

# Cornhusker Impressions

for alumni and friends of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry





## Cornhusker Impressions Winter 2017

Impressions is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the UNMC College of Dentistry. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

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#### On the cover:

Senior dental student, Benjamin Reimer (right) and Assistant Professor Jennifer Kallio, D.D.S., show Joseph Petty, III, M.D., UNMC's Chancellor's Board of Counselors member, how to cure a composite during the hands-on portion of the group's annual fall meeting at the College of Dentistry on Oct. 9. Read the full story on page 14.

## From the Dean

#### Telling our story

The College of Dentistry's newest chapter began with something a little unique – totality! Together as a college community we experienced the once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse on the first day of classes with a barbeque on the front lawn. It was an incredibly memorable event, especially for our first year dental and dental hygiene students as they began the first chapter of their professional journeys.

Two new faculty also began their first chapters with the College of Dentistry. In July we welcomed Dr. Shayla Yoachim, assistant professor of oral biology and in September, Dr. Minnie Vishwanath became part of our collegiate family as an assistant professor in the growth and development department, orthodontics section.

Our faculty continue to write impressive biographies - Dr. Gerald Tussing celebrated his 50th year as a faculty and leader at the college in July. Dr. Merlyn Vogt was inducted into the UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Educators where he will work with fellow members to help further UNMC's educational mission, and Jennifer Harn officially retired in July and then returned as part-time faculty in August.

On October 2, the college made headlines when we partnered with the College of Nursing in a ribbon-cutting ceremony linking innovative, interactive educational technology and interprofessional education on campuses across our state.

Importantly, on October 9, we had the opportunity to share our great story with business and community leaders across the state of Nebraska when we hosted the UNMC Chancellor's Board of Counselors. Over 50 faculty, staff and students participated or assisted in preparation for the event. We were thrilled with the responses and reactions from the Counselors – please see page 14 to read more about it.

This fall, we continued our storied alumni reunion tradition of welcoming our honor classes, our amazing alumni speakers and our faculty and alumni award recipients. See the photos starting on page 4.

Finally, we would like to thank the many contributing donors to our college who are acknowledged in this issue. Through your generosity the college will continue to add many more successful chapters - impacting our programs, our faculty, our students, our staff and our patients.

I hope you will enjoy reading these features and the other stories in this issue. Thank you for your support as we continue to tell the great story of the UNMC College of Dentistry.

Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D.

and M. Swithmiller

Professor and Dean, College of Dentistry, University of Nebraska Medical Center

## Calendar

#### Rocky Mountain Dental Convention – Alumni Reception

Jan. 19 Denver, Colo.

#### "Give Kids a Smile" Dental Day

Feb. 2 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. UNMC College of Dentistry

## Professionals Day & Wentz Student Scientific Program

April 13 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. East Campus Union

#### Richard A. Reinhardt Lecture

April 20 | 12 – 1 p.m. Dixon Lecture Hall

#### **College of Dentistry Continuing Education**

#### Dec. 13-14

Radiology for Dental Auxiliary Speakers: Jennifer Kallio, D.D.S., and Sung Kim, D.D.S.

#### Jan. 3-4

Coronal Polishing for Dental Auxiliary Speakers: Amanda Dolen, R.D.H., B.S., and Jaimee Shropshire, R.D.H., B.S.

#### Jan. 5

Weeth Lecture 2018
"Current Issues in Periodontics and Implantology"
Speaker: Jon Suzuki, D.D.S., Ph.D., MBA

#### March 2

What's New 2018
"What's New in Dental Pharmacology"
Speaker: Hal Crossley, D.D.S., Ph.D.

\*In addition to offering courses in Lincoln, the College of Dentistry is able to livestream continuing education courses to more than 200 other sites throughout Nebraska and the Midwest. Contact us for more information about how to set up a livestream course.

#### For more College of Dentistry Continuing Education information

Mary Lynn Froeschle, D.D.S., director | 402-472-7993 | codce@unmc.edu

To register, call 402-472-2175 or toll free 866-700-4747, or online at www.unmc.edu/dentistry/continuinged/courses

## Engaged Alum: Dr. Katie Garcia

Katie Garcia, D.D.S., wasn't always convinced she would become a dentist. In fact, she first studied engineering during her undergraduate years, but eventually decided it wasn't for her. That's when she started to consider dentistry as a career. It wasn't an unexpected choice – she had quite a few dentists in her family, including her father, grandfather, uncle and oldest brother.

"At the time my brother was a new dentist and he was a big influence for me," Dr. Garcia said.

A Lincoln native, she attended the UNMC College of Dentistry and graduated in 2010. She went on to complete a general practice residency at Peninsula Hospital in Queens, New York in 2011, and then a pediatric dental residency at Children's Memorial Hospital of Northwestern University in Chicago in 2013. Then she moved back to Nebraska and began her career at Lincoln Pediatric Dentistry.

A year and a half ago, Dr. Garcia married her husband, Dr. Chris Balwanz, a physician and graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine. Shortly thereafter, they decided to start giving back to the university that made both of their careers possible.

"We realized there is never a perfect time to start giving back," Dr. Garcia said. "We both really felt like UNMC was a big part of what we do and where we are in our careers. Right now, times are hard and money is important for these programs, so we wanted to find a good way we could support the school."

Dr. Garcia chose to contribute to a fund already set up in her father and grandfather's names. The George W. Ferguson & Robert A. Garcia Fund for Dentistry supports academic enhancement at the College of Dentistry.

Funds like this are an important tool for the college to recruit, reward and retain the best students, teachers and researchers. Dr. Garcia hopes her support can continue to strengthen the school in other areas as well, like making sure students have access to the latest technology and retaining qualified faculty and staff to keep the clinics as busy as possible. Most importantly, giving to the College of Dentistry is a way for her to



Katie Garcia, D.D.S.

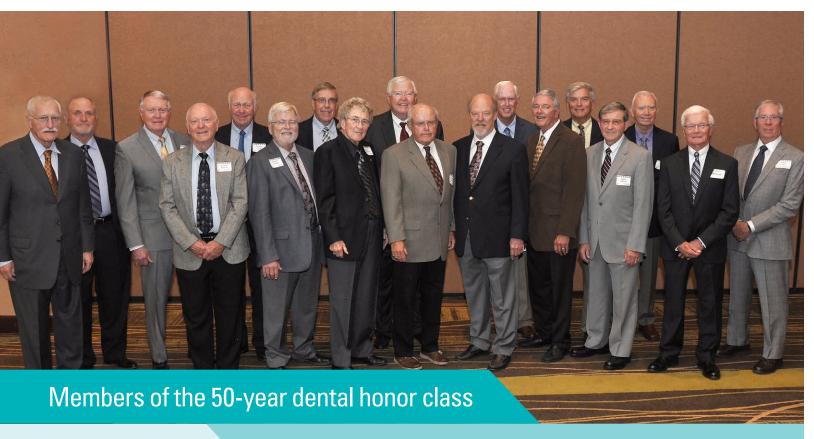
acknowledge how much she valued her education at UNMC.

"I had a really great experience," Dr. Garcia said. "It was a very difficult four years, but it should be. The program was run very well and the faculty members were outstanding."

Ultimately she hopes her support, and that of fellow alumni, will ensure excellence for years to come.

"I want it to continue to be a great school and provide a top notch education to future generations of dentists," she said.

# Alumni Reunion 2017



## Members of the 25-year dental hygiene honor class

#### ABOVE:

Members of the dental class of 1967 from left to right: Leon Davis, D.D.S., M.D., Jon Wheat, D.D.S., Michael Waneka, D.D.S., Don Antrim, D.D.S., Ronald Teel, D.D.S., Herbert Coulter, D.D.S., Larry Haisch, D.D.S., Charles Anderson, D.D.S., George Landgren, D.D.S., William Davis, D.D.S., James Wickless, D.D.S., John Hines, D.D.S., Reg Gartner, D.D.S., David Dodrill, D.D.S., Eldon Valetski, D.D.S., William Willis, D.D.S., Glenn Wearner, D.D.S., Robert Jack, D.D.S.

#### RIGHT:

Members of the dental hygiene class of 1992 from left to right: Candace Anderson, Leslie Krause, Cindy Ronspies, Janna Sasse and Carrie Graves.



To see more photos visit the UNMC College of Dentistry Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/unmccod



Richard Schilling, D.D.S., member of the 60-year dental honor class, and his wife, Marlene.



Fariba Vakilzadian, D.D.S., (middle), is a member of the 25-year dental honor class. She attended the reunion with her husband, Hamid (left), and son, Kevin (right), who is a current first-year dental student at UNMC.



Members of the dental class of 1982 from left to right: Tim Woods, D.D.S., William "Randy" Nordstrom, D.D.S., Steven Moore, D.D.S., Terri Wheeler, D.D.S., Richard Raab, D.D.S., Daniel Clapper, D.D.S., Charles Marx, D.D.S., Scott Moreland, D.D.S., Paula Harre, D.D.S., Jeff Howard, D.D.S., Tom Kampfe, D.D.S., and Steven Walker, D.D.S.



Erin McCutchen, D.D.S. (left), and Jeri Rush, D.D.S. (right), from the dental class of 1997.



Alumni Reunion banquet attendees give a standing ovation to Stan Harn, Ph.D., in celebration of his retirement after 45 years at the College of Dentistry.



College of Dentistry alumni gather at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln for the 2017 Alumni Reunion.

## Dean's Club banquet



From left to right: Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., Stephen Leeper, D.D.S., former dean, and his wife Jan, at the Dean's Club banquet.



From left: Paulette Thomsen, Allen Thomsen, D.D.S., and Harry Tolly, D.D.S., mingle at the Dean's Club banquet.

## Student speakers

During speeches given at the annual Dean's Club banquet, dental and dental hygiene students speak about how contributions from generous Dean's Club members benefit all students.



Alaina Allen, dental class of 2018



Brandon Chapek, dental class of 2018



Kelsey Ferris, dental hygiene class of 2018

## **Continuing Education courses**



John Rutledge, D.D.S., M.S., (DDS '06, MS '08) presented the course, "Race to the Top: How Digital Wax-ups, 3D-Printing, and CAD/CAM Abutments and Resortations will Take Your Implant Practice to the Next Level." Dr. Rutledge practices at Pioneer Periodontics & Implant Dentistry in Lincoln.

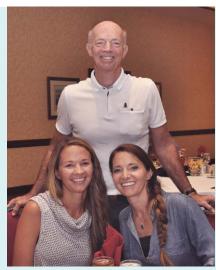


Al Burns, D.D.S., M.S., (DDS '07) presented the course, "You No Longer Need to Fear the Little People." Dr. Burns practices at Alligator Dental in Seguin, Texas, and San Marcos, Texas.



This year's continuing education courses were well attended. Both Al Burns, D.D.S., M.S., and John Rutledge, D.D.S., M.S., presented.

## More Alumni Reunion Highlights



Daniel McClenahan, D.D.S., with daughters Renee Hueser and Andrea Sand, both graduates of the UNMC Dental Hygiene Program.



Members of the dental class of 1987 from left to right: William Rozmajzl, D.D.S., Lana Schlecht, D.D.S., Jon Asbjornson, D.D.S., Lannie Weak Jr., D.D.S., Craig Fackrell, D.D.S., Mark Pinkerton, D.D.S., and David Velasco Jr. D.D.S.

# Dental leaders honored at Alumni Reunion

Four individuals were recognized at the 2017 Alumni Reunion, sponsored by the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association. The Alumni Reunion is a long-standing tradition of the college, and the annual awards banquet is an opportunity to honor individuals for their contributions to, and support of, the college and the dental profession. This year's awardees featured two faculty and two alumni.

## Honorary Life Membership Award

Jillian Wallen, B.D.S., M.S., associate professor and chair, Department of Growth and Development



Dr. Wallen graduated from the University of Glasgow Dental Hospital and School in 2000. After graduation from dental school, she completed her postgraduate specialty training in pediatric dentistry and master's degree in 2002 at The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Dr. Wallen held faculty positions at the University of Colorado, Denver Children's Hospital and the University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery before joining the faculty of the College of Dentistry at UNMC in 2011.

Dr. Wallen currently serves as chair of the department of growth and development at the UNMC College of Dentistry, which encompasses the specialties of pediatric dentistry, orthodontics and the general practice residency program. This year, Dr. Wallen is representing UNMC as a participant in Leadership Omaha.

#### About the award:

The Honorary Life Membership Award is given each year to someone who is not a dental alumnus but who has demonstrated a dedication to, and support for, the UNMC College of Dentistry.

#### Alumni Achievement Award

Scott L. Morrison, D.D.S., M.S., dental class of 1985



Dr. Morrison received his dental degree from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1985 and completed a general practice residency at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Omaha in 1986. In 1989, Dr. Morrison received his certificate in periodontology from the University of Missouri – Kansas City, along with

a master's degree in oral biology. Dr. Morrison has held faculty appointments at the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Dentistry, the UNMC College of Dentistry and the UNMC General Practice Residency Program.

Dr. Morrison has treated patients in private practice since 1990. He has served as a guest lecturer for periodontology residents, and as a guest instructor for dental and dental hygiene students at the UNMC College of Dentistry. He has been an active member and leader within the Omaha District Dental Society, the Nebraska Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Nebraska Society of Periodontology, the American Academy of Periodontology and the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association.

#### About the award:

The Alumni Achievement Award is given to someone on the basis of outstanding achievements in their dental or dental hygiene careers and/or civic involvement.

## **Distinguished Service Award**

#### Roger E. Jurgens, D.D.S., M.S., dental class of 1964



Dr. Jurgens is an alumnus of the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry, graduating in 1964. Originally from the Kearney area, Dr. Jurgens attended Kearney State College for his bachelor's degree. He completed his dental degree at the College of Dentistry, then practiced general dentistry in Kearney before returning to UNL

for a residency in orthodontics. Dr. Jurgens practiced in Lincoln and taught part time in the UNMC orthodontic department. He moved to Longmont, Colorado, in 1981 to continue practicing until retirement.

Dr. Jurgens has been active in numerous dental and orthodontic organizations, including the Nebraska Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Nebraska Society of Orthodontists and the American Association of Orthodontists. He is a trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation, and has been involved in community and university organizations including the UNK Foundation Board of Directors, the Kearney Public School Board, the Longmont Symphony and the Longmont Chamber of Commerce, to name a few.

He feels fortunate to have received a significant portion of his education from the University of Nebraska system and has been honored to give back to the schools where he received his education.

#### About the award:

The Distinguished Service Award is given each year to someone on the basis of their contribution to the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association and the contributions they made to the dental profession.

## **Outstanding Educator Award**

#### Larry Crouch, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Oral Biology



Dr. Crouch is a proud native Nebraskan having grown up in the small, rural community of Ansley. He first experienced the satisfaction of helping others learn while in high school serving as a teaching assistant in physical education.

He received his bachelor's degree in

biology from UNL, his master's degree in medical sciences from UNMC and his doctoral degree in medical physiology from the LSU Health Science Center in New Orleans. Following fellowship training at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, Dr. Crouch returned to Nebraska in December 1997 to begin his appointment at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

At UNMC, Dr. Crouch teaches biochemistry and human physiology courses for first-year dental students, the special topics in oral biology course for dental hygiene students, and the advanced oral biology course for residents and post-graduates. He also teaches in the national board examination review courses for both dental and dental hygiene students and is the biomedical science course director for UNMC's Summer Health Professions Education Program.

He is an active member of the American Dental Education Association, and has served as a content expert for the Part I National Board Dental Examination and the future Integrated Board Dental Examination. He has received numerous teaching awards over the years, but is most gratified when his students learn and successfully apply the biomedical information he teaches them.

#### About the award:

The Outstand Educator award is given to someone with significant accomplishments in the dental profession and a sincere dedication to dental education.



#### Above:

College of Dentistry Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D. (center), joins various faculty, students and community stakeholders as she cuts the ribbon during the live iWall collaboration between UNMC's Omaha and Scottsbluff campuses.

Separated by roughly 12 counties and nearly 500 miles, students and faculty from Omaha and Scottsbluff, Nebraska, were together in real-time on Oct. 2 using UNMC's interactive digital iWalls.

Both UNMC nursing and dental hygiene students demonstrated an interprofessional collaboration involving a patient with diabetes, using iWall technology. The iWalls are eight-foot-tall, 2-D, multipanel touchscreen walls that allow users to share and manipulate information simultaneously. The iWall is designed to educate today's students in a more engaging and collaborative way.

During the demonstration, the students shared videos and images, chatted via video call, and wrote information on a communal digital "sticky note," with the goal of teaching a mock patient how to treat diabetes, and about the link between diabetes and periodontal disease.

"It is great to be able to interact with students on the other side of the state," said Jessica Zimmerer, one of the fourth-year dental hygiene students who participated in the demo. "I think the iWall will be another way to learn."

The collaboration was part of the iEXCEL ConnectED ribbon-cutting event held at both the iEXCEL Visualization Hub in Omaha and the Harms Technology Center in Scottsbluff. College of Dentistry faculty, staff, students and alumni gathered in both cities for a glimpse at some of the technology connecting our campuses in eastern and western Nebraska, and coming soon to the educational spaces in the College of Dentistry in Lincoln.



The iWall installed in Scottsbluff earlier this year already connects to the iWall in Omaha. Soon, it also will connect to another iWall in Lincoln at the College of Dentistry. In addition to the advancement in technology, the opportunity for interprofessional education using the iWall is an exciting venture for the College of Dentistry, especially with the college's separation from our colleagues in Scottsbluff/Gering and Omaha.

"We are delighted to be partnering with the College of Nursing in this crossstate connection," said Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D. "This incredible technology will provide new interactive learning opportunities and will allow us to better connect our people, our campuses, and importantly, our professions."

Many classes like anatomy, dental anatomy, pathology and anesthesia could benefit from the use of the iWall, Zimmerer said. The iWall offers students the chance to visualize anatomical structures before they even open a mouth or look at a cadaver.

"Students that use the iWall for these purposes will have an upper hand when they get into preclinical and clinical settings," she said.

## A bright future with simulation technology

The iWalls weren't the only piece of technology on display at the Oct. 2 event - participants also got the chance to explore highly-advanced simulators designed to teach surgical or other hand skills, and the 3-D CADWall, a virtual immersive reality environment where users can "fly through" different parts of the body to learn about cells and organs in 3-D.

Imagine a real-life version of The Magic School Bus - Ms. Frizzle and the class zooming through the human body to learn more about anatomy. Well, almost.

Brett Thomsen, D.D.S., a 1992 UNMC graduate, was one of several College of Dentistry Alumni Association Board members to attend the event. He described the technology - especially the 3-D wall - as "mind-blowing."

"The single biggest advantage to learning anatomy and other skills in a 3-D environment is that the images are right there in front of you," he said. "In dentistry, being able to see the anatomy and structures inside the mouth in 3-D would be very rewarding. The traditional way of learning by using diagrams, pictures or a mirror have always worked, but having this technology as an adjunct to the educational materials is a fantastic advancement."

## Meet the new students

The College of Dentistry's annual White Coat Ceremony took place Aug. 18. A total of 51 dental students and 24 dental hygiene students received their white coats in front of friends and family – signaling the start of their academic careers at the college.

#### Dental class of 2021

- 33 Women
- **18** Men
- 8 States represented including: Nebraska, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming
- 1 Foreign country represented: China

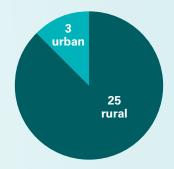
26 urban 25 rural





## Dental Hygiene class of 2018

- 24 Women
- 17 Nebraska communities represented, including: Lincoln, Gering, Scottsbluff, Hemingford, North Platte, Lamar, Cambridge, Amelia, Homer, Emerson, Norfolk, Columbus, Brainard, Blair, Wahoo, Ashland and Plattsmouth
- 2 Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) participants
- 1 Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP) participant



## First laser training course offered to faculty

As the landscape of the dental industry continues to change, the College of Dentistry has made it a priority to keep searching for innovative ways to educate students and treat patients.

In fact, identifying and implementing existing and future technology is one of the many initiatives outlined in the college's five-year strategic plan.

In line with this initiative, the UNMC Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry held the first-ever laser training course for restorative dentistry faculty members Sept. 1-2. Taught by Edward Kusek, D.D.S., '84, the course educated 16 faculty members on the correct use of various lasers on the market. The course also prepared faculty to take the Academy of Laser Dentistry's certification exam – which they all passed.

The training course featured video demonstrations and hands-on training with the two types of lasers, used for cutting hard and soft tissues. The use of lasers is an alternative way of manipulating tissue, and has been shown to result in the patient spending less time in the chair, experiencing a less invasive procedure, leading to less post-operative pain, said Dr. Kusek.

"This training fits in nicely with our digital dentistry initiative," said Julie Marshall, D.D.S., M.S., interim chair of the department of adult restorative dentistry.



Edward Kusek, D.D.S., (in red) teaches a hands-on portion of his laser training course. From left to right are Robin Hattervig, D.D.S., Steven Wirth, D.D.S., Dr. Kusek, Henry St. Germain Jr., D.M.D., M.S.D., M.A.Ed., Myhanh Phan-Rinne, D.D.S., and Julie Marshall, D.D.S., M.S.

"We have introduced concepts for laser use in dentistry to our students previously in an advanced topics course, but students never had an opportunity to use them with patients."

The College of Dentistry now has space in the Sliver Clinic that meets laser safety guidelines. This means that students will receive entry-level laser training, and have opportunities to use the diode laser in patient care as an option for soft tissue removal in conjunction with digital imaging and analog impression making.

Dr. Kusek has been teaching laser courses for nearly a decade and is a recognized course provider for the Academy of Laser Dentistry. He estimated only a handful of other dental schools in the country are teaching the use of lasers to students – signaling that Nebraska is at the cutting edge. He plans to return to the college next summer to assist in training students during the transition from their third to fourth years.

For Dr. Kusek, giving back to the school by donating his time and expertise is something he truly enjoys.

"Education is really important to me, and I feel as though the school went out on a limb and gave me a chance to be a dentist," he said. "They provided me a great education and a great profession which I totally enjoy. This is just a small way that I can give back."





# College of Dentistry hosts statewide business, community leaders

Above: Chris Nix, D.D.S., clinical instructor, demonstrates CAD/CAM technology for members of the Board of Counselors from left to right, Joseph Hodges Jr., Maxine Hodges, Nuzhat Mahmood and Muhammad Javaid. He showed the group how the technology can create a crown in just minutes.

#### "That was just fun!"

#### "I want to try the drill!"

#### "More people need to know about this place!"

These were just some of the comments heard around the College of Dentistry during the 2017 UNMC Chancellor's Board of Counselors meeting in early October. Board members and their guests traveled to Lincoln for the event, which was held at the College of Dentistry for the first time in nearly a decade.

The Board of Counselors consists of business and community leaders from across the state who act as ambassadors for UNMC in their home communities, as well as advisers to UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., on health care issues of importance.

The board gathers twice a year, with the fall meeting providing members an opportunity to get to know each other and learn more about UNMC. This year, the College of Dentistry had the chance to host and educate the group about the college's role in providing oral health care for the state of Nebraska. More than 50 College of Dentistry faculty, staff and students helped plan and volunteer for the event.

In addition to a university update from Dr. Gold, Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., presented an overview of the College of Dentistry's past, present and future role in educating the next generation of oral health professionals. She then moderated a panel discussion with College of Dentistry faculty members Jeffrey Payne D.D.S., M.Dent.Sc., Julie Marshall, D.D.S., M.S., Jillian Wallen, B.D.S., M.S., and Gwen Hlava, R.D.H., M.S.

The panel discussion offered counselors the chance to ask questions of college faculty, and allowed faculty members to speak in-depth about important topics such as the link between oral and systemic health, the use of innovative technology in dentistry, the school's commitment to serving the state's most vulnerable citizens and what the future oral health providers and dental practices will look like.

"As a member of the faculty at the UNMC College of Dentistry, I was so pleased that we had the opportunity to tell our story," Dr. Payne said. "How we are the primary educators of dentists and dental hygienists in our state, how we prepare our students so well for the future, and how we are the safety net for the underserved Nebraskans throughout our 500-mile campus."

The highlights of the evening, however, were the student-guided "tours" of the college. Members were split into groups

#### continued on page 16

## A homecoming for one dental alum

For one member of the Board of Counselors group, the trip to Lincoln was something of a homecoming. Bradley Krivohlavek, D.D.S., graduated from the College of Dentistry in 1979 and immediately began his dental practice in Norfolk. He joined the Board of Counselors in 2011 and says it has been an honor to learn more about his alma mater. This year's meeting brought back a lot of memories, and a little bit of pride.

"After the presentations and tour, it made me even more proud to be a dentist," Dr. Krivohlavek said. "Even though many things have changed, there is still the core mission of helping people have a healthy life. It was very encouraging to see the positive spirit exhibited by the dental student tour guides - I am confident the future of dentistry is in good hands."





### What others are saying

"Dean Guthmiller and her faculty and students conducted an informative and exhilarating program that enlightened community leaders from the entire state about the critical role that the College of Dentistry plays in promoting the health of Nebraskans."

— Bob Bartee, UNMC Vice Chancellor for External Affairs

"Having the Board of Counselors meeting at the College of Dentistry was a great choice. We heard a tremendous amount of feedback from people who were thrilled to learn everything that the college is doing for our state. The tours of the college really provided the Board of Counselors with an inside look at the state-of-the-art clinical space and technology that allows the college to produce outstanding dentists and hygienists who are very well prepared to serve the dental needs of our state."

— Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., UNMC Chancellor

"I was very pleased to have the chance to engage with the students as well as the instructors and administrators at the dental college. They were articulate, friendly and demonstrated enthusiasm and pride in the College of Dentistry and the role of dentistry in health care. What a great group of people!

— Dave Wimmer, Chairperson, UNMC Chancellor's Board of Counselors

#### from page 15

and invited to attend two demonstrations, orchestrated by College of Dentistry faculty members and students. The demos included a hands-on simulation clinic where students taught counselors how to do things like prepare a tooth for a restoration, use an intraoral camera and perform a prophylaxis.

Other demonstrations included viewing a telehealth demo from members of our growth and development department, watching a live CAD/CAM demo, participating in an interactive lesson on implants and imaging, and attending an interactive research poster session.

The tours were meant to show a "day in the life" of dental and dental hygiene students, as well as other facets of the profession.

"Many of the counselors didn't realize all that we have to offer here at the College of Dentistry and throughout the state, from our quality patient care clinics, to our dedication to oral health research and our goal of providing innovative education to our students," Dr. Guthmiller said. "We were delighted to provide the counselors the chance to interact with our students and faculty,

view our educational and clinical spaces and even try their hand at some of the basic skills we teach our students."

The demonstrations weren't just for show – faculty and students encouraged counselors to participate, try things out and ask questions. One counselor was even inspired to pursue telehealth technology after viewing the demonstration between the college's pediatric clinic in Lincoln and the pediatric dental residency clinic at Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha.

Marian Davenport, a school nurse from Valentine, Neb., recognized the potential value of having a telehealth unit at her school. A Board of Counselors member since 2013, Davenport always feels inspired to "do more" after meetings at UNMC.

"My husband and I are always impressed with UNMC and Nebraska Medicine facilities, the level of expertise and the genuine expressions of caring," she said. "Being part of the board is most enjoyable and informative, from meeting and visiting with others, to gaining more insight into UNMC's amazing facilities, and most of all interacting with the

## New Faculty

#### Shayla Yoachim, Ph.D.

Hometown: Omaha, Neb.

#### Title and department at UNMC:

Assistant professor, Department of Oral Biology

#### Research and professional interests:

I am primarily involved in clinical anatomy education in the dental, dental hygiene, and graduate programs in the College of Dentistry. I will serve as the course director of our department's anatomy courses, and direct the college's Gross Anatomy Laboratory. My past research areas include genetics, immunology, and hormone signaling. Currently, my research focus is on curriculum development and clinical education research, including course development, implementation of active learning and student-centered pedagogical approaches, and evaluation of the efficacy of these methods. I enjoy teaching, developing as an educator, and working with fellow educators to improve anatomical education and its delivery.

#### How I fell in love with anatomy:

I have always been interested in science. As an undergraduate student, I worked as a teaching assistant in anatomy, and fell in love with the art of dissection and the challenge of understanding the intricacies of the human body. At the same time, I worked in a genetics lab investigating gene expression in fruit flies. Both areas seemed way over my head at the time, which intrigued me even more. I began graduate school (at UNMC) without a clear career path, but with the guidance and support of incredible mentors, I completed an Anatomy Teaching Track Program that allowed me to pursue both scientific research in genetics and hormone signaling and training in anatomical education. Now, as an anatomist and educator, I love the journey each new semester brings - the process of exploring each element of the body piece by piece, and then challenging students to piece that puzzle together and predict the effects of a broken or missing 'puzzle piece'. I love the light bulb moments, the look on a student's face when it all makes sense.

#### Degrees:

- Ph.D., Genetics, Cell Biology, & Anatomy, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- B.S., Education and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

#### Memberships:

- American Association of Clinical Anatomists
- American Association of Anatomists
- American Dental Education Association

#### Three things people may not know about me:

- My husband and I have two sons, ages 4 and 1. We spend our time at parks, lakes, baseball fields, and Husker football games (of course!).
- I start my day with a cup of coffee on my front porch rocking chair, and like to end the day on the same rocking chair with single-malt scotch (watching a thunderstorm roll in when I'm lucky!).
- I love hand-me-downs. Some of my favorites include a very old cedar chest from my great-grandmother and a set of anatomy textbooks from my grandfather-in-law (a retired physician).



"I love the light bulb moments, the look on a student's face when it all makes sense."

## **New Faculty**



"I enjoy transforming smiles: sometimes confined to straightening a few crooked teeth and sometimes entire faces; sometimes those of children and sometimes those of adults who have waited for it all their lives"

#### Meenakshi (Minnie) Vishwanath, B.D.S., M.D.S., M.Dent.Sc.

Hometown: Bangalore, India

**Title and department at UNMC:** Assistant Professor, College of Dentistry, Department of Growth and Development, orthodontics section

#### Research and Professional interests:

My primary area of interest is in the field of orthodontic biomechanics. It combines my interest in physics and orthodontics and has direct clinical implications. I also am passionate about researching various aspects of impacted canines and clinical challenges involving their treatment. Other major interests are orthognathic surgeries, both conventional and involving surgery first approaches, as well as interdisciplinary care of patients with cleft lip and cleft palate.

#### How I fell in love with my profession:

When I think of 'my profession at UNMC' there are two aspects to it – orthodontics and teaching, and I love them both. Growing up in a family of academicians, the value of being a life-long learner was instilled in me very early on. This was followed by the realization that teaching is one of the best forms of learning and thus the natural progression into the academic world. It was a serendipitous event that led to orthodontics choosing me and I am grateful to be part of this wonderful profession. I enjoy transforming smiles: sometimes confined to straightening a few crooked teeth and sometimes entire faces; sometimes those of children and sometimes those of adults who have waited for it all their lives. The gratification that comes from being a part of their lives and helping them make this journey into developing confident smiles is unparalleled.

#### Degrees

- B.D.S. Pondicherry University, India
- M.D.S. (Orthodontics) S.D.M. Dharwad, RGUHS, India
- M.Dent.Sc. (Orthodontics) School of Dental Medicine, UConn Health Center, Conn.

#### Memberships:

- American Association of Orthodontists
- International Association for Dental Research
- Membership in Orthodontics Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh

#### Three things people may not know about me:

- I love reading biographies and Wikipedia.
- I am an animal lover and ardent vegetarian.
- I am a yoga enthusiast.

## **Faculty Transitions**

#### Jennifer A. Harn, R.D.H., B.S.

After almost three decades as an assistant professor and instructor at the College of Dentistry, Jennifer Harn, R.D.H., B.S., retired from her full time position in July. She wasn't quite ready to give it up completely, however, and immediately started working part time. She now works one day a week, assisting in the periodontal therapy lab and in the dental student clinic.

#### Number of years at UNMC: 29

#### How did you get into dentistry?

Originally, my plans were to go to nursing school. But my brother is a dentist, so I went and shadowed him at his practice. I decided I might like doing something similar. I found out that dental hygiene school had a lot of similar coursework, so I decided to go that route. I graduated from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1985.

#### What brought you to UNMC as member of the faculty?

After graduation I worked in private practice for a few years, but I had always wanted to teach. I ran into Dr. Gerald Tussing three years after graduating and he said there was a position open at the school. I started out in the periodontal department part-time, sharing responsibilities with another dental hygienist in 1988. Then I went full-time in the early 1990s.

#### What have you enjoyed most about your career at UNMC?

The students, the atmosphere and our section of perio is very close-knit. I get to work with fabulous periodontists and I have learned so much from them. We're not just coworkers, we're friends.

#### What have been some of the biggest changes at UNMC over the years?

Everything has been a pretty gradual change, but the biggest change was the move to our electronic dental record system. Before, everything in the chart was hand-recorded. We would write everything down, and hand it to someone else who did the data entry. The new system was challenging.

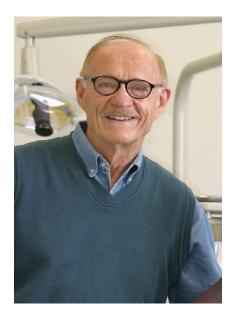
#### What has been a favorite memory at UNMC?

When the college celebrated its 100th birthday, I was chosen by Dean Leeper to help plan some of the events, which was a lot of fun. Also many other memories and interactions with the students like pig roasts and holiday parties.



"Originally, my plans were to go to nursing school. But my brother is a dentist, so I went and shadowed him at his practice. I decided I might like doing something similar."

## Faculty Anniversaries



## Gerald Tussing, D.D.S., M.S.D., professor, Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry 50 years

Gerald Tussing, D.D.S., M.S.D., celebrated 50 years of service to the College of Dentistry on July 1, 2017. After earning his master's degree and periodontics certificate from UNMC in 1967, Dr. Tussing began his career as an assistant professor in the surgical specialties department. In 1968 he took over as chairman of the department of periodontics (at the time), until 1991 when the department was restructured and he became chairman of the surgical specialties department until 2005. He then returned to teaching periodontics at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Tussing's son, Collin, is currently a second-year dental student.

#### FROM THE CHAIR:

"My first interaction with Dr. Tussing was the fall of 1988. He invited me, the new faculty member, to a friendly game of tennis in the courts behind the dental school. Seeing that I was playing a man at least 25 years my senior, I started the match rather smug and self-confident. About an hour later, I limped, defeated, back to my office. My respect for Gerry has never waned over the succeeding 29 years. He became my department chair, and a role model. Few people race open wheeled vintage cars in their 60s; Gerry is still doing it in his 80s. He is an icon at the College of Dentistry, and I feel fortunate to now be chairing the department he adroitly led for 14 years."

— J. Bruce Bavitz, D.M.D., chair, Department of Surgical Specialties

## **Kudos**



## Dr. Vogt joins Interprofessional Academy of Educators

Merlyn Vogt, D.D.S., assistant professor in the UNMC College of Dentistry Department of Surgical Specialties, assistant dean for student affairs and director of admissions, applied and was chosen as a new member of the UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE).

He received a certificate and commemorative medal at the induction ceremony at UNMC's Omaha campus on Sept. 14. He is one of 56 faculty and staff members to be inducted in the academy's second annual class, and is the first and only faculty member from the College of Dentistry.

The IAE was created to bring together members from across the university to collaborate on conducting research, applying for grants, developing programs, and more. Members are named to one of eight "interest groups," to meet fellow educators with similar interests. Each group is expected to accomplish a minimum of two outcomes per academic year.



## Dental care provided to Special Olympics athletes

Thirteen faculty, student and staff members from the College of Dentistry provided free dental screenings to more than 60 athletes at the Special Olympics Nebraska 2017 Fall Games in Lincoln.

The second annual dental screening event — dubbed Special Smiles — was part of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes initiative, which also offers other services such as vision and hearing screenings, sports physicals, nutrition education and information on social services. The event was held at Abbott Sports Complex on Aug. 5.

College of Dentistry volunteers provided oral screening assessments performed by dentists, who then completed written documentation of the status and needs of each athlete.

Dental hygiene students provided personalized preventive oral health instruction with faculty supervision, and

an estimated 25 soccer and flag football athletes were fitted for and given plastic mouth guards. Volunteers also handed out goodie bags filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and mouthwash.

Not only does the Special Smiles initiative help improve the oral health and access to dental care for Special Olympics athletes, it also provides reallife training for oral health professionals and students about the needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

Jennifer Kallio, D.D.S., assistant professor in the department of adult restorative dentistry, enjoys volunteering because the cause is near and dear to her heart - she has two special

needs children and understands some of the day-to-day difficulties the athletes and their families face.

She also enjoys meeting the athletes and seeing their enthusiasm for their sport and their team.

"Many of the athletes have good oral hygiene and are well cared for by their loved ones. However, occasionally we will see an athlete that needs urgent attention and that is why it is so important to provide the screenings," she said. "We are potentially preventing an emergency situation for that family, and we are able to help them establish a dental home."

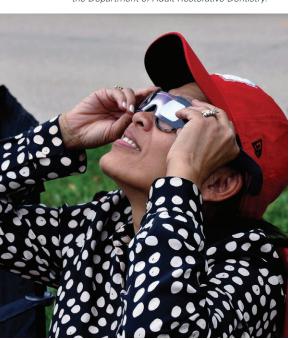


#### Above:

Orthodontics faculty, staff and residents watch as the eclipse begins.

#### Below:

Myhanh Phan-Rinne, D.D.S., assistant professor in the Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry.



# College of Dentistry celebrates the 'Molar' Eclipse

## Talk about the best first day of classes ever!

As the sky grew dark on Aug. 21, College of Dentistry faculty members, staff and students celebrated the first day of the fall semester with a barbecue on the front lawn. This offered the once-in-a-lifetime chance to view the Great American Total Solar Eclipse, or the 'Molar' Eclipse, as we liked to call it. College of Dentistry programs in Lincoln and Gering experienced total darkness for nearly two minutes, while our Omaha group experienced a partial eclipse.

To see more photos from our 'Molar' Eclipse event, check out the College of Dentistry Facebook page: www.facebook.com/unmccod

## College of Dentistry Remembers

Steven C. Hansen, D.D.S., '72, Las Vegas, Nev., died June 14, 2017. Following dental school, Dr. Hansen joined the U.S. Air Force as a dentist and was first stationed in Seoul, South Korea. He enjoyed a long, successful military career, eventually earning the rank of Colonel. He was stationed in many different places across the globe before retiring to a private dentistry practice in Las Vegas. He retired in the late 2000s and spent his retirement years on Los Prados Golf Course in Las Vegas.

Paul A. Schlegel, D.D.S., '67, Gunnison, Colo., died Aug. 14, 2017. Upon graduation, Dr. Schlegel spent two years serving in the U.S. Army. He then moved to Gunnison, where he opened his dental practice in October 1969, and was lucky to have many patient dental assistants over the years. He retired from dentistry in 2006.

John Segrist, D.D.S., '68, Spearfish, S.D., died Aug. 26, 2017. After dental school, Dr. Segrist accepted a rotating dental internship with the U.S. Army and was stationed in New Jersey, Texas, South Vietnam and Missouri. He then established a family dental practice in Alliance. He retired from dentistry in 2001 and moved to Spearfish with his wife, Cathy. He was a trustee for the Nebraska Dental Association.

Kenneth A. Harman, D.D.S., M.S., '66, Omaha, Neb, died Sept. 15, 2017. Dr. Harman served in the U.S. Navy from 1946-1948 before earning his dental degree from Creighton University and later his master's degree in orthodontics from the UNMC College of Dentistry. He practiced general dentistry in Valentine, Neb., for nine years and orthodontics in Omaha for 32 years, during which time he also served as a clinical professor at the Creighton and University of Nebraska Medical Center dental schools.

John Seberg, D.D.S., '44, Hastings, Neb., died Sept. 24, 2017. Dr. Seberg was one of three brothers to graduate from the College of Dentistry. Following dental school, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps, then practiced dentistry in Florida. He moved back to Nebraska in 1947 to open a dental practice in Hastings with his brother, Herb. Dr. Seberg played a key role in getting dental hygiene programs started at the College of **Dentistry in Lincoln and Central Community** College in Hastings. He was a past president of the Dental Alumni Association, a member of the Dean's Club and received the Distinguished Service Award from the UNMC Dental Alumni Association in 1982. He retired from dentistry in 2003 and was awarded the Alumni Achievement Award in 2004.

## College of Dentistry Honor Roll

The College of Dentistry is grateful to all of our alumni and friends who generously provide support through private gifts. These gifts allow the college to continue the tradition of excellence, providing the very best in oral health education, research and patient care.

This Honor Roll recognizes the college's loyal alumni, faculty and friends who have supported the college through gifts, pledges and bequests to the University of Nebraska Foundation. Every effort has been made to ensure that the names and categories in the following lists are correct. Please direct any questions or changes to the University Foundation Office at 800-432-3216.

#### College of Dentistry Dean's Club

Members of the Dental Dean's Club are listed below. New members are indicated with an asterisk.

Dr. & Mrs. John E. Adcock Dr. & Mrs. John P. Ahlschwede Joseph L. Aitken, D.D.S. Dr. Joan E. Albrecht Dr. Steven R. & JoAnn Alexander Dr. Richard & Tammra Allen

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Dr. John D. & Kathy L. Andersen Dr. Kathleen I. & Dr. Charles T. Anderson Dr. & Mrs. Charles W. Anderson

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Dr. Ross & Lisa Crist

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Elizabeth Hinrichs Badami Gwen Hlava, B.S.D.H.

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Shannon R. Stemm, M.D. &

Jeffrey Meade, M.D.

Dr. James Stokos

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