For alumni and friends of the UNMC College of Dentistry’s Postgraduate Pediatric Program

From the (interim) chair
Curtis G. Kuster, DDS, MS

It has been several years since the first issue of Pedo Rap was published and distributed. It is time to re-establish relationships with our alumni and friends via this second issue. We hope to present a new edition periodically. This will be sent not only to our pediatric dentistry residency alumni, but also to our College of Dentistry alumni who have attended a pediatric dentistry residency elsewhere, because “once a Husker, always a Husker.”

We are in the midst of many changes and now part of a new department. The department of growth and development has been reestablished consisting of pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, and the general practice residency program. I am the interim chair this year.

We are also involved with a change of location of our pediatric dentistry residency program. After many years at the Munroe-Meyer Institute on the UNMC campus, we are moving to a new clinic attached to Omaha’s Children’s Hospital. We will maintain a presence at MMI, but over time the main clinic will be located at the Children’s Hospital clinic. There is more information about this elsewhere in this issue.

We also have an interim program director: Dr. Scott Hamilton. A 1999 graduate of the UNMC College of Dentistry and a 2001 graduate of our pediatric dentistry residency program, Dr. Hamilton has been on our faculty and in private practice since that time. You will hear more from Scott on page 2 of this issue.

We hope you find the newsletter informational. We always greatly appreciate your support. Again, “once a Husker, always a Husker.”
“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning,” Ben Franklin.

Greetings! My name is Scott Hamilton. It has been my pleasure to serve as the interim program director of the pediatric dentistry residency program for almost a year. It has been an exciting year with many changes, including our move to a new clinic at Children’s Hospital right here in Omaha. After years or even decades of planning, the new clinic became a reality this autumn. After hundreds of hours of planning, preparation work, and setting up dental equipment, we saw our first patients on October 1, 2010. There were a few glitches, of course—we will all remember the alarms going off our first day when a member of Children’s Hospital Maintenance staff turned off the oxygen supply to the entire wing of the building—but all in all, it has been a fantastic first month in our new space. We are currently using the space in the MMI building three days a week and the space in Children’s two days a week, with a shift towards more days at Children’s pending in the near future.

The new clinic is the most exciting news, but it is only one of many changes you may see when you come back to Omaha to visit us someday. A few examples include: everyone associated with the pediatric dentistry program was given a copy of Good to Great several months ago, and we reference the book sometimes as we ourselves try to become great. University wide, we are excited for the move to the Big Ten Conference next year, which has immediate benefits to our university academically as well as athletically. We spent the month of January easing into a paperless (or at least chartless) dental office, a project that requires a lot of teamwork and positive attitudes. We now use digital radiography and a digital record. The residents and staff took very little time to adjust. (Dr. Kuster and I, on the other hand, are a bit slow sometimes, but everyone else bails us out when we need help.) In addition to these major changes, there are a lot of new faces and I’d love to introduce you to our team. Any time you intend to be in the Omaha area, please let me know. We’d love to show you around. You won’t be disappointed!

It has been a big year for us and we continue to make changes every month. We have improved our facilities. We have improved our technology. We have improved our productivity. The residents are smiling. But as we know from our friend Ben Franklin, it all means nothing if we don’t continue to grow. We have a lot of work in front of us in the next year.

Happy holidays and warm wishes.
In 2008, the corporation Children’s Specialty Physicians was formed following an Institutional Affiliation Agreement between Children’s Hospital and the UNMC College of Medicine. This agreement was the culmination of extensive efforts over many years (perhaps decades) to bring these two organizations together. The agreement paved the way for a new joint vision in pediatric clinical care, clinically-based pediatric research, and exceptional educational opportunities for residents and students under the guidance of extraordinary faculty.

Our Omaha-based pediatric dental programs, which have been stationed in the Munroe-Meyer Institute on the UNMC campus for decades, now have the opportunity to expand into a new clinic at the Specialty Pediatric Center (SPC) adjacent to Children’s Hospital. Residents will now divide their time between this clinic and the existing facility at the Munroe-Meyer Institute.

The beautiful new five-story, $55 million, 135,000 square foot SPC building is approximately 40 blocks west of the UNMC campus at 84th Street and West Dodge Road. There is a multi-level parking garage under the building, and the building includes a child-friendly décor with a two-story water feature and supervised play at a Kids’ Camp for siblings of patients.

The UNMC College of Dentistry’s pediatric program was invited to join this group of about 120 pediatricians, largely made up of pediatric sub-specialists. After careful analysis along with encouragement and support from Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., we determined that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve our pediatric dental education which we could not afford to miss. We are now leasing about 4,000 square feet of space within the SPC, including our ten-chair clinic and offices.

Over the past two years, we have worked closely with Children’s Hospital officials and others during the design and construction of the space. The clinic is truly state-of-the-art. In addition to our pediatric dental faculty and residents, the new clinic will serve our other residents, and dental and dental hygiene students who routinely rotate through our Omaha programs for additional experiences.

I truly believe we are entering a new era of excellence in pediatric dental education, in an exciting and educationally rich environment that will benefit all our students, residents, and—most of all—our young patients. Whether you are a graduate or a friend of the pediatric program, I hope you will share our excitement about this new opportunity to advance pediatric dental education in Nebraska.
Giving Kids Happy, Healthy Smiles: the UNMC College of Dentistry’s Postgraduate Pediatric Dentistry Program

By Susan Norby, Director of Development, University of Nebraska Foundation

The UNMC College of Dentistry’s postgraduate pediatric dentistry program is widely recognized for its tradition of providing the very finest in clinical instruction, advanced professional training in a positive and mentoring environment, and a flourishing research component that enhances the residents’ preparation to enter and serve the profession nobly. At the very crux of it all is the residents’ and the faculty’s commitment to giving kids happy, healthy smiles and in so doing, preparing each patient for a lifetime of good oral health.

As pediatric dentists, you each have devoted your professional lives to helping children receive the very best oral health care available. As UNMC College of Dentistry graduates, you each know with absolute confidence that you can provide an exceptionally high quality of care. The professional success and fulfillment you hopefully enjoy is due in large part to the excellent education and specialized training you received in postgraduate pediatric dentistry at the UNMC College of Dentistry. Wherever UNMC dental alumni choose to practice, they are successful because they are respected for their strong work ethic, their compassionate patient management skills, and their commitment to clinical excellence.

Charitable donations from alumni and friends are a big part of what sustains excellence at the postgraduate pediatric dentistry program. Many alumni aren’t aware that state funding is currently able to provide less than 20 percent of the dental college’s annual operating budget. Therefore, private charitable donations are needed now more than ever to fill those budget gaps and to sustain excellence throughout the college and all of its programs.

Without great pediatric dentistry programs to educate and train successive generations, we can’t have great pediatric dentistry. As you look back on your career, or if you are just starting out on your career, please take a moment to think about the people and programs that have helped you join the profession and succeed in it.

We are fortunate to have some great examples of alumni giving back to invest in the future of our dental college’s postgraduate pediatric dentistry program. Dr. Tom and Sandy Barth are both UNMC College of Dentistry alumni, and they have donated annually for many years to help keep the dental college strong and flourishing, and as an expression of appreciation for the education they received at the University of Nebraska. Tom got his DDS at our dental college in 1976, and Sandy received her BSDH in 1974. Tom then went on to earn his postgraduate pediatric dentistry certification and degree from the University of Texas-San Antonio and since then has had his own pediatric dentistry practice in Manhattan, Kansas. Barths are long-time benefactors for the UNMC College of Dentistry and have given annually to support the school. A few years ago when the college’s predoctoral pediatric dentistry clinics at the college in Lincoln were renovated, Tom and Sandy made a donation to purchase new overhead televisions for each of the pediatric operatories. That gift was made in honor of Tom’s mother, Alma Barth, who he said encouraged and inspired him to pursue a career in pediatric dentistry.

Earlier this year, Tom and Sandy decided to expand their philanthropy for the UNMC College of Dentistry by confirming a generous new pledge at the University of Nebraska Foundation, designated specifically and exclusively for the postgraduate pediatric dentistry program. The Dr. Tom & Sandra Barth Fund for Excellence in Postgraduate Pediatric Dentistry provides generous support for ongoing priority needs in that program. Barths said of their decision to create this new fund, “Even though neither one of us graduated from the postgraduate pediatric dentistry program, we both know that the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry and all of its programs provide outstanding education and training for all oral health professionals. We wanted to invest in the specific program that has given so much to us and our family, as a way to help future pediatric dentistry residents enjoy similar opportunities.”

Without great pediatric dentistry programs to educate and train successive generations, we can’t have great pediatric dentistry.

The Barths’ giving is just one example of the many ways alumni and friends can contribute to help the UNMC College of Dentistry, including its postgraduate pediatric dentistry program. Gifts and pledges of all amounts are welcome and appreciated. The aggregate effect of lots of alumni contributing on an annual basis is what truly helps the college continue its mission of educating and training oral health professionals.

Please consider a gift or pledge now to benefit the UNMC College of Dentistry’s postgraduate pediatric dentistry program. Information is provided in this newsletter (see page 5) about how to send in your check. Please call or email me any time if you have any questions about giving.

Thank you, and please consider this opportunity to give back and say, “thanks for the education and career the UNMC College of Dentistry gave me!”

Susan Norby
Director of Development
University of Nebraska Foundation
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Summer of 2010: Special Olympics in Lincoln

Special Smiles program aids athletes

The national Special Olympics were held in Lincoln, Nebraska, this past summer from July 19th thru the 23rd. Dr. Jim Jenkins, College of Dentistry faculty member and past president of the Nebraska Dental Association, coordinated a “Special Smiles” program for the event. For the first time restorative dental care was provided for the special Olympians. The participants were seen at a clinic set up at Pershing Center in downtown Lincoln and at the college. Our faculty and residents participated every day, enhancing the “special smiles” during this rewarding and educational week.

After you’ve read about all the great things happening at the UNMC College of Dentistry... help make it even greater.

If you have any questions about charitable gifts, donation, options, pledges or bequests benefitting the pediatric program, please contact:

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Please specify:
Postgraduate Pediatric Dentistry Fund #8658
The first-year students

**Elliott Bailey** hails from Tuscon, Arizona. After attending Brigham Young University, he got his dental degree at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Elliott is married to Ashlee Bailey and they have two children: three-year-old Gavin and two-year-old Grady. “Effectiveness of caries removal with chemical techniques versus polymer bur technique” is the title of his research project. While at BYU, Elliott played soccer and he loves all sports teams in Arizona.

**Jeremy Cox** hails from Mesquite, Nevada, and attended Southern Utah University. He completed dental school at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in May of 2010. Twelve and half years ago Jeremy married Kari Cox, a dental hygienist. They currently have four children; two are in elementary school, but all four have always lived in the desert and are excited to see snow for the first time. Jeremy is working with Dr. Salama to look closer at the gate theory with local anesthetics. The research looks at the ability to mask the pain associated with injections with other senses such as temperature, vibration, and sound.

**Gary Lehn**, born and raised in Omaha, attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha for undergraduate, and then earned his DDS in 2010 at the UNMC College of Dentistry. He’s been married for five years to Elizabeth and they have three children: Catherine (two years old) and Juliana & June (four-months-old). Gary’s research projects include 1) the efficacy of noncontingent escape for decreasing children’s disruptive behavior during restorative dental treatment and 2) knowledge of special needs oral health by dental hygiene students.

**Emily Raveill** grew up in Blue Springs, Missouri. In 2006 she graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and in 2010 received her DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry. Her parents are Tom and Jean Raveill. Emily’s research project is “pediatric dentistry interprofessional education for physician assistant students: knowledge, perceived needs, and curriculum recommendations.”

The second-year students

**Will Farmer** hails from Muskogee, OK. He attended Northeastern State University from 1997 to 1998, the University of Oklahoma from 1998 through 2001, and the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry from 2001 to 2005. He’s married to Morgan for six years and has two children: two-year-old Carson and two-month-old Avery. Will’s research project is “The use of stuffed animals as a distraction technique in new patient exams for three and four year olds.”

**Mikala Hoge** is originally from Lincoln, Nebraska, and attended college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, receiving her bachelors of science in biology. She graduated from the College of Dentistry in 2005. Mikala and her husband Chad (also a 2005 graduate of the college) stay busy with their daughter Alexa (born on September 12, 2010) and a boxer named Roman. Her research project is “an evaluation of selective based distraction using video eye wear to decrease the distress of children undergoing restorative dental treatment.” Dr. Keith Allen is her advisor. Drs. Hoge and Hoge have two pediatric dental practices in North Dakota: Fargo and Grand Forks.

**Libby Johnson** grew up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She obtained her undergrad degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her DDS at the UNMC College of Dentistry (Class of 2009). Libby is married to Andrew Johnson who works for the Continental Fire Sprinkler Company. Her research project involves the effects of herbal lollipops on Streptococcus mutans levels and the dental caries experience of children with asthma taking β2-adrenergic agonist drugs. Libby also loves Nebraska football.

**Bryan Skar** is from Omaha, Nebraska, and received his bachelor of science degree at Creighton in 2004. In May of 2009, he earned his DDS at the UNMC College of Dentistry. In July 2006, Bryan got married to Krista (Mendlik) Skar. They have one child, a son named Blake Joseph Skar, born July 19, 2010. His research topic is entitled: “Knowledge of dental students on oral health care of patients with special health care needs.”
Our staff and you

Meet the faculty and staff

**Dr. Fouad Salama** received his dental degree from Cairo University School of Dentistry. He received his MS and certificate in pediatric dentistry from the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Salama has been in private practice and on the faculty at King Saud University, Nova Southeastern, University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston, as well as Nebraska.

**Dr. Cynthia Chan** received her dental degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and her certificate in pediatric dentistry from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She has been in private practice, public health clinics, and on the faculty at the University of Southern California and Nebraska.

**Dr. Frank Driscoll** graduated from Creighton University School of Dentistry and received his certificate in pediatric dentistry and MS from the University of Michigan. He served in the Army Dental Corps and was in private practice in Omaha for 43 years. Dr. Driscoll has taught at Creighton in addition to Nebraska.

**Dr. Brent Johnson** graduated from the UNMC College of Dentistry and then received his certificate in pediatric dentistry and MS from The Ohio State University/Columbus Children’s Hospital. He is in private practice in Lincoln and has been a faculty member at Nebraska since completing his residency program.

**Dr. Greg Samuelson** graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry and then attended the University of Indiana where he received his certificate in orthodontics and MS degree. He is in private practice in Omaha and has taught at Creighton as well as being on the faculty at Nebraska.

Other pediatric dentists who teach periodically in the residency program include **Drs. Eric Hodges, Lourdes Secola, Lisa Strunk, Jessica Meeske, Jane Bennett, and Angeli Thakker**. Those who help teach in the pre-doctoral clinic include **Drs. Melissa Sveen, Tom Milius, and Holly Portwood**. Our administrative staff includes **Don Herbst, Marcela Williams, and Rose Murphy**.

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**What are YOU doing?**

Send us an update about yourself and we will list it in the “News of the Alumni and Friends” column in the next issue.

Name: ____________________________

Year of Graduation: ____________________________

Location: ____________________________

Practice and/or Personal Update: ____________

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Send your information to:

**Dr. Curtis Kuster**
University of Nebraska Medical Center
College of Dentistry
40th and Holdrege
Lincoln, NE  68583-0740

Or send an email to ckuster@unmc.edu

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Don Herbst, clinical/business operations manager for the College of Dentistry’s Hospital Dentistry works on his latest report.
The tenth anniversary of the Children’s Dental Day will be Friday, February 4, 2011. Anyone who wishes to visit or participate is welcome!