This is our fourth annual state-of-the-department Newsletter, and I am pleased to announce that despite turbulent economic times throughout the world, the Department of Surgical Specialties is doing quite well. As you can see from our publication and presentation page, we have had a busy year. In addition to these important scholarly activities, we continue to produce outstanding clinicians of which I am proud to say were trained in Nebraska.

As predicted, Dr. Matt Byarlay has done an outstanding job in his first year as program director. Obviously, we’re not the only ones who are quite fond of Dr. Byarlay, as he was the recipient of the prestigious 2008 AAP Teaching Fellowship Award. Under his guidance, we are performing new procedures including the use of a piezo surgery device for both harvesting bone grafts and performing direct sinus lifts, and we also now utilize bone morphogenic protein to reconstruct lost portions of alveolar bone.

On the endodontic front, we are fortunate to still have Dr. Tom Gound acting as interim program director. We anticipate on having an internationally known director hired by October 2009. As I stated before, one of the most challenging issues we have in academics is the recruitment and retention of quality faculty members. We have fared much better than other programs relative to this critical issue.

Like most institutions in the world today, one of our other challenges involves finances. Nebraska is better off than most, greatly aided by continued strong alumni support. The dollars that you provide have allowed us, among many other things, to send our residents to invaluable continuing education programs outside of the state. The periodontal residents recently attended the Academy of Osseointegration meeting in San Diego, and the endodontic residents are headed to the AAE meeting in Orlando this April. After interfacing with our residents, I believe people are impressed by the levels of sophistication that we have here in the plains.

Relative to the oral surgery, our track record of having our intern match into a residency remains strong. This year Dr. Mark Auble has been accepted into my old alma mater, Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The entire department has seen an increasing role in our mission to provide services to needy patients in the state of Nebraska. Three or four times a year, the college is hosting a free dental care night, where qualified individuals receive thousands of dollars of dental services at no cost. The majority of this work involves extractions and emergency endodontics, which goes a long way to improving the quality, and even on occasion, the quantity of life. In addition, we provide significant person power to the once-a-year Give Kids a Smile program, where underserved children are transported to the College of Dentistry for a day of free care.

Overall, the teaching, research and service missions of the department remain strong and I feel proud to be involved with such a quality team. I always enjoy hearing from alums, either over the phone, mail or by email, and again we look forward to seeing many of you for the June 5, 2009, continuing education/celebration event.

J. Bruce Bavitz, DMD
jbavitz@unmc.edu, (402) 472-1314

What’s Inside?
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A
dmittedly, winter is not yet over as we compile this addition of the Surgical Specialties Newsletter. However, the winter must be considered mild by the usual standards of cold and snow. In fact, sub zero days have yet to occur this year and only a couple of snowfalls have blanketed the area. One did, however, close the University for one day but that was more precautionary than mandatory. The best part was it was on a Friday which gave everyone a nice long weekend. The perio residents advised us that they used that time to study nonstop for three days. Right! It appears that global warming has arrived in Nebraska.

As the entire world is aware, the state of the economy is in the toilet. Most of you are acutely aware of that fact what with the destruction it has rained down on your retirement plans/investment portfolios. One of the many good things about living in Nebraska is that the recession generally is less severe here (less home repossessions, solvent banks and less unemployment). However, the impact of the economy has not missed us as evidenced by the state legislature pounding the drums that cutbacks in higher education will be forthcoming. Just how that will affect the College of Dentistry is too premature to predict. Certainly the Medical Center will have some hard decisions to make in the coming months as to where reductions can be done with the least impact on the educational mission. Dean Reinhardt reminds us Nebraska ranks 30th out of 37 public dental schools in the amount of state support that we receive. He and the chancellor have a continuing challenge to provide us the resources we need to accomplish our mission. In spite of that, we continue to rank at the very top of all dental schools (Harvard be damned) in the achievement scores on National Boards. So, we’re doing something right in spite of the lack of state funding. This means your private giving is very valuable to the department/college/university (more on the periodontal development fund section). Dean Reinhardt may face the distinct possibility of having to raise tuition for the college which the regents believe to be a tremendous relative educational bargain.

**Husker Update**

We presume that the Huskerphiles in our alumni family pay pretty close attention to the University of Nebraska sports world. The consensus in Lincoln is that Coach Pelini’s first year as head coach went about as well as anyone could have hoped, especially with the level of talent that he inherited. Remember, Bo got a very late start on recruiting last year and many of the early commits to the Callahan coaching staff withdrew their commitments and went else-

...Nebraska ranks 30th out of 37 public dental schools in the amount of state support...”
faculty and resident publications/abstracts


Submitted Book Chapters


Glickman G, Vogt M. Pathways of the Pulp, Chapter 5, Elsevier.

Submitted Articles


Byarlay MR. 4% Articaine Use at United States and Canadian Dental Schools. The Journal of Implant & Advanced Clinical Dentistry.

Gound TG. The ability of graduating dental students to produce quality root canal fillings using single-or multiple-cone obturation techniques. Journal of Dental Education.


National/International Presentations

Go to Page 9
Periodontal Alumni News & Activity

It is with great difficulty that we begin our alumni news reporting a loss in our periodontal alumni family. Sadly, we advise you that John Nasi (’72) passed away November 5, 2007. We feel badly that we were unaware of his passing until wife, Heather, advised us sometime after our last newsletter. John succumbed to pancreatic cancer at the young age of 67. Some may remember that after John received his DDS in 1964, also from Nebraska, he began his public health service career that spanned some 24 years most of which was spent in the Indian health services. His last 35 years he, Heather and the family of three children have lived in New Mexico. Following his public health service retirement in 1988 he initiated a part-time private practice in periodontics in Gallup.

Perhaps most noteworthy of John’s life, besides being a devoted husband and father was his commitment to the youth of Gallup, volunteering in scouting, church organizations and coaching both men and women tennis at Gallup High School.

We all have our special memories of John. The chief remembers, with great humor, the little three-wheeled Isetta car that had but one door and was much too small for such a large man. John would fold himself up in pretzel-like configuration and wedge himself into the drivers seat and comically drive down the street. This was a very economical vehicle, but then gas was only 50 cents per gallon. We will miss his positive demeanor and the ever present smile but we can celebrate the fact that we knew John as a friend and colleague.

Steve Gallagher (’78) was living the life of retirement when he had what some have diagnosed as a brain fart. The result is that Steve is going back to work in Omaha on a part-time basis. He is reactivating his license and his IV credentials and it’s back in the saddle for him. Life is really fun when you’re having fun, right Steve.

Barry Feldner (’92) continues to stay in close contact with our program. He is a volunteer faculty who is always willing to give back to the program. Living in Kearney, Nebraska, makes his participation a bit easier then for most of you. By the way, he and wife Susan sent a beautiful Christmas photo of the family, all eight of the Feldners in their Sunday-go-to-meeting garb. Handsome family, Barry!

Van Sanderfer (’02) is doing more than his share to give back to the department. Van has an interesting professional schedule. He and Tami with the family live in Lincoln. However, his practice is in Grand Island, Nebraska some 90 miles west. Additionally, he satellites to western Nebraska going as far as North Platte, another 225 miles west and does this on a regular basis. So when he comes to our clinic every Monday afternoon, he actually gets to stay home. That is unique to say the least. Van, thanks for all you do for us both in your time commitment and your generosity.

Art Harris (’83) sends his holiday greetings to all. He continues to threaten to come to Lincoln for a visit but a busy life seems to thwart his good intentions. His biggest adjustment this year is to NOT have to go to basketball games multiple times a week. However, son Andrew is an assistant basketball coach at Middleberry College this year so he is able to get his basketball fix to some degree. The fact that niece Laura Harris (’08) has just become a new mommy, Art and Barb will definitely have a greater gravitational pull to return to Lincoln.

- Gerry Tussing, gtussing@unmc.edu, 402-472-1286

THE NEWSLETTER

THE NEWSLETTER is dedicated to communication among the friends and graduates of the Surgical Specialties Program of the University of the Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry. Please contact us; we love to receive news about you, your family, and professional endeavors. Send snail mail to the College of Dentistry, 40th & Holdrege Streets, Lincoln, NE, 68583-0740 or call us at (402) 472-6205. Contact Bavitz in cyberspace at jбавitz@unmc.edu. We welcome your submissions of feature articles, photographs, comments, and critiques. Unsolicited articles and letters gives the staff a tingly, anesthetic like sensation. We’ll consider just about anything for publication, however, we reserve the right to edit all submitted material. (Hey, the graphic artist is an English major. What did you expect?)

Graphic Design & Add'l Editing: Kim R. Theessen, B.A. Photography: Peggy Cain • News Assistant: Deb Dalton
It is not always that you can say “spectacular weather” and Seattle, Washington, in the same sentence. But in the case of the 2008 AAP annual meeting it was truly spectacular. And, as usual, the alumni reception was a quality event that was well attended. The sponsoring class of 1997, Monica Babbitt and Alex Bankhead, provided a great venue with a tasty spread of hors d’oeuvres. The best part of the event is reconnecting with friends and classmates.

What is so gratifying to the faculty here at the college is the knowledge that virtually all of you love your profession and are achieving your goals. The fact that so many of you express, in one way or another, your gratitude for the quality education that prepared you for life after school. We, as faculty, in turn, are extremely proud of all of your accomplishments and that gives us renewed energy to do even more with today’s residents. Next year the AAP national convention will be in Boston and the sponsoring class is from 1999: Drs. Chris Couri and Tony Kardelis. Put September 14, 2009, on your calendar as we expect all of you to be there at the reception to celebrate with us.

We, again, wish to thank all of you loyal alums who so generously contributed to the Periodontal Development Fund in 2008. We want to recognize all of you in this newsletter and are as usual listing your names as they are reported to us by the Nebraska Foundation records. Once in a while we mess up and discrepancies have occurred in the past and individuals have not been credited appropriately. Should this occur to you, please let us know and we will rectify the error along with our apologies.

Remember, we use these donations exclusively for graduate student activities. Research, travel, equipment, etc. are the primary expenditures supported by these funds. Wherever we can enhance the educational experience of our residents, is where we allocate these funds. The commitment of these resources is done only after we have exhausted all state support avenues. Your contributions make a difference!!

Have you given some serious thought to “planned giving”? The best part of planned giving is that it is painless. No expenditures of current assets and in this economic climate, that’s a good thing. Giving back to the program that has assisted in providing you with so much is a very worthy commitment. There are many forms of charitable giving and one can be tailored to your personal wishes. Remember, Susan Norby is a great resource to assist in any planning. She is ready and willing to come visit you and provide the expertise as to how to proceed.
Resident/Alumni Day Photos

Resident Presenter: James Sather (endo)

Resident Presenter: Khristi Poidmore (perio)

Marty Killeen and Amy Killeen

Jillian Rutledge and John Rutledge

Darrell Ebke and Susan Ebke

Travis Antholz and William Campbell
Fourth Annual Resident/Alumni Day: June 5, ’09

Join us in June for the Resident/Alumni Day. Three hours of approved dental continuing education will be presented at the college in the morning, a “Battle of the Specialties” golf tournament will be held in the afternoon, and a departmental celebration will be enjoyed at night!

**When & Where:** Friday, June 5, Lincoln, Nebraska; 8-11:30 am: College of Dentistry; 12:30-5 pm: Holmes Golf Course, 70th & Pioneers Blvd; 6-10 pm: Wick Alumni Center, 1520 R St.

**Specifics:** The continuing education will involve the residents presenting some of their research and unique clinical cases. There is no cost for this, but pre-registration is requested.

The exact format of the golf will be determined by the number of players registering. If you wish to (or wish not) to play with anyone in particular, please specify that on the registration form. The cost for this event is approximately $40 per person (cart included), with payment due at the course.

The semi-formal dinner at the Wick Center will honor our graduating residents. We need a head count for this, so an RSVP is requested. The cost per person is $35.

**How:** Please use the registration form on page 12 and mail by May 29. See you then! ☑️
I hope all of you are well and surviving the economic downturn. We are surviving fairly well at UNMC. I’ve been trying to retire for two years; now I’m glad I didn’t. We are still hoping to have Dr. Fahd Al Salleeh replace me as director, but it will probably take another year before that can occur. So, you will have to put up with me for a while longer.

We have two exciting CE opportunities coming up this year. On Friday, June 5, we will have our Summer Alumni Day, with Ammon Anderson and Jay McConnell presenting their research. On October 17, we will have Dr. George Bruder from Stony Brook, New York, as our guest speaker. Several faculty and students attended his presentations and he was highly recommended. The football game will be against Texas Tech, so that could be pretty exciting also. As always, we sometimes are able to get tickets, so if you are interested let me know ASAP.

Regarding our graduates, Ammon Anderson is planning to go to Sioux City and join Frank Sargent, and Jay McConnell plans to stay in Lincoln and buy Bryce Bonness’s practice. Our new residents will be Drs. LeAnne Cote from Maine and Tarik Al Smadi from Texas. We expect great things from both of them.

If you are planning to attend the Summer Alumni Day, please notify me at tgound@unmc.edu, call (402) 472-1320, or notify Bruce Bavitz. You can also notify me now about the Fall Alumni Day, but I will send a reminder letter this summer. I hope to see all of you soon!

Fahd Al Salleeh and Merlyn Vogt share a smile celebrating Fahd’s shiny new PhD degree in December of 2008.


2008 Donors

Salwan Adjaj
Thomas & Lena Beeson
Bryce Bonness
William Campbell
Adam Colombo
William Corcoran
Darrell Daugherty
Kenneth Donlan
Alan & Patti Dowling
Wayne Hansen
Arthur & Barb Harris
Jose Ibarrola
Garth James
Corey Karimjee
Ravi Koka
Marshall Lavin
Dennis Leseberg
Cliff Leffingwell
David Maixner
Robert Panther
Edward Rosenfeld
Jeri Rush
Frank Sargent
John Slavens
J. Mike Strand
Merlyn Vogt
Ryan Walker
Robert Zartner
Marvin Zerr
Pulp Facts: Meet the Residents

**Ammon Anderson** (second year) was born in Logan, Utah. He received his DDS from UNMC in 2005. Ammon is married to ShaRee and they have three children: 6-year-old Macady, three-year-old Ben and seven-month-old Bryce. Future plans include pursuing board certification and working in private practice in Sioux City, IA.

**Jay McConnell** (second year) was born and raised in Grand Island, Nebr. He received his BS from UNL and DDS from UNMC. He did a one-year OMS internship at UNMC COD and spent three years in private practice in St. Louis, MO. He was an assistant professor in Adult Restorative Dentistry for one year. Jay is married to Justina and they have two children: six-year-old Max and two-year-old Lyla.

**Matt Friedt** (first year) is from Bismarck, ND. He attended North Dakota State University for his undergraduate education and graduated in 2006 from the UNMC COD. After graduation, he worked for the Indian Health Service for two years in Ford Deiance, AZ. Matt is married to Sara and they have a one-year-old daughter, Katelyn. After completing his endodontic residency, Matt will pursue private practice and board certification.

**Christopher Pobanz** (first year) was born and raised in Ogden, Utah. He received his DDS degree from UNMC, and completed a one-year GPR at UNMC. Chris is married to Leah and has a 17-month-old daughter Kate. Upon completion of the residency program, Chris plans to move back west and establish a private practice.

**Adam Retallick** (first year) was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and raised in Emporia, Kansas. He received his DDS degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2008. Adam is married to Kimberly and has one child, Charlotte, who will turn one year old on May 2, 2009.

National/international presentations

**Bavitz, J. Bruce...**

February 2008 “Local Anesthesia and Sedation in the Year 2008,” Yankee Dental Congress, Boston, Massachusetts.


April 2008 “An Update on Oral Sedation and Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office,” Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.


May 2008 “Preventing Alveolar Bone Loss Following Extractions,” Omaha District Dental Society, Omaha, Nebraska.


**Byarlay, Matthew R...**

January 2008 “Implants” Adams County Dental Society, Hastings, Nebraska

**Gound, Tom G...**

March 2008 “Horizontal Root Fractures” Postgraduate Student Lecture, Case Western University, Cleveland Ohio.

June 2008 “Horizontal Root Fractures” Postgraduate Student Lecture, Iowa City, Iowa.

**Lee, Yeonju...**

September 2008 “Local Biomarkers Association with New Bone Formation Induced by Simvastatin Injections” Poster presentation at AAP meeting in Seattle, Washington.

**Morris, Melissa S...**

November 2008 “Dental Implants,” Iowa Western Community College, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Payne, Jeffrey B...**

June 2008 “Serum Bone-Resorption Biomarkers: Correlation with Alveolar and Systemic Bone Changes,” International Association for Dental Research Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada.

**Vogt, Merlyn...**

July 2008 “Bisphosphonate Lecture,” Lincoln Family Practice Residents, Lincoln, Nebraska.


November 2008 “Vital Pulp Therapy: CE Course, University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Nebraska. [N]"
As many of you know from the last newsletter, Dr. Kaldahl’s era of goodwill and prosperity as the graduate director has ended and Dr. Byarlay’s reign of terror has begun (at least that how I think the residents see it). These are obviously HUGE shoes to fill and I will do my best to carry on the outstanding work and great tradition of this program. It probably seems like nothing has changed anyway since I’m in his office many times a day trying to figure out what all needs to be done.

Visiting Professors

As we have done in the past, I would again like to single out a group of local periodontists that voluntarily (except for that delicious half-warm daVinci’s turkey sandwich, mmmm) teach both seminars and clinic. They are a tremendous asset to the program and we can’t thank them enough. These individuals are Drs. Cathy Alley, Dennis Anderson, Barry Feldner, Dave Hoffman, Daryl Malena, John Mattson, Scott Morrison, Stacy Moffenbier, Larry Parrish, Van Sanderfer, Takanari Miyamoto and James Walker. The residents certainly appreciate these individuals.

Construction

The surgical specialties area is in line for its big re-model to hopefully begin this fall. Everyone will be displaced for a few months while this happens, but it will all be worth the wait I’m sure. This will also force Dr. Kaldahl to a) re-organized and re-arrange his office or b) set a bomb off in there and start over. We’re not sure which he will choose just yet.

Guest Lectures

The following are some of the special guest lectures we have had this past year.

August 5, 2008: Dr. Blaine Cook presented “Update on Dental Caries”. An excellent review on things we thought we knew and didn’t know.

October 17, 2008: Dr. Ray Yukna presented on “Periodontal Regeneration and Laser Therapy”. This was a great lecture which sparked a great deal of discussion and debate for faculty and residents alike.

October 31, 2008: The residents and many of the faculty attended a presentation at Creighton Dental School by Dr. Phillipe Hujoel entitled “Evidence Based Dentistry.” A great presentation which challenged us to really examine how we look at studies and the information we use from them.

Sad and Happy Time of the Year

It is time yet again for two of our residents to leave the nest and blaze their own trails. Khristi Poidmore will surprisingly not be returning to her home state of California. She will be following her true love and a practice opportunity to Tucson, Arizona. She will be moving, starting her practice, and getting married to James Sather (former endo grad) all in the next couple of months. We certainly wish her all our best and some sanity.

John Rutledge will also be graduating but not until June (that darn master’s degree). He plans to stay right here in Lincoln and continue his quest to find out how many kids you can fit in one bedroom. Hopefully we can convince him to stop around sometimes if for no other reason than that he’s just such a nice guy. Congratulations and good luck to both of them.

We are also looking forward to the two new residents who will be starting July 1. The new members of our Nebraska periodontal family are Ursula Florom and Hoang-Oanh Le.

Ursula Florom is a graduate of Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, but is originally from Nebraska. She has had a career as a phlebotomist and dental hygienist before going to dental school. Those skills will undoubtedly help as she begins her new career as a periodontist.

Hoang-Oanh Le is a graduate from right here at Nebraska. She also graduated from UNL where she worked part-time as a research assistant. We couldn’t be happier to have her continuing on with us now in the perio department.

Please Congratulate our Most Recent Board Certified Alumni!  
Mark Lavin (’06) and Melissa Morris (’07)  
Diplomates, American Board of Periodontology

Mark Lavin Melissa Morris
### Yeonju Lee

Yeonju Lee (fourth year) is from South Korea. She graduated from Seoul National University Dental College in 1994 and obtained her MS in Dental Material in 1997. She trained in the prosthodontic residency program at Ihwa Women’s University Hospital and was certified in 1997. She has a daughter Jeewoo and a son Alex. She is married to Dr. Eunghwan Kim, who is a prosthodontist faculty member. Yeonju wishes to continue her career in academics following board certification and receiving a PhD in oral biology.

### Amy Killeen

Amy Killeen (second year) is originally from Springfield, Missouri, and attended college at St. Louis University. She graduated from UNMC College of Dentistry in 2006. Her husband, Marty, is a 2004 graduate of the COD and is a pedodontist in south Lincoln. Amy has two children (ages 2 and newborn) and she enjoys traveling abroad and cooking Thai food for her family.

### Shaun Whitney

Shaun Whitney (second year) was born and raised in Spokane, Wash. He attended Gonzaga University in Spokane on a tennis scholarship and graduated in 2003 with a biology degree. He received his dental degree from Creighton School of Dentistry in Omaha. Future plans include entering private practice back in the Northwest and working part-time at a dental school. Hobbies include tennis, golf, fly-fishing, fly-tying, and watching Gonzaga basketball.

### Naomi Nguyen

Naomi Nguyen (first year) was born in Vietnam and came to California in 1989. She received her BS in Biochemistry at California State University at Long Beach and DDS at the University of California at Los Angeles. She loves her family and nature. She plans to enter private practice after graduation.

### Pota Rakes

Pota Rakes (first year) was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. Her father George Rakes is a pediatric dentist who practices in Omaha. Pota attended Creighton University for her undergraduate studies. She graduated in 2008 from the UNMC College of Dentistry. After graduation, Pota plans on entering into private practice in Omaha and is also interested in teaching part-time.

### John Rutledge

John Rutledge (third year) is from Lincoln, Nebraska. He received his BS and MST from UNL and DDS from UNMC. John is married to Jillian and they have four energetic children: Maria (5), Lucia (4), Isaac (2), and Gisella (six months). John is studying the local effects of simvastatin on bone growth for his thesis. He enjoys spending “relaxing” time with family, racquetball, studying theology, and pheasant hunting. After graduation he plans on practicing in Lincoln and teaching part time.

### Khristi Poidmore

Khristi Poidmore (third year) is from the sunny state of California. She attended college at the University of San Diego where she received her BA degree in biology. Continuing on to Creighton Dental School in Omaha, Nebraska, she became interested in the fabulous world of gums and pursued her post-graduate passion for periodontology. Khristi will go into private practice in “HOT” Tucson, Arizona, where she will be practicing periodontics with her future endodontist hubby!! She is planning to tie the knot after finishing her periodontal residency. She is looking forward to practicing with her husband, and finally being with her favorite babies, Timmy and Henry (their dogs!).

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Surgical Specialties Celebration: Resident/Alumni Day • June 5, 2009

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ____________ Zip ______________

Phone (____ ) __________________________ e-mail _________________________

1. CE Presentation
   □ Yes, I will attend. Name(s) attending ________________________________________________________________
   □ No, I will not be able to attend.

2. Golf Gig (Pay approx. $40 at course and specify partners, if any.)
   □ Yes, I will play. Name(s) attending ________________________________________________________________
   □ No, I will not be able to play.

3. Dinner (Make check out to UNMC, $35 per person, and mail along with this form.)
   □ Yes, I plan to dine. Name(s) attending ______________________________________________________________
   □ No, I will not be able to dine.

Send completed form to: Department of Surgical Specialties, c/o Ms. Deb Dalton, UNMC College of Dentistry, 40th & Holdrege Streets, Lincoln NE 68583-0757, (402) 472-6205.