From the department chair

This edition of the Department of Surgical Specialties Newsletter focuses on our part-time and volunteer faculty, without whom we certainly couldn’t function. On page 5 is a list of people that have helped us over the past 10 years or so, by either volunteering their time or agreeing to work for paltry wages. It is likely that despite our best efforts, we left some names off the list and for that I apologize. I was most impressed with the numerous leadership roles our faculty have achieved. We have a former dean of two dental schools, four Nebraska Dental Association presidents, two American College of Dentists presidents, numerous presidents of their respective local dental society, and several current or past members of the Nebraska Dental Board of Examiners. Three faculty members were recipients of the NDA outstanding young professionals award, and four are NDA Hall of Fame inductees. Obviously, I am quite proud to be associated with such leaders in our profession, and I know our students and residents flourish under their guidance.

Major departmental news from the past year would be the triumphant return to “our” area of the college. We are now back in the renovated clinics and faculty offices, both welcome upgrades. Dr. Fahd Alsalleeh has seamlessly taken over the graduate endodontic program and, as I am writing this letter, we are interviewing for an additional full-time endodontic faculty.

Other additions to the department include the acquisition of a state-of-the-art SimMan “Essential” patient simulator. This was paid for mostly by alumni donations to the college. It will be incorporated into the medical emergencies course for our dental students and residents, and we will also utilize it to learn how to prevent and realistically manage anesthetic related complications. Within the next year or two, look for continuing education courses for practicing dentists on both medical and anesthetic emergencies using this exciting new technology. Rumor has it that SimMan is already a better golfer than Dr. Byarlay.

J. Bruce Bavitz, Chair, Department of Surgical Specialties, jbavitz@unmc.edu, (402) 472-1314

Surgical Specialties Celebration: Resident/Alumni Day

Friday, June 17, 2011
Continuing Education, Golf & Dinner
Reserve your spot by May 15.

For registration and information, contact Ms. Deb Dalton at (402) 472-6205 or ddalton@unmc.edu
We start the 2011 alumni report with some very positive news.

**Khristi Poidmore (Sather) (’09)** reports she and husband James have a new baby girl, Viviana, born in January, 2011. Mom and baby are doing well and Khristi can now begin to get back to what she was so well-educated to do – periodontics. Congratulations!

**Matt Byarlay (’04)** and wife Jina also have a new baby daughter, Elspeth, born in February, 2011. This makes number three for the Byarlays. We take full responsibility for Matt’s professional training that has led him to the graduate director position in our department.

**Laura Harris-Vieyra (’08)** and husband Stephen have a new daughter Elizabeth Leilani, born July 30, 2010. Laura is teaching part-time at Creighton and they have moved to a new home in Lincoln.

However, the prolific fertility has nothing to do with dentistry, probably just the “water” in Lincoln. Some of our graduates have suffered from the same water fate. Congratulations, folks!

**Lou Klemme (’72)** has falsely been reported as deceased and gone for these many years. We now have proof that he lives. More importantly, he is returning to his professional roots this fall and we are even going to get him into the football stadium for a game. It is true we’ve not kept in close touch with Lou but if we can believe the chief, Lou hasn’t changed a bit. Still cracking wise and telling jokes. Welcome back, Lou!

**Sam Passo (’87)** has been a career army officer, stationed most recently at Fort Knox, since his completion of his periodontal training program. We are proud to announce that Sam is finally getting the recognition he deserves. Promotion to full bird colonel with the “Eagles” and all the gold. Additionally, he has been selected to be the army’s dental historian, no small honor and lots of work. He takes over at a notable time in history as the Army Dental Corps celebrates its 100th birthday. Congratulations, Sam!

**Alan Dowling (’91) and wife Patti (Endo ’91)** write that life is good in Orlando. They recently sent a great photo of the family on a ski vacation at Telluride. The kids are growing up with daughter, Micah, in college and son, Scott, finishing his last year of high school. They are threatening to return to Nebraska one of these days and get caught up with everyone and see the multitude of changes in surgical specialties.

**Art Harris (’83)** sends warmest greetings to all and states emphatically that “life is good” He and Barb are enjoying being grandparents. It makes their entire family Christmas celebrations together a truly blessed time. He and Barb are planning a visit to brother, Randy (’88) and Linda this winter in Reno.

**Raynor Harmeson (’86)** sent his usual terrific annual photo of the entire staff of his office. We look forward to that every year. (See it on page 11.) Raynor reminds us that when he was completing his residency at Nebraska his kids were aged 5 and 2. Now he and Pam have two granddaughters ages 5 and 2. My how time flies! Raynor is beginning to look for an associate with the intent of retiring in the next few years. You guys have earned it. Good luck!

**David Okano (’85)** continues to be active in volunteer dental organizations. There are too many to list. Among the many positions he remains Wyoming’s ADA House of Delegates Representative. He is very busy also in the AAP. His most recent appointment is on the Leadership Development Qualification Committee. David, you continue to represent Nebraska with great distinction.
Faculty and resident publications/abstracts

Publications


Presentations

Bavitz, J. Bruce


Payne, Jeffrey B.

March 6, 2010: “Association Between Serum-Bone Formation/Bone-Turnover Biomarkers and Alveolar and Systemic Bone Loss,” American Association for Dental Research Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Reinhardt, Richard A.

March 4, 2010: “Aldose Reductase Inhibitors Reduce Experimental Periodontitis,” American Association for Dental Research, 89th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Honors & Awards


Meinberg, Trudy M., “Crest-Oral B Pros in the Profession” award winner on January 11, 2011! (Note: See article on page 9.)

Professionals’ Day 2011 Student Scientific Program

Rakes, Pota (third year, perio), first place graduate dentistry. Pharmaco-Manipulation for Statin-Induced Bone Growth: Impact of Local & Systemic Alendronate. Faculty mentor: Richard Reinhardt.

Alsmadi, Tariq (second year, endo), second place graduate dentistry. Human Dental Pulp Cell (HDPC) Differentiation into Odontoblast is Induced in Response to Bone Morphogenic Protein 2 (BMP2) Signaling. Faculty mentor: Ali Nawshad.

Miles Berg & Aaron Bradley (Dr. Richard Bradley’s grandson) Impact of Alendronate/Cyclodextrin Drug Carrier on Local Prostaglandin Production. Faculty mentor: Richard Reinhardt.
Just in case you have been confined to life in a vacuum these past few months, we are here to advise you that the University of Nebraska is exiting the Big 12 conference and will be joining the Big 10 conference in June 2011. Interesting isn’t it, that the Big 12 now has ten members and the Big 10 now has 12 members. I don’t think the Big 10 Conference is at all interested in trading names at the moment.

Of course, the first thing that comes to mind with the entry into the new conference is athletics, and rightly so. Athletic alliances were the initiating factor in making the conference change. However, vastly overlooked by the casual observer is the impact the entry into the Big 10 will have on academics at the University of Nebraska. WHAT!!! Believe it or not, for the first time in recorded history, the usually negative professors, when it comes to sports, are openly jubilant about the change and eager to participate collegially with the new conference. And why, you say? Perceived or real, in fact, the association with the Big 10 will elevate our national academic standing considerably. So, NU educators will be more in demand, command higher salaries, and be pursued more aggressively by other institutions of higher education. In addition to the educational program comes the impact on research. As many of you know, the old state fairgrounds is now under university ownership and is being developed as the “Innovation Campus” which includes public and private development of research initiatives. The Big 10 Committee on Institutional Cooperation has spent countless hours in Lincoln attempting to understand what our aspirations are and what resources are needed to move forward. They are prepared to assist in substantial resource investments into this research venture. It is hard to conceive that sister institutions “want” to share the wealth and help ensure the future success of Nebraska. What is this world coming to?

Husker News

The exit from the Big 12 has not been terribly smooth. Rather, the powers that be have made it a very contentious time for our athletic programs. The commissioner has been the ringleader in taking “shots” when presented with an opportunity. A glaring example of that attitude was witnessed when Nebraska won the North Division championship in football, but was not presented the usual trophy because the commissioner feared for his safety if he were to come to Nebraska. Really strange! As you know, Colorado also bolted from the Big 12, but it seems as though Nebraska is the primary culprit and deserved the abusive treatment. But, now we move on.

Football’s second season (spring practice) is underway with some significant coaching changes designed to strengthen particularly the offensive side of the ball. The goal is to simplify the system so that players understand it in the big picture. They hopefully will execute the offense, not just run plays and have to stop and think what they need to do next. The previous offense was very complex and the players seemed to lose their aggressiveness while trying not to make a mistake. Projections are that we’ll be very competitive in the new conference. The defense will have to change some also in that the Big 10 is still somewhat of a “downhill” running conference. Our new designated rival appears to be Iowa and that game will be played annually on a home and home basis the Friday after thanksgiving. Basketball did not have a great year. The women’s team—that went undefeated until the NCAA semifinals in 2010–just collapsed with key players being lost for the season due to injuries. The men’s program gave a brief hope of a “bubble” team in the NCAA but lost three key games down the stretch and ended in the NIT tournament. Basketball programs in the northern latitudes tend to have quality basketball programs and the Big 10 is no exception. Therefore, Nebraska will need to elevate ours to be competitive. Coach Doc Sadler has just received a two-year renewal of his contract which should help in recruiting. The new downtown arena and the new purpose-built basketball practice facility should have a positive impact on recruitment efforts.

All of our athletic teams will compete well in the new conference. Volleyball is huge and very strong in the Big 10 but Nebraska is as big and strong as any in the country. The Devaney Center, long the home of the basketball program, is being totally renovated to a 7,000 seat volleyball-specific facility. That should be awesome! NU’s track teams can compete with anybody in the country as can our baseball and softball programs. For the very first time in Nebraska sports history, we will be the southernmost team (instead of the northernmost team) and perhaps even get a jump on the new conference as our snow will melt before theirs. How about that? All in all, the conference move is coming at a perfect time with the myriad of changes in facilities we are undertaking. Did you know the football east stadium is adding another level for 36 new sky boxes and seating for an additional 7,000? Wow! We are going to be in the 90,000s when we are all done. That should make us very competitive with Wisconsin’s, Michigan’s, and Ohio State’s in seating capacity. Nebraskans notoriously have traveled well and to have some new venues to visit, albeit further away, is intriguing to most fans.

Renovation

The dental college is nearing completion of a long and complex renovation. But after 40 years without any changes, we needed to take our time and do things right. It is truly amazing how we have changed our teaching strategies and now our facilities will mirror what we are attempting to accomplish. This past fall, the surgical specialties clinical areas were completed and it is a sight to behold. New cubicles in all three of our specialty disciplines have not only improved the aesthetics of our area but also the functionality. Much larger cubicles allow better access for our patients and improved teaching opportunities for faculty and students. We strongly encourage each and every one of you to come and visit us and see the incredible transformation the College of Dentistry has undergone.

A quick update on the chief’s son, Travis. We reported in our last newsletter of his near fatal car accident. The chief wants you to know that with all of your prayers and good wishes, Travis is back in health and enrolled in college at LSU. Many thanks to all who contributed to his healing process. 🏈
The periodontal development fund

Giving back to the program

This year we are again grateful to all of you who generously donated to the periodontal development fund. It is encouraging that even in slow economic times you haven’t forgotten your roots. The end of the year reminder that the Chief sent out was particularly productive this year. We know in your busy lives that a reminder now and again can refresh an action you intended and simply put on the “to do list.” So, thanks for the response in time to deduct from the 2010 taxes to the Periodontal Development Fund 3096.

As always, we assure you the use of these funds are for graduate students education and training. When state funds are not allowed or not available, then we use the development fund dollars.

We continue to remind you of “planned giving.” It is a painless way of providing a worthy commitment to the institution and department that molded your professional career. See the insert below for Susan Norby who is willing to come and visit with you in person and assist in answering questions regarding the formulation of any such worthy commitment.

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

Susan Norby, Director of Development
1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-458-1183, 800-432-3216
snorby@nufoundation.org.

Our Part-time & Volunteer Faculty

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George Robeson • John Rutledge
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Angela Wilson
First and foremost we wish to thank Brad Crump (2000) for hosting this annual event. As many of you know, this is usually a shared responsibility (i.e., expense) by the classmates of the graduating year. Since Brad was the one-off class of 2000, he chose to host the event solo. And the hors d’oeuvres were outstanding and matched the quality of the whole environment. Many thanks to you, Brad, for your loyalty and generosity.

Continuing with the down economy, the number of us alums in attendance was down for the second year in a row. However, the group was enthusiastic and excited to meet and greet old friends and make new acquaintances. The current residents that were able to attend were very impressed with meeting all of you successful alumni and reinforced the correctness of their decision to spend the additional time and resources to attain such a worthy goal.

Next year the annual meeting is scheduled for mid-November in Miami. We look forward to seeing all of you there.
Sixth Annual Resident/Alumni Day: June 17, 2011

Don’t delay! Register today!

Join us in June for the sixth edition of our annual get together. Three hours of approved dental continuing education will be presented at the college in the morning, a “Clash of the Titans” golf tournament will be held in the afternoon, and a departmental celebration will be enjoyed at night!

**When & Where:** Friday, June 17, Lincoln, Nebraska; 8:00-11:30 am: College of Dentistry; 1:00-5:00 pm: HiMark Golf Course, 8901 Augusta Drive; 6:00-10:00 pm: Wick Alumni Center, 1520 R Streets.

**Specifics:** The continuing education will involve the residents presenting some of their research and unique clinical cases in room 1201. 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 $40.

**How:** Please use the registration form on page 12 and mail by May 15. See you then! [x]
First of all, I would like to thank my current residents as they are getting adjusted to some of the changes I implemented as the new director. These changes are meant to move our great program in this beautiful institution forward. Dr. Tom Gound stepped down in August, 2010, however, he agreed to stay one day per week for two reasons. One reason he agreed to stay is to help re-shape our program and the second was to lessen the traumatic effect resulting from change. The program honored his 19 years of services as director at our September 23, 2010, Endodontic Alumni Day featuring Dr. Stephen Buchanan. The feedback from this alumni day was very positive which has put more pressure on me to live up to your expectations...please stay tuned. Our next annual alumni day will be September 16, 2011, and the speaker has not been chosen yet.

Meet the residents

Tariq Alsmadi (second year) was born in Egypt and raised in Jordan. He received his DMD degree from the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation, he started his dental practice in Richardson, Texas. Tariq is married to Desiree and they have an nine-year-old son Omar, and a six-year-old daughter Hanan. Tariq is enrolled in the MSIA program for his master’s degree and is currently conducting research in regenerative dentistry.

LeeAnn Cote (second year) was born and raised in Lyman, Maine. She received her DMD degree in 2007 from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. After graduation, she worked for two years in southern Maine, both in private practice and in a non-profit dental clinic for the underserved. LeeAnn is married to Michael and they have two very happy dogs: Peanut and Tucker. After completion of her endodontic residency, LeeAnn will practice in Maine.

Jeff Keippel (first year) Jeff received his BS and MS degrees from the University of Arizona and he received his DMD degree from the Arizona School of Dentistry. Jeff is married to Bonnie and they have two children, Levi and Madeleine.

Shaun Whitney (first year) Shaun was born and raised in Spokane, Washington. 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, and he completed the postgraduate program in periodontics at the UNMC College of Dentistry in 2010. Future plans include entering private practice in the Pacific Northwest and working part-time at a dental school. Hobbies include tennis, golf, fly-fishing, fly-tying, and watching Gonzaga basketball.

Continued on page 9
Chris Wieseman (first year) Chris was born and grew up in Stromsburg, Nebraska. He attended The University of Nebraska-Lincoln and received his BS in 1999. After graduating from UNL, he worked in the athletic department at the University of Montana in Missoula for four years. He returned to Lincoln in 2004, attended UNMC COD, and received his DDS in 2008. Following graduation, Chris completed an AEGD residency at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System at Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. He then worked one year in private practice in Omaha prior to beginning UNMC’s endodontic program. Chris and his wife Tara live in Lincoln with their two-year old daughter Elliot. Chris plans to go into private practice somewhere in the Midwest after completion of the endodontic residency.

The cameras were on Trudy Meinberg, RDH, the second hygienist in the country to be recognized by Crest Oral-B for the “Pros in the Profession” award. Matt Mason conducts an interview while sound tech Fausto Ramon records.

On January 11, 2011, Trudy was selected because she has distinguished herself through more than 30 years as a registered dental hygienist in both private and collegiate practice settings. She has contributed to several research studies and has been published in a number of scholarly journals. Congratulations and thank you, Trudy, for your contributions!

Oral Surgery Fellow

David Montgomery graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry. He completed a fellowship in oral surgery here at the College of Dentistry. Dave is moving back home to Omaha to join Midlands Dental Group and he will be splitting time in Omaha and Missouri Valley.

The new oral surgery fellow is Eric Mack from Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Plaque Fact:
Your dental plaque contains more than three hundred species of bacteria.
Here we are in the midst of another beautiful Nebraska spring and that can only mean one thing, the much anticipated surgical specialties newsletter. Despite the little hiccups that have come with the final phase of construction, the faculty, staff and residents have had another wonderful and productive year. As usual at this time of year, the third-year residents can’t wait to be done and the first- and second-years can’t wait for a break (from school or from me, not sure I want an answer to that). The school does look great so hope everyone can stop by sometime and have a look; Surgical Specialties Day in June would be a great time.

As we have done in the past, I would again like to single out a 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. Cathy Alley, Dennis Anderson, Barry Feldner, Dave Hoffman, Daryl Malena, Bryan Cochran, Melissa Lang, Steve Gallagher, Scott Morrison, Stacy Moffenbier, Larry Parrish, Van Sanderfer, Takanari Miyamoto and James Walker. And a special thank you to Stan Kull (’84) for his lecture and clinic coverage. The residents certainly appreciate these individuals.

This may be the last newsletter where we mention the construction at the college. For the most part, our clinic is a finished and functioning facility. If you have not been by, the resident cubicles have all been enlarged and the computers are mounted on the walls, so we have much more space to move around. The surgical suites were also enlarged and digital radiographic technology added to give us instant feedback during implant placement. The resident room also received a make-over to accommodate all the endo and perio residents more efficiently. So the more things that change, the more they stay the same. See Exhibit A and B. Exhibit A: a newly remodeled office; exhibit B: Kaldahl’s office. And this did not take long, truly amazing. This remodeling had its ups and downs and was a long process but a much needed one.

Several residents have recently had their graduate work either published or accepted for publishing. Please see the publication listed in our Publication/Abstract section of the newsletter.

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Meet the residents

Naomi Nguyen (third year) received her BS degree in biochemistry at the California State University at Long Beach and DDS degree at the University of California at Los Angeles. She plans to practice periodontology in either California or Texas after graduation. She appreciates all the teaching and help from UNMC’s faculty and staff and is impressed with their kindness and dedication.

Pota Rakes (third 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 will be getting married. Next fall she will be moving to Detroit, Michigan, where her husband will be starting his oral surgery residency. Pota hopes to find either an associate position or a teaching position.

Hoang-Oanh Le (second year) was born and raised in Nebraska. She attended UNL and graduated in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in biology. She received her dental degree from the UNMC College of Dentistry. Upon graduation, Oanh plans on entering private practice and teaching part-time at a dental school. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, shopping and spending time with her family.

Ursula Price (second year) was born and raised in Nebraska. She attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney for three years before moving to Texas in 2001. She received her bachelor’s in dental hygiene from Baylor College of Dentistry in 2004 and her dental degree in 2009. Ursula and her husband have a son, Nolan, who is one year old. In her spare time she likes to read, bake, and spend time with her family.

Robert Cline (first year) was born and raised in Arkansas. He attended the University of Dallas and received a BA in history. He worked as a chemist/manager for six years at the Valspar Corporation in Dallas, Texas. Rob graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry with a DDS in 2010. He and his wife Kelly have three boys: Dalton 13, Jarrett 10, and Carter 7.

Mark Terry (first year) was born in Minnesota and raised in Utah and Arizona. He received his BS degree in accounting from Brigham Young University in 2005. He received his dental degree from the UCLA School of Dentistry in 2010. In his free time he enjoys reading, sports, and spending time with his wife Jennifer and their three children: Davis, Kate, and Colin. After graduation he plans on entering private practice and exploring teaching opportunities.

2010 Graduation Party at the Byarlay Home

Left to right: Ursula Price, Naomi Nguyen, Matt Byarlay, Graduates: Yeonju Lee, Shaun Whitney, Amy Killeen; along with Hoang-Oanh Le and Pota Rakes

Dr. Raynor Harmeson and his office staff
Surgical Specialties Celebration:
Resident/Alumni Day • Friday • June 17, 2011

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City, ST __________________ 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 approximately $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, $40 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.