



Work Worth Doing

A Sustained Commitment to Service



Work Worth Doing



Children's Dental Day.

Nursing home visits.

A SHARING clinic that serves the homeless.

Sealant programs that reach children living on an American Indian reservation in a neighboring state.

Behind each of these services is a remarkable effort and tireless commitment by the faculty, staff and students at the UNMC College of Dentistry. Individually, the programs are comprehensive, affecting all ages – from the youngest child to seniors in long-term care facilities.

Collectively these programs represent just a few of the ways the UNMC College of Dentistry strives to improve the oral health of men, women and children through outreach activities that stretch to all corners of Nebraska and beyond.

Faculty continually seek more opportunities to serve. They accept greater responsibilities to advance our mission to care for the underserved, and in doing so inspire students and staff to volunteer in remarkable numbers.

Working as a team, through this ever-evolving and growing commitment, our faculty, students, and staff have been able to produce extraordinary improvements in the health of those who have limited access to care. They do so joyfully, with humility and a growing awareness of the greater needs of others.

What distinguishes the college's outreach programs are the quality, quantity and longevity – driven by the dedication and compassion of our faculty, staff and students.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Reinhardt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

JOHN W. REINHARDT, DDS, MS, MPH
PROFESSOR and DEAN
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER



Working together: Students from dental hygiene, nursing and dentistry.

Teledentistry boosts confidence among dentists in rural areas

A videoconference with experts 400 miles away at the UNMC College of Dentistry gave Dr. Hayley Beaudette in Gering, Neb., a sense of confidence about the treatment plan she had developed for her patient.

What she didn't expect was the big hug she received from the patient, a 52-year-old woman who was HIV positive and who had undergone radiation for head and neck cancer five years earlier. The woman, who had gross decay generalized throughout her mouth, was thrilled at the chance to participate in the electronic teleconference with specialists, Dr. Beaudette said.

"She was at ease, knowing the specialists in Lincoln agreed with our treatment plan," said Dr. Beaudette, a 2008 graduate of the College of Dentistry and director of the dental clinic at Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (CAPWN). CAPWN is a federally funded health and human services center for low income and underserved families.

Were it not for the teleconference — through the Community Grand Rounds program — Dr. Beaudette's patient, who lives in Wyoming, would have had to travel 200 miles to Denver, Colo., to see a specialist. Yet, Dr. Beaudette was able to consult in real time with Dr. Omaid Ahmad, a prosthodontist who has a certificate in oral and maxillofacial radiology, and Dr. Nagamani Narayana, an oral pathologist.



Dental students practice using teledentistry techniques.

AT A GLANCE

- Eight teledentistry sites are currently equipped; more are in development.
- Support for Community Grand Rounds comes from an \$8,000 grant from the State of Nebraska Office of Rural Health.
- Federal grants totaling \$3.5 million provide dental care to underserved rural populations.

Teledentistry services also are being put to use as residents, assistants and faculty from the College of Dentistry's pediatric dental residency program in Omaha begin delivering dental care to children on the Omaha Indian Reservation in Macy, Neb., 70 miles north of Omaha.

In Macy, the equipment — including an intraoral camera — enables dental care practitioners to view radiographs and health data and to plan follow-up care, which eliminates the need for families to travel from home for pre-op visits and reduces the likelihood of patients failing to show up for pre-arranged hospital care in Omaha.

Dr. Jillian Wallen, director of the pediatric residency program, said decay is rampant among the children seen in the Macy clinic. Most of the children have never had a dental home and many have never been to a dentist. After their first visit, the pediatric dental residents estimated that one third of the children screened would require general anesthesia because of the children's young age and severity of decay.

A one-year, \$10,000 grant from the National Head Start Association helps the college incorporate teledentistry services in Macy. ■

Learning about service: Applying sealants to 9,000 children

Some of the children don't see dentists regularly, some haven't been taught how to brush their teeth, and some don't even have their own toothbrushes. They may have halitosis, accumulations of plaque, or multiple cavities. Or they may be in pain, but haven't told their parents or anyone else.

These are the children seen by dental hygiene students in the UNMC College of Dentistry's dental hygiene sealant program. The outreach program, beginning its 10th year, takes place in elementary schools in Omaha and Lincoln, western Nebraska, and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota.

The sealant program provides basic dental hygiene services to children and improves the skills and confidence levels of dental hygiene students. However, Gwen Hlava,

R.D.H., professor and chair of the department of dental hygiene, has noticed something else. The sealant program is making a difference in the hygiene students' attitude toward service.

Amanda Clark, R.D.H., of Lincoln, a 2012 hygiene graduate and now an instructor, said sealant program days were her favorite days as a hygiene student. She said she gained skills and confidence in the 11 school visits she made.

"It made me appreciate how much the college does for less fortunate people. At first, I didn't notice because I was concentrating on my work, but as I got better with my skills and became less focused on myself, I could see the big picture," she said. "This program has made a positive impact on so many children."

Erica Jasa, R.D.H., a first-year dental student, agrees. "So many children are without dental homes. We are helping meet those unmet needs."

In the sealant program, students provide oral prophylaxes, sealants, fluoride varnish and patient education to second-, third- and either fifth- or sixth-graders from low-

AT A GLANCE

- Provided sealants to more than 9,000 underserved kids since 2003.
- Program started with four schools; expanded to 27 schools statewide — including a school on the Pine Ridge /Oglala Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota.
- Funding comes from grants, private donations and Ameritas, an insurance and financial services company.

income families. Students also perform retention checks on third-graders. Children take home treat bags filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, timers, pencils, erasers and electric brushes.

The hygiene students also learn about opportunities beyond the traditional private dental office and begin to think about other places they might work — hospitals, nursing homes, public health clinics, and volunteer events such as Children's Dental Day, the SHARING Clinic for homeless and underserved adults, and the Nebraska Dental Association's annual Mission of Mercy.

The dental hygiene sealant program has far exceeded early expectations. It is one example of the College of Dentistry's commitment to worthy pursuits and to its mission of patient care, community service, teaching and research. ■



Dental hygiene students apply hundreds of sealant treatments each year.

The Dental Caravan: 350 lecture hours on the road

Following in the footsteps of her mentor Dr. Bill Printz of Sidney, Neb., Dr. Leasa Hlavinka is using the education she received to serve her community and the next generation of dentists. Both of them know that graduation from dental school is only the beginning. The dental profession demands life-long learning.

The Dental Caravan is an outreach program that helps the college stay connected to alumni and meet their educational needs – regardless of whether they practice in a city like Omaha or a small town like Sidney. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the caravan across Nebraska, a program through which the college’s faculty – general dentists, specialists and hygienists – provide free continuing education lectures to alumni and their staff members.

During that time, faculty have traveled more than 25,000 miles, spent 70 days on the state’s highways and byways, and given more than 350 lecture hours on topics of interest to practitioners. And during these 25 years more than 8,000 people have attended, some driving long distances to reach seminar sites.

A 2007 graduate who recently purchased Dr. Printz’s practice, Dr. Hlavinka has attended all the Dental Caravan continuing education lectures. She also has volunteered at every Dental Day since she graduated. Next year, she plans to go through training to become a preceptor, overseeing dental students on extramural rotations. And like Dr. Printz, a 1979 graduate, Dr. Hlavinka strives to be a good example of how to help people in need and how to be both a teacher and student.

Dr. Hlavinka says the college stays connected to alumni across central and western Nebraska through its outreach programs – the Dental Caravan in May, Children’s Dental Day in western Nebraska in June, dental student rotations throughout the year, and biopsy services provided by the college’s department of oral biology.

All of these programs and services make practicing dentistry in rural Nebraska easier, Dr. Hlavinka said. “The college’s outreach programs inspire its students to continue in that same spirit of community service after they graduate.” ■



The Continuing Education Caravan makes stops in several communities across the state.

UNMC College of Dentistry

a timeline of

HEALTH & SHARING

2000



▲ **Rural Externship Programs:** Since the 1980s, dental student externship programs have been enhanced through annual preceptor training and teledentistry. Dental faculty help find dentists to serve at federal and regional public health clinics.



▲ **Annual Dental Continuing Education Caravan:** Over the past 25 years, UNMC faculty have traveled more than 25,000 miles across Nebraska delivering a total of 350 hours of free continuing education seminars to more than 8,000 alumni and their staff.

Children's Dental Day at the UNMC College of Dentistry in Lincoln has become the No. 1 source of care for thousands of Nebraska's children. Since the program began in 2001, the college has provided more than \$2.5 million in dental care to nearly 5,000 children.

Opportunities Fair: Started in 2002, this event, along with the biannual transition seminar, gives practicing dentists the chance to meet with students and discuss dental practice opportunities open to them after graduation. >>>

Teledentistry: In 2003, the college enhanced its teledentistry capabilities, which has enabled practitioners in rural areas to consult with specialists at the college and participate in Community Grand Rounds.

West Division Dental Hygiene Program: Conceived in 2001 and opened in 2003, the program was developed to satisfy a need for dental hygienists in rural western Nebraska. Today, it is a center for education, sealant programs, and nursing home care programs in a region of the state that had been vastly underserved.





2005

Nebraska Missions of Mercy: College of Dentistry volunteers have provided a huge boost to the Nebraska Mission of Mercy clinics, which have been held annually across the state since 2005.



Dental SHARING Clinic: Since the first one in March 2008, SHARING clinics have been held four times annually. More than 1,000 patients have received free care from this student-run clinic.

2010

Sealant Programs: Since its inception in 2003, more than 24,000 sealants have been provided to more than 9,000 underserved children at schools in Omaha, Lincoln and the Panhandle, including a three-day annual trip to the Pine Ridge/Oglala Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota.



Grand Island Extraction Clinic: Since 2010, this volunteer annual Saturday activity in the fall (90 miles from Lincoln) has helped veterans who are in need of extensive dental extractions, but do not qualify for Veterans Administration dental care. Each year, about 70 veterans receive around 200 extractions at the clinic.



Nursing Home Care: In 2012, dental hygiene students began to provide basic preventive care to residents, as well as training for staff, at three nursing homes in rural Nebraska.

Dental Day delivers \$2.5 million in care to children



Children who have nowhere to go for dental care leave UNMC's Children's Dental Day happy and healthy and with new toothbrushes in hand. And the volunteers who provide the care say they leave fulfilled.

"We are their dentists," said Executive Associate Dean David Brown, Ph.D., coordinator of Dental Day.

For Dr. Brown, the day has taken on added significance. "This is my mission trip." He often remarks that rather than travel to far-away countries, he prefers to do his mission work here at home.

The patients range in age from 5 to 17, and the care provided includes cleanings, sealants, extractions, crowns, restorations and root canals. Sixty percent of the children return for follow-up care at subsequent Dental Day events.

The event is held each February at the college in Lincoln and each June in western Nebraska where alumni volunteer their offices and their staffs, as well as their professional services.

Dr. Donald "Cork" Taylor of Alliance, Neb., a 1976 alumnus, helped plan the first western Nebraska Dental Day in 2004. He and his wife, Pat, hosted a dinner in their backyard for the 72 volunteers who made the trip from



From blood pressure checks to dental super hero impersonations, activities are varied at another busy Dental Day.

AT A GLANCE

- Children's Dental Day gives children from rural and underserved areas — who may not see dentists regularly — free checkups and services.
- More than \$2.5 million in dental care has been delivered to kids since 2001.
- The event focuses on the unmet needs of children and the uneven distribution of dental professionals across Nebraska.

Lincoln. One of Dr. Taylor's patients, a cattle buyer, provided the steaks and tended the grill.

Dr. Taylor said he was impressed that so many people were willing to travel hundreds of miles to serve the needs of western Nebraska's underprivileged children.

"I know of no other dental college anywhere in the world that works so hard to take its resources to practicing dentists making it easier for them to care for their patients," Dr. Taylor said.

Dental Day, which has become the college's most ambitious outreach undertaking, began as a challenge more than a decade ago as dental school deans across the nation sought new and better ways to provide community outreach. ■

Nursing Home: delivering care—and hope—to residents

As the patient settled in a recliner at the Crestview Healthcare Center in Milford, Neb., hygiene student Bret Frohner found a comfortable seat on the recliner's armrest and went to work.

The patient, Gary Papke, 61, needed a thorough prophylaxis as one of the last necessary steps to be placed on a kidney transplant list.

While lacking the high-tech setting of a typical dental office or the newly renovated hygiene clinic at the UNMC College of Dentistry, Frohner made up for it with his methodical approach, his patience and his comforting words.

"This is something we have needed to do for a long time," said Darlene Carritt, R.D.H., dental hygiene instructor and coordinator of a new program taking hygiene services to nursing home residents.

Beginning in January 2012, Carritt and hygiene students started seeing nursing home residents on Wednesday afternoons, alternating visits among three rural Nebraska nursing homes within a short drive from the college in Lincoln. The services are provided through an affiliation agreement with each of the nursing homes.

The nursing home residents receiving the services are patients of Dr. Bryan Burgess, an adjunct faculty member who received his D.D.S. degree and general practice residency certificate from UNMC.

Without these visits, the dental maintenance needs of many of the residents would go unmet. Many nursing home residents did not see dentists regularly even when they lived independently, he said.

"The experience is good for the students. It expands their knowledge by dealing with more complicated cases and gives them

the experience of being team players, and it's good for the patients who get to feel like they are giving something back," said Dr. Burgess, who is working to establish a similar program in the intensive care burn unit at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln.

The students brush residents' teeth, paint on fluoride varnish and pass out toothbrushes. They clean dentures in an ultrasonic bath and distribute denture brushes. And they assess dental pain or abnormalities that may require further treatment.



Dental hygiene student Bret Frohner attends to the needs of a nursing home resident.

"Our goal is to keep the residents' teeth clean and keep them comfortable and out of dental pain so they can eat and function and maintain their dentition," Carritt said. She said the students have seen other rewarding results of their visits, particularly better smelling breath and reduced drooling in one resident with cerebral palsy. ■

SHARING Clinic: Warmth, hospitality, and compassion

From the moment patients walk in the door of the UNMC College of Dentistry for SHARING Clinic, they are greeted with warmth, hospitality and compassion, says volunteer, Roger Fisher, D.D.S., a 1988 UNMC College of Dentistry graduate.

“That atmosphere permeates throughout the entire night. It starts at the front door of the dental school and ends with students walking patients to the door to dismiss them,” Dr. Fisher said.

Dr. Fisher has volunteered at the SHARING Clinic since it began in 2008 and is dental director of Clinic with a Heart, a faith-based program that provides health care services to indigent families in Lincoln.

More than 200 students, faculty, staff and volunteer dentists staff the SHARING Clinics, which are offered four times a year for older teens and adults who do not have access to regular dental care. Patients are referred by Clinic with a Heart, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and the People’s Health Center.

David Brown, Ph.D., executive associate dean, said 375 to 400 patients a year are seen at the SHARING Clinics and similar outreach programs including a clinic for extractions in Grand Island and two clinic chairs set aside at the college each Wednesday for especially needy patients.

Patients are not charged for services, which include cleanings, extractions and restorations. The clinics are supported by private donations, including financial support from alumni, Ameritas and Delta Dental of Nebraska.

Nursing students from the UNMC College of Nursing join with dental students, hygiene students and dental residents at the SHARING Clinic to promote interpro-



Dental and nursing students in the clinic.

fessional activities that encourage collaboration among health care professionals, Dr. Brown said.

Nursing students take patients’ vital signs and shadow dental students and patients. They are encouraged to ask questions and sometimes help by holding instruments or performing other tasks.

“It gives them all a better appreciation for what each profession does,” Dr. Brown said.

Dr. Fisher and fellow volunteer Dr. Chuck Genrich, a 1983 graduate, said the SHARING Clinic introduces students to service and provides a model of volunteering at its finest.

“Rather than the traditional student-teacher relationship, this is more like we are all in this together doing a common service for the public,” Dr. Brown said. “And it certainly builds collegiality among students and faculty.” ■

The Preceptor Program: Teamwork at its best

Situated on campuses in Lincoln and Omaha on the eastern end of the state, the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry stretches 500 miles from east to west and 300 miles from north to south.

Its hygiene and dental graduates are scattered across the state and into neighboring Great Plains states, particularly Wyoming, Kansas and South Dakota.

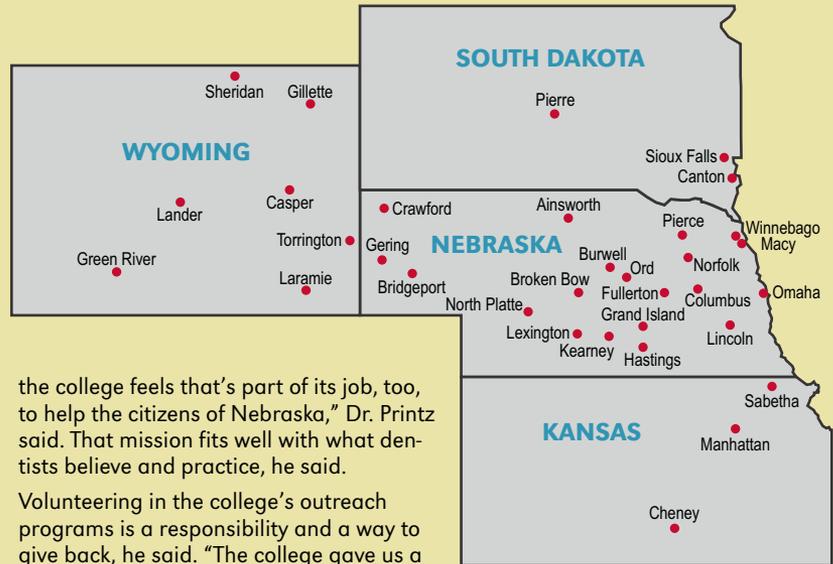
But, while scattered far and wide, a tradition of worthy pursuits and innovative services brings graduates back and keeps them connected. "It's nice holding hands with the College of Dentistry," said Dr. Bill Printz of Sidney, a 1979 graduate who has practiced in western Nebraska for 33 years.

The college continues to provide support for its graduates across central and western Nebraska, he said, highlighting the college's most prominent outreach programs:

- Continuing Dental Education Caravan in May
- Children's Dental Day in western Nebraska in June
- Dental student extramural rotations throughout the year
- Biopsy services from the college's Department of Oral Biology "with quick turnaround time" as needed
- A developing teledentistry program that allows dentists in rural Nebraska to consult with specialists in Lincoln and Omaha

"The college has always been very involved in outreach programs, trying to provide services for those who need it and, at the same time, provide training for students. I think

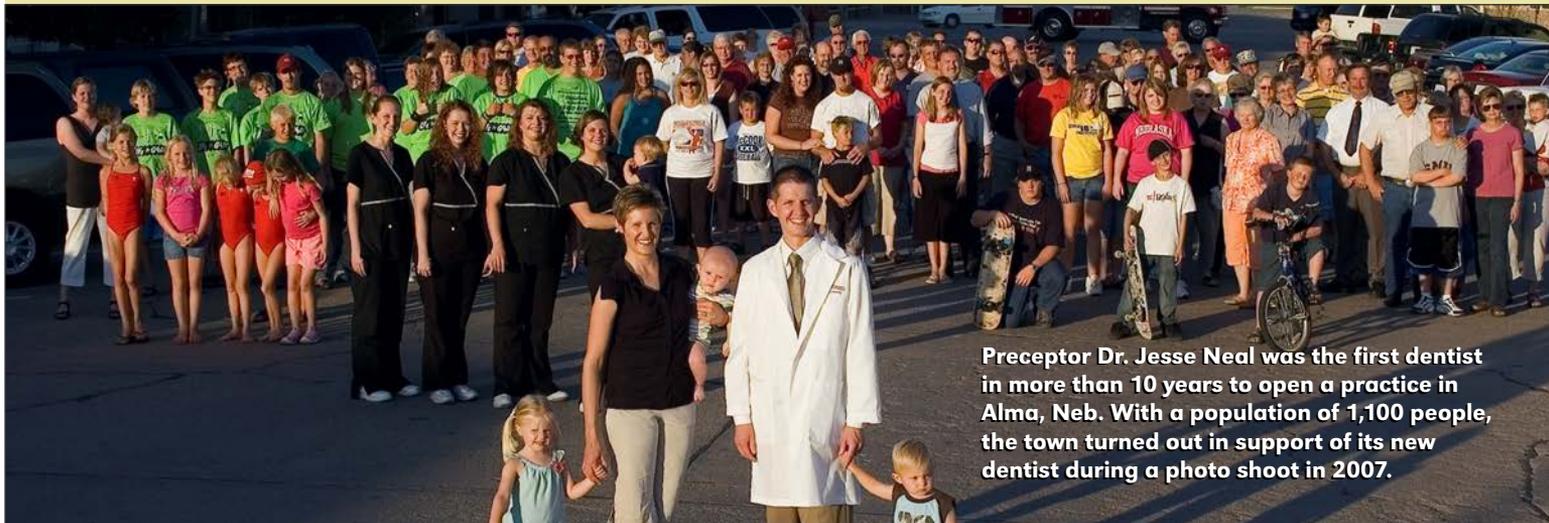
Preceptor Locations 2012-2013



the college feels that's part of its job, too, to help the citizens of Nebraska," Dr. Printz said. That mission fits well with what dentists believe and practice, he said.

Volunteering in the college's outreach programs is a responsibility and a way to give back, he said. "The college gave us a tremendous education in clinical dentistry," and that excellent clinical preparation has sustained him, Dr. Printz said, because in rural areas "you don't always have specialists nearby to support you."

Dr. Printz also has volunteered as a mentor for fourth-year dental students in the extramural rotation program. Volunteer preceptors guide students as they practice their clinical skills and introduce students to the responsibilities of community service. Forty-three dentists from Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota and Kansas are volunteering this year to be preceptors, becoming official faculty members and, in some cases, unofficial lifelong mentors. ■



Preceptor Dr. Jesse Neal was the first dentist in more than 10 years to open a practice in Alma, Neb. With a population of 1,100 people, the town turned out in support of its new dentist during a photo shoot in 2007.



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