

# Cornhusker Impressions

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



College of Dentistry  
Alumni Association Board  
Revels in Opportunity to Give Back

see pg 8





# From the Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As another academic year concludes, I find myself impressed and inspired by the work of our alumni, faculty, staff and students here at the College of Dentistry. When I look back over the past 12 months, I see a period characterized by tremendous growth and collaboration, both of which are essential to our mission of improving oral health in Nebraska and beyond. However, we still have much to accomplish.

As part of our new five-year strategic plan, we launched our new clinical education model in August, and we have already started to reap the benefits. As you'll see in the pages of this publication, our students have embraced this new way of providing care to our patients. Likewise, we have been happy to hear positive feedback from patients. While we are only two semesters into the new model, I can't wait to see what lies ahead.

In February 2017, we announced an exciting new opportunity that will help us increase the availability of oral health services across Nebraska. We were awarded a \$4 million, 10-year contract from the state of Nebraska Oral Health Training and Services Fund, which will be used for important initiatives like providing scholarships to rural graduates, implementing telehealth services and increasing our oral health services to the underserved citizens of Nebraska. The remarkable support from partners across the state will allow us to grow our impact and provide these services across Nebraska.

In this issue, we are pleased to highlight the engagement and dedication of our College of Dentistry Alumni Association (CODAA) Board, a group made up of faculty and graduates of our dental and dental hygiene program. The CODAA Board is crucial to the continued growth and development of the college, and we are so thankful to have their support of our students and programs. Find out more about the board's work on page 8, and we encourage you to reach out if you want to get involved!

Don't miss the recap of our annual Children's Dental Day on page 10 – where we feature the story of a 9-year-old girl with a rare dental condition that we provided care for. It is stories like these that really capture the spirit of the day, and emphasize how important our work truly is.

From all of us here at the College of Dentistry, thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

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

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

### On the cover:

College of Dentistry Alumni Association Board:

Front row: Julie Brown, D.D.S., Molly Asbjörnson-Regelean, R.D.H., Kim Hailey, UNMC College of Dentistry Dean Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., Heather Hessheimer, R.D.H., M.S.

Middle Row: Mary Lynn Froeschle, D.D.S., Sarah Donner, D.D.S., Sue Christensen, D.D.S., Catherine Mello, interim director, UNMC Alumni Relations.

Back Row: Brook Jobes, University of Nebraska Foundation, Todd Hohlen, D.D.S., Monte Zysset, D.D.S., Jon Asbjörnson, D.D.S., Brett Thomsen, D.D.S.

Not pictured: Amanda Dolen, D.D.S., Kristen Hermansen-Ryan, D.D.S., Alan Robertson, D.D.S., Yosh Aneku, D.D.S., and James Jenkins, D.D.S.



## First Impression: Big Ten Dental Deans Reflect Upon First Visit to UNMC College of Dentistry

Above pictured left to right are: David Johnsen, D.D.S., M.S., University of Iowa; Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., UNMC College of Dentistry; John Williams Jr., D.D.S., M.B.A., Indiana University; Clark Stanford, D.D.S., Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago; Laurie McCauley, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., University of Michigan; Cecile Feldman, D.M.D., M.B.A., Rutgers School of Dental Medicine; and Patrick Lloyd, D.D.S., M.S., F.A.C.P., The Ohio State University

### A feeling of pride.

That was the sense Laurie McCauley, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., dean of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry felt as she toured the UNMC College of Dentistry.

"The facility is beautiful," Dr. McCauley said. "The minute you walk in the door there is a good vibe, and the staff and students are upbeat and engaged."

Dr. McCauley was one of six dental deans who traveled to Nebraska for the semi-annual meeting of Big Ten dental schools – and the first meeting held on the Lincoln campus since the University of Nebraska joined the Big Ten Conference in 2011.

While there are nine dental schools in the conference, one dean was unable to attend; another participated via teleconference. The

group has met at least once a year for 15 years.

"The meetings are an opportunity for us to get together, share common problems, discuss research and just get to know each other," said David Johnsen, D.D.S., M.S., dean of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

As state schools, the dental colleges deal with similar issues, Dr. Johnsen said, including the expectation to train dentists for their respective states, and dealing with politics and funding challenges. Each school has a research mission, as well.

"Those are pretty powerful reasons as a group to want to stick together," Dr. Johnsen said.

Dr. McCauley agreed, saying, "the benefit of talking with peers is huge, just to hear best practices and share new ideas, but now we are ready to take it beyond that."

At the meeting, the deans discussed the idea of sharing knowledge to elevate the caliber of programs at all of the schools.

"Is there a course we could share, some expertise that one school can offer via technology to all the other schools, or are there efficiencies that can be shared across institutions that would save money in the long run? These are just a few of the ideas we discussed," Dr. McCauley said.

Both deans said they enjoyed learning more about the new initiatives in health care

see **BIG TEN** pg 4

### Cornhusker Impressions Spring 2017

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

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# Calendar

## Commencement

May 5 | 2 p.m.  
Lied Center for Performing Arts  
Lincoln, Neb.

May 6 | 3 p.m.  
Gering Civic Center, 1050 M St.  
Gering, Neb.

**Panhandle Children's Dental Day**  
June 2-3

## College of Dentistry Continuing Education

### Continuing Education Opportunities

May 3-4 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
"Radiology for Dental Auxiliary"  
UNMC College of Dentistry,  
Lincoln and Gering, Neb.

Speakers: Jennifer Kallio, D.D.S.,  
and Sung Kim, D.D.S.

### COD Continuing Education Caravan

May 8  
Strategic Air Command &  
Aerospace Museum  
Ashland, Neb.

May 9  
Holiday Inn  
Kearney, Neb.

May 10  
Harms Advanced Technology Center,  
Western Nebraska Community College  
Scottsbluff, Neb.

May 11  
Quality Inn & Suites  
North Platte, Neb.

For more information on COD  
Continuing Education contact:

Mary Lynn Froeschle, D.D.S.  
Director  
402-472-7993

To register, call 402-472-2175 or  
toll free at 866-700-4747, or online at  
[unmc.edu/dentistry/continuing/courses/index.html](http://unmc.edu/dentistry/continuing/courses/index.html)



John Williams Jr., D.D.S., M.B.A., dean of the Indiana University School of Dentistry, tries out the augmented reality headset during the Big Ten Dental Deans semi-annual meeting held in December at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

### BIG TEN from pg 3

education and simulation technology at UNMC through presentations by UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., Pam Boyers, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for Interprofessional Education & Experiential Learning, and Dele Davies, M.D., vice chancellor of academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

The deans then held an open forum for faculty and ended the day with a tour of the college.

"I have had the privilege of working alongside five of the Big Ten dental deans in my previous positions at former institutions and was

excited to have the opportunity to continue these collaborations as part of the Big Ten dental dean cohort," said Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry.

"As the newest member of the current group, I have greatly appreciated the value of our discussions and our comradery and while our loyalties to our favorite Big Ten team may differ, we are all pulling for the same team when it comes to educating our future oral health providers."



Dele Davies, M.D., vice chancellor for academic affairs at UNMC, at left, visits with Clark Stanford, D.D.S., Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago; and Laurie McCauley, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., University of Michigan.

# College of Dentistry awarded \$4 million state contract

The University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry has been awarded a \$4 million, 10-year contract from the state of Nebraska Oral Health Training and Services Fund to help increase the number of dental graduates practicing in rural Nebraska shortage areas and to increase oral health services for the citizens in Nebraska.

The College of Dentistry will work with existing and new partners to:

- Address the oral health disparities in the state created by the shortage of dentists in rural areas;
- Provide more access and dental services to underserved, uninsured and at-risk populations in the state including those who are on Medicaid or Medicare; and
- Expand the use of telehealth to deliver dental services.

"We are extremely appreciative of our ongoing partnerships across the state as well as new partnerships to help us provide the much needed oral health care to the citizens of Nebraska," said Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry and principal investigator of the contract.

"This investment by the state of Nebraska, UNMC, and our partners is a true testament to what we can accomplish together to improve oral health in our neediest populations," Dr. Guthmiller said.

The funding focuses on three key areas: scholarships for rural graduates, an increase in patient services and access, and telehealth, she said.

Through the contract, UNMC graduating dentists committing to practice in any designated dental workforce shortage area in Nebraska for at least five years will be eligible to receive a shortage area scholarship. The scholarship will considerably lower, or in some cases might eliminate, their dental college education debt.

"The College of Dentistry has enjoyed a long, sustained commitment to the oral health care of rural Nebraskans and the provision for scholarships for rural graduates in this state contract will play an integral role in the college's mission in increasing the rural dental workforce," said Merlyn Vogt, D.D.S., assistant dean for student affairs and director of admissions.

Another goal of the funding is to increase the number of patients treated by faculty and students of the UNMC College of Dentistry with new or expanded services at clinics in Lincoln, the Durham Outpatient Center (on the UNMC campus) and Children's Hospital & Medical Center as well as ongoing and new partnerships across the state, including: Charles Drew Health Center (Douglas County), One-World Community Health Center (Douglas, Sarpy and Cass Counties), Good Neighbor Community Health Center (Platte County), People's Health Center (Lancaster County), Community Action



Partnership of Western Nebraska (Scotts Bluff and Dawes Counties), and Omaha Public Schools (Douglas and Sarpy Counties).

A key factor to the work will include telehealth training and patient consultation, educational programming and use of new technologies offered through the Interprofessional Experiential Center for Enduring Learning at the Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning, which is under construction at UNMC.

"This leap of technology will be a sustaining factor in maintaining a support system for dentists and oral health professionals in more isolated workforce shortage areas across the state," Dr. Guthmiller said.

Finally, the teledentistry program expanded under this award brings expertise to children seeking care in the school-based health centers located within Omaha Public Schools, said Jillian Wallen, B.D.S., M.S., chair of the department of growth and development at the College of Dentistry.

"This unique program engages school nurses, health care providers and our residents and faculty in collaborative oral health care and increases access for those children who have previously not been able to establish a dental home," Dr. Wallen said.



# Telling our story: How UNMC became the top school for dental graduates returning to rural America

Part of the responsibility as a leader in dental education includes sharing our success story with colleagues across the country.

In two separate presentations given to colleagues from around the country, Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry, posed an important question.

How do you get dental and dental hygiene students interested in going into rural practice?

Her answer?

By introducing the idea of serving their communities to rural high school students contemplating a career in dentistry and then giving them the means and method to get there through pipeline programs.

By offering dental students extramural experiences in rural communities and rural service opportunities designed to meet the needs of the underserved in those communities and expose students to the joy of giving back.

And by offering financial assistance to graduates through state loan repayment programs, as well as continued support from faculty through teledentistry and from alumni in rural practices around the state.

"This combination of pipeline programs, partnership with the state and continued professional support has led to 33 percent of our graduates who now practice in rural communities<sup>1</sup>," Dr. Guthmiller said to peers in a webinar presentation hosted by the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute in September and at the Pennsylvania Oral Health Workforce Innovation Summit in November of last year.

In her presentations, Dr. Guthmiller detailed how the College of Dentistry became the No. 1 dental school in the United States to

have the highest number of graduates who go on to practice in rural communities.<sup>1</sup>

Dental care, much like primary care is hard to come by in rural America.

According to a study released last year by the Federal Reserve, a quarter of Americans went without the dental care they needed because they couldn't afford it. For those in rural areas, the problem is far worse. A 2015 report by the Pew Charitable Trusts found that people in rural areas are poorer and less likely to have dental insurance than their urban counterparts.

That's why it's important to start early by introducing high school students to careers in dentistry and providing pipeline programs to channel those students into the profession, Dr. Guthmiller said.

"In Nebraska we offer high school students a direct route into a dental career through the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP), a partnership with our state colleges that guarantees the student a place in our college upon graduation from the undergraduate institution," she said.

Of the 57 graduates who participated in the RHOP program, 63 percent stayed in Nebraska and 83 percent chose a rural practice.

It's also important to recruit students from rural communities. This is done successfully with the help of Nebraska's Area Health Education Centers, which provide an introduction to careers in dentistry, as well as through the annual UNMC Rural Health Career Day event.

Once enrolled, students have the opportunity to take part in rural rotations,

as well as service opportunities in rural communities such as the annual summer Panhandle Children's Dental Day in the western part of the state.

Following graduation, students who choose to practice in rural areas are eligible for loan repayment programs through the Nebraska Loan Repayment Program and Nebraska Rural Health Student Loan Program.

"Through our newly-awarded state contract, we also will be able to offer shortage-area scholarships to graduates who choose to practice in a rural area," Dr. Guthmiller said.

In addition, the college continues to offer support to graduates throughout their careers.

"Utilizing our statewide telehealth system we can offer consultations and we keep our graduates up-to-date on the latest in oral health diagnosis, treatment and technology through our annual Continuing Education Caravan which makes four stops across the state," Dr. Guthmiller said.



Hosted by PA Coalition for Oral Health  
2016

HPI Health Policy Institute

ADA American Dental Association®

<sup>1</sup> Journal of the American Dental Association, Oct. 2015 [http://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177\(15\)00842-9/abstract](http://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(15)00842-9/abstract)



Pictured above: Fourth-year dental student Molly Kopf, at left, Robin Hattervig, D.D.S., and Michael Adams, also a fourth-year dental student, are members of the Red Group under the new clinical model at the College of Dentistry. Dr. Hattervig is the faculty group leader.

## Students tout benefits of new clinical model

The new clinical model at the UNMC College of Dentistry has been in place for almost two semesters but it has proven to be popular among the students.

"This is the direction the College of Dentistry needed to go," said Molly Kopf, a fourth-year dental student.

Why? The ease of scheduling, continuity of care and increased comradery among the faculty and students are a few examples, Kopf said.

The new clinical model closely resembles a private practice with dental and dental hygiene students assigned to color-coded teams, each with a faculty group leader and associate leader. A group practice coordinator and appointment clerk also support each group.

Dental and dental hygiene students have more opportunity for interaction, with

dental hygiene students coming to the dental student clinic a few times a week to assist with new patient screening appointments and to provide cleanings.

"It really provides a sense of teamwork," said Michael Adams, a fourth-year dental student, who along with Kopf is a member of the Red Group.

Adams said the new model has resulted in fellow dental students serving as assistants on a more frequent basis.

"Sometimes it's helpful to have four hands instead of two during certain procedures like a crown prep, where you are trying to use a mirror, hold the suction, and operate a drill simultaneously," he said.

Patients also are noticing the difference.

"Patients have mentioned to me that they like seeing familiar faces

and are a little more comfortable coming to the clinic," Adams said.

The new clinical model is definitely more efficient, said Steven Ready, a fourth-year dental student and member of the Black Group.

Ready said the old model only allowed for one procedure to be done at a time because all of the procedures were handled separately, in different departments and under the auspices of individual faculty.

For example, he said if a patient came in for a cleaning and a cavity was discovered he would have to schedule a new appointment.

"In the new model we can do all of our procedures during the same clinic and not have to bring the patient back over and over again," Ready said.





Brook Jobes, University of Nebraska Foundation, left, Monte Zysset, D.D.S., and Kim Hailey

# Engaged alumni find serving on board more than a privilege

The privilege of being a member of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association (CODAA) Board isn't found in the prestige of the office, several members said, instead it is found in opportunities.

Like the opportunity to support a new initiative introduced by the dean, or the opportunity to provide a meal to students during their annual board exams or the opportunity to give a lecture on a niche topic.

"The opportunities we had years ago as students at the dental college were provided by alums and as we progress through our career and our lives, we have

the privilege of continuing that tradition of giving back," said Jon Asbjörnson, D.D.S., a 1987 alum and immediate past president of the CODAA Board.

Current CODAA Board president and 1984 alum, Monte Zysset, D.D.S., agrees.

"Anything we can do to enhance the education of current students or support the ongoing education of alumni in practice is important," Dr. Zysset said.

The CODAA Board annually funds guest speakers to provide continuing education opportunities for alumni at the reunion as well as during the Continuing Education Caravan in May, he said.

Dr. Zysset said it is important to keep alumni informed about what is happening at the college, the latest dental materials or technology in use, and where dentistry is headed in general.

Sarah Donner, D.D.S., a 2006 alum and secretary treasurer for the CODAA, said the board has helped to fund different classroom renovations, as well as receptions that the dean hosts for alumni at dental meetings.

The receptions, she said, are a great way for alumni to keep in touch, whether they are dentists practicing in the area or coming to the meeting.



CODAA Board at the 2016 Alumni Reunion: Pictured front row left to right, Kim Hailey, Amanda Dolen, Jim Jenkins, Molly Asbjörnson-Regelean, Dean Guthmiller. Back row left to right, Heather Hessheimer, Monte Zysset, Sarah Donner, Todd Hohlen, Jon Asbjörnson, Sue Christensen.

"It bodes well to stay in contact," Dr. Zysset said. "If you go to an event or attend the annual reunion you meet people and different opportunities can emerge that might help advance your career."

The fall alumni reunion is the biggest event the CODAA Board supports, Dr. Asbjörnson said, by planning events and hosting the banquet.

"We also host a significant recognition at the alumni reunion banquet for four dental leaders," he said.

And at last year's alumni reunion, the board played a role in supporting a guest speaker at the program help in honor of the 50th anniversary of the dental hygiene program.

"It was just so amazing to be a part of that," said Sue Christensen, D.D.S., a 1981 alum and board member.

A past president, Dr. Christensen serves as the liaison between the CODAA Board and the UNMC Alumni Association Board.

In this role she is able to keep current on what the other boards are doing and share

insight into how the college has kept its alumni so actively involved.

"We went to an incredible school and are so proud of where we come from. I just think that when you leave there is such a unique, great family feeling that you want to continue to be a part of that," Dr. Christensen said.

It's something that all of the board members said the CODAA Board tries to impart on new graduates at the annual senior salute dinner.

There, the graduating dental and dental hygiene students are congratulated on their accomplishments and at the same time reminded by the CODAA Board president and the dean just how important they are to the future of the college.

"Everybody acquires so many wonderful skills after they graduate and get established in their career, we tell them it would be nice to see people who want to do something for the school, and invite them to come back to be a mentor and share their expertise," Dr. Christensen said.

## Current CODAA Board Members

### CURRENT CODAA BOARD MEMBERS

- Monte Zysset, D.D.S., 1984, *President*
- Jon Asbjörnson, D.D.S., 1987, *2016 Past President*
- Julie Brown, D.D.S., 1980, *President Elect*
- Sarah Donner, D.D.S., 2006, *Secretary/Treasurer*
- Sue Christensen, D.D.S., 1981, *COD Representative, UNMC Alumni Association Board of Directors member and Past President*
- Amanda Dolen, D.D.S., 2012
- Kristen Hermansen-Ryan, R.D.H., M.S., 2007
- Heather Hessheimer, R.D.H., M.S., 2006, *Past President*
- Todd Hohlen, D.D.S., 2006, *Past President*
- Molly Asbjörnson-Regelean, R.D.H., 2012
- Alan Robertson, D.D.S., 1981
- Brett Thomsen, D.D.S., 1992

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

- Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., *Dean*
- Yosh Ameku, D.D.S., 1990, *CODAA Board Member Advisor and Past Secretary/Treasurer*
- James Jenkins, D.D.S., 1984, *Director of College of Dentistry Alumni Affairs and Past President*
- Brook Jobes, University of Nebraska Foundation *Representative*
- Mary Lynn Froeschle, D.D.S., M.B.A., *Director, Continuing Education*
- Catherine Mello, *Interim Associate Director, UNMC Alumni Relations*
- Kim Hailey, *Alumni Board Staff Support*

## Want to join?

Members of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association Board serve a three-year term. They are then given the option to leave the board or serve a second term.

Each year, the CODAA Board accepts nominations for new board members and selects them at the August board meeting.

Anyone interested in joining the CODAA Board can contact:

Kim Hailey  
402-472-1344 | khailey@unmc.edu

Dr. Jim Jenkins  
402-472-4099 | jjenkins@unmc.edu





Above: First-year dental students, Robert Kirkland, at left, and Collin Tussing entertain children during the annual Dental Day event dressed as "Ortho Man" and "Pedo Man" respectively.

Right: First-year dental student Kate O'Brien applies face paint to a young child during the annual Children's Dental Day event.

Far upper right: Third-year dental student, Ben Reimer, provides treatment to a child during the annual Children's Dental Day event.

Far lower right: Fourth-year dental student, Rafaila Ramirez, stops to pose with her patient.



# Treatment of Rare Genetic Disorder Is What Dental Day Is All About

## Dental Day helps 9-year-old with rare genetic disorder

The 9-year-old girl with the shy smile sat quietly in the dental chair.

Hope filled her eyes as she waited patiently for the dental hygienist to finish consulting with her instructor.

Jamie Lee Chavez, of Beemer, Neb., has one of the rarest conditions ever encountered in the 16 years the UNMC College of Dentistry has held its annual Children's Dental Day event.

Amelogenesis imperfecta.

The rare genetic disorder means that she was born with an extremely thin layer of enamel covering her teeth. Her enamel is so thin, in fact, that her teeth appear discolored and their integrity is at risk.

Chavez is what Children's Dental Day is all about, faculty and students at the college say.

Half of all youth ages 6 to 15 have experienced dental decay in the state of Nebraska according to a 2016 state oral health assessment.

Faculty and students at the College of Dentistry know they can impact that statistic by continuing to provide services to the most vulnerable citizens through the annual Children's Dental Day event held in February.

Still, they never expected to encounter something like amelogenesis imperfecta.

"It's very rare," said Gwen Hlava, R.H.D., M.S., director of the dental hygiene program at the College of Dentistry. "And this is exactly why we have Children's Dental Day, for kids like Jamie who need our help."

The telltale signs of the genetic disorder have been visible ever since Jamie Lee was

an infant and her first few teeth began to erupt.

"Her baby teeth were discolored and almost falling apart," said her mother, Jamie Delarosa. "We didn't think there was anything anyone could do."

Fortunately, for Delarosa and her daughter, the pediatric dentists at the College of Dentistry immediately put a treatment plan into action, one that involved protecting her teeth with stainless steel crowns.

Delarosa cried in disbelief when she found out her daughter would get some relief from the sensitivity to hot and cold and the teasing at school.

"We are so excited there is something we can do to help her," she said.

Since 2001, the College of Dentistry has treated more than 5,700 children and provided services valued at more than \$3 million to low income and underserved children in the state.

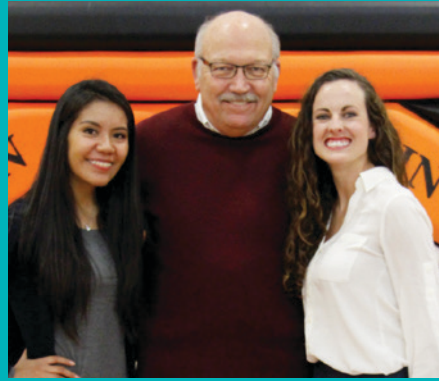
At the most recent dental day event in February, where Jamie Lee was treated, the school provided more than \$140,000 in services to 197 children.

"We are so pleased to help the children in Nebraska with their dental needs, and I am extremely grateful to the faculty, staff and students for their roles in making this a positive experience for the kids," said Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the College of Dentistry. "We provide a lot of care but we get just as much or more out of the day."





## Kudos



After the rally, fourth-year dental student Rafi Ramirez, at left, Tom Fagot, D.D.S., '83, and Molly Kopf, also a fourth-year dental student, pose for pictures.

Fourth-year UNMC College of Dentistry students, Molly Kopf and Rafi Ramirez, spoke on Jan. 11 at the annual Destination Graduation Academic Pep Rally at Lexington High School.

Kopf and Ramirez were both participants in health care pipeline programs. Kopf, a former RHOP student, and Ramirez, a former NU Paths student, are graduates of Lexington High School and were asked by the principal, Kyle Hoehner, to speak to the student body about their academic journey from high school through professional school.

"It was important to me to give back to the Lexington community, so it was an honor to return to my high school and have the opportunity to speak to the students," Kopf said.

Kopf encouraged the students to find something they "loved some days, could tolerate most days and still pay the bills."

Ramirez reminded the students that while there are always challenges they should never give up.

Her advice to the students: "ask for help in your studies, work hard and stay dedicated. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to."

## Memories of the Dental Class of 1976

by Tom Hajek, D.D.S.

We arrived in the fall of 1972, a class of 66 students, with a diverse background of graduate and undergraduate students, Vietnam Era veterans, professors' kids, research scientists, lab techs, and due to a compact agreement between states, eight South Dakota residents. At the time, we were the second class to have female students, of which there were two.

We began to study long hours for our oral biology courses and were the first class to have Dr. Stan Harn as our anatomy professor who introduced us to our first cadaver. We spent a lot of time that first year in dental anatomy tooth grinding lab to obtain a chart display of 32 teeth sectioned three different ways.

As sophomores, still hanging out downstairs, we learned the technique of casting gold, with some of us realizing it doesn't work so well when you put the casting ring in backwards. That year, we also nervously practiced giving our first anesthetic injections on each other.

As juniors, we finally made it out of the downstairs labs in the classroom and upstairs into the clinics. We proudly pushed our clinic carts around while tasting concentrated mouthwash on shortened cotton-tipped applicators.

We got to know the seniors well by manning the clinic, treating patients and helping each other in the junior-senior lab, where everyone had their own lab space and drawer. Some of those seniors traded their white lab coats for new colored ones the following year when they became our instructors.

### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY - CLASS OF 1976



Class of 1976 composite photo taken from the yearbook.



Class of 1976 group photo taken last fall at the Alumni Reunion pictured left to right: Tim Pieper, D.D.S., Rich Whitman, D.D.S., Phil Rich, D.D.S., Tim Lebsack, D.D.S., Lee Dahl, D.D.S., Tom Barth, D.D.S., Stan Harn, D.D.S., Jerry Brockman, D.D.S., Tom Hajek, D.D.S., Mike Furmanski, D.D.S., Bob Roesch, D.D.S., Mark Rinne, D.D.S., Bob Butz, D.D.S., and Tim Jensen, D.D.S. (Attending but not pictured: Mel Thaler, D.D.S.)

As seniors, we welcomed the juniors into the clinic, getting to know them well. As a class we passed all of our written and clinical boards on schedule.

Graduation day was very special as we were among the first UNL students to graduate in the new Devaney Center with then President Gerald Ford as the guest speaker.

Many are the memories we have of the four years when we were at the UNMC College of Dentistry, among those:

- Editing the now infamous "Denthouse" yearbook;
- Successfully having pig roasts from underground ovens;
- Our famous Kazoo band;
- Most all having part time jobs to supplement our income;
- Holding our own in intramural sports, including a championship water polo team;
- Surviving endo cultures, multiple choice exams, impressions and other clinic requirements;
- Searching for that perfect gold foil board patient; and
- Pedo assistants teaching us the four handed technique and many more.

As we entered our dental occupations, regardless of where we ended up, it took little time for us to realize how great an

education we received at the dental college. We were all successful and would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of the full and part-time instructors, assistants, administrative staff, and patients who were kind enough and patient enough to let us work on and learn from them.

Several of our class became state dental association presidents, ADA delegates – including an ADA annual session general chairman – specialists, research clinicians, faculty, and more. Approximately ten of our offspring followed us into our profession.

In 2001, in honor of our 25th anniversary, we established the Dental College Class of 1976 Fund for Excellence with a goal of \$76,000, which we achieved quickly and have continued to watch grow.

Sadly, we would like to recognize in memoriam those of our class who have passed away. We wish to honor Roger Zwetzig, who passed away our sophomore year, and Drs. Owen Gross-Rhode, Robert Garcia, Robert Bergeson, Thomas Hasagawa, Tony Wiedel, Max Anderson and Robert Etzelmler.



# College of Dentistry Remembers

**John E. Amos, D.D.S.**, '66, Montclair, Calif., died Nov. 24, 2016. After receiving his degree in dentistry, Dr. Amos took both state board exams for Nebraska and Colorado so he could be part of a Naval program. After a one-year deployment to Da Nang, Vietnam, Dr. Amos practiced in San Francisco for five years before moving to Montclair and setting up his own dental practice. He was an active member of the American Dental Association and San Francisco Dental Society.

**Walter R. Babcock, D.D.S.**, '61, Seal Beach, Calif., died Nov. 17, 2016. Upon graduation, Dr. Babcock opened his dental office in Seal Beach, Calif., where he practiced until retiring in 1991. He served for two years as president of the Harbor Dental Society, and is remembered for his humble and gentle nature, inquisitiveness, work ethic, honesty, dignity and loyalty.

**Walter A. Bennett, Jr., D.D.S.**, '54, Omaha, Neb., died Jan. 21, 2017. Dr. Bennett practiced dentistry for 33 years and was an active member of the International College of Dentists, Nebraska and Omaha Dental Societies, Creighton University Dental Clinic, Lutheran Hospital Board, Nebraska State Dental Ethics Committee and various study clubs.

**Douglas S. Hoy, D.D.S.**, '64, Norman, Okla., died Feb. 18, 2017. Upon receiving his degree in dentistry, Dr. Hoy practiced for 39 years as an oral surgeon, retiring in 2006. He was a member of the Xi Phi Phi International Dental Fraternity and the Southwest Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

**Janet K. John**, Lincoln, Neb., died Feb. 20, 2017. Janet John served students and faculty at the UNMC College of Dentistry for 35 years as a secretary and honorary member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon.

**David A. Lankford, D.D.S.**, '81, Sioux Falls, S.D., died Oct. 10, 2015. Dr. Lankford completed his residency in periodontics and practiced in Shreveport, La., for one year and the rest of his career in Sioux Falls.

**Dudley G. Mack, D.D.S.**, '66, Huntsville, Ala., died Sept. 16, 2016. Dr. Mack was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and retired orthodontist.

## Notes from the NU Foundation

by Brook Jobes

As I entered my role with the UNMC College of Dentistry in June 2016, I had one priority: to meet our distinguished alumni and hear about the impact the dental college made on their lives, both professionally and personally.

Over the past eight months, I have had the opportunity to meet with countless individuals who have expressed their sincere passion and appreciation for all that the College of Dentistry has provided them and their families. Without a doubt, the UNMC College of Dentistry has the most loyal alumni around who demonstrate it through their volunteerism, philanthropy and mentorship.

As many of you know, the UNMC College of Dentistry runs deep in my family lineage with 10 family members who have graduated from the College of Dentistry since 1916 and three who continue to practice today. This past fall, I helped my father-in-law, Dr. Merlyn Vogt of Lincoln, create an estate gift to continue his personal mission of impacting young lives through dental academia. For him, it came down to wanting to make sure future students continue to receive a top-tier dental education and experience, similar to what he had in the early 1980s. It's folks like Dr. Vogt and many of you, who continue to give your time, talent and hard-earned savings to impact the young minds walking the halls at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

I look forward to working with each of our esteemed alumni, who are passionate about leaving their legacy etched on the walls at the UNMC College of Dentistry through philanthropy and engagement.

To learn more on how your philanthropy and generosity can impact the UNMC College of Dentistry, contact Brook Jobes at 402-458-1183 or via email at: [Brook.Jobes@nufoundation.org](mailto:Brook.Jobes@nufoundation.org)



Brook Jobes  
Director of Development,  
UNMC College of Dentistry,  
University of Nebraska  
Foundation



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:

**Brook Jobs**

University of Nebraska Foundation  
402-458-1183 | 800-432-3216  
brook.jobs@nufoundation.org



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