The leadership team at the UNMC College of Dentistry is undergoing changes as long-time faculty members retire and their successors take over those important positions. Among those retiring is Dr. Curtis Kuster, a College of Dentistry alum who joined the faculty in 1977. Succeeding him as assistant dean for student affairs and director of admissions is Dr. Merlyn Vogt. Dr. David Blaha will take over from Vogt as director of alumni affairs, which includes overseeing publication of Cornhusker Impressions. Also retiring is Dr. Dennis Kent, assistant dean for advanced clinical practice. Taking over those responsibilities will be Dr. Jim Jenkins. Photographed here in the college lobby are, from left, Dr. Curtis Kuster and Dr. Dennis Kent, both retiring; Dr. Merlyn Vogt, Dr. David Blaha, and Dr. Jim Jenkins, all assuming new leadership positions.
Big 10 is more than an athletic conference

As Cornhusker fans already know, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved the admission of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) to the Big 10 Conference. When that change occurred about a year ago, there was much speculation on the future of the Cornhuskers in the Big 12 Conference—since one of the Big 12 schools (Colorado) had announced its likely move to the Pac-10 Conference. Consequently, the regents acted upon the request of the UNL chancellor and athletic director, with support of the university president, to accept the Big 10’s invitation to join the conference beginning July 1, 2011. I think this change bodes well for the University of Nebraska and the UNMC College of Dentistry.

Technically, UNL and UNMC are separate and primarily independent branches of the University of Nebraska, and UNL was the invited new member. But the six Big 10 universities that have dental schools see it differently. Those dental schools (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio State) have welcomed the UNMC College of Dentistry to their group. I have been told that only two collegiate athletic conferences in the United States have formal academic affiliations among the conference schools—the Ivy League and the Big 10. I believe that this promising, new relationship with the Big 10 dental schools will have a positive effect on the future of our college.

The Big 10 dental school deans meet annually to discuss ways and to develop plans through which their schools can collaborate and grow stronger. Many of the challenges facing dental schools are similar, especially among the publicly supported dental schools. All of the Big 10 dental schools are public.

As I write this, I am about to attend my first Big 10 dental deans’ meeting. I’m eager to join my fellow deans for discussion and planning and to explore what we can do to improve our programs. Already, we have found that Big 10 dental schools are eager to share faculty continuing education presenters with us on the weekends that the Cornhuskers play their football teams in Lincoln—not surprising! Our opportunities for other faculty and student collaborations, including research projects as well as educational activities, can only be strengthened by this new relationship.

There is much excitement and anticipation about the Big 10 athletic affiliation among Nebraska alumni and fans throughout the world. Less has been said about the academic benefits. I believe the faculty, students, and alumni of the UNMC College of Dentistry will gain significantly from our new academic relationship with the Big 10.

John W. Reinhardt, DDS, MS, MPH
Professor and Dean
College of Dentistry
University of Nebraska Medical Center

2011 | 2012 Calendar

July 12-13
Caronial Polishing for Dental Auxiliary
Darlene Carritt, RDH, BSDH
UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, 7:45 a.m.
UNMC West Division Dental Hygiene Program, Gering, 6:45 a.m.

August 12
Golf and Learn “Three Under Par”
Intrument Separation, Dr. Toby Camer
Third-Molar Removal, Dr. Larry Baker
Orthodontics and Restorative: Missing and Worn Teeth, Dr. Matthew Persing
Lochland Country Club, Hastings, 7:30 a.m. Registration

September 16-17
College of Dentistry Homecoming
CE – Dr. Teg Brickhouse
and Dr. Amy Killeen

October 7
Everyday Treatment Planning
Decisions: The Quest for the Ideal Papilla and How Fast Can We Go?
Dr. Edwin McGumphy, Ohio State Implant Prosthodontic
Clinic director, Ohio State University College of Dentistry
UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, 9:30 a.m. Registration

October 28
Aging Gracefully: Give Them Something to Smile About
Doreen Smeltzer, RDH, MAEd
UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, 9:30 a.m. Registration

November 25
Management of the Immature Apex
Dr. William Johnson, Department of Endodontics executive officer
University of Iowa College of Dentistry
UNL City Campus Student Union
9:30 a.m. Registration

December 12-13
Radiology for Dental Auxiliary
Dr. Shawnee Gonzalez
UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, 7:45 a.m.
UNMC West Division Dental Hygiene Program, Gering, 6:45 a.m.

January 6, 2012
Weeth Lecture
The Top 50 Most Prescribed Medications, 8:30 a.m.
Managing the Dental Patient in Pain, 1 p.m.
Dr. Hal Crossley, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland Dental School
Mary Kiempa Ross Theater, UNL City Campus
8 a.m. Registration

For more information about continuing education programs, contact Valeta Creason-Wahl at 402-472-2611 or by email at codee@unmc.edu
Nebraskans collaborate with researchers from New York to Finland

Researchers from five institutions stretching from Arizona to New York and across the Atlantic to Finland were involved in the study of the effect of subantimicrobial-dose doxycycline on systemic inflammation, which was recently published as the cover story in the March issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association.

At the heart of the effort were Jeffrey Payne and Dr. Richard Reinhardt of the UNMC College of Dentistry. The two-year clinical trial looked at the effect of doxycycline periodontal therapy on systemic inflammation in select postmenopausal women. Payne, associate dean for research at the college, said today’s research projects tend to be collaborative efforts involving experts from multiple institutions. Collaboration is needed to solve today’s complex problems, he said.

"We can’t be an expert at everything, so we try to collaborate with the best researchers we can," he said. In addition, collaborative research is more cost effective.

Payne has been collaborating for the past 15 years with Dr. Lorne Golub at the Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine. Golub, one of the authors of the JADA article, was one of Payne’s former teachers and is an expert on subantimicrobial-dose doxycycline. The UNMC College of Dentistry, on the other hand, has expertise in clinical studies involving postmenopausal women, Payne said.

"What we are showing (in this research) is that this therapy that is approved to treat periodontitis also reduces systemic inflammation," Payne said, emphasizing that “what we do in the mouth could have an impact elsewhere in the body.” Further longitudinal clinical trials with large patient groups and physician involvement would need to be undertaken to determine the impact of this research on the risk of development of cardiovascular disease.

"We have shown reduced systemic inflammation, but the next step would be to see if that could result in fewer myocardial infarction, angina, or stroke, yet were considered at risk of developing coronary artery disease."

"From the standpoint of recognition for our research group and for the college, this is very positive for Nebraska," said Payne, associate dean for research at the college. The coverage in the journal, which goes to members of the American Dental Association, results in “universal recognition” of the College of Dentistry’s strong research initiative, he said.

Good general health

The two-year clinical trial looked at the effect of subantimicrobial-dose doxycycline on systemic inflammation in postmenopausal women with chronic periodontitis and lower-than-normal systemic (hip or lumbar spine) bone density. The women, ranging in age from 45 to 70, were in good general health and had no history of myocardial infarction, angina, or stroke, yet were considered at risk of developing coronary artery disease.

"What we are showing (in this research) is that this therapy that is approved to treat periodontitis also reduces systemic inflammation," Payne said, emphasizing that “what we do in the mouth could have an impact elsewhere in the body.” Further longitudinal clinical trials with large patient groups and physician involvement would need to be undertaken to determine the impact of this research on the risk of development of cardiovascular disease.

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Dr. Jeffrey Payne, UNMC College of Dentistry

Dr. Jeffrey Payne, associate dean for research, displays the JADA cover that features research conducted at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

JADA continued from pg 4

Reduced incidence of cardiovascular problems such as myocardial infarction, Payne said.

"The significance of the current paper is that it sets the stage for additional trials that use a cheap, safe drug (tetracycline) to not only prevent progression of periodontal bone loss, but also reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease," said collaborator Dr. Richard Reinhardt.

The College of Dentistry research is part of a continuing effort to develop therapeutic strategies that address both localized inflammation associated with chronic periodontitis and systemic inflammation associated with the development of coronary artery disease, a leading cause of death in postmenopausal women.

**Two-year clinical trial**

The 113 women in the study were divided into two groups – one group received a twice-daily regimen of subantimicrobial (low)-dose doxycycline (SDD). The other received look-alike placebo tablets as an adjunct to periodontal maintenance therapy. The study concluded the "two-year SDD regimen increased the HDL cholesterol level." Payne holds the F. Gene and Rosemary Dixon Endowed Chair in Dentistry. Reinhardt is the B.J. and Ann Moran Professor of Periodontology in the Department of Surgical Specialties. Others involved in the research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, are from the Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the University of Arizona, and the Institute of Dentistry at the University of Helsinki in Finland.

**Safe and inexpensive**

"SDD represents an attractive adjunctive pharmacological means of reducing systemic inflammatory biomarkers: it is relatively inexpensive, available generically, and repeatedly has been demonstrated to be safe," the researchers concluded in the journal article. They noted that the FDA approved SDD in 1998 as a safe and effective adjunct to scaling and root planning to treat chronic periodontitis.

"Inflammation increasingly is recognized as a clinically significant factor in the initiation, progression and ultimate instability of atherosclerotic plaques in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD)," the JADA article noted.

"Chronic periodontitis is a common inflammatory disease that increasingly is being recognized as having an association with, and potential causal relationship to, CAD. Therapeutic strategies that resolve inflammation associated with both of these diseases and that affect CAD’s onset and progression are needed," Payne said. They noted that tetracyclines, in particular doxycycline at a low dose, has been shown to modulate MMP activity and reduce the severity of inflammatory diseases like periodontitis and rheumatoid arthritis.

**C-reactive protein (CRP) and matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9)**

"C-reactive protein (CRP) and matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9) have been identified as risk factors and serum biomarkers in the inflammatory process associated with the development of coronary artery disease. "To date, the mainstay of pharmacological therapy to modulate these and other inflammatory mediators has been the statins," the researchers said. They noted that tetracyclines, in particular doxycycline at a low dose, has been shown to modulate MMP activity and reduce the severity of inflammatory diseases like periodontitis and rheumatoid arthritis.

**Updates in Dentistry**

**COD takes show on the road**

Updates in Dentistry drew more than 400 participants to this year’s UNMC College of Dentistry Continuing Education Caravan across Nebraska.

The caravan began May 9 at the Strategic Air and Space Museum near Ashland and stopped in North Platte, Scottsbluff and Grand Island.

Dr. Jessica Meeske spoke on “The Head Start Dental Home Initiative: What every dental team member needs to know about caring for kids enrolled in Head Start.” Dr. Merlyn Vogt spoke on "Vital Pulp Therapy: Sometimes the best endodontic treatment does not involve gutta-percha.”

The caravan is co-sponsored by the UNMC College of Dentistry and the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association.

Update: ‘McFarland’s hidden agenda: A pediatric dentist in western Nebraska by 2020’

An article, which appeared in the Winter/Spring 2011 Cornhusker Impressions, included a quote from Dr. Kim McFarland stating that she hopes to see a pediatric dentist in Scottsbluff and Gering. Although the Nebraska Office of Rural Health has designated that area a pediatric dental shortage area, Dr. Mark Kramer of Ft. Collins, CO, began practicing in Scottsbluff on a part-time basis 25 years ago and continues to do so. Dr. Kramer is a 1983 graduate of our COD who received his pediatric dentistry certificate in 1985. 

We regret any confusion the article may have caused.

Dr. Jessica Meeske and Dr. Merlyn Vogt share the podium at the Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte.
Community service is a way of life for David Brown

By Lisa Spellman, UNMC public relations

Community service runs thick in Dr. David Brown’s blood. From the time he was a child, he watched his parents take underprivileged children from the poorer sections of Hamilton, in Ontario, Canada, to a summer camp near his hometown. His parents’ involvement in the yearly camp became as routine as going to school each fall for the Brown household.

“It was just a part of everyday life,” said Brown, professor of oral biology and executive associate dean at the UNMC College of Dentistry. He brought his passion for giving back when he arrived at the college in 1982 and has made the outreach events the dental school holds the best part of his job. For his commitment, compassion and generosity, Brown received the 2011 UNMC Spirit of Community Service Award at the Annual UNMC Faculty Meeting. “He has the vision to connect community oral health needs with our students’ educational needs, and then develop programs that provide exceptional education and service simultaneously,” Reinhardt said. “Those activities have risen to the level of regional and national recognition for excellence.”

Twice a year the College of Dentistry helps hundreds of Nebraska children access much needed dental care through the annual Children’s Dental Day events in Lincoln and in four Panhandle communities. In February the program celebrated its 10th anniversary. Since the program began, the college has provided more than $2 million in dental care to 4,375 kids.

“It’s been fun,” Brown said. “Being able to provide a service that really means something to people has been the best part of my job.”

Community Service Award at the Annual UNMC Faculty Meeting.

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Community Service Award at the Annual UNMC Faculty Meeting.
Students, faculty honored at 2011 Professionals’ Day

Students and faculty members were recognized March 25 at the UNMC College of Dentistry’s 44th annual Student Scientific Program and 25th annual Professionals’ Day.

The Professionals’ Day speaker was Dr. Maria Emmanuel Ryoo, a professor in the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology at the School of Dental Medicine and a member of the medical staff at University Hospital at Stony Brook University Medical Center in Stony Brook, NY.

The following awards were presented from the Student Scientific Program:

**Hygiene**
- First Ginny L. McCracken and Kimberly J. Nuss, "An In Vitro Evaluation of Occupational Radiation Exposure of a Hand-held Portable Digital Radiographic Unit." Faculty mentor, Dr. Shawnneen Gonzales.
- Second Whitney Crist and Lauren Hagel-Pitt, "Microaversity of Air-polishing Prophylaxis Powders: A Comparison of Sylc TM to Sodium Bicarbonate." Faculty mentor, Professor Caren Barnes.
- Third Nicole R. Benigno and Amy L. Newby, "The Efficacy of Active Ingredients in Hand Sanitizer Products Elimination of Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus." Faculty mentor, Professor Caren Barnes.

**Dental**
- First Miles Berg and Aaron Bradley, "Impact of Alendronate/Cyclodextrin Drug Carrier on Local Prostaglandin Production." Faculty mentor, Dr. Richard Reinhardt.
- Second Joshua C. Kats, "UV Resistance and Color Stability of Polymer-based Facial Prostheses Due to Titanium Nano-particle Coatings." Faculty mentor, Dr. Mark Beatty.
- Third Brienne Lineweber and Ashley Young, "Microscopic Variations in Tobacco Pouch Keratosis: A Retrospective Study." Faculty mentor, Dr. Nagemann Narayana.

**Graduate**
- First Dr. Pota A. Rakes, "Pharmaco-Manipulation for Statin-Induced Bone Growth: Impact of Local and Systemic Alendronate." Faculty mentor, Dr. Richard Reinhardt.
- Second Dr. Tariq Alsadi and Dr. Chang Chih Liu, "Human Dental Pulp Cell (HDPC) Differentiation into Odontoblast Is Induced in Response to Bone Morphogenetic Protein 2 (BMP2) Signaling." Faculty mentor, Dr. Ali Nawashad.

**Other Student Awards**
- Pierre Fauchard Academy Dental Student Scholarship Award: Ryan Hajek
- 2011 ADA/Dentsply Student Clinician Program Award: Miles Berg

**Faculty Awards**
- Dr. Kenneth Botenhorst Memorial Faculty Award, established by Dr. David Rallias: Dr. James Jenkins
- Certificate of Appreciation Award: Dr. Steve Anderson
- Faculty Recognition Awards from Dental Classes: Dr. Larry Creuch, Dr. Farra Abdelmegid, Dr. Yosh Ameiku, Dr. Marlyn Vogt, Dr. Ernest Sigler, Dr. Michael Houk, and Dr. John Giddings
- Faculty Recognition Awards from Dental Hygiene Classes: Heather Hessheimer, Brenda Utech, and Dr. Ernest Sigler

**Staff Recognition**
- Silver U Awards: Lori Spracklen, Jenny Wohlers, Janet Bartek, Debbie Kemper, Teri Loerch, Peggy Cain, Elizabeth Cullinane, and Kathleen Givens

With their winning poster are first-place winners in the dental hygiene division, Ginny McCracken, left, and Kimberly Nuss, right.

Hygienists celebrate 45 years of high standards

When the first 10 dental hygiene students arrived in the fall of 1964, they started classes in a half-finished basement in the University of Nebraska Student Health Center. They were in class eight hours a day and had clinic or lab every afternoon. And when they graduated two years later, their class ranked second in the country on the national board exam. The scores on the national boards were a good indication, the director said later, that the new curriculum was meeting national standards and was setting the mark high for classes to come. As it turns out, the Class of 2011 was no exception. The class recorded a 100 percent, first-time pass rate on the Central Regional Dental Testing Service exam and the national board exam.

To celebrate this long-standing tradition of high academic standards and the passing of 45 years, the Dental Hygiene Program at the UNMC College of Dentistry invited the more than 800 alumni back to the college February 18. The afternoon and evening included a reception, a tour of the new dental hygiene clinic and a continuing education course, free, thanks to Procter & Gamble.

Gwen Hlava, director of the College of Dentistry Dental Hygiene program, is surrounded by classmates from the Class of 1972. From left are Mary Krivohlavek (Wordeker), Lonna Jones (Wallway), Barb Schaefer (Wilson), Lorraine Osberg, Carol Stephenson (Cox), Gwen Hlava, Nancy Bourg (Lien) and Jane Campagna (Heideman).
Career Plans, as of May 2011

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Vanessa Leslye Barros has been accepted into the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency program at Lutheran Medical Center in Boulder, Colorado. Veronice Cinthia Barros will enter private practice in Nebraska. Danell Jo Buse will enter the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Angela Kay Canek will enter the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency Program at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. Travis R. Dickey will enter private practice in Rushville, Nebraska. Michael Dale Eickman will enter private practice in O'Neill, Nebraska. Jerome Stephens Fox will enter private practice in Rushville, Nebraska. Daniell Jo Buse will enter in general dentistry in Flandreau and Dell Rapids, South Dakota. Ms. Barra will enter private practice in Watertown. Vanessa Leslye Barros will enter private practice in Luverne. Ms. Barra will relocate to Casper, Wyoming, where she will enter private practice. Billy B. Laun, II has been accepted into the Orthodontic Advanced Education Program at the University of Alabama. Kaitlin A. Powell will enter private practice with the location to be determined. Rebekah Marie Horn is exploring career opportunities. Ms. Barra will enter private practice with her father in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Ms. Barra will relocate to Casper, Wyoming, where she will enter private practice. Ashlee Anne Rainbolt is exploring job opportunities in private practice. Huntingdon, Kentucky, and Central Kentucky, respectively. Nicole Benigno, Samantha Libsack, and faculty member Nicole Fritschie. Dean John Reinhardt celebrates the day with graduates from the West Division Dental Hygiene Program in Gering, from left, Nicole Benigno, Samantha Libsack, Amy Newby and Anne Rutledge, along with faculty member Nicole Fritschie.

Dental Hygiene Class of 2011

Career Plans, as of May 2011

Jessica Marie Bruggeman is pursuing a career in private practice. Whitney Morgan Critt is pursuing a position in private practice. Lauren Hagal-Pitt will enter private practice in Lincoln. Danica Jo Harris is undecided at this time. Rebekah Marie Horn is exploring career opportunities. Toshia R. Juuuden will enter private practice with the location to be determined. Kelsey P. Kinnick is exploring opportunities in private practice. Blair L. Krako is undecided at this time. Ginny L. McCracken is exploring career opportunities. Kimberly Jo Nuxa has accepted a position in private practice in Lincoln. Kristin Ann Pankake will enter private practice with the location to be determined. Jacqueline Kay Berthelsen Reid says her plans are undecided. Stephanie Jo Schmidt will enter private practice. Laura Thomas says her plans are undecided at this time. Marina Tittle is exploring career opportunities. Kristin A. Wendt is exploring career opportunities. Michelle A. Wooten is exploring opportunities in private practice. Leslie Elaine Van Gerpen is returning to her home state of South Dakota where she will enter private practice in Mitchell. Sarah Lynn Vann says her plans are undecided at this time. Jaycee R. Weidner is exploring opportunities in private practice. Kristin A. Wendt is exploring career opportunities. Michelle A. Wooten is exploring opportunities in private practice.

West Division

Nicole B. Benigno is exploring job opportunities in private practice. Samantha Kay Libsack plans to enter private practice. Amy Lynn Newby will enter private practice. Anne Elizabeth Rutledge will return to her home state of Colorado where she will enter private practice in Denver.

College of Dentistry Class of 2011

Dentistry is a very important profession that provides necessary and essential healthcare services. However, it is not without its challenges, which is why I have chosen to pursue this career. My goal is to become a successful dentist who can help others improve their oral health.

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Commencement Day Memories

Above: Dental graduate Minh Nguyen and faculty, Dr. Hidehiko Watanabe and Dr. Ernest Sigler

Photo to the Right: Dental graduates, Jason Jones, Aaron Larsen, and Michael Eickman

Dental graduates, Sunny Patel and Esther Pedersen

From left, 2011 dental graduate, Chad Snow; dental hygiene graduate, Sarah Vann; and dental graduate, Bill Koll

From left, 2007 Dental graduate, Ryan Thomas, and recent graduate (2011) brother, Nathan Thomas

Left to right: Dental Hygiene graduates, Marina Titov, Danica Harris, and Kristen Pankoke
Family, Friends and Football in September

UNMC College of Dentistry alumni, family, and friends will be in Lincoln Sept. 16-17 for the annual Homecoming Reunion. Events will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Lincoln and at the College of Dentistry.

The highlight of the weekend will be the Nebraska vs. Washington game on Sept. 17 with pre-game festivities from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the college.

Speakers for the continuing education course, Sept. 16, will be alumnae, Dr. Amy Killean, Class of 2006, and Dr. Tegwyn Hughes Brickhouse, Class of 1996. Brickhouse, who speak on "Contemporary Periodontics: Treating and Maintaining Complex Periodontal Patients," received her Certificate in Periodontics in 2010 and her MS in 2011 from the UNMC College of Dentistry. She is a member of the American Association of Periodontists and the Academy of Osseointegration. In addition to private practices in Lincoln and Omaha, she is a clinical instructor in undergraduate and graduate periodontics at the College of Dentistry.

Registration for the CE course will begin at 8 a.m. at the Embassy Suites. The course will be followed by a luncheon at 12:15 p.m. at the Embassy Suites. Guest speaker will be Matt Davison, color analyst for Husker Sports Network and president of Creating Captains Foundation. Students will guide tours of the dental college from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 16 and from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Sept. 17 during the pre-game festivities. Evening events on Sept. 16 begin with a cocktail hour at 5 p.m., followed by the banquet at 6 p.m. and the awards and recognition at 7 p.m. Honor classes are '51, '56, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91, '01 and '06. Commemorative pins will be presented to the Classes of 1951, 1961 and 1986. The Dental Museum will be open to the public the week of Homecoming, Sept. 12 through Sept. 17.

UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association Award Recipients for 2011

Honorary Life Membership Award
Dr. Michael Molvar
Dr. Michael Molvar received his DDS degree from the University of Washington School of Dentistry in 1968 and his MS degree from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 1983. He joined the faculty of the UNMC College of Dentistry as an assistant professor in the Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry and Oral Biology for the past 36 years. He has received many teaching awards during his time at the college. Dr. Molvar also maintains a private practice in Syracuse. He is retired from the U.S. Navy.

Alumni Achievement Award
Dr. Curtis Kuster
Dr. Curtis Kuster received his DDS degree from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry in 1971 and his MS and certificate in pedodontics in 1977 from the University of Nebraska. He began as a junior faculty member in pedodontic dentistry in 1977 and over the past 34 years went on to serve as director of admissions, assistant dean for student affairs, and as an interim department chair. Dr. Kuster has been instrumental in helping recruit some of the best dental students in the U.S. to the UNMC College of Dentistry. He is retiring from his full-time faculty position in July 2011.

We enjoy hearing from you!
Please send your professional and personal news to

UNMC College of Dentistry
Deb Rodaway
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Lincoln, NE 68583-0740

Phone: (402) 472-5135
Email: drodaway@unmc.edu
www.unmc.edu/dentistry
Jennifer Harn, recipient of the four-year teaching award, with Dr. Larry Haisch.

Miles Berg, left, receives the Kramer Award right, with Dr. James Jenkins in the center.

Teachers, students recognized at Honors Banquet

Six members of the UNMC College of Dentistry Dental Class of 2011 were elected to Omicron Kappa Upsilon. They are Jessamy Stingle, Sunny Patel, Kimberly Heinemann, Aaron Larsen, Donnell Buse, and Nathan Thomas. The new members were elected in January and installed in May at the annual Honors Banquet at the Wick Alumni Center.

Membership in OKU is based on scholarship, service, and contribution to the art and science of dentistry. The Alpha Alpha chapter of OKU was established at Nebraska in 1929.

The Kramer Award of Excellence was presented at the banquet to Miles Berg, a junior who was recognized for his scholarship and character.

Jennifer Harn received the four-year teaching award given by senior dental students to the faculty member who taught them the most about dentistry during their time at the College of Dentistry. And a life membership award was presented to Dr. Peter Spalding.

Dr. Paul Hansen and Dr. Ernest Sigler received the Judson Hickey Scientific Writing Award in the category of “Dental Technique.” The title of the article is “Making Multiple Predictable Single-Unit Provisional Restorations Using an Indirect Technique,” published in 2009 in the Journal of Prosthodontics. The editorial council of the journal selected the article as having the greatest impact on the practice of prosthodontic and restorative dentistry for 2009-2010. A cash award was presented to the authors. Both Hansen and Sigler are assistant professors in the Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry.

Ryan Hojek, a fourth-year dental student, has been elected to serve as the national chair of the Council of Students, Residents, and Fellows of the American Dental Education Association. Britt Marsh, a second-year dental student, has been elected to serve as regional liaison of the council.

Kyle Boulke, a third-year dental student, has been elected District 8 trustee for the American Student Dental Association, representing the five dental schools in the region. Kyle replaces Jack Huebner, a fourth-year dental student. This is believed to be the first time two Nebraska students have been elected in consecutive years to represent the region. In addition, Jack has been chosen as the national ASDA representative on the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure. He also has been selected as the ASDA District 8 delegate to the House of Delegates meeting at the ADA annual session in the fall in Las Vegas.

Professor Caren Barnes, RDH, MS, was selected as one of the “Six Dental Hygienists You Want to Know” by Dimensions of Dental Hygiene Interactive. Barnes is a professor in the Department of Dental Hygiene and coordinator of clinical research at the Cruzan Center for Dental Research. A question-and-answer interview with Barnes was published in Dimensions in December 2010. She also received the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Dentistry’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Dental Hygiene in 2010.

“Dental Care Touches Hearts,” an article describing the 2010 Special Olympics Dental Program in Lincoln, was published in the January issue of the American Dental Association News. The Nebraska Dental Association’s Mission of Mercy and the Special Olympics’ Special Smiles programs provided dental services to more than 2,800 athletes in Lincoln for the games. Many faculty, students, staff, and alumni volunteered at clinics set up at Pershing Auditorium and at the College of Dentistry. Dr. Jim Jenkins, assistant professor, was the local dental volunteer coordinator.

Congratulations to Gwen Hlava, RDH, MS, professor and chair of the Dental Hygiene Department, for receiving a Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students. The certificate was presented in February by the Parents Association and the Teaching Council of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
After you’ve read about all the great things happening at the UNMC College of Dentistry... help make it even greater.

To make a charitable gift or pledge benefitting the UNMC College of Dentistry, please contact:

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4 JADA’s feature article on UNMC College of Dentistry
It is believed to be the first time that research at the College of Dentistry has been featured on the cover of the well-read dental journal.

10 2011 Professionals’ Day, students and faculty honored
Students and faculty members were recognized March 25 at the UNMC College of Dentistry’s 44th annual Student Scientific Program and 25th annual Professionals’ Day.

18 Upcoming UNMC College of Dentistry Reunion
UNMC College of Dentistry alumni, family, and friends will be in Lincoln September 16-17 for the annual Homecoming Reunion. Events will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Lincoln and at the College of Dentistry.