

Cornhusker Impressions

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

Dentistry debuts new iWall, interactive classroom

see pg 20



Cornhusker Impressions Winter 2018

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

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On the cover:

James Wahl, III, Ph.D., professor of oral biology, works with Cameron Aitken, second-year dental student on the college's new iWall. Read the full story on page 20.

From the Dean

Greetings alumni and friends!

There was a lot of excitement in the air this summer as we welcomed our new residents, dental and dental hygiene students. In addition, we introduced new educational technology and a beautifully refurbished interactive classroom (see story on page 20). The iWall technology is changing the way we teach and changing the way our students learn, engaging the learner, rather than sitting passively in a classroom. With this new technology and the design of our classroom, our students are active participants in group and individual learning. The iWall will also be used to routinely connect to our dental hygiene students in Gering/Scottsbluff this coming spring and the classroom is frequently used by our students between classes and after hours for group discussion and learning.

Please also enjoy the story on our alumni who pursued military careers following graduation from our dental college (found on page 10). Their stories share the multitude of opportunities that they have experienced in their respective military careers. We are extremely thankful and grateful for all of our graduates, faculty and students who have served or are currently serving our country and the thousands of men and women that they have collectively cared for in their respective careers.

Our partnerships with entities outside the College of Dentistry continue to grow and provide opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to provide a multitude of oral health services beyond the college and in our communities. Examples of these new or expanded partnerships can be found in the following stories – Clinic with a Heart, Special Olympics, and the Nebraska Teeth Forever Program. Meanwhile, we continue to enjoy ongoing partnerships that make possible our continued services across the state, like our Panhandle Dental Day program.

We congratulate our College of Dentistry research investigators who celebrated a 32.2% increase in research funding in 2018! On page 18, you can appreciate the diversity of the resources that these individuals attracted to support a variety of research programs – from cancer research to clinical trials and more.

This fall, we enjoyed our traditional alumni reunion welcoming our honor classes, our amazing faculty speakers and our faculty who received alumni awards. See the photos and stories starting on page 4.

Importantly, in this issue, we acknowledge our many contributing donors to our college. We are tremendously grateful for their amazing generosity to the college and the impact that this provides to our programs, our faculty, our students, our staff and our patients. Thank you!

Finally, I would like to thank Sydnie Hochstein for her many contributions over nearly two years at the college! In addition to leading our communications and community relations committee and activities at the college, Sydnie has been the primary writer and editor of our "Impressions" publication and our new electronic monthly newsletter, "News Bites." We wish Sydnie and her family all the best in their new home in Nashville, Tennessee. By the way, if you are not receiving the electronic newsletter and would like to, please send an email to Catherine Mello (UNMC director, alumni relations) at catherine.mello@unmc.edu and she will make sure that you are on our email mailing list!

and M. Suthmiller

Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D. Professor & Dean, College of Dentistry, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Calendar

Rocky Mountain Dental Convention – Alumni Reception Jan. 18 Denver, Colo.

"Give Kids a Smile" Dental Day XXXV

To be held in conjunction with Interprofessional (IPE) Education Day Feb. 1 UNMC College of Dentistry

College of Dentistry Research Day and Student Scientific Program Feb. 22 UNMC College of Dentistry

Nebraska Mission of

Mercy (NMOM) March 29 – 30 Omaha, Neb.

Richard A. Reinhardt Lecture April 5 | 12 – 1 p.m. Dixon Lecture Hall, UNMC College of Dentistry

NDA Annual Session April 11-12

Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln, Neb.

NDHA Annual Session April 12 – 13 The Graduate Hotel, Lincoln, Neb.

Professionals Day

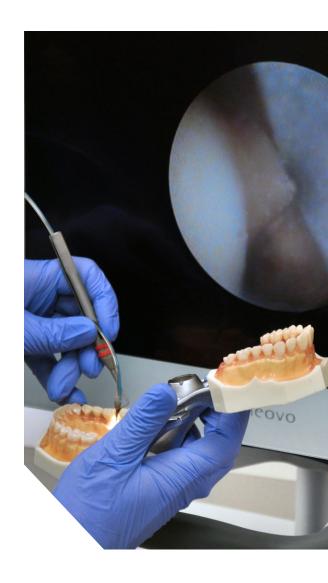
Including the Richard E. Bradley Memorial Lecture

April 19 East Campus Union, Lincoln, Neb.

Commencement

May 2 | 9:30 a.m. Lied Center for Performing Arts Lincoln, Neb.

May 4 | 3:00 p.m. Gering Civic Center Gering, Neb.



Continuing Education

Jan. 4 | 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. Weeth Lecture 2019

"Precancerous & Early Cancerous Lesions of the Oral Cavity" Speaker: Donald Cohen, D.M.D, M.B.A., M.S.

Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, UNL City Campus Jan. 25 | 8 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. What's New in Dentistry 2019 "Practical Pearls for Clinical Use" Speaker: Terence Donovan, D.D.S.

UNL East Campus Student Union

Feb. 15 | 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Moderate Sedation Speaker: J. Bruce Bavitz, D.M.D. & Darrell Ebke, D.D.S.

UNMC College of Dentistry

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

For more College of Dentistry Continuing Education information

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

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

Alumni Reunion 2018



Member of the 50-year dental hygiene honor class



ABOVE:

Members of the dental class of 1968 from left to right: Jerry Kroeger, Don Karich, Bill Baeder, R.C. Mead, Wayne Kaldahl, Duane Smith, James Penney, Gary McMullen, Gary Jeffrey, Gary Amerman and Mark Mills.

RIGHT:

Member of the Dental Hygiene Class of 1968, Linda Bolton, left, pictured with Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D.

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



Duane Smith and James Penney, Class of 1968.



Rose Ann Rinne, Mark Rinne, Vernon Rinne and Myhanh Phan-Rinne.



Members of the Dental Class of 1993 from left to right: Mark Minchow, Gail Rohlfing, Denise Prugh, Chris Patton, Dave Landgren, Cori Amend, Mike Hoxie, and Mike LaFerla.



Monte Zysset and Julie Brown speak at the 2018 Alumni Reunion.



Dean Janet M. Guthmiller shakes hands with R.C. Mead during the 2018 Alumni Reunion.



Members of the Dental Class of 1988 from left to right: Bruce Condello, Cathy Alley, Roger Fisher, Perry Rosenau, Thu Truong, Kelly Hathaway, Gary Fields, Scott O'Neil, John Haugen and Joe Rigg.

Dean's Club celebration



From left: Douglas Baker, Harry Tolly and Paula Harre mingle at the Dean's Club celebration.



From left: Brett Thomsen, H. Dele Davies, UNMC senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Meg Johnson, University of Nebraska Foundation, at the Dean's Club celebration.



From left to right: Claudia Reinhardt, Mark Jobman, John Reinhardt and Kelli Jobman at the Dean's Club celebration.

Student speakers

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



Lydia Robertus, Dental Hygiene Class of 2019



Corinne Van Osdel, Dental Class of 2019

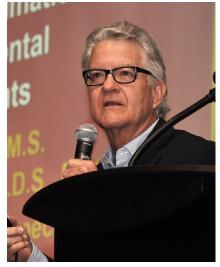


John Welk, Dental Class of 2019

Continuing Education courses



Amy Killeen, D.D.S., M.S., co-presented the continuing education course "Advances in Inflammation Control for Periodontal Maintenance Patients."



Richard A. Reinhardt, D.D.S., Ph.D., co-presented the continuing education course "Advances in Inflammation Control for Periodontal Maintenance Patients."



Sung K. Kim, D.D.S., presented the continuing education course "Comparison of Radiation Doses for CBCT Units and Common Dental Radiographs."

Four faculty members honored at Alumni Reunion

Four College of Dentistry faculty members were recognized at the 2018 Alumni Reunion, sponsored by the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association. The Alumni Reunion is a long-standing tradition of the college, and the annual awards banquet is an opportunity to honor individuals for their contributions to and support of the college and the dental profession.

Outstanding Educator Award

William W. Johnson, D.D.S., M.S. professor and vice chair, Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry

Dr. Johnson grew up in the small, rural community of Monroe, Wisconsin. He completed his predental education at the University of Wisconsin, then earned his dental degree and master's degree in biomaterials science at Marquette University.



Dr. Johnson practiced general dentistry for 13

years, during which time he had the opportunity to have dental assisting students in his practice and found it rewarding to work with them. In 1990 he sold his practice and made the move to an academic career. He took a position at the University of Tennessee, where he taught operative dentistry for seven years.

In 1997, Dr. Johnson became the department chair and program director of the dental hygiene program at Minnesota State University. In 2000, he moved to Lincoln for a position in the UNMC Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry, where he supervises clinical students and teaches dental materials and operative dentistry. Even after 28 years of education, he finds working with students to be the most rewarding thing he does. Dr. Johnson is married to his wife of 45 years, Bonnie, who also worked at the college for 12 years.

About the award:

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

Alumni Achievement Award

Chris Nix, D.D.S., M.S., former clinical instructor, Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry; Dental Class of 1978

Dr. Nix is a 1974 NU graduate and received his dental degree from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1978. In 1981, Dr. Nix started his private practice, Southwest Nebraska Dental Center, in McCook, Nebraska. In 2003, he added another location in Imperial, Nebraska.



Since 2010, Dr. Nix has been a cerecdoctors.com

mentor at the Spear Education Center in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he instructs fellow dentists on CAD/CAM digital-based dentistry. He is also a Patterson Dental Cerec trainer, a mentor for the Cerec Accept New-User Program and is a guest speaker nationally for Patterson Dental and Sirona Dental, on this technology.

After a successful career in private practice, Dr. Nix retired in 2015 and continued his passion for teaching by joining the faculty at the UNMC College of Dentistry. He served as a clinical instructor and director of the CAD/CAM Clinic, where students are introduced to the latest dental technology with digital-based restorative dentistry. Dr. Nix also directed the Advanced Topics in Prosthodontics course. Dr. Nix retired from teaching in 2018.

About the award:

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

Distinguished Service Award

Wayne B. Kaldahl, D.D.S., professor, Department of Surgical Specialties; Dental Class of 1968

Following graduation from Nebraska's College of Dentistry in 1968, Dr. Kaldahl served in the U.S. Air Force for three years, then received his periodontal specialty training at the University of Washington. He and his wife, Karole, moved to Denver, Colorado, where he practiced full-time and taught parttime at the University of Colorado Dental College for six years.



Still being emotionally connected to Nebraska, Dr. Kaldahl and his family moved back to Lincoln where he became a professor of periodontology and maintained a very active part-time practice. Although full-time academics was not his intent, he fell in love with the interactions that occur between the students and faculty, the continual learning that is required and the opportunity for

Dr. Kaldahl was part of the team that received the largest NIHfunded grant for clinical research the dental college had ever had at that time. He has been active in many state and national professional organizations, written numerous papers and lectured nationally and internationally. His loves include his religion, family, dentistry and in particular, that which directly or indirectly involves patient care.

About the award:

clinical research.

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

Honorary Life Membership Award

David H. Shaw, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Oral Biology; interim associate dean for research

A native of Fremont, Nebraska, Dr. Shaw received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and master's degree in physiology both from UNL, and his Ph.D. in physiology/pharmacology from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California.



He returned to Lincoln in 1969 to accept a faculty appointment at

the College of Dentistry, where he joined a small group of basic science educators in establishing the Department of Oral Biology. Dr. Shaw is in his 50th year as a dental educator at the college and has served as professor and chair of the Department of Oral Biology since 1987. He continues to direct the pharmacology courses for the dental hygiene, dental and postgraduate students and serves as the interim associate dean for research.

Dr. Shaw has served on the editorial review board for Mosby's Dental Drug Reference, continues to serve as co-chair of the UNMC MSIA Graduate Program and is a basic science consultant/ site visitor for the ADA's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). He recently completed his third term as chair of the Physiology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics Section of ADEA. Dr. Shaw and his wife of 55 years, JoAnne, have three married sons and 11 grandchildren, two of whom are graduates of the COD's dental hygiene program.

About the award:

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

Answering the call of duty

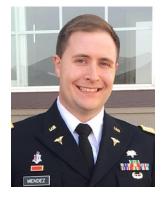
Of all of the career paths to take following dental school, becoming a military dentist is one of the more uncommon options. However, for the men and women who choose to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduating from the UNMC College of Dentistry, being a military dentist offers many unique benefits.

Their reasons for pursuing a military career after dental school are varied. Some found muchneeded relief from dental school debt, or a chance to complete advanced education programs. Others wanted the opportunity to travel or follow in the footsteps of their family members. Still others felt a call of duty to serve their country and the soldiers who protect it.

We talked with several recent graduates who currently serve as military dentists across the country – and the globe – to celebrate their service and learn more about their chosen career path.

Captain Brandon Mendez, D.D.S. U.S. ARMY

UNMC Class of 2014



Brandon Mendez always knew he wanted to work in health care. He ended up choosing to pursue a career in dentistry at UNMC, following in the footsteps of his father Albert Mendez, '89. He also always toyed with the idea of joining the military. Call it a "sense of civic duty," he said. Then he learned about the opportunity to apply for the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) – which would pay for his dental school in exchange for his service in the U.S. Army.

"When I found out I could do military and dentistry all together that got me interested," Mendez said. "Plus the scholarship factor, being able to go through school debt free."

Mendez graduated from UNMC in 2014 and immediately completed a one-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program in Kentucky. His first assignment following residency was at Fort Riley in Manhattan, Kansas, as a dentist for a brigade combat team. Five weeks after he reported for duty, he was on a plane bound for Kuwait. His deployment last nine months, during which time he was responsible for treating the dental needs of about 4,500 soldiers in his unit.

Despite being so far from home and fresh off his residency, his deployment was a very professionally satisfying experience, Mendez said.

"We'd do things like routine drill and fill, emergency extractions and root canals," he said. "It was rewarding to know that if a solider came in with a problem, I had the skill set and ability to alleviate the soldier's pain and get them back to work."

Following his deployment, Mendez returned to Fort Riley, where he works at one of the three dental clinics on the base and spends most of his days in patient care. Throughout his time in the Army, he has earned both his expert field medical badge and his air assault badge – both required grueling, weeks-long training courses, where he learned skills like land navigation using a map and compass, as well as how to repel and fast-rope out of a helicopter. Both trainings ended with a 12-mile ruck march carrying a 35-lb pack – not your typical day at the dental office.

"Some of the best Army experiences I've had have been the non-dental perks and things I've gotten to do," he said.

Captain Alexandra Egentowich, D.D.S. U.S. AIR FORCE UNMC Class of 2016

Life in the military has come secondnature for Alexandra Egentowich. A Bellevue native, Egentowich grew up as an Air Force brat. Her step-father was an Air Force dentist, and throughout her childhood, they were stationed in Nebraska, Georgia, North Carolina and Ohio. In addition to learning what it meant to be a part of the military community, Egentowich also got a taste of life as a dentist from her step-father.

"My first real dental experience was a humanitarian mission to Honduras that my step-dad took me on to help with prophies and extractions," she recalled.

He also introduced her to the Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP).

"Not having student loans when I finished my dental program was a huge reason I agreed to join the military," Egentowich said. "The HPSP program offers a yearto-year payback, so I was able to attend school as a reservist. That means while attending dental school, you are labeled a reservist but your only job is to study hard and you receive a monthly stipend."

Not only was joining the military a financial decision, she said, but it also provided a spot in a residency program, a guaranteed job after graduation, the opportunity to travel and live in new places, and a chance to serve her country.

After graduating from UNMC in 2016,



Members of the UNMC Class of 2016 who joined the U.S. Air Force. From left are Leah Erickson, Alex Egentowich, Justin Shirk and Raul Franco.

the transition to becoming an active duty military member was an easy one for Egentowich. She was stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana, for her one-year residency training program, then was given a twoyear assignment at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Ramstein is one of the Air Force's largest bases with 33 dental providers and most specialists. She and her dental colleagues cover a population of about 235,000 people.

"Working overseas, the number one goal is to make sure our troops are ready to deploy at a moment's notice," she said. "The mission at Ramstein involves patient medical evacuation from Africa, Europe and Asia, so we support the troops stationed at Ramstein needing to make these missions possible."

She likened her clinic to a large group practice, in which she has the flexibility to improve her clinical skills with the support of other providers. She enjoys working with specialists in all capacities, from asking for a consult, to referrals, to continued assistance throughout a case.

"I also enjoy working with young airmen that didn't necessarily enter the military to be a dental assistant," Egentowich said. "It is exciting to see them grow as assistants and to see when procedures or techniques finally click."

Captain Christian Petersen, D.D.S. U.S. ARMY UNMC Class of 2016



If you ask Christian Petersen why he opted to join the military after dental school, he will likely tell you that his answer has changed over time. If you asked him as a senior at Wayne State University (WSU), his answer would have been more practical – because it was a smart financial and career move.

"One, they paid for dental school," Petersen said. "Two, you have a guaranteed job after dental school and significant opportunities for advanced education."

Now, since being an active member of the U.S. Army, his answer is more emotional.

"When you see some of these young soldiers as they go out and do field

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exercises and are getting ready to deploy, the amount of sacrifice they are willing to give is incredible," he said. "It hits home and empowers you to do whatever you can for these soldiers."

A native of Blair, Nebraska, Petersen knew he wanted to pursue a career in the medical field. He shadowed a couple dentists in Blair and realized he enjoyed the personal interactions with patients and the technical work involved in dentistry. He learned about the Rural Health Opportunities Program, a cooperative pipeline program between WSU and UNMC. During his senior year at WSU, he learned about the HPSP scholarship, and the rest was history.

After graduation from dental school, he spent two and half months in his training in Texas. He was then stationed in Oahu, Hawaii, where he is expanding his training as a comprehensive dentist, and earning his master's degree in oral biology.

His residency has allowed him to expand his clinical skills and learn different surgeries and procedures he may not have been able to on the civilian side. For example, on any given day, he gets to place braces, implants or periodontal grafts, extract third molars, see pediatric patients and take on full mouth prosthodontic cases. A bonus – he can treatment plan exactly how the patient needs to be treated, regardless of the cost.

He will graduate from his program in June 2019 and then will be slated for PCS – or permanent change of station. After that, who knows? Petersen is keeping an open mind.

"The longer I'm in, the more I think it's something I will do for a while," he said. "I enjoy the relationships I've built, and I enjoy my work."

Lieutenant Commander Charlie Cage, D.D.S. U.S. NAVY UNMC Class of 2012



Currently stationed: Jacksonville, Florida Specialty: General dentist

Why did you decide to join the military after dental school? "During high school I was part of the Air Force Junior ROTC and my plans were to join the military. Since I was only 16 years old when I graduated, I was not able to enlist and I decided to go to college. Then I went to dental school which is where I met with a recruiter and commissioned as an officer."

Lieutenant Commander Natalie Bakan, D.D.S. U.S. NAVY UNMC Class of 2009



Currently stationed: Yuma, Arizona Specialty: General dentist, clinic director Tell us about your experience as a dentist in the military: "It's the best decision I've made in my life. Out of dental school, you're still so young, and you don't know as much as you think you know. Once you get out there and try to start a business or get into a practice, you're still learning. In the military, you're learning at your pace (or maybe a little faster than your pace). There isn't that pressure to hit quotas and pay bills. And if you get to travel the world for a few years, why wouldn't you? I would absolutely do it again. I just love everything about it... you just get to be a dentist and serve your country."

Captain Ben Winston, D.D.S. U.S. AIR FORCE UNMC Class of 2015

Currently Stationed: Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Specialty: General dentist

Tell us about your role as an Air Force dentist: "It's all about keeping our patients ready to fight. I work in a dental clinic with nine other dentists. Our treatment population is right around 8,000 active duty and other military personnel. All service members need to have a yearly exam, and we're here to make sure they don't have any urgent dental conditions. The idea is that when all you can focus on is your tooth hurting, you can't fire a rifle or fly a plane. You can't shoot a gun if you have an abscess. Our patients are very accepting, and they don't have to pay for any of it. There's no worry about financials, we just focus on the dentistry."

Major Benjamin Britten, D.D.S. U.S. AIR FORCE

UNMC Class of 2008

Currently Stationed: MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida

Specialty: General dentist, clinical dentistry flight commander

What do you enjoy most about being a military dentist? "There are a lot of things I enjoy about being a military dentist. The opportunity to live and travel all over the world is amazing. I have traveled to so many places that I would likely have never had the opportunity to travel to had I not joined the military. I also enjoy the group practice like setting and the ability to walk down the hall and talk to a specialist if I have any questions about a patient's treatment plan. The ability to provide the patient with the best treatment possible without having to worry about cost or insurance is also great."

Major Christopher Fries, D.D.S. U.S. AIR FORCE UNMC Class of 2010



Currently Stationed: Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan

Specialty: Chief of oral and maxillofacial surgery

What do you enjoy about your career as a military dentist? "One thing I love about the military is the leadership and support structure. Throughout my eight years in the military I have had countless mentors and supervisors who have guided me and given me the tools to get to where I am today. Now as a Field Grade Officer and specialist, I am able to continue the tradition by providing leadership and guidance for the newer dentists in the Air Force."

Major Cody Christline, D.D.S. U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE UNMC Class of 2009

Military background: After graduating from UNMC, Christline was stationed at Travis Air Force Base in Northern California for one year. He then completed a four-year oral surgery residency before returning to Nebraska, where he was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base from 2014-2018 as a staff surgeon. He separated from the military in June 2018, but accepted a role as a reservist. He now works in private practice in Lawrence, Kansas.

What was a typical day like as a surgeon at Offutt? "It depended on the season and the needs of the unit, but we were usually in patient care from about 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At Offutt we had an AEGD training program, so about 60 percent of my week was spent helping residents learn surgical procedures and IV sedation, and occasionally giving some lectures. The rest of my time was doing my own patient care, some of which was OR time with more advanced cases."

Captain Leah Erickson, D.D.S., U.S. AIR FORCE UNMC Class of 2016



Currently Stationed: Aviano Air Base, Italy

Specialty: General dentist

Why did you decide to join the military after dental school? "I applied for and received the Air Force HPSP scholarship before I even applied for dental school. The idea of getting out of school and starting my own practice or joining someone else's practice didn't interest me. The military offered a guaranteed job, so knew I would have work. It also offered the ability to travel. Why else would I ever move to Italy and work? I grew up in the Midwest and hadn't really been anywhere else, so having the ability to see the world was a huge part of it."

Lieutenant Commander Sean Hershberger, D.D.S. U.S. NAVY UNMC Class of 2012

Currently Stationed: Oral Maxillofacial residency, UT Health Science Center, San Antonino, Texas

What do you enjoy most about being a Navy dentist? For one, it's quite an honor to serve these patients, the guys and gals that are dedicating their lives to the country. I also enjoy the opportunity for my family and I to see places we wouldn't otherwise have been able to. We're forced to see new things and move every few years. It's been fun to travel around to the different regions that we've been to.



LDCR Sean Hershberger, D.D.S., pictured with his wife Abigail and three of their five children

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Captain Justin Shirk, D.D.S. U.S. AIR FORCE UNMC Class of 2016



Currently Stationed: Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, Montana

Specialty: General dentist, dental flight commander

Why did you decide to join the Air

Force? "I had looked at joining the military out of high school because I wanted to fly. But with the vision requirements I didn't qualify. I knew I liked airplanes so I did my bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, and worked for several years in the aviation industry. Then in about 2008 I was laid off a few times and ended up looking at my options, focusing harder on dentistry. Once at UNMC, I accepted the three-year HPSP scholarship with the Air Force. It allowed me to get my dental school paid off and my foot in the door with the military. While I couldn't fly the airplanes, I could take care of the people who do."

Major Rose Tran, D.D.S. U.S. AIR FORCE UNMC Class of 2012

Currently Stationed: McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kansas

Specialty: General dentist, dental flight commander

What do you enjoy about being a

military dentist? "The Air Force Dental Corps in general is like a gigantic dental practice. I love that I can reach out to different consultants or other providers I've known if I'm working on a tough case. The network is always there and always available. I have found that the longer you stay in and the more people you meet, you realize how big it actually is; how many hundreds of dentists the Air Force employs. Everyone ends up knowing each other – and you're never on your own, there is always someone you can call."

Major Steve Peterman, D.D.S. U.S. ARMY UNMC Class of 2010

Military Background: After graduating from UNMC, Peterman completed his one-year AEGD residency at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He has since been stationed across the country, and the globe, including Georgia, Hawaii and Germany. In 2012, he was assigned to an airborne unit that was deployed to Afghanistan for nine months. While there, a vehicle-borne IED struck his camp, about 100 yards away from where he was standing at the time. For his injuries he was awarded a Purple Heart, making him one of the few dentists currently in the military to receive the medal. While in the military, Peterman also completed his prosthodontic residency and is currently stationed in Germany for the second time.

What are some of the advantages of choosing this career path? "I think it's a great idea to figure out what you want to do in dentistry before making a commitment to a practice. When you come out of dental school, you're really fresh, and you don't really know what you don't know yet. For me, I wasn't planning on specializing, then a year out of school I decided I wanted to. That's one of the biggest pluses. Lots of people come in and do their initial commitment and get out. That's exactly what I thought I was going to do. Then the residencies and overseas tours have kept me in."

Captain Wendy Foster, D.D.S. U.S. ARMY UNMC Class of 2012



Currently Stationed: Fort Stewart, Georgia

Specialty: Comprehensive dentist

Tell us about your experience working as an Army dentist: "We have the best patients in the world; they're young, they're healthy and they get paid to come to the dentist. Money is not usually an object, and they get the best care that they need. It's cool to provide care without worrying about how they will pay for it or how I will get reimbursed. I've also been able to work on military working dogs, which has been a cool experience. I even got to do a gold crown on a dog – that's something different I would probably never get to do in the civilian world."



UNMC hosts Consortium of Operative Dentistry Educators meeting

The College of Dentistry hosted the 2018 Region II Consortium of Operative Dental Educators (C.O.D.E.) meeting in Lincoln Sept. 19 – 21. Sponsored by the Section of Operative Dentistry of ADEA, C.O.D.E. fosters communication and fellowship among restorative dental educators, with an emphasis on operative dental education.

Each year the six C.O.D.E. regions, which includes all of the dental programs in the United States and Canada, hold meetings to discuss an agenda of topics and questions developed by the group's executive director. These range from the use of technology in the clinic and preclinic, the clinical and administrative organizational structure at each school, and ethics and professionalism issues. After the meetings conclude, all responses to the questions are combined into a document which can be viewed on the organization's website.

William Johnson, D.D.S., M.S., professor and vice chair of the UNMC Department of Adult Restorative

Dentistry, served as chairperson for this year's meeting. Dr. Johnson also serves as the consortium's webmaster and as an at-large member of the board of directors.

"The regional meetings are a great way to network and to talk about common educational issues that pertain to operative dental education," said Dr. Johnson.

Schools attending the Region II meeting this year included faculty from Marquette, Minnesota, Creighton, Colorado, Iowa, Southern Illinois University, AT Still (Missouri) and Nebraska.

Engaged Alum: Susan Christensen, D.D.S.

Dr. Susan Christensen speaks at the 2018 White Coat Ceremony.

When she was asked to speak at the UNMC College of Dentistry's 2018 White Coat Ceremony, Susan Christensen, D.D.S., didn't realize just how special the honor would truly be.

Looking out over the rows of new dental and dental hygiene students, Dr. Christensen proudly noted that her grandfather started his own dental school journey 100 years ago, sitting in those very same seats. Her grandfather, Dr. Merritt Peterson, graduated from the college in 1922, one of 12 men in the class. He was a big influence in her life, Dr. Christensen told the students.

ebraska Inions

"My grandfather started a flame inside of me to be passionate about this school and I'm passing that torch to you," she told the audience. "I love this school, my grandfather loved this school. The education they give you changes your whole life."

A career in dentistry was always in store for Dr. Christensen. Her mother and father met at dental hygiene and dental school (respectively) at the University of Michigan. From a young age they encouraged her interest in dentistry. She eventually attended UNMC, graduating in 1981. She practiced with her father, Dr. Harold Maude, for 19 years until he retired and is currently in solo practice at Eastview Family Dental in Lincoln.

Even after years in practice, Dr. Christensen still finds value in continued education. She enjoys lecturing, is one of the few general dentists to earn an Academy of General Dentistry Mastership Award and devotes time to serving the college as an engaged alum.

Dr. Christensen joined the College of Dentistry Alumni Association (CODAA) in 2012 and has since served as president of the board. In her current role as the dentistry representative to the UNMC Alumni Association Board of Directors, she helps keep the wider UNMC alumni organization apprised of happenings at the college and with the CODAA. Her family has also made a commitment to supporting the college financially – including through endowed faculty positions.

She enjoys being part of the CODAA and giving back to the dental school.

"This is such a great school led by incredibly positive people like Dean Guthmiller and our talented faculty members," Dr. Christensen said.

She hopes that her support can set an example for other alumni to get involved and become passionate about helping the dental school, whether through donations of time, resources, expertise or other support.

"There is so much need," Dr. Christensen said. "For example, we need mentors so that students can go out and practice with them in rural areas so they really learn what it's like in those areas. We always need donations of any kind for things like scholarships and we always invite alumni to come and sit in on a board meeting if they're interested."

Something she also gives freely – experienced advice for students just beginning their dental and dental hygiene education.

"You can't be afraid to fail in dental school," she told the students at this year's White Coat Ceremony. "That's where you learn the most."

Kudos

Congratulations to the following faculty and students who received awards or were named to new appointments in several national dental and dental hygiene associations.

American Dental Education Association (ADEA)

Frannie Hollinger, D4 Vice Chair, ADEA Council of Students, Residents and Fellows

James K. Wahl, III, Ph.D. ADEA Leadership Institute Fellow

John W. Reinhardt, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H. 2018 ADEA Chair of the Board Citation Marianne R. Day, D.D.S. Secretary, ADEA Section on Dental Anatomy and Occlusion

Yun Saksena, B.D.Sc., M.M.Sc., D.M.D. Councilor, ADEA Section on Educational Research, Development and Curriculum

Larry D. Crouch, Ph.D. Councilor, ADEA Section on Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Microbiology

American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA)

Lisa J. Moravec, R.D.H., M.S. Vice President, ADHA

Other

Richard K. Bokemper, D.D.S. President, Iowa Dental Association

Yoshiharu Ameku, D.D.S. Accepted into the American College of Dentists (ADC)

Two other UNMC alumni were also accepted into the ADC: Dr. Melanie Steckelberg ('04) and Dr. Lonnie Flagtwet ('83)

Sundaralingam Premaraj, B.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., FRCD(C)

Site Visitor, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)

Member, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Objective Review Committee

Peter Giannini, D.M.D., M.S.

Appointed to the 2018 Integrated National Board Dental Examination Test Construction Team



From left: Dr. Melanie Steckelberg ('04), Dr. Bruce Bavitz, Dr. Yoshiharu Ameku ('90), Dr. Lonnie Flagtwet ('83) and Dr. Merlyn Vogt at the American College of Dentists Convocation in Honolulu, Hawaii in October.

Double-digit growth in dental research funding

The UNMC College of Dentistry recognized a 32.2 percent increase in research funding in 2018. Leading the way was Keith Johnson, Ph.D., professor in the UNMC Department of Oral Biology and the principal investigator for the Nebraska Center for Cellular Signaling (NCCS). The NCCS is funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Research of NCCS members is focused on how cells grow and divide, particularly in cancer.

The College of Dentistry continues to focus on ways that research can improve health and prevent disease. Funded research grant awards for fiscal year 2017-2018 include:

| INVESTIGATOR | RESEARCH | SPONSOR |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Mark W. Beatty, D.D.S., M.S.E., M.S.D., M.S. | Engineering Prosthetic Elastomers to Mimic Facial Skin Properties | VA |
| Kathleen A. O'Brien-Ausman, D.D.S. | Ryan White Care Act Dental Reimbursement Program | HRSA |
| Jillian Wallen, B.D.S., M.S. | Tele-dentistry and Rural Health Project | HRSA |
| Keith R. Johnson, Ph.D. | Nebraska Center for Cellular Signaling (NCCS) | NIH |
| James K. Wahl, III, Ph.D. | Regulation of Desmosome Dynamics by Plakophilin Palmitoylation | NIH |
| Darlene F. Carritt, R.D.H., B.S. | Oral Health Training Toolkit | NE DHHS |
| Aimin Peng, Ph.D. | DNA Damage Checkpoint Recovery and Cancer | NCI |
| Thomas M. Petro, Ph.D. | Do Chloroviruses Contribute to ALS Disease? | UNL |
| Ali Nawshad, Ph.D. | Mechanism of Ephrin Signaling in Mammalian Palatal Fusion | Texas A&M |
| Ali Nawshad, Ph.D. | TGFbeta 3 signaling in palatal periderm degeneration | University of Michigan |
| Richard A. Reinhardt, D.D.S., Ph.D. | Impact of Oral Hygiene Gels on Peri-implant Mucositis | Livionex Inc. |



Keith Johnson, Ph.D.

Drs. Johnson, Wahl recognized at UNeMed Innovation Awards

Keith Johnson, Ph.D., and James Wahl, III, Ph.D. were honored at the 2018 UNeMed Innovation Awards Ceremony on Oct. 25. They were recognized in the "Creators of Licensed Technology" category.

As part of their studies, Drs. Johnson and Wahl investigate the role of many novel signaling proteins in maintaining normal cell adhesion. Their lab at the College of Dentistry works to develop new monoclonal antibody reagents that allow them to investigate the expression and subcellular localization of these novel proteins in cultured cells and in human tissue samples.

After these new antibody reagents are used in their studies, they are often licensed to commercial sources so that they are available to the research community at large. This "adds to the relatively large pool of research resources available to scientists working in many different fields," said Dr. Wahl.

Web Extra

Dean Janet M. Guthmiller spoke with Aimin Peng, Ph.D., and Richard Reinhardt, D.D.S., Ph.D., two of the college's research scientists, about their current research initiatives.

Link: https://youtu.be/RgS0feKECR4

UNMC College of Dentistry reaches out to rural Nebraska

By Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean, UNMC College of Dentistry

Nov. 15 is National Rural Health Day – a day to recognize the unique health care challenges that citizens in rural areas face. These challenges include access to care, a lack of health care providers, uninsured or underinsured citizens, and an aging population that requires different approaches to care.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center has a strong and historical commitment to addressing the health care needs of rural citizens. UNMC's "500-mile-wide" campus extends far beyond the metro Omaha or Lincoln areas.

Here at the UNMC College of Dentistry, we know that oral health is supremely important to a person's overall health. That's why it's so alarming that a 2016 report from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services found that of the 93 counties in Nebraska, 57 percent are designated as general dentist shortage areas. What's more, 85 percent are designated as shortage areas for pediatric dentistry.

The good news – the College of Dentistry is addressing these concerns head-on. Our mission to the state of Nebraska and beyond is threefold: to improve the oral health of our citizens through a humanistic approach to education, extraordinary patient care and innovative research.

In 2015, the College of Dentistry was nationally recognized in the Journal of the American Dental Association as the No. 1 school among all U.S. dental schools in the percentage of graduates returning to rural communities to practice (33 percent). In addition, data shows that 67 percent of Nebraska dentists are UNMC graduates, and 83 percent of rural dentists are UNMC graduates. Dental hygienists are an integral part of the dental team – that's why the college established the West Division Dental Hygiene program in Gering/Scottsbluff in 2002. Since its inception, the program has provided a top-notch educational program for students in Western Nebraska with the ultimate goal of providing a dental hygiene workforce for the western part of the state. It has resulted in increased, much-needed access to dental care, and a majority of graduates have remained in rural communities to practice dental hygiene.

This success doesn't just come once a student has graduated. The college's dedication to rural oral health begins before a dental or dental hygiene student ever steps in the building.

Important partnerships with some of Nebraska's state colleges have resulted in pipeline programs like UNMC's Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP), a cooperative program between UNMC and Chadron State College and Wayne State College, and the Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP), a cooperative program between UNMC and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

In these programs, we recruit and educate dental and dental hygiene students from rural Nebraska with the goal that they return to rural areas to practice dentistry. Students in these programs receive full tuition scholarships at their undergraduate schools and upon successfully completing and maintaining academic standards, they are admitted to the UNMC College of Dentistry.

Once at the College of Dentistry, students have many opportunities to learn more about rural dental health, through the school's curriculum, including extramural experiences and outreach programs. Just a few examples include:

- Dental hygiene students provide sealants, fluoride treatments and education to more than 3,000 Nebraska schoolchildren each year, and to many nursing home residents in rural communities like Milford and Seward.
- Pediatric dental residents rotate to Columbus, Macy, Hastings and Grand Island providing dental care for thousands of children.
- The annual Panhandle Dental Day provides dental services to nearly 200 children ranging in age from 3 to 21 each year. In 2018, volunteers provided an estimated \$86,000 in free dental care.
- Since 2001, the College of Dentistry has treated more than 6,000 low income and underserved children as part of our annual Children's Dental Day in Lincoln.
- Students volunteer with the Nebraska Mission of Mercy, a charitable dental clinic that provides care to people in need throughout the state.

In 2016, the college was 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, to increase oral health services for citizens across the state and to expand the use of telehealth to deliver dental services. Continued efforts to expand our services also include the important work of **UNMC's Rural Health 2030 Task Force**, which continues the conversation about rural health care education and workforce preparation.

Through both the college's existing and new efforts, we are optimistic about the future of rural health care and we look forward to creating new partnerships throughout our state to further strengthen rural oral health.



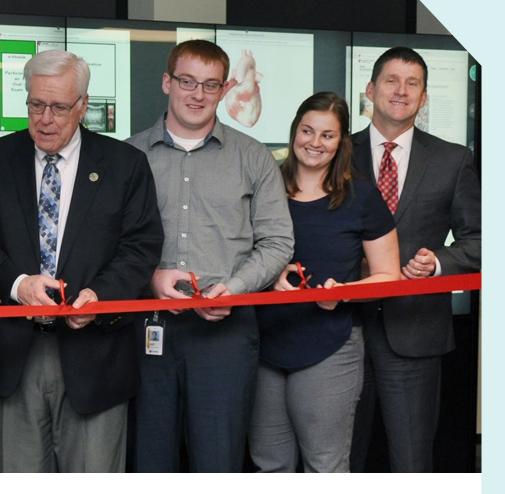
This editorial was originally featured in *The Grand Island Independent* in recognition of National Rural Health Day on Nov. 15. View the story: https://bit.ly/2rffKmG



Dentistry debuts new iWall, interactive classroom

The first day of school at the UNMC College of Dentistry looked a little different this year. It was full of excitement for Room 1201, now known as the "COD iWall Room."

Above: From left: Heather Hessheimer, R.D.H. M.S.; Ben Lindquist, DH3; Brianna Hellings, DH3; Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D.; Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.; Morgan Molacek, DH4; Regent Bob Phares, Cam Aitken, D2; Carly Johnson, D1; and President Hank M. Bounds, Ph.D., cut the ribbon in the new iWall and interactive classroom on Oct. 19.



Previously a traditional lecture classroom with a projector screen, stationary furniture and few electrical outlets, Room 1201's renovation has transformed it into an interactive classroom that fosters student-centered educational experiences.

The remodeled room now features a nine-panel iWall, six computers with touch-screen monitors and flexible furniture. The remodel also included new carpet, paint, blackout shades, an increased number of outlets, and the purchase of portable charging stations available for students to check out.

With the installation of the iWall and other interactive technology, dental and dental hygiene education is changing — and challenging faculty members to rethink the way they deliver educational content. It also allows users to connect with iWalls on other campuses, including our other dental colleagues in Omaha and Scottsbluff.

Richard Reinhardt, D.D.S., Ph.D., professor in the department of surgical specialties, David Shaw, Ph.D., interim associate dean for research and chair of the department of oral biology, and James Wahl III, Ph.D., professor of oral biology, were early users of the new classroom. Dr. Reinhardt's class uses the iWall for basic image projection and case example annotations. While apprehensive about the technology at first, Dr. Shaw said he looks forward to developing new course materials with the iWall in mind.

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Ribbon-cutting marks a new era in dental education

The 9-year-old boy smiled and waved to the camera from his chair at Indian Hill Elementary School in Omaha. Minutes later, the audience at the College of Dentistry in Lincoln watched as the camera flipped to show the inside of his mouth – in particular, a tooth that was causing him pain. At a separate location in Omaha, pediatric dental resident Baylee Mink, D.D.S., was also watching, using her training to diagnose and recommend a plan of action to fix the boy's tooth. The process, called a teledentistry consult, was the first of two demonstrations given during the College of Dentistry's ribboncutting ceremony and reception held on Oct. 19.

The event was held in Lincoln and celebrated the opening of the college's new iWall and interactive classroom. Following the teledentistry demonstration, dental hygiene faculty members and students demonstrated the iWall's capabilities by "connecting" to another iWall in Scottsbluff. Heather Hessheimer, R.D.H., M.S., led a mock class with students from both campuses working collaboratively on an assignment – four students using the iWall to work on the same document, all at one time. The demonstration showed a real-world scenario in which classes in Lincoln and Scottsbluff can connect via video conference and work simultaneously using the iWall's interactive features.

The event also featured comments from Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., and Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D. The college welcomed NU President Hank Bounds, Ph.D., and NU Regent Bob Phares to help cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Dr. Gold and Dr. Guthmiller summed up the day by noting that the ceremony was not only a celebration of the technology, but more importantly, the people and programs who made it possible. They thanked donors, legislators, alumni, faculty, staff and students for their commitment to furthering education at the College of Dentistry, and at UNMC.

"This is yet another example of how we are knitting the state together," Dr. Gold said. "This technology shrinks that 500-mile distance to just nanoseconds. I know the best is yet to come." From left: Gigi Brown, quality assurance coordinator; Cristy Arent, clinical financial supervisor; and John Reinhardt, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H., try out the new touchscreen monitors <u>d</u>uring the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Heather Hessheimer, R.D.H., M.S., leads a mock class with dental hygiene students in Lincoln and Scottsbluff during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

from page 21

Due to the mobile furniture and the touch screen capabilities, the room is ideal for small group projects and discussions, said Steven Haas, D.M.D., J.D., M.B.A., associate dean for clinical affairs.

"This will enhance our ability to train dental students in evidence-based decision making," he said. "They can review case studies with research literature being only a click away and use annotation features right on the actual patient images."

The addition of the iWall and other interactive technology is "a gamechanger," said Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the College of Dentistry. "We have been planning this renovation since UNMC first introduced the iEXCEL initiative, so to see the room and the technology come to life has been an incredible experience," she said. "It has been especially gratifying to see the students adopt this technology and make it their own. They are constantly teaching us new ways to use the technology that we hadn't even dreamed of."

Students are able to use the room afterhours to study, allowing them a chance to further explore the interactive capabilities of the iWall.

"The new technology reflects the shift in

the College of Dentistry's educational programs towards addressing the needs of its current and future students," said Devin Mitchell, second-year dental student.

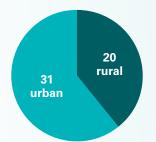


Meet the new students

The College of Dentistry's annual White Coat Ceremony took place Aug. 17. A total of 51 dental students and 24 dental hygiene students received their white coats in front of friends and family – signaling the start of their academic careers at the college.

Dental Class of 2022

- 24 Women
- 27 Men
- 9 States represented including: Nebraska, Arizona, Florida, Kansas, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Virginia and Wyoming
- 1 Foreign country represented: China
- 3 Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) Scholars



Dental Hygiene Class of 2020

- 22 Women
- 2 Men
- 17 Nebraska communities represented including: Lincoln, Omaha, Papillion, Kennard, Octavia, Seward, York, Osceola, Belgrade, Norfolk, Laurel, Kearney, Gothenburg, Ainsworth, Minatare, Alliance, Chadron
- 1 Other state represented: Missouri
- 2 Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) scholars
- 2 Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP) scholars









PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT: NEBRASKA TEETH FOREVER PROGRAM Collaboration aims to increase preventive dental services in rural shortage areas

By Dr. Charles F. Craft, State Dental Health Director

In 2016, the Nebraska Office of Oral Health and Dentistry (OOHD) received a three-year, \$1 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund "Nebraska Teeth Forever" (NTF), a program intended to increase access to evidence-based preventive dental services and improve the dental status of the state's underserved rural populations. The OOHD partnered with several stakeholders, including the UNMC College of Dentistry, to train and mobilize the existing oral health workforce to expand these services. he goal of the grant is to join Public Health Registered Dental Hygienists with Community Health Workers to form community-based dental disease prevention teams. These teams work through Local Public Health Departments (LPHDs) to address the needs of two of Nebraska's most vulnerable dental population groups: young children and older adults.

Teams were trained on the proper use of portable dental hygiene equipment, instruments and materials at the College of Dentistry in May 2017. Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., and David Brown, Ph.D., spoke to participants at the training sessions about the needs in rural Nebraska, the importance of preventive care and the opportunity to make a difference through the NTF program. College of Dentistry maintenance staff assisted in daily demonstrations of the set up and maintenance of the portable equipment, while members of the information systems team recorded each session for future use.

Preventive services began at seven rural LPHDs located in dental health shortage areas (shown on the adjacent map). The teams operate in various public health settings, and participants in the program receive free oral screenings, dental education and proper dental referrals. Teams also provide topical fluoride to 0-5 year olds at Head Start, WIC and daycare centers; dental sealants at schools; and dental cleanings at long-term care and assisted living facilities for adults 65 and older.

The preliminary data shows a very high acceptance rate of this program. The UNMC College of Public Health will conduct a comprehensive NTF program evaluation in 2018. The OOHD looks forward to a continued successful alliance with the UNMC College of Dentistry concerning dental issues in Nebraska.





From left: Troy Stevens, UNMC College of Dentistry building mechanic, and Dr. Charles F. Craft, State of Nebraska dental health director, demonstrate how to set up portable dental equipment.

NEBRASKA Good Life. Great Mission.



D2 student involvement shakes up freshman orientation

When Natalie Nuckolls thinks back on her first few days as a first-year dental student, she recalls a very traditional orientation process: mostly sitting in a lecture hall watching presentations, and little time to engage with her new classmates.

"I remember that it took a while for our class to come together and mesh," she said.

Fast forward a year. As a seasoned incoming D2 student, Nuckolls hoped to use her past experience in leadership development to inject a little life and fun into the orientation process. She gathered some of her D2 classmates and the group put together team-building activities and ice breakers with two clear goals: celebrate the incoming D1 class and make them feel welcome.

Some activities were meant to be intentionally silly. A paper airplane flying contest. Taking a goofy class photo. A campus scavenger hunt where they had to visit the UNL Dairy Store and come up with new names for ice cream flavors using dental puns.

"The point of those activities was to break the ice, build team spirit and engage the class by having fun," Nuckolls said. "If they were laughing together about the cheesiness of throwing airplanes, that means they were mingling and having a good time, so we accomplished our goal."

Other activities had a higher purpose. An obstacle course with a "laser" maze that the entire group had to navigate without breaking or tearing down the string, which promoted teamwork and served as an introduction into the preclinical lab area. Breakout sessions that grouped students according to their Myers-Briggs personality types, which encouraged conversations about learning styles, managing stress and the importance of forming study groups. These types of activities were aimed at setting the tone for the next four years.



Incoming dental students complete a "laser maze" obstacle course in the preclinic lab as part of new student orientation.

Allie Koth, D2, remembers struggling to find a study group that fit her study style the first few months of her dental student career.

"It was comforting to see the new students feel comfortable with each other on the first day of orientation," said Koth, who volunteered during orientation. "I truly believe the new program set the first-year students up for success on day one of classes."

In addition to the nuts and bolts of orientation (tours of the school, welcome messages from administrators, faculty and staff, ID photos, locker and equipment checkout, etc.) the new activities were a hit, both with the D1 students and with College of Dentistry leadership. "Orientation allowed my classmates and I to get to know each other through fun games and activities before the stress of classes started," said Amanda German, D1. "I was nervous coming into my first week of classes but having a support system with my classmates through orientation made starting school a lot less intimidating."

"It was a delight to partner with our D2 students to 'freshen up' our orientation to better engage and support our new dental and dental hygiene students," said Dean Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D. "We are extremely grateful to Natalie Nuckolls and all of her classmates who volunteered to assist in designing an engaging agenda of activities."

Clinic with a Heart opens new extraction clinic

UNMC College of Dentistry alumni, faculty and students come together to provide dental care to people in need.

What was once just a dream for Roger Fisher, D.D.S. ('88), has finally become a reality – a new, state-of-the-art dental clinic where Lincoln's underserved population can receive quality dental care at no cost.

Dr. Fisher's journey to providing dental care to people in need began nearly 15 years ago when he began volunteering for Clinic with a Heart (CWAH), a faithinspired organization that serves the uninsured and under-insured in the Lincoln community. The organization began as a medical clinic – but quickly added a dental component.

Since its inception, the dental clinic mainly served to assess patients and act as a gateway to other permanent avenues of dental care. Often, these patients are referred to the college's free SHARING Clinics, founded 10 years ago by Dr. Fisher, and still held a few times per year.

In 2018, with the support of several significant donations, Clinic with a Heart opened a Dental Procedures Clinic. The six-operatory clinic is held every Wednesday night in a newly remodeled space inside the Sowers Building on South 17th Street. In addition to new equipment and dental chairs, the space includes lab, sterilization and x-ray areas, and is modeled after the College of Dentistry's clinics.

The clinic is staffed by volunteer dental students from UNMC, supervised by volunteer dentists and supported by other CWAH professional staff. The new clinic opened in late April and serves about 10 to 14 patients every Wednesday, providing extractions. David Brown, Ph.D., professor and outreach coordinator at the College of Dentistry, volunteers at the clinics every week. He estimates volunteers extract an average of two teeth per patient, at a value of \$450 each.

For students, the clinic offers exposure to a different clinical setting, extra experience with local anesthesia and oral surgery, and a chance to give back to the community. It also allows them an opportunity to work with local dentists, said Corinne Van Osdel, D4.

"The dentists that volunteer their time to oversee us provide some of the best educational opportunities that I have encountered," Van Osdel said. "They are so encouraging and positive, and they really make you feel comfortable asking for help. This atmosphere has made many of us feel more confident, which only adds to the rewarding experience."

The dentists who volunteer at the extraction clinic hold either a volunteer or part-time faculty position at the College of Dentistry. Most are also alumni of the college.

"The students are always supervised at the highest level, following all of the standard College of Dentistry protocols," Dr. Fisher said.

Leslie Smith, D4, volunteers for Clinic with a Heart every week. "I decided to volunteer because there is a tremendous need in the community, and practice makes perfect. It doesn't hurt that I love oral surgery although I intend to stay in general dentistry. However, what motivates me most is the staff. CWAH



Leslie Smith, D4, volunteers at Clinic with a Heart's extraction clinic every week.

has a wonderful, dedicated dental staff, and I look forward to working with them every Wednesday night. I have learned so much from our local volunteer dentists... we are fortunate as students to have such an opportunity," Smith said.

For more information about volunteering for Clinic with a Heart, visit **clinicwithaheart.org**!

GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

From left: Stanton Ham, Ph.D., professor emeritus; Charles "Fritz" Craft, D.D.S., DHHS dental health director and volunteer faculty member; Jillian Wallen, B.D.S., M.S., chair of the department of growth and development; Tyler Johnson, D.D.S., pediatric dental resident; Claire Koukol, D.D.S., pediatric dental resident; Christopher Johnson, D.D.S., pediatric dental resident; Christopher Johnson, D.D.S., pediatric dental resident; Meenakshi Vishwanath, B.D.S., M.D.S., M.D.S., M.Dent.Sc., assistant professor; Katelyn Olenich, D.D.S., pediatric dental resident; Brian Lange, Ph.D., professor; Eric Phan, D.D.S., pediatric dental resident; and Nic Fargo, computer/multimedia technician.

Dentistry heads west for Panhandle Dental Day

More than 70 UNMC College of Dentistry students, residents, faculty and staff traveled to Western Nebraska for the fourteenth consecutive Panhandle Dental Day event in June.



Front row from left: Lauren McAllister, DH4; Nicole Baker, R.D.H., B.S., clinical instructor; Natalie Cantral, D4; Ashley Humlicek, D4. Back row from left: Allie Vacha, DH4; Hanna Swanson, DH4; Erica Ernst, DH4; Kathleen Kendall, D4; and Karrah Bruegman, D4.

They teamed up with organizers Janelle Visser of the Panhandle Public Health District, and Ashlei Tausan, a nurse for Gordon-Rushville Public Schools, to treat children at several sites including Gordon Memorial Hospital, Horizon West Dental in Alliance, Summit Dental Group in Sidney and LifeSmiles of Sidney.

Volunteers provided an estimated \$86,000 in dental services to nearly 200 children ranging in age from 3 to 21. All of the children were pre-screened for the event and received dental care including pulpectomies, extractions, cleanings, sealants and fillings, as well as oral hygiene education.

"We have seen a fairly recent trend of these children needing fewer extractions and restorations, so therefore our services are more preventive," said David Brown, Ph.D., professor of oral biology and coordinator of community and dental public health at the College of Dentistry. "It seems that we are making an impact and doing our job of improving the health of the community."

For the student volunteers, Panhandle Dental Day is often one of the first experiences they have with rural public health. It provides them an opportunity to practice dentistry in a different environment.

"It's less about the individual treatment and more about educating the community about the benefits of oral health," Dr. Brown said.

Volunteers provide dental screenings to Special Olympics athletes

Seventeen faculty, student and staff members from the College of Dentistry provided free dental screenings to about 100 athletes at the Special Olympics Nebraska 2018 Fall Games. The event was held in Lincoln on Aug. 4.

The screening event – dubbed Special Smiles – helps to increase dental care for Special Olympics athletes, provides them with sport mouth guards and aims to connect them with permanent dental homes. The program is part of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes initiative, which also offers other services such as vision and hearing screenings, sports physicals, nutrition education and information on social services.

College of Dentistry volunteers provided oral screening assessments, then completed written documentation of the status and needs of each athlete. Dental hygiene students provided personalized preventive oral health instruction with faculty supervision. Volunteers also handed out goodie bags filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and mouthwash.

Not only does the Special Smiles initiative help improve the oral health and access to dental care for Special Olympics athletes, it also provides real-life training for oral health professionals and students about the needs of people with intellectual disabilities, said Jennifer Kallio, D.D.S., assistant professor and new clinical director of the Special Smiles program.



Dental hygiene student Sara Scott provides brushing instruction to a Special Olympics Nebraska athlete.



Dr. Kallio named Special Smiles Clinical Director

After lending her time and talents to the Special Olympics dental screening program for the past two years, Jennifer Kallio, D.D.S., assistant professor in the UNMC Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry, was selected as the next clinical director for the Special Olympics Special Smiles program.

Dr. Kallio had her first volunteer experience with the Special Olympics as a dental student at Creighton University and it has inspired her to serve the special needs community. The cause also is near and dear to her heart – she has two special needs children and understands some of the day-to-day difficulties families can face.

Dr. Kallio trained for her new role in June at the 2018 USA Games in Seattle. As clinical director, she spear-headed the Special Smiles screening program during the Special Olympics Nebraska Fall Games in Lincoln on Aug. 4.

Dental, hygiene students join UNMC Student Senate

For the first time, students from the College of Dentistry are now part of the UNMC Student Senate. After a yearlong interim period, in which Frannie Hollinger, D4, served as a liaison to the group, the senate now officially recognizes four senators from the College of Dentistry – three dental students and one dental hygiene student.

The senate serves as the official representative of the UNMC student body. It exists "for the purpose of influencing policy and promoting the interests of all students attending the University of Nebraska Medical Center," according to the group's constitution.

Sara Scott, DH4; Anna Schoettger, D4; Paul Lewis, D3; and Ali Stradinger, D2; are this year's representatives. Their involvement allows them to connect and collaborate with students in other UNMC programs, voice their ideas, opinions and concerns, and remain involved in future discussions and decisions that will impact College of Dentistry students.

"We are a separate campus, so I think it's good that we're on the senate so that we can voice what's happening here at the College of Dentistry," Scott said. "This is the first year that we're part of the group, so we're still trying to figure out how to incorporate ourselves into it."

During her undergraduate years at UNL, Stradinger was a member of the Campus Recreation Advisory Council and enjoyed working with others across campus to further Campus Recreation initiatives.

"When I heard about the opportunity to become involved with UNMC's Student Senate, I thought that it may be a similar experience that would allow me to learn more about UNMC and the different ways and directions in which it is developing and expanding," she said.

As student senators, the four dental college representatives attend monthly meetings via video conference and are able to provide updates from the college and learn about things happening in Omaha. For example, the senate is coordinating an activity called Spare Change Wars, in which each college encourages students to collect spare change and donate it to charity.

- "That's something we may not have been able to participate in before because we didn't know about it," Schoettger said.
- In addition to monthly meetings, Schoettger said they are interested in creating a new committee comprised of student senators from UNMC's remote locations (Lincoln, Norfolk, Kearney and Scottsbluff-Gering).

"We can discuss how to create ways to be more involved and feel more a part of UNMC," she said.



Sara Scott, DH4



Anna Schoettger, D4



Paul Lewis, D3



Ali Stradinger, D2

College of Dentistry Remembers

Gregory D. Thomas, D.D.S., F.A.G.D., '82, Enid, Okla., died March 31, 2018. Upon his graduation from dental school, Dr. Thomas and his family moved to Enid to start his private practice. He was a member of the Oklahoma Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Northwest Dental Association, and was a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry. Dr. Thomas took great pride in the care he gave his patients and had immense respect for his employees.

William E. Ziegenbein, D.D.S., '52, Monterey, Calif., died April 26, 2018. Following graduation, Dr. Ziegenbein practiced dentistry for six years in Crete, Neb. He then moved to California and set up his dental practice in Pacific Grove, where he practiced from 1958 to 1993. He contributed to schools, foundations and charities and donated time to helping the poor in Guatemala with their dental needs. He was active in the Rotary Club, the Dental Society and other service clubs on the Monterey Peninsula.

William (Bill) D. Ahrens, D.D.S., M.S., '59, Lincoln, Neb., died Aug. 7, 2018. Dr. Ahrens received both his dental degree and master's degree in periodontics from the College of Dentistry. He further served the college as an instructor, associate professor, assistant dean of clinics and director of patient services. He was a member of the Central Regional Dental Testing Service and the Nebraska Board of Dental Examiners. He also served as dental consultant for Ameritas; retiring in 2007. Dr. Ahrens was a member of the American Dental Association, Nebraska Dental Association, Lincoln District Dental Society, the Academy of Periodontology and a faculty member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon.

Robert E. Sullivan, D.D.S., M.S.D., '61, '63, Lincoln, Neb., died Aug. 7, 2018. Dr. Sullivan attended Creighton Medical School from 1954 until he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1956. When his military commitment was complete, Dr. Sullivan resumed his academic career at the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry. Dr. Sullivan served as a member of the College of Dentistry faculty for 31 years, retiring from his position as Pediatric Dentistry Department Chair in 1994. In 1967 he served as a diplomat for the American Board of Pedodontics, and was a member of the American Dental Association (ADA) and the Nebraska Dental Association from 1961 until his death. During his time with the ADA he was an accreditation consultant for the Pediatric Dentistry Program from 1980-1988.

Terry L. Wostrel, D.D.S., '81, Littleton, Colo., died Aug. 4, 2018. Following his graduation from the College of Dentistry, Dr. Wostrel completed two-year General Practice Residency (GPR) with Louisiana State University in New Orleans. After completion of his GPR program, Dr. Wostrel relocated to Littleton, Colo., where he established his dental practice, Rocky View Dental Care. Dr. Wostrel's love of agriculture led him to his most recent project, the renovation of a historic orchard, Union Orchard, in Union, Neb.

Bruce E. Govier, D.D.S., '82, Omaha, Neb., died Sept. 13, 2018. Dr. Govier practiced at Candlewood Dental Associates in Omaha, Neb.

Alan J. Beck, D.D.S., '81, Lincoln, Neb., died Sept. 21, 2018. Upon receiving his degree, Dr. Beck opened a general family dentistry practice in Lincoln, and was a co-founder of a non-profit dental practice in Haiti. He felt blessed to have a successful practice and that he was able to provide care to several generations of families during his 30 year career.

Duane H. Smith, D.D.S., '68, Lincoln, Neb., died Jan. 1, 2019. Dr. Smith entered in the United States Navy following graduation from dental school. He served as president of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association in 1982.

College of Dentistry Honor Roll

The College of Dentistry is grateful to all of our alumni & 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 & patient care.

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

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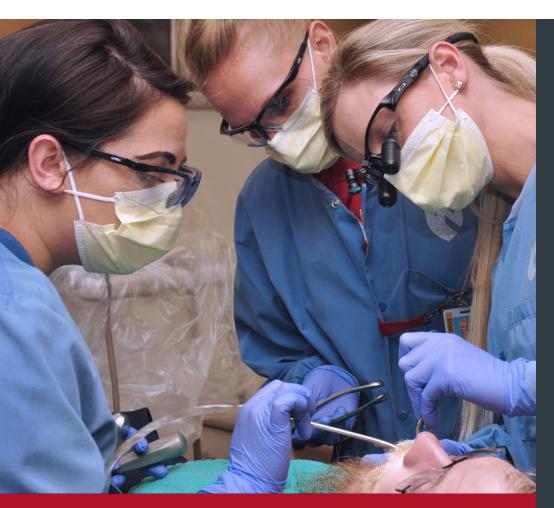


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