



# Cornhusker Impressions

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



## Pediatric residents thrilled with new clinic after ‘doing a lot with a little for a long time’

Mikala Hoge, DDS, second-year resident, left, and Tammy Benak, dental assistant, right, with a patient in the Pediatric Dental Clinic in Omaha. At the chair on the right are Will Farmer, DDS, second-year resident, with Malena Pachano, dental assistant.

After “doing a lot with a little for a very long time,” Dr. Scott Hamilton says residents, faculty, and staff are thrilled to be working in the new Pediatric Dental Clinic in the Children’s Specialty Pediatric Center in Omaha.

Even in the confines of the much smaller and older dental clinic at the Munroe-Meyer Institute on the UNMC campus, the UNMC College of Dentistry’s Pediatric Residency Program has attracted highly qualified residents and produced outstanding pediatric dentists over the years, Hamilton said.

The new clinic, however, will allow residents in the program to work more closely with more than 100 pediatric specialists in the five-story clinic building adjacent to Children’s Hospital & Medical Center at 84th Street and West Dodge Road. The Children’s Specialty Pediatric Center, which opened in September, houses more than 30 outpatient specialty clinics dedicated to caring for infants, children, adolescents, and teens.

see PEDIATRIC CLINIC pg 4

# Going Green is Good!



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

**Dean:**

Dr. John Reinhardt

**Editorial Assistant:**

Cathy Rutt

**Director of Alumni Affairs:**

Dr. Merlyn Vogt

**Writer:**

Jana Miller

**Photography:**

Margaret Cain

For additional printed copies, contact:  
Merlyn Vogt  
mvogt@unmc.edu  
(402) 472-1479

UNMC College of Dentistry  
40th and Holdrege Street  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0740  
www.unmc.edu/dentistry

For address changes, contact:  
Deb Rodaway, (402) 472-5135  
drodaway@unmc.edu

“Going green” has gotten a lot of attention lately. More organizations are relying on electronic communications—either in addition to or in place of print publications. The advantages are cost-savings (printing, handling, postage), environmental friendliness, and convenience or preference of some readers. We understand the advantages of electronic communication, but we also know that many people prefer to receive a hard-copy newsletter, like the print version of *Cornhusker Impressions*.

For years, we have posted issues of *Impressions* on our website ([www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry)). Recently, more alumni and friends have expressed a preference for electronic delivery rather than a printed, mailed newsletter. So we would like to give readers the opportunity to choose. If you wish to receive e-mail notification when a new issue of *Impressions* is published, including a direct, hot link to the latest issue of *Impressions*, simply notify Deb Rodaway at the College of Dentistry through e-mail. Her e-mail address is [drodaway@unmc.edu](mailto:drodaway@unmc.edu). Please type “E-mail notification of Impressions” in the subject line.

Another kind of “green” is good, too. I’m referring to the green of monetary support for the UNMC College of Dentistry. At our Alumni Reunion in September, multiple classes again chose their reunion years to launch class gift campaigns through the University of Nebraska Foundation. Their gifts and pledges have been directed toward a variety of funds including student scholarships, faculty endowments, research priorities, cutting-edge equipment purchases, facilities renovation and furnishings, outreach and service programs, and student activities.

We greatly appreciate the strength and confidence our alumni show through charitable support, either through reunion year gift campaigns or via donations made at any time during the year. We could not achieve our visionary goals and maintain the excellence we have without private charitable support.

In spite of the relatively weak economy, 2010 was a record year for class gift support. The dental and dental hygiene alumni of the classes of ’60, ’70, ’80, and ’85 combined for a record-breaking \$356,000 in new gifts and pledges. The class of 1985 set a new record, raising more than \$274,000 last year for its 25th reunion class gift to the college. Since 2005, class gifts have raised more than \$1.8 million in new donations for our College of Dentistry. Gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated and are carefully used to make our college stronger. I can’t thank all of our alumni and friends enough for your generosity. You have made a wise investment in the future of our college and in the profession.

“Go Big Red” is one of my favorite phrases, but going green is good, too. Thank you for all you do to help us go green.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Reinhardt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John W. Reinhardt, DDS, MS, MPH

Professor and Dean

College of Dentistry

University of Nebraska Medical Center

# Calendar

## February 25

What's New in Dentistry 2011  
Stick To It - Predictable,  
Durable Adhesion  
in Esthetic Restorative Dentistry  
Dr. Edmond Hewlett, UCLA  
School of Dentistry  
East Campus Union  
8 am-4 pm

## March 25

Professionals' Day and Student  
Scientific Program  
"New Therapeutic Approaches  
for the Management of  
Diabetic Complications"  
Dr. Marie Ryan  
Wentz Memorial Lecture  
East Campus Union  
9 am-5 pm

## May 2-3

CE- Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries  
UNMC College of Dentistry  
7:45 am-5 pm

## May 4

Senior Salute  
Wick Alumni Center  
6-8 pm

## May 5

OKU-SPA Honors Banquet  
Wick Alumni Center  
6:30-9 pm

## May 6

UNMC College of Dentistry  
Commencement  
Lied Center for Performing Arts  
2 pm

## May 9-12

Continuing Education Caravan

## June 2-4

Dental Day XX  
Nebraska Panhandle

## July 12-13

CE- Coronal Polishing for  
Dental Auxiliaries  
UNMC College of Dentistry  
7:45 am-5 pm

Self Study  
CE- Care Access for Patients with  
Developmental Disabilities  
Offered through UNMC  
Department of Growth  
and Development  
Contact Dr. Timothy Durham  
at (402) 472-2356 or  
TDurham@unmc.edu

For more information about continuing education events,  
contact the CE coordinator at (402) 472-2611 or the CE director  
at (402) 472-7993 or [mlfroesc@unmc.edu](mailto:mlfroesc@unmc.edu). Register online for  
continuing education courses at [www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry).





“We used to be envious of the programs with new clinics, and now we wouldn’t trade ours with anybody.”

Dr. Scott Hamilton  
Interim Director, Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program,  
UNMC College of Dentistry



## PEDIATRIC *continued from cover*

John Reinhardt, dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry, sees this new clinic as a significant step forward for UNMC, the Omaha community, and the college. “Having a new, modern postgraduate pediatric dentistry clinic located at the Children’s Specialty Pediatric Center, surrounded by pediatric medical specialists, is definitely good for all. We believe our clinical service and educational programs will rise to an even higher level of excellence, and we’re thrilled about this new opportunity.”

“This is an exciting collaboration with real benefits for families,” said Vanessa Walls, vice president of ambulatory services at Children’s. “The ability to offer this service in our new Specialty Pediatric Center will improve access to dental care, particularly for those children who have a great need due to a chronic condition or illness.”

Dr. Hamilton, interim director of the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program, said the new clinic, faculty offices, and resident room fill 4,133 square feet. “It feels three times as large as the clinic at Munroe-Meyer,” he said. The new clinic includes six dental chairs in open-bay areas and four dental chairs in

quiet rooms. It also includes a front desk area, staff offices, consultation room, and laboratory. The waiting room features huge windows that overlook Dodge Street and the Omaha skyline.

“Every resident for the last 20 years has wished for a larger space,” Hamilton said. The clinic’s sleek design; bright, contemporary colors; and fresh, clean appearance, as well as its proximity to the medical specialty clinics and opportunity for residents to experience “real-life pediatric dentistry,” are bonuses, he said. Being close to so many specialists will enrich the pediatric dental residents’ medical background, he said.

“We need to be able to communicate with physicians daily in our private practices. The more experiences residents can get, the more comfortable they will be. Residents are already going out and doing consults and hospital cases. They are very capably handling these new patients,” he said.

It’s easy for other people to refer to us. For example, we have already done several hospital cases referred to us for children on waiting lists for cardiac

or transplant surgery. These are pretty sick kids whose teeth needed cleaning, restoration, or extraction before the children have more invasive surgery.

“We need to be a part of this scene, helping these children,” Hamilton said, noting that the clinic is seeing its share of healthy children as well. He believes that the number of patients will continue to increase, not only because of the new facility but also because of the residents’ hard work and good attitude.

In a busy day, the eight residents see about 55 patients at Munroe-Meyer. He expects they see as many as 68 or more patients a day at Children’s, and that number could increase. The residents work in the new clinic on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays and in the Munroe-Meyer clinic on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

“We used to be envious of the programs with new clinics,” Hamilton said, “and now we wouldn’t trade ours with anybody.”



Dr. Scott Hamilton, interim program director, on the right, confers with Gary Lehn, DDS, first-year resident in the clinic.

# Pediatric Dentistry Program

## Residents

- Dr. Elliott Bailey
- Dr. Jeremy Cox
- Dr. Gary Lehn
- Dr. Emily Raveill
- Dr. Will Farmer
- Dr. Mikala Hoge
- Dr. Libby Johnson
- Dr. Bryan Skar

## Faculty Members

- Dr. Fouad Salama
- Dr. Cynthia Chan
- Dr. Frank Driscoll
- Dr. Brent Johnson
- Dr. Greg Samuelson
- Dr. Scott Hamilton, interim director
- Dr. Curt Kuster, interim chair

## Pediatric Dentists who Teach Periodically

- Dr. Eric Hodges
- Dr. Lourdes Secola
- Dr. Lisa Strunk
- Dr. Jessica Meeske
- Dr. Jane Bennett
- Dr. Angeli Thakker

## Pediatric Dentists who Teach in Pre-doctoral Clinic

- Dr. Melissa Sveen
- Dr. Holly Portwood
- Dr. Cynthia Chan

## Administrative Staff

- Don Herbst
- Marcela Williams
- Rose Murphy
- Bev Simons



Samuel Puentes relaxes in the reception area while waiting for his appointment in the new Pediatric Dental Clinic.

# Research opportunities practically next door for one dental resident



Dr. Emily Raveill

First-year resident Dr. Emily Raveill doesn't have to go far to pursue her research project at the UNMC College of Dentistry Pediatric Residency Program.

Still in the process of developing her research focus and seeking necessary approval, she will be working with Dr. Richard Lutz, a pediatric specialist in genetics, endocrinology, and metabolism who is medical director of the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Clinic on the second floor of the new Children's Pediatric Specialty Clinic in Omaha.

The Osteogenesis Imperfecta Clinic is on the same floor as the College of Dentistry's new Pediatric Dental Clinic.

"Many of the children who have this disease, also known as brittle bone disease, have significant dental problems with the enamel and dentin of their teeth," Raveill said, adding that these children may also have the dental disease, dentinogenesis imperfecta. "We have this unique opportunity to meet children who have the disease and learn more about them. We can gauge what their dental knowledge is and hopefully educate them on their needs and how to manage their oral health."

Raveill said the research is significant because pediatric dental residents have very few opportunities to see patients with these diseases. Also, she said, not much information has been written about dentinogenesis imperfecta in the dental literature. "This disease is one dentists have minimal knowledge on how to treat; being exposed to patients and learning about their condition will give us a better grasp on how to recommend treatment options," she said.

At the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Clinic, children meet with an array of health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, audiologists, nutritionists, and radiology technologists. "The goal is to have the opportunity to partner with these professionals when the children come to the clinic," Raveill said.

Raveill's research plans illustrate one of the advantages of locating the Pediatric Dental Clinic in the Children's Pediatric Specialty Clinic, according to Dr. Curtis Kuster, interim chair of the College of Dentistry Department of Growth and Development. The location offers advantages for both education and research. "From an educational perspective, you have 135 or so pediatricians literally a hand reach away," he said. That closeness also provides opportunities for more collaborative research opportunities like Raveill's.

Kuster said the new clinic also will enhance the educational experience of fourth-year dental students who rotate to Omaha to work in the Pediatric Dental Clinic. Second-year dental hygiene students also spend time in Omaha, working with residents in the General Dentistry Residency Program and in hospital operating rooms.

The pediatric dentistry residents engage in outreach activities by supervising dental students and providing care for children with more extensive needs during Children's Dental Day in February in Lincoln. They also take part in Dental Day in western Nebraska in June. As part of their residency experience, they work in community health centers in Gering and Columbus and in private offices in Hastings and North Platte.

Other outreach programs in which the pediatric residents are involved include Mission of Mercy, sealant programs, and Special Smiles associated with the 2010 Special Olympics.



# McFarland's hidden agenda: A pediatric dentist in western Nebraska by 2020

Pediatric dentistry residents and fourth-year dental students will spend more time in rural Nebraska providing care to underserved populations as a result of two five-year grants totaling \$3.5 million awarded to the UNMC College of Dentistry.

The grants were awarded to the college in September by the Health Resources Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"It's very important to provide these outreach opportunities for our residents and students; it gives them another perspective, an added dimension that we are not able to provide at the college," said Dr. Kimberly McFarland, professor at the College of Dentistry and principal investigator on the grants. Residents will work along side dental practitioners, providing the residents "an opportunity to learn about rural communities, rural life, and different health care delivery systems."

In return, the residents will help provide much needed services in areas where patients often must drive hours to see a dentist.

McFarland, who teaches dental public health at the College of Dentistry, admits to harboring a hidden agenda. "We didn't write it into the grant, but my goal is to see a pediatric dentist in Scottsbluff and Gering. I think we can do it. I'm talking it up," she said.

Interestingly, only six pediatric dentists practice outside of Lincoln and Omaha, she said, and there was no pediatric dentist west of Kearney before Dr. Jon Simpson, a 2008 graduate of the College of Dentistry Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program,

established his private pediatric dental practice in North Platte.

"This will extend the reach of the UNMC College of Dentistry," McFarland said, emphasizing the college's mission of education, patient care, research, and outreach. "People sometimes forget that fourth component to our mission," she said. "Outreach to underserved populations doesn't just roll off our tongue. We have to work harder on it."

Communities where residents are expected to work include Gering, Hastings, and North Platte or Columbus. Organizers would like to extend the program to Indian Health Service clinics on the Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations in northeast Nebraska. An affiliation with the Indian Health Service clinics for dental residents would be a natural extension of services already provided on the reservations by pre-doctoral dental students.

The residents will work full days, providing direct care to patients, and participate in public health programs in the evenings, McFarland said. Each resident eventually will serve four weeks a year in underserved areas in a rural private practice or a public health clinic as part of his or her training. Residents also will work in local hospitals to better understand the delivery systems involved in dental care.

In another aspect of the program, the residents will teach family physicians and other health care providers in rural areas how to conduct oral health assessments and infant oral health exams. "We want to set up a network so medical and dental professionals are working closely together to improve the state's oral health," McFarland said. If there are no dental



Dr. Kimberly McFarland

providers in an area, "we want the medical providers to be the first line of defense."

Currently there is no dentist in 20 of Nebraska's 93 counties, McFarland said. Another 30 counties have only one or two dentists. With more dentists at or near retirement, as many as 45 to 50 counties could be without a dentist soon. "We are trying to shore up a need that potentially could emerge very quickly," McFarland said. Nationally, she said, two dentists are retiring for every one new dental graduate.

The grant for the pre-doctoral dental students will make it possible for dental students to eventually spend six weeks in a rural area. They now spend four weeks in rural health rotations. Each student will spend two weeks at a time in three preceptor sites.

A key component of the pre-doctoral grant promotes use of the statewide tele-health network by equipping senior dental students with intraoral cameras and laptop computers to take with them on rural rotations. The students will be required to do consultations with specialists at the college to become familiar with the technology.



## West Division: Meeting its vision and mission, preparing hygienists for western Nebraska

In addition to helping students finance their educations, a newly established scholarship exclusively for students in the West Division Dental Hygiene Program confirms the value of the program, says Lisa Moravec, site coordinator.

“It is a good sign that the West Division program is prospering and meeting its mission and vision. It shows that there is going to be longevity to the program,” said Moravec, RDH.

“The goal of the West Division program is to take students from rural backgrounds and train them in a rural setting in hopes that they will choose to practice in rural areas after they graduate,” she said. “The graduates of the West Division have predominately relocated to rural areas in Nebraska and neighboring states.”

The NDA West District Scholarship for the West Division Dental Hygiene Program was established in 2010 at the University of Nebraska Foundation. The

inaugural donors were Dr. George and Mrs. Barbara Schlothauer. Other donors include the West District Dental Society, which added \$12,500 to the fund in September. The foundation is seeking to raise \$25,000 or more so the scholarship can be endowed. More than \$19,800 in gifts and pledges has been raised to date.

“I am very excited about this scholarship and appreciative that it is being set up,” Moravec said. As site coordinator, she sees first hand the financial challenges that some students must overcome, she said, adding that the scholarship will definitely make a difference for each recipient.

Moravec credited the success of the West Division program to Dr. George Schlothauer’s vision. “He wanted to bring a dental hygiene program to the western part of the state. He and others involved wanted to ensure that it was a program of the highest caliber and a baccalaureate degree program,” she said.

Eight students are enrolled in the program, which is housed in two locations in Gering. Students work in the dental clinic in the Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (CAPWN), a federally funded health care clinic, and attend classes in another building one block from the clinic. Their lecture classes are broadcast through distance education technology from the UNMC College of Dentistry in Lincoln.

Schlothauer, a 1969 graduate of the College of Dentistry, said the program has been “extremely successful.” Everything has “worked out so incredibly well,” he said, emphasizing his belief that students who are educated in a rural area will find rewarding jobs and make their homes in a rural area. He said the program has attracted a broad spectrum of students, including stay-at-home mothers and people seeking second careers.

“We don’t have the problem we used to have” attracting and keeping hygienists in the area,



## In Memory

In the dental clinic at the Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska, the West Division dental hygiene students surround Dr. George Schlothauer and his wife, Barb. The students are, from left, Annie Rutledge, Nicole Benigno, Samantha Libsack, Mallory Shanahan, Melanie Shafto, Lindsey Hull, Jaleesa Pernicek, and Amy Newby.

Schlothauer said. The West Division program has helped that situation considerably and has broadened the reach of the UNMC College of Dentistry at the same time.

"It has made the College of Dentistry a statewide institution, not just a Lincoln institution," he said. "Dean (John) Reinhardt doesn't go to anything that he doesn't comment about the hygiene program at Gering. It is a good example of what can be done. Everything doesn't have to happen in Lincoln in this day of distance learning."

What's more, Schlothauer said, dental students who worked with West Division hygiene students and completed rotations at CAPWN while in dental school have established practices in western Nebraska.

Dr. Hayley Beaudette, for instance, did a rotation when she was a dental college senior and completed a general dentistry residency at UNMC in Omaha in 2009. She now works at CAPWN and is also taking over Schlothauer's private practice. Other recent College of Dentistry graduates who are now practicing in western Nebraska include Dr. Ryan Foote, Dr. Nate Luehrs, Dr. Travis Lambert, and Dr. Schlothauer's son, Dr. Mark Schlothauer.

**Dr. Howard Edward Clough**, 94, Sun City, Arizona, died Sept. 11, 2010.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater. A graduate of Upper Iowa University, he received a degree in dental science and went on to teach dentistry at the University of Iowa, the University of Cairo, Egypt, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry. He lived in Lincoln from 1968 to 1990 when he retired and moved to Arizona.

**Dr. George O. "Bud" Hueftle**, Reno, Nevada, Class of 1960, died Dec. 21, 2010. Dr. Hueftle, who was retired, practiced dentistry for 37 years. He was born in Eustis and served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953.

**Dr. Bryan J. Melvin**, 70, Lincoln, Class of 1970, died Sept. 24, 2010. Dr. Melvin was in private practice in Lincoln for 40 years and taught in the UNMC College of Dentistry's Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry for 30 years. He received the Outstanding Educator Award at the Fall 2010 UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Reunion. He also was recognized with teaching awards at the college's annual Professionals' Day. He was a past chair of the Peer Review Committee for the Nebraska Dental Association.

**Dr. Eric Theodore "ET" Moellering**, 94, Lincoln, Class of 1940, died Aug. 18, 2010. Born in Arapahoe, he attended St. John's Seminary in Winfield, Kansas, and later graduated from the College of Dentistry. From 1940 to 1946 he served in the Navy as lieutenant commander with the Second Marine Corps Division, working as a dentist on the Marianas, Okinawa, and Marshall Islands. He practiced dentistry for 43 years in Valley, where he served on the City Council, School Board, and Chamber of Commerce.

**Dr. James E. Weesner**, 89, Lincoln, Class of 1945, died Sept. 13, 2010. Born in Red Cloud, he graduated from the University of Nebraska and received his dental degree from UNMC College of Dentistry, with an emphasis in orthodontics. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He served in the Navy during World War II, where he completed a tour of duty in Germany, and in the Navy Reserves until 1965 when he retired as commander. He was past president of the Lincoln Dental Association and of the Midwestern Society of American Association of Orthodontics.

West Division dental hygiene students, Melanie Shafto, Lindsey Hull, Jaleesa Pernicek, and Mallory Shanahan, are shown in the dental anatomy lab.





## UNMC College of Dentistry open house celebrates long awaited renovations

*By Lisa Spellman, UNMC Public Relations*

Alumni, friends, patients, and neighbors stopped by Sept. 10 to get a first-hand look at the long awaited and much needed renovations at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

The visitors discovered a modernized, aesthetically pleasing, comfortable environment thanks to \$8.9 million in renovations.

The face-lift brings a breath of fresh air – literally, with the new ventilation system – to the 43-year-old building that sits on UNL's East Campus at 40th and Holdrege streets.

Many of the renovations were funded by Legislative Bill 605, which was passed

in 2006 by the Unicameral and signed into law by Gov. Dave Heineman. LB 605 allocated state funding for maintenance and improvement projects at the University of Nebraska and Nebraska's state colleges. Alumni and friends of the college provided additional funding for new equipment and furnishings.

"The renovations have made our entire building accessible, comfortable, efficient, and safe for our students, faculty, staff, and patients," said Dr. John Reinhardt, dean of the College of Dentistry. "These improvements positively impact everything we do, whether it is teaching, research or patient care. About half of dental education occurs in a clinical setting, and we have greatly improved the clinics. In

addition, the upgrades should reduce heating and air conditioning costs and improve the environment of the entire building."

Work on the LB 605 project at the College of Dentistry began in 2008. In addition to plumbing, electrical, and air handling upgrades, an elevator was installed in the newly enclosed front entrance to make access easier for people with disabilities.

Dean Reinhardt added, "Our facility now mirrors the first-class quality of our programs and enhances our ability to become an even stronger asset for the University of Nebraska and the citizens of Nebraska."

Touring the College of Dentistry during the open house are, from left, University of Nebraska President J. B. Milliken; UNK Chancellor Doug Kristensen; Jason Jones, D-4; UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman; NU Regent Tim Clare; Nathan Summerfield, UNK Student Regent; Donal Burns, corporation secretary; Pete Kotsiopoulos, senior advisor to the president on economic development; and Jessica Hanson, D-4.

## Meinberg becomes second hygienist in country to receive award from Crest Oral-B

Staff hygienist and clinical instructor Trudy Meinberg says she had always thought that educating patients and working with periodontal residents at the UNMC College of Dentistry was reward enough.

So, you can imagine her surprise when she learned that she had been selected to receive the Crest Oral-B Pros in the Profession award. She is only the second person to receive the national award that recognizes dental hygienists who are involved in their communities, who advocate continuing education, and who go above and beyond in their professional lives.

"I am so honored to be recognized by Crest Oral-B," said Meinberg in a news

release issued by The Proctor & Gamble Company. "Educating patients and working with periodontal residents on proper oral health for their patients has always been my focus, and I thought that was reward enough, but to be a Pro in the Profession is such a great opportunity."

In addition to caring for patients and working with students, Meinberg teaches clinical periodontics to undergraduate dental students. A registered dental hygienist for more than 30 years, Meinberg also has contributed to several research studies and her work has been published in a number of scholarly journals. As a community volunteer, she has helped local Boy Scouts earn their dental badges. She is a graduate of the Dental Hygiene Program at the UNMC College of Dentistry and has received the COD Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award.

In all, five hygienists will be recognized in the program, which began in September 2010 and continues through May 2011. Each recipient will receive \$1,500, an all-expensive paid trip to the American Dental Hygiene Association's 88th annual session in Nashville, Tenn., and recognition at major conferences and in dental trade publications throughout the year. The recipients also will tour P&G headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio.

To read more about Meinberg's award, go to <http://www.dentalcare.com/prosintheprofession/winners.jsp>



The cameras are on Trudy Meinberg, RDH, who is the second hygienist in the country to be recognized by Crest Oral-B for the Pros in the Profession award. In Lincoln to film Meinberg for the award are Matt Mason, left, who is conducting an interview for Crest Oral-B, and Fausto Ramon, sound technician.



# Sealant program makes a difference in children's smiles, hygiene students' proficiency

Gwen Hlava says her dental hygiene students are making a difference.

She sees the difference in the smiles of school children from Omaha, Lincoln, and western Nebraska who receive services through the UNMC Dental Hygiene Sealant Program.

She sees a difference in the proficiency and attitude of the dental hygiene students themselves as they develop a sense of civic responsibility and giving back to the community. She sees it in the financial contributions from alumni, well-wishers, and corporate donors.

"A lot of agencies have sealant programs," said Hlava, director of dental hygiene at the UNMC College of Dentistry. "But I don't think you will find many where the work is coming from a dental hygiene program in a college of dentistry that is training its students to know that if they are in Grand Island or in Gibbon and they see a need in their community, they know they are prepared to help."

Hlava said the Dental Hygiene Sealant Program, now in its eighth year, has "met or exceeded" four of the five objectives set forth by the federal government's Healthy People 2010 campaign.

"I see the difference the program is making," Hlava said. The program provides quality care by competent students, the same level of care provided in private dental offices. Years ago hygiene students may have applied sealants a half dozen times in their college years, she said. "Today we don't even keep track. They do hundreds and hundreds of them before graduation."

The UNMC Dental Hygiene Sealant Program began with four schools in Omaha in cooperation with the Hope Medical Outreach Coalition and today is operating in 15 of



Elliot School student shows off a big smile for Marina Titov, right, senior dental hygiene student, and Jessica Bruggeman, left, senior dental hygiene student.

the 34 qualifying Omaha schools. The program has been funded by a variety of sources, including state and federal grants. Within the last year, the program received significant funding through a generous charitable gift from the C.L. Werner family in Omaha; Lyndsie (Werner) Vacanti is a 2006 graduate of the UNMC dental hygiene program. The Werner family wanted to see the program continue in Omaha, Hlava said.

With additional charitable support from Ameritas, a national leader in insurance and financial services headquartered in Lincoln, the sealant program is now being introduced in nine Lincoln schools and is

continuing in western Nebraska where students in the West Division Dental Hygiene Program see children in five schools and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The sealant program serves children in schools that meet Nebraska Department of Education poverty guidelines, specifically where 70 percent or more of the students receive free or reduced lunch. Eighty-three schools in the state are at that level with some reaching 97 percent free and reduced lunch, Hlava said. Statistics from the Omaha program show that nearly 60 percent of participating children in the 15 neediest schools have unmet dental needs.

To make a charitable gift or pledge to the UNMC Dental Hygiene Sealant Program, please contact Susan Norby at the University of Nebraska Foundation. Her phone is 402-458-1183 or 800-432-3216. Her e-mail address is [snorby@nufoundation.org](mailto:snorby@nufoundation.org).



## COD newest faculty member

Erica Jasa, RDH | Clinical Instructor  
Department of Dental Hygiene

**Education:** BS in Dental Hygiene, UNMC College of Dentistry, 2010; BS in Biology, University of Nebraska Lincoln, 2007.

**Experience:** Currently working part time as a dental hygienist for Dr. Timothy Vacek in Waverly; began working part time at the UNMC College of Dentistry in August.

**First Impressions:** As a student, she was attracted to the “friendly and caring faculty” at the College of Dentistry, as well as the “outstanding care” provided at the college and the college’s commitment to improving oral health. “I love the family-like atmosphere,” she said.

**Free Time:** “I enjoy spending free time relaxing with family and friends.”



The hygiene students provide oral prophylaxis, patient education, sealants, and fluoride varnish to second, third, and sixth graders. They perform retention checks on third graders and sixth graders. In Lincoln, they see children in the second, third, and fifth grades. Children take home popular treat bags filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, timers, pencils, erasers, and “spin brushes.”

“This is a wonderful experience for our students,” Hlava said. “They are working with children of all nationalities. You couldn’t ask for anything better.”

## A Very Positive Partnership: Ameritas and UNMC College of Dentistry

Ameritas, a national leader in insurance and financial services, strengthened its philanthropic partnership with the UNMC College of Dentistry by recently establishing a \$250,000 endowment at the University of Nebraska Foundation to benefit the dental college’s oral cancer programs. This new endowment augments nearly 10 years of leadership charitable support from Ameritas for the UNMC College of Dentistry. Past gifts from Ameritas have provided significant resources to help underwrite Children’s Dental Day each year, rural externships for dental students across Nebraska, pre-clinic lab renovations, faculty and student research, and the dental hygiene department’s Sealant Program. The accompanying photo was taken when Ameritas recently presented its first donation to its new endowment for oral cancer programs. Pictured left to right, front row, are Dean John Reinhardt; Kenneth L. VanCleave, president, Ameritas Group; and David Brown, PhD, professor and executive associate dean. Back row, left to right, are Karen Gustin, vice president, Ameritas Group Marketing and Managed Care; Susan Norby, director of development, University of Nebraska Foundation; and Roxann Brennfoerder, vice president, Ameritas Group Business Development.



# A message from Carolyn Otte, COD Alumni Association Board President

I see our responsibility as building a relationship between the UNMC College of Dentistry and its alumni. We support the alumni and students in many ways, from organizing the Dental Alumni Reunion Weekend to helping support the Graduation Reception for senior dental students. We also help support alumni receptions at regional and national dental conventions, which are always well attended by UNMC College of Dentistry alums. The CODAA benefits students and alumni alike by providing support for the annual Dental Caravan across Nebraska and remodeling the clinical facilities to help our students get the best education possible.

Another part of what we do is recognize alumni who have contributed their time and talents to the dental college. Each year at the Reunion Weekend in the fall we award the Distinguished Service Award; Alumni Achievement Award; Honorary Membership to a recipient who is not an alum, but has contributed to the college; and Outstanding Teacher Award.

To submit nominations for these awards, please e-mail Carolyn Otte at [otte5@windstream.net](mailto:otte5@windstream.net). Each year we send a membership mailing, and the money raised by this mailing helps fund the association's support for the dental college. Thank you to those of you who have contributed, and I encourage anyone who hasn't joined to do so now. It's a great way to show your support for our great dental school.

Carolyn Otte, RDH '80

## College of Dentistry Alumni Association Board

**President:** Carolyn Carveth Otte RDH '80, Lincoln

**Past President:** Dr. Robert Schoettger '81, Orthodontics '83, Lincoln

**President Elect:** Heather Marr Hessheimer RDH '06, Lincoln

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Dr. Yosh Ameku '90, Lincoln

## Board Members

Dr. Lonnie Flagtvet '83, Lincoln

Dr. Clara Tao '81, Colorado Springs, CO

Dr. Todd Hohlen '06, Lincoln

Dr. David Blaha, '80, Lincoln

Dr. Deb Holthaus West '92 Omaha

Dr. Charles Genrich '83, Lincoln

Dr. Sarah Donner '06, Lincoln

## Ex-Officio Members

Dean John Reinhardt

Dr. Merlyn Vogt, faculty representative and director of alumni affairs

Susan Sack Norby, director of development, University of Nebraska Foundation

## College of Dentistry Staff

T. Kim Hailey



Gathered in the reception area of the UNMC College of Dentistry are Alumni Association Board Members, front row, from left, Todd Hohlen, Lon Flagtvet, Deb West, David Blaha, and Merlyn Vogt. Back row, from left, John Reinhardt, Clara Tao, Yosh Ameku, Carolyn Otte, Bob Schoettger, and Heather Hessheimer.





# Campaign for Nebraska

University of Nebraska Foundation | UNMC College of Dentistry

*"Investing in people and programs to maintain the college's ongoing status as a true place of distinction."*

-John Reinhardt, Dean and Professor | UNMC College of Dentistry

**Campaign Goal:** \$12 million in new gifts, pledges, and bequests for UNMC College of Dentistry scholarships, faculty endowments, clinic improvements, equipment and technology, enhanced oral cancer programs, and other gifts designated by donors.

**Campaign Gifts for the UNMC College of Dentistry:**

More than \$8.7 million, as of November 10, 2010

**Percentage of Goal:** 72.76 percent towards \$12 million

## Kudos

Congratulations to the **Dental Class of 2013**. All 45 students in the class passed Part I of the National Board Dental Examination on their first attempt. While many dental classes in other schools have yet to take the examination, the UNMC College of Dentistry's average score is nearly six points above the national average score. "Passing this exam on the first attempt is an outstanding achievement considering that nationally the rates are around 90 percent," said Dean John Reinhardt. "We are very proud of our students' accomplishment and congratulate them and the faculty." Dean Reinhardt hosted an ice cream social Oct. 4 in honor of the students.

**Dr. David Blaha**, Class of 1980, was awarded the 2010 UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented as a surprise at the 2010 Alumni Reunion. Dr. Blaha is a past president of the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Board and continues as a member of the College of Dentistry Alumni Board of Directors. He is a part-time faculty member at the college.

Two College of Dentistry faculty members, **David Dunning, PhD**, and **Brian Lange, PhD**, have edited a book, *Dental Practice Transition: A Practical Guide to Management*, which was published in 2008 by John Wiley & Sons and aims to provide an unbiased foundation for dentists entering private practice. To date, more than 1,000 copies have been sold, mainly to dental students and others transitioning into private practice. Several alumni of the college authored or co-authored chapters in the book, which covers dental practice overhead and business plans; ownership, including practice valuation and financing; business systems, including fees, government regulations and appointment scheduling strategies; marketing; staffing, including hiring and evaluating; associateships; and money management. Alumni who were involved are Dr. Steve Jacobs, Dr. Brad Alderman, Dr. Jesse Neal, Dr. Robert Madden, Dr. Terry Wostrel, and Dr. David Neumeister.

**Dr. Scott Hamilton**, interim director of the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program, recently gained Diplomate status with the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Plans are underway for the 2013 annual meeting and clinical session of the American Academy of Gold Foil Operators to be held at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

**Dr. Henry St. Germain** is a past president of the academy and has served on the Executive Council since 2004. The 2010 annual meeting was in Los Angeles, and the clinical session was at UCLA School of Dentistry. During the clinical session, 15 clinicians performed gold foil procedures and 40 UCLA dental students assisted or observed.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jeffrey Payne** and **Dr. Rick Reinhardt** for an article published in *International Immunopharmacology* that was recognized as the top cited article in the journal for 2008 to 2010. The article was titled "Antibody Responses to Porphyromonas Gingivalis (*P. gingivalis*) in Subjects with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Periodontists." The article was published in 2009.

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:

**Susan Norby**

University of Nebraska Foundation  
402-458-1183  
800-432-3216  
snorby@nufoundation.org



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# Cornhusker Impressions

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

in this  
issue

**cover** **Read about UNMC's COD Pediatric Clinic** - After "doing a lot with a little for a very long time," Dr. Scott Hamilton says residents, faculty, and staff are thrilled to be working in the new Pediatric Dental Clinic in the Children's Specialty Pediatric Center in Omaha.

**8** **West Division Dental Hygiene** In addition to helping students finance their educations, a newly established scholarship exclusively for students in the West Division Dental Hygiene Program confirms the value of the program, says Lisa Moravec, site coordinator.

**12** **Sealant Program Makes a Difference** The UNMC Dental Hygiene Sealant Program began with four schools in Omaha in cooperation with the Hope Medical Outreach Coalition and today is operating in 15 of the 34 qualifying Omaha schools, as well as schools in Lincoln and western Nebraska.