



# Cornhusker Impressions

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



## Changing Roles

The leadership team at the UNMC College of Dentistry is undergoing changes as long-time faculty members retire and their successors take over those important positions. Among those retiring is Dr. Curtis Kuster, a College of Dentistry alum who joined the faculty in 1977. Succeeding him as assistant dean for student affairs and director of admissions is Dr. Merlyn Vogt. Dr. David Blaha will take over from Vogt as

director of alumni affairs, which includes overseeing publication of *Cornhusker Impressions*. Also retiring is Dr. Dennis Kent, assistant dean for advanced clinical practice. Taking over those responsibilities will be Dr. Jim Jenkins. Photographed here in the college lobby are, from left, Dr. Curtis Kuster and Dr. Dennis Kent, both retiring; Dr. Merlyn Vogt, Dr. David Blaha, and Dr. Jim Jenkins, all assuming new leadership positions.

# Big 10 is more than an athletic conference



## Cornhusker Impressions

Summer | 2011

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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As Cornhusker fans already know, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved the admission of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) to the Big 10 Conference.

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

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

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

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

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

  
John W. Reinhardt, DDS, MS, MPH

Professor and Dean  
College of Dentistry  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

## 2011 | 2012 Calendar

### July 12-13

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

### August 12

Golf and Learn "Three Under Par"  
Instrument Separation, Dr. Toby Comer  
Third-Molar Removal, Dr. Larry Baker  
Orthodontics and Restorative: Missing  
and Worn Teeth, Dr. Matthew Pershing  
Lochland Country Club, Hastings  
7:30 a.m. Registration

### September 16-17

College of Dentistry Homecoming  
CE – Dr. Teg Brickhouse  
and Dr. Amy Killeen

### October 7

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

### October 28

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

### November 25

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

### December 12-13

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

### January 6, 2012

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

### February 17, 2012

What's New in Dentistry  
Dr. Fahd Alsalleeh and  
Dr. Matthew Byarlay  
Clinical Applications of Endodontic  
Regeneration, Guided Bone  
Regeneration, Differential Diagnosis  
of Common Oral Lesions  
UNL East Campus Union  
8 a.m. Registration

### March 16, 2012

Professionals' Day and Student  
Scientific Program

### May 4, 2012

UNMC College of Dentistry  
Commencement  
Lied Center for Performing Arts

For more information about continuing education programs, contact  
Valeta Creason-Wahl at 402-472-2611 or by email at codce@unmc.edu



Copies of the JADA cover featuring Nebraskans' research

## JADA cover features UNMC College of Dentistry research

The March cover of *The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA)* features research conducted by two UNMC College of Dentistry researchers on the use of periodontal therapy to reduce systemic inflammation in select postmenopausal women. The research was conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Payne and Dr. Richard Reinhardt in cooperation with scientists in New York, Oklahoma, Arizona, and Helsinki, Finland.

It is believed to be the first time that research at the College of Dentistry has been featured on the cover of the well-read dental journal. In fact, it is the first time that Dr. Payne, the principal investigator who has had more than 90 manuscripts and abstracts published elsewhere, has had an article published in *JADA*.

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

### Good general health

The two-year clinical trial looked at the effect of doxycycline periodontal therapy on systemic inflammation in postmenopausal women with chronic periodontitis and lower-than-normal systemic (hip or lumbar spine) bone density. The women, ranging in age from 45 to 70, were in good general health and had no history of

myocardial infarction, angina, or stroke, yet were considered at risk of developing coronary artery disease.

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

"We have shown reduced systemic inflammation, but the next step would be to see if that could result in

[see JADA pg 6](#)

## Nebraskans collaborate with researchers from New York to Finland

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

At the heart of the effort were Dr. Jeffrey Payne and Dr. Richard Reinhardt of the UNMC College of Dentistry.

Payne, associate dean for research for the college, said today's research projects tend to be collaborative efforts involving experts from multiple institutions. Collaboration is needed to solve today's complex problems, he said. Technology, including email, electronic document sharing, and conference calls, makes collaborating across the country and the continent possible.

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

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



Thyagaseely "Sheela" Premaraj, BDS, PhD

## New Faculty

Thyagaseely "Sheela" Premaraj, BDS, PhD, Assistant Professor, UNMC College of Dentistry, Department of Growth and Development

**Education:** Graduate of the UNMC College of Dentistry Orthodontic Program, receiving her orthodontic certificate in 2010; PhD in molecular microbiology, 2001, Gifu University School of Medicine, Japan; BDS, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; Diploma in medical microbiology, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**Awards:** For research conducted during her residency in the College of Dentistry Orthodontic Program, she received a Charles Schultz Resident Scholar Award from the American Association of Orthodontists. She also received Japan's Ministry of Education and Culture Graduate Fellowship (MONBUSHO) for her PhD studies.

**Experience:** In her native Sri Lanka, she taught microbiology for dental and medical students at the University of Peradeniya, the only dental school in the country. She also identified specimens in the university hospital's Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Services. Before beginning the orthodontic residency, she worked as a post-doctoral researcher at Ohio State University from 2001 to 2006.

**Responsibilities:** "I love teaching; teaching is my passion," she said. She will work with second-year dental students this summer in Orthodontic Concepts II and Orthodontic Technology classes and soon will begin teaching graduate orthodontic courses and caring for patients in the clinic. She plans to continue her research involving the molecular analysis of bacterial populations in the supra-gingival plaque of orthodontic patients, specifically looking at white spots in the teeth of orthodontic patients. She also participates in her husband's research projects.

**Impressions of Nebraska:** Accustomed to busy cities, Dr. Premaraj wasn't convinced Nebraska was where she wanted to live. But, she said, she has come to love her new hometown, in large part, because of the friendliness of the people she has met and their willingness to take time for others. She now appreciates the "peaceful, quiet, calm life" of Nebraska and the open-door policy of the College of Dentistry administration.

**Family:** She is married to Dr. Sundaralingam Premaraj, assistant professor and Orthodontic Program director at the College of Dentistry. The couple has one daughter, Shyamaly, who is studying at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Dr. Premaraj enjoys meeting people and hearing their life stories, as well as spending time outdoors.

“From the standpoint of recognition for our research group and for the college, this is very positive for Nebraska”

Dr. Jeffrey Payne, UNMC College of Dentistry



JADA continued from pg 4

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

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

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

#### Two-year clinical trial

The 113 women in the study were divided into two groups – one group received a twice-daily regimen of subantimicrobial (low)-dose doxycycline (SDD). The other received look-alike placebo tablets as an adjunct to periodontal maintenance therapy. The study concluded the “two-year SDD regimen in postmenopausal women significantly reduced the serum inflammatory biomarkers hs (high sensitivity assay)-CRP and MMP-9 and, among women more than five years postmenopausal, increased the HDL cholesterol level.”

C-reactive protein (CPR) and matrix metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9) have been identified as risk factors and serum biomarkers in the inflammatory process associated with the development of coronary artery disease. “To date, the mainstay of pharmacological therapy to modulate these and other inflammatory mediators has been the statins,” the researchers said. They noted that tetracyclines, in particular doxycycline at

a low dose, has been shown to modulate MMP activity and reduce the severity of inflammatory diseases like periodontitis and rheumatoid arthritis.

#### Safe and inexpensive

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

“Inflammation increasingly is recognized as a clinically significant factor in the initiation, progression and ultimate instability of atherosclerotic plaques in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD),” the JADA article noted. “Chronic periodontitis is a common inflammatory disease that increasingly is being recognized as having an association with, and potential causal relationship to, CAD. Therapeutic strategies that resolve inflammation associated with both of these diseases and that affect CAD’s onset and progression are needed.”

Payne holds the F. Gene and Rosemary Dixon Endowed Chair in Dentistry. Reinhardt is the B.J. and Ann Moran Professor of Periodontology in the Department of Surgical Specialties. Others involved in the research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, are from the Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the University of Arizona, and the Institute of Dentistry at the University of Helsinki in Finland.

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



Dr. Jessica Meeske and Dr. Merlyn Vogt share the podium at the Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte.

## COD takes show on the road

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Community service is a way of life for David Brown

By Lisa Spellman, UNMC public relations

Community service runs thick in Dr. David Brown's blood.

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

"It was just a part of everyday life," said Brown, professor of oral biology and executive associate dean at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

He brought his passion for giving back when he arrived at the college in 1982 and has made the outreach events the dental school holds the best part of his job. For his commitment, compassion and generosity, Brown received the 2011 UNMC Spirit of Community Service Award at the Annual UNMC Faculty Meeting.

Dean John Reinhardt described Brown as an exemplary leader and tireless worker in the development of the dental school's outreach and community service activities.

"He has the vision to connect community oral health needs with our students' educational needs, and then develop programs that provide exceptional education and service simultaneously," Reinhardt said. "Those activities have risen to the level of regional and national recognition for excellence."

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

Three years ago the college began offering services to homeless and underserved residents through the Dental SHARING Clinic. An evening clinic held four times a year at the college, this clinic has provided more than \$300,000 in care to more than 800 patients.

As a result of these activities, Brown has become a point person for agencies across Nebraska and is regularly contacted for advice about how needy patients can access low cost dental care.

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



D-3 students, from left, Ashley Young, Lori Petersen and Miranda Martin treat patients at Gordon Memorial Hospital during Children's Dental Day.



Pediatric residents Dr. Bryan Skar and Dr. Will Farmer care for a patient in the Box Butte hospital operating room in Alliance during Children's Dental Day in May.

## In Memory

**Dr. Norman Thomas Capsey**, 88, Medford, OR, Class of 1950, died February 14, 2011. He was a highly decorated WWII combat veteran and also served in Korea. He practiced dentistry in Medford and was instrumental in the creation of the Jackson County Children's Dental Clinic for children from low-income families. He retired in 1999.

**Dr. Arthur R. Croft**, 76, Omaha, Class of 1968, died May 28, 2011. Dr. Croft practiced in O'Neill for many years and served as a faculty member at the UNMC College of Dentistry before becoming a faculty member at the Medical College of Georgia. He continued part-time teaching at our college following his retirement from Georgia.

**Dr. Garth Anderson James**, 84, Provo, Utah, Class of 1960, died January 23, 2011. He founded the endodontics program at the UNMC College of Dentistry and was a former chair and long-time faculty member in the Department of Endodontics. He served in the U.S. Navy during WW II, reaching the rank of Lieutenant j.g. in the Medical Service Corp. He was a past president of the American Board of Endodontics, a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, and a member of OKU and Sigma Xi.

**Dr. Fredrick William Kottmeyer**, 75, Broken Bow, Class of 1965, died February 21, 2011. In the military he served in the Dental Detachment from 1957 to 1959. He practiced dentistry in Broken Bow, where he volunteered his office as a dental practice rotation center for the College of Dentistry preceptor program.

**Dr. Thomas M. Moriarty**, 78, Omaha, Class of 1956, died February 15, 2011. He was a 1956 dental graduate and a 1958 orthodontics graduate. He was a part-time faculty member in the Orthodontics Department for more than 40 years.

**Dr. Harold E. Most**, 85, Loveland, CO, Class of 1955, died December 24, 2010. Born in Ogallala, Dr. Most practiced in Denver for 52 years. Before attending dental school, he served in the U.S. Navy on the SS Jean Lafitte Troop Transport ship.

**Dr. Donald Otis**, 79, Pueblo, CO, Class of 1961, died April 12, 2011. He served in the U.S. Navy. He maintained a private practice in Monte Vista, CO, for two years before moving to Pueblo to serve as chief of dentistry at the Colorado State Hospital.

**Dr. Raymond L. Sprecher**, 82, Sun City Hilton Head, SC, Class of 1956, died February 19, 2011. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after high school. After receiving a Ph.D. in physiology from the University of California at San Francisco and a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Alabama Medical Center, he taught at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine for 25 years.

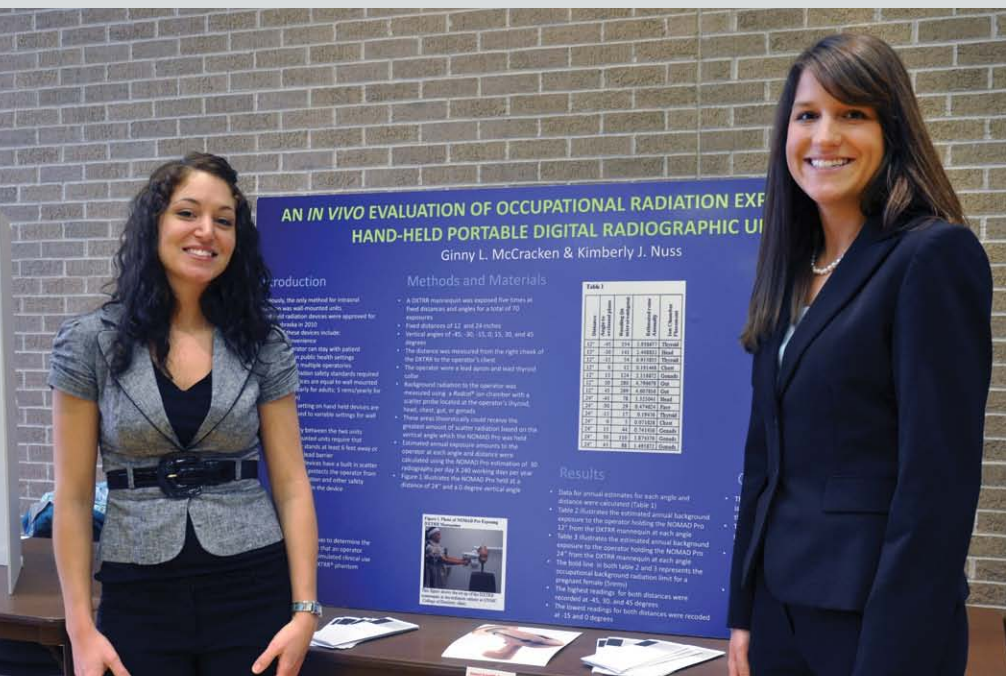
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Dean John Reinhardt, right, and Kevin Gladstone of Dentsply, left, flank the first-place winners in the dental division of the Student Scientific Forum. From left are Gladstone, Aaron Bradley, Miles Berg, and Dean Reinhardt.



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

## Students, faculty honored at 2011 Professionals' Day

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

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

The following awards were presented from the Student Scientific Program:

### Hygiene

**First Ginny L. McCracken and Kimberly J. Nuss**, "An In Vivo Evaluation of Occupational Radiation Exposure of a Hand-held Portable Digital Radiographic Unit." Faculty mentor, Dr. Shawneen Gonzalez.

**Second Whitney Crist and Lauren Hagel-Pitt**, "Abrasiveness of Air-polishing Prophylaxis Powders: A Comparison of Sylc TM to Sodium Bicarbonate." Faculty mentor, Professor Caren Barnes.

**Third Nicole R. Benigno and Amy L. Newby**, "The Efficacy of Active Ingredients in Hand Sanitizer Products Elimination of Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus." Faculty mentor, Professor Caren Barnes.

### Dental

**First Miles Berg and Aaron Bradley**, "Impact of Alendronate/Cyclodextrin Drug Carrier on Local Prostaglandin Production." Faculty mentor, Dr. Richard Reinhardt.

**Second Joshua C. Kats**, "UV Resistance and Color Stability of Polymer-based Facial Prostheses Due to Titanium Nano-particle Coatings." Faculty mentor, Dr. Mark Beatty.

**Third Brienne Lineweber and Ashley Young**, "Microscopic Variations in Tobacco Pouch Keratosis: A Retrospective Study." Faculty mentor, Dr. Nagamani Narayana.

### Graduate

**First Dr. Pota A. Rakes**, "Pharmaco-Manipulation for Statin-Induced Bone Growth: Impact of Local and Systemic Alendronate." Faculty mentor, Dr. Richard Reinhardt.

**Second Dr. Tariq Alsmadi and Dr. Chang Chih Liu**, "Human Dental Pulp Cell (HDPC) Differentiation into Odontoblast Is Induced in Response to Bone Morphogenetic Protein 2 (MBP2) Signaling." Faculty mentor, Dr. Ali Nawshad.

### Other Student Awards

**Pierre Fauchard Academy Dental Student Scholarship Award: Ryan Hajek**

**2011 ADA/Dentsply Student Clinician Program Award: Miles Berg**

**Excellence in Practice Management Awards: Daniell J. Buse**, first; **Michael P. Sullivan**, second; **Kevin R. Reiners**, third.

### Faculty Awards

**Dr. Kenneth Batenhorst Memorial Faculty Award, established by Dr. David Rallis: Dr. James Jenkins**

**Certificate of Appreciation Award: Dr. Steve Anderson**

**Faculty Recognition Awards from Dental Classes: Dr. Larry Crouch, Dr. Faika Abdelmegid, Dr. Yosh Ameku, Dr. Merlyn Vogt, Dr. Ernest Sigler, Dr. Michael Houk, and Dr. John Giddings**

**Faculty Recognition Awards from Dental Hygiene Classes: Heather Hessheimer, Brenda Utecht, and Dr. Ernest Sigler**

### Staff Recognition

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

## Hygienists celebrate 45 years of high standards

When the first 10 dental hygiene students arrived in the fall of 1964, they started classes in a half-finished basement in the University of Nebraska Student Health Center. They were in class eight hours a day and had clinic or lab every afternoon. And when they graduated two years later, their class ranked second in the country on the national board exam.

The scores on the national boards were a good indication, the director said later, that the new curriculum was meeting the mark high for classes to come. As it turns out, the Class of 2011 was no exception. The class recorded a 100 percent, first-time pass rate on the Central Regional Dental Testing Service exam and the national board exam.

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

Pam Hughes, RDH, MS, spoke to more than 100 alumni on "Women's Aging Complexities: The 2011 Oral Health Connection." Hughes holds a faculty position at the Ostrow School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California and is past president of the California Dental Hygiene Educators' Association and the California Dental Hygienists' Association.



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

# Doctor of Dental Surgery Class of 2011



## Career Plans, as of May 2011

**Vanessa Leslye Barra** has been accepted into the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency program at Lutheran Medical Center in Boston.

**Veronica Cinthia Barra** will enter private practice in Nebraska.

**Daniell Jo Buse** will enter the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

**Angela Kay Cook** will enter the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency Program at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS.

**Travis R. Dickey** will enter private practice in Rushville, NE.

**Michael Dale Eickman** plans to enter private practice in Thief River Falls, MN.

**Jared Stephens Fox** will enter private practice in Hutchinson, KS.

**Danielle L. Freburg-Hoffmeister** has been accepted into the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency program at the University of Florida.

**Sarah Elizabeth Glatt** will participate in the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program at the Children's Hospital in Aurora, CO.

**Melissa Diane Guerrero** will return to her hometown of Grand Island where she will enter private practice.

**Jessica Lynn Hanson** will relocate to Greeley, CO, where she will enter private practice.

**Kaylene Ann Harms** will enter private practice in Crawford and Alliance, NE.

**Kimberly A. Heinemann** will enter private practice with her father in Flandreau and Dell Rapids, SD.

**Jason Ray Jones** will return to his hometown of Kearney where he will enter private practice.

**Jennifer Marie Jones** has been accepted into UNMC's General Practice Residency program in Omaha.

**Addison James Killeen** will enter private practice in Seward, NE.

**James William Koll** will enter the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency program at Elmdorf-Richardson Air Force Base in Anchorage, AK.

**Abbey Kathleen Krienke** will enter private practice in O'Neill, NE.

**Aaron David Larsen** will return to his home state of Wyoming where he will enter private practice in Casper and Glenrock.

**Billy B. Laun, II** will enter the Advanced Training Program at LSU Health Sciences in New Orleans.

**Benjamin Eugene Leeper** will relocate to Casper, WY, where he will enter private practice.

**Ryan Paul Lehmkuhler** will return to his home town of Dodge City, KS, where he will enter private practice.

**Amber Lea Meyer** will return to her home state of South Dakota where she will enter private practice in Watertown.

**Carol Lynn Mills** will enter private practice in Lincoln.

**Elizabeth Ann Naber** will relocate to Washington, DC, where she will enter private practice.

**Minh Cong Nguyen** will enter private practice.

**Callista Marie Owen** has been accepted into the College of Dentistry's Orthodontic Residency Program.

**Sunny Rajendra Patel** has been accepted into the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

**Esther P. Pedersen** will relocate to Overland Park, KS, where she will enter private practice.

**Anne Elizabeth Pillar** will enter private practice with her father in Sioux Falls, SD.

**Noah Luke Piskorski** will enter Private Practice in Burwell, NE.

**Kaitlin A. Powell** will enter private practice in McCook and Imperial, NE.

**Ashley Anne Rainbolt** plans to enter private practice with the location to be determined.

**Kevin Ray Reiners** will enter private practice in Lincoln.

**Amy Marie Ruf** is exploring opportunities in private practice.

**Jennifer Rae Sarsland** will return to her hometown of Bowman, ND, where she will enter private practice.

**Kari Ann Sims** has been accepted into the Pediatric Dentistry Residency and Public Health program at the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Chad Michael Snow** will enter the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at Idaho State University in Boise.

**Jessamy Jae Stengle** will enter the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

**Michael Patrick Sullivan** will enter private practice in Geneva, NE.

**KoKo Tacha** will enter the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency program at the University of Alabama.

**Nathan Eugene Thomas** has been accepted into the Orthodontic Residency program at the University of Buffalo, State University of New York.

**Rebecca A. Vis** will relocate to Minnesota where she will enter private practice in Luverne.

# Dental Hygiene Class of 2011

## Career Plans, as of May 2011

### Lincoln

**Jessica Marie Bruggeman** is pursuing a career in private practice.

**Whitney Morgan Crist** is pursuing a position in private practice.

**Lauren Hagel-Pitt** will enter private practice in Lincoln.

**Danica Jo Harris** is undecided at this time.

**Rebekah Marie Horn** is exploring career opportunities.

**Toshia R. Jueden** will enter private practice with the location to be determined.

**Kelsey P. Kmiecik** is exploring opportunities in private practice.

**Blair L. Krska** is undecided at this time.

**Ginny L. McCracken** is exploring career opportunities.

**Kimberly Jo Nuss** has accepted a position in private practice in Lincoln.

**Kristen Ann Pankoke** will enter private practice with the location to be determined.

**Jacqueline Kay Berthelsen Reid** says her plans are undetermined.

**Stephanie Jo Schwindt** will enter private practice.

**Laura Thames** says her plans are undecided at this time.

**Marina Titov** is exploring career opportunities.

**Leslie Elaine Van Gerpen** is returning to her home state of South Dakota where she will enter private practice in Mitchell.

**Sarah Lyn Vann** says her plans are undecided at this time.

**Jaycee R. Weidner** is exploring opportunities in private practice.

**Kristin A. Wendt** is exploring career opportunities.

**Michelle A. Wooten** is exploring opportunities in private practice.



### West Division

**Nicole R. Benigno** is exploring job opportunities in private practice.

**Samantha Kay Libsack** plans to enter private practice.

**Amy Lynn Newby** will enter private practice.

**Anne Elizabeth Rutledge** will return to her home state of Colorado where she will enter private practice in Denver.



Dean John Reinhardt celebrates the day with graduates from the West Division Dental Hygiene Program in Gering, from left, Nicole Benigno, Samantha Libsack, Amy Newby and Anne Rutledge, along with faculty member Nicole Fritschie.

# Commencement Day Memories



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



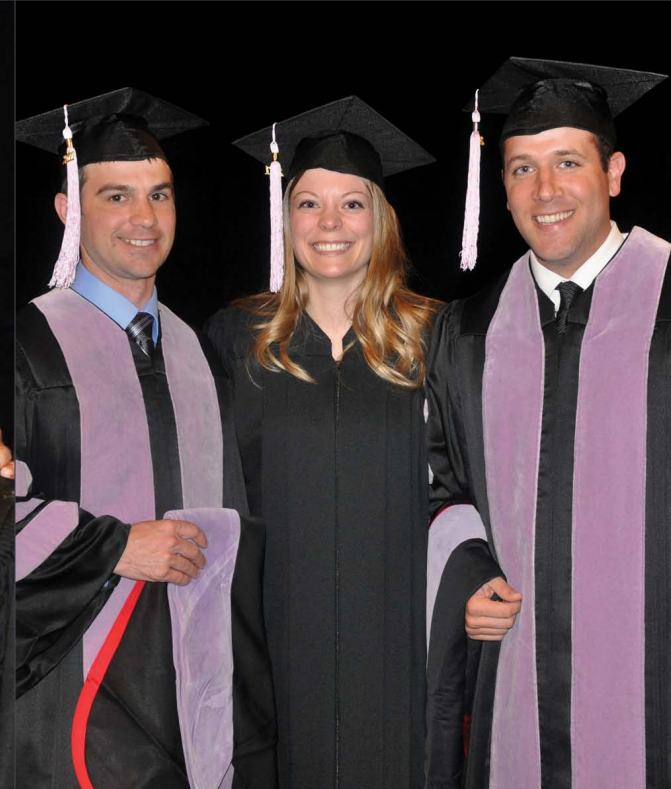
Dental graduates, Sunny Patel and Esther Pedersen



Left to right: Dental Hygiene graduates, Marina Titov, Danica Harris, and Kristen Pankoke



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



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



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



# UNMC College of Dentistry Annual Homecoming Reunion

September 16-17

see [www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry) for more information



## Family, Friends and Football in September

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

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

Speakers for the continuing education course, Sept. 16, will be alumnae, Dr. Amy Killeen, Class of 2006, and Dr. Tegwyn Hughes Brickhouse, Class of 1996.

Brickhouse, who will speak on "Dental Pearls for Patients with Special Needs," is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry. After graduating with her dental degree at Nebraska, she received

her pediatric dentistry specialty training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and she earned a PhD in epidemiology at the UNC School of Public Health. She is chair of the Virginia Oral Health Coalition and a consultant to the Virginia Division of Dental Health's Bright Smiles Program.

Killeen, who will speak on "Contemporary Periodontics: Treating and Maintaining Complex Periodontal Patients," received her Certificate in Periodontics in 2010 and her MS in 2011 from the UNMC College of Dentistry. She is a member of the American Association of Periodontics and the Academy of Osseointegration. In addition to private practices in Lincoln and Omaha, she is a clinical instructor in undergraduate and graduate periodontics at the College of Dentistry.

Registration for the CE course will begin at 8 a.m. at the Embassy Suites. The

course will be followed by a luncheon at 12:15 p.m. at the Embassy Suites. Guest speaker will be Matt Davison, color analyst for Husker Sports Network and president of Creating Captains Foundation.

Students will guide tours of the dental college from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 16 and from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Sept. 17 during the pre-game festivities.

Evening events on Sept. 16 begin with a cocktail hour at 5 p.m., followed by the banquet at 6 p.m. and the awards and recognition at 7 p.m. Honor classes are '51, '56, '61, '71, '81, '86, '91, '01 and '06. Commemorative pins will be presented to the Classes of 1951, 1961 and 1986.

The Dental Museum will be open to the public the week of Homecoming, Sept. 12 through Sept. 17.

## UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association Award Recipients for 2011

### *Honorary Life Membership Award*

#### **Dr. Michael Molvar**

Dr. Michael Molvar received his DDS degree from the University of Washington School of Dentistry in 1968 and his MS degree from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 1983. He joined the faculty of the UNMC College of Dentistry as an assistant professor in the Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry in 1983, and served the college very well in a variety of administrative positions for more than 25 years. He was assistant dean for patient services and quality officer and chair or interim chair of two departments. Dr. Molvar retired in June 2010.

### *Alumni Achievement Award*

#### **Dr. Curtis Kuster**

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

### *Outstanding Educator Award*

#### **Dr. John "Pat" Giddings**

Dr. John "Pat" Giddings received his DDS degree from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry in 1975. He began teaching part time at the college in 1975 and has taught part time in the areas of Adult Restorative Dentistry and Oral Biology for the past 36 years. He has received many teaching awards during his time at the college. Dr. Giddings also maintains a private practice in Syracuse. He is retired from the U.S. Navy.

### *Distinguished Service Award*

#### **Dr. Max Martin, Jr.**

Dr. Max Martin received his DDS degree from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry in 1970. He taught full time at the College of Dentistry the first year in oral surgery. He has taught part time in the Department of Surgical Specialties for the past 41 years. He was in private practice in Lincoln for 40 years, until his recent retirement. Dr. Martin is past president of the Lincoln District Dental Association and the Nebraska Dental Association. He also is past president of the American College of Dentists and the Alpha Alpha chapter of OKU.

## We enjoy hearing from you!

Please send your professional and personal news to

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[www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry)



## Teachers, students recognized at Honors Banquet

Six members of the UNMC College of Dentistry Dental Class of 2011 were elected to Omicron Kappa Upsilon. They are Jessamy Stengle, Sunny Patel, Kimberly Heinemann, Aaron Larsen, Daniell Buse, and Nathan Thomas.

The new members were elected in January and installed in May at the annual Honors Banquet at the Wick Alumni Center.

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

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

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

Also honored at the banquet were Danica Harris and Lauren Hagel-Pitt, 2011 dental hygiene graduates and new members of Sigma Phi Alpha, a national dental hygiene honor society.



Jennifer Harn, recipient of the four-year teaching award, with Dr. Larry Haisch.

Miles Berg, left, receives the Kramer Award of Excellence from Dr. William S. Kramer, right, with Dr. James Jenkins in the center.

## Kudos

Congratulations to members of the **2010 Dental Hygiene** class and to the teachers who taught them. The 2010 graduates recorded a 100 percent, first-attempt pass rate on the Central Regional Dental Testing Service examination. Only 20 of the 64 programs tested recorded 100 percent, first-attempt pass rates. The average score for UNMC College of Dentistry hygiene students was 10 points above the average score of students in the 64 programs. The Nebraska students' average score ranked second among the 64 schools.

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

**Ryan Hajek**, a fourth-year dental student, has been elected to serve as the national chair of the Council of Students, Residents, and Fellows of the American Dental Education Association.

**Britt Marsh**, a second-year dental student, has been elected to serve as regional liaison of the council.

**Kyle Beulke**, a third-year dental student, has been elected District 8 trustee for the American Student Dental Association, representing the five dental schools in the region. Kyle replaces **Jack Huebner**, a fourth-year dental student. This is believed to be the first time two Nebraska students have been elected

in consecutive years to represent the region. In addition, Jack has been chosen as the national ASDA representative on the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure. He also has been selected as the ASDA District 8 delegate to the House of Delegates meeting at the ADA annual session in the fall in Las Vegas.

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

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

Congratulations to **Gwen Hlava**, RDH, MS, professor and chair of the Dental Hygiene Department, for receiving a Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students. The certificate was presented in February by the Parents Association and the Teaching Council of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



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

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

**Susan Norby**

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# Cornhusker Impressions

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

in this  
issue

**4 JADA's feature article on UNMC College of Dentistry**

It is believed to be the first time that research at the College of Dentistry has been featured on the cover of the well-read dental journal.

**10 2011 Professionals' Day, students and faculty honored**

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

**18 Upcoming UNMC College of Dentistry Reunion**

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