



College of Nursing Newsletter

August 2020

Kris Claussen, Editor



From the Desk of...

DEAN JULIE SEBASTIAN

Beginning ... and Continuing

Dear College of Nursing Family,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2020-21 Academic Year! It always seems strange to me how quickly the summer months pass by, and this year it is especially true. Everyone has been busy addressing COVID-19 and crucially, having deep discussions about equity, discrimination, implicit bias, and racism. And yet, while we are excited about beginning the new academic year, in many ways our work is continuing from that which we have been doing over the past seven or so months in the case of the pandemic, and over more than one hundred years in the case of deeply embedded inequities and discrimination. For those who are new to the College – incoming students, new faculty and staff members – this is an exciting beginning. And for those who are continuing, the new year is also an exciting beginning, as we continue our journeys of growth, discovery, and learning.

This reminds me of the work of Barry Johnson on “both-and”ⁱ thinking, popularized in his seminal book, *Polarity Management*ⁱⁱ. As nurses, students, and staff, we frequently must use “both-and” thinking to wrestle with complex problems. Johnson advises us that much of life is complex, not simply a series of problems to be solved, but situations that rest on ambiguity and sometimes seemingly contradictory data. These situations require critical thinking, openness to multiple perspectives, and originality. This is what a university education is all about! Listening intently, pausing to reflect, learning from science and the values and cultures of multiple perspectives, asking “why” questions, investigating our questions, these all characterize a great university. So, I welcome you to a year of “both-and” thinking, and a year of learning together and asking even more questions together.

I hope you will be able to watch the virtual investiture of the new University of Nebraska President, Ted Carter, at 2:00 pm (CT) on Friday, August 14, 2020. President Carter is absolutely dedicated to growing and advancing the University of Nebraska and all of its vibrancy, depth, and potential for the future. He believes, as we do, that investing in people through education is key to moving Nebraska and the nation forward and making life better for everyone. He is going to share his vision for the next five years, which I know will be futuristic, bold, and full of ideas that highlight the talent and promise of students, faculty, and staff. Information is available at <https://nebraska.edu/president/investiture>.

The great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream”. Let’s use the challenges presented to us by COVID-19 and our convictions that we must build a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive culture to ensure health for all and to reach high for our dreams – our mission and vision, and our individual goals and hopes for the future. As we move toward the last few months of the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, let’s be intentional about transforming our world to support healthy lives and healthy communities. I know we as a College of Nursing family will use “both-and” thinking to flourish, and we will celebrate new beginnings and recommit to the continuing work to which we are dedicated!

Welcome and thank you for all you do to turn these complexities into a beautiful composition that helps us achieve our shared mission and vision!

Julie Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

ⁱ Johnson, B. (2014). *Polarity Management: Identifying and Managing Unsolvable Problems*. Amherst, MA: HRD Press. p. 24.

ⁱⁱ Johnson, B. (1992). *Polarity Management: Identifying and Managing Unsolvable Problems*. Amherst, MA: HRD.

STARS among us!

LEADERSHIP CHANGES—Dean Sebastian announces leadership changes beginning August 1.



Susan Barnason, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, CEN, CCRN, FAEN, FAHA, FAAN, is stepping down as the Director of the DNP Program. Dr. Barnason has served in that position as long as I have been here, and I have relied on her greatly for the smooth acceleration and running of this important program. She has spearheaded the establishment of the BSN-DNP as well as pioneering the use of group DNP scholarly projects as a method for growing the program and maintaining high standards while ensuring the capacity within the CON. She has also established wonderful relationships with multiple clinical agencies across the state where our students have completed their scholarly projects. Under her leadership we now have more than 110 DNP students at UNMC!

Academic administration can easily be an all-consuming series of tasks. Dr. Barnason has decided to step down so that she can refocus her energies on her research interests. I thank her for her strong presence and the skills and enthusiasm that she brought to the development and nurturing of the DNP program here at UNMC.

Amy Ford, DNP, APRN-NP, WHNP-BC, MSN Director, will begin on August 1, 2020 to serve as Interim DNP Director for the fall semester. I plan to initiate an internal search for a DNP Director when everyone returns in August, and hope to have the new Director in place for January 2021 at the latest.



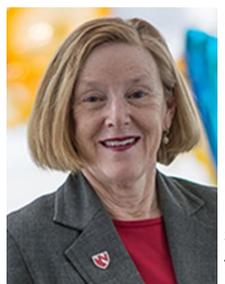
Nancy Waltman, PhD, RN, APRN-NP, is stepping down as specialty track coordinator for the adult-gero primary care NP program. She has served in this specialty for many years, and as coordinator for several of the last five years. I have really appreciated her willingness to serve as circumstances have been in flux over the last several years. Dr. Waltman will continue her research but step down from her other faculty responsibilities.

Claudia Chaperon, PhD, APRN, GNP-BC, will serve as the Adult-gero Primary Care Specialty Track Coordinator, also beginning August 1, 2020.



I am very thankful to be blessed with such strong leaders at UNMC CON. Please join me in thanking Drs. Barnason and Waltman for their stellar service, and I know you will extend your usual enthusiastic support to Drs. Ford and Chaperon.

NIEDFELT NURSING RESEARCH CENTER (NNRC) UNDERGOES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION IN 2020



On July 1, 2020, Robin Lally, PhD, MS, BA, RN, AOCN, FAAN assumed the role of Interim Associate Dean for Research succeeding Dr. Ann Berger in this role. Dr. Berger will continue to focus on the research mission of the College of Nursing as the Dorothy Hodges Olson Endowed Chair in Nursing and Lead of Cancer Prevention & Control Developing Program for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center as well as mentoring research-focused faculty and pursuing own research. Dr. Lally, recently named the Bertha L. Pankratz Professor of Nursing, focuses her research on eHealth self-management to address cancer-distress among the newly diagnosed and long-term cancer survivors and their families as well as the needs of individuals challenged by cancer health-disparities and societal bias. Dr. Lally's research also focuses on



timely issues, leading an effort with colleagues in the College of Nursing and Nebraska Medicine to understand and implement interventions to address the wellness needs of Nebraska Medicine's workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic and collaborating with a national Oncology Nursing Society team of nurse scientists to identify evidence based strategies to address racism and inclusivity in nursing. Dr. Lally mentors PhD students, teaches N917 State of the Science with Dr. Myra Schmaderer, and chairs the Post-doctoral Committee for the CON. In the Interim ADR position, she seeks to create and maintain a culture of inclusion and support for faculty and students pursuing research scholarship, enabling them to achieve their full potential to transform lives through discovery and implementation of high quality research evidence. In her first month as Interim ADR, Dr. Lally focused on assessing needs and adjusting roles among team members in the NNRC (Debbie Bergman, Lauren Lesiak, and Matthew Fitzgerald) and meeting with early-career research-focused faculty in concert with Dr. Berger as they continue a smooth transition. Dr. Lally plans to meet in the coming months with all faculty engaged in research to better understand their needs and goals; continue collaboration with Center for Patient, Family, and Community Engagement in Chronic Care Management (CENTRIC) leaders and others to identify resources and implement strategies to support faculty's research productivity. "I am honored to assume the Interim ADR position and have the opportunity to work with the College of Nursing leadership and our committed nurse scientists and students to improve the lives of people, sick and well, through innovative and clinically translatable research," says Lally.

HRSA GRANT AWARD



Therese (Terri) Mathews, PhD, APRN-NP, BCBA-D, and her team have been awarded the first of three years of funding for a HRSA grant entitled “Increasing Access to Integrated Behavioral and Primary Care Services Through APRN-Led Teams”. In this project, the team will partner with two healthcare organizations, one rural and one urban, “to increase the capacity of advanced practice nurses to lead interdisciplinary teams to provide quality behavioral health services in primary care”. Through this project, behavioral health will be strengthened, and both professional and community capacity will be augmented.

CON SEED RESEARCH AWARD



The application submitted by Sue Barnason, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, CEN, CCRN, FAEN, FAHA, FAAN titled: “Handoff to Home: Guidance for Patients with Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease after Hospitalization” was selected for the College of Nursing’s Seed Research Award in July 2020. Acute exacerbation of COPD is the third leading medical cause of hospitalization. A major threat to hospitalized patients with COPD exacerbation is an increased likelihood of frequency and/or intensity of future exacerbations that accelerate decline in respiratory function and increased likelihood of frequency and/or intensity of future exacerbations that accelerate decline in respiratory function and increase mortality. The proposed study will address this gap in research to improve outcomes for patients hospitalized with COPD and concomitant COPD-related multimorbidity. The purpose of this

study is to evaluate the feasibility and impact of delivering a *Handoff Guidance*[™] (HG[™]) m-health intervention for COPD-related multimorbid patients following hospitalization for COPD.

UNMC FACULTY DIVERSITY FUND AWARDS

Mark Darby and Suhasini Kotcherlakota each received a 2020 Diversity Fund Award. UNMC granted six awards in 2020 and UNMC CON received two of them!

The Director of the Diversity Fund Award Dr. Gary Yee described the importance of this award, “*Diversity is a key element of the UNMC community and its values, and we embrace the richness of diversity to promote unity within this community. The Faculty Diversity Fund represents a tangible commitment to achieving these goals and is targeted toward the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty.*” The goal of the Diversity Award is to hire or retain diverse faculty at UNMC. The funding is for faculty development and research.



Mark Darby, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-C Diversity award entitled, “*Finding Truth by Telling Lies*” uses fiction techniques and storytelling to help nursing students integrate the difficult aspects of the nursing experience. This funding will support two initiatives: 1) measure the effectiveness of storytelling in the pedagogy of nursing students; and 2) produce a lasting record of diverse UNMC nursing stories through a competitive selection process.



Suhasini Kotcherlakota, PhD Diversity award entitled, “*Universal Design for Teaching and Learning*” is aimed at engaging faculty in the adoption of the Universal Design Learning principles for teaching and enhancing learner experience at all CON divisions. A long-term goal of this project is to extend the design practices and replicate positive results for interprofessional educators across the NU system and beyond.

SIGMA THETA TAU AWARDS



Seven Sigma: Gamma Pi-at-Large Chapter Awards were recently granted. Of the seven awards given, five recipients are UNMC CON faculty and students.

Elizabeth Mollard, PhD, WHNP-BC, CNM, received the Sigma Theta Tau Sister Patricia Miller Evidenced Based Practice Award for her study “Giving Birth and New Motherhood during the COVID-19 Pandemic”.

Morgan Staver, PhD student/Graduate Research Assistant, Carolyn Hanus, DNP student, Rachel Kunkle, PhD student, and Denise Waterfield, PhD student/Nurse Specialist each received a \$500 Scholarship Award.

MANUSCRIPT PUBLISHED



The COVID-19 pandemic is keeping Elizabeth Beam, PhD, RN, busy these days. Dr. Beam is assistant professor in the UNMC CON and assistant director of research for the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit. Dr. Beam worked with UNMC Strategic Communications to create a video on ‘Making a homemade mask’ which has been used by media outlets throughout Nebraska. It has been connected to many COVID stories in the Omaha World Herald online.

Dr. Beam’s manuscript titled, A simulation approach to measure critical safety behaviors when evaluating training methods for respirator education in healthcare workers was published August 2020 in the [American Journal of Infection Control](#). This resulted in a podcast which you may enjoy

listening to at: <https://www.infectionpreventionspotlight.com/rbif-27> [[infectionpreventionspotlight.com](https://www.infectionpreventionspotlight.com)].

NNRC NEWS—GRANT SUBMISSIONS



Joyce Black, PhD, RN, FAAN—submitted a Subaward with the University of Southern California to the Department of Defense (DOD) entitled, Standardized Pressure Injury Prevention Protocol: Pilot.

Cathrin Carithers, DNP, RN—submitted a USDA grant application titled, Educating Nurses to Practice at the Top of their Scope in Telehealth Care Delivery.



Kelly Gonzales, PhD, APRN-NP, FNP-C—submitted a Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) grant titled, Impact of Faculty Proactive on Nurse Practitioner Education: Student, Faculty & Administrator Perspectives.

Tiffany Moore, PhD, RN—submitted a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 grant application titled, PRIME: Perceived Racism and Metabolomics.



Sheri Rowland, PhD, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC—submitted a Women Investing in Nebraska Grant titled, Bilingüe y Bicultural (Bilingual and Bicultural): Working Together to Advance Health.

Sue Schuelke, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CCRN-K—submitted a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant titled, Virtual Reality Enhanced Active Learning in Telehealth.



COVID - GRANT FUNDING

The below funding from Health Resources and Services Association (HRSA) provides a one-time funding to support activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The awards will be used to train health professionals to provide telehealth enabled COVID-19 screening and testing, case management and outpatient care or to maintain primary care functionality away from physical sites, especially for COVID-19 positive, quarantined, elderly or other individuals at higher risk of illness. The funding will also support workforce training activities, including telehealth equipment purchases, necessary to transition the in-person clinical training of students and clinicians to provide telehealth and other distant care services related to COVID-19.



Kate Fandt, PhD, RN received funding through HRSA for Nurse Education Practice Quality Retention—Registered Nurse in Primary Care—COVID. The focus of this proposal is to supplement current primary care training material with telehealth technology and COVID-19 content materials to assure that all participants in the project have the knowledge, skills, and equipment needed to manage COVID-19 and potential future disasters effectively.

Louise LaFramboise, PhD, RN received funding through HRSA for Nurse Education Practice Quality Retention Veteran Nurses in Primary Care—COVID.

The work for this additional funding will be focused on the use of telehealth technologies to prevent, prepare, and respond during pandemic situations to prevent the spread of current pandemic illnesses, and assess for and manage new and existing medical and mental health conditions.



UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROGRAM

Please welcome Ashtyn Keezer, Sarah Budz, and Kara Lemkau to the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Honors Research Program. This innovative program offers students one-on-one time with dedicated faculty members who have proven success in nursing research. Students are mentored through the research process while conducting their own independent study. They participate in a variety of professional development and learning activities to further explore the role of a PhD prepared nurse scientist. In addition, students are given opportunities to interact with a diverse group of health professions students across colleges at UNMC as part of UNMC's Summer Undergraduate Research Program, present their work at national conferences, earn a stipend for their work, and receive special recognition at graduation.



Ashtyn Keezer:

Hometown: Grand Island, NE;

Project Title: Nurse Practitioner Survey on Cardiorespiratory Fitness Testing;

Mentor: Dr. Sheri Rowland

Why were you interested in the Honors Research Program? I first got my passion for research from watching family members struggle with the detrimental side effects of cancer treatment. After Dr. Hetland met with our class, I knew immediately this program was something I wanted to do to help prepare me for a successful research career down the road. The opportunity to build a strong research background while networking with the amazing research staff at UNMC was too much to pass up so I applied the first chance I got.



Sarah Budz:

Hometown: San Antonio, FL, but grew up in Omaha, NE;

Mentor: Dr. Nick Guenzel

Why were you interested in the Honors Research Program? After doing a research project for my criminal justice degree and having so much fun with it, I became very interested in obtaining a PhD. I was curious of what it would take to obtain one, what I could do with one, and how I could impact others with research. The research program was set up for just that, and though it is hard work, I'm learning so much!



Kara Lemkau:

Hometown: Omaha, NE;

Project Title: Breastfeeding initiation and duration in depressed and non-depressed women who gave birth during COVID-19;

Mentor: Dr. Libby Mollard

Why were you interested in the Honors Research Program? I was interested in the Honors Research Project because I love learning new things and I am always open to new opportunities. I was excited to learn more about research and how I could be a part of an effort beyond myself. Nursing research is such a unique career choice and I wanted to discover if it was a good fit for me.

NEW EMPLOYEES (July 1 to Current)



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Welcome to the UNMC College of Nursing team!

CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION provided by UNMC CON CNE Free Webinars:

FREE WEBINARS:

New Behavioral Health Webinar Series with MHTTC!

Coming Home to Primary Care Pediatric Integrated Health

Last Friday of each month — Noon to 1:00 pm (CT) — 1 contact hour per webinar

<https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/mid-america-mhttc/coming-home-primary-care-pediatric-integrated-behavioral-health>

NETEC COVID-19 Webinar Series

Most Wednesdays and Fridays — Noon to 1:00 pm (CT) — 1 contact hour per webinar

<https://netec.org/education-and-training/>

UNMC Project ECHO: Pain and Substance Use Disorders

1st and 3rd Thursday of each month — Noon to 1:15 pm (CT) — 1 contact hour per webinar

<https://www.unmc.edu/psychiatry/outreach/project-echo.html>

UPCOMING LIVE/VIRTUAL PROGRAMS:

2020 Midwest Radiation Oncology Symposium

Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23, 2020

DRC I, Rm 1002 and via ZOOM — Up to 15.25 contact hours — Saturday: \$100, Sunday: \$100, Both days: \$150

Register before August 14, 2020

<https://www.unmc.edu/cce/catalog/clinicmed/radonc/index.html>

2020 NPQIC Summit

Wednesday September 16, 2020

Virtual Live Meeting via ZOOM — 6.75 contact hours — \$50

Register before September 9, 2020

<https://www.unmc.edu/cce/catalog/clinicmed/npqic2020/index.html>

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Anna Marie Jensen Cramer Lecture

September 28, 2020—Information will be placed on website when available

Virtual meeting via ZOOM

3rd Annual APP Conference APPS: Charting the Course of Care

Friday October 2, 2020

Virtual Live ½ day conference — 8 to Noon (CT) with an additional 6 on-demand presentations available

Up to 9.0 contact hours — \$100

Register before September 28, 2020

<https://app1.unmc.edu/cne/20ce026/registration.cfm>

2nd Annual LEAD 2020 Enriching Experiences for Women in Hematology and Oncology

Friday, October 2, 2020

Virtual Conference with additional on-demand presentations available — contact hours: TBD — FREE

<https://leadoncology.com/>

Building Capacity Toward a Culture of Inclusive Excellence

Thursday October 8, 2020

Virtual Conference via ZOOM — 4.0 contact hours — FREE

Register via ENGAGE: <https://unmc.campuslabs.com/engage/event/5663464>

SAVE THE DATE!

Omaha Women's Health and Wellness Conference

Friday, October 9, 2020

Virtual Conference via ZOOM

CHECK OUT OUR HUGE LIBRARY OF ONLINE CE MODULES

<https://www.unmc.edu/cne/education/online-activities/index.html>

RN HUDDLE PODCASTS AVAILABLE

<https://rnhuddle.unmc.edu/>

Follow us on Social Media!

<https://www.facebook.com/unmc.cne>

https://twitter.com/UNMC_CNE

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER!

LaDonna Tworek

“One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter.” - Henry David Thoreau

I find this quote very appropriate as I liken COVID-19 to the harshness of winter. However, even through COVID everyone must find a little sunshine and joy to carry them through, and I think summer is an opportunity to do that. It is a time of renewal, a time for a trip or an adventure, a time of laziness under the summer sun, a time for family outdoor activities, and so much more.

I was very happy to have so many responses from faculty and staff to my request about “What I Did this Summer.” I think you will enjoy reading these as much as I did—maybe you might even connect with one or two of these folks and ask more about their story.

LaDonna Tworek - So, for me this summer, I spent four days with my granddaughter Teegan who is 15. She loves to do any kind of artwork, so we went to The Pottery Place in Omaha and painted our works of art (which will someday be worth a fortune). Her other favorite thing to do is eat at Spaghetti Works—that girl loves her spaghetti. I do have to also brag a little about granddaughters Emerson (13) and Reesyn (9) whose Nebraska City softball team was declared league champions. Emerson hit a ball out of the ballpark for a homerun!!!



Teegan and her artwork before and after firing and glazing

Okay, here we go with the rest of the stories that involve gardening, camping, traveling, helping people, enjoying pets and yes, believe it or not—working! Enjoy!!!

Beth Beam - We spent a week in Breckenridge this summer. My mom has a timeshare there and spent many months negotiating the dates as she wasn't quite sure if they would even be open. Beyond masking rules and appointments to use the swimming pool, it was a pretty normal stay. Not everything was open yet in town when we arrived. The public gondolas were set to reopen after the 4th. We saw Moose for the first time there. Fox and deer are plentiful; we always see them on our hikes up the ski trails. My husband and I did get one “date” on the trip, and of course, I ended up being a nurse. An older man fell outside our restaurant and hit his head badly. I helped with chest compressions until fire and police arrived (Thank you, Louise). Healthcare is sparse up there and the altitude is hard on older people. My heart hopes that he will recover, but unsure. He was stable upon entering the ambulance and heading to Frisco. Lastly while shopping on main street, I sneezed and apparently my sneeze voice is recognizable because I got a “hello” from a UNMC colleague from College of Public Health, Kristi Sanger. You never know who you might run into on vacation. It is, after all, a small world. I hope everyone got a little time “away” this summer. I know it was sorely needed at our house.

Kelly Gonzales - I have met ALL my neighbors and have developed friendships that make me love my neighborhood even more! My son Miles is almost 7 months old and is achieving so many developmental “Miles-stones” (pun intended!). He learned to roll over, started eating solids, and is working on sitting independently. And thanks to COVID, I have yet to have to pump breastmilk away from home, but I imagine I will learn the joys of transporting pump supplies, etc., in a few short weeks. I have been doing E visits for Nebraska Medicine through my faculty practice since April, and that has been an incredibly enjoyable experience! Nebraska Medicine leadership has been very responsive to feedback about E visits, as this is a new endeavor for them, so it is exciting to see rapid cycle quality improvement in action! I also taught NRSG 607 Advanced Health Assessment entirely online for the first time this summer (along with the other course faculty). While there were some obstacles to this course being entirely online, there were many positives and pleasant surprises as well. So, let's say I am embracing virtual / online technology across the board.'

Taylor Anderson - I welcomed my 3rd baby, Corbin, and then I spent the summer enjoying time with my three kids playing in the pool, creating artwork, and traveling to the Black Hills of South Dakota for camping! We've had a few sun burns, lots of scrapes but life-lasting memories!

Joyce Black - I worked on our family genealogy and have traced back ancestors reaching back to the 1500's! I have found William of Wallace, Mary Queen of Scots, Elizabeth I Queen of England and Isaac Newton were associated with family! Amazing.

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER! (continued)

Gloria Geiselman – Here is a picture from a fun adventure I helped to plan with my grandkids on July 29th. My mother is 93 years old and in a Skilled Nursing home here in Kearney. As many of you are aware, since this pandemic started places like this have been basically on lock down with no visitors and the caregivers/workers have had to fill many more roles than just the daily care. Since I have four grandchildren and they have several cousins who all live nearby, I asked if they would be willing to do “window performances” for the residents with a circus theme. What fun it was to see them be creative and have fun doing this. The activity director at the home was thrilled to have us come and offer something for the residents to enjoy and look forward to. She put circus signs on the windows and made fun circus food to share with the residents. The children performed outside the memory unit, in the inner courtyard and around the outside at various windows. They were tired at the end but saw many smiles and learned that giving joy to others is a great gift. I couldn't have been prouder of them for their effort.



Photograph by Gloria Geiselman



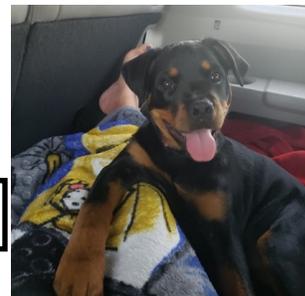
Kristi Brummels - On August 10th, we will become a family of seven with the addition of a maltipoo named Bear. Our kids have been begging for a puppy for years and we are finally giving in! Bear will be our first family pet and will likely be tremendously spoiled.

Pictured left to right: Logan, Jada holding Bear, Ali, and Conner

Kim Rodehorst - This summer was spent biking, walking, playing bells, and of course having my granddaughters over to swim, slip and slide, help plant flowers, and just hang out with gammy!! I was also busy getting courses ready for the new 8-week sessions for the RN-BSN program, which was fun!! I so enjoy developing courses! Finally, I spent some time with my parents when I wasn't busy with the grandkids and my children. Certainly, COVID has had an impact on my time with everyone, but it has been an enjoyable summer.

Windy Alonso - We've done some pretty awesome stuff this summer! At the top of the list is our family road trip. We drove 16 hours to Pennsylvania for my oldest niece's wedding. I proudly watched my amazing kids participate in the ceremony. We also got a puppy, Rubi Storm. She joined us on the road trip, for better or worse.

Rubi Storm



Laura Robbins - This summer the Robbins Family spent some time listing our house and moving to a new house. What a crazy time to try and move. It was difficult to show our old house with the strain and worry of the coronavirus, not to mention constantly cleaning up after a 2-year-old to keep the house spotless, but we made it. All moved into the new home and getting ready to welcome baby number 2 in November!

Liane Connelly - This summer I spent time working on our cabin north of Lincoln and playing with our 3.5 and 2-year-old granddaughters who live in Kansas. I am making a quilt for their baby #3 who will arrive in December. I am also planning a December 2020 wedding with my daughter and her fiancé who live in Lincoln and making a wedding quilt for them.

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER! (continued)

Sarah Bentley - Over the summer I learned a lot about connecting with others digitally. For one, I learned how to create and edit videos. I enlisted the help of my family as actors and cameramen and created several videos for students (and the public) to learn new coping skills. I created a YouTube channel called CopeSafewithSB to serve as my platform. It has been a fun creative project and I feel proud about learning something new! I hope I will only get better with it in time. 😊



Anne Wilber - Besides working, I planted some flowers and hung out with my dog, talked to my neighbors across the fence and I organized my home office. Pictured left is my dog in my yard. 😊

"Boss Baby" (Layla)



Breanna Hetland - I have been spending my entire summer getting bossed around by my highly unskilled, uncoordinated, non-communicative, yet hilarious new manager. My husband and I have loved every single minute of our extra time together.

Kami Loeffelholz - I really enjoyed my first summer off, being a new faculty! I enjoyed doing a lot of yard work and I also have a big garden. With the CV-19 and some food disparities, I started up a Facebook group called Neighbors Sharing and Caring. This group is for anyone that wants to join. People can share produce, trade produce, and also give tips to preserve food! I love to garden and do canning. I am looking forward to reaping the rewards of my garden soon! I was able to be home with my 13-year-old son and 15-year old daughter! We did go camping a lot and did take one family vacation to Minneapolis, MN to see our daughter and her husband! That was a long drive! The summer sure has gone fast! I also enjoy sewing and quilting. I have been able to do a lot of that this summer as well!

Trina Aguirre - I spent time with my 9 grandchildren and devoted time to Bible study and daily devotions. I took (usually) 6 grandchildren to the lake for the day every Wednesday (kayaking, paddle boarding, tubing, swimming). Spent a week at Merritt Reservoir, fishing and camping. Worked in my yard (3 acres) and garden. I have a large greenhouse (24X50) that takes a lot of care. Grew winter, summer and zucchini squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelon, onions, chiles, parsley, collard greens, spinach, carrots, lettuce, beans, peas, potatoes, pumpkins. Helped my Dad install a garage door, attended grandsons baseball games. Moved my office to make room for our new student services person. Worked in the office one day per week. Went to a couple of drive-in movies. Now, I am off to my grandfather's 90th birthday party. It was a great summer.

MJ Jobs - Grateful that 80 Undergraduate Lincoln students graduated! Canceled vacations. COVID buy was Emeril Air fryer/Pressure cooker which we have yet to master. Concerned about and feeling supportive of nurses and all healthcare workers. Home with husband, dogs, coffee, and my "forest." Cleaned, sorted, shredded, and gave away many things. Horrified as COVID swept the nation and world. Saddened by the injury and loss of life of innocent Americans. Grieved for loss of our sweet dog, Toby (beagle). Reading books. Worrying about friend with cancer. Zooming with friends and cousins. Meeting with friends (6 feet apart) outdoors to visit. Helping to care for two-year old grandson. Beginning basement remodel with help of son and partner. Feeling pride in being a part of UNMC. Finishing my annual "summer list" of "things to do". Finding solace in prayer, meditation, yoga, the flowers, and Dean Sebastian's positive and hopeful messages. Practicing wearing a mask and goggles for 12-hour clinical. Excited to begin teaching a new group of students during this challenging time.

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER! (continued)

Louise LaFramboise - Can I tell you I've done nothing of interest? My big events are going to the grocery store when we're running low on milk or other essentials. (Hey Louise – a trip to the grocery store can be an event all in itself.)

Mary Wendl - My husband and I worked on our house history (planning a small booklet) as a legacy for our daughters. We live in the Gold Coast historical area near the Med Center and thought it would be fun to trace the history of the home we have lived in for over 30 years. Built in 1912, we have the abstract of the land dating back to 1856. Sleuthing the public records, we found owner occupations and news of social event attendance. The original owner, Henry Copley, was a jeweler and watch-maker with prominent business ties to the community. His family was mentioned frequently in the social section of the Omaha Bee. We found a picture taken by the world-renowned photographer Louis Bostwick from the old Blackstone Hotel facing north showing our street and the back of our home from November 1915. The second owner, Earl Burket, was a well-known businessman and social mover. He was the founder of the Burket Funeral Home which is still in operation today. We enjoyed reading about this ghostly connection to the past. Maybe that is why, we at times, hear things go bump in the dark. (If you look closely at the photo, you will see an arrow pointing to Mary's home.)



Photo Permission: From the KMTV/Bostwick-Frohardt Photograph Collection, permanently housed at The Durham Museum.

Annette Kasselmann - This summer I taught clinical for the accelerated Leadership course and enjoyed working with all of the students. I also spent a couple days per week with my grandson, watching him start walking, giving him lots of love and getting the best open mouth kisses back for it. I also worked on my flower gardens this summer. They are growing beautifully when I keep the rabbits away from them. Those rascally rabbits!! Looking forward to seeing everyone this fall.

Paula Schulz - We celebrated the 4th of July with our oldest daughter and family in Chicago. We traveled with them to Michigan and spent a week in a house on Lake Michigan. Lots of fun and sun as well as watching our grandchildren's joy as we played in the lake, went for rides on a pontoon boat and kayak, and watched a family of ducks. A special treat was a day trip to Mackinaw Island where everyone wore masks (even the 3-year-old) and social distanced. A new kind of vacation!

Janet Cuddigan - I had fun teaching a great group of DNP and PhD students in the graduate leadership course with Liane Connelly this summer. I worked with DNP and PhD advisees on some very interesting research projects. I wrote several papers on preventing pressure injuries in the era of COVID with NPIAP colleagues including Joyce Black. But most important...I had a great time with my 9 grandchildren! My granddaughter, Maya, and I are almost done with the "Harry Potter" quilt she is doing for a 4-H project.

Sue Barnason - We took a road trip to socially distance in the mountains of Colorado. We traveled to Estes Park and made a trek to the Royal Gorge area. It gave us a chance to see western Nebraska from a whole new vantage point.

Bobbie Barton - My daughter, Becky, and her fiancé Camden have been engaged for three years with a wedding date of June 6, 2020. During this time we planned her fairy tale wedding. By late April we came to the sad conclusion she was not going to get her day as planned. But my daughter is resilient so despite all the setbacks and COVID scares, they still ended up getting married on June 6th at Camden's grandparent's backyard in the country. It was a beautiful day and Becky was a beautiful bride. So, this summer I gained a wonderful son-in-law. We will still have the big church wedding and ceremony next May!



Bobbie and Becky

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER! (continued)

Sue Schuelke - Sharing my summer therapy: a box of chocolate and creams, all the babies having lunch, and they just got done eating. Kind of reminds me of Thanksgiving at the Schuelke's.



Cheryl Thompson - This summer I got the opportunity to help family members with the care of their children. They are Canadian citizens and returning to Canada for medical reasons. Quarantine in Canada is mandatory. Their parents did not want the kids living in a hotel room for 2 weeks. They are staying with us until their parents can find housing where they can be more appropriately quarantined. It has been an education seeing the differences in the Canadian vs. the US healthcare systems and their approach to COVID-19. Oh – and learning about teenagers again.

Kris Claussen - Nothing too exciting happened here this summer. Guess this is kind of what retirement will feel like—except I will sleep in later Monday through Friday! I am a little sad I didn't get to spend a day out with my granddaughter doing 'back-to-school clothes shopping' as we have been doing that since she started Kindergarten and she will be a senior this year. Cancelled vacation and family reunions, but counting my blessings.

Cheryl Lockett - My biggest joy this summer has been gardening. Peppers, beets, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, and 3 kinds of squash. I have been making pickles for the first time and am excited about making salsa as soon as everything is ready. Anywhere I go I am trying to give away zucchini and freezing the rest. Extra time with my grandsons, camping in our new camper and kayaking have been extra special too! Thankful, I am so blessed!!

Ann Berger - I prepared for my last day as Associate Dean of Research. I cleaned out my office and moved to CNS 5092 on June 30, 2020. I had retinal eye surgery on July 1 and am thankful for my smooth recovery and improved eyesight. I haven't left Omaha and my only plan is to drive to Kansas to visit our daughter before Labor Day. On Saturday, August 1, I won 1st place in the Women's division of the Par 3 golf tourney at Field Club Omaha! I was very surprised because I have a high handicap! On August 14-15, I will be competing on the mist green team in the Woolworth Cup women's golf tournament. It has been wonderful to enjoy golf during the pandemic. Visits with grandchildren have included drive-by birthday events and drop-off of fresh corn on the cob. We are focusing on our blessings at this very challenging time.

First Place, Women's division – Par 3 Gold Tourney at Field Club



Women's League

[Congratulations](#) to Tess McKinney! Our 2020 Regular season champ. A narrow, one point victory over Julie Backemeyer. Thank you all for a great regular season.



Tess McKinney

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER! (continued)



Beth Culross - Counting PPE and getting it ready to send out!

Now with these last two...as you know, with the good comes the bad. Michelle and Juli were kind enough to share this information and even though it is not what most of our summers entailed, it's still a part of life and two stories that need to be told.

Michelle Ellermeier - I spent the ENTIRE summer hospitalized at Nebraska Medicine and for the record, that is NOT a fun way to spend your summer vacation.

Juli Bohnenkamp - I think this is a great idea!! However, my summer plans were pretty plain and simple - "I fought cancer!" lol, I know it is not funny, but I kinda have to laugh, everyone will be writing about their somewhat exciting summer plans and I can sum up my spring/summer/COVID isolation in one sentence! I just thought I would share 😊, gotta keep laughing so the tears can't fall!!!! PS - I go on to "phase 2" which is surgery (sometime in Aug) and "phase 3" is radiation (don't know when yet)...not sure what comes after that, heavy drinking? (Again, I joke...maybe 😊)

Summer has come to a close and I truly hope and pray that we do not have COVID as any part of our summer next year. I long for a summer of concerts with crowds, hometown events without worry, and the freedom and openness to stand next to another person without someone looking back in fear. Thank you again for your "stories" – I hope this brightened your day, and I wish you all a great school year!

LaDonna Tworek

"When the sun is shining I can do anything, no mountain is too high, no trouble too difficult to overcome."

Wilma Rudolph

"August rain: the best of the summer is gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time."

Sylvia Path

I believe we all can agree that all in all, it was a 'never-to-be-forgotten summer' — unlike anything we would have ever dreamed to happen during our lifetime. But we persevered.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Lincoln Campus shared:

CON LINCOLN MAY RETIREMENTS: Given COVID restrictions, Lincoln faculty and staff were unable to have a celebratory event for our recent faculty retirees, Rita Schmitz and Roberta (Bert) Kroeger. Instead, after much plotting to ensure that they would be home, Rita and Bert were treated to a surprise 'multiple-car-drive-by-caravan' of faculty and staff. Though it was raining, there was much shouting, honking, waving of congratulatory signs, as well as flowers, balloons, bottles of wine and more left at the curb to let them know how much we appreciate them and how much we are going to miss them.

Scottsbluff Campus shared:

Another Accelerated Summer in Scottsbluff—Throughout the summer our five accelerated students have been busy with course work, and clinical and simulation learning. Although the number of students in this class is small, they are making huge strides toward meeting their goal of being BSN graduates. Simulation is guided by Linda Fowler, Nursing Instructor and Amber Fulk, Accelerated Program Coordinator. While the students have realized the value in their hospital clinical rotations, they also appreciate the opportunity to practice critical thinking and clinical decision-making skills in the safe environment simulation learning provides.

Accelerated student Sidney Eck shared the following about her experiences this summer:

"This year has been very challenging but also very rewarding for the five of us. Going to school during a pandemic is not what any of us had in mind but it has brought us so much closer with the profession, the school, and the faculty. I know how hard the faculty and staff are working to ensure we get just as good of an experience and education this year as we would any other year and they have done just that. Of course there's been changes that have needed to be made, but the UNMC faculty have been amazing about getting us back into clinicals and simulations to bring us back up to speed and get that patient experience that we all want to be a part of!"

Accelerated student Dakota Wademan had this to say:

"I think summer went seamlessly compared to how it could have gone. Amber [Fulk] worked tireless hours to coordinate everything to go smoothly. She worked with Regional West Administration to ensure we were able to complete clinicals. They are such a big part of our learning and without her hard work, we would have missed out on a substantial piece of our puzzle. The clinical experiences at Regional West Medical Center are exceptional. The nurses on staff are excited to teach and always make me feel like I am part of their decision-making process when caring for the patients. Walking into a new environment each time is intimidating, but everyone is welcoming and willing to help you in whatever you need. It is a wonderful hospital and I am happy to be a part of it."

Lastly, accelerated student Ervin vonSeggern was kind enough to share his outlook:

"My summer class, clinical, and simulation experience was overall great. In our classes we have really started to dive in to nursing care and interventions; this has made clinicals an even better experience. I now know why, when, and what to do (most of the time) during my floor rotations. Clinicals are my favorite part of the summer semester as I get to apply the knowledge I have learned in class and I get to interact with patients and hospital staff. Clinicals have really reinforced why I want to be an RN and is leading me to what are of nursing I want to do after graduation. Going into the accelerated program I knew that summer was one of the more difficult parts of the year and that has proven to be true. I really think the difficult part was the fulness of the schedule between class, assignments, projects, clinicals, and personal life. Although this summer was difficult it was worth the struggle as I learned so much in such a short period of time and am one step closer to my goal of being a BSN graduate."

Summer Simulation Scenarios

Respiratory failure/pneumonia
NG tube placement/small bowel obstruction
Hypoglycemic event in hospital
Patient with Cellulitis
UTI/thermoregulation
Heart failure
Suicidal patient

Upcoming: Anemia

Case studies:
Respiratory distress
Delirium
Hospice/palliative care with cancer dx



Scottsbluff Campus (continued)

Welcome Maegen Graham



Hello! My name is Maegen Graham. I was recently hired as the Student Services Coordinator for the UNMC College of Nursing Western Nebraska Division in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. I was born and raised and graduated from Scottsbluff. My schooling took me to Lincoln for undergrad and Omaha for graduate school where I earned my Master's in Counseling degree. I continued to live and work in Omaha for 11 years. I moved back to Scottsbluff in October 2012. My parents are in Scottsbluff and my two younger brothers and family still live in Omaha. My brother and sister-in-law are both nurses; my cousin is a neurosurgeon at UNMC; my brother graduated with his BSN from UNMC in May 2012 and worked at UNMC in the cardiac ICU. He is now in CRNA school. I have a passion for education and helping students succeed. I am excited to be a part of such an excellent team in the College of Nursing and an extraordinary University.



Wear your mask ... social distance ... stay safe!

The next CON newsletter will be sent out mid October. Please send any newsletter articles to me between now and October 1st to be included in the next newsletter.