



Cornhusker Impressions

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



Seeking dental homes for children on the Omaha Indian Reservation

Seeing to it that children on the Omaha Indian Reservation in Macy have a dental home is at the heart of an affiliation agreement between the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and the UNMC College of Dentistry.

The agreement, signed in December, provides for pediatric residents, dental assistants, and faculty from the College of Dentistry's Pediatric Dental Residency Program in Omaha to deliver dental services at the Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center in Macy.

"We are excited about this," said Dr. Kimberly McFarland, professor and principal investigator for two federal grants totaling \$3.5 million to provide dental care to underserved rural populations like the children in Macy. "Everything is coming together to move the ball down the field in a significant way," she said.

Macy is the third site identified for pediatric resident visits in underserved areas of the state. Pediatric residents have

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Dentistry's opportunity in the 21st century



Cornhusker Impressions

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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.

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Dentists are recognized leaders in their professional communities, routinely developing working relationships with other health care providers to insure the delivery of safe and effective care. Now the dental profession has an opportunity to gain a stronger position in improving overall patient health.

Several forward-thinking national panels of experts have concluded that our current health care delivery system is too fragmented, resulting in a lack of coordination of care. This drives up cost and causes missed opportunities for improving health. Many chronic diseases are rising at alarming rates even among youth. At the same time, evidence is mounting about an association between oral health (periodontal disease) and the occurrence of systemic health problems like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, pre-term/low birth weight babies, osteoporosis, and pancreatic and other cancers.

Some leaders suggest that dentistry should take advantage of the fact that we see a large percentage of the U.S. population annually. Studies show that 60 percent to 70 percent of the population sees a dentist in a given year, and that more than 20 million Americans regularly see their dentists, but not their general physicians, on a regular basis. Dentists could screen for chronic diseases and make early referrals to medical providers. Salivary diagnostic tests are gaining recognition as reliable methods for early detection of significant health problems. Even finger-prick blood tests for hemoglobin A1c levels (a measure of diabetes risk) could be conducted in a dental office. Early detection and intervention could save lives and slow the rise of health care costs.

At the College of Dentistry and the other UNMC professional schools, we are challenged to find ways to better prepare students for tomorrow's practice. Academic "silos" are common, preventing collaboration among professions. Programs that are focused on their own educational requirements often don't feel they have time to broaden their scope to collaborate with other programs. As a step to break down barriers, we have initiated "interprofessional" days, where students from various health care colleges come together to discuss case-based scenarios, to broaden that scope.

In addition to classroom learning, we are integrating more nontraditional clinical experiences with nursing students. Nursing students have become regular participants at our Children's Dental Day and Sharing Clinics, assisting with health assessments and health counseling. Our dental and dental hygiene students show nursing students clinical techniques, such as the application of fluoride varnish to children's teeth, which are within the scope of nursing. They learn from each other, and our students develop a familiarity with the duties of nurses. Our senior dental hygiene students are beginning a program of outreach in nursing homes; they interact with nurses and other care providers to demonstrate techniques for improving the oral health and comfort of people who have difficulty performing even basic oral hygiene care.

As dentistry assumes greater leadership in improving the overall health of our patients, the college is actively exploring ways to prepare our students for this likely change in future practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Reinhardt".

John W. Reinhardt, DDS, MS, MPH

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

2012 Calendar

March 16

Professionals' Day and
Student Scientific Program
East Campus Union
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wentz Memorial Lecture

April 5

Sharing Clinic
College of Dentistry
6 - 9 p.m.

April 30 - May 1

CE - "Radiology for Dental Auxiliary,"
Shawneen Gonzalez, DDS, MS
College of Dentistry,
Lincoln and Gering
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 2

Senior Salute
Wick Alumni Center
6 p.m.

May 3

OKU/SPA Honors Banquet
Wick Alumni Center
6:30 p.m.

May 4

UNMC Commencement/Lincoln
Lied Center for Performing Arts
2 p.m.

May 5

UNMC Commencement/Omaha
UNMC Commencement/Scottsbluff

May 7-10

Continuing Education Caravan

May 18-28

Greek Isles Cruise
Jack Gobetti, DDS, MS
Medical Drugs and Dentistry

May 31 - June 2

Dental Day XXII
Nebraska Panhandle

June 8 - July 13

Summer Medical Dental
Education Program
Fridays at College of Dentistry

June 28

Sharing Clinic
College of Dentistry
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

July 10-11

CE - "Coronal Polishing
for Dental Auxiliary,"
Darlene Carritt, RDH
College of Dentistry,
Lincoln and Gering
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

July 13-14

Nebraska Mission of
Mercy Alliance

For more information about continuing education programs, contact
Valeta Creason-Wahl at 402-472-2611 or by email at codce@unmc.edu.
You may also register online at www.unmc.edu/dentistry/continuing_education.htm

“For these kids right now, there is no dental home in Macy.”

Dr. Jillian Wallen, Director, Pediatric Residency Program, Children’s Hospital

DENTAL HOMES *continued from cover*

been seeing patients at the Good Neighbor Community Center in Columbus and at the office of Dr. Jessica Meeske in Hastings. In April, students will begin rotating to a fourth site, Dr. Jon Simpson’s office in North Platte.

Dr. Stephanie Lake, dental director for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and a 2005 College of Dentistry graduate, said assistance from the College of Dentistry in Macy will help immeasurably in providing care to these young children.

“Approximately one-third of the children between the ages of 3 and 5 screened at the dental clinic so far will require general anesthesia for their dental work, due to their young age and severity of tooth decay,” Lake said.

In their first visit to the clinic in December, pediatric residents saw 53 children between the ages of 4 and 6. Of the total, 40 have restorative needs including multiple cavities that will require return visits. Another 10 children will need more comprehensive care under general anesthesia at Children’s Hospital in Omaha,

said Dr. Jillian Wallen, director of the college’s Pediatric Residency Program.

“For these kids right now, there is no dental home in Macy. Some have had some care, but the majority of them have never been to a dentist. Decay is rampant,” Wallen said. “It’s very clear from what we saw that we are needed there. And we are committed to being there, not just for the length of the grant, but the goal is to have a presence there long after the grant has expired.”

Wallen praised Lake for identifying the pediatric patients, gathering their information, and making sure they were at the clinic for the residents’ visit. “Dr. Lake has been very appreciative and supportive and has shown with her follow-up that she knows who the children are and what they need. She has been a wonderful resource for us, and hopefully we can do the same for her,” Wallen said. ■

photo from cover

Dr. David Brown, executive associate dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry, right, with Amen Sheridan, tribal chairman of the Omaha Indian Tribe of Macy, at the signing ceremony for the affiliation agreement between the tribe and the College of Dentistry.



College receives \$10,000 grant to work with Head Start

A \$10,000 one-year grant from the National Head Start Association complements the pediatric residents' visits to the Omaha Indian Reservation. The UNMC College of Dentistry received the grant in October to help Head Start children find dental homes.

About 6,000 children are enrolled in Head Start programs in Nebraska; 100 children in Macy are enrolled in Head Start.

A dental home, Dr. Kimberly McFarland says, provides regular dental care for a child's oral health needs from age 1, or as soon as a tooth appears in a child's mouth, and helps secure access to specialty services needed outside the dental home office. The Dental Home Initiative of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry says that all children should have a dental home by age 1.

The Head Start grant will enable the College of Dentistry to incorporate tele-health dentistry equipment at the Macy clinic. A distance learning cart with a computer, two computer monitors, and an intraoral camera will make it possible for residents and faculty to consult about cases in real time with colleagues in the pediatric clinic in Omaha or at the college in Lincoln.

Faculty, students, and staff will be able to view X-rays and health data and plan follow-up care, thus eliminating the need for families to travel to Omaha for pre-op visits and reducing the likelihood of patients failing to show up for pre-arranged care. Similar tele-health units already are in place in dental clinics in Columbus, Hastings, and Gering.

Providing tele-health dentistry equipment in Macy is one of three projects provided for in the Head Start grant. The other projects would do the following:

- Establish a dental registry for Head Start children through the Elkhorn Logan Valley Health Department in Wisner
- Activate the Nebraska Dental Association's Head Start Mentorship teams to work with local dentists to find dental homes for Head Start children
- Create a web-based oral-health training module for Head Start personnel, volunteers, and families

Two, five-year grants totaling \$3.5 million from the Health Resources Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, along with

the \$10,000 grant from Head Start, are coming together to not only provide care to underserved Nebraskans, but to plant a seed for career opportunities for dental practitioners, McFarland said.

"We are going into rural, underserved areas all the time. The effect of the grants is to give some structure to those experiences and to gather data," she said. "We want to get beyond 'nice and good' and get objective, clear data and information so we are putting our energy and resources into achieving outcomes.

"I am talking about making a greater impact in a unified way, truly making a difference by improving oral health, identifying dental homes for these families, increasing the dental workforce in areas of need, helping school nurses and local health departments, and increasing our reach across the state," McFarland said.

According to most recent data, 20 of Nebraska's 93 counties have no dentists. Another 30 counties have only one or two dentists. As more dentists approach retirement age, as many as 45 to 50 counties could be without a dentist soon. ■



Four pillars of educational and professional excellence

Four well-known names at the UNMC College of Dentistry were recognized in September at the college's annual homecoming reunion. Shown here are, from left, Dr. Curt Kuster, who received the Alumni Achievement Award; Dr. John "Pat" Giddings, who received the Outstanding Educator Award; Dr. Michael Molvar, who

received an Honorary Life Membership Award; and Dr. Max Martin, Jr., who received the Distinguished Service Award. The awards were presented by the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association. ■



A busy night at the Sharing Clinic

‘Warmth, hospitality, compassion,’ plus quality care for Sharing Clinic patients

From the moment patients walk in the door of the UNMC College of Dentistry for Sharing Clinic, they are greeted with warmth, hospitality, and compassion, says clinic volunteer, Dr. Roger Fisher, a 1988 College of Dentistry graduate.

“That atmosphere permeates throughout the entire night. It starts at the front door of the dental school and ends with students walking patients to the door to dismiss them,” Fisher said. Fisher has volunteered at the Sharing Clinics since they began in 2008 and is vice president of Clinic with a Heart, a faith-based program that provides a wide range of health care services to indigent families.

More than 200 students, faculty, staff, and volunteer dentists staff the Sharing Clinic, which is offered four times a year for older teens and adults who do not have access to regular dental care. Patients are referred to the clinic by Clinic with a Heart, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, the People’s Health Center, and even the college itself. The next Sharing Clinic is 6 to 9 p.m. April 5.

The number of patients cared for at the Sharing Clinic, usually about 60 to 65 a night, hit a new high in September when 81 patients were treated. Services provided at the clinic include cleanings, extractions, and restorations. There is no charge to the patient for the care. Staffed mainly by volunteers, the clinics are

supported by private donations, including financial support from Ameritas and Delta Dental of Nebraska.

David Brown, PhD, executive associate dean, said 375 to 400 patients a year are seen at the Sharing Clinics and similar programs including a clinic for extractions in Grand Island and two clinic chairs set aside at the college each Wednesday for especially needy patients.

Nursing students from the Lincoln division of the UNMC College of Nursing also are joining with dental students, hygiene students, and dental residents at the Sharing Clinic to promote interprofessional activities that encourage collaboration among health care professionals, Brown said. Nursing students take patients' vital signs and shadow COD students and patients during appointments. They are encouraged to talk with the COD students about the care being delivered and to ask questions. They sometimes help by holding instruments or performing other tasks.

Brown said the nursing students have been enthusiastic about the experience, and both COD students and nursing students appear to be more comfortable talking with each other, dispelling long-held misperceptions. "It gives them all a better appreciation for what each of them do," he said.

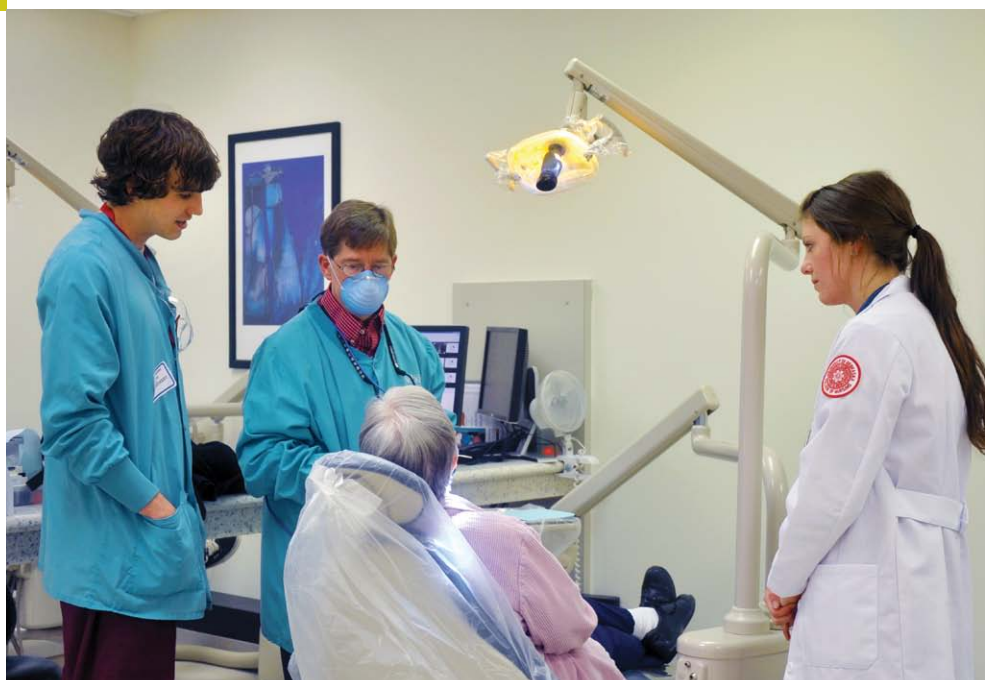
Fisher said patients are often surprised at the professional way they are treated at the Sharing Clinic. They are grateful to learn they have an appointment with a time and date; they will be seen in a highly regarded, state-of-the-art institution; and someone will take care of their dental needs. "Those are the things that comfort a patient," he said.

"At Clinic with a Heart, there aren't many resources for these patients to receive care. They are surprised because there's an answer to the dental question they have that will relieve them of pain or discomfort in a professional manner," Fisher said. "It's really neat to see how they are cared for in a way they weren't expecting. They are thankful."

As for the students who staff the Sharing Clinic, Fisher said he is impressed by the team approach in which students escort the patient to the treatment area and assist one another throughout the procedure. "Students work with other students together to deliver not only quality care, but compassion, understanding, hospitality... when you walk into the school, you feel the hospitality, the warmth. It's a unique experience."

Fisher and fellow volunteer Dr. Chuck Genrich, a 1983 graduate, said the Sharing Clinic also exposes students to volunteering and provides a model of volunteering at its finest.

see SHARING CLINIC pg 8



Dr. Chuck Genrich and students visit a patient in an interprofessional setting at a Sharing Clinic.



Part of a network of UNMC clinics

The Sharing Clinic at the College of Dentistry is part of a network of sharing clinics at UNMC. The name is an acronym for Student Health Alliance Reaching Indigent Needy Groups.

In Omaha, UNMC offers the SHARING Clinic for general health care for children and adults, the RESPECT Clinic for sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment and HIV testing and counseling, the GOODLIFE Clinic for treatment of Type 2 diabetes, and the VISION Clinic for diabetic eye screenings. The clinics stress their strong tradition of interdisciplinary care. ■

Read more about the Omaha clinics at www.unmc.edu/sharing

SHARING CLINIC *continued from pg 7*

At the Sharing Clinic, students “have more freedom to think a little more on their own,” Genrich said. “It’s a different atmosphere. I don’t think they feel the pressure (they feel in clinics during the academic day). They are there because they want to help people, and they enjoy learning and getting experience. And that gives them more confidence in their skills.”

Genrich said he is especially impressed by the cooperation he sees. “I have seen fourth-year students helping third-year students and third-year students helping second-year students, cooperating and learning from each other,” he said.

“Rather than the traditional student-teacher relationship, this is more like we are all in this together doing a common service for the public,” said Brown. “It certainly builds collegiality” as students and faculty ask each other for thoughts, opinions, and approaches.

Both Fisher and Genrich praised Dean John Reinhardt for embracing the Sharing Clinic and committing college resources to its success. Genrich said credit should also go to Dr. Stan Harn, who coordinates students and volunteers, and to Brown, who has “a heart bigger than anyone.” Brown has often remarked that rather than go on mission trips to far-off countries, he prefers to do his mission work here at home. ■

In Memory

Rochelle “Shelley” Belka (DH, 1971), 62, of Columbia, SC, died Nov. 2, 2011. She worked for BlueCross Blue Shield for 22 years, retiring as director of organizational development and training in September 2011. A native of Grand Island, she had lived in South Carolina for 23 years.

Dr. Robert Ebert (DDS, 1982), 60, of Coeur d’Alene, ID, died Sept. 5, 2011. A native of Wisconsin, he was a science teacher before attending dental school. He started his first dental practice in Poynette, WI, in 1983 and in 1991 moved with his family to Coeur d’Alene, where he practiced family dentistry. He became interested in elk ranching and established the Coeur d’Alene Wapiti Ranch. He also was a private pilot.

Dr. Richard Sands Hay (DDS, 1947), 89, of Lincoln, died Jan. 13, 2012. He practiced dentistry for 20 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as commander in 1967. A member of Psi Phi dental fraternity, he was past president of the Lincoln Camera Club and the Lincoln Arts Council and a member of the European branch of the International College of Dentists. For many years he photographed arts events in Lincoln and donated his photographs to the sponsoring organizations. He received the Mayor’s Art Award for “outstanding philanthropic and volunteer work for the arts.”

Dr. Michael Jones (DDS, 1971), 69, of Phillips, died Oct. 6, 2011. He practiced dentistry for 40 years in the Jones Dental Clinic in Aurora. He was a member of the American Dental Association, the Nebraska Dental Association, OKU Honorary Society, the Dean’s Advisory Council, the Dean’s Club, the

Chancellor’s Club, and was a UNMC Alumni life member. He was president of the Central District NDA and College of Dentistry preceptor and clinical instructor for 12 years. He also raised bison and was a member of the National Bison Association.

Dr. Jeffrey Owen Knutzen (DDS, 1977; Pedodontics, 1986), 60, died Sept. 5, 2011. He practiced general dentistry and pediatric dentistry in Omaha and pediatric dentistry in Springfield, MO, before settling in Carl Junction, MO. He was a pediatric dentist in Joplin, MO, for 22 years. He was a member of the American Association of Pediatric Dentists, the American Dental Association, the Missouri Dental Association, and the Southwest Missouri Dental Society.

Dr. Robert M. Wood, 89, of Spearfish, SD, died Dec. 2, 2011. He was associate professor and former chair of Community Dentistry, later Dental Practice Management, from 1972 until his retirement with emeritus status in 1987. He received his dental degree from Loyola University. After working in private practice with his father in Sturgis, SD, he joined the Veterans Affairs Hospital system and was staff dentist and chief of dentistry at VA hospitals in Minnesota and Virginia. In retirement he was a consultant for the Chicago Dental Society and Great Plains Television in production of dental continuing education courses.

Let us hear
from you!

We enjoy hearing from you.

Please send your professional and personal news to the following address:

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COD assistant professor tweets 'Radiograph of the Day'

Well-connected Dr. Gonzalez uses Twitter to engage students and followers around the world

No doubt about it. Dr. Shawneen Gonzalez is well connected.

Her Twitter account has 300-plus followers from around the world, including a dentist in Moscow and dental students back home in Nebraska.

Her blog on the website she built herself is reposted—with her permission—on a website maintained by a periodontal student in the United Kingdom. There, her blog postings get as many as 500 views.

The assistant professor in the UNMC College of Dentistry Department of Oral Biology uses her connectivity to engage her D-2 dental students and to share her excitement— as well as her experience—at pouring over radiographs of the oral cavity. This semester she also began using social media outposts to connect with her dental hygiene students.

“For me, it’s fun, and I’ve got all this knowledge. I don’t feel that keeping it here in my head is really fair,” she said. “I like to share my information and help others learn.” As a diagnostic dentist, she said, she considers radiographs to be fascinating mysteries to be solved.

Three years ago, Gonzalez, an oral and maxillofacial radiologist, began posting review questions and sample radiographs on her Twitter account to help her D-2 students review for tests in her Introduction to Oral Radiology and Radiographic Interpretation classes. She was a new teacher looking for ways to stimulate discussion and engage students outside the classroom.

“They weren’t asking questions in class, yet I knew they had questions,” she said, explaining that she was looking for ways to help students feel comfortable asking questions and seeking others’ ideas and opinions. “I wanted students to start thinking about radiographs outside the classroom, in the news, in daily events” to make them aware of the place of oral biology and radiography in everyday surroundings.

Through the years, she has answered students’ questions on her smartphone, laptop, or iPad from her office or at home, or in distant airports or hotel rooms.

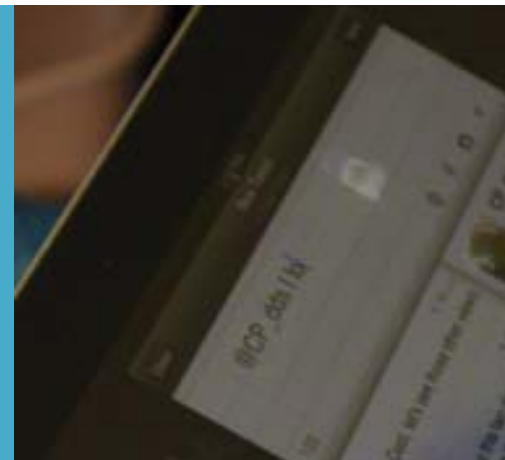
Her sample radiographs, known to her Twitter followers as the “Radiograph of the Day,” give students practice interpreting

radiographs and address concerns over not having enough radiographs to study. “I tell the students, that’s how you get good at interpreting radiographs,” she said. “The more radiographs you look at, the better you get at determining normal from abnormal findings.”

Gonzalez researched how to use social media in education and other fields. Through trial and error, she figured out how to make good use of social media sites like Twitter and Hoot Suite and even build her own website.

She doesn’t require student participation—nor does she grade or assign points to postings—because she wants genuine questions and comments and doesn’t want students to feel pressured to join in. “I am finding the ones who use social media are grateful; they feel it is helping them,” she said. “To me, the numbers don’t really matter. Even if only one or two students are using it, I want to be available to help them learn.”

In last year’s classes, 21 of the 45 students opened Twitter accounts to participate, and another two students already had accounts. Gonzalez said sometimes students met in



groups to review her Twitter posts, involving even more students than those with accounts. Also, some students sent their questions via classmates who are more experienced tweeters. In her fall 2011 class, about one-fourth of the students participated through Twitter, either by asking questions or posting responses.

Gonzalez is collecting information about her social media use in dental education to publish in a peer-reviewed journal. Her use of social media in her courses has been approved by the UNMC Institutional Review Board, and she recently was named the College of Dentistry representative on a task force created by Chancellor Harold Maurer to review the role of social media at UNMC.

To read her blog, go to her website, Dr.Gstoothpix.com, and to follow her on Twitter, go to twitter.com/DrGstoothpix. ■



Dr. Shawneen Gonzalez surrounded by the tools of her trade – a desktop computer, a textbook, a smartphone, and an iPad.

Jennifer Kallio, DDS

Clinical Assistant Professor, Priority Care

Education: BS, Biology, Creighton University; DDS, 2004, Creighton University.

Experience: Owner and partner in a group practice in Loveland, CO, where she trained 10 to 15 expanded duty dental assistants. "It was then that I realized my love of teaching dentistry and the rewards of seeing my assistants excel in their clinical skills, dental knowledge, and confidence," she said. She formerly worked at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Responsibilities: She teaches students in the Priority Care area that includes the patient emergency clinic. She is a consulting dentist in the Dental Hygiene Clinic and provides clinical exams for patients of hygiene students. She also provides care for College of Dentistry patients.

First Impressions: "The College of Dentistry has a diverse, dedicated, and caring faculty, staff and students who are warm and welcoming. The students are personable, considerate and compassionate to their patients. They are bright and introspective students, always looking at ways to improve their care to their patients. This reflects highly on the faculty that has taught them the value and reward of continued education and will serve them well as they head into private practice. The dental hygiene students are well educated and hold a high standard of care, excelling both in their dental knowledge and clinical skills."



Spare Time: She loves cooking, reading, going to movies, traveling, and spending time with her family. She and her husband are certified scuba divers. They are members of the Cornhusker Kennel Club and formerly bred and showed boxers.

Family Life: She and her husband, Dr. Alex Kallio, DC, who owns Comfort Chiropractic in Lincoln, are the parents of two daughters, Maya, 3 1/2, and Elayna, born in June. They live on an acreage near Denton and have two brindle boxers, Hailey and Coco, and one tuxedo cat, Sidney. They are active in the Autism Family Network. Maya was diagnosed with autism at 15 months of age, and it was later learned that she has a rare chromosomal deletion on the autism 2 gene and scarring on the brain. Now, working with three therapists, Maya attends the UNL child care center with her peers. She is doing well and beginning to talk more every day. The College of Dentistry was a co-sponsor for Maya's team in 2011 Walk Now for Autism Speaks. ■

Omaid Khalid Ahmad, BDS, MDS, FACP

Assistant Professor, Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry

Education:

- Bachelor of Dental Surgery, 2001, Fatima Jinnah Dental College, University of Karachi, Pakistan. Valedictorian of his BDS class
- General Practice Residency, 2002, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center and Fatima Jinnah Dental College Hospital, Karachi, Pakistan.
- Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology, 2007, School of Dental Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center.
- Master of Dental Science, 2010, University of Connecticut.
- Certificate in Prosthodontics, 2010, School of Dental Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center.
- Fellowship in Maxillofacial Prosthetics, 2011, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York.

Experience: In Pakistan, Ahmad worked and trained in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from 2002 until 2005. At the same time, he maintained a part-time private practice.

Responsibilities: "Teaching is my passion," Ahmad said. He chose the UNMC College of Dentistry because of its fine staff and teaching environment. At the college, he is teaching courses in Occlusion, Removable Partial Dentures, and Dental Implantology in the Department of Adult Restorative



Dentistry. He has lectured both in the United States and internationally and is a reviewer for national and international peer reviewed journals.

Research: His research interest includes CAD/CAM dentistry, cone beam CT imaging, and rapid prototyping/ stereolithography, and implant stability testing.

First Impressions: "Coming from one of the largest and busiest cities in southeast Asia and then living in the Northeast, particularly, New York City, I was surprised when I came here. But the hospitality and the warmth of the people convinced me that this is probably where I may want to be now."

Family Life: He is married to Shiza Khan, a dentist who will complete her specialty training in periodontics in June at the University of Connecticut. Together they enjoy traveling and outdoor activities. Ahmad said he also enjoys good food and likes to sample regional cuisine. ■

Kudos

Dr. Richard Reckmeyer, whose work in Rwanda was featured Dec. 7, 2011, in the *ADA News*, is a 1979 graduate of the UNMC College of Dentistry and executive director of Rural Rwanda Dental, founded in 2009. Rural Rwanda Dental volunteers visit village schools to teach oral health prevention techniques, apply sealants and fluoride varnish, and perform restorative treatments. The goal is to develop a sustainable education program that focuses on teaching children and health care workers about the value of prevention and oral health care and that is affordable and culturally appropriate. For more information, visit <http://rrdental.org>.

Dr. Steve Andersen, a 1969 graduate of the College of Dentistry, was named the 2011 Man of the Year by the *Grand Island Independent*. *The Independent* cited Andersen for his volunteer work with the Third City Community Clinic, the Heartland United Way, and Mission of Mercy. Andersen is board president of the America's Dentists Care Foundation, a nonprofit organization that addresses the equipment needs of Mission of Mercy. He also was chair of a Mission of Mercy event in Grand Island. He has practiced dentistry in Grand Island for 40 years.

Dr. Sundaralingam Premaraj was conferred as a Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada at the organization's 46th annual convocation on Sept. 24 in Winnipeg. He passed the National Dental Specialty Examination (orthodontics) administered by the Royal College in June.

Two patents have been issued by the U.S. Patent Office to Gold Standard Instruments LLC, a company owned by **Dr. Neill Luebke** of Brookfield, WI. Luebke received his Certificate of Endodontics in 1980 from the UNMC College of Dentistry. One patent was for a shape memory nickel titanium endodontic file, and the other was for the heat-treatment process used to produce the shape memory file. Both patents grew out of his frustration over the unpredictable fracture of nickel titanium files when doing root canal procedures.

Students and faculty at the UNMC College of Dentistry shared their thoughts about the issues and challenges facing dental education during a visit Aug. 30 by Jack Bresch, associate executive director of the Center for Educational Policy and Research at the American Dental Education Association. The College of Dentistry was one of a small number of schools selected to host Bresch. He will use the information he gathered to guide ADEA's strategic planning to serve dental education.



Head and Shoulders above in Anatomy

Congratulations to the **Class of 2014**. All students in the class passed Part I of the National Board Dental Examination on their first attempt. While the national average score will vary as more schools take the examinations, the College of Dentistry's average score in September was more than four points above the national average. Pictured with students here is Dr. Stan Harn, Department of Oral Biology professor. For many years, students have scored exceptionally well on anatomy, which Harn teaches. In 2010, the Class of 2013 had an average standard score 8.4 points above the national average in anatomic science. ■

Honoring those who have left their mark

With the touch of a finger, visitors to the UNMC College of Dentistry now can search for the names of students, faculty members, alumni, and friends of the college who have been honored over the years. Shown here is Dr. David Blaha, director of alumni affairs and past alumni association president, with Taylor Coffin, Dental Class of 2013, and Peter Harbert, Dental Class of 2012. The new 42-inch electronic display screen outside the Dean's Conference Room on the lower level has replaced wooden and metal award plaques that were scattered throughout the college. Dean John Reinhardt said the electronic display is respectful, can easily be updated, and fits in with the recent renovations. The



new display also eliminates the cost of purchasing new plaques and engraving. The display is a gift from the late Dr. John L. Seberg, Class of 1936; the late Dr. G. Herbert Seberg, Class of 1944; and Dr. John R. Seberg, Class of 1944. All three brothers received the college's Distinguished Service Award, and their names are among the 865 names accessible with the electronic display. ■

Dr. David Blaha, director of Alumni Affairs, with Taylor Coffin and Peter Harbert.

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Appreciative dental student thanks scholarship donors, looks forward to helping others

By Jessica Sorensen, Public Relations Intern | University of Nebraska Foundation



Jake Zitterkopf

When UNMC dental student Jake Zitterkopf sat down to write a thank-you letter to the people who gave his scholarship, he never intended to go beyond the ordinary. He simply was showing his gratitude.

In Jake's letter to Dr. Tom and Bev Evans of Genesee, CO, he wrote a heart-filled note saying how thankful he was for the scholarship and how it would change his life. As a first-year dental student, Jake said the financial assistance from the Dr. Tom and Bev Evans College of Dentistry Scholarship will give him the confidence and motivation he needs to pursue a quality education.

"I am very sincerely humbled by the generous gift and wanted to show Dr. Tom and Bev Evans my utmost appreciation," Jake said. "I long for the day to be like these individuals, to have the opportunity to help others and to help be a part of the 'we' that is making a difference."

Just a year ago, Jake endured a life-threatening medical diagnosis. He experienced a rare, if not the rarest type of thyroid cancer, Hurthle cell. The tumor was the size of a golf ball. The surgery to remove it ran the risk of taking away his ability to speak. But everything that could have gone right, he says, did go right.

The cancer had not spread. The rest of his thyroid compensated for the part the surgeon removed, so Jake doesn't have to take any thyroid medication. He's cancer-free and healthy now and is likely to stay that way.

Evans, the scholarship donor, also is an oral cancer survivor. Retired from his general dentistry practice in Golden, CO, he is a 1962 College of Dentistry alumnus.

"I feel fortunate to be able to have such a fine young man get our scholarship," he said. "It is quite ironic that the scholarship should go to a young man in dental school who had cancer of the head and neck, and the other half of my donation will go to the College of Dentistry's Oral Cancer Programs, to help integrate the dental college's oral cancer work with UNMC's Head and Neck Cancer Programs."

With family ties to western Nebraska, Evans and his wife wanted the scholarship to go to students from that area. Jake grew up in Scottsbluff.

Jake said that coming from a family with four children and a single parent made it impossible for his dad, a retired school superintendent who now owns a used-car dealership, to afford putting all four children through college at the same time.

"My father has worked very diligently throughout our lives and has helped to motivate each of us to make it through college," Jake said. "However, each of us was forced to look down other financial pathways.

"Many students would never have the chance to receive a quality education without financial assistance. Fortunately, for people like myself, very gracious donors are nearby."

These donors have helped Jake pursue something he has always wanted – a career in dentistry. He plans to open a practice in rural Nebraska.

Jake was accepted into the Rural Health Opportunities Program and went to Chadron State College. Through this program, he was given early admission into the College of Dentistry.

"I am extremely excited to be a part of a very compassionate and intelligent class and cannot wait to make some more memories," said Jake, who was elected president of his dental class. "I am motivated in knowing that I have support from two very distinguished individuals." ■

Student support is a top priority of the NU Foundation's Campaign for Nebraska. If you would like to support a dental student, or if you are interested in contributing to other areas of the UNMC College of Dentistry, please contact

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A KLIN perspective: “A great college”

by Roger Larson | KLIN 1400 AM Lincoln | October 11, 2011

One of the nation’s most outstanding colleges in its field is located right here in Lincoln, and yet we tend to be ignorant of its location here. The University of Nebraska Dental College is situated on the East Campus of UNL, but is under the governance of the University Medical Center in Omaha.

Yet, we should share in the pride of this college, which is one of the very best in the nation, as judged every year by a national board.

The incoming students have a very high grade point average—the highest in

the nation in 13 of the last 18 years. The other five years, that honor went to Harvard University’s dental school.

One of the notable achievements by the College is the consistent free dental care given to needy Nebraska children at Children’s Dental Day, as well as the continuing education given to dental providers across the state.

Dean Dr. John Reinhardt is justified in his pride in the consistent high quality of dental education provided at the University of Nebraska Dental College, located here in Lincoln. This

is just another example of excellence at our University and in Lincoln.

I’m Roger Larson, and that’s the way I see it. ■

Your comments are invited. Reach Roger at LarsonRT1@gmail.com, or call him at 402.488.9479.

Four international scholars visit College of Dentistry

Four international scholars are spending from three months to one year at the UNMC College of Dentistry, observing clinics and exploring research interests.

Three of the scholars are from China, and one is from Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Delimulati Abulimiti from the Stomatological Hospital of Urumchi, China, arrived in April 2011 and will be at the college through March 2012. He received support from the China Scholarship Council. His specialty and research are in implant surgery. While at the college, he is working in the Department of Surgical Specialties.

Dr. Yue Chen arrived in June 2011 from the Oral Hospital of Xi’an Jiao-Tong University in Xi’an, China. She was at the College of Dentistry until February 2012. She was in the Periodontology and Oral Medicine Department in Xi’an. She is sponsored by the College of Dentistry’s Department of Surgical Specialties and is financially supported by her hospital in China.

Dr. Qing-yu Quo also is from Xi’an Jiao-Tong University Stomatology School in China. She was at the college from October through December 2011. Her area of study is pediatric dentistry with an emphasis on pediatric endodontics. At Nebraska, she observed the pediatric and endodontics clinics and explored research under the direction of Dr. Sheela Premaraj.

Dr. Zeyad Algarawi from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, began studies at the College of Dentistry in July 2011. He received his dental degree at King Saud University College of Dentistry and is now a graduate student in endodontics. He is employed at the Security Forces Hospital in Riyadh. He was at the college for three months, in the Surgical Specialties Department, Section of Endodontics. He was supported by the SAMB Financial Group. ■

After you've read about all the great things happening at the **UNMC College of Dentistry**... help make it even greater.

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

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Cornhusker Impressions

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

in this
issue

cover **Finding a dental home for children** on the Omaha Indian Reservation in Macy is at the heart of a new affiliation agreement between the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and the UNMC College of Dentistry.

6 **Warmth, hospitality, and compassionate care** await needy patients seen at the UNMC College of Dentistry's Sharing Clinics, held quarterly at the college and staffed by more than 200 volunteer dentists, faculty members, students, and staff. Nursing students now join hygiene and dental students for an interprofessional experience at the Sharing Clinics.

10 **One of the most well connected people** at the UNMC College of Dentistry is Dr. Shawneen Gonzalez who tweets a "Radiograph of the Day" and uses social media to connect with students and followers around the world.