



# Graduate Posts

An electronic newsletter from UNMC Graduate Studies

Spring 2014

## A message from Dr. Davies



Welcome to the inaugural issue of "Graduate Posts," a newsletter for UNMC Graduate Studies students and alumni. We hope that this newsletter, which will be published once a semester, will serve as an avenue to increase communication and build camaraderie for Graduate Studies alumni and current students. We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue, and if you have any suggestions about how to make it better and more useful, please contact the [newsletter editor](#).

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## Inaugural Graduate Studies matriculation a hit

In the wake of the first matriculation ceremony for Graduate Studies, held last August, graduating M.S. and Ph.D. students can look forward to the inaugural convocation ceremony this May. The ceremonies are part of a new emphasis on creating a sense of community and a stronger sense of identity for graduate students.

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**Second from right, H. Dele Davies, M.D., dean of graduate studies, greets incoming students at last year's inaugural graduate studies matriculation ceremony.**

## Dr. Leuschen heads new GS Alumni Chapter

Longtime UNMC faculty member M. Patricia Leuschen, Ph.D., was always invited to the university's annual campuswide Alumni Day. However, she couldn't help but wonder why she was always invited as a faculty member, despite the fact that she held two graduate degrees from UNMC.



"I've mentored or taught students in these other colleges and schools, but I'm an alumna, too," she'd think. Why was there no alumni association chapter for graduate studies?

Now, there is and Dr. Leuschen is at the helm, as the inaugural chair of the chapter's board.

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## Graduate Studies staff here to help

From application to dissertation, the staff of the Office of Graduate Studies are on hand to help UNMC students, from ushering them through the admissions process to accepting the final paper -- yes, it's still paper -- version of the dissertation that marks many students' completion of the program.

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## Alumni Spotlight: Jennifer L. Pluznick, Ph.D.

Each issue of Graduate Posts will profile one of our successful alumni. Today we spotlight Jen Pluznick, a UNMC alumnus whose postdoctoral training was completed at Yale and who is currently a tenure-track faculty member at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Pluznick's research has attracted the interest of the popular press (The Economist and the BBC). She also is active in the scientific community, serving on the editorial board of the American Journal of Physiology Renal Physiology and sitting on the Joint Program Committee of the American Physiological Society.



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## Jacob Contreras: A student, but also a mentor



In each issue of Graduate Posts, we will highlight a current or former Graduate Studies student. Today, we learn more about Jacob Contreras, a graduate student in the cancer research graduate program.

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## Frequently asked question

Each issue of Graduate Posts will highlight a frequently asked question, to be answered by the staff or leadership of UNMC Graduate Studies. This issue's question:

**What is the difference between the Graduate College and Graduate Studies? Aren't they synonymous?**

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