

# Global Connections

Quarterly Newsletter from the Office of Global Engagement  
July 2023



## A message from the Office of Global Engagement



Our staff is preparing for the arrival of our international students in July and August for the 2023 fall semester. An in-person, two-day International Student Orientation is planned for Thursday and Friday, August 10-11, to help students acclimate to Omaha and UNMC. The Global Ambassador Program is underway and students are being matched. This program also helps the students have a smooth transition and successful time at UNMC.

In June, a 12-member delegation from Uzbekistan visited UNMC. The delegation members met with several representatives from the colleges and research to look at possible collaborations with UNMC.

We are pleased to congratulate the International Student Association (ISA) for being the recipient of the Collaboration Award and for Nidhi Dwivedi, president of ISA, for being selected for the Student Impact Award. See the article below for more information.

This issue of Global Connections also features two major cultural events that were held at UNMC in April.

Please follow our [website](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay in touch with us. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about our programs.

Jane L. Meza  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/Global Engagement/Strategic Planning

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## International Student Association (ISA) and Dwivedi win awards



Dele Davies, MD, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presents the Student Impact Award to Nidhi Dwivedi.



Dele Davies, MD, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presents the Collaboration Award to Sunny Kumar, ISA representative.

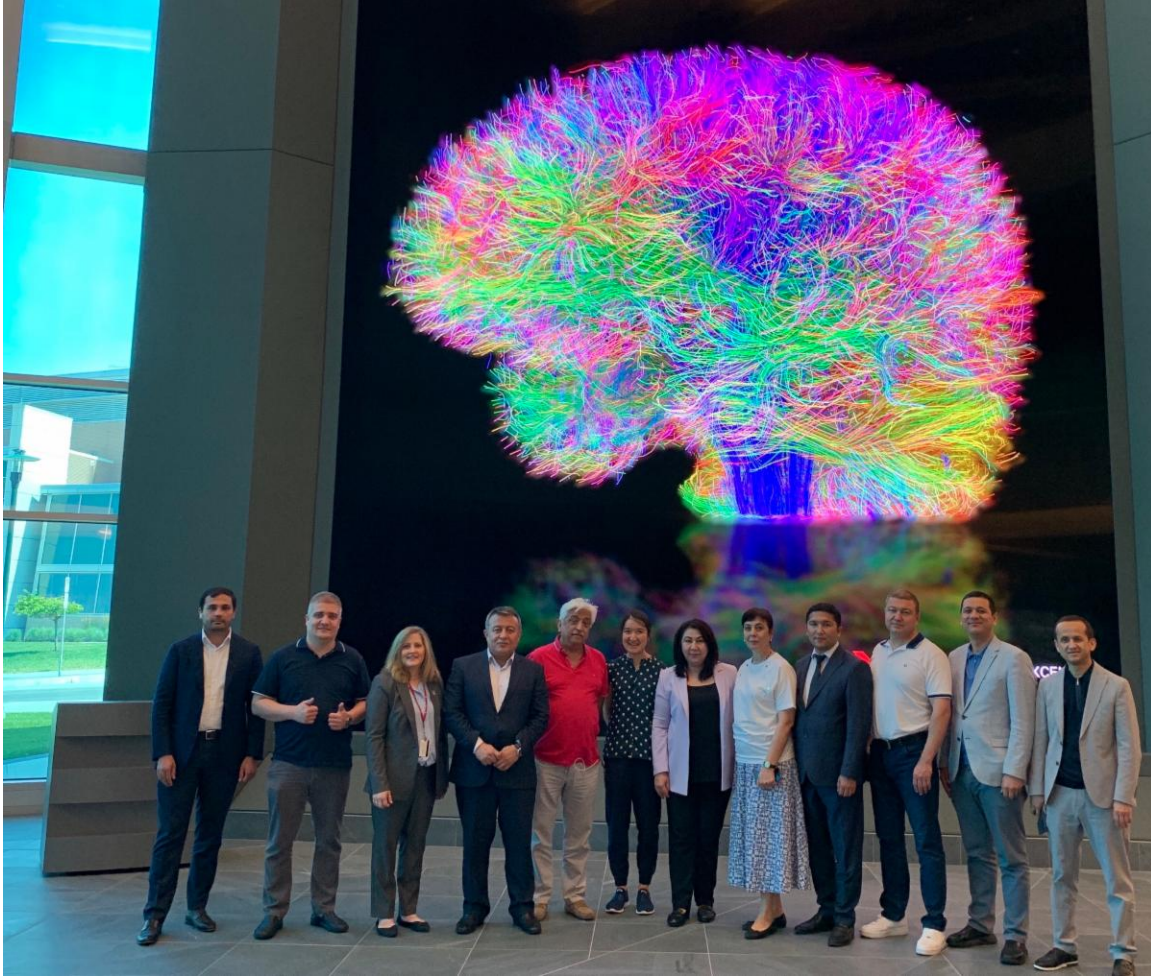
The International Student Association was awarded the Collaboration Award and Nidhi Dwivedi, president of the International Student Association, was the recipient of the Student Impact Award. The UNMC Office of Community Engagement, the Student Life Inclusion and Diversity Office and the UNMC Student Senate hosted the iTEACH Student Awards Ceremony to celebrate student accomplishments in 2022-2023.

The Collaboration Award recognizes a group of organizations (two or more) that have successfully worked together to sponsor or host an event, program or act of service that has benefited the UNMC campus community. This award was given by Student Life, Inclusion and Diversity Office.

The Student Impact Award recognizes a student who embodies leadership qualities and provides a positive influence to the education and overall experience of UNMC students. One recipient is selected for each college. This award was given by the UNMC Student Senate.

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## Uzbekistan delegation visits UNMC



A 12-member delegation from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan visited UNMC June 26-27. The Minister and a smaller delegation visited UNMC in early May. This delegation was following up to explore collaborations between UNMC and the Uzbekistan Ministry of Health on various educational and research collaborations.

“We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan,” said Jane Meza, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs/global engagement/strategic planning.

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**Holi, festival of colors, draws more than 300 people**





More than 300 UNMC students, faculty, staff and friends joined together for Holi, the Festival of Colors, which was held Saturday, April 8 in the Ruth & Bill Scott Student Plaza. As a celebration of diversity, the event provided an opportunity for the UNMC community to meet people from different cultural backgrounds and learn more about each other's traditions.

Holi was sponsored by the International Student Association and the UNMC Office of Global Engagement.

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## **Eid-Al-Fitr Celebration brings people together**



The Eid-Al-Fitr Celebration was attended by 65 people on April 29. The Celebration was an opportunity for the UNMC community to value, educate or spread awareness on the cultural, religious and moral significance of the festival. People of all backgrounds and religions were welcome to attend and celebrate the holiday.

The Eid-Al-Fitr Celebration was coordinated by the International Student Association and sponsored by the UNMC Office of Global Engagement.



"Purity of Soul" by Devashri Gandhi was the grand prize winner.

### Office of Global Engagement announces 2023 International photo contest winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's international photo contest.

[Please click here for a list of the winning photos.](#)

[Click here to view all of the photo submissions.](#)

### Medical supplies collected for Ukraine

The Student Association for Global Health (SAGH) collected 83 medical items to send to Ukraine through Olga Taraschenko, MD, associate professor, department of neurological sciences, and her group, who spear-head fundraising efforts to purchase and ship



urgently needed medical supplies to Ukraine, their homeland. Items included items such as Medline gauze sponges, Steri Strips packs, sterile pads and tourniquets.

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## **New International Student Association board members elected**

The International Student Association (ISA) recently elected its 2023-2024 Board of Directors.

President: Pratima Raut, College of Medicine

Vice President: Suchita Vishwakarma, College of Pharmacy

Secretary: Soumi Basu, College of Medicine

Treasurer: Nivedeta Krishna Kumar, College of Medicine

Social Media Chair: Mahek Fatima, College of Medicine

Interpersonal Chair: Lelisse Umeta, Eppley Institute

Publicity Chair: Deepan Chatterjee, College of Medicine

International Student Ambassadors: Sanjali Panigrahi, College of Pharmacy and Devashri Gandhi, College of Medicine

Diversity and Inclusion Chair: Sakshi Khairnar, College of Pharmacy

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 ISA Board members. The Office of Global Engagement is looking forward to collaborating with the new Board.

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## **Recent achievements by UNMC faculty & staff**

### **Pediatric Spanish immersion program graduates first student**

Brooklyn Leitch, MD, who is finishing a two-year hospital medicine fellowship in the UNMC Department of Pediatrics, recently became the first graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine's pediatric department's innovative longitudinal individualized Spanish language program, ¡Sí! (Spanish Individualized), offered through UNMC's Pediatric Global Health Track.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### **UNMC hosts women's environmental health faculty group from Pakistan**

In a first-time partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Afghanistan Studies, the Water, Climate and Health Program in the UNMC College of Public Health recently hosted 10 environmental health faculty from universities in Pakistan.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### **Dr. Mirnics is attending Special Olympics International**

Karoly Mirnics, MD, PhD, has never lobbed a bocce ball before. But Dr. Mirnics, director of the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute, will try his hand at the sport as a unified athlete this month during the Special Olympics International World Games in Berlin.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### **Med center grant will aid vision care in West Africa**

UNMC and the Truhlsen Eye Institute will team with partners from across the U.S. to develop and support a new West African Center of Excellence in Vision Care.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### **WHO expert will speak today on Ebola experience**

The UNMC College of Public Health will host Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam, MD, for a grand rounds presentation today (June 12) titled “Sharing Experience: The 2022 Ebola Outbreak in Uganda.”

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### **UNMC to train Ukrainian emergency and public health professionals**

Scholarships supported by UNMC will allow up to 10 Ukrainian citizens to pursue online certificates and master’s degrees in emergency preparedness at the UNMC College of Public Health.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### **UNMC training proves valuable in Sudan**

As the Sudan is facing the upheaval of war, some UNMC-trained Sudanese are still providing medical services on the ground, even as others have been forced to flee their homeland and the program that trained them is in limbo.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### **Graduating public health student following her mother’s footsteps**

When Grace Mabiata-Maye, MD, was about 9 years old, her mother, who owned a small, rural maternal and child health clinic in the Republic of Congo at the time, asked her to help deliver a baby amid a nighttime electricity outage.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### **iEXCEL announces Holomedicine Association partnership**

Holomedicine® Association, a global network of experts in medicine, science, technology and policy, has recently named UNMC’s interprofessional Experiential Center for Enduring Learning (iEXCEL) a Healthcare Institution Partner.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)



## **Request for ideas**

Have an idea for a story or want to discuss an international program or event?

Have a suggestion for our newsletter?

Please contact us at [global@unmc.edu](mailto:global@unmc.edu) with your ideas and suggestions/comments.

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