Greetings alumni and friends!

During this unprecedented time in our nation and in our communities, I want you to know that I am thinking of you and your families. While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives in many ways, it is during challenging times that we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for, and every day I am reminded of how grateful I am to be part of the College of Dentistry community.

Our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the college have come together to help the college overcome the unexpected challenges that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this issue of Impressions, you’ll find stories about the people of the College of Dentistry and their resiliency, tenacity and strength. The college continues to thrive as we convert challenges into opportunities and navigate this journey together.

As I reflect on the 2019-20 academic year, I am inspired by all our community achieved — our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of our college all had important roles in helping to continue the College of Dentistry’s 120-year tradition of excellence in education, research and patient care. On the following pages, you’ll find stories about our alumni who are making important contributions to the dental profession, and our newest graduates who have the hearts and passion to be truly extraordinary oral health care professionals. These individuals are remarkable representatives for the College of Dentistry.

We celebrate how we are transforming dental education in our clinical and virtual simulation laboratory and digital design studio. Our students are immersed in innovative educational experiences, developing cutting-edge skills and growing into tomorrow’s leaders in oral health.

We celebrate the college’s growth with the completed renovation of our dental clinic in Omaha and our revitalized partnership with UNMC’s Munroe-Meyer Institute that will allow the college to provide dental services for patients with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

We celebrate our long-standing tradition of community service. We continue to provide important oral health services and education to diverse groups of Nebraskans. Our outreach activities help adults and children throughout the state.

We celebrate the achievements of our faculty and students. Our students are aspiring to make important contributions to the profession and eliminate health disparities through their outreach and research projects. Our faculty continue to receive recognition for their work in education, patient care and research, and every day make a profound difference in the lives of our students, inspiring them to become extraordinary oral health professionals.

We celebrate how we are working to create a more diverse and inclusive community where all are welcomed. We have held a listening session and a workshop on inclusivity to empower students, faculty and staff to work together to better promote diversity, inclusion and equity for all.

Our community has much to be thankful for. Now and forever, we will continue to come together to overcome unexpected challenges and celebrate our achievements. As always, thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Professor & Dean, College of Dentistry, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Cornhusker Impressions is moving online!

This will be the last printed version of Cornhusker Impressions. To receive upcoming digital issues of Cornhusker Impressions, send your email to: codcommunications@unmc.edu

You will also receive the college’s digital newsletter, News Bites, with timely college news throughout the year!
Highlights from the 2019-20 academic year

Renovations completed. The new clinical and virtual simulation laboratory, digital design studio and outdoor seating area (pictured above) create a unique learning environment.

Students immersed in extraordinary educational experiences. Students grow into oral health professionals through classroom, clinical and extramural experiences. Above: The college’s annual Ethics and Professionalism workshop.

College’s alumni remain engaged. Above: Dr. Jennifer Hargleroad, '00, Dr. James F. Jenkins, and Dean Janet M. Guthmiller at the UNMC College of Dentistry alumni reception held during the Rocky Mountain Dental Conference in Denver (January 2020).

Welcomed four advanced standing students.

The College of Dentistry’s revitalized Advanced Standing Dental Program allows dentists who are educated outside of the United States, and who are U.S. citizens, the opportunity to earn a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. Four advanced standing students joined the second-year dental class in January 2020.

Pictured from left:
Rooh Afza received a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from Farooqia Dental College and Hospital/Rajiv Gandhi University of Health & Sciences in Mysore, India, a Master of Business Administration in health care services from Sikkim Manipal University in Gangtok, India, and a Master of Dental Surgery from the Oxford Dental College & Hospital/Rajiv Gandhi University of Health & Sciences in Bangalore, India. Most recently, Rooh was a dental assistant in Roswell, Ga.
Ramanpreet Randhawa received a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from Genesis Institute of Dental Sciences and Research in Ferozepur, India, and completed an externship at the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry in New Orleans, La. Most recently, Raman was a dental hygienist in Daytona, Fla.
Kiran Shahid received a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from Baqai Dental College in Karachi, Punjab, Pakistan, and completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry fellowship at Case Western Reserve University’s School of Dental Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. Most recently, Kiran was a dental assistant in Los Angeles, Calif.
Karla A. Mejia received a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from National Autonomous University of Honduras in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and a master’s degree in orthodontic and dentofacial orthopedics from the Catholic University of Honduras in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Most recently, Karla was a dental and orthodontics assistant in Newton, Kan.
Dental hygiene grads first to test on manikins

The UNMC Dental Hygiene class of 2020 is the first class in the nation to complete the required clinical licensure examination using simulated manikins.

It took three months from the time the students graduated on May 7, 2020, before they would get to take the exam for their license to practice.

“We felt like we were in limbo, just waiting and not knowing what to do,” said Beth Shavlik, a dental hygiene graduate now practicing in Omaha. “There was definitely a bit of pressure from our employers, who were asking when we would get our license and could come join their practice, so it was rough going for a while.”

All of the graduates had secured employment but knew they would be unable to practice until completing the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam (NBDHE) and a required clinical licensure examination.

Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dental hygiene graduates were not allowed to take the traditional, in-person patient-based licensure exam and were unsure when they would get the opportunity to do so.

During the last five weeks of the semester when the university campus closed, faculty quickly developed objective, structured clinical examinations to evaluate adjunct procedures such as amalgam marginations and placement of localized chemotherapeutics, among others for the students.

Patient education and caries risk assessments were evaluated during senior case presentations via Zoom. Clinical skills assessment was conducted via individual, two-hour Zoom sessions with faculty focusing on instrumentation technique and identifying weaknesses in students’ skills.

A virtual graduation occurred on time with all of the dental hygiene students having met the requirements of the program.

In the meantime, Gwen Hlava, chair of the department of dental hygiene, and others figured out a way for the students to take the NBDHE.

“It meant that over the course of three months, our graduates would travel to five different states to sit for their NBDHE exam,” Hlava said.

Still, the clinical examination remained in question.

“We had several important conversations with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the Nebraska Board of Dentistry and a regional testing agency concerning the predicament of a patient-based licensing examination and possible alternatives,” Hlava said.

A solution was found through ongoing conversations with Central Regional Dental Testing Service (CRDTS), which resulted in their willingness to administer the first simulated patient dental hygiene manikin exam by adapting their dental periodontal manikin examination to accommodate the new graduates.

Approval was obtained from the Nebraska Board of Dentistry to allow the 2020 dental hygiene graduates to complete a manikin exam necessary for licensure, and the exam was held June 26.

“It was a little unnerving taking the exam. No one had taken a manikin exam before and we didn’t know what to expect and things felt different than they would on a real person but in the midst of a pandemic it was definitely a better alternative to not taking the exam at all,” Shavlik said.

Shavlik said that while she was nervous to finally be able to take the exam, it was gratifying to be able to exhibit the skills she had learned and mastered.

“When we got the call it was like a sigh of relief. We could finally move forward,” she said.

“The opportunity to complete this examination eliminated a potential months-long wait for licensure and our graduates are now fully employed,” Hlava said.

See pages 12-15 for more stories about how the College of Dentistry’s faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the college have come together to help the college overcome the unexpected challenges that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
“Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to give back to UNMC and build excellence in our college and for students. Now, more than ever, the College of Dentistry will need our ongoing support.”

Special Message
From Dr. Paula Harre, College of Dentistry Alumni Association President

I hope this message finds you all doing well amidst the uncertainty we have all faced in recent weeks and months. As a result of this global pandemic, the dental profession has been impacted in ways many of us would never have predicted. Together we face many challenges that we will overcome. UNMC College of Dentistry alums have incredible resiliency, strength and compassion. Especially during this uncertain time, our unwavering dedication to making a difference in our patients’ lives and our communities makes us extraordinary oral health care providers.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, our College of Dentistry Alumni Association (CODAA) had spent a significant amount of time charting a new course ahead. After thoughtful research, careful consideration, and an eye to an exciting future, our CODAA Board of Directors voted earlier this year to adopt a new model for alumni engagement in partnership with the College of Dentistry and the UNMC Alumni Association. This new model mirrors UNMC’s other college alumni groups, while enabling the College of Dentistry Alumni Board to maintain its traditions and autonomy.

To provide a national context to this endeavor, you should know that the work of volunteer alumni associations continues to evolve to best support the institutions we love. While our main goals remain in place, such as facilitating class reunions, disseminating informative communications, and providing philanthropic support to the college and its students, our board is committed to broaden and deepen our scope as needed. That said, going forward we hope to focus on further advancing excellence in the College of Dentistry through partnering with you, our alumni, and building the next generation of alumni leaders.

Our primary goal is to continue to build on our strong tradition and re-focus our work on strategic alumni engagement and to extend our close collaboration with the college to engage you with your alma mater. There will be two key changes:

The College of Dentistry and the CODAA will partner with the UNMC Alumni Relations Office to provide programmatic support for strategic planning, to help execute our goals, and for key administrative support.

In partnership with the University of Nebraska Foundation, we will implement national best practices in annual giving and create the College of Dentistry Innovation Fund. This new fund will take the place of the CODAA’s two existing funds for new gifts and will be used towards purposes of most need to the college and its students, including support for the people and programs of the alumni association, student and alumni engagement and programming, and the general advancement of the college. In addition, the Innovation Fund will support emerging needs and priorities and right now those needs are changing rapidly.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to give back to UNMC and support our students. Now, more than ever, the College of Dentistry will need our ongoing support. We are proud to serve the College of Dentistry and our fellow alumni, and we look forward to continuing to share updates with you in the months ahead.

Stay healthy and well, and thanks for all you do.

Yours very truly,
Paula Harre, DDS ’82
The College of Dentistry Alumni Association supports:

- The annual white coat ceremony;
- The post-commencement reception;
- Student travel to national conferences;
- And the college’s emerging needs and priorities.

FAQs

How can I support the College of Dentistry?
Over the next few months, you will receive more information on the new College of Dentistry Innovation Fund. This fund will take the place of the College of Dentistry Alumni Fund, the College of Dentistry Alumni Association Fund, and the Dental College Development Fund and will support the people and programs of the college. Please note: Your past gifts supporting the College of Dentistry Alumni Fund, the College of Dentistry Alumni Association Fund, or the Dental College Development Fund have been, and will continue to be, utilized as intended to support the college.

What will the College of Dentistry Innovation Fund support?
The Innovation Fund will support the people and programs of your alumni association, student and alumni engagement and programs, like the annual white coat ceremony, post-commencement reception, and sending students to national conferences. In addition, it will provide the flexibility to advance the college and its emerging priorities. Today’s students and residents will be as grateful for your gift as you were for the gifts that enhanced your education. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of future dental professionals.

Does the College of Dentistry Alumni Association offer memberships?
The College of Dentistry Alumni Association welcomes all College of Dentistry graduates with automatic lifetime membership! While paid lifetime memberships were something we did many years ago, we have phased out any new paid lifetime memberships to the CODAA. Please note: If you have a paid membership to the Nebraska Alumni Association affiliated with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, this membership is NOT affiliated with the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association.

How can I volunteer to get involved with the College of Dentistry Alumni Board?
The Alumni Board is always needing dedicated volunteers spanning all graduation years who want to serve. This is meaningful work and your ideas and feedback are greatly appreciated. To get involved, please contact Catherine Mello in the UNMC Alumni Relations Office, at catherine.mello@unmc.edu or call 402.559.4354.
2020 Alumni Reunion Update

Unfortunately, the 2020 alumni reunion has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next alumni reunion will be held on October 29, 2021. The College of Dentistry Alumni Association will celebrate all major milestone anniversaries for both 2020 and 2021, including celebrating the 50-year honor classes — 1970 and 1971. The event will be held at Nebraska Innovation Campus. Additional information will be coming soon.

Please enjoy the following pictures from the 2019 College of Dentistry Alumni Reunion.

Members of the dental class of 1969, the 50-year honor class.

Members of the dental class of 1989.

Dr. Paula Harre, ’82, CODAA president elect, and Dr. Alan Robertson, ’81, CODAA president.

Alumni reunion banquet attendees with the guest speaker, Dr. Tom Osborne.

Dr. David Neumeister, ’69, shakes hands with Dean Janet M. Guthmiller.
Four Honored by Alumni Association

Each year, the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association honors individuals for their contributions and support of the college and the dental profession. The following 2019 award winners were recognized at the 2019 alumni reunion banquet.

2019 Alumni Achievement Award

Eugene E. Keller, DDS, MS

Dr. Keller graduated from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1965 and then began a residency in oral surgery at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education where he received his MS in dentistry in 1968. He served in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps from 1968-2001 and retired as Captain. He has been a professor of surgery at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Surgery since 1994 and was the chair of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from 2001-2008. Among his many accomplishments, he received the Mayo Fellows Association Teacher of Year Award three times, the Mayo Karis Award in 2002, the Mayo Clinic Distinguished Career Award in 1996, and Mayo Clinic Hall of Fame designation in 1989 and 2009. He has held 25 visiting professorships and published 67 peer-reviewed articles and 20 book chapters.

The Alumni Achievement Award is given on the basis of outstanding dental or dental hygiene career achievements and/or civic involvement.

2019 Distinguished Service Award

Charles “Fritz” Craft, DDS

Dr. Craft graduated from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1980 and then joined the U.S. Public Health Service assigned to the Indian Health Service in Alaska. For 20 years he served Native American patients. In 1995, Dr. Craft founded the East meets West Dental Program in Da Nang, Vietnam. Over the past 20 years, this international humanitarian relief organization has provided free dental care to more than 165,000 underserved children. Dr. Craft has received numerous awards including the Outstanding Service Medal from the U.S. Surgeon General and the American Dental Association’s Humanitarian Award. He joined the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and became the State Dental Director in 2014.

The Distinguished Service Award is given on the basis of contributions to the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association and contributions made to the dental profession.

2019 Outstanding Educator Award

Henry A. St. Germain, Jr., DMD, MSD, MAEd

Dr. Henry St. Germain received a DMD degree from Tufts University in 1975, a MSD in operative dentistry from Indiana University in 1983, and a MAEd from George Washington University in 1992. After retiring from a 24-year career in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, Dr. St. Germain joined the UNMC College of Dentistry faculty in 1995 as an associate professor and director of operative dentistry. In 1997, he became chairman of the Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry. He returned to the full-time faculty in 2013, retired in 2017, and continued to teach as a professor emeritus. Dr. St. Germain received the UNMC Award for Distinguished Teaching, the OKU 4-Year Teaching Award and the Dr. Ken Batenhorst Memorial Teaching Award, and seven faculty recognition awards from students.

The Outstanding Educator Award is presented to an individual with significant accomplishments in the dental profession and a sincere dedication to dental education.

2019 Honorary Life Membership Award

Jennifer K. Kallio, DDS

Dr. Kallio enlisted in the Army Reserves out of high school and served for almost ten years as both an enlisted and commissioned officer. She received her undergraduate degree in biology in 2000 and her doctor of dental surgery degree in 2004, both from Creighton University. Dr. Kallio worked as a general dentist at the Lincoln Lancaster Health Department and was in private practice in Loveland, Colo. She joined the UNMC College of Dentistry faculty in 2011. Dr. Kallio is the local director of the Special Olympic’s Healthy Athletes Special Smiles program and was inducted into the UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Educators. She also teaches continuing education courses and lectures on working with patients with autism and hearing impairments.

The Honorary Life Membership Award is given to an individual who is not an alumnus but who has demonstrated a dedication to, and support for, the UNMC College of Dentistry.
Dean's Club Celebration

A celebration for Dean’s Club members was held at the Champions Club in Lincoln in October 2019. Attendees enjoyed a social hour and a presentation about College of Dentistry and UNMC-wide news and updates from Dean Janet M. Guthmiller and Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold.

Dr. Mark & Susan Hungerford and Dr. Dub & Bet Vogt.

Dr. David & Susan Spann.

Dr. James Walker and Dr. Ken & Sharon Kalkwarf.

Karen Gustin, Gwen Hlava, and dental hygiene student, Elizabeth Shavlik.

Michael Weber and Mary Pollmiller, fourth-year dental students, and Elizabeth Shavlik, fourth-year dental hygiene student, spoke about how contributions from Dean’s Club members benefit all students.

Dr. Art & Susan Burbridge.
November 6

Potpourri of Oral Lesions with Special Emphasis on MUST KNOW Oral Lesions
Speaker: Dr. Nagamani Narayana

December 14-15

Coronal Polishing for Dental Auxiliary
Speakers: Amanda Dolen, RDH, and Jaimee Shropshire, RDH

December 16-17

Coronal Polishing for Dental Auxiliary
Speakers: Amanda Dolen, RDH, and Jaimee Shropshire, RDH

December 14-18

Radiology for Dental Auxiliary
Speakers: Drs. Jen Kallio and Sung Kim

January 8, 2021

Weeth Lecture 2021: Update in Pediatric Preventive and Restorative Dentistry
Speaker: Dr. Kevin J. Donly

January 29, 2021

What’s New in Dentistry 2021
Speakers: Drs. Jeffrey B. Payne and Daniel J. Tylka

February TBD, 2021

Update on Moderate/Minimal Procedural Sedation
Speakers: Drs. J. Bruce Bavitz and Darrell Ebke

Courses are added regularly. For the most up-to-date course listing, visit: unmc.edu/dentistry/continuinged
Alumni help with pandemic response course

College’s alumni help students form an understanding of the unique problems practicing dentists face.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought an additional challenge to the College of Dentistry. In keeping with state requirements to restrict the practice of dentistry to emergency care and to help keep students safe, all spring semester extramural rotations were suspended. However, this situation prompted the college to develop innovative ways to help students form an understanding of the unique problems practicing dentists face.

Through a partnership with the UNMC College of Medicine and the UNMC College of Public Health, the College of Dentistry offered third- and fourth-year dental students a remote ‘pandemic response’ course to study in real time how COVID-19 affects health care practitioners, society and the health care system. Throughout April 2020, the students joined UNMC medical students for lectures on various subjects including disaster relief planning, and current health care practitioners shared their experiences overcoming obstacles.

Sean Figy, MD, assistant professor of surgery, and Regan Taylor, MD, assistant professor of internal medicine, both with the UNMC College of Medicine, co-led development of the course.

“The great thing about UNMC is that we have world experts in so many aspects of emergency preparedness and infectious diseases,” said Dr. Figy. “We took advantage of that expertise and created a truly multidisciplinary course that looks beyond the basic science and clinical science of COVID-19, but also how this affects the mind, body and soul of the community at large.”

Jillian Wallen, BDS, MS, assistant dean for extramural activities and outreach for the College of Dentistry, was one of the course facilitators.

“Many College of Dentistry alums shared their time and expertise to help our students form an understanding of the problems dentists are facing during this challenging time. These alums had an important role in offering our students an innovative educational experience,” Wallen said.

Paula Harre, DDS, was one of the alums who shared a historical perspective with students.

“It was great getting to hear alums share their uncensored fears, plans and advice regarding these unprecedented times. The extensive discussions about new protective equipment protocols and how dental businesses have been affected financially gave great insight into our futures in post-COVID-19 dentistry. Not to mention, the course was a great means of staying connected with our UNMC family, including our alumni.” — Mariah Heft, third-year dental student
Remote learning presents challenges, opportunities

Remote learning started in March 2020 in order to follow social distancing guidelines. Classes were delivered remotely, and the college purchased equipment to allow students to continue to practice their clinical skills at home. The college’s faculty have exhibited an unwavering commitment to their students while showing their creativity and passion for education. Many ingenious ideas have surfaced that will forever change the way faculty teach, and students are paving the way for new methods of learning.

One example of innovation in remote learning was Dr. David Dunning’s practice management class for third-year dental students.

“I featured guest speakers via Zoom. I had the students watch the classroom discussions from last year and submit questions in advance. For example, Dr. Dan Gleason gave an update on how COVID-19 is affecting private practices, then the 45-minute class extended to 75-minutes as Dr. Gleason answered questions.”

Olivia Straka, a student in Dr. Dunning’s class, said, “Our class was incredibly lucky to have Dr. Dunning teaching this course during a time when everything was flipped upside down. I am thankful for the amount of time that he put in to make sure that we still got the same experience as we would have in the classroom. He wanted to make sure that we learned as much as we could about practice management. Even with COVID-19, we were able to hear from excellent speakers.”

James F. Jenkins, DDS, a College of Dentistry alum and current associate professor and director of alumni affairs for the college, also participated in the course.

“I had the pleasure of being part of a panel discussion with three other dentists, sharing what we are doing to practice dentistry again in the face of the pandemic. It was very interesting to hear four dentists’ different perspectives on how they will be safely delivering dental care during the pandemic. I felt the entire course was very well received by everyone involved,” Jenkins said.

Cam Aitken, a third-year dental student, gained important knowledge that will help with future problem-solving.

“The topics we covered helped prepare us to face whatever challenges are thrown our way,” Aitken said.

Forefront of Learning

When access to the college’s clinical and virtual simulation laboratory was limited due to the shift to remote learning, students were able to continue practicing their hand skills at home with electric handpieces and other equipment purchased by the College of Dentistry.

Pictured: A student’s at-home hand skills setup.

Pandemic Response Timeline

March 2020: The college establishes a COVID-19 Incident Command Team to lead efforts related to the pandemic. Remote learning begins; classroom-based courses are taught digitally. Clinics start treating emergency patients only; faculty and residents provide care. Student and resident rotations are suspended and outreach activities are postponed. Employees start working remotely.

May 2020: All senior students complete their graduation requirements on time and are recognized during a virtual commencement ceremony. (see page 14)

June 2020: Comprehensive patient care resumes in a conservative, phased approach. (see page 12) Laboratory instruction resumes, following social distancing guidelines and other directed health measures.

Fall 2020: First-year dental and dental hygiene students are onsite for 100% of their learning; upper classes have a combination of onsite and hybrid learning. 100% attendance onsite in all simulation laboratory classes in the newly renovated clinical and virtual simulation laboratory which allows for physical distancing; students are performing well because they were able to practice hand skills at home during the summer.

David G. Dunning, MA, PhD
Patient care resumes in a phased approach

The College of Dentistry’s clinic reentry task force, along with college administration and UNMC infectious disease experts worked to determine how to resume patient care while keeping students, faculty, staff and patients safe. Following is a summary of the clinic reentry process and the changes that were made so students could resume their clinical educational experiences in the safest environments possible, and patients could resume receiving routine, urgent and emergency dental care.

Timeline:
- On March 16, Nebraska closes dental offices for routine care.
- Starting March 17, the college’s faculty and resident clinic teams continue to serve communities by providing important emergency patient care services in the following clinics: Lincoln, Durham Outpatient Center, and Children’s Hospital and Medical Center.
- In April, a clinic reentry task force is formed that develops guiding principles for resuming patient care.
- On May 4, Nebraska opens dental offices for elective procedures.
- On May 29, the college’s clinic reentry manual is published, which is based on recommendations from the clinic reentry task force and guidelines from numerous sources, including: CDC; OSHA; ADA; NDA; UNMC infectious disease experts, engineers and facilities teams; and other dental programs.
- Key differences between a private practice and a dental school that affect reopening:
  » large open bay operatories vs. smaller controlled environments;
  » large college community (faculty, staff, students, patients); and
  » the experience of operators (dental students and residents).

Phased opening:
Guided by the clinic reentry manual, the college embarks on a phased opening:
- Phase I: Emergency and urgent care.
- Phase II: Postgraduate programs and UDA (faculty practice) resume providing patient care in June 2020.
- Phase III: Predoctoral students receive training in the simulation lab and clinic, then resume providing patient care in July 2020.

Changes that were made to create the safest possible environments:
1. Redesigned service operation and flow from the time a patient is contacted to the time they exit the college.
2. Made changes to deal with airflow and clinic spacing to conform with the ever-changing guidelines and recommendations from organizations such as the CDC.
3. Made changes in treatment approaches to minimize aerosol generating procedures; purchased extraoral high evacuation suction units to assist in minimizing such aerosols.
4. Students are paired up as first and second operators and there is an assistant for procedures. Made changes to clinic workflow so runners are available to get needed supplies and alert faculty and staff when students need assistance.
5. Secured an adequate PPE supply of gowns, face shields, masks and respirators. Provided fit testing of N95 respirators for all students and staff. Provided PPE training for students and staff on new donning and doffing procedures.
6. Trained providers on nasopharyngeal swab collection and partnered with the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory to test patients for COVID-19 before they are scheduled for aerosol generating dental procedures (using the gold standard in COVID-19 testing).
7. Redesigned the electronic health record to add patient screening questionnaires.
8. Received the NE CARES Response and Recovery Award and Stabilization Grant to create nine airborne isolation infection rooms for safety (3 rooms in Lincoln Dental Clinic; 3 rooms in Omaha Dental Clinic; 3 rooms in Munroe-Meyer Institute) and purchase extraoral evacuation units.

Updated clinical protocols - October 2020:
As we have learned more about SARS-CoV-2 infections and transmission of the virus, the college has continuously evaluated the clinical protocols and the evolving guidelines published by the CDC, OSHA, and the ADA, and continued discussions with other dental schools throughout the country. Evolving evidence and acquisition of supplies supports the following changes in the college’s clinic protocols:
1. Changes in COVID-19 testing protocols. (Adults – continue PCR testing for high-risk aerosol generating procedures, Children – continue COVID-19 testing for aerosol generating procedures, etc.)
2. Continue duplicate screening processes and continue to use the appropriate PPE, rubber dam isolation, intraoral high-volume evacuation extraoral suction units and assistants for aerosol generating procedures.
3. Continue to seek a point-of-care test and initiate the process for a CLIA certification waiver.
4. Increase capacity in the clinics.
5. Students resume experiences at service-learning sites statewide.

The college will continue to evaluate these protocols and use local and national guidance and research to make further modifications, if needed.
Petro to investigate a novel vaccine approach to COVID-19

Thomas M. Petro, PhD, professor, oral biology, received funding to investigate a novel vaccine approach to COVID-19. “I will investigate several of the COVID-19 structural proteins to determine if and how they might interfere with Type I interferon expression,” Dr. Petro said.

This pilot project is funded by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with the goal of stimulating research in this area. Dr. Petro is collaborating with Dr. Asit Pattnaik from the Nebraska Center for Virology.

Commencement and senior salutes held virtually

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNMC determined that all colleges would hold virtual commencement ceremonies. The College of Dentistry’s virtual commencement ceremony, held on May 7, 2020, was a memorable celebration where each graduate was recognized individually for their amazing achievements and honors.

The graduates’ loved ones and the College of Dentistry community gathered virtually to celebrate the graduates and all they accomplished during their journeys at the College of Dentistry. (see next page for a list of the graduates)

During virtual senior salute celebrations, held on May 5, 2020, faculty shared their favorite memories of the dental and dental hygiene classes of 2020 and messages of congratulations. Dr. Paula Harre, president of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association, welcomed the graduates to the college’s alumni family and gave an overview of the myriad of ways the new alums can remain engaged with the college.

An excerpt from Dr. Yoshiharu Ameku’s message during the dental senior salute:

“It certainly has been an unexpected ending to your educational journey. I recall interviewing many of you nearly five years ago, listening to your personal stories and the reasons why you wanted to become a dentist. During your interviews, I saw your compassion, grit, resilience, dedication and empathy. Fast forward to today and you have achieved your dreams.”

Faculty teach aspiring health professionals virtually

UNMC and the College of Dentistry received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to participate in the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), a national program that strengthens the academic proficiency and career development of students underrepresented in the health professions. Dean Guthmiller serves as a co-principal investigator on this grant.

This year, the SHPEP program was changed to an online format. Larry D. Crouch, PhD, associate professor, oral biology (pictured above), has served as coordinator of the SHPEP biomedical sciences section for seven years. Dr. Crouch made virtual presentations on inflammation and COVID-19; glycemic control, diabetes and COVID-19; and the neurophysiology of learning. Other presenters were Drs. Gregory Bennett, Janet Guthmiller, Yun Saksena, M.W. Vogt and Shayla Yoachim.

Students involved in college’s pandemic response

The dental and dental hygiene students and residents have shown how committed they are to becoming extraordinary oral health care professionals by helping the College of Dentistry overcome the challenges that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They have demonstrated amazing resiliency and compassion – qualities that are going to serve them well in their careers. They have:

attended town halls to brainstorm solutions to challenges, including how to welcome patients back to the college for comprehensive care and how to welcome new students;
helped create training videos for the College of Dentistry community demonstrating proper PPE donning and doffing;
organized a food drive as part of Support Your NEighbor, an initiative started by UNMC medical students to help those who are most susceptible to COVID-19 and promote positivity; and served on the clinic reentry task force to help plan for reestablishing comprehensive patient care.

“I am extremely happy that administration encouraged direct student involvement in the clinical reentry task force as it not only gave a voice to the class of 2021, but also a voice to our patients. We have a plan in place that will allow us to safely continue our dental education while also allowing us to meet the needs of our patients.”

— Jai Mediratta, third-year dental student
May 2020 College of Dentistry Graduates

Dental Graduates

Aktham J. Adams, Lincoln
Eric Alan Ahrens, Staplehurst
Brittany A. Albers, Norfolk
Natalie A. Bussard, North Platte
Curtis Wade Collins, North Platte
Christopher Mario Garth Cooper, Omaha
Curtis Wade Collins, North Platte
Christopher Mario Garth Cooper, Omaha

Aktham J. Adams, Lincoln
Eric Alan Ahrens, Staplehurst
Brittany A. Albers, Norfolk
Natalie A. Bussard, North Platte
Curtis Wade Collins, North Platte
Christopher Mario Garth Cooper, Omaha

Aktham J. Adams, Lincoln
Eric Alan Ahrens, Staplehurst
Brittany A. Albers, Norfolk
Natalie A. Bussard, North Platte
Curtis Wade Collins, North Platte
Christopher Mario Garth Cooper, Omaha

Dental Hygiene Graduates

LINCOLN DIVISION

Yahia Salem Al Sarhani, Iraq
Samanta Rene Camenzind, Laurel
Lora Lucile Edelman, York
Jesse Lynn Grotelueschen, Octavia
Yahia Salem Al Sarhani, Iraq
Samanta Rene Camenzind, Laurel
Lora Lucile Edelman, York
Jesse Lynn Grotelueschen, Octavia
Yahia Salem Al Sarhani, Iraq
Samanta Rene Camenzind, Laurel
Lora Lucile Edelman, York
Jesse Lynn Grotelueschen, Octavia

Where are they headed?

Immediate career plans for dental graduates:

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Immediate career plans for dental hygiene graduates:

24 Private practice
Graduate Spotlight

An excerpt from Brock’s commencement speech: “Throughout our academic journeys, we have faced trials and adversity. Our time at the College of Dentistry has been no different, and those difficulties create lasting memories. The classroom and clinical instruction at the college is second to none, but nothing has taught us more than moments of adversity. I urge all of us to learn and grow with the bumps in the road we will continue to face.”

“Graduating marks a big moment for me and my family. I will be joining a private practice in Columbus where I will serve a largely Latino community. As a child growing up in California, I dreamt of following my late father’s footsteps to become a dentist and be the much-needed connection between the Latino community and quality health care services. This is the opportunity I have been working towards—it is surreal to finally arrive.”

Brock Lewis, DDS, President of Dental Class of 2020

An excerpt from Brianna’s commencement speech: “These last two years have been anything but ordinary. The dental hygiene class of 2020 are strong, resilient people who are able to rise above challenges, find answers to our questions, believe in our knowledge, and have our opinions be heard. I want to thank everyone who has helped us in this journey for all the time, tears and talents that have led us to our tomorrow.”

“Earning my DDS has been a LONG journey. I am extremely grateful for the faculty at UNMC who pushed me to be a better clinician and who taught me many valuable lessons. I am so proud of the class of 2020 and how far we have all come. I am very excited to begin my next chapter. I will be working with the South Dakota Delta Dental Mobile Program providing no-cost dental care to children around the state of South Dakota.”

Brianna Hellings, RDH, President of Dental Hygiene Class of 2020

An excerpt from Victor’s commencement speech: “It is both exciting and humbling to join a profession that changes lives. My journey to a DDS was only possible with the support of my family. I am also grateful to the dedicated faculty who instilled in me their love of dentistry and a drive to always strive for perfection. My dental career will forever be enriched by the opportunities I received at UNMC. I will be joining Omni Dental Group where I will serve families in Omaha and Council Bluffs.”

“I am thankful for the dental hygiene faculty at UNMC. I’ve never met people like them before. They were so easy to get to know and ended up feeling like family. They are people I will forever look up to as role models. I will forever be grateful for the experience I had at UNMC and am excited to start my professional journey. I will be joining Pine Ridge Dental in Lincoln where I will be able to help improve the oral health of adults and children.”

Victor Romero, DDS

Christopher Cooper, DDS

Mikaela Sorensen, RDH

Holly Joy Heien, DDS
College of Dentistry alumni tour the new learning spaces during the 2019 alumni reunion.

Transforming dental education

The clinical and virtual simulation laboratory and digital design studio were completed in October 2019. In these learning spaces, students are immersed in innovative educational experiences, developing cutting-edge skills and growing into tomorrow’s leaders in oral health.

In the 5,500-square-foot, 64-station clinical and virtual simulation laboratory, students learn the latest clinical techniques and skills through clinical simulations and virtual dental trainers which use simulation technology to achieve a high level of realism. Cutting-edge 3D, virtual reality and haptics technology allow students to navigate and manipulate virtual clinical environments.

In the 700-square-foot, 15-station digital design studio, students use the latest CAD/CAM technology and an equipment studio with milling machines and 3D printers to design dentures and restorations. Students gain cutting-edge digital dentistry skills that will help them reach new levels in their professional careers.

“The new simulation lab is very intuitive and innovative. From the moment I walk inside, I can’t help but feel amazed by how much has changed. The new simodonts give an in-depth virtual and tactile experience of preparing a tooth with amazing feedback on how I can improve myself, which is a surreal experience.” — Sunit Patel, second-year dental student

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the benefactors of these new learning spaces was postponed due to COVID-19.

unmc.edu/dentistry
Gregory Bennett, DMD, assistant professor, adult restorative dentistry, teaches the college’s digital dentistry courses.

“The new technology in the lab is amazing! It is great to be able to see our instructors’ demonstrations from our work spaces. This has really made it easier to follow along step-by-step through procedures.” — Mitchell Kaus, second-year dental student

The new digital dentistry lab gives our students access to more technology than ever before. The digital revolution in dentistry is in full swing. With the new lab and equipment, we can outpace other schools in digital dentistry education and innovation.” — Gregory Bennett, DMD, assistant professor, adult restorative dentistry

How are you introducing digital dentistry to students?
I’ve been focused on retraining the idea of CAD/CAM dentistry. As the M stands for manufacturing, there is a whole new world in dentistry thanks to 3D printing. I’ve been able to help students with projects that, when I was a student, I would’ve killed for because 3D printing would have saved me so much time. For instance, students have been able to do a diagnostic wax up using dental software, and then we 3D print a model. With the digital design studio, students have access to technology and software that any top dental lab in the world will be using to manufacture. We’ll also have the first real dental 3D printers.

What makes the UNMC College of Dentistry’s digital dentistry education different than other colleges?
I’m fairly confident with our new digital design lab that students will have access to more technology than pretty much anywhere. There are a handful of schools that are very technology focused, whether they tend to have more of a broad exposure or focus on one thing. Our students will have exposure to pretty much all the digital dentistry technology that’s out there.

What would you tell a student who is contemplating dentistry; how is digital dentistry transforming the field?
Digital dentistry is why I’m a dentist. When I was in college, I sat next to a dentist on a flight and he showed me all the technology that he had at that point - lasers and CAD/CAM dentistry. I thought it was amazing. If you love technology, it’s a fantastic job to be in. In the future, 3D printing should be in pretty much every dental office in every specialty. The technology has rapidly advanced.
Assistant surgeon general praises college’s learning environment

“I am amazed by the UNMC College of Dentistry’s learning environment. I’ve visited 25 schools and residency programs and this college has the most advanced learning technology I’ve seen.”

Rear Admiral Timothy Ricks, assistant surgeon general and chief dental officer for the U.S. Public Health Service, visited the College of Dentistry on Feb. 11, 2020, to meet faculty, staff and students and tour the college, including the new clinical and virtual simulation laboratory, digital design studio and updated classrooms.

“I am amazed by the UNMC College of Dentistry’s learning environment. I’ve visited 25 schools and residency programs and this college has the most advanced learning technology I’ve seen. The iWall is a public health educator’s dream,” Ricks said. He also toured the patient care clinics and learned about the college’s community outreach efforts, including Children’s Dental Day.

Ricks’ visit included a presentation to the college community on the forthcoming 2020 Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health which describes key issues that currently affect the nation’s oral health and identifies challenges and opportunities.

“It was an honor to have Rear Admiral Ricks share with us updates on national efforts to promote oral health and eliminate oral health disparities, including efforts to change Americans’ perceptions of oral health and replicate effective programs, such as the Nebraska Teeth Forever program,” said Janet Guthmiller, DDS, PhD, dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry.

Ricks drew attention to large-scale issues that have affected the nation’s oral health in the past 20 years, including the aging population, substance abuse trends and e-cigarette use, and discussed how the forthcoming Surgeon General’s report will articulate promising new directions for improving oral health equity across communities.

Throughout his presentation, Ricks reminded the college community how important it is as current and future oral health professionals to stay informed about, and participate in, local and national efforts to promote oral health and overcome health disparities.

“I wanted to open people’s eyes to opportunities to join in the collective effort to improve our nation’s oral health,” Ricks said.

The college community found Ricks’ presentation empowering. Shelby Brown, a first-year dental student, said, “Rear Admiral Ricks inspired me to make a difference, especially to take part in helping to eliminate oral health disparities and stay informed about national oral health issues.”
Moravec installed as president of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association

Lisa Moravec, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, was installed as the president of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) on June 14, 2020. Moravec is an associate professor and site coordinator for the UNMC West Division Dental Hygiene program and the third hygienist from Nebraska to serve as president of the organization.

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of more than 185,000 registered dental hygienists across the country. ADHA works to support dental hygienists throughout their careers and advance the dental hygiene profession by developing new career paths, expanding opportunities for care, and providing the latest training and information.

“I am humbled, excited and truly honored to have the opportunity to serve my professional association. I am committed to learning and growing each day and hope to inspire others to strive to be the best versions of themselves,” Moravec said.

Moravec has held many leadership positions within ADHA, including president elect, vice president, district VIII trustee, and as a member of the executive, finance, student relations, and board policy and procedures committees. Additionally, she served on the board of the ADHA’s Institute for Oral Health and was president of the Nebraska Dental Hygienists’ Association. Moravec has received numerous leadership awards, including being named Nebraska’s Dental Hygienist of the Year.

She received her Bachelor of Science in dental hygiene from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 2002 and her Master of Science in dental hygiene from Idaho State University in 2011.

“I am blessed to be in a profession that I love and am passionate about serving. ADHA has several strategic initiatives that I am excited to be a part of,” Moravec said.

“This quote by Mark Twain accurately captures how I feel about my job and profession, ‘Find a job you enjoy doing and you will never have to work a day in your life.’”
College of Dentistry cuts ribbon on $2.6 million renovation of Omaha dental clinic

The growth of the Omaha dental clinic allows the College of Dentistry to increase the number of patients they serve, as well as accommodate a new residency program.

The College of Dentistry cut the ribbon on a $2.6 million renovation of their Omaha dental clinic at the Durham Outpatient Center on Oct. 14, 2019.

“The proximity of this clinic to our clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, sets a new standard for care as it allows us to provide for the oral health care needs of patients,” said Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD.

The complete facility renovation expands the dental clinic from seven dental chairs to 15, adds multipurpose rooms for special procedures, updates all the dental operatories, adds a conference room and updates the sterilization lab, reception area and support spaces.

“This renovation allows the clinic to now serve as a rotation site for our dental students and dental hygiene students who are able to come alongside and learn and serve the citizens of this area and beyond,” said Janet Guthmiller, DDS, PhD, dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry.

Jay Hansen, DDS, director of advanced education in general dentistry, Kathleen Ausman, DDS, director of general practice residency; Janet Guthmiller, DDS, PhD, dean; Amir Farhangpour, DDS, assistant dean for Omaha Clinics; and Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, chancellor of UNMC and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, joined Drs. Gold and Guthmiller in cutting the ribbon, officially marking the completion.

The growth of the dental clinic allows the College of Dentistry to increase the number of patients they serve, as well as accommodate a new residency program, Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD), headed by Dr. Hansen, and the current General Practice Residency Program, headed by Dr. Ausman.

Speaking to attendees, Dr. Hansen pointed to the facility’s comfortable environment for patients, more efficient flow for patient management and care, and accessibility for patients with compromised mobility and complex medical conditions.
College developing dental clinic for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

The College of Dentistry is working with UNMC’s Munroe-Meyer Institute to develop a dental clinic, and provide specialized dental care, for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The clinic will be located in the new Munroe-Meyer Institute building that is set to open in 2021.

The Munroe-Meyer Institute’s mission is to be world leaders in transforming the lives of all individuals with disabilities and complex health care needs, their families and the community through extraordinary patient care.

Jillian Wallen, BDS, MS, assistant dean for extramural activities and outreach, is a member of the planning team.

“It has been ten years since the college’s pediatric dental clinic relocated from Munroe-Meyer to Children’s Hospital and Medical Center. This state-of-the-art building will allow us to better serve these individuals and their families,” Dr. Wallen said.

Claire Koukol, DDS, assistant professor, pediatric dentistry, has an instrumental role in developing the college’s partnership with the Munroe-Meyer Institute.

“We are excited to be part of Munroe-Meyer’s multi-disciplinary team. This partnership will allow us to tailor care and treatment needs to each patient and provide them with the quality care they deserve, and provide our students and residents with a wonderful learning experience seeing firsthand how well interprofessional health care works,” Dr. Koukol said.
Community Outreach Spotlight

Students receive special thank you from second graders

The second grade class at Hill Elementary in Lincoln gave Dillon Arens and Zachary Berg, first-year dental students, a very special book full of thank you notes for teaching them how to keep their smiles healthy. Dillon and Zachary taught the students how to brush their teeth to get the ‘sugar bugs’ out and what dentists do.

Dillon and Zachary said, “This is really awesome. We’re so happy the students got a lot out of our presentation.”

Pediatric dentistry residents teach students healthy habits

The College of Dentistry Pediatric Dental Residency Program partners with Omaha Public Schools to teach Omaha Head Start students good oral health habits and what to expect when they visit the dentist. During the fall of 2019, the program reached more than 950 preschool children and provided more than 200 dental screenings.

“For some of these kids, this is their first time meeting a dentist. It’s great to be able to talk with them about taking care of their teeth and developing healthy eating habits,” said Spencer Burton, DDS, pediatric dentistry resident.

West division dental hygiene program helps communities

The West Division Dental Hygiene Program in Gering provides oral health care education and services in communities in western Nebraska. Dental hygiene students provided dental sealants to children in need at Banner County School in Harrisburg and Minatare Elementary in Minatare. They also hosted an oral health booth at the Latina Red Dress event in Gering. The event, a collaboration with the UNMC College of Nursing, offered Latina women opportunities to become informed about their health.

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College receives ‘Biggest Smile’ award

Nebraska Mission of Mercy recognizes the college’s contributions during their 2019 outreach event.

The College of Dentistry received recognition from Nebraska Mission of Mercy, a program that provides care to the uninsured, the underinsured and anyone who has difficulty getting to a dentist.

“We are very proud to give our ‘Biggest Smile’ award to the UNMC College of Dentistry for their outstanding contributions and care during the 2019 Nebraska Mission of Mercy. They helped provide care to many children and adults who desperately needed it and made a profound difference in their lives,” said event chair Bruce Kuhn, DDS, MD, a 1983 alum of the UNMC College of Dentistry.

During the 2019 event, more than 60 volunteers from the college, including dental and dental hygiene students, faculty, residents, staff and alumni, helped provide $957,000 worth of dental services to more than 1,350 patients at the UNMC College of Dentistry Pediatric Dental Clinic at Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and Brownell Talbot School in Omaha.

Corinne Van Osdel, DDS, postgraduate resident, was one of the volunteers.

“The Nebraska Mission of Mercy experience is always a highlight for students. I met dental professionals from across the state who donated their time to make a difference. Even my mom came to help,” Dr. Van Osdel said. “I know I will participate in the future. The patients are so grateful for our care, and it is truly an honor to partake in such a big event that improves oral health care in the community.”

College works with Asian Community and Cultural Center

Students distributed oral health items and education to 250 community members at the Asian Community and Cultural Center’s Lunar New Year Festival, held Feb. 8, 2020, in Lincoln. They were able to interact with people of all ages and backgrounds. The students were joined by Dr. Charles F. Craft, Nebraska State Dental Health Director; Dr. James F. Jenkins, associate professor; and Dr. David G. Brown, professor.
The College of Dentistry was full of smiles during the 37th annual Children’s Dental Day, held March 6, 2020, in Lincoln. At the event, UNMC dental and dental hygiene students, postgraduate dental residents, faculty and staff provided free dental care and oral health education to 218 low-income and underserved children from communities across Nebraska.

“They did a really good job taking care of my teeth. Thank you, I’m smiling big now!” said Alonzo, a second grader from Fremont.

For the children and their parents, Children’s Dental Day fills an important need. For many of the children, it was their first visit to a dentist. They received dental cleanings, restorations, extractions and other essential dental care — 1,625 procedures were performed and the value of the services provided was $155,775.

“I have a big family and can’t afford dental care for all my children,” said Heather McBright from Lincoln. “Without this service, my children wouldn’t get all the care they need. I can’t thank the students and all the volunteers enough. This is truly a blessing.”

The College of Dentistry community benefits just as much as the patients.

“Our students, residents, faculty and staff are able to give back to our communities and care for children who otherwise wouldn’t have access to dental care,” said Jillian Wallen, BDS, MS, assistant dean for extramural activities and outreach for the UNMC College of Dentistry.

“Everyone involved has a role in changing lives ‘one smile at a time.’”

Children’s Dental Day also serves as an interprofessional education event. Students from the UNMC College of Nursing attend to provide wellness checks and students from other local colleges - Southeast Community College, Central Community College and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — provide cleanings, clinical assistance and translation services.

Students value the hands-on learning experiences the event provides.

“Especially here in Nebraska, if you practice in a small town, you treat children. It’s important for students to get real-life experience working with children,” said Mary Pollmiller, a fourth-year dental student. “I absolutely love the outreach events that the college participates in. The people we serve are always very thankful for our services. Giving back to the community is something that is very important to the College of Dentistry, and to me!”

Starting in 2001, the UNMC College of Dentistry has held 37 Children’s Dental Days in Lincoln and western Nebraska, treating more than 6,000 children and providing more than $3 million in dental services to low-income and underserved children. The event is part of the American Dental Association’s oral health care program for underserved children, Give Kids A Smile.

The children are identified and prescreened by volunteers in their communities, including UNMC College of Dentistry alumni. Many of these volunteers attend the event with the children to provide emotional support.
A group of College of Dentistry students help make the event a positive experience for the patients.

A group of patients from Lexington, Neb., who traveled three hours to receive dental care.

A patient receives much-needed dental services from UNMC College of Dentistry students.

**Wallen named assistant dean for extramural activities and outreach**

Jillian Wallen, BDS, MS, was named the College of Dentistry’s assistant dean for extramural activities and outreach in October 2019. Dr. Wallen assumed this leadership role to help grow and coordinate extramural activities and outreach.

**How are you enjoying your new role so far?**
I’ve had wonderful meetings with the classes. We’ve talked about our outreach programs and I’ve gotten great feedback from the students about their experiences. I’ve also visited with some alums about their experiences while they were in school.

I’m reading evaluations from preceptors and from students about extramural rotations and gaining a better understanding of the objectives of the program and how we can really rejuvenate it and ensure we offer our students great clinical experiences.

**What are you looking forward to?**
I’m looking forward to visiting with the preceptors and thanking them for providing important educational experiences for our students. In the future, I want to show the preceptors the clinical and virtual simulation laboratory and discuss what the future of dental education looks like for students.

I’m really looking forward to getting to know people better and continuing the college’s strong tradition of service.

**By the Numbers:**
Number of children treated: **218**
Number of volunteers: **350+**
Value of procedures: **$155,775**
Number of procedures: **1,625**
Achievements

Summary of Awards

• Student Academic Scholarships – 132 dental students received 203 awards valued at $1,414,885 and 47 dental hygiene students received 45 awards valued at $168,123. The awardees thank the thoughtful and generous individuals and organizations who make these scholarships possible.

• Student Awards – 42 awards for outstanding achievement were given to graduating seniors. 71 awards for high academic achievement were given, including being in the top 10% or 15% of their class, being recognized for high academic achievement each year, or graduating with honors.

• Grants and Contracts – Faculty members received $2,236,541 in extramural funding for teaching, research or service projects; 30 applications were submitted for $7,668,615. Extramural grants and contracts not only bring attention and prestige to these scholars and the college, but also contribute to the financial support of the college’s programs.

2020 Student and Faculty Awards

Each year, the College of Dentistry celebrates the professional and scholarly accomplishments of students, faculty and staff at the annual Professionals Day. This year, due to COVID-19, the senior class award winners were recognized during the College of Dentistry’s 2020 Virtual Convocation and Commencement ceremony in May. Other award winners were recognized at the 2020 All College Conference.

Dr. Kenneth Bartenhorst Memorial Faculty Award

The graduating dental class chooses a faculty member who has made a significant contribution to their education and has shown great dedication to preparing students to be leaders in dentistry.

Presented by the Dental Class of 2020 to Robin L. Hattervig, DDS

Omicron Kappa Upsilon 4-Year Teaching Award

The graduating dental class recognizes a faculty member who has made a significant contribution to their education.

Presented by the Dental Class of 2020 to Yoshiharu Ameku, DDS

Honor Society Inductees

The following students were inducted into the Alpha Alpha chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, a national dental honor society, and Sigma Phi Alpha, a national dental hygiene honor society.

Paul B. Lewis
Omicron Kappa Upsilon

Hannah E. Loseke
Omicron Kappa Upsilon

Mary K. O’Brien
Omicron Kappa Upsilon

Mary Pollmiller
Omicron Kappa Upsilon

Dasirae D. Sieh
Omicron Kappa Upsilon

Yahia Al Sarhani
Sigma Phi Alpha

Elizabeth Shavlik
Sigma Phi Alpha

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Student Research Day

The College of Dentistry’s annual Research Day, held Feb. 28, 2020, featured the innovative oral health research being done by third-year dental students, fourth-year dental hygiene students and postgraduate students. Through research projects, students gain knowledge to help them become leaders in oral health care.

“Most of the students’ research has taken a year or more to conduct. There’s always a wide range of topics spanning from clinical to basic sciences to educational research. Each year, I am more impressed with what our students can do,” said Research Day committee chairman Amanda Dolen, RDH, BS, instructor, dental hygiene.

Dental First Place

Colton Allen, “Desquamation of Palatal Epithelial Cells in Palate Development.”
Mentor: Ali Nawshad, PhD
“The College of Dentistry allows me to combine my two interests – research and dentistry. Due to my research into palate development, I better understand how oral health research can improve the quality of our patients’ lives; specifically, improving their speaking abilities.”

Post-Grad First Place

Yanqiu Li, “Regulation of MASTL Kinase in Oral Cancer Resistance.”
Mentor: Aimin Peng, PhD
“I was really surprised, excited and honored to win. Through this research project, I learned a lot about DNA damage and repair, as well as how to think in a scientific way, which will definitely benefit my future clinical practice and research.”

Dental Hygiene First Place

Emily Walker & Yahia Al Sarharni, “The Discoloration Effect of Kool-Aid and Coca-Cola on Glass-Ionomer Sealants.”
Mentors: Mark W. Beatty, DDS, MSE, MSD, MS, William W. Johnson, DDS, MS & Bobby Simetich, BSE
“It was a tremendous achievement to win. I did not realize how much I would learn about sealants. I also learned many things that will help me educate my future patients” — Emily

“I come from a third-world country and this kind of research could be very beneficial for that part of the world. I have a plan when I go back to visit to bring what I learned. I think this research could really help people.” — Yahia

Students featured in UNMC E-Learning Showcase

Cultural Awareness: Students will become aware of the cultural differences between them and their patients and learn how to better communicate with patients.

Guess My Age from Dental Radiographs: Students will learn how to identify a patient’s age through reviewing their panographs. This module will aid students in their dental anatomy classes, as well as students studying pediatric dentistry.
On the National Scene: Student Research

Many students represent the College of Dentistry at national conferences each year. Unfortunately, this year many conferences were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please join the college in celebrating these students’ outstanding research projects.

American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session (March 2020, cancelled)

Spencer Adams, D3, and Cameron Aitken, D3, “Subjective Assessment is Out, Objective Digital Assessment is In.” (Mentors: Drs. Marianne Day, Greg Bennett)

Sinan Akkoseoglu, D3, and Alex Madrahimov, D3, “Dental Management of the Cardiac Patient: E-module.” (Mentors: Drs. Nagamani Narayana, Mary Lynn Froeschle)

Rahmi Aulia, Graduate Student, “Effect of Nanofiller Coating and Loading on Facial Elastomer Physical Properties.” (Mentors: Dr. Mark Beatty, Bobby Simitch)

Tressa Gloystein, D4, and Dasirae Sieh, D4, “Mental Health Difficulties Among Professional Student.” (Mentor: Dr. Brian Lange)

Mariah Heft, D3, and Samantha Nelson, D3, “Should All White Plaques be Diagnosed Leukoplakia?: A Retrospective Study.” (Mentor: Dr. Nagamani Narayana)

Paul Lewis, D4, “Diagnostic Accuracy and Incidence of Extragingival Pyogenic Granulomas: A 50-Year Nebraska Retrospective Study.” (Mentor: Dr. Nagamani Narayana)

Yanqiu Li, Graduate Student, “Regulation of MASTL Kinase in Oral Cancer Resistance.” (Mentor: Dr. Aimin Peng)

M. Kate O’Brien, D4, “Retrospective Study to Establish Norms for Cranio-cervical Angulation and Upper Airway Dimensions in Normal Adolescent Population.” (Mentor: Dr. Sheela Premaraj)


Kevin Vakilzadian, D3, “Outdoor Weathering of Spectromatch® Facial Intrinsic Skin Tone Pigments.” (Mentors: Dr. Mark Beatty, Bobby Simitch)

AADR Faculty Presenters: Drs. Mark Beatty, Ali Nawshad, Sheela Premaraj, Sundaralingam Premaraj

American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) (June 2020, held virtually)

Yahia Al Sarhani, DH4, and Emily Walker, DH4, “The Discoloration Effect of Kool-Aid and Coca-Cola on Glass-Ionomer Sealants.” (Mentors: Dr. Mark Beatty, William Johnson, Bobby Simitch)

Maria Celeste Hernandez, DH4, and Mikaela Sorensen, DH4, “Color and Surface Roughness Change in Beautiful II Gingiva Composite Following Coronal Polishing: A Pilot Study.” (Mentors: Dr. Mark Beatty, Dr. William Johnson, Bobby Simitch)


American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Annual Session (March 2020, cancelled)

Colton Allen, D3, “Desquamation of Palatal Epithelial Cells in Palate Development.” (Mentor: Dr. Ali Nawshad)

American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Annual Session (March 2020, cancelled)

American Dental Education Association Leadership 2020-21

The following faculty and students will be serving in leadership roles and representing the College of Dentistry.

Larry D. Crouch, PhD – ADEA Section on Biochemistry, Nutrition and Microbiology.

Marianne R. Day, DDS – ADEA Section on Dental Anatomy and Occlusion, Chair-Elect.

David G. Dunning, MA, PhD – ADEA Council of Faculties.

Janet Guthmiller, DDS, PhD – ADEA Council of Deans, Member-at-Large.


Yun Saksena, BDSc, MMSc, DMD – ADEA Section on Educational Research, Development and Curriculum; Annual Session Program Committee; ADEA Student Poster Competition Coordinator.

Shayla D. Yoachim, PhD and Luana Oliveira-Haas, DDS, MS, PhD – ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation.

Student Representatives:

Drew Egger, D3 – District 8 Commissioner.

Maddi McConnaughhay, D4 – National Exec Board Vice-Chair.

Chad Sindelar, D3 – District 8 Deputy Commissioner.

Lotte Sjulin, D3 – Academia/ADCFP Liaison.
Each year, the College of Dentistry classes recognize select faculty members for their commitment to helping students grow into extraordinary oral health care professionals.

“Dr. Yoachim has inspired us to be better students and professionals. She has made an extra effort this year to adapt to our ever-changing class needs and demands.” — Dental Class of 2023

“Dr. Wahl’s commitment and care for us not just as students, but as fellow human beings, is a lesson our class can take with them throughout their lives.” — Dental Class of 2023

“Dr. Kim holds a very special place in the hearts of our class. He takes different approaches to convey information in engaging ways and exhibits mastery over his craft.” — Dental Class of 2022

“Dr. Oliveira-Haas brings amazing energy each and every day. You can feel her passion for dentistry with every critique and piece of advice she gives.” — Dental Class of 2022

“Dr. Sigler helped make the transition to clinic easier. We could always go to him if we had a question and he was always more than willing to help.” — Dental Class of 2021

“We are thankful for the knowledge and confidence Dr. Asbjornson builds in us during outreach events. He goes out of his way to help to the full extent.” — Dental Class of 2021

“Amanda is easy to relate to and gives constructive criticism in a nurturing way. She cares deeply for each of us. She is always there to encourage and guide us.” — Dental Hygiene Class of 2021, Lincoln Division

“Molly continually lifted us up through her energy and passion. The relationships she built with us and the knowledge she shared will be with us a life time.” — Dental Hygiene Class of 2021, West Division

“Todd has continuously provided each of us with support, confidence and humor in times of great need. His easy-going manner and knowledge make him stand out.” — Dental Hygiene Class of 2020

“Nicole has always gone above and beyond to help students. She takes time out of her days, in and out of the clinic, to make sure we succeed. We are lucky to have her!” — Dental Hygiene Class of 2020, West Division
New Faculty

Amir Farhangpour, DDS
Assistant dean for Omaha clinics, associate professor

Hometown: Mt. Kisco, New York

Degrees:
- BS, chemistry, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, 1991
- DDS, Creighton University, 1995

Research/professional interests:
- In love with adhesive dentistry
- Passionate about collaborative care and teaching
- Excited to work in an intellectually stimulating academic environment

How I fell in love with dentistry: I always enjoyed building and working with my hands. While in high school, I spent my summer breaks doing small construction projects. One of them was building a porch for my dentist, who shared the same passion for fine details and encouraged me to pursue a career in dentistry.

Professional memberships: Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, American Dental Association

Three things people may not know about me:
- I learned how to play the piano on my own when I was 10.
- I have been marking the calendar for the past three decades with the opening dates for pheasant and turkey season.
- I have been wearing my lucky Cornhusker shirt for every game day in South Florida for the last 25 years.

Jennifer A. Marshall, DDS
Assistant professor, pediatric dentistry

Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska

Degrees:
- BS, dental hygiene, UNMC College of Dentistry, 2010
- DDS, UNMC College of Dentistry, 2016
- Certificate in pediatric dentistry, UNMC College of Dentistry, 2018

Research/professional interests:
- Hospital dentistry
- Maternal and child dental health

How I fell in love with dentistry: As a second generation dentist, I grew up around dentistry. I have always enjoyed working with my hands and being part of a team. One of my favorite parts of dentistry is the relationships I am able to build with patients and their families.

Professional memberships: American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Dental Association, Nebraska Dental Association, New Dentist Council, Lincoln District Dental Association

Three things people may not know about me:
- My husband, Jay, and I have a 10-month-old puppy named Tate.
- I enjoy starting my mornings with a latte.
- I love to travel, especially to places where I can be outside hiking, skiing or on the water!
Claire Koukol, DDS
Assistant professor, pediatric dentistry

**Hometown:** Bellevue, Nebraska

**Degrees:**
- BA, biology and business management, Gustavus Adolphus College, 2013
- DDS, UNMC College of Dentistry, 2017
- Certificate in pediatric dentistry, UNMC College of Dentistry, 2019

**Research/professional interests:**
- Parental presence in the operatory during procedures
- Prevention of early childhood caries

**How I fell in love with dentistry:** I loved my dentist growing up and have always loved working with children. I love what I get to do each day!

**Professional memberships:** AAPD, American Dental Association, Nebraska Dental Association, Omaha District Dental Association, UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Board Member

**Three things people may not know about me:**
- I love to travel, especially to places where I can ski or scuba dive.
- I’ve perfected making French macaroons.
- I coach figure skating and skated competitively when I was growing up.

Wahl receives UNMC Distinguished Scientist Award

James K. Wahl, III, PhD, received UNMC’s Distinguished Scientist Award on March 3, 2020. The award is given to researchers who have been among the most productive scientists at UNMC during the past five years. Dr. Wahl’s research focus is epithelial cell adhesion.

**The goal of my research:** Our group studies the cells that make up skin, as well as the cells that line the oral cavity. Specifically, we are interested in the protein complexes that allow these epithelial cells to interact with their neighbors and form a protective barrier. During wound healing, cells interact with neighboring cells to close the wound. On the other hand, during tumor cell migration, the individual tumor cells “turn off” the adhesive complexes and allow the tumor cell to migrate (metastasize) to distant sites in the body. We are working to understand the molecular mechanisms regulating cell adhesion.

**My research will make a difference because:** Understanding how epithelial cells maintain connections to their neighbors and how these contacts are remodeled is an important foundational question. When we know the mechanisms controlling cell to cell interactions, we can begin to understand processes like cancer cell metastasis, cutaneous wound healing and normal development.

“It is wonderful to be recognized for our research work at the College of Dentistry. This gives me the confidence that our research momentum will continue to grow through the student projects and faculty projects we’re lucky enough to contribute to. I’d like to thank the college, our Dean for Research and Dean Guthmiller for the wonderful support,” Dr. Wahl said.
Stanton D. Harn, PhD, Dental Gallery will feature college’s dental museum collection

Visitors to the UNMC Omaha campus will be able to learn about the history of dentistry at UNMC’s Wigton Heritage Center, a four-level welcome center set to open in 2021.

The Stanton D. Harn, PhD, Dental Gallery will feature part of the UNMC College of Dentistry’s dental museum collection—one of the largest collections of historic dental items in the United States.

Named in honor of Dr. Stan Harn, professor emeritus at the UNMC College of Dentistry who has passionately curated the dental museum collection for more than 50 years, the gallery will include a video tour of the collection and a recreated 1870 – 1880s dental office.

For information about supporting the Stanton D. Harn, PhD, Dental Gallery, visit nufoundation.org and search for College of Dentistry Museum Fund, or contact Theresa Brown at theresa.brown@nufoundation.org or 402.209.1429.
The newest director of development for the College of Dentistry, Theresa Brown, is excited to connect the passions and interests of donors to the needs of the college.

“I am inspired by the dedicated alumni and friends who support UNMC and the College of Dentistry. Each gift has a beautiful purpose and story that goes with it. I look forward to hearing your stories and showing how your investments in our students, faculty and programs transform lives through extraordinary education, patient care and research,” Brown said.

Brown has more than 20 years of sales and nonprofit management experience. Most recently, she was the director of sales for the Arbor Day Farm Lied Lodge & Conference Center in Nebraska City where she worked with organizations and families across the nation to host meetings and retreats.

“My background in relationship building, leadership, nonprofit management and marketing complements my role in sharing the College of Dentistry’s vision with alumni and friends of the college and getting them involved in important initiatives to advance the college,” Brown said.

“I am delighted to welcome Theresa Brown as the new director of development for the College of Dentistry,” said Dean Janet Guthmiller, DDS, PhD. “Theresa brings a unique skill set to the college and has an important role in helping the college continue to advance our three-fold mission of preparing future dental professionals to serve Nebraska and beyond, improving the oral health of our communities and advancing scientific discovery.”

“I look forward to meeting the alumni and friends of the College of Dentistry,” Brown said. Theresa can be reached by email: theresa.brown@nufoundation.org, or phone: 402.209.1429.

This is an exciting time to be one of the College of Dentistry’s valued supporters. The College of Dentistry Alumni Association is partnering with the college to create the College of Dentistry Innovation Fund, an annual giving program that will support:

- the people and programs of the UNMC Alumni Association;
- programs and events for alumni and students alike, including the annual white coat ceremony, student travel to national conferences, the post-commencement reception and more;
- emerging, critical college priorities, allowing supporters to take part in important initiatives that transform the lives of students and guide them to becoming tomorrow’s leaders in dentistry.

This initiative is part of UNMC’s New Era of Alumni Engagement. Together, the College of Dentistry, the College of Dentistry Alumni Association, the UNMC Alumni Association and supporters will continue to enrich dental students’ education and experiences through the Innovation Fund.

For more information, visit unmcfund.org.
Rosemary Dixon remembered for her gracious and kind spirit

Rosemary Dixon, a longtime supporter of the UNMC College of Dentistry, passed away peacefully on December 24, 2019. Rosemary and her husband, F. Gene Dixon, DDS, ’47, were visionary philanthropists supporting the future of dental education. The depth and breadth of the Dixon’s charitable support has touched every corner of the UNMC College of Dentistry and forever impacted the college’s programs, faculty and students.

The Dixons established a scholarship to encourage student leadership, assisted with creating the college’s research wing, endowed the college’s first chair focusing on research, endowed a faculty fellowship for excellence in dental teaching, and assisted with major facility improvements in the college’s north clinic. In grateful recognition of the Dixons’ generous support, the college’s auditorium was named the Dr. F. Gene & Rosemary Dixon Lecture Hall.

“It was an incredible gift to have known Rosemary Dixon. She was an inspiration to me and to many. Through her tenacity, her strength, her leadership, her passion and her love of life and family, she was the pioneer of an incredible life. The legacies of Gene and Rosemary Dixon will forever be a part of our UNMC College of Dentistry.” — Dean Janet M. Guthmiller

“Rosemary Dixon’s philanthropic efforts have made a significant impact on the lives of so many individuals in the dental community. As a past recipient of the Dixon scholarship, I have a great appreciation for all that Rosemary did to improve access to dental education and foster excellence in teaching.” — Bryan J. Skar, DDS, assistant professor, pediatric dentistry, and Dixon scholarship recipient

George Revis, class of ’44, shared memories of his time at the college

George Revis, DDS, ’44, Denver, Colo., died May 15, 2020. Earlier this year, Dr. Revis shared his memories of his time at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

“I was born in Denver in 1921. It was a big thing to go away from school. There were 28 students in my dental class — all male — and I was in the U.S. Army during dental school. There was a library that was never occupied so we lived in it. Each morning we would go down five flights of stairs, stand at attention, then march to the cafeteria. We studied hard, but had fun. We went to dances and played lots of practical jokes.”

“While I was in dental school, there was a shortage of medical interns due to the war and so many people being deployed, so the local hospital had senior dental students spend one month as medical interns. We lived at the hospital for the month and interned as first assistants to the surgeon. After I graduated from dental school, I became a dentist in Colorado. I was one of only two general practitioners in the whole city who got on staff at St. Anthony’s Hospital because of my experience interning at the hospital in Lincoln.”

Dr. Revis practiced dentistry for 40 years in Denver where he also was involved with research dealing with diagnosing diseases. His patients remember him for his quality dental work that “lasted for years,” his passion for dentistry, and his sense of humor.
Ross Crist, DDS, ‘81, Sioux Falls, S.D., died July 16, 2020. He received his DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1981 and master’s degree in business management from Bellevue University. He completed his orthodontic training at West Virginia University in Morgantown. Dr. Crist spent nine years practicing general dentistry in Wyoming and then joined UNMC as an assistant professor in the GPR program from 1990 – 1993. He started as a part-time faculty in the orthodontic program in the summer of 2016. Dr. Crist was very active in the American Dental Association, American Association of Orthodontists, and served as president of the Midwest Society of Orthodontics.

Thomas Gomon, DDS, ‘72, Lincoln, Neb., died Sept. 24, 2020. He attended the College of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash., graduating with a B.A. in 1950. He earned his DDS from the University of Washington School of Dentistry in Seattle in 1954, followed by a U.S. Public Health Service dental residency in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Erickson returned to Seattle in 1955 where he worked as a dentist while pursuing graduate work at the University of Washington. He earned his MSD in orthodontics in 1958. He was in private practice as an orthodontist in Seattle’s University District from 1958 – 1977. Dr. Erickson served as a clinical associate professor at the University of Washington Department of Orthodontics, chairman and assistant professor at the University of Colorado Orthodontic Department, and was an assistant, then associate, professor of orthodontics at the UNMC College of Dentistry from 1984 – 1998. He won the UNMC Outstanding Teacher Award in 1991.

Thomas W. Gomon, DDS, ‘72, Lincoln, Neb., died Sept. 24, 2020. He was raised in Peru, Neb., and moved to Lincoln in 1968 where he pursued his education. Dr. Gomon graduated in 1972 from the UNMC College of Dentistry. He practiced general dentistry for 45 years before retiring on Aug. 31, 2016.

Robert F. Krejci, DDS, ‘51, Lincoln, Neb., died Jan. 20, 2020. Dr. Krejci was in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942-1945. He received his BSD from the University of Nebraska in 1948 and his DDS from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1951. He practiced dentistry in the Lincoln area from 1951 – 1987. Dr. Krejci was a professor at the UNMC College of Dentistry from 1951 – 1955 and again from 1966 – 1987. He cared about his students, conducted research, lectured worldwide, and was honored to receive the very first UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award in 1973, the All University Distinguished Teaching Award in 1975, and many other awards throughout his career.

Robert Eugene McPherson, DDS, ‘56, Bradenton, Fla., died March 1, 2020. He graduated from Neligh High School in Neligh, Neb., and earned his DDS degree from the UNMC College of Dentistry. Dr. McPherson practiced dentistry in Hastings, Neb., for 40 years. He was the third generation of his family to practice dentistry in Nebraska. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. McPherson served as president of the Nebraska Dental Association, president of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, and served on the State of Nebraska Library Commission.

William “Bill” Murphy, DDS, ‘53, Topeka, Kan., died Dec. 7, 2019. Bill graduated from Nelson High School in Nelson, Neb., and served his country as a U.S. Navy medical corpsman during WWII. After his discharge from the Navy, he attended Doane College and the UNMC College of Dentistry. Dr. Murphy had a private practice in Neligh, followed by professorships on the faculty of both the UNMC College of Dentistry and Baylor Dental School in Dallas, Texas. He was widely recognized for his expertise in the field of dentistry and always found ways to give back to both his chosen profession and the communities in which he resided.

Michael P. Neal, DDS, ‘86, Sidney, Neb., died Feb. 27, 2020. Michael graduated from Centennial High School in Utica, Neb., in 1979. He attended the University of Nebraska and was accepted into dental school a year early by the UNMC College of Dentistry. He received his DDS degree in 1986. After a one-year associateship in Newman Grove, Spalding and Loup City, Neb., Dr. Neal purchased his own practice in Sidney. He began practicing dentistry in June 1987 and continued up to the time of his passing. He was a Level IV graduate of the Orthognathic Bioesthetic Institute (OBI). Dr. Neal enjoyed giving back to dentistry by working as an adjunct instructor for the UNMC College of Dentistry and hosting UNMC’s Western Dental Days. He served in multiple leadership roles for the Nebraska Dental Association, and was serving as secretary at the time of his passing. He was a passionate supporter of the Nebraska Mission of Mercy.

Donald Schoemaker, DDS, ‘53, Fort Morgan, Colo., died Jan. 17, 2020. He graduated from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1953. Following his graduation, Dr. Schoemaker served in the U.S. Navy until his honorable discharge in 1955. He moved to Fort Morgan, Colo., in 1956 and practiced dentistry there for 43 years. Dr. Schoemaker was involved in several professional dental organizations including the American Dental Association, the International College of Dentists, Colorado Dental Association, and the Pierre Fauchard Dental Academy.

Jack Barton Larson, DDS, ‘56, Corona del Mar, Calif., died Oct. 15, 2019. He was an avid supporter of the UNMC College of Dentistry. In 2012, the Dr. Jack B. and Marena Larson faculty fellowship was established to honor and support a faculty member teaching in the college’s dental program. Dr. Larson’s generosity and passion for dentistry will forever be remembered.
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 clinical 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 Honor Roll

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- Steven T. & Sheila F. Heldridge (2018)
- JoAnn C. Hertel (2019)
- Jill E. & David J. Hild*
- Jerome S. & Mary Holbrook*
- Brad L. & Jenny Holmes (2019)
- John J. & Lane Hudgins (2018)
- Timothy L. & Shawn Jacobs*
- Michael L. & Janet D. Jacobsen*
- L. Carl & Kamme L. Jeffries*
- James E. & Kelly A. Jrovec*
- John M. Lane, DMD (2018)
- Blair T. & Susan Johnson*
- Clark L. & Pat Jones*
- Roger E. Jurgens*
- Troy L. & Stephanie J. Keyes*
- James B. & Joan Killinger*
- Louis W. Klemme*
- Sreenivas Koka*
- Matthew M. Kruszewski (2018)
- Lacey-Antholz-Donner Dentists, PC (2019)
- Gregg L. & Sharon Lage*
- Bradley S. Laird (2018)
- Marshall T. & Angeline M. Lavin*
- Timothy W. & Barbara R. Lebsack (2018)
- Janice K. Lernasters*
- James R. Lessig (2018)
- Kathy A. Lessig (2018)
- George H. & Mandy Liggett*
- Allen L. & Joan Lorenz*
- Andy V. Luong (2018)
- Stuart S. MacPherson (2019)
- James A. & Sandra McKnight*
2018 – 2019 donors listed by class year

College of Dentistry alumni whose donations have benefitted the college between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2019, listed by graduating class.

DENTAL

1948 DDS
O’Brien, Cyril

1954 DDS
Brown, Jack L.
Kelly, Robert B.
Starbuck, Gordon E.
Wiest, Robert J.

1955 DDS
Crownover, Robert J.
Downs, Donald H.
Johansen, Ray E.
Smith, Lloyd L.

1956 DDS
Cartney, Thomas L.
Gibbs, John P.
Kittelman, Willis V.
Larson, Jack B.
McPherson, Robert E.
Pitlau, James R.

1957 DDS
Farris, James N.
Mosher, Ralph I.
Stokos, James
Tolman, Dan E.

1958 DDS
Cluatre, Jean A.
Ettelmler, Phil R.
Swanson, Paul D.

1959 DDS
Bush, Richard E.
Ganow, Wayne L.
Jirovec, Richard J.
Mansfield, Edward M.
Tullis, David W.

1960 DDS
Holm, Paul E.
Lightbody, Philip M.
Olsen, Erik D.
Steihl, Gary L.

1961 DDS
Peck, James L.
Wittgow, Walter C.

1962 DDS
Prah, Jerry C.
Smith, Robert L.
Winney, Kenley W.

1963 DDS
Hurst, Thomas L.
Rowe, Paul F.
Slominski, James D.
Tullis, David W.

1964 DDS
Doness, Bryce W.
Fricke, Donald C.
Jurgens, Roger E.
Killing, James B.
Pawl, Gerald N.
Pudwill, Myron L.

1965 DDS
Keller, Eugene E.
McLey, Lanny L.

1966 DDS
Bloom, James A.
Crnk, Raymond J.
Dinner, Bruce J.
Gauzner, Roger D.
Gema, Gerald R.
Pinkerton, Kenneth E.
Simmons, Jim
Tolgy, Harry R.

1967 DDS
Anderson, Charles W.
Cox, Jerry R.
Dodrill, David E.
Gartner, Reg L.
Jack, Robert W.
Roberts, David K.
Teel, Ronald M.
Wearner, Glenn A.
Willis, William L.

1968 DDS
Amerman, Gary W.
Baeder, William F.
Drago, Mick R.
Duey, David H.
Kaldahl, Wayne B.
Kroeger, Jerry A.
Malena, Daryl E.
McMullen, Gary D.
Pennay, James M.
Smith, Duane H.

1969 DDS
Anderson, Steven F.
Barkmeyer, Wayne W.
Curry, Roger K.
Gartner, Richard R.
Langfeldt, John C.
Schlothauer, George H.
Silic, John N.
Sokol, Joseph P.
Theophilus, Don L.

1970 DDS
Abbott, Lawrence J.
Bates, Robert E.
Hunter, Ronald D.
Johnson, Richard E.
Jones, Clark L.
Kalkwarf, Kenneth L.
Martin, Max M.
Maxwell, Paul J.
Noe, Paul E.
Osgberg, James C.
Scheiber, William L.
Thomas, Raymond F.
Wesch, Jack C.
Whitten, Terry D.
Zartner, Robert J.

1971 DDS
Deboer, James
Geddies, David H.
James, Ben J.
Kleppinger, Michael V.
Kuster, Curtis G.
MacPherson, Stuart S.
Uchida, Clyde Y.

1972 DDS
Drevnik, Ralph M.
Dymerski, Daniel L.
Grant, Richard L.
Lockwood, Edward H.
Packer, Terry D.
Parker, Robert S.
Peterson, David E.
Reinhardt, Richard A.
Wilcox, Chuck W.

1973 DDS
Jensen, Terry M.
Klemz, Charles B.
Pershing, John K.
Strange, Gary E.
Zajicek, Jon M.

1974 DDS
Dana, Michael R.
Hendrickson, Ronald R.
Herrmann, John R.
Johnson, Mark C.
Karpiszek, Ivan C.
McVaney, Timothy P.
Mullvihill, Michael J.
Nelson, William V.
Petersson, Ronaldo
Sonderegger, Kurt W.
Walker, James A.
Wehrli, Steven D.

1975 DDS
Donlan, Kenneth J.
Gray, Dennis A.
Hansen, Paul A.
Hatfield, Ronald V.
Hoban, Gloria J.
Holman, Brenton L.
Schafer, Stephen R.
Sigler, Ernest W.
Taylor, David T.

1976 DDS
Barth, Tom L.
Brockman, Jerry R.
Dahl, Lee A.
Furmanski, Michael A.
Hajek, Thomas J.
Hull, David L.
Jensen, Tim A.
Karmazin, Daniel J.
Lebsack, Timothy W.
McKnight, James A.
Pieper, Timothy J.
Rinne, Mark D.
Roesch, Robert E.
Sawyer, Jay T.
Schuurmans, Bernard V.
Taylor, D. N.
Wessberg, George A.

1977 DDS
Alder, E. Stephen
Furst, Henry C.
Houk, Michael B.
Jones, Warren L.
Kentopp, Nicholas B.
Nelson, Mark W.
Slieve, Chris P.

1978 DDS
Bennion, John W.
Buttermeyer, Craig E.
Cain, Stephen D.
Cannon, Mark L.
Coke, Richard L.
Giles, Gene R.
Hungerford, Mark D.
Jacoby, Sam F.
James, Charles R.
Janda, Matthew C.
Lilyhorn, Jeffrey M.
Lorenz, Allen L.
Low, Karey R.
Low, Pamela G.
Marron, Bruce O.
Meyer, Ronald T.
Nix, Chris S.
Sargent, Frank H.
Wellensiek, Todd R.
Zalewski, David E.

1979 DDS
Barber, James L.
Bunkers, Jeffrey A.
Clark, Edward M.
Eckles, Terry A.
Fetty Ridonour, Shelley M.
Krivoklatek, Bradley J.
Kull, Stanley L.

1980 DDS
Brown, Julie A.
Burbridge, Arthur A.
Craft, Charles F.
Emert, Richard L.
Gau, Jeanne M.
Gist, William W.
Heldridge, Steven T.
Kalal, Gregory A.
Kuenning, Gary L.
Nielsen, Jeffrey R.
Powell, Robert A.
Schneider, Jack D.
Taylor, L. Parnell

1981 DDS
Bokemper, Richard K.
Booth, Robert H.
Christensen, Susan M.
Colvin, Douglas J.
Crist, Ross L.
Houiran, Diane R.
Okano, David K.
Ripp, Beth A.
Robertson, Alan L.
Schoettger, Robert A.
Sesemann, Michael R.
Showman, Jason E.
Skoglund, Charles S.
Tao, Clara E.
Titze, Grant S.
Tyrrell, Robert P.
Wemimont, Daniel F.
Wood, David S.

1982 DDS
Bennion, Douglas B.
Davis, Jeffery B.
Deschene, James F.
Gema, Dennis D.
Harre, Paula L.
Hivacek, Monica T.
Lage, Gregg L.
Lindeman, Lisa R.
Marx, Charles S.
Melcher, Thomas J.
Moseman, William D.
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Bakan, Natalie R.
Barrett, Kiley A.
Clabaugh, Richard A.
Coffield, Ryan N.
Elwood, Paige E.
Kortje, Jana M.
Olson, David S.
Olson, Julie E.
Skar, Bryan J.
Smith, Tyler L.

Bakan, Natalie R.
Barrett, Kiley A.
Clabaugh, Richard A.
Coffield, Ryan N.
Elwood, Paige E.
Kortje, Jana M.
Olson, David S.
Olson, Julie E.
Skar, Bryan J.
Smith, Tyler L.

2010 DDS
Barta, Joshua A.
Duffy, Michael O.
Egley, Emily J.
Garcia, Katherine J.
Gotch-Smith, Jennifer L.
Irriër, Toby J.
Lehn, Gary M.
Mensah-Boateng, Daniel
Pfeiffer Bedard, Angela N.
Pruitt, Chase A.
Schliep, Bronsen R.
Woodburn, Daniel A.

2011 DDS
Fox, Jared S.
Koll, James W.
Larsen, Aaron D.
Piskorski, Noah L.
Sarsland, Jennifer R.
Thomas, Nathan E.

2012 DDS
Anderson, Patrick S.
Benson, Andrew V.
Embree, Breanna R.
Hajek, Ryan T.
Huebner, John W.
Kats, Joshua C.
Leader, Natalie A.
Longo, Peter C.
Parks, Conrad J.
Petersen, Cory S.

2013 DDS
Beulke, Kyle J.
Christensen, Coleman K.
Dudzinski, Jordan P.
Kuvetakis, John S.
Le, Thao P.
Schultz, Christopher C.

2014 DDS
Colvin, Katherine A.
Iske, Benjamin R.
Marsh, Britton M.
Mendez, Brandon J.
Vanicek, Tate J.
Willert, Emily S.

2015 DDS
Zitterkopf, Jacob G.

2016 DDS
Hinckley, Lon S.
Schaetzel, Kathleen E.

2017 DDS
Koukol Clarie C.
Van Dyke, Hilary G.
Wilmes, Scott T.

2018 DDS
Cui, Xiaoxi
Reimer, Benjamin K.

DENTAL HYGIENE

1966 BSDH
Adams, Judy K.
Cox, Jennie L.
Gant, Faith A.

1968 BSDH
Bolton, Linda I.
Sitoriis-Brown, Cynthia J.

1969 BSDH
Hansen, Cynthia J.
Imig, Ann M.

1970 BSDH
McCarthy Hissler, Sharon I.
Schipper, Kathryn L.
Stratman, Jane F.

1971 BSDH
Kier in, Kathleen B.
Lemasters, Janice K.
Rhodes, Jacqueline K.
Williams, Carol G.

1972 BSDH
Liggett, Martha L.

1973 BSDH
Kalkwarf, Sharon R.
Lowell, Marla R.
Steinkrug, Mary L.

1974 BSDH
Barth, Sandra J.
Maseman, Denise C.

1976 BSDH
Hansen, Kathy A.
Watson, Cheryl A.

1977 BSDH
Sullivan, Therese A.

1978 BSDH
Hibberd, Shari L.
Hungerford, Susan M.
Pilant, Linda L.
Weinert Hull, Susan M.

1979 BSDH
Crist, Lisa M.

1980 BSDH
Anderson, Lori S.
Otte, Carolyn S.

1981 BSDH
Brinker-Rafter, Patricia L.
Garrison, Marilee E.
Longo, Diane J.
Marshall, Julie A.

1982 BSDH
Elke, Susan K.
Schroeder, Cynthia L.

1983 BSDH
Anderson, Kathy L.
Edwards, Gretchen R.
Miller, Lori J.
Warner, Janet M.

1984 BSDH
Broekemaier, Jane M.
Durham, Janelle L.
Grubaugh, Sarah J.

1985 BSDH
Harn, Jennifer A.
Hevener, Tammy S.
Kreji, Janice J.
Lessig, Kathy A.

1986 BSDH
Vanderbosch, Mary J.

1987 BSDH
Chawla, Mary J.

1990 BSDH
Moon, Sally A.

1991 BSDH
DeBuhr, Tammy S.

1993 BSDH
LeRoy, Dana E.
Mzginley, Tracie A.

1994 BSDH
Kingston, Amy J.

1996 BSDH
Durlin, Leanne

1997 BSDH
Prichard, Pamela J.
Stamm, Marjjean M.

1998 BSDH
McEvoy, Heather A.

2000 BSDH
Blood, Lucy J.

2002 BSDH
Krueger, Rebecca R.
Moravec, Lisa J.
Watson, Deidra A.

2005 BSDH
Beseda, Alison M.

2006 BSDH
Tosaya, Ashley R.

2008 BSDH
Baker, Nicole M.

2009 BSDH
Menard, Tracy E.
Webster, Katie L.

2012 BSDH
Asbjornson-Regeleian, Molly M.
Dolen, Amanda M.

2014 BSDH
Kuvetakis, Stephanie A.
### SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

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