

The Newsletter

For Alumni & Friends of the College of Dentistry's Department of Surgical Specialties

The Chair Report



Bavitz

I'm writing this the day after the first ever UNMC College of Dentistry combined Alumni Reunion. The premise was reasonable. Have all the college's alumni – hygienists, general dentists and specialists, in one place at one time for their respective homecoming continuing education and mirth. The open-to-all breakfast event before the CE was an opportunity for the dean to give a state-of-the-college address to all, and to promote and thank those who give back to the college. Although there is room to improve upon the registration process in the future, overall, I felt the day was a success. My favorite part by far was seeing many of you come back for the gig and hearing about your practices and your lives. The featured speaker for the perio CE was our own **Dr. Ryan Gifford, class of '07**. Outside of Celine Dione, Ryan is perhaps the hottest thing in Vegas right now. Two former students, and now card-carrying oral surgeons, **Drs. Larry Baker** and **Matt Weber** gave the CE course for the general dentists, and our endo section had some thought-provoking pedagogy by **Dr. Terrell Pannkuk**. The dinner program that eve had Husker legendary coach Dr. Tom Osborne as the featured speaker. We can debate how important college football should be to the mission of a university, but this man certainly is a role model for a life of honesty, hard work, integrity and caring about others. He was impressive.

Stay tuned to see if we continue to do this combined alumni event or go back to separate events, but I hope to see many of you back here at the college.

Departmentally, we have had another winning season performing quality research and patient care, delivering timely continuing education, and minting skilled and ethical specialists and general dentists. Apparently, the word about Nebraska's Department of Surgical Specialties is getting out, as we continue to have record numbers apply to our graduate programs.

We are pleased to have added **Dr. Mike McNally**, endo 2001, and new perio graduates **Drs. Erica Jasa** and

Jessica Gradoville to our part-time faculty. Living legend **Dr. Wayne Kaldahl** cut back some hours, but we upgraded **Dr. Amy Killeen** to full-time. Similarly, **Mrs. Jenny Harn's** time has waned, but we increased **Megan Christiansen's** and **Laura Anderson's** commitment – all winners.

We are keeping up in the technology arms race. The use of perioscopy during scaling and root planing is being increasingly employed; we added two new implant systems to our armamentarium and increasingly are doing all digital workflows.

There were some new additions to the Surgical Specialties family: with **Jessica Gradoville ('19)** baby boy **Teddy, Mattie Bertels** (perio third-year resident) baby girl **Freja, Brett Cawley** (endo, second-year resident) baby girl **Beatrice** and **Randy Middleton (endo '19)** baby boy **Mateo** – all having beautiful babies. **Dr. Amy Killeen** also added a new bundle of joy, **Seamus**, who in my opinion resembles her pediatric dentist husband **Marty** much more than she.

Sadly, we had some sicknesses this year and lost a gentle and humble colleague and friend: **Dr. Tom Gound**. His golf swing defied all conventional laws of physics and he will be missed.

I appreciate all that alums do for the department and college, be it teaching in our clinics, monetary contributions, or even encouraging talented people you encounter to apply to our programs. **INI**



The Killeen Clan: New addition Seamus (right) and children Lucy, Liam, Peter and Patrick



Dr. Tom Gound

COD - File Photo

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The Newsletter

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News of the alumni

Our alumni portion of the newsletter must start with our superstar alum **David Okano ('85)**. As we have reported previously, David is now an associate professor at the University of Utah School of Dentistry. He functions as a chair in the section of periodontics. David loves the academic environment and he is well suited for it. David was nominated for the position of secretary/treasurer of the American Academy of Periodontology. Just the fact that he was nominated to such a prestigious position brought great exposure to our program. But, even better, he won in a landslide and will now be progressing through the chairs, ultimately becoming president of our national organization. The department did what we could in rallying the alums to vote for him; obviously, they turned out in large numbers to secure the election. The byproduct of those contacts that the department made is that we get responses from many of you, which is always enjoyable.

John Lane ('90) writes that he has finally satiated his passions for roller coasters at number 348. He still seems to be under the influence of the Chief however, in that he went to race car driving school and had more fun than he has ever experienced.

Terry Eckles ('88) writes that he is still practicing "a little." He, like many of us old timers, are weighing in the cost/benefit of belonging to the ADA and AAP while mostly in retirement mode. Fishing has been slow this year due in great part to the high water tables from the flooding. We know all too well in Nebraska this spring with many dams bursting and roads being swept away.

Jeffrey Brackett ('90) shared a terrific website for his practice in Scarborough, ME. It is really very professionally done even with patient reviews. And, he voted for David. Thanks, Jeff.

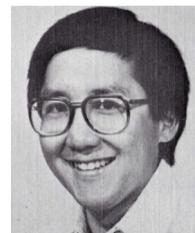
Paul Sibraa ('89) sends greetings from "Down Under," where he gets to vote for David as well. He is still practicing four days per week and credits that to lack of intelligence rather than robust professional health. Every time we touch base with Paul he exudes his love and appreciation for Nebraska and our department. Keep on trucking, Paul.

Brad Crump ('00) reports he and David keep in touch on a regular basis, so obviously we counted yet another vote for Dave. He continues to practice full time and teaches one day a week at the dental college in Dallas where he teaches Classic Lit and covers the graduate clinic. Currently, he is president of the Dallas County Dental Society. That seems to us to be a full schedule Brad. He is yet another alum who expresses that Nebraska holds a special place in his heart. A special thank you to Dr. Crump for offering to sponsor our third-year residents to attend the Southwest Society of Periodontology meeting in Dallas. Unfortunately, our residents had another program commitment and had to pass on his generous offer this year.

The response from **Steve Seibert ('84)**: "Done," when asked to vote for Dave. More importantly, Steve was out recruiting votes from his colleagues, as I am sure many of you did. Steve, we need to have you come back and share some time with our current residents. **NI**

Perio Alumni Reception

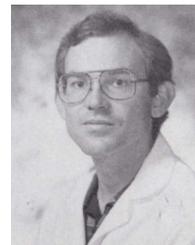
The alumni reception in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, was hosted by **Laura Harris Vieyra ('08)**. Thank you, Laura!



David Okano



John Lane



Terry Eckles



Jeffrey Brackett



Paul Sibraa



Brad Crump

File Photos Courtesy of COD Learning Resources

Straight from the Chief

Your Cornhusker Sports (and student lab) Update



Gerry Tussing

Things are changing at Nebraska in rapid order. Probably we first ought to advise you that the president of the university system, **Hank Bounds**, has given his notice that he is stepping down from the presidency post he has occupied for the last five years. While the immediate impact on the rank and file is minimal, it is thought he was an immense force in moving the university forward in many areas, not the least of which, surprisingly, is the sports program. He was the one that pulled the plug on Shane Eichorst as athletic director. He was adamant that Nebraska with its national brand and resources should be a Big 10 leader. He quite uniquely believes that athletics is the “front door” of our university. Without our history in athletics, particularly football, most of our national exposure would have gone unnoticed.



Bill Moos

In comes **Bill Moos** as the new athletic director and the fat has been in the fire ever since. This Moos is a country boy and has taken root in Nebraska without wasting a great deal of time. He first fired football coach **Mike Riley** and made what appears to be a monumental hire. As most of you already know, he got a Nebraska native, **Scott Frost**, who was fresh off an undefeated season as CFU in Orlando. That, of course, is a work in progress, but all signs are pointing to a resurgence to national relevance again in football. That was just the beginning of eight new coaches in 15 months being brought on board. The other huge hire was **Fred Hoiberg** as the new basketball coach. His pedigree is outstanding from a pro-basketball career to an NBA front office job to a collegiate coach that took a weak Iowa State basketball program to the NCAA tournament four of the five years that he was there. That’s when the Chicago Bulls hired him as their head coach. Interestingly, another new hire by Moos that came under the radar was a new golf coach. “Big deal,” you say. Who cares? Well, seems our new golf coach **Mark Haskins** was also the college roommate and lifetime friend of none other than Fred Hoiberg. He was actually the one that put Moos on the trail of Hoiberg resulting in the successful hire.

Nebraska is blessed with millions of dollars in support of our athletic programs. We received 45 million last year from the Big 10 alone. Moos will not tolerate anything less than national relevance. He has high expectations for all of our athletic programs and expects, minimally, to be in the upper half of all Big 10 sports. Oh, and as this newsletter is being written, the women’s softball coach of 28 years is on paid suspension for undisclosed sins. This man is cleaning house!

The College of Dentistry is taking its lead from its athletic director and we are cleaning house and changing everything as well. The most ambitious renovation is occurring in the first-

and second-year dental laboratories. The walls have been removed and it is now one large state-of-the-art simulation laboratory with digital dentistry capabilities. Adjacent to this new lab will be an equipment studio with 3D printers and milling machines, as well as other new educational technology. We all knew when **Stan Harn** retired that a new anatomy concept would be created. The anatomy lab is being renovated and upgraded with new digital display monitors and new camera technology. Yep, the days of student cadaver dissection are a thing of the past, and that is probably a good thing.



Finally, a new “micro-mart” replaced the old traditional vending machines. This is our attempt to provide higher quality, fresh food choices like sandwiches, fruit, snacks and beverages. Few will miss the cardio clogging snacks in which we once indulged. Add to that, the Soul Food Truck that will visit the college on occasion to complement our healthy food direction. **NI**

Postgraduate Periodontics

Program updates from Director Matthew Byarlay



Byarlay

Welcome back to another edition of the fabulous *Surgical Specialties Newsletter*. I hope everyone is doing well. I wasn't able to make it to the annual meeting last year but enjoyed seeing everyone back here for Alumni Day this fall. If you will be in Chicago this year for the AAP annual meeting, we should be having an alumni reception, so please stop by and

say "hi" if you can. One of the unique aspects of this program has been the ability to send all of the residents to the national meeting each year. The residents gain much insight into the specialty, new advances in technology, and the wide range of procedures and techniques which are practiced today. We, of course, would not be able to do this if it wasn't for your continued support of the program and we truly are appreciative.

As a dental college and graduate program, we are continually looking at ways to improve how we deliver care and teach the residents. Through some very recent funding

from UNMC, the college has had some additional transformations. The lower level labs and classrooms have had significant renovations and technology upgrades.

We hope that everyone stays in touch, and if you are ever traveling in the area or would like to present educational material, please let me know and stop by for a visit.

Visiting Professors

It is important each year to acknowledge the outstanding group of local periodontists who voluntarily teach in both seminars and in clinic. They are a tremendous asset to the program and we can't thank them enough. These individuals are **Drs. Dennis Anderson, Barry Feldner, Daryl Malena, Melissa Lang, John Rutledge, Natalie Frost, Scott Morrison, Stacy Moffenbier, Larry Parrish, Van Sanderfer, Takanari Miyamoto, Rob Cline, Lorenzo Mordini, and Pat Kelsey**. The residents and I certainly appreciate these individuals and their commitment to the program. 

Meet the perio residents



Mattie Bertels (third year) grew up in Chadron, Neb. She graduated from the UNMC College of Dentistry dental hygiene program in 2009 and practiced in Lincoln until 2013 when she began dental school. Mattie graduated from UNMC College of Dentistry in 2017. She enjoys spending time

with her husband, two little boys and infant daughter, being outdoors and baking.



Sara Qadi (third year) grew up in Kansas City, where she received her bachelor's degree in chemistry and D.D.S. at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. When she is not working, Sara enjoys setting up a hammock and reading a good book, rock climbing and cycling with friends.



Devin Christiansen (second year) was raised in Bountiful, Utah, and received his bachelor's degree in microbiology from Weber State University in 2013. He received his D.M.D. from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry in 2018. GO CARDS! He and his wife, Halee, have two kids: Davis and

Madison. He enjoys playing sports and spending time with family and friends.



Lauren Krell (second year) is from Sioux Falls, S.D., and received her bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota, where she also ran track. She then completed dental school at UNMC. In her free time Lauren enjoys traveling, golfing, and spending time with her family and dog.



Grace Moore (first year), born and raised in Mason City, Iowa, attended Loyola University in Chicago, where she competed in track and field and earned a B.S. in biology in 2015. After returning to Hawkeye country, she received a D.D.S. from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 2019. Now she's in specialty training in perio at the UNMC. Adapting to "being a Cornhusker," she likes going to the lake and her family's English Cream Golden Retriever, Wrigley.



Kevin Smith (first year), born and raised in Central City, Neb., attended Nebraska Wesleyan University, earned his B.S. in biology in 2015, and graduated with highest distinction. Kevin received his D.D.S. in 2019 from the UNMC and is continuing specialty training in periodontics. He enjoys traveling and is an avid Denver Broncos and Cornhuskers fan. 

Perio Graduation Party



Erica and Jessica's graduation party at the Bavitz home.
L to R: **Devin Christiansen, Erica Jasa, Jessica Gradoville, Lauren Krell, Sara Qadi and Mattie Bertels.**

Surgical Specialties Scheduler Change



Pat Johnson retired after 14 years as our scheduler. Pat is spending more time with her husband Tom, son, daughter, family and twin grandsons! Have fun in your retirement, Pat!



JoRenae Tupper is our new scheduler. She grew up in Lincoln and has been here all of her life. In her spare time, she enjoys playing volleyball, camping and just being outdoors. JoRenae is quite pleased with her new position. "Everyone has been very welcoming!" INI

GIVING BACK TO THE PROGRAM

Perio Development Fund
01030960

Thank you again for giving back to the periodontal program. It seems so repetitious each year, but it is so genuinely appreciated by all of us who strive to keep the graduate program moving forward and continuing its relevance in the national arena. We'd like to remind you that your contributions are dedicated monies used exclusively for resident education. That is exhibited in multiple forms: invited expert guest speakers, research pursuits, resident travel for scholarly events, instruments, and expenditures for which state funds are not available or allowed. Your contributions are very important to our program. INI

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Memo	Alumnus	

Postgraduate Endodontics

Program updates from Director Lane Stephenson



Stephenson

It was good to see our alums at the first joint hygienist, general dentist and specialists College of Dentistry Alumni Reunion at the Embassy Suites on October 4, 2019.

Thank you for your donations to our endodontic program. Your generosity helps our residents travel to AAE meetings, guest lecturers, instruments, research pursuits and expenditures for our program that state funds will not allow or are not available.

We would like to thank our endodontic volunteer faculty for providing excellent clinic instruction and guidance. They are **Drs. Jeri Rush, Corey Karimjee, Toby Comer, Dave Maixner and Cliff Leffingwell, Frank Sleder, Andy Luong, Jamie Ring, Merlyn Vogt, Dylan Downs, Hunter Bennett, Frank Sargent, Marshall and Angeline Lavin, Tom Beeson, Chris Pobanz and Ammon Anderson.**

We look forward to seeing you in Nashville, Tenn., at the AAE annual meeting April 1-4, 2020. [IN](#)

Meet the endo residents



Brett Cawley (second year) is from a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pa., and went to Marquette University for his undergraduate degree and dental school. It was there that he met his wife, who convinced him to move to Omaha. After practicing as a general dentist for a few years, he realized his passion for endodontics and is honored to be receiving his specialty training at UNMC. When not obsessing over endo, he enjoys spending time with his wife, daughter, two dogs, and cheering for the Pittsburgh Penguins. After graduation, he plans to return to a private practice in Omaha.



Jordan Sherman (second year) was born in Lincoln, Nebr. At age 9 his family moved to Wisconsin, followed by Texas, Georgia, New York, Tennessee and Virginia. He received his B.S. in food and nutrition sciences at the University of Georgia in 2011 and graduated from Meharry Medical College in 2015. After completing a two-year GPR program at LSUHSC in New Orleans, La., he served as a faculty member for one year as he awaited his return to Nebraska for endodontics. He is an amateur competitive eater and enjoys outdoor activities, spending time with friends and family and traveling.

WEIRD DENTAL TRIVIA

In order to raise awareness of dental problems, a dentist in China has built a tower 8 feet high that is comprised of 28,000 human teeth!



Brent Haynes (first year) was born and raised around Midwest City, Okla. Being Sooner born and bred, he attended the University of Oklahoma where he earned his B.S. with distinction in mechanical engineering in 2008. After a few years as a civilian non-destructive test engineer for the Air Force, he decided to trade in the thrill of aircraft for teeth in the summer of 2012, as he shifted his career towards helping others by attending the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center College of Dentistry. Upon receipt of his D.D.S. in 2016, he began working at a local community clinic before relocating to a FQHC in rural southern Oklahoma for two years before starting his endodontics residency at UNMC in July 2019. In his spare time, he enjoys a good meme, Sooner football, cooking, baking, movies, fitness, old video games, hanging out with new friends/co-residents, and playing music (not country). Contrary to what Dr. Bavitz said about drummers, Brent has not spontaneously combusted...yet.



Paul Pumilia (first year) was born and raised in New Orleans, La. He attended Louisiana State University where he earned his B.S. in electrical engineering. After a stellar career as an engineer, Dr. Pumilia returned to the University of New Orleans to pursue his interest in dentistry. He matriculated and excelled as a dental student at LSU, graduating in 2017 with a D.D.S. He knew very early on that general practice was not for him. Following a brief stint in general practice, Dr. Pumilia began specialty training in endodontics at University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2019. When not in the gym, you can find him cheering for his new favorite team: the Huskers! Dr. Pumilia is enjoying his time here in Lincoln, living the downtown "city" life.



Kiya Stack (first year) is over-the-moon excited to be a part of the department of endodontics at the UNMC College of Dentistry. She is originally from Chadron, Neb., but has called Lincoln home for almost 10 years. She graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with her B.S. in Business Administration and Business Management-Entrepreneurship in 2014, and is a proud graduate of our college's D.D.S. class of 2019. Dr. Stack is a retired character performer for Walt Disney World, but is most proud to be a part of the UNMC endo family. Her life motto is: "Dental Pulp and Pixie Dust," combining her two favorites: endodontics and Disney magic. [IN](#)

Endo Graduation Party!



Back: Lane Stephenson, Jordan Sherman, Brett Cawley, Randy Middleton, Steven Smith, Andy Luong, Saro Oknaian, Hany Makkawy. Front: Bartley

Congratulations!



Drs. Steven Smith, Saro Oknaian and Randy Middleton (second-year endo residents) graduated June 30, 2019.

GIVING BACK TO THE PROGRAM

Endo Development Fund
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Surgical Specialties Alum	2019-2020
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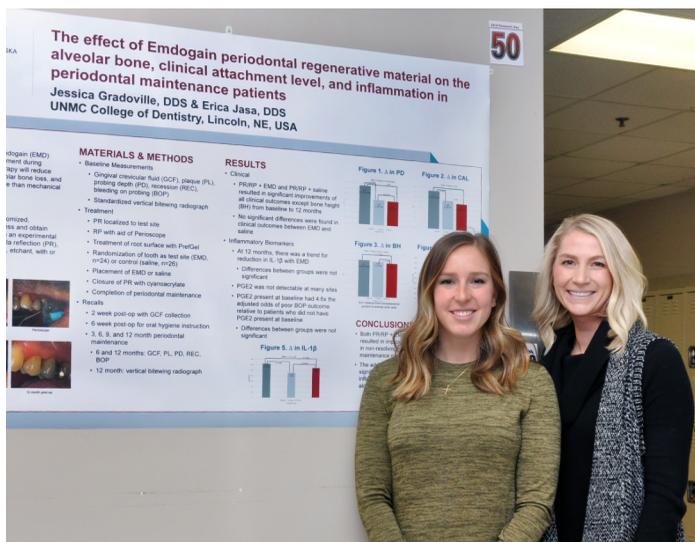
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- Dr. Thomas Vandenberghe
- Dr. Tate Vanicek
- Dr. Merlyn and Mrs. Bette Vogt
- Dr. Chris and Mrs. Tara Wieseman
- Dr. Robert and Mrs. Carol Zartner

Congratulations!



Drs. Jessica Gradoville and Erica Jasa (third-year perio residents) graduated June 30, 2019. Both Erica and Jessica were outstanding residents and have shown a keen interest and aptitude for teaching. They are both practicing in the Council Bluffs/Omaha area and are teaching part time in perio. We are glad they joined our team and enjoy seeing their smiling faces here at the college.

At the 33rd Annual Professionals Day and the 52nd Annual Student Scientific Program, our residents – Drs. Gradoville and Jasa – placed first in the graduate student poster competition. Their presentation, “The Effect of Emdogain Periodontal Regenerative Material on the Alveolar Bone, Clinical Attachment Level, and Inflammation in Periodontal Maintenance Patients,” was mentored by **Drs. Amy Killeen, Sung Kim, Jeffrey Payne, Richard Reinhardt and James Wahl**. Good job, Jessica and Erica! 



Oral Surgery Fellow



Pittsburg, Kan., native **Brandon Mendez** attended Pittsburg State University, receiving a B.S. degree in biological sciences in 2010. Brandon attended the UNMC College of Dentistry and received his D.D.S. in 2014. He completed a one-year AEGD at Fort Campbell, Ky., in 2015 and served on active duty in the Army stationed at Fort Riley, Kan., from 2015 to 2019.

Following completion of his oral surgery internship, Brandon plans to either pursue a residency program in O.M.F.S. or to enter general practice and utilize his new skillset. He and his wonderful wife Scarlet have been married for 11 years and have four amazing children: Kurt, Logan, Claire and Sara. 

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 endodontic and periodontic programs, please contact:

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Faculty and resident publications/abstracts

Recent Publications

Cui, X., Monacelli, E., **Killeen, A.C.**, Samson, K., **Reinhardt, R.A.** Impact of modifiable risk factors on bone loss during periodontal maintenance. *Oper Dent* 44:254-261, 2019.

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Recent Abstracts

Jeffres, N., DeLaet, J., Sampson, K., **Killeen, A.C., Reinhardt, R.A.** "Potential radiographic indicators of progressive periodontal disease." Poster presentation. UNMC College of Dentistry, 2018.

Ciu, X., Monacelli, E.A., **Killeen, A.C., Reinhardt, R.A.** Patient risk factors for alveolar bone loss during periodontal maintenance. Poster Presentation. UNMC College of Dentistry, 2017, and American Association of Dental Research Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 2018.

Maloley, P.M., England, B.R., Sayles, H., Thiele, G.M., Duryee, M.J., **Payne, J.**, Mikuls, T.R. Performance of the meso scale

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Recent Presentations

Bavitz, JB: "Prescription drug monitoring program and contemporary pain management." UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 2019.

"Update on Procedural Sedation," Nebraska Sedation Permit Recertification Course, UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 2019.

"Enough bone for implants?" Preserving and reconstructing alveolar bone. Kearney, Neb., Aug. 2018.

"Oral health and the heart, an update on endocarditis." UNMC Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Omaha, Neb., July 2018.

"Clinical approaches to maintain the alveolar ridge." Metlife Dental Advisory Council, Miami, Fla., April 2018.

"Updates on nitrous oxide for the dental team," Faculty/Staff Update UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 2018.

Kaldahl WB, Killeen AC, Payne JB, Reinhardt RA: "Treatment planning advanced periodontitis: implants or traditional periodontal surgery." 2019 UNMC College of Dentistry Periodontal Alumni Reunion, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 2019.

Killeen, AC: "Advances in inflammation control for periodontal maintenance patients," UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Reunion, C.E. speaker, Embassy Suites, Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 2018.

"Oral health and the heart, an update on endocarditis." UNMC Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, Omaha, Neb., July 2018.

Reinhardt, RA: "Advances in inflammation control for periodontal maintenance patients," UNMC College of Dentistry, Alumni Reunion, C.E. speaker, Embassy Suites, Lincoln, Neb., September 2018.

"Gene Pathways in Rat Experimental Periodontitis and Simvastatin Treatment." International Association for Dental Research, 96th General Session, London, England, July 2018.

Honors and Awards

Kaldahl, WB: Distinguished Service Award, 2018 Alumni Reunion, UNMC College of dentistry Alumni Association, 2018.

Killeen, AC: E-Learning Innovator in Education, Certificate of Excellence, 2018. 



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