Dr. James Neff, World-Class Pioneering Surgeon, Remembered

“a giant in his field” • “a true leader” • “an innovator”

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Dr. James Neff, internationally recognized orthopaedic surgeon and faculty member for the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, died July 12, 2005, at the age of sixty-five after an extended battle with cancer.

James (Jim) Neff was born in Beloit, Kansas, in 1940 but spent his childhood years in Topeka, Kansas, attending public school there until graduating from high school in 1958. He received his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University in 1962, and went on to receive his medical degree from the University of Kansas College of Medicine in 1966. Jim spent the years of 1966 – 1968 at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, completing an internship in Surgery, followed by a residency in General Surgery.

Jim’s training was interrupted by the call of duty and he spent a year aboard the USS George Marshall as a Lieutenant Commander. Following a year at sea, he was stationed at the United States Naval Submarine base in Groton, Connecticut, as an orthopaedic surgeon.

His duty honored. Jim resumed his training in Michigan, completing his orthopaedic residency in 1973, followed by a fellowship in Musculoskeletal Pathology at the University of Florida. It was here that he was exposed to novel limb sparing procedures for patients afflicted with osseous and soft tissue malignancies. He was a gifted orthopaedic surgeon upon arrival and by the completion of his fellowship a consummate tumor surgeon. In due course, he would make his mark as an innovative surgeon on the regional, national and international scene.

Jim left the University of Florida a much richer institution for his contributions and returned to the University of Kansas in 1975, where he pioneered the development of an outstanding program of patient care, education and research. He was later appointed professor of surgery at the University of Kansas, and in 1991 he joined the University of Nebraska Medical Center as professor and chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation.

“He was really brilliant – probably the best surgeon to come through Nebraska in any field,” said Dr. Walter Huurman, professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and a colleague of Jim’s for 14 years. Dr. Huurman was also very impressed with how Jim looked after and nurtured the resident orthopaedic surgeons under his charge.

“Jim always took the time to learn as much about the residents as he could,” he said. “When the residents left, they took with them Jim’s concern for his patients as well as great admiration for his abilities.”

Residents recall him with great admiration and almost a sense of awe. “He had a great ‘presence’ about him,” said Dr. Craig Mahoney (2001). “Not a sense of ‘intimidation’, but rather a sense that he was a ‘fatherly figure’ in the department.”

Dr. Brian Brigman (2000) remembers Jim encouraging him when others gave little consideration to his choice to pursue a PhD during his residency. This inspiring trait was a constant in all facets of Jim’s life.

“His patience, ingenuity and willingness to take on, with aplomb, the most demanding of cases in the most despairing and deserving of patients inspired me,” said Dr. Brigman.

“His composure, humbleness, and serenity with himself and everyone around him as he continued his demanding work through chemotherapy treatments, despite the physical pain and frailty he developed (certainly for the first time in his life) without complaint or explanation was awe inspiring. He gave me a model to comport myself for the rest of my life. I will miss him dearly.”

A specialist in treating cancer of the bone and soft tissues, Jim was known around the world for performing innovative procedures to help people lead a more normal life following cancer. Two such procedures were the rotationplasty and the hemipelvectomy. Jim developed a custom hemipelvis and modular implant system to be used during a hemipelvectomy that could be adjusted in the operating room to fit the patient’s precise needs.

Jim was an innovator who was always thinking, always tinkering with new ideas. He created a workshop in his basement to test out his ideas and invented a knee fusion device used for patients with failed knee surgeries. This device, created nearly 25 years ago, is known as the “Neff Nail” and continues to be frequently used by orthopaedic surgeons today.

(Continued on next page)
A Message From the Chair

With the New Year fast approaching, we often find ourselves reflecting on events which have taken place over recent months. It was with much sadness that we brought you news regarding the passing of Dr. James R. Neff in July of this year. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Dr. Julia Bridge, and his entire family. His loss was felt deeply, not only within our own department, but throughout the field of orthopaedic surgery nationally and internationally as well. To honor his countless contributions to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation we are establishing the James R. Neff Endowed Chair (read about how you can support this endowment below).

In terms of world news, we have all watched with dread as those in the Gulf Coast region have suffered the wrath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Most likely each of us have, directly or indirectly, been affected by this tragedy. Our sympathies go out to those whose lives have been altered by this natural disaster. We thank everyone who has risen to the occasion and lent a helping hand, especially those in the medical community who have traveled to the area to assist first-hand, or taken in evacuees, patients, medical students or residents. As you know, because of the widespread damage, the AAOS meeting that was previously scheduled to be held in New Orleans will now be held in Chicago, March 22-26th. We look forward to seeing you all there.

This year we are welcoming two new faculty members, Dr. Lori Reed and Dr. Brian Hasley, both alumni of the Nebraska residency program (article on page 7). Please join me in welcoming them, along with our incoming residents (see page 3).

We would also like to extend special thanks to Dr. Wayne and Eileen Ryan; Christina Hixson of the Lied Foundation; the late Dr. L. Thomas Hood and his wife, Marjorie Hood; the late Dr. Jackson Bence and his wife, Carrie Bence; the late Dr. James Neff and his wife, Dr. Julia Bridge; Dr. John Connolly; and Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Ruth Scott for the significant support they continue to provide to the department. Their generous contributions help the department continue to advance in research, education and patient care. We have also printed an honor roll of contributors in this issue as a way to recognize all individuals and organizations that have donated to the department during this fiscal year for their vital support. On behalf of the entire Orthopaedic Department - Thank You!

Kevin L. Garvin

Dr. Kevin L. Garvin

Dr. James Neff, World-Class Pioneering Surgeon, Remembered

(Continued from previous page)

Jim’s presence at UNMC was evident far beyond the realm of orthopaedics, impacting the departments of Radiology, Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Pediatrics, Pathology, Genetics and Physical Therapy. The orthopaedic residency program was revolutionized by the vast amount of knowledge that Jim contributed in all of these areas, expanding their education and training far beyond orthopaedics.

Jim’s resume was laden with accomplishments and honors. He published over 150 articles in scientific journals and authored 14 books or book chapters. He gave 149 presentations at local, national and international scientific meetings.

Over the years Jim was active in many national and international leadership roles, was a member of countless organizations, and served on dozens of boards and committees. For nearly two decades he served as an examiner for the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, and for twenty-five years was an associate editor for Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research. In addition, Jim played an enabling role in the establishment of the North American Musculoskeletal Tumor Society and the International Society of Limb Salvage, known as a group of premier thinkers and visionaries. Just recently, he was selected to receive the University of Kansas Distinguished Medical Alumni Award.

Both colleagues and patients, including children, often praised Jim’s compassionate demeanor. Patients described him as “caring and courteous,” “calm and compassionate” and a “gifted healer.” Hundreds of patients thanked Jim’s family for allowing him to share his time and devotion with so many patients that desperately needed his healing hands.

Since his passing patients, operating room personnel, nurses, support staff and colleagues have offered their feelings of respect, affection and reverence for Jim, both personally and professionally. The medical community has lost an intellect; his patients have sustained the departure of a trusted friend and healer; his students are bereft of their mentor; colleagues will miss his counsel; and friends are left with memories.

Jim is survived by his wife, Julia Bridge, M.D., professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center Pathology and Microbiology; daughters, Rachael and Kirsten; son, Gregory; and stepson, Stuart.

At a memorial service on August 6th at the Dundee Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Nebraska, many people gathered to pay their respects to a surgeon, a colleague, a husband, a father, and a friend. In a heartfelt statement written by Jim prior to his death, he stated, “I have so many people to thank for my rich and eventful life – patients, colleagues, friends and family. . . . I bid you farewell as I assume the role in my next challenge. I implore you to make the most of life. . . .”

On October 5th, 2005, there was a burial service with full military honors for Dr. James Russell Neff at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Virginia.

To honor his many contributions, we are establishing the James R. Neff Endowed Chair at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation, so that those who come after this phenomenal individual may be as inspired by him as those of us who were able to experience him in life. If you are interested in making a donation, or would like more information regarding this endowment, please contact the University of Nebraska Foundation’s Omaha office at 8712 West Dodge Street, Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68114. Or you may call them at (402) 595-2302.
Welcome to our New Residents — Class of 2010

Ryan Arnold
B.S., Neuroscience, Vanderbilt University, 2001
M.D., University of Nebraska College of Medicine, 2005

Growing up in Omaha, Ryan Arnold developed a deep love for the game of basketball. Although told at an early age that he would never be successful in the game, by the end of his high school career Ryan had offers to play at the college level. The dedication and hard work that allowed Ryan to eventually realize his dreams on the basketball court have also led him to realize success in his education. While attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville for his undergraduate degree in neuroscience, Ryan remained on the dean’s list for four years and completed research studying the effects of Fetal Alcohol exposure on NMDA receptors and development of plasticity in the rat cortex. Ryan returned to his native state to attend the Iowa Carver College of Medicine, where he was a student mentor and a biochemistry tutor. He was involved in research evaluating the effect of internal and external knee rotation on hoop strain in the medial meniscus. Kurt was also invited by one of his professors to participate in research aimed at gaining a broader understanding of the mechanism behind acute respiratory distress syndrome. Outside of work, Kurt enjoys athletics, gardening/landscaping and spending time with his wife, his St. Bernard, and friends.

Kurt Bormann
B.S., Exercise Science, Truman State University, 2001
M.D., Iowa Carver College of Medicine, 2005

Growing up on a farm in Iowa, Kurt Bormann learned the value of hard work early on. He took those values with him when he left for college at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO, where he earned a degree in exercise science and lettered on the varsity football team. During his undergraduate studies Kurt was introduced to orthopaedic research while working as a research fellow, investigating emergent pelvic fracture management. He also worked as a telemetry technician and ER multi-skilled worker, and an operating room assistant, exposing him to procedures in the critical care units as well as the operating room. Kurt returned to his native state to attend the Iowa Carver College of Medicine, where he was a student mentor and a biochemistry tutor. He was involved in research evaluating the effect of internal and external knee rotation on hoop strain in the medial meniscus. Kurt was also invited by one of his professors to participate in research aimed at gaining a broader understanding of the mechanism behind acute respiratory distress syndrome. Outside of work, Kurt enjoys athletics, gardening/landscaping and spending time with his wife, his St. Bernard, and friends.

Michael Shevlin
B.A., Biology, Carroll College, 2000
M.D., University of Washington School of Medicine, 2005

Michael Shevlin knows all too well what it is like to experience orthopaedics from a patient’s point of view. Growing up in Helena, MT, Michael suffered an injury to his knee during a high school soccer game. Worried he had torn ACL, he was inspired by the ability of the orthopaedic surgeon to determine his knee was stable by simple manipulation of the joint, and the foundation was laid for his interest in anatomy and the musculoskeletal system. Michael graduated with distinction from Carroll College in Helena, MT, with a B.A. in Biology. During his undergraduate studies he worked as an autopsy assistant, which allowed him additional exposure to the field of anatomy. He then moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington School of Medicine. Michael’s research experience during medical school focused on independent research analyzing defibrillation after defibrillation in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. He has volunteered in many capacities, including at a dermatology clinic for the homeless in Seattle, and a clinic in Montana for the uninsured. He also enjoys volunteering his time coaching and working with youth programs. In his free time, Michael enjoys traveling, backpacking, hunting, various intramural sports, and training for marathons. Currently, he has completed two marathons and only narrowly missed qualifying for the Boston Marathon.

Gustavo Cordero
B.S., Biology, University of California, 1999
M.D., University of California at Davis School of Medicine, 2005

While growing up in California, Gustavo Cordero was introduced to surgery not as a student, but rather as a patient, an experience that left him with a fascination of anatomy and an attraction for surgery. After graduating with a B.S. in Biology from the University of California in 1999, Gustavo attended medical school at the University of California at Davis School of Medicine, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. He was President and Co-founder of the first Surgery Student Interest Group at UC Davis, designed to provide medical students with early exposure to the fields of surgery and match them with surgeons for shadowing opportunities. As a medical student, Gustavo was involved in biomechanical orthopaedic research comparing standard compression and locking plate fixation of osteoporotic humeral shaft fractures. He also conducted independent research in biology on the identification of a subspecies within a Pacific Coast fish, presented this research at various conferences, and was nominated for the Dean’s Award. Gustavo volunteered in the Paul Hom Asian Clinic, a student run clinic that focuses on treating the Hmong and Chinese populations; the Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic, a mobile, student run clinic designed to treat injection drug users; and the Clinica Tepati, where he dedicated his Saturdays to providing primary care services to the uninsured. Gustavo enjoys spending time with his wife and their four cats, biking, hiking, playing basketball and working with computers.
Era at the University of Nebraska

The Beginning of the Modern Orthopaedic Era at the University of Nebraska

Until the middle 1960’s there was little movement toward developing an academic Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Nebraska. A brief attempt at sustaining a recognized residency training program failed beyond the two earliest trainees in the post World War II period, perhaps due to the absence of a salary line to accompany an academic appointment for a department Chairman. The volunteer work of community surgeons, whose primary and progressively demanding orthopaedic practices limited the amount of time available for pro bono work, was sufficient to staff the University and Douglas County Hospitals only. ‘In House’ coverage was limited to general surgery residents assigned to an orthopaedic rotation. This arrangement, although adequate in the 1950s and early 60s, had become obviously sub-standard by 1965.

Records of the precise series of events which led to the development of the modern department are limited to the memories of an unfortunately decreasing number of individuals who were present and closely involved at the time. However, it would seem likely that Dean Cecil L. Wittson and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Dr. Merle Musselman, played major roles. Chester Waters II was volunteer chairman, leading a group of individuals who donated time and skill to providing clinical orthopaedic care for patients admitted to the two hospitals. His younger partner Dr. L. Thomas Hood was a Fort Crook, NE, native who graduated from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1946 and the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1958. After a one-year rotating internship at Immanuel Hospital, he entered the US Army Air Force branch for two years as a General Medical Officer. When Capt. Hood completed his Army obligation in 1949 he was accepted as an orthopaedic resident at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Upon completing the residency in 1952 he joined the practice of Drs. Herman Johnson and Chester Waters II in Omaha. These two individuals were involved as volunteer staff in the Orthopaedic Department at the University and Dr. Hood followed suit, taking a role in caring for the orthopaedically needy patients at the University and Douglas County hospitals. He became board certified in 1955, maintaining a keen interest in orthopaedic innovation and education. Dean Wittson recognized Dr. Hood as a talented, interested and willing individual who would agree to accept part-time employment as chairman and press forward with organization and development of the residency program. Dr. Hood enlisted the assistance of Dr. Stanley M. Bach, first of the graduates of an aborted post-war residency program and Dr. Dwight Burney, partner of a former volunteer chairman, William Hamsa, Sr. In November 1967, Dr. L. Thomas Hood was appointed by the Board of Regents as associate professor and chairman of the Orthopaedic Department. He was offered and accepted a contract which stipulated he was to be paid a salary of $1000 per month and expected to devote fifty percent of his professional endeavors to this task.

The first step in the development of the program after appointing a chairman was to obtain probationary certification by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. Once this was accomplished, the first resident could be enrolled. Concurrently, the department was aware of a possible residency applicant, a native of Fremont, NE, who had graduated from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1958 and the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1962. Dr. Lowell T. Niebaum had completed his internship at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, FL, and served three years as a Naval Flight Surgeon. With his Vietnam-era military service completed he had entered a general surgery residency at Orange County (CA) Medical Center but truly desired to follow a career in orthopaedic, not general, surgery. It was fortuitous for both parties, that after a year of preparation by the University, Dr. Hood and his staff, ‘Zeke’ Niebaum could apply for a position as an orthopaedic resident in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Nebraska. He did so, was accepted and began his specialty education on January 1, 1969 as the first of a continuing legacy.
Faculty Presentations, Seminars, and Publications

Department faculty members present many lectures, seminars, and courses on the UNMC campus and in the Omaha area. They also serve in leadership positions and offices for local, state, national and international organizations. Here are some of our faculty and staff’s presentations and publications, awards received and offices held, grants received, and other professional activities from June-October 2005.

Publications:


Dr. Hani Haider was elected to chair the International Standards Organization Task Group for reviewing ISO 14243-1 and 14243-2, the two standards for testing of Total Knee Replacement Systems. The C150 Group (Implants for Surgery) of the ISO held its annual meeting October 10-13, 2005, in Gyeongju, Korea.

Dr. Haider is also Co-Chair of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) committee for developing standards for Testing of Total Knee Replacement Systems. In addition, Dr. Haider was elected to chair a work group to develop the first Phantom for validating Computer Aided Orthopaedic Systems (CAOS), by the ASTM committee for developing standards for CAOS systems.

In October Dr. Hani Haider received the HAP Paul Award for Outstanding Research in New Technology for Joint Replacement. (full article on page 7)

In April of 2005, Dr. Hani Haider was recognized for having served 5 years in the UNMC College of Medicine.

During the May 2005 AO-North America Basic Principles and Techniques of Operative Fracture Management Course for Residents, Dr. Matthew Morrowino was presented with the Howard Rosen Table Instructor Award.

Congratulations to Dr. Susan Scherl who was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in July 2005.

The late Dr. James Neff received three awards prior to his passing in July. The University of Kansas, where he completed his residency, awarded him the University of Kansas Distinguished Medical Alumni Award. During the June orthopaedic resident graduation ceremonies, Dr. Neff was awarded a special Appreciation Award for Distinguished Service to the Orthopaedic Residency Program. Dr. Neff was also selected as one of America’s Top Doctors 2005 and America’s Top Doctors for Cancer 2005.

Dr. Beau Konigsberg, HO IV, was the recipient of the 2005 Pfizer Scholars in Pain Management Grant, which recognizes physicians for contributions to research and patient care in pain management.

Dr. Neff was presented with the Howard Rosen Table Instructor Award.  During the June orthopaedic resident graduation ceremonies, Dr. Neff was awarded a special Appreciation Award for Distinguished Service to the Orthopaedic Residency Program. Dr. Neff was also selected as one of America’s Top Doctors 2005 and America’s Top Doctors for Cancer 2005.

Dr. Beau Konigsberg, HO IV, was the recipient of the 2005 Pfizer Scholars in Pain Management Grant, which recognizes physicians for contributions to research and patient care in pain management.

Congratulations to this year’s recipients of the Synthes Educational Grant Awards: Drs. Curtis Hartman, HO III, and Leonard Kibuule, HO III.  In addition to these awards, Drs. Hartman and Johnson were able to attend the Principles of Fracture Management Course for Residents in St. Louis, MO, March 22-26, 2006

Dr. Hani Haider

Offices held:
Dr. Kevin Garvin will serve as the MAOA Nominating Committee Chair, 2005-2006. He is also serving on the Hip Society Membership Committee and the AOA Resident Leadership Committee for 2005-2006.

Dr. Susan Scherl will serve as the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America Trauma and Prevention Committee Chair, 2005-2006. She also became a member of the AAOS Trauma Call Task Force in August 2005.

Recent Grants Received:
Dr. Hani Haider:
• “An experimental investigation of the biomechanics of the Advanced Total Ankle Replacement System,” involving experimental assessment of fatigue, constraint, interlocks, wear and general function of a novel ankle replacement system prior to clinical trials.

• “Freehand Navigated Bone Cutting for Total Knee Replacement Surgery,” which involves conducting experiments to compare a University-owned novel technology developed in Nebraska relating to freehand navigated bone cutting with the technique(s) generally regarded as the current established clinical and industry practice.

• “Study of the laxity and Constraint of the Biomet Vanguard anterior-stabilized (AS) Knee replacement system.”

Dr. Matthew Morrowino:
• “Clinical trial using adult stem cells to enhance bone healing.” (See page 11 for article.)

Dr. Todd Sekundiak:
• “A multi-centered, prospective clinical outcomes study to obtain data on Zimmer revision or primary hip arthroplasty devices for primary revision and total arthroplasty of the hip joint in patients with large bony defects of the acetabulum or proximal femur.”

International and National:

Nystrom, N.: Surgical Treatment of Whiplash Related Disorders: Indications and Results from 182 Swedish Patients 2002-2005 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center; High Cervical Fusion - a Pyrrhic Victory over Pain in WAD, Focal Point Whiplash, Orebro, Sweden, October 24-26, 2005.


Conference Presentations, Seminars and Publications
(Continued from previous page)

International and National (Continued):


Nystrom, N.: Whiplash Associated Disorders: Diagnosis Indications and Treatment. Workshop Co-sponsored by Orthopaedic Oncology and Pain Management Unit, Department of Plastic Surgery, Universidad des Baleares, Spain, July 2005.


Regional and Local:


Mormino, M.: Course Chairman. 4th Annual Trauma Update, Omaha, NE, September 2005.


Sekundiak, T.: Indications for Modular Femoral Stems; Solutions for Acetabular Deffects. Revision Hip Solutions, Boston, MA, July 14-15, 2005


Esposito, P.: Frequent Orthopaedic Consults in Adolescents. Midwest Bone Health Symposium, Omaha, NE, April 22, 2005.


Namavar, F.; Varma, S.; and Amirani, I.: Applications of Nanotechnology for Alternative Bearing Surfaces for Total Joint Arthroplasty. Heartland Biomedical Engineering Symposium (HBES), Omaha, NE, April 18, 2005.


Haider, H.: Chair. Heartland Biomedical Engineering Symposium (HBES), Omaha, NE, April 2005.


Haider, H.; Walker, P.; and Blunn, G.: Are the Kinematics of Different TRK Designs Targeted for the Same Patient the Same? Heartland Biomedical Engineering Symposium (HBES), Omaha, NE, April 2005.

Department Welcomes Two New Faculty

Although they are new faculty members to the department, Drs. Lori Reed and Brian Hasley are hardly new to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Drs. Reed and Hasley are both Nebraska alumni returning to their midwestern roots. Each are familiar with the ‘ins and outs’ of the department from their residency years, and although they left as students, they return as teachers.

Dr. Lori K. Reed was born and raised in Clinton, Iowa. After receiving her B.A. in Chemistry and Biology in 1995, she attended medical school at the University of Iowa College of Medicine, graduating in 1999. Dr. Reed then crossed the state line to complete her orthopaedic surgery residency at the Creighton University/University of Nebraska Medical Center Health Foundation (1999-2004). After residency she traveled southeast to the sunshine state, completing a Foot and Ankle/Lower Extremity Trauma Fellowship at the Florida Orthopaedic Institute in 2005.

Dr. Reed joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as an assistant professor in August of this year. She is a resident member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, a member of the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation, a candidate member of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, and an Emerging Leader of the American Orthopaedic Association. Dr. Reed specializes in foot and ankle disorders, lower extremity post-traumatic reconstruction, and general orthopaedics.

Dr. Brian P. Hasley grew up in Hastings, Nebraska, and attended St. Cecilia’s High School. Opposite of Dr. Reed, he moved from Nebraska to Iowa to attend Cornell College in Mount Vernon, IA, graduating with a B.A. in Biology. In 1999, Dr. Hasley received his M.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, and went on to complete his five-year orthopaedic surgery residency at the Creighton University/University of Nebraska Medical Center Health Foundation in 2004. Following residency, Dr. Hasley was the Dorothy and Bryant Edwards Fellow in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery and Scoliosis at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, University of Texas at Southwestern Medical Center, in Dallas, Texas. Beyond his primary fellowship training, Dr. Hasley chose to spend an additional three months in Dallas completing the John S. Appleton Fellowship in Scoliosis Research to gain further expertise in the area of Pediatric Spine Surgery and Research.

Dr. Hasley will return from Texas to join the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as an assistant professor in December of this year. He will specialize in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery.

Graduation Activities Celebrate Resident's Accomplishments

Graduating residents Drs. Scott Humphrey, Edward Prince, Anthony Lauder and Ivan Tarkin gave their final presentations during the June graduation ceremony and began looking forward to their upcoming fellowship opportunities in California, Utah, Washington and Minnesota, respectively.

The Durham Research Center was the location for this year’s resident presentations on Friday and Spine Symposium on Saturday. Dr. Robert A. Hart, associate professor of Orthopaedics and chief of the Spine Section at Oregon Health and Science University was the featured speaker and gave two presentations entitled, “Lumbar Degenerative Disease in the Presence of Osteoporosis,” and “Jack’s Back – The Politics of Low Back Pain.”

Faculty, residents and alumni enjoyed a golf outing on Friday at the Iron Horse Golf Club, and a formal banquet on Saturday held at the Omaha Country Club. Despite the onset of rain Friday, guests enjoyed the golf outing as planned (see photos on page 11).

Drs. Tarkin and Lauder both received the John F. Connolly, M.D., Award for Outstanding Research; Dr. Lauder was awarded the Frank P. Stone, M.D., Award for Academic Excellence; and Dr. Matthew Mormino, associate professor and director of the residency program, received the Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching. A special Appreciation Award for Distinguished Service to the Orthopaedic Residency Program was presented to Dr. James Neff.

“Graduation is a celebration of the accomplishments these residents have made,” said Dr. Garvin. “Everyone involved truly appreciates the contributions that make events like this possible.” Donations made by alumni to the annual development fund helps to sponsor graduation activities.
Gifts from orthopaedic alumni, friends, faculty, foundations and corporations support the department’s mission by providing vital resources for resident education, scientific research and equipment, and much more.

“Private gifts greatly assist the department, enabling us to continue providing an outstanding education for our residents. These funds make it possible to offer various educational opportunities, whether through treating patients clinically, being a part of breakthrough research, or attending educational meetings,” said Dr. Kevin Garvin.

The following honor roll alphabetically lists the names of individuals and organizations that supported the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2005. Thank you for your vital support.

**Honor Roll of 2004-2005 Contributors**

- **10,000 & above**
  - Bence, Carrie
  - Connolly, John
  - Esposito, Paul W.
  - Garvin, Kevin L.
  - Hixson, Christina M.
  - Hood, Marjorie Johnson
  - Neff, James R. & Bridge, Julia
  - Ryan, Wayne & Eileen
  - Scott, Bill & Ruth
  - Sekundiak, Todd D.

- **5000 - 9999**
  - Clare, Michael
  - Fehringer, Edward V.
  - Ginsburg, Glen M.
  - Mormino, Matthew A.
  - Nystrom, N. Ake

- **1000 - 4999**
  - Clare, Patrick E. & Linda L.
  - Fitzgibbons, Timothy C.

- **1000 - 4999 (continued)**
  - Guse, Roy
  - Peterson, David A.
  - Scherl, Susan A.
  - Schwab, Terry D.
  - Surgical Solutions of Nebraska, Inc.
  - The Durham Foundation

- **0 - 999**
  - Arroyo, Julian S.
  - Bhuller, Gurpal S.
  - Davick, Jeffrey P.
  - Drs. Gross, Iwersen, Kratochvil & Klein, P.C.
  - Duwelius, Paul J.
  - Fischer, Brett W.
  - Garvin, William F.
  - Huurman, Walter
  - Mendlick, Michael R.
  - Miyano, John A.
  - Rogers, Jeffrey A.
  - Sicuranza, Michael
  - Smith, Samuel E.

If you have questions or corrections to this honor roll, please contact the University of Nebraska Foundation’s Omaha office at 8712 West Dodge Street, Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68114. Or you may call them at (402) 595-2302.

**Wall of Honor**

The Wall of Honor was created by the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery to permanently recognize the individuals and organizations that have provided more than $100,000 in generous support of the department’s mission. A series of plaques which include the names and etched portraits of the donors is displayed, along with another plaque that shares a brief summary of the history of Nebraska’s orthopaedic program.

Dr. Wayne and Eileen Ryan, and Ms. Christina Hixson of the Lied Foundation, were first inducted into the department’s Wall of Honor in the spring of 2004. Dr. Ryan, founder of Streck Laboratories, has a long history with UNMC and is proud of what has been accomplished by the institution over the years. The Ryan’s have made another generous donation to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery this year, designated to support various research activities. By supporting the department’s research efforts and other UNMC areas, Dr. Ryan feels he is able to support causes in his own area of interest.

In addition, Ms. Christina Hixson of the Lied foundation has made a generous gift to the department this year. This donation will also assist research efforts by making it possible for the department to purchase a top-of-the-line hip simulator for use in our scientific research laboratories.

“Without the ability to purchase and maintain equipment essential for use in the research labs, the inspiration and ingenuity of our faculty and research staff would not be realized at the level that is now possible,” said Dr. Kevin Garvin. “We offer sincere gratitude to each of the individuals and corporations that are willing to support our efforts in the hopes that the outcome will benefit not only the department, but patients and the orthopaedic community as well.”

**Coming in the Spring 2006 Issue . . .**

Soon to be added to the Wall of Honor are Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Ruth Scott, who have deep ties to the Omaha community and have recently made a generous commitment to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation. Read more about this in the Spring 2006 issue of Breaking News.
Professorships Commemorate Lives of Outstanding Orthopaedic Surgeons

The late Drs. L. Thomas Hood and Herman Frank Johnson are two names that run deep through Nebraska’s orthopaedic heritage. Mrs. Marjorie Hood (wife of Dr. Hood and daughter of Dr. Johnson) wanted to make sure that they were remembered for their remarkable contributions to the field of orthopaedics, while also supporting the mission of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery that they both helped to build.

Dr. Herman Frank Johnson graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1922. For over two decades he shared his ideas on improving orthopaedic care with the medical community at meetings and in publications covering a broad range of topics. Two of Dr. Johnson’s landmark publications included, “Reconstruction Procedures in Traumatic Lesions of Bone and Joint Where Conservative Methods Fail,” and “The Orthopaedic Care of the Arthritic Patient.” In 1932 he became an assistant professor of both Orthopaedic Surgery and General Surgery at the Nebraska College of Medicine, and shared his expertise with many young medical students. In addition to this appointment, Dr. Johnson was a senior partner in the office of Lord, Schrock and Johnson.

Dr. Johnson practiced at Methodist, Clarkson and Immanuel Hospitals, consulted at Lutheran Hospital, and practiced in some out of state facilities as well.

Dr. L. Thomas Hood graduated from UNMC in 1946. During his years at UNMC he also worked part-time at the orthopaedic office of Lord, Schrock, and Johnson. Being exposed to Dr. Johnson’s expertise and extensive knowledge, Dr. Hood was inspired and decided to specialize in orthopaedic surgery. After serving two years in the Army Medical Corp and completing a three-year fellowship in orthopaedic surgery at the Mayo Clinic, he returned to Omaha and became a partner in his father-in-law’s office until he retired in 1984.

In 1968 Dr. Hood became the first chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at UNMC. During his time as chair (1968-1974) he pioneered the residency program in orthopaedics and was personally responsible for the first twelve people to enter the program. In 1970, upon his return after traveling to Europe to study hip arthroplasty, he performed the first hip replacement in Nebraska and shared his knowledge of the procedure with other orthopaedic surgeons. In private practice Dr. Hood operated at many hospitals in the community and served as president at Methodist and Immanuel at different times in his career.

Mrs. Hood has generously donated to the Orthopaedic Department through the establishment of professorships in the names of her husband and father. The professorships are intended to be awarded to those who have followed in their footsteps and set the standards of patient care, education and research at a level that encourages others to do the same; in turn, perpetually inspiring the orthopaedic surgeons of the future to maintain the department’s mission and standard of excellence. Drs. Kevin Garvin and Matthew Mormino have shown just these qualities.

Dr. Garvin has been awarded the “L. Thomas Hood, M.D., Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation,” for showing strong leadership skills as chair of the department, increasing the research focus of the department’s faculty, and building and maintaining a strong clinical practice while also excelling in his duties as chair of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dr. Mormino was honored with the “Herman Frank Johnson, M.D., Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation,” for demonstrating outstanding surgical and academic skills, excelling as director of the residency program, and being a principal investigator on a ground-breaking clinical trial to enhance bone healing.

“As a department, we are very grateful for this generous donation,” said Dr. Kevin Garvin. “These funds provide support to so many areas of our department, including the advancement of our scientific research and making various programs within the department a possibility.”

Over time, the intent of this generous donation is that the endowed funds will generate enough principal to allow the Professorships to ascend to the level of endowed Chairs of Orthopaedic Surgery.

UNMC Receives Prestigious HAP Paul Award

The HAP Paul Award for best research in new technology development in joint replacement was awarded to the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) by the International Society for Technology in Arthroplasty (ISTA). The award is the international group’s highest honor for distinguished research, established to honor the outstanding contribution of Howard A. Paul, DVM, a tireless researcher advancing the science and technology of arthroplasty, and the first ever pioneer in robotics for surgery.

The award was presented on October 1, 2005 at the ISTA’s 18th annual symposium held in Kyoto, Japan. The award-winning research paper, “Minimally Invasive TKR Surgery through Navigated Freehand Bone Cutting - Assessed by 3d Analysis of Surface Finish and Alignment” will be published by ISTA as a special article in the Journal of Arthroplasty. Hani Haider, PhD, Director of the Biomechanics Laboratory, accepted the award at a special plenary session during the conference. The work was part of a team effort involving Research Associate Andres Barrera, MSc, Engineering Technician Benjamin O’Brien, and orthopaedic surgeons Drs. Kevin Garvin and Todd Sekundiak.

The research involved a revolutionary technology developed recently at the UNMC orthopaedic laboratories, made possible by funds donated from Christina M. Hixson of the Lied Foundation. It allows surgeons to use computer image-based navigation to guide them in freehand cutting of bones to prepare them for insertion of implants for joint replacement. Conventional systems use complicated and cumbersome mechanical jigs to align the cutting instruments. New commercial navigation systems still use these jigs, and are therefore still as invasive. Navigated freehand bone cutting on the other hand has the potential to produce easier, faster, less costly and less invasive total joint replacement procedures, according to the study.

The research has been presented at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and has received wide attention in the last year at various national and international scientific conferences, as well as from the orthopaedic manufacturing community.
Employee Honors and Awards

Several UMA employees have recently received Exceptional Service and Performance Awards. These awards are given to employees who consistently deliver outstanding service and performance, and support the mission and vision of UMA through doing so.

Congratulations to the employees listed below and thank you for your outstanding efforts!

March ESP Awards

Jody Bayer, Staff Nurse
Jody was nominated for emphasizing quality work and having high expectations of performance, as well as supporting the mission and vision of UMA.

Michelle Nye, LPN
Michelle was nominated for providing outstanding customer service, having a positive attitude, and supporting the mission and vision of UMA.

Jennifer Schaewe, Clerical Associate
Jennifer was nominated for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of daily operations. She went outside the scope of her responsibilities to help others.

April ESP Awards

**Kimberley Wells, Medical Assistant**
Kimberley was nominated because she helped out in a short staffed clinic when a co-worker needed assistance. With no questions asked, she put her own work aside and started helping.

May ESP Awards

Margaret Jones, Medical Billing Representative
Margaret was nominated because she is always willing to help wherever needed, and is an excellent team player. She greets patients with a smile, schedules their return appointment, and sends them off with a “have a great day.”

June ESP Awards

Jeff Ohmerberger, LPN
Jeff was nominated because on June 21, 2005, he helped a woman in the UNMC cafeteria who was having a diabetic reaction. His ability to think and react quickly helped to avoid further complications. Jeff monitored her until she was stable, assisted her with the wheelchair, and helped her to a table to eat her lunch.

Lori Dawson, Medical Assistant
Lori was nominated because on June 21, 2005, she helped assist someone in the UNMC cafeteria that was having a diabetic reaction. Due to her quick reaction and medical knowledge, she was able to help them avoid a fall and further diabetic complications that could have been life threatening.

Additional honors:

**Kimberley Wells** also received special recognition in June for having completed 20 years of service. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!

Visiting Speakers Expand Education

Part of providing a good educational experience for residents is to ensure that visiting speakers are brought in to share their expertise and experience on a variety of topics.

In May, former Nebraska resident Dr. Lori Reed (2004) returned to present Grand Rounds entitled, “Ankle Replacement: Is it the Answer to Ankle Arthritis?” Also in May, special guest speaker Dr. Virginia Aita, assistant professor of the Department of Preventive and Societal Medicine at UNMC, gave an ethics-related talk regarding “Patient Care.”

This year’s graduation ceremony in June featured a Spine Symposium on Saturday. Dr. Robert Hart, associate professor of Orthopaedics and chief of the Spine Section at Oregon Health and Science University was the featured speaker and gave two presentations entitled, “Lumbar Degenerative Disease in the Presence of Osteoporosis,” and “Jack’s Back – The Politics of Low Back Pain.”

Also in attendance were guest speakers from the Department of Neurosurgery at University of Nebraska Medical Center, including Chairperson Dr. Kenneth Follett and Dr. Joanne Swartzbaugh. Their talks were entitled “Intrathecal Baclofen Therapy for Treatment of Spasticity,” and “Outcomes of Lumbar Spine Fusion,” respectively. Dr. Reginald Knight, currently with Orthopaedics International in Kirkland, WA, also participated in the spine symposium and presented “Minimally Invasive Transpsoas Interbody Fusion for Lumbar Degenerative Conditions.”

Dr. Kirby Hitt, chief of Adult Reconstructive Surgery and Joint Replacement in the Department of Orthopaedics at Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas, was the guest speaker in September. Dr. Hitt’s talk was entitled, “Maximizing Range of Motion in Total Knee Replacement.”

Annual contributions to the department’s development fund help to bring guest speakers to campus and provide both faculty and residents with a valuable exchange of experience and expertise.
Clinical Trial Uses Adult Stem Cells to Enhance Bone Healing

The University of Nebraska Medical Center has become the fifth site in the U.S. to enter into a clinical trial with Aastrom Biosciences, Inc., to determine if special adult stem cells can help speed the healing of severe leg fractures and eliminate the need to do painful bone grafting procedures. Candidates for the Phase I/II trial are patients with open or non-union fractures of the long bones in the leg that have not healed completely within four months.

“Treatment options are limited for these individuals,” said Matthew Mormino, M.D., associate professor and residency program director, and primary investigator for this study. “The normal course is to try to achieve fracture healing through bone grafting, which can be quite painful. The clinical trial is much more patient-friendly.”

It begins with the collection of a sample of bone marrow from the patient’s hip in an outpatient setting. The adult stem cells (unspecialized cells) and progenitor cells (partially specialized cells) derived from the bone marrow are then placed in a device called the AastromReplicell® System, which transforms the cells into Tissue Repair Cells (TRCs) over a 12-day period. These TRCs are then inserted during a surgical procedure into the fracture site. These cells are designed to act as bone forming cells and promote healing of the open or non-union fracture.

“This study explores the osteogenesis aspect of bone formation. We want to determine the viability of these TRCs in promoting healing in difficult leg fractures,” Dr. Mormino said. “If this trial proves successful, this procedure will provide an effective alternative to current bone grafting procedures. It would represent a major breakthrough for dealing with these difficult cases.”

In May 2005, Aastrom announced the results from a similar feasibility clinical trial conducted with the Institut de Terapia Regenerativa Tisular (ITRT) in Barcelona, Spain. In this trial, five of six patients treated with TRCs exhibited clinical and functional healing as determined by radiographic imaging within six months. The results from the Barcelona trial were notable in that each patient had failed prior treatment with standard of care methodologies and had a poor prognosis for healing.

Dr. Edward Fehringer, assistant professor, will join Dr. Mormino as co-investigator at the UNMC trial site.
# Continuing Education and Grand Rounds

All UNMC orthopaedic alumni are welcome to attend the following continuing education seminars and Grand Rounds presented by department faculty, current residents, and guest speakers. Please call the department (402-559-4533) to check on possible updates to this schedule.

## November 2005
- **7** Infection in Total Joint Arthroplasty  
  (Dr. Garvin)
- **14** TBA
- **21** Spine BMP (B. Matthew Hicks)
- **28** TBA (Dr. Rosipal)

## December 2005
- **5** Treatment of Hip DJD (Dr. Konigsberg)
- **12** Osteosarcoma (Dr. Buck)
- **19** Morbidity & Mortality (Drs. Hubley, Turman, Dietrich & Mulconrey)

## January 2006
- **7** Knee Collateral Ligament Injuries  
  (Dr. Turman)
- **9** Management of Wrist Arthritis  
  (Dr. McCarthy)
- **16** Ewing Sarcoma (Dr. Buck)
- **23** ACL Injuries/Reconstruction (Dr. Dietrich)
- **30** Cervical Myelopathy (Dr. Mulconrey)

## February 2006
- **6** Blood Conservation in Total Joint Arthroplasty (Dr. Otterberg)
- **13** Thumb CMC Arthritis (Dr. Ferlic)
- **20** Distal Humerus Fractures (Dr. Fehringer)
- **27** Soft Tissue Coverage for Traumatic Injuries (Dr. Hollins)

## March 2006
- **6** Idiopathic/Degenerative Scoliosis  
  (Dr. McClellen)
- **13** MIS Hip (Dr. Sekundiak)
- **20** Morbidity & Mortality  
  (Drs. Mulconrey, Swanson & Volin)

## April 2006
- **3** Mid-America Meeting Presentations
- **10** TBA (Dr. Rosipal)
- **17** Elbow Injuries (Dr. Turman)
- **19-23** AAOS Annual Meeting: Chicago, IL
- **24** EMG (Dr. Hughes)

## May 2006
- **1** Thromboembolic Disease  
  (Dr. Konigsberg)
- **8** Hallux Valgus (Dr. David Inda)
- **15** Damage Control Orthopaedics  
  (Dr. Swanson)
- **22** TBA (Dr. Mormino)

## June 2006
- **5** Biomechanics of the Knee  
  (Dr. Haider)
- **12** Morbidity & Mortality  
  (Drs. Dietrich, Buck, & Rosipal)
- **16 – 17** Graduation Ceremonies
- **19** No Conference

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