I would never see - a global pandemic. While there is much uncertainty in our world and in the media, we are so thankful for the College of Medicine and UNMC for leading us through this difficult time and for every healthcare professional working to keep us healthy and safe. Although we are unable to directly assist on the frontlines at this time, this unprecedented circumstance is a perfect opportunity for us to engage and invest in our community. Leadership from each College of Medicine class have worked tirelessly to launch an initiative, UNMC CoRe: Covid Relief, where students are able to offer assistance to physicians through the form of home, pet, and childcare. This initiative’s website will serve as the home for all student volunteer submissions, resident/fellow service request forms, and volunteer hour tracking. While we anxiously await our return to class and rotations, we are excited to give back to a community that has always given their unwavering support to us.”  – Tiffany Truong, Class of 2022

“I will never forget when I first heard about the Coronavirus. I remember briefly scanning past the news article, thinking about how it was interesting, but not fully understanding the impact that it could make on our world, our medical school class, and on myself. Yet, this virus will be read about in history books for years to come. Therefore, I am very thankful to have been given the opportunity to attend a university that is a leading environment in the care of patients with COVID-19, has a faculty that is actively concerned about the safety of their students, and has an administration that is working quickly on creating an online learning environment for medical students that are no longer able to attend clinical clerkships. Through this online learning we will dive deeper into what the virus is, how it impacts our world socially, and how we as students can assist in combating these issues. I am proud to be part of a university who has a faculty that responds quickly to their student’s needs, is actively caring for their student’s mental wellbeing, and is able to take the negative aspects this virus has placed on our world and turn it into a positive learning experience.”  – Lauren Greufe, Class of 2021
Third Annual “I Love NU” Day Held

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, more than 200 alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered in Lincoln at the state capitol building to show their love for the University of Nebraska’s four campuses: UNMC, UNK, UNL, and UNO. Attendees had the opportunity to be recognized in chamber with the Nebraska Legislature, as well as meet with senators to share with them why they love the university and to thank them for their service. See photos from the event here.

NExT: A Nebraska Transformational Project

UNMC leadership have recently been working on a new initiative, the “NExT” project. NExT is a ‘once-in-a-generation’ opportunity for the State of Nebraska to catapult itself into national and international prominence. This project will take place over the next decade with funding being provided by a series of public/private partnerships. The project will be based on the northwest corner of the current UNMC/Nebraska Medicine campus at an estimated core construction cost of up to $2.6 billion over a seven to eight-year period.

There are two major components of the project:

**1. A state-of-the-art academic medical center facility that:**

- Serves the needs of Nebraska.
- Transforms the quality and practice of health education, training, research and care.
- Fosters interprofessional teamwork that includes health professional teaching, cutting-edge research and extraordinary patient care, all within one location.
- Creates a unique model that will revolutionize health professions education and provide the capacity to train more students.
• Involves other providers and health institutions throughout the state as partners in training, research and care through the development of technological innovation.

2. A federal all-hazard disaster response military and civilian partnership that:

• Provides training in the management of highly infectious and other emerging threats, as well as critical care, for federal, civilian and military personnel.
• Provides care to patients injured in major national disasters or catastrophic environmental accidents.
• Enhances the interoperability and standby readiness of federal medical surge capability and capacity.

Learn more [here](#).

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**PFA Sponsors Souper Bowl for M1 & M2 Students**

In January, the College of Medicine first and second year students enjoyed a “Souper Bowl” event where they were treated to a variety of soups and rolls from HyVee. This PFA-sponsored event was a great success, with almost 100 students attending. College of Medicine Student Advocate, Dr. Kimberly Schenarts said, “I can’t tell you how many students came up to me and made the special effort to say thank you. The students really appreciated the opportunity to have an hour of comfort food and fellowship with their classmates.”
2019-2020 Advisory Council

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Alan Gilmore - Student Year 2022
Sheryl Aufenkamp - Student Year 2022
Paul Aufenkamp - Student Year 2022

Student Representatives
Jordan Bowman - Class of 2020
Justin German - Class of 2021
Tiffany Truong - Class of 2022
Rebecca Brooks - Class of 2023

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The Parents & Family Association receives administrative support from the UNMC Alumni Relations Office.