



College of Nursing Newsletter

May 2021

Kris Claussen, Editor



From the Desk of...

DEAN JULIE SEBASTIAN

Dear College of Nursing Family,

We just completed a spectacular set of commencements at each campus across the state and a Graduate Student Hooding event in Omaha. I think we all feel a sense of elation at being able to celebrate our students' accomplishments, share in their pride, and join in their optimism and hope for the future. Faculty, staff, clinical and research partners have worked so very hard to ensure that students had the best learning environments possible, creating new opportunities, and being flexible every step of the way. I would like to share my immense gratitude for all that you each do in whatever roles you have. We are a team and without every member of the team we would not be able to do the transformative work that helps us work every day toward achieving our mission.

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) will release its report on the *Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity* this week. This is a report of a consensus study commissioned by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is likely to have a major impact on the field. It was co-chaired by Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN, who is at Georgetown University and the University of Texas at Austin, and David Williams, PhD, MPH, at Harvard University. I expect a primary focus will be on harnessing the talent and power of nurses to eliminate health disparities and to address social determinants of health in our clinical and community-based practices, higher education, and nursing research. I encourage you to read the report and attend any analysis meetings you can. For example, on May 18, 2021, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is hosting a webinar entitled, "An Insider's Look at Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Health Equity". The webinar is scheduled for 1:00 - 2:00 pm CT. College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students can register free of charge at: https://www.aacnnursing.org/Professional-Development/Webinar-Info/sessionaltcd/WF21_05_18. More information about the report is available at: <https://nam.edu/publications/the-future-of-nursing-2020-2030/>.

This report is coming at a pivotal time for nursing. We know nurses contribute to the health of our communities and have always focused on caring for people in their most vulnerable moments and to those who are most vulnerable to poor health. It is time for nurses to harness those strengths and relentlessly focus on social determinants of health that adversely influence the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to attain good health. At the March AACN Deans Annual meeting, Don Berwick, MD, MPP said that we have a moral duty to address these issues. He had discussed this point in a paper in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*¹ that is a compelling call to action. The new NAM report is likely to call for broadly based, concerted work by nursing collaboration with others toward achieving health equity. Our time is now for doing all we can to promote health for all.

My very best to everyone for a wonderful summer. Whether you are engaged in academic work this summer or not, I hope you are able to make time to rest and recharge, enjoy the pretty weather, and any new opportunities that might be permitted as the pandemic situation improves!

Julie Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

¹Berwick, D.M. (2020). The moral determinants of health. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 324, 225-226. <http://doi.10.1001.jama.2020.111.29>.

STARS among us!

GOLD U AWARD



Lisa Muschall, MBA, director of administration and operations has a unique expertise in process improvements. For her outstanding service to UNMC, she received the Gold U Award for March. When there is a vacancy in the college, Lisa works with faculty and staff to redistribute work and finds temporary help until the position is filled. She is adept at reevaluating the position to re-envision what is most needed to achieve the college's goals and mission for the benefit of the college and all five divisions. One nominee described her as "one who exudes a quiet confidence, and someone who listens carefully to others in a way that engenders trust." Another nominator said, "She shows respect in every encounter." Nominators praised her skills in financial analysis, business planning and human resources. Her concern and compassion, they said, is focused—first and foremost—on excellence, safety, quality and caring for nursing's internal and external constituents. Colleagues praise Lisa for her support of others and for fostering a culture of growth, learning and leadership development. Congratulations Lisa!

SILVER U AWARD



Bridget Thoene, MSN, RN, Instructor at the Northern Division received the UNMC Silver U award for February. Bridget's creativity, teaching excellence, collegueship, and demonstration of the UNMC TEACH values were all recognized by this award. One nomination shared how "Bridget demonstrates innovation through her scholarship advancement of faculty onboarding procedures for novice nurse educators. Bridget identified a problem—the experience of expert clinical nurses transitioning job roles from clinical practice to enter the UNMC system as novice faculty nurses teaching for the first time. She has innovatively adapted a role transition model and is currently planning a research study to explore this phenomenon in rural nurse educators to further test her model. The implication of her innovation is a strong potential to enhance faculty onboarding content and mentoring for novice faculty transitioning to academia from years of teaching in a clinical nurse setting." "Bridget take ownership for her role as the course coordinator. She is honest and transparent with students which contributes to her authenticity and professional demeanor as a nurse." Congratulations Bridget!

DAISY Award for Extraordinary Faculty for Spring 2021



Barbara Nickel, MSN, RN, APRN-CNS, CCRN, CRNI, is the recipient of the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Faculty for Spring 2021. She is an instructor on the West Nebraska campus.



GRANT RECIPIENTS



The College of Nursing congratulates **Christine Eisenhauer, PhD, APRN-CNS, PHCNS-BC, CNE (Northern Division)**, Multiple PI along with **Fabio Almeida, PhD, MSW (College of Public Health)**, on receiving a Community-Engaged Health Disparity/Health Equity grant from the College of Public Health. Their proposal titled, "Leveraging existing community partnerships to culturally adapt a technology-based weight loss program for rural middle-aged LatinX Men" will address an urgent need to develop culturally adapted weight loss strategies that are suitable for the growing midlife and older LatinX male population living in rural Nebraska.

Cathrin Carithers, DNP, RN (Kearney Division) and **Kelly Betts, EdD, RN, APRN, PCPNP-BC, CNE (West Nebraska Division)** were awarded a grant from the USDA to provide Telehealth Equipment to Nebraska Rural federally qualified health centers.



College of Nursing 2020 Annual Faculty and Staff Award Recipients



Rosalee C. Yeaworth Teaching Excellence Award
Kami Loeffelholz, MSN, RN, Instructor

Pennie Z. Davis Faculty Research Award
Amy Hoffman, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor



Ada M. Lindsey Professional Service Award
Maggie Emerson, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, Assistant Professor

Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award
Sue Schuelke, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CCRN-K, Assistant Professor



Kathryn Sandahl Philp Creativity and Innovation Award
Breanna Hetland, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, Assistant Professor

Virginia Tilden Leadership Development Award
Christine Eisenhauer, PhD, APRN-CNS, PHCNS-BC, CNE, Associate Professor



Donna Westmoreland Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award
Sue Schuelke, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CCRN-K, Assistant Professor

Spirit of Shared Governance Award
Michelle Ellermeier, MSN, RN, Instructor



Ada M. Lindsey Professional Staff Award
Lori Turner, BS, Administrator I

Staff Spirit Award
Tess McKinney, AD, Enterprise AV Technologist



College of Nursing 2020 Annual Faculty and Staff Award Recipients (cont.)



Staff Leadership Award

Juli Bohnenkamp, MA, On-Line Testing Resource Coordinator



Staff Excellence Award

Lauren Lesiak, MBA, Administrative Coordinator



Distinguished Team Award

College of Nursing Student Services

Sherrie Ames, AA, Education/Student Services
Bobbi Barton, MHEA, Academic Success Coach
Molly Belieu, PhD, MA, Director of Student Services
Sarah Bentley, Behavioral Health Counselor
Stephanie Boardman, BGS, Student Services Resource Associate
Juli Bohnenkamp, MA, On-Line Testing Resource Coordinator
Ann Callies, Academic Success Coach
Hilary Christo, MEd, Student Services Coordinator
Jennifer Escher, M.Ed., Project Coordinator
Amy Frizzell, MA, Student Services Coordinator
Maegen Graham, Student Services Coordinator
Bobbi Hartshorn, Office Associate I
Carrie Holt, MSN, MS, RN, Instructor
Rolee Kelly, MSW, Student Services Coordinator
Kaycee Kube, Academic Success Coach
Denise Ott, BA, Student Services
Sherri Petersen, Academic Success Coach
Diana Rizzo, MA, Student Services Coordinator
Bertrail Smith, BGS, Student Services Process Coordinator
Kelly Stratman, MS, Academic Success Coach
Cindy Taylor, BS, Office Assistant I



RETIREMENTS



Hilary Christo, MEd, Student Services Coordinator, Kearney Division, Retired May 7, 2021

Lea Kathol, MSN, RN, Instructor, Northern Division, Retired May 14, 2021



Jean Allen, MSN, RN, APRN-NP, Instructor, Northern Division, Retired May 14, 2021

Mary Wendl, MSN, RN, Project Evaluation Coordinator, Omaha Division, Retiring May 31, 2021



Gloria Geiselman, Office Associate I, Retiring July 15, 2021



NEW EMPLOYEES



Tyler Szymanski
Transformational Practice & Partnership, Project Coordinator/Liaison
Office: CON 5056
Phone: 402-559-4117
Email: tyszmanski@unmc.edu



Welcome to the UNMC College of Nursing team!

STARS among us!

Lincoln faculty participated in **TELEHEALTH TRAINING—Certification** (pictured left to right): **Miranda Klimont, DNP, APRN-NP**; **Sue Schuelke, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CCRN-K**; **Dawn Tassemeier, MSN, APRN, FNP-C**; and **Kathy Thompson, DNP, RN**



Lisa Walters, MSHSM, RN, FACHE completed a two-day certification to become a **Hearing Officer for UNMC Title IX Discrimination** complaints.



Lynne Buchanan, PhD, APRN-NP, BC was an invited **participant at the 47th Annual National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) Conference** in April. She was part of a national panel of six telehealth experts and consultants who discussed the dissemination and use of the new telehealth website for educators. Dr. Buchanan chaired the simulation case studies group who developed nine cases for the national website. She was also appointed to the NONPF Telehealth Committee. This is an inaugural committee with goals of: 1) dissemination of telehealth best practices, competencies, and faculty resources; 2) identification of faculty development opportunities to enhance knowledge of telehealth; and 3) development of national leaders for the integration of telehealth technologies in advanced practice nursing education. Dr. Buchanan presented on the use of simulation exemplars using the 4P's model of planning, preparing, providing, and program evaluation for telehealth curriculum development. She was also the lead for a podium presentation titled "*Transitioning to Telehealth Using Simulation and Telehealth Technologies - Telemedicine, Remote Patient Monitoring, Store and Forward, and Hybrid Models*". This work has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical Simulation in Nursing. For faculty interested in accessing the free, HRSA supported, National Website, please go to: <https://telehealtheducation-ctier.com>.



Breanna Hetland, PhD, RN, CCRN-K, assistant professor in the UNMC College of Nursing Omaha Division, gave the keynote address on May 14th for the 22nd Annual Southeastern Wisconsin Nursing Research Conference in Milwaukee. Her talk was titled, "Building the Bridge Between Nursing and Innovation: Combining the Tried and True with the New and Exciting". Dr. Hetland's program of research focuses on improving the patient and family experience with critical illness by engaging patients and their family caregivers in integrative therapies for the self-management of distressing symptoms in the intensive care unit.



Heidi Keeler, PhD, RN, Director Continuing Nursing Education, Director Office of Community Engagement has been **promoted to Associate Professor** effective 07-01-2021.

Angela Johnson, MSN, RN received her **EdD** in May 2021. She is an Instructor at the Northern Division.



Molly Belieu, PhD, MA, received her **PhD** in May 2021. She is the Director of Student Services, Undergraduate Student Services Coordinator.

UNMC and UNL Collaboration on Immersive Virtual Reality (IVR) Nursing Simulations

The College of Nursing partnered with a group of creative Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Senior Design students to develop two **immersive virtual reality (IVR) games**. The first was a Sepsis Escape Room. Each room in the game is based on a sepsis bundle component and can be played on an Oculus or Oculus II headset. The Sepsis game will be posted on the Sepsis Alliance website and American Association for Critical Care Nurses website. CON team members included Sue Schuelke, Janet Nieveen, Elizabeth Mollard and Tess McKinney. To load the game, use the following link: <https://sidequestvr.com/app/3848/nurses-escape>



The second IVR was funded by a grant from CS-CASH and was a tractor safety game and will be used as an outreach program. Michelle Ellermeier, Kearney Division and Sue Schuelke, Lincoln Division were co-PIs on this project. To load the game, use the following link: <https://sidequestvr.com/app/3813/rollover-ranch>



CON STUDENT CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Nurses tell great stories!!! A virtual banquet was held on April 14, 2021 to applaud these 23 authors and thanking the 61 entrants (from all five campuses and all degree programs) who wrote such great stories and who made this such a difficult contest to judge. Thanks as well to all our faculty and external judges who made this contest possible.

Anne Lano, a student in the FNP program Kearney Division, and one of the winners of the UNMC CON Creative Writing Awards, just had her story published in the American Journal of Nursing Blog. Here is the link to her story: <https://ajnonline.com/but-where-are-you-really-from/?fbclid=IwAR1nTkDP0Lc4h1b3tRsL0FynwRpT-AVc9HLLGsQhomoOPcw39ZVs3PYRtYew>

Congratulations to Anne and all the winners:

Winners—\$2000

- James Vermillion—2020: noun/twen(t)-twen(t)/ Definition: Diversity; Adversity
- Nick Swan—Being the Diversity
- Laurie Sewell-Muller—Chronicles of a Community Mental Health Nurse: Tuesday Afternoon
- Haile Buggi—From Cocoon to Butterfly
- Abbey Klein—The Color of Pregnancy
- Anne Lano—Where Are You Frooooooom?



Honorable Mention—\$400

- Porcelain Shaw—A simple question and a chance to Be
- Grant Fabry—Eternity
- Stephanie Clark—I know you
- Zeinab Alazri—Let's Share the Treasure
- Timothy Constant—Pieces of Me
- Bri Banaag—Serenity to Solidarity
- Jasmine Jallen—Two Years Ago



Publication Award

- Carolyn Hanus—A Walk
- Anna Nelson—Birth: The Miracle that Transcends Diversity
- Laurie Sewell-Muller—Chronicles of a Community Mental Health Nurse: Tuesday Morning
- Shaun Warkentin—Drinking Down the Sun
- Lauren Struble—El Fantasma
- Emily Blanchard—I Am Here To Take Care Of You
- Justin Graham—Male Nurse Haiku
- Shayna Kruse—Midwest Nurse in 2020
- Cara Dolezal—This is Their Story

Creative Writing Awards Team: Mark Darby, Mary Petersen, Amelia Stoltman, Margaret Gilmore

GENERAL STAFF ORGANIZATION (GSO)



OUCH That Stereotype Hurts

On behalf of the General Staff Organization, please save the date for this special session, “Ouch That Stereotype Hurts” presented by Giovanni Jones, UNMC Employee Training and Development Specialist.

May 19, 2021 — 10:00—11:00 am CT

Link: <https://unmc.zoom.us/j/94547629800?pwd=azZUQ244eEZyNDV1Y2w1UWdleUpsUT09>

Meeting ID: 945 4762 9800

Passcode: 192021

Staying silent in the face of demeaning comments, stereotypes or bias allows these attitudes and behaviors to thrive. This undermines our ability to create an inclusive workplace where all employees are welcomed, treated with respect and able to do their best work. Most employees who want to speak up don’t know how.

Ouch That Stereotype Hurts is a program designed to explore the impact of bias and stereotypes, explain why people don’t speak up against bias and stereotypes, and help participants learn techniques for speaking up against bias and stereotypes, and help participants learn techniques for speaking up against bias and stereotypes without blame or guilt.

We hope you can join us.

Innovation Day Spring 2021

The GSO held their second Innovation Day March 18th from 10am-3pm. We had about 20 staff participants with representation from each CON campus.

O Drive Group: Kris Claussen, Bobbi Hartshorn, Lori Turner, Gwen Porter, Gloria Geiselman

This group considered and checked with stakeholders before Innovation Day to create the best outcome. They focused on updating the organization and file folder structures for the O Drive. These changes make it easier for people looking for information in the drive, reduces the number of “clicks” through the folders, creates an archive of older information, and allows for each division to accurately have their files stored.

Room Scheduling Year End Report 19/20: Tess McKinney, Amelia Stoltman, Courtney Smith

This group created division based reports on room usage, number of academic bookings, most popular bookings, tech requests and number of hours of tech utilization. Information was pulled from general scheduling to create reports. These reports helps with room planning, staffing and tech needs.

360 Tours: Cara Mouw and Tess McKinney

This team worked to finish labeling rooms on the Omaha campus. Will connect with remaining divisions to name outstanding rooms. Finished products are posted on the CON website by division, will connect with Assistant Deans to make sure they have easy access. In addition, “tours” are used in simulations and even virtual escape rooms!

Student Wellness Stations: Sarah Bentley and Kelly Stratman

This group spent time finding and producing printable inspirational and motivational quotes. The goal was to imagine and possibly configure wellness stations to include a quote bucket, destressing and coping skills, envelope on fridge with stickers, making a small but mighty difference. Additionally, the inspirational quotes were added to the student distribution bags for distress week! Brainstorming on further collaboration for future destressing week events.

Office Supply: Cara Mouw, Ana Lara-Ramirez, Laura Lesiak, Amanda Filipi

Went through stagnate office supplies! Found a lot of old interesting items! Organized them all in CNS 4 and created a small surplus pile. Created an inventory list for organization and thoughtful ordering. Next steps, will review and if needed, remake labels on cabinet doors, create a process for each division, share a master list and supply ordering procedure and process.

TEAMWORK:

coming together is a *Beginning*.
keeping together is *Progress*.
working together is *Success*.

-Henry Ford-



CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION PROVIDED BY UNMC CON CNE

FREE WEBINARS – All you need is Internet and a mobile device!

Pain and Substance Use Disorder ECHO Webinar Series

1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from noon to 1:15 pm (Central)
1.0 contact hour/credit AMA/ANCC/LADC



LIVE ACTIVITIES

Cancer Survivorship Conference—Virtual

Friday, June 4, 2021 8:30 am—12:00 pm

FREE

Register **BEFORE** June 1st: <https://app1.unmc.edu/cne/21ce00068/index.cfm>

11th Annual Agricultural Health and Safety Course—Virtual

Tuesday, July 13—Friday, July 16, 2021

Session A: Agricultural Health—July 13-14 16.0 contact hours

Session B: Agricultural Safety and Prevention—July 15-16 16.0 contact hours

Session C: Special Topics—online modules 4.75 contact hours

FREE

Register now: [Agricultural Health and Safety Course for Medical and Safety Professionals | Center for Continuing Education Home | University of Nebraska Medical Center \(unmc.edu\)](#)

26th Annual Pharmacological Conference for Advanced Practice Providers—Virtual

Thursday, July 15 and Friday, July 16, 2021 8:30 am—4:00 pm (both days)

Up to 12.0 pharm-related contact hours and AAPA PRA Category 1 credits available

One day only: \$120

Both days: \$220

APP students: \$0 (CE not included)

Register now: [26th Annual Pharmacological Conference for Advanced Practice Providers \(unmc.edu\)](#)

Pan Pacific Lymphoma Conference—Hybrid

Monday, August 9—Friday, August 13, 2021 Big Island, Hawaii

Up to 29.75 contact hours/credit AMA/ANCC/ACPE

In-person: \$450

Web stream: \$400 after May 14, 2021

Register now: [2021 Pan Pacific Lymphoma Conference | Center for Continuing Education Home | University of Nebraska Medical Center \(unmc.edu\)](#)

UPCOMING VIRTUAL CONFERENCES—Save the Date!

August 25, 2021 Breastfeeding: Baby's Natural Choice—**Virtual**

October 1, 2021 4th Annual APP Conference—**Hybrid**

October 8, 2021 Women's Health and Wellness Conference—**Hybrid**

ONLINE MODULES

NETEC COVID-19 Webinar Series

FREE Online Modules added weekly

1.0 contact hour/credit per module AMA/ANCC

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

2021 BHECN Webinar Series: Core Topics for Behavioral Health Providers

FREE — 5 Enduring modules

April 1, 2021—March 31, 2022

1.0 contact hour/credit per module ANCC/ASWB ACE/APA

[BHECN Webinar Series: Core Topics for Behavioral Health Providers | BHECN | University of Nebraska Medical Center \(unmc.edu\)](#)

CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION PROVIDED BY UNMC CON CNE

NEW ONLINE MODULES—continued

Opioid Use Disorder Training Modules

“How to Implement Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in a Clinical Setting”

“Assessment and Initiation of Treatment for OUD”

Enduring Modules November 22, 2020—November 21, 2021

FREE

[Opioid Use Disorder Training Modules | Family Medicine | University of Nebraska Medical Center \(unmc.edu\)](https://unmc.edu/familymedicine/education/continuing-education/opioid-use-disorder-training-modules)

Expert Insights: Nursing Perspectives on the Increasing Role of PARP Inhibitors for Ovarian Cancer

Enduring Module November 18, 2020—November 18, 2021

FREE 0.3 contact hours

[Expert Insights: Nursing Perspectives on the Increasing Role of PARP Inhibitors for Ovarian Cancer \(rievent.com\)](https://rievent.com/expert-insights-nursing-perspectives-on-the-increasing-role-of-parp-inhibitors-for-ovarian-cancer)

Omaha Women’s Health and Wellness Conference

“Pouring From an Empty Cup: Prioritizing Self-care While Caring for Others”

Enduring Modules November 9, 2020—November 8, 2021

Cost: \$30 5.0 contact hours

[23rd Annual Omaha Women’s Health & Wellness Conference Enduring Modules \(unmc.edu\)](https://unmc.edu/omaha-women-s-health-wellness-conference)

Wound Treatment Associate Program

Online 12-week course plus Simulation Day New cohorts starting quarterly

Cost: \$1000 32.25 contact hours

<https://app1.unmc.edu/cne/19WTA007/index.cfm>

25th Annual Pharmacological Conference for Advanced Practice Providers

Pharmacological Management of Clients across the Lifespan

Enduring Module Topics:

Pain Management and the PDMP 3.0 contact hours/3.0 pharm content

Hot Topics 3.0 contact hours/3.0 pharm content

Infectious Diseases 3.0 contact hours/3.0 pharm content

Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Management 3.0 contact hours/3.0 pharm content

August 12, 2020—August 11, 2021

Cost: \$60.00 per module

<https://app1.unmc.edu/cne/20CE005e/registration.cfm>

Infection Preventionist Specialized Training (IPCO) Version 2

Online Training Course

Cost: \$650 25.0 contact hours

<https://educate.ahcancal.org/p/ipcov2>



For additional information on upcoming live programs, webinars or online modules, please visit:

www.unmc.edu/cne

Follow us on social media!

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/UNMC_CNE

FIVE CAMPUSES SHARING ONE MISSION

KEARNEY DIVISION

Message from Dr. Cathrin Carithers

The CON Kearney Division highlights in the past few months have been exciting but also preparing us for changes. We congratulated Dr. Denise Waterfield on defending her PhD oral comprehensive exams. Faculty member, Jayme Weber, is expecting her baby girl to join their household around the end of May. Our division meetings are leading faculty and staff in developing a collaborative culture and shared language especially with our student interactions. We are working hard to maintain involvement with our clinical partners and seeking new partnerships that will enhance student learning. We had a wonderful in-person graduation ceremony where social distancing and masking allowed families to celebrate the graduates' achievements.

De-Stress week held the week before final exams at UNMC and our division were welcomed by all. Fidget toys and healthy snacks were given out along with tips on how to de-stress and take time for our own well-being. One of our traditional BSN program graduates, Preston Hall, was featured in the University of Nebraska at Kearney News. He was involved in an automobile accident earlier in his undergraduate program that changed his trajectory toward the nursing profession. We are proud of all our graduates and the expertise, experiences, and resilience they will bring to their new careers after experiencing this pandemic during their nursing education.

The changes in the coming months for the Kearney Division involve some of the normal life events including interviewing for new faculty and staff retirements. Two long-time staff persons are retiring this year after a good 30 years of working in the University system. Hilary Christo, Student Services Coordinator retired May 6th and Gloria Geiselman, Administrative Assistant, will officially retire July 15th. A fun party was thrown by our Special Functions committee in their honor. We are excited for the Summer and Fall semesters and hoping for more interactions together with less restrictions. Onward...Forward...and Congratulations to our graduates and our retirees!

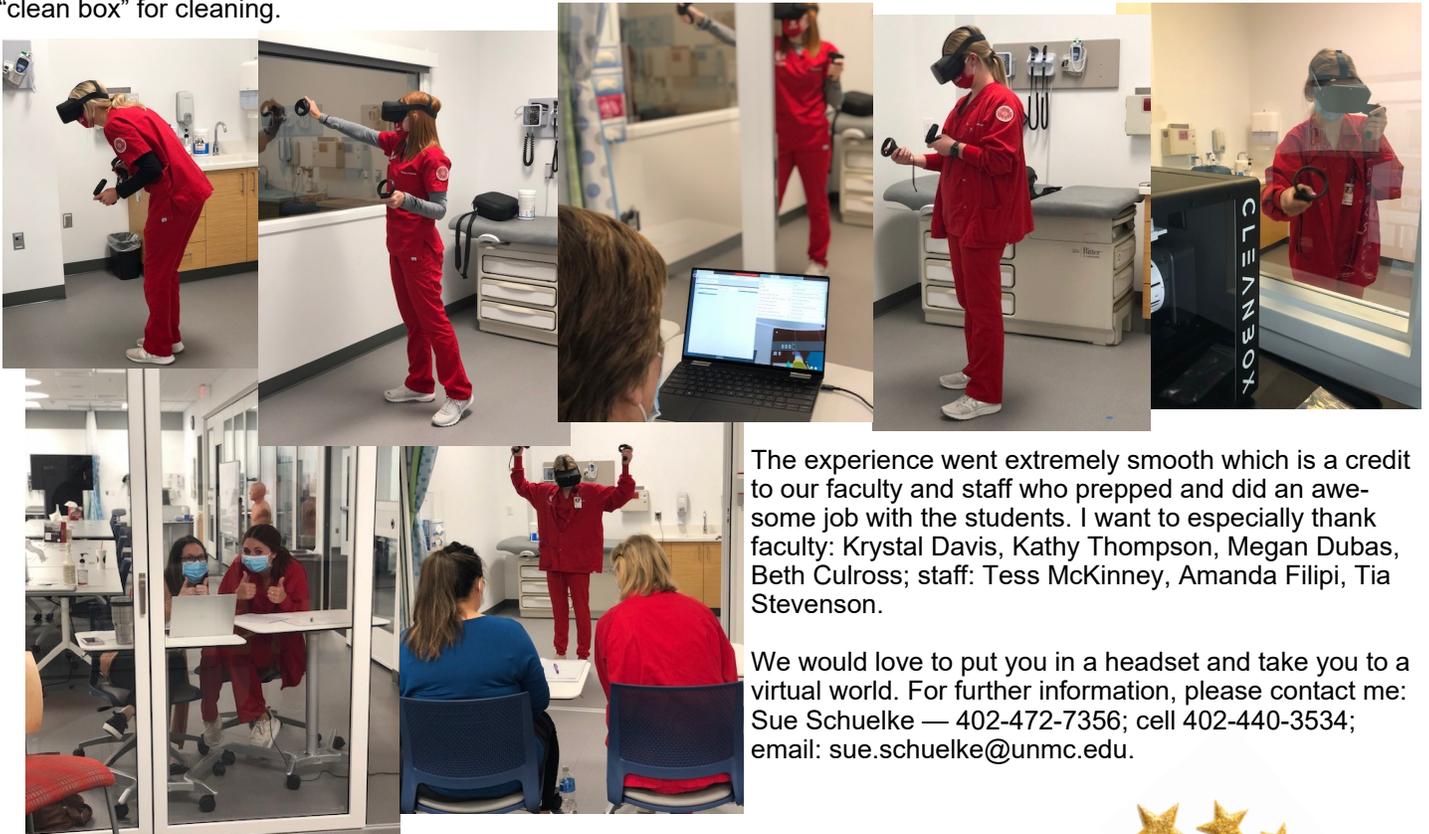


LINCOLN DIVISION

The Lincoln Division recently had the great opportunity to use our new Oculus headsets and introduce immersive **Virtual Reality (IVR)** technology to our students. Research in other disciplines has shown IVR to increase engagement, learning and retention. We are working with the company SimXR and have purchased the development of ten scenarios, three in development currently and seven more to be produced. The scenarios used for this experience were developed for Elsevier, pneumonia and COVID, to reflect the infection concept in PCCII. We offered pre-simulation training to the students via canvas and in-person. Faculty also practiced in the headsets and moderating each other. The students were assigned pre-work and received a thorough pre-brief upon arrival. We also instructed students to let us know if they felt sick or light-headed. The students took care of a pneumonia patient and a COVID patient. Students who did not tolerate the experience well were put with the moderator for the scenario.



After the IVR, students were debriefed using the PEARL model. After debrief, students were provided a QR code and asked to complete a survey developed specifically for VR educational experiences. A few students have yet to complete the experience. Upon their completion, we will analyze the data. Anecdotally we heard many great comments from the students: they felt the simulation “put them with the patient”, that it made them “think for themselves”, that it was a “safe place to make a mistake”, and they couldn’t “rely on others but had to be the responsible one, the real nurse”, how it felt “real”, “like a dream”, and “a little like magic”. We also heard it was gnarly (which I think is good) and a little discombobulating, but mostly heard they learned, critically thought, problem solved, and had to prioritize. In between each student the headsets and hand controls were wiped down and placed in a special ultraviolet “clean box” for cleaning.



The experience went extremely smooth which is a credit to our faculty and staff who prepped and did an awesome job with the students. I want to especially thank faculty: Krystal Davis, Kathy Thompson, Megan Dubas, Beth Culross; staff: Tess McKinney, Amanda Filipi, Tia Stevenson.

We would love to put you in a headset and take you to a virtual world. For further information, please contact me: Sue Schuelke — 402-472-7356; cell 402-440-3534; email: sue.schuelke@unmc.edu.



Lincoln's Commencement—Thursday, May 6, 2021



LINCOLN DIVISION (cont.)



Finals Week snacks provided by Lincoln's SNA organization.



"I GOT THE SHOT" was celebrated at the "selfie-photo!"



Clinic with a Heart April volunteer night—Such a great group including CON Lincoln and Union College faculty, staff and students giving back to the community to help those less fortunate.



The Lincoln Journal Star along with their partners Bryan Health and CHI Health are proud to announce this year's **Celebrate Nurses** honorees. Ten nurses were nominated by the community and have done amazing things over an incredibly stressful year. You can read the entire article here: https://journalstar.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/celebrating-nurses-honorees-for-lincoln-in-2021/collection_16dcdfdc-aea5-11eb-a963-578624b12929.html#4.

One honoree is our very own **Tammy Schroeder**, MSN, RN, Nurse Specialist/Instructor. Congratulations Tammy!

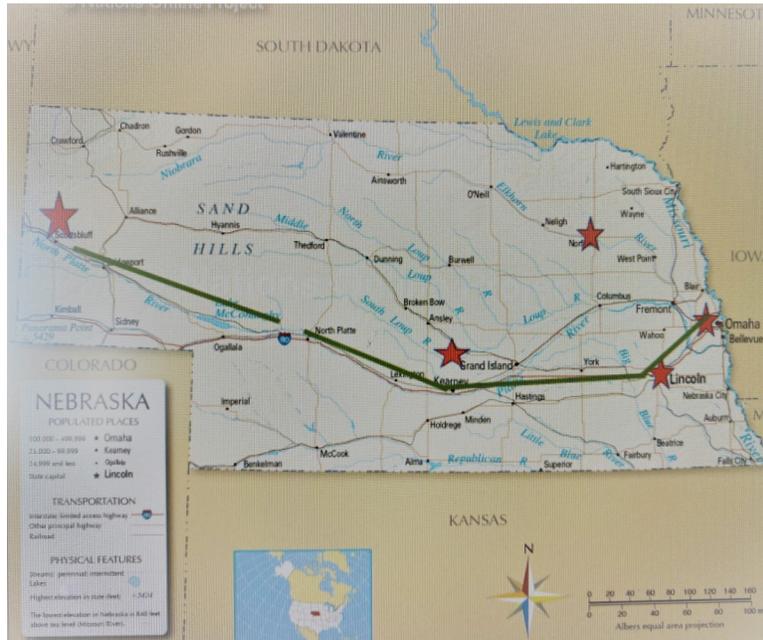
Other honorees, Hope Crom (NHH nurse educator/staff nurse) and Kevin Mendenhall (NHH lead/staff nurse) are graduates of UNMC College of Nursing-Lincoln; as well as Kelly Fields (surgical nurse and NP for a local surgeon).

The Lincoln staff showing their St. Patrick's Day spirit!



NORTHERN DIVISION

The Northern Division faculty and staff set a goal to walk enough miles collectively from January 1—May 31st to walk across Nebraska. The photo shows the progress made as of May 7, 2021. Watch out West Nebraska-Scottsbluff — here we come!



Northern Division faculty and staff celebrated the retirements of **Jean Allen, MSN, RN, APRN-NP, Instructor** and **Lea Kathol, MSN, RN, Instructor** on May 5th. Jean has been with the Northern Division for nine years teaching in both undergraduate and FNP programs. Lea has been with the Northern Division for six years teaching in the undergraduate program. Congratulations Jean and Lea!



IN MEMORIAM



Jill Thewke
November 15, 1962—January 15, 2021

Celebration of Life Event

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021

Time: 1:00—3:00 pm

Place: Zion Lutheran Church, Albion, NE

There will not be a formal program, but there will be food, pictures, and a video playing of Jill's life.



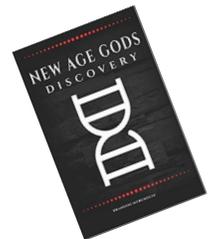
In Loving Memory

*We thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday,
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name.
All we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory's our keepsake,
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping,
We have you in our hearts.*



Brandon Morehouse, BS, recently had his book *New Age Gods: Discovery* published. It is available at: [New Age Gods: Discovery: Morehouse, Brandon: 9798739340856: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B089873934).

Helen Morigan is the adoptive mother to eight teenage gods, genetically-engineered by the United States military to use as weapons for control over the world. The military wants to keep their existence a secret, for now. In fear of the new gods growing strength the military creates another god to keep them in check. But he doesn't turn out the way they want.



When a suspected double agent infiltrates the team, in hopes to control the new weapons, it ignites a centuries long war over control of humanity's fate. With Helen preoccupied, the teenage gods flounder. Instead of fighting for humanity, they battle each other.

If the gods cannot come together, the world will fall into a global civil war.



WEST NEBRASKA DIVISION

NSNA Stellar Award



The University of Nebraska College of Nursing—West Nebraska Division (UNMC-CON-WND) received a renewal of their National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) Stellar School award at the annual convention held virtually in April 2021. Since 2009, the NSNA Stellar School Chapter Recognition Program recognizes NSNA school chapters that demonstrate ongoing involvement in NSNA, including a strong commitment to shared governance and professional development of their students and faculty. Thirty-seven schools across the nation hold this status. They have acquired this status over the past five years. This year only two schools

across the nation received Stellar School Status and only four schools across the nation received renewals. This is a very prestigious award. Documentation for the last five years was submitted for consideration of this award. UNMC-CON-WND will receive a plaque and pins and the campus will be recognized in NSNA publications.

Introducing **Mathew Burton** and wishing him all the best.

Hello. I am a UNMC College of Nursing-WND BSN class of 2014 graduate. By the time you read this I will have successfully completed the UNMC CON MSN-FNP program and participated in commencement ceremonies held May 8, 2021!



Throughout my program I worked with Community Action Health Center in Gering as a nurse educator and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist. I also did my clinicals at Community Action with Carol Herman, PA-C. I have worked with her my entire nursing career and I have a great deal of respect for her. I have enjoyed working as a graduate assistant for the BSN program with gerontology and psychiatric clinical rotations and assisting Dr. Trina Aguirre with several research grants during the time I was enrolled in the graduate program.

And if I weren't busy enough, I got married during graduate school. There was no way I could have finished graduate school without the love and support of my wife Sallie. I have an 11-year-old daughter and four stepchildren—one of which also got married while I was in school.

My passion is serving the underserved. I hope to take this passion and my experience working in a social safety-net environment and continue to work with patients living in poverty as a primary care provider.

Mat Burton, MSN, RN, CDCES

Cinco de Mayo



Prior to dashing off to the CON-WND commencement ceremony, Trina Aguirre and Ann Koehler hosted a health booth during the Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Guadalupe Center in Scottsbluff. Dr. Aguirre measures body composition for Idelia Montelongo (pictured left) with the bio-impedance analyzer; and another visitor completes the eating habits questionnaire. Ann Koehler is assisting.



WND 1st year BSN student, **James Vermilion**, was one of the big winners of the 2020-2021 UNMC College of Nursing Creative Writing awards. The title of his submission is *Diversity, Adversity*.

James had the opportunity, along with the other winners, to read his story at the Creative Writing Virtual Banquet on April 14, 2021.

WEST NEBRASKA DIVISION (cont.)

Eight WND students were inducted into ***Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society*** during the Friday, May 7th ceremony.

(Back row L-R) Jessica Wenzel, Devin Beaver, Patrick Nitchals, Colin Wollaton
(Front row L-R) Kaitlyn Marghein, Samantha O'Leary, Marisa Servido, Samantha DeNardo



Haeler Paw, 2021 WND BSN graduate is also a graduate of the AHEC Scholars Program! Haeler shared that being an AHEC scholar benefited her in preparing for a career in nursing because of the great learning opportunities that the AHEC program provided through the workshops. Some of the workshops included interdisciplinary teamwork, interprofessional communication, and social determinations of health. She enjoyed attending every workshop and the freebie bag after! The Nebraska Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholars Program is a two-year program that is offered at no cost to the student. Throughout the two-year program, students must complete a minimum of 40 hours of didactic training each academic year in conjunction with their current health profession program curriculum, attend workshops throughout each year connecting them to community leaders and potential employers, and complete a culmination of 40 hours of community-based and/or experiential training in rural and/or urban underserved areas each year. The Nebraska AHEC Scholars Program is part of a national initiative that prepares health profession students who want to serve in rural or urban underserved areas. AHEC Scholars gain access to exclusive workshops, potential employers, community leaders, and national and state resources on the latest health topics. Becoming an AHEC Scholar elevates the student's credentials as an emerging health care leader.

Teddy Bear Clinic at the Riverside Discovery Center

Riverside Discovery Center partnered with the UNMC College of Nursing-WND and its students again to bring the Teddy Bear Clinic to the community on April 24th. Children brought their favorite stuffed animal for a check-up courtesy of Nursing Instructor Wendy Wells and the WND nursing students. Also assisting were two WNCC Health Information students Adrienne Morgan and Luke Leyton.

Students were set up at a variety of stations offering head and neck assessments, weight and length measurements, reflexes and (pretend) vaccines for the stuffed animals. Wendy said the Teddy Bear clinic provides opportunities for all. It is a good time for nursing students and children to experience health care in a fun environment. The clinic helps children become comfortable with what to expect when they visit their care provider and is also a day to promote the field of nursing as a career!



Jeremiah and Caitlyn are happy with the exam results for their special friends.

Children had the opportunity to do crafts and other activities during the day. All activities were outside and Riverside Discovery Center requested guests wear masks when not able to socially distance.



Back row L-R – Skylar Johnston, Becca Stone, Jada Stinson, Kaylen Sullivan, Adrienne Morgan.

Front row L-R Nicole Barker, Madi Bibb, Cindi Nava Hernandez, Luke Leyton.



Congratulations to the UNMC CON-WND Class of 2021!