UNMC Connect

UNMC on the World Stage

SUMMER 2010
ON THE COVER:
Partnerships between UNMC and medical schools around the globe are blooming - especially in Russia, China and India.

UNMC ON THE WORLD STAGE
Nebraska is in the throes of a cultural revolution and UNMC is leading the way.

WINDS OF CHANGE AT THE UNMC COLLEGE OF NURSING
New facilities, changes in curriculum, admissions part of initiative to reduce nursing shortage.

NEW CENTER TO HELP SENIORS AGE SUCCESSFULLY
The Home Instead Center for Successful Aging strives to help seniors live healthier, happier lives.

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IN THE Loop
SEPTMBER 10
College of Dentistry Renovation Open House

SEPTEMBER 19
UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division, Norfolk Public Open House

OCTOBER 8-9
UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend
SUCCESS EQUALS A LIFE SAVED
13 Two Nebraska natives dedicate their lives to saving children around the world.

CANCER CAMPUS IS NEW VISION FOR UNMC
14 New facility will stimulate research and translate discoveries into personalized treatment for each patient.

DONORS KNOW THE VALUE OF HEALTH
21 Virginia Grissom and the late Robert Grissom, M.D., longtime UNMC supporters, invest in the golden years.

UNMC NEWS 18
ALUMNI NEWS 22
CLASS NOTES 24
ONE LAST THING 30
Thank you for reading this issue of “UNMC Connect” magazine. I’m often asked about our relationships and partnerships with institutions in other countries, such as China, India and Russia. Typically, those asking the question want to know why UNMC is so eager to develop these relationships when there are so many health care issues that face us in the United States and, specifically, in Nebraska.

It’s important to point out that our pursuit of international partnerships and our commitment to the health care of Nebraskans are not diametrically opposed. In fact, I believe that the former is necessary to ensure the long-term viability of this medical center to serve its constituents, the citizens of the state of Nebraska.

These international partnerships lead to student and faculty exchange, and they provide us with collaborations for learning and sharing new ideas in education, research and patient care.

Especially in research science, the Far East is leading the way, insofar as its investment in infrastructure and recruitment of top scientists. The world’s collective knowledge in science is shifting to countries in this part of the world, and we must collaborate with institutions there to stay on the leading edge.

As citizens, alumni and potential patients of UNMC, you can be assured that UNMC’s commitment to you remains strong. I believe that we can best serve our state and its citizens by being a robust, vibrant academic health science center. To achieve this goal, international partnerships are essential, and they represent one avenue that UNMC will continue to pursue to ensure that UNMC continues on the leading edge of medicine, providing a better life and stronger economy for all Nebraskans.

Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
UNMC Chancellor
Investing in hope. Investing in communities.

Medical research at America’s medical schools and teaching hospitals means hope. Hope for millions waiting for new treatments and cures. Hope for local communities through investments in skilled jobs, new technologies, and new industries that lead to long-term economic growth around the nation.

In one year alone, National Institutes of Health-funded research conducted at the nation’s medical schools and teaching hospitals supported more than 350,000 jobs, generated more than $18 billion in wages, and created over $50 billion in new business activity at the state level.*

Medical research. It’s an investment in our health and our future. Learn more about NIH-supported medical research in your state at www.aamc.org/hopehappenshere.

*Families USA, 2008

America’s Medical Schools and Teaching Hospitals. Hope Happens Here.
Jialin Zheng, M.D., who came to UNMC in 1993 to conduct neuroscience research, works with Hui Peng, M.D., in his lab. Dr. Zheng has become instrumental in building partnerships with Asia’s academic health science centers.
Sixty years ago in the Midwest, diversity meant other Christian religions. “We didn’t know people from other cultures back then,” said Ward Chambers, M.D., ’73, who grew up in a small southwest Iowa town in the 1950s.

Since then, diversity has taken on a whole new meaning, he said, as the world has grown smaller with convenient air travel and international trade agreements.

Today, it’s not uncommon for Dr. Chambers, who serves as UNMC’s coordinator of International Health and Medical Education and associate professor of cardiology, to e-mail friends in Russia, work with medical school faculty in Afghanistan and see patients from the Omaha tribe.

Nebraska is in the throes of a cultural revolution as illustrated by the number of languages spoken in the public schools – nearly 100 in Omaha and 17 in Grand Island, the state’s fourth largest city.

Diversity doesn’t just mean “different” anymore. Now, it’s about working with and understanding other cultures. The health of the world’s population depends on deeper cultural understandings and UNMC has stepped onto the global stage to become a world player.

Already, UNMC is a cosmopolitan campus, with more than 60 different languages spoken by 600 faculty, staff and students who are either foreign born or here on work visas.

New international initiatives exist on each of the University of Nebraska campuses, and international engagement is one of the major goals of the University of Nebraska Foundation’s Campaign for Nebraska, said NU President James B. Milliken.

One major goal is to double international student enrollment on NU campuses by 2019. This year, 128 countries are represented in the 2,800 international students enrolled on all four campuses. More than 500 people from more than 60 countries study, train and work at UNMC.

“FOR UNMC TO BE A WORLD-CLASS INSTITUTION, IT NEEDS TO DEVELOP DEEP RELATIONSHIPS WITH WORLD-CLASS PARTNERS.”

“International students add millions to the state’s economy, but the real value is in the richness of the experience gained by having students from around the world on our campuses and in our communities,” Milliken said.

Global health is critically important, said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. “We have to reach out. The populations of China, India and Russia are growing and developing into scientific powerhouses. Now is the time for UNMC to extend its influence.”

This is an opportunity for UNMC to expose students from Nebraska and foreign countries to different cultures and bring scientists together to collaborate on research, Dr. Maurer said.

“International collaboration in research and medical education has been one of our most important objectives,” Dr. Maurer said. “One way we’ve chosen to meet this objective is by establishing friendships and connections through the exchange of graduate, medical and nursing students, as well as postdoctoral fellows, faculty members and administrators.”

The benefits for both parties in student and faculty exchanges are substantial. Forging partnerships with other countries not only advances scientific and economic growth, but promotes friendship and cultural understanding, he said.

“Look at the numbers for China alone,” Dr. Maurer said. “The top 25 percent of China’s population is 300 million, which is the total population for the United States. We bring almost 170 students here from China every year, which means we’re getting the best of the best. These students will stimulate research and improve clinical care around the world.

“For UNMC to be a world-class institution, it needs to develop deep relationships with world-class partners to help shape the future of health care to better serve Nebraska and beyond.”

Among its partnerships, UNMC’s closest relationships are with China. In 2004, UNMC leaders embarked on a global initiative to improve the exchange of students and faculty between the two countries and solidify the trade of knowledge.
To build economic and academic bridges with Asia, Vice Chancellor for Research Tom Rosenquist, Ph.D., and Don Leuenberger, vice chancellor for business and finance, accompanied former Gov. Mike Johanns on a trade mission. Memorandum of Understandings were signed in Shanghai and Beijing and UNMC’s foot was in the door.

Dr. Maurer appointed Jialin Zheng, M.D., professor, pharmacology and experimental neuroscience, as associate dean of graduate studies-international affairs and director of UNMC’s Asia Pacific Rim Development Program.

Dr. Zheng came to UNMC in 1993 to conduct postdoctoral research. Now the principal investigator for five federal and state grants that bring in $1.2 million a year, he has 22 researchers, junior faculty, post-docs, graduate students and technicians in his Durham Research Center laboratories.

“We’re about building partnerships and training students so they can be ambassadors of UNMC’s spirit, philosophies and styles,” Dr. Zheng said. “They take back what they’ve learned to their own universities and promote the relationship. We focus on student and faculty exchanges and enhanced collaborations.”

The relationship with China started with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (SJTU). Each institution tested the waters with initial exchanges until trust grew.

Now, UNMC’s collaboration with SJTUSM outshines programs with other U.S. institutions, said Xiaoning Zou, director of SJTUSM’s Project Hope Office.

“We cooperate with different medical schools,” he said. “The relationship with UNMC is the best. UNMC’s faculty and student exchanges are real. With other schools, we often see no action.”

Leaders of institutions and government officials in China have recognized that UNMC keeps its promises, Dr. Zheng said. “It’s what sets UNMC apart.”

Relations with China have become so strong that in 2009 UNMC opened an office at the Beijing Life Science Institutes Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the most prestigious research institution in China.

Through that office, UNMC has been continuing to recruit top Chinese students and faculty to participate in collaborations and such joint programs as the unique M.D./Ph.D. program and exchanges for medical clinical rotations and nursing students. The office also supports UNMC faculty and students who work and study in China.

The China Scholarship Council (CSC) selects the smartest students from the top 49 universities in China to send to top institutions around the world. UNMC has joined Harvard and Yale as one of 15 universities in the United States that collaborate with the CSC to develop joint programs between the two countries. UNMC is the only academic health science center in this group.

CSC provides substantial financial support for each student sent to UNMC. Today, about one-third of UNMC’s 60 postdoctoral positions go to students from China.

Clinical care and educational programs are developing as well. Cancer care in China will improve thanks to the creation of the Sino-U.S. Center for Lymphoma and Leukemia in Tianjin - a collaboration between UNMC and Tianjin Medical University Cancer Hospital and Institute.

The center is a boon in China, where care lags for lymphoma, said Kai Fu, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pathology and microbiology and associate director of the Asian Pacific Rim program.

Most recently, UNMC and Xi’an Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (XJTUSM) agreed to establish a one-of-a-kind training center for family practice physicians in China. The “Sino-U.S. Training Center for General Practitioners” is the fruit of more than two years of work between the two institutions. It provides a framework for further cooperation and will help each university understand and improve family medicine in their respective countries.

Exchanges have occurred on other levels as well. Joint symposiums have been held at UNMC and China, Japan and Australia. Last year, Dr. Maurer received a rare honorary professorship from the CAS. Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had previously received the honor. Dr. Maurer also chaired and presented at the third International Conference on World Class Universities at SJTU.

UNMC has conferred degrees on significant Chinese notables including the vice mayor of Shanghai and the president of the Beijing Life Science Institutes of CAS.

While one group focuses on strategic projects with China, another seeks to establish footholds in India.

Iqbal Ahmad, Ph.D., professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences, and Chandra Are, M.D., surgical oncologist and associate program director of general surgery residency, have joined Dr. Chambers to develop joint projects in education, research and clinical care with one of the top medical schools in India – the Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad.

“This is a unique agreement,” Dr. Are said.

Osmania Medical College is attached to more than 10 different hospitals, Dr. Are said. The main hospital, Osmania General Hospital, is a large facility with 1,168-beds - nearly twice the size of UNMC’s hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center. The Indian hospital provides a fertile learning environment for students and resident physicians.

The first exchange began last fall with a six-month international surgical rotation in India. Since then, eight students from India
have come to UNMC for one or two months to observe clinical and surgical procedures.

Further north, Alexander Kabanov, Ph.D., D.Sc., Parke-Davis Professor in Pharmaceutics and director of the Center for Drug Delivery and Nanomedicine, has developed a clinical rotation exchange program with Russia State Medical University.

Five students completed four-week rotations through UNMC and were surprised that the quality of health care services available in Omaha were higher than those found in Moscow, Dr. Kabanov said.

While American students have better communication skills, foreign students are better prepared to conduct research and have a stronger competitive edge, Dr. Kabanov said.

“When UNMC students meet the best of the best from all over the world, they understand how tough the competition is on the global stage.”

Public health transcends national borders, said Ayman El-Mohandes, M.B.B.Ch., M.D., M.P.H., dean of UNMC’s College of Public Health.

We saw it last year with the H1N1 flu that spread worldwide and in 2003 with SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), which spread from China to Europe in three days before it killed 774 people in 37 countries.

“Public health concerns – from climate changes to pollen or pollution to infectious diseases that could become pandemic – begin local and end up global,” Dr. El-Mohandes said.

Even when health professionals pursue the most insightful and effective measures, they cannot protect the population from a global impact, he said. “All anyone has to do is get on an airplane and fly from one part of the world to another. That person may not even know he is infected,” he said.

“We’re a global family with global suffering and need to learn strategies that will help others. Public health is science with a conscience.”

To that end, a Center for Global Health and Development recently was created within the College of Public Health to build on existing international partnerships and create unique research and practice opportunities for students and faculty.

A global health center team is developing relationships with the Asia Institute of Public Health in India. The UNMC team is part of a consortium of U.S. academic institutions and partners in Africa and Asia that offer students and faculty opportunities to participate in public health programs in Bangladesh, China, Kenya and Egypt.

"The center will help the state of Nebraska emerge as an important global player in all domains of public health," said Pinaki Panigrahi, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Center for Global Health and Development. "Our faculty and students can take full advantage of the vibrant platform for personal career development while contributing their experience to maintain UNMC’s global reputation."

The center will focus on several areas, including:
- Maternal and child health;
- Health services research;
- Environmental and occupational health;
- Disaster management;
- Cancer control, prevention and research.

The first Indian student will be admitted into the college this fall, and the exchange will open to UNMC students next spring. “We hope to have adjunct faculty from India here to provide resources for students,” Dr. El-Mohandes said.

“If we stay isolated and don’t understand the world around us, we’ll never fulfill our potential,” he said.
If you build it, they will enroll.
That’s the strategy Nebraska Sen. Mike Flood employed over concerns of a growing shortage of nurses in his northeast region and an anticipated shortage of 4,000 nurses statewide in 2020.
What he wanted was a meeting with University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken and a commitment to help.

Now, three years later, students started their first day of class on Aug. 23 at UNMC’s new College of Nursing Northern Division – the college’s fifth location in the state. The state-of-the-art facility opened on the Northeast Community College (NECC) campus in Norfolk.
The division will admit 32 students in its bachelor’s degree program this year and 48 students each year thereafter. Ten students will be admitted to the master’s and doctoral degree programs, which will double in size the following year.

Meanwhile, in Omaha the College of Nursing will open a facility in October that also addresses the shortage, as well as a shortage of faculty to teach them.
The Center for Nursing Science, located adjacent to the existing college, will alleviate cramped teaching space by adding four classrooms and two health assessment labs that contain 24 clinical skill development units and a suite of six simulation rooms.
The new space will enable the college to enroll an additional 265 students in Omaha by 2020 – an increase of 70 percent over the 385 students now accepted. The largest increase in the college’s programs will be at the graduate and doctoral level – programs that prepare nurses to become faculty members.
Along with the opening of the two facilities, the college has instituted major curriculum changes to better prepare students for an increasingly complex nursing environment.
The concept-centered curriculum reflects a new national gold standard, said Virginia Tilden, D.N.Sc., dean of the UNMC College of Nursing.
Nursing. "It sets high benchmarks for care quality, patient safety and interprofessional clinical education that centers on what’s best for the patient. It shifts emphasis from lectures to critical thinking, observation and judgment skills essential to clinical tasks," she said.

"The dynamic curriculum sets a high bar for rapidly moving students to think and act like expert clinicians. It also incorporates new care quality and systems standards, which will teach students to prevent medical errors."

Sarah Thompson, Ph.D., Niedfelt Distinguished Professor and associate dean of academic programs, said the college is among those in the nation leading the way with the new curriculum – a curriculum that is becoming more common.

"Health care has changed, but curriculum hasn’t changed much with it. We want it to mirror lifelong learning. We will provide education in the beginning of the program so students think like nurses in the first semester rather than closer to the end of their program," Dr. Thompson said.

Admissions is another area of nursing education that will be streamlined. This fall, admission to the bachelor’s program will occur once a year instead of twice – a cost-saving change that mirrors the nation’s major nursing schools and other UNMC health colleges. This fall, 297 new bachelor of science in nursing students and 100 graduate students – double the normal fall admission capacity - will be admitted.
Services offered at the Home Instead Center include geriatric medicine, psychiatry and access to clinical trials involving geriatric-specific disorders.

It also includes a wellness clinic for health screenings and nutrition services and a Community Education and Outreach Center that houses a fully equipped fitness and exercise area.

“The first wave of baby boomers turn 65 next year and want to stay independent in their own homes as long as they can,” said Sharon Brangman, president of the American Geriatrics Society. “Programs that support wellness and healthy aging are very important. A center like this is really looking at seniors and what their needs are. It’s innovative and I hope it becomes a model for other parts of the country.”

Home Instead was co-founded by the center’s principal donors, Lori and Paul Hogan, who made their gift through the University of Nebraska Foundation.

“We have the same global goal in mind – to help people live life to the fullest,” said Jane Potter, M.D., professor and chief of the division of geriatrics and gerontology at UNMC. “That is the spirit of what we do in geriatric medicine and it is the same focus at Home Instead Senior Care.”

The $10.2 million facility, funded entirely by private donations, creates a centralized location for geriatric medicine and psychiatry on the UNMC campus. Located just south of the Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation at 38th Avenue and Leavenworth Street, it will open to the public on Sept. 13.

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True to their Nebraska roots, Drs. Gretchen and Warren Berggren sum up their careers with a single word: accountability.

Since 1959, the UNMC graduates have measured their success through their work in reducing infant mortality — everything from neonatal tetanus to rehabilitating malnourished children.

Along the way they’ve saved countless children.

The Berggrens — she from Chadron and he from Aurora — met at UNMC and upon graduation — Warren, ’55, and Gretchen, ’58 — chose to serve the people of Africa where they were strong proponents of preventive medicine.

Inspired by the work of Mother Teresa and others, the Berggrens have worked in the Belgian Congo, Bangladesh and Haiti. Together they have produced numerous successful community health programs still in practice today.

In the 1960s, the Berggrens studied and worked at the Harvard School of Public Health before taking positions with Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Haiti from 1967 to 1974. They then worked in the Projet Integree de Sante et de Population, under the Haitian Ministry of Health’s "Bureau d’Hygiene Familiale" in Petit Goave from 1974 to 1978.

During their first five-year tenure in Haiti, the Berggrens initiated the "Nutritional Foyer" program to train mothers in the use of local foods to correct dietary deficiencies. Since then they have served as consultants for a number of programs in Haiti.

In recognition of their work, the Berggrens returned to Omaha this spring where they were inducted into the Nebraska chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha national honor medical society.

During their campus visit, Dr. Gretchen Berggren spoke passionately about her trip to Haiti following January’s devastating earthquake. Save the Children, she said, had asked her to return to teach and develop curriculum for retraining rural community health workers.

“I worked with mothers who stopped nursing their babies because they believed that the earthquake spoiled their milk,” she said. “I’ll never forget the look of relief on the face of one young mother whom I convinced to taste her own milk in order to realize it was okay.”

Retraining mothers to nurse their infants was paramount to saving their children’s lives, Dr. Berggren said.

“Our teachers gave us useful methods and perched us securely on the shoulders of science’s giants,” Dr. Berggren wrote in the 1995 volume on Community-Based Health Information Systems, published by Save the Children. “But the lenses that focused our accountability in health were the families in our service populations. We are grateful to them, and we hope they think well of us.”

Inspired by Mother Teresa, two Nebraska natives dedicate their lives to saving children around the world.
Cancer campus is new

Long before President Nixon’s 1971 declaration of war on cancer, researchers at UNMC’s Eppley Institute had initiated their own battle against the deadly disease.

Two decades later the cancer death rate in the United States peaked and then fell — a result of the knowledge gained in laboratories across the world, including those at the Eppley Cancer Center.

But despite this progress, statistics still illustrate a somber reality.

“With one out of every two Americans diagnosed with cancer, the war on this deadly disease is far from over,” said Kenneth Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Eppley Cancer Center.

Today, plans are underway to construct a cancer campus at UNMC that includes a new research tower featuring state-of-the-art laboratories and advanced technology.

The cancer campus will be built on land purchased adjacent to the southwest end of the UNMC campus. In addition to the cancer research tower, future plans call for comprehensive outpatient clinical facilities and space for further expansion.

The new research facilities are projected to open in 2013.

“The cancer campus will strengthen UNMC’s quest to take a national leadership position in cancer research and the development of personalized treatments,” Dr. Cowan said.

“These facilities will further establish the Eppley Cancer Center as one of the nation’s best centers for the treatment of cancer.”

With the campus’ completion, the cancer center moves closer to reaching a key goal — to become a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated “comprehensive cancer center.” This designation, bestowed on those institutions that conduct the very best basic and clinical science, includes 40 institutions nationwide, mostly on the east and west coasts.

UNMC’s cancer center has been a NCI-designated cancer center since 1983, one of just 65 in the United States and the only one in Nebraska.

A recent report following a site visitation by NCI examiners expresses support for the medical center’s visionary strategy. It states that: “the opportunity to build designated and contiguous research and clinical space will be transformative for UNMC and the Eppley Cancer Center, and the institution is highly commended for its vision in this direction. Given the progress that the Cancer Center has made in advancing its research portfolio, it is essential that appropriate consideration be given to expanding its research space in the future. The existing and planned facilities represent exceptional institutional support.”

UNMC and the University of Nebraska Foundation are working to raise $100 million in private support for the new cancer research tower, a top priority of the Foundation’s $1.2 billion fundraising campaign. The overall campaign goal for cancer initiatives is $250 million and includes funding for future outpatient clinical facilities and program support.

While these new facilities are important to the medical center, Dr. Cowan said, it is the lifesaving work that will take place within the buildings that is most significant.

“The new facilities will stimulate researchers to unlock mysteries and translate discoveries into personalized treatment for each patient,” he said. “The new cancer research tower will create a home for translational research where laboratory scientists will work closely with their physician partners. This collaborative effort will improve bench to bedside delivery of therapies for cancer treatment and prevention.”

In the past 10 years, the cancer center has recruited more than 100 new faculty members to conduct cancer research at UNMC. With the addition of these scientists, cancer research funding at UNMC has increased four-fold to $78 million per year since 1999. This rapid growth has created a critical need for additional laboratory space and multidisciplinary outpatient cancer treatment facilities, Dr. Cowan said.

The 10-level research tower will provide 98 state-of-the-art research spaces for basic and translational research. With each floor dedicated to a specific disease, the new facility will provide an environment that enables scientists and physicians to work collaboratively on the most difficult problems affecting patients.

The research focus on each floor represents UNMC’s areas of existing or emerging strengths, which include lymphoma, leukemia, breast, brain, pancreatic, gastroenterology, prostate, lung and head and neck cancers.

“It is increasingly important that scientists doing cancer research in the laboratory communicate with their physician partners caring for patients in the clinic,” Dr. Cowan said.

“This exchange of ideas ultimately benefits patients through the development of therapies specifically tailored to each patient based on the molecular characteristics of their individual tumor.”

The Eppley Cancer Center is determined to be at the forefront of discovering the next generation of cancer therapies, Dr. Cowan said.

“Very few academic medical centers are positioned as well as we are. We’re in the middle of the country, we have a stable economy and we have an excellent program,” he said. “We can provide an all-encompassing cancer campus with great access and, more importantly, outstanding expertise.”
vision for UNMC

The new research facilities are projected to open in 2013.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CANCER

Take this quiz to determine how much you know about cancer.

**Question:** How many Nebraskans were diagnosed with cancer last year?

A. 2,000  B. 9,000  C. 20,000

**Answer:** B. Approximately 9,000 people living in Nebraska were diagnosed with cancer last year. More than half of these diagnoses were in the lung, breast, prostate and colon/rectum. About one in two men and one in three women will be diagnosed with some kind of cancer during their lifetime.

*The test continues online at: unmc.edu/connect*
See where RHOP graduates are from and where they are practicing

unmc.edu/connect
For Niki and Aaron Salomon, the return to a rural community to practice health care is more than a job opportunity. It’s a place where patients become friends and neighbors become patients. It’s also a place where illnesses are treated, medications tracked and birthdays and holidays celebrated together.

As graduates of UNMC’s Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP), the Salomons settled in Gothenburg, Neb., where Aaron is a physician assistant. Niki travels 22 miles east to Lexington, Neb., where she is a pharmacist at Barmore Drug.

Undergraduates of Chadron State College, each brought a strong desire to return to country living. They also discovered a shared love of health care. The Salomon’s have woven themselves into the fabric of the two communities where they live, work and now raise their two young children, Avery and Andrew.

Residents within these communities couldn’t be happier.

The Salomons enrich the city with their professional expertise and are emerging leaders in the community, said longtime resident Dan Tinlin, also known as “Mr. Gothenburg.”

“It’s hard to get people to come back to a small town and put down roots,” he said.

It helps, said Rick Barmore, owner of Barmore Drug, that both Niki and Aaron are from small towns in Nebraska’s Panhandle. Aaron grew up in Scottsbluff and Niki in Brule.

“The Salomons add value to everything they do because they understand how important their contribution is to the community,” Barmore said.

The Salomons appreciate how UNMC encourages health care professionals to return to, and help grow, rural communities. They’ve seen the rewards of that time and again, whether they’re in the grocery aisle, walking Main Street or sipping coffee with friends and neighbors at the local bakery.

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Condoleezza Rice to receive Ambassador of Hope Award Oct. 26

Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State from 2005 to 2009, will be honored at the Ambassador of Hope Gala on Oct. 26 at Qwest Center Omaha.

Hosted by the Friends of the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center, the gala is held every two years. In 2008, the event raised more than $1.1 million to support cancer research at the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center.

"We're extremely honored to have Condoleezza Rice headline our event," said Ken Cowan, M.D., director of the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center.

"She has been a strong advocate for breast cancer research and screenings and has done much to raise the public's awareness of cancer."

Dr. Rice was 15 when her mother, Angelena, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She died in 1985.

While in Omaha, Dr. Rice will continue the national tour of her memoir, "Extraordinary Ordinary People," which will be released in October.

The Ambassador of Hope Award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions in the fight against cancer through research, patient care activities or by raising public awareness of cancer. Only five others have received the award: Robin Roberts, Tom Brokaw, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Sam Donaldson and Chuck Durham.

Howard and Rhonda Hawks are honorary chairs of this year's event. Event co-chairs are Lisa Mellen and Angie Miller. Tickets for this year's Ambassador of Hope Gala are $150 per person. Table sponsorships range from $1,500 to $10,000. For more information, call 559-4179, or go to www.nebraskahope.org.

UNMC programs rank among nation's best

U.S. News & World Report recognized UNMC programs in its annual rankings of the nation's top graduate schools.

UNMC continued its solid standing in areas such as primary care and rural health. The medical center's climb in extramural research funding — which topped $100 million in extramural research funding last year — also was recognized among the magazine's research rankings.

The rankings are reported in the magazine's 2011 edition of America's Best Graduate Schools. The online edition includes longer lists of some specialty rankings, as well as additional school directory information.

"There has been a long-standing commitment at UNMC to rural communities and primary care education," said Rubens Pamies, M.D., vice chancellor for academic affairs. "These rankings acknowledge that commitment, as well as show our strengths in research and other health disciplines. We're pleased to rank among the best in the country."

The following UNMC programs were recognized in new rankings this year:

- The College of Medicine tied for 14th in U.S. News' top schools of medicine — primary care listing;
- The College of Medicine's rural health medicine program tied for 17th; and
- UNMC ranked 71st in U.S. News' best medical schools-research ranking.

Children’s Specialty Physicians bolsters pediatric care in Nebraska

Nebraska Pediatric Practice, Inc., has introduced a new name. It is now "Children's Specialty Physicians," the largest group of doctors, surgeons, and medical professionals in the region focused on specialty care for newborns, children, adolescents and teenagers. Children’s Specialty Physicians represents more than 120 pediatric specialists and 23 specialty areas.

Incorporated in 2008, Nebraska Pediatric Practice, Inc. grew out of an Institutional Affiliation Agreement between Children’s Hospital and Medical Center and UNMC’s College of Medicine. The affiliation aligned the two organizations in a way to allow a shared vision for the future of pediatric health care.

"Children’s Specialty Physicians presents an unparalleled opportunity to ensure children across the region have access to world-class clinical care, treatments influenced by cutting edge research, and a future generation of highly trained medical professionals," said Robert Glow, executive director of Children’s Specialty Physicians.

"We've brought everyone together into a new practice group to ensure that kids get the best care possible," said John Sparks, M.D., chairman of pediatrics at UNMC and Stokes-Shackleford Professor, and board chairman, Children’s Specialty Physicians. "Our goal is to be one of the top pediatric programs in the country."

Children’s Specialty Physicians will operate primarily on the Children’s medical campus. The specialists will continue to provide inpatient services at Children’s Hospital, while focusing outpatient care in the new Children’s Specialty Pediatric Center opening Sept. 1.

The group’s skill and expertise is coupled with a new building designed to enhance the patient experience and make outpatient care more accessible and convenient. The new group represents significant advantages for the region amid a nationwide increase in demand for pediatric subspecialty care and fewer specialists to meet the need.

Children’s Specialty Physicians are faculty physicians of UNMC and actively participate in medical education and research, in addition to their clinical practice.

"We expect Children’s Specialty Physicians to play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of children and young people across the region now and into the future," Glow said.
Simply Science takes research on the road

Launched in February, UNMC Simply Science takes faculty members to communities across the state to share the latest in health care information.

“An essential component of our mission is to serve the citizens of the state of Nebraska, and UNMC Simply Science is an exciting mechanism through which we do that,” said Bob Bartee, vice chancellor for external affairs at UNMC.

The program, offered four times a year, already has taken speakers to Beatrice and Crete; North Platte and Ogallala; and Kearney, Grand Island and Hastings to cover such topics as the brain, environmental hazards and genetics.

“We’ve found that a more casual setting frees up the dialogue amongst the participants,” Bartee said. “This fun atmosphere creates a dynamic environment in which everyone’s understanding of the subject matter increases.”

For more information, visit unmc.edu/publicrelations/simplyscience.htm.

Dr. Markin to serve as interim medicine dean

Rod Markin, M.D., Ph.D., became interim dean of the College of Medicine on July 1.

Dr. Markin, a 1983 graduate of the College of Medicine, has been on the UNMC faculty since 1986 and has served as president of UNMC Physicians, the UNMC physician practice group, since 1997.

Under Dr. Markin’s direction, the number of physicians in the plan has more than doubled, the annual revenues have quadrupled and business efficiencies have increased by 100 percent.

A national search is underway to replace John Gollan, M.D., Ph.D., who stepped down in June after a seven-year term as dean. Dr. Gollan, 68, returned to the internal medicine faculty.

Partnership lets alumni see top shows at discounted rate

UNMC has teamed with Omaha Performing Arts to let its alumni save big and see world-class artists.

The partnership allows employees and alumni to receive benefits including:

- Ticket discounts;
- The best seats;
- VIP customer service; and
- The flexibility of single ticket purchases.

Log on to www.eventusher.com and use the "UNMCTIX" password to see upcoming performances.

The partnership was forged through the efforts of the UNMC Wellness Council and has members from all of the major UNMC units, as well as from The Nebraska Medical Center and UNMC Physicians. The council promotes employee wellness in the broadest sense.

Contact Jessica Brummer at 559-6027 or jbrummer@unmc.edu for more information.
This spring, eight UNMC faculty members were honored for their exceptional teaching, mentoring and community service.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA’S OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL CREATIVITY AWARD (OTICA)

Paul Paulman, M.D., ’77, professor of family medicine, is active on many levels of education in the College of Medicine including:
- Supervising medical students’ rural health care experience in Jamaica;
- Founding and assisting with the student-run SHARING Clinics; and
- Directing the Sorrell Center Clinical Skills Laboratory.

NU’S INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AWARD (IDEA)

Bud Shaw, M.D., professor of surgery and medical director of the Advanced Clinical Application Project, founded UNMC’s world-renowned solid organ transplant program. Since 1985, Dr. Shaw:
- Helped develop The Lied Transplant Center at UNMC, which brought unique cooperative care model to patients;
- Was one of three founders of HKS Medical Information Systems, a company dedicated to software products that improve patient care, workflow management and operational efficiency.

UNMC SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Keith Mueller, Ph.D., professor of health services research and administration in the College of Public Health, is nationally known as an expert in rural health policy. “Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy what they value in life, including living where they want to, without undue hardship because of a lack of services.” Dr. Mueller is now at the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

UNMC OUTSTANDING MENTOR OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Surinder Batra, Ph.D., professor and chairman of the department of biochemistry and molecular biology in the College of Medicine, is buoyed when he makes a difference in someone’s life. “The roles of a mentor are to guide a young person to be all they can be and there is no bigger reward than watching young people attain their goals.”

UNMC OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS

Parmender Mehta, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry molecular biology and associate professor in the Eppley Institute, equates teaching with scripture: When one cuts and polishes a stone, as one grinds and rubs, one does not see it decrease, yet with time it is worn away. When one plants a tree and takes care of it, one does not see it increase, but in time it gets big. “This is true for teaching as it provides an opportunity for repeated self-examination and self-criticism.”

Dennis McNeilly, Psy.D., associate professor of psychiatry in the College of Medicine, finds rewards in knowing he’s made a difference, “not necessarily in the amount of knowledge learned, but in the meaning that knowledge has for the student. I know I’ve been successful when students remind me of connections or imprints I’ve made for them that forever changed the lenses through which they see a patient, a disorder, a psychiatric condition or themselves.”

Edward Roche, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the College of Pharmacy, finds rewards in watching students grow to become mature professionals, being instrumental in that growth and “giving students the tools to extend their knowledge and solve problems, and then watching them use those tools.”

Michael Rice, Ph.D., professor of community-based health in the College of Nursing, enjoys “that moment when a student gets that contemplative look followed by the flash of understanding, which tells me they have a firm grasp of the material and will never ever lose it. Also, knowing that what my students accomplish in their careers will make what I have done seem pale in comparison.”
A philosophy of giving and an approach to healthy living motivated a recent gift from longtime UNMC supporters Virginia Grissom and the late Robert Grissom, M.D.

The Grissoms are among the lead donors to UNMC’s new Home Instead Center for Successful Aging. Their gift supports the center’s wellness programs, which aim to help older persons achieve optimal wellness.

Dr. Grissom, one of four original full-time faculty members at the medical center, was a devoted teacher, clinician and scientist who helped revolutionize the department of internal medicine. He died in 2009.

The Grissoms’ legacy goes far beyond the inspirational lifestyle and hard-work ethic that enabled them to give back to the UNMC community.

Dr. Grissom arrived at UNMC in 1953 and became the first full-time chairman of internal medicine. He dedicated himself to the medical center and, even after his retirement in 1987, continued to teach and attend grand rounds, campus events and exercise at the Center for Healthy Living. Virginia remembers her husband – an avid runner well into his 80s – exercising “almost until he went into the hospital.”

At 92, Virginia remains physically active with regular exercise classes at the UNMC Center for Healthy Living and long walks. A 1940 graduate of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., Virginia attended graduate school for mathematics at the University of Wisconsin where, in 1942, she met Dr. Grissom who was a physician in the Air Force Medical Corp at Traux Field.

The Air Force took the Grissoms numerous places before they settled in Omaha, Neb. Once here, Virginia served as president for the Faculty Women’s Club at UNMC and as president of the Girl Scout Council of Nebraska. She remains a member of both organizations today.

Together, the Grissoms have given their time and philanthropic support to UNMC in significant ways.

In 2008, the couple established the Virginia and Robert Grissom Internal Medicine Senior Resident Endowment Fund to recognize superior performance by UNMC’s internal medicine residents. Dr. Grissom also was a member of the Edward A. Holyoke, M.D., Ph.D., Society for his generous donation to the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education.

Support of the Home Instead Center came out of recognition of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, Virginia said.

“Younger generations must stay healthy and do as much as they can in their lives.

“Bob and I were physically able to do the things we wished because we kept active and exercised.”

Their personal approach to health mirrors the goals shared by UNMC – to help people age more successfully.
Evan Snyder, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Stem Cell Research Center at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research in San Diego, delivered the 25th Latta Lecture on April 23. The lecture, sponsored by the College of Medicine Alumni Chapter, honors John Latta, M.D., former chairman of anatomy at UNMC.

Dr. Snyder’s lecture, “Cross-Talk in Stem Cell Biology and Developmental Programs,” provided a deeper understanding of, as well as shed light on, the implications of regenerative medicine. Dr. Snyder paralleled stem cell biology to our own ability for regenerative repair. He described regenerative medicine as a paradigm shift in medicine such as antibiotics stopping a bacterial infection.

**Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation excels**

In its first full year of operation, the Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation, a low vision center, more than doubled the number of patients that were being seen in the pre-existing low vision center.

People who are visually impaired receive services during a series of three visits. During the first visit, the patient is interviewed, followed by vision mapping and a low vision exam. The second trip includes a review of the patient’s vision goals, training to use low vision devices and an introduction to community resources to help improve quality of life. In the final visit, the patient and doctor review the vision rehabilitation program, and the doctor answers any questions the patient may have.

The Center is named in part for Harry Weigel, M.D., a 1958 alumnus. For information about the importance of this one-of-a-kind national center, please contact (402)559-2463.

**UNMC alumni association hosts final ‘Blast at the Blatt’**

UNMC alumni and friends gathered May 18 for the final ‘Blast at the Blatt’ event at Omaha’s Rosenblatt Stadium. Attendees enjoyed a picnic dinner in the pavilion outside of the stadium before converging on the stands for the Nebraska - Creighton baseball game. The Nebraska bats came alive en route to a 21-5 victory over Creighton.

**Dr. Evan Snyder presents 2010 Latta Lecture**
McGoogan Library sponsors Davis Lecture

In April, William Nichols, M.D., discussed how significant discoveries in blood coagulation have led to new therapies for bleeding disorders at the second annual Richard B. Davis, M.D., Ph.D. History of Medicine Lecture.

Dr. Nichols is an associate professor of laboratory medicine and associate professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

The lectureship, sponsored by the McGoogan Library of Medicine, brings national experts to the UNMC campus to discuss the history of breakthrough scientific findings. It also supports special collections at the McGoogan Library, including works on the history of medicine. Dr. Davis, professor emeritus, internal medicine, and Jean Davis greeted friends and attendees at the lecture.

Dental Education Caravan tours Nebraska

Dentists from the UNMC College of Dentistry toured four Nebraska towns earlier this year to provide updates in dentistry to dental professionals.

Presenters - James Jenkins, D.D.S., ’84, and Bruce Bavitz, D.M.D. - also shared insights on third-world dental mission trips, oral surgery and anesthesia techniques during the 22nd Annual Continuing Education Caravan, which traveled to Ashland, Grand Island, North Platte and Scottsbluff.

In addition to the 3.5 hours of free continuing dental education credits, College of Dentistry Dean John Reinhardt, D.D.S., presented a brief update on the college’s education research, patient care and outreach activities.

Dentistry alumni sign alumni agreement

An affiliation agreement between UNMC’s College of Dentistry and the Alumni Association was sealed during an April meeting. Signing the agreement were: Bob Schoettger, D.D.S., ’81, president of the College of Dentistry Alumni Chapter; John Reinhardt, D.D.S., dean; and Roxanna Jokela, director of alumni relations.

“The College of Dentistry Alumni Association has a long history as a strong and effective organization, promoting exceptional support for, and service to, the college over many years,” Dr. Reinhardt said.

“The affiliation with UNMC’s newly united Alumni Association will greatly benefit both the college and UNMC, bringing synergy and strength to create an even brighter future for all the colleges and alumni of UNMC, including our dental college.”

“...has a long history as a strong and effective organization, promoting exceptional support for, and service to, the college over many years.”

Roxanna Jokela

1930s

Carol H. Knecht N’34
Ukiah, Calif., celebrated her 100th birthday Jan. 11, 2010. She still looks at photo albums of premature babies she cared for as an RN.

1940s

Stanley H. Schonberger M’40
Oakland, Calif., has been in contact with classmates Bill Rosenbaum and Julius Kantor and would love to hear from other classmates. He spends time with his children and is in fairly good health.

Phyllis M. Demorest N’47
San Diego, Calif., was a labor and delivery nurse and has been married for 64 years to husband, Kennard. They have two daughters: one works as a coder for Kaiser and the other is a nurse in an endoscopic center.

Willard G. Kuehn M’47
Clarinda, Iowa, was honored by the members of the Clarinda Lions Club in 2009 for both his years of service to the Lion’s Club and compassionate professional care to the Page County community.

1950s

Barbara J. Moss N’55
Lincoln, Neb., volunteers with the Foster Care Review Board as well as the International Quilt Study Center and Museum and UNL – East Campus.

Nancy A. Nellor-McDonald CLS’57
Tulsa, Okla., retired from Tulsa Public Schools as an administrator and would love to connect with classmates.

1960s

Ann (Kvetensky) Churchill CLS’60
Omaha, Neb., retired from Physician’s Laboratory after 41 years of service as a medical technologist and director of client services.

Roger H. Meyer M’63
Utica, Neb., has established a scholarship, in conjunction with the Nebraska Medical Association Foundation, for medical students planning to go into family practice in rural areas.

1970s

Gary L. Conell M’71
North Platte, Neb., a family practice physician of the Midlands Family Medicine Group, was the recipient of the 2010 Marion D. and Theodore H. Koefoot Jr. M.D. Award as an outstanding preceptor in rural family medicine. In his role as preceptor, Dr. Conell mentors and teaches about 10 future physicians each year as part of their rotational program at UNMC.

Todd S. Sorensen M’71
Scottsbluff, Neb., was elected to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Board of Directors in February.
Carol A. (Brower) Bradley N’74
Portland, Ore., accepted a new position as senior vice president - chief nursing officer with Legacy Health System in Portland after 24 years in California.

Ernestine L. Olson N’74
Lawton, Okla., has been recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in preventative health care.

Gregg J. Dimmick M’77
Wharton, Texas, served 30 years in pediatric practice in Wharton. His son, Josh, is a dermatologist in Springfield, Mo.; his daughter, Kaydi, is a nurse in Wharton; and his father-in-law, Gil Schreiner M’47, remains in Omaha, “retired” from pediatrics.

Paul M. Paulman M’77
Omaha, Neb., was awarded the University of Nebraska wide Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA). The OTICA recognizes individual faculty members who have demonstrated meritorious and sustained records of excellence and creativity in teaching.

Kurt W. Lesh M’79
Colorado Springs, Colo., is a partner/owner of Colorado Springs Family Practice and medical director/principal investigator at Lynn Institute of the Rockies (a medical research company).

Marlin G. Stahl M’79
Omaha, Neb., was recently named Bellevue Medical Center’s chief medical officer in Bellevue, Neb.

Susan M. Strate M’79
Wichita Falls, Texas, received the 2010 Wichita County Medical Society Distinguished Service Award, the highest award presented to members of that group. It is based on outstanding service to the community and to the field of medicine.

Julie M. Vose CLS’79, M’84
Omaha, Neb., has been elected to the board of directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Dr. Vose, the Neumann M. and Mildred E. Harris Professorial Chair and chief of the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine Section of Hematology/Oncology, began her four-year term in June.

1980s

Michael H. Fritsch M’80
Indianapolis, Ind., published his third book, titled “Sialendoscopy and Lithotripsy,” Elsevier Publishers, December 2009, as a result of his experience in this field over the past decade.

Mary D. Moller N’82
New Haven, Conn., gave the commencement address and received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at Mount Marty College in Yankton, S.D., in May.

Kenneth A. Follett M’83
Omaha, Neb., chief of the section of neurosurgery at UNMC, was this year’s honoree at the American Parkinson Disease Association’s “Hand in Hand: Linking Lives for Parkinson’s” event held in La Vista, Neb., in April.

Rod S. Markin M’83
Omaha, Neb., was named interim dean of the UNMC College of Medicine as of July 1.

Luanne E. Thorndyke M’83
Worcester, Mass., was appointed vice provost for faculty affairs at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in January.
1990s

**Robert M. Taylor M'91**
Red Bluff, Calif., is the chief of surgery at St. Elizabeth Community Hospital where he was named the 2009 Physician of the Year.

**Pamela K. Chamberlin RSTE’92**
Norfolk, Neb., has been employed at the Carson Cancer Center since it began in November 1988.

**Henry J. Dethlefs M'92**
Omaha, Neb., was named the Nebraska Medical Association’s 2009 Physician of the Year.

**Michael J. Aksamit P’93**
Omaha, Neb., opened Bennington HealthMart Pharmacy in Bennington, Neb.

**Joel R. Bessmer M’93**
Plattsmouth, Neb., and Robert Schwab M’94, both primary care physicians, opened the private practice Bessmer-Schwab PC, a “concierge” healthcare service, on Feb. 1.

**Rebecca L. Herink M’93**
Fremont, Neb., rejoined the Fremont Area Medical Center medical staff. Dr. Herink is a board-certified internal medicine specialist with Fremont Internal Medicine – Complete Adult Care.

**Barbra J. Lenz M’93**
Omaha, Neb., graduated from seminary in May 2009. She is deeply interested in spiritual care of the medical staff and is training to be a chaplain.

### 2000s

**Shayna M. Miller RSTE’01**
Colorado Springs, Colo., works as a contract sonographer employee for OB/GYN offices. She began to contract her work after nearly nine years at an outpatient radiology facility.

**Tara R. Benes-Mueller PT’02**
Mt. Joy, Penn., has two children, Lillie, 3 and Logan, 7 months.

**Danielle L. (Hess) Bishop M’02**
Chicago, Ill., works at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

**Kimberly L. Lairet M’03**
Helotes, Texas, returned from Iraq last fall after serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom on a six-month deployment. Kimberly is assigned to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, as a general/truma/burn surgeon. Her husband, Julio, also in the military, is an emergency medicine physician and the consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General for Critical Care Air Transport Teams.

**Binh T. Ngo M’03**
Los Angeles, Calif., is an assistant professor of dermatology at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine.

**Jeffrey D. Parks M’03**
Ormond Beach, Fla., started a new company, "Skin Health Technology," to produce a topical cream that treats and prevents bruising, a new acne treatment and new advanced sunscreens.

Wearing their new College of Pharmacy alumni sweatshirts with pride are Travis Maloley and Patrick Christensen, members of the class of 2010. A reception for the class was hosted by the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association.

### Reminiscing about their three years in the College of Pharmacy and getting ready for their clinicals are members of the Class of 2011. The P3 Send Off Pizza Party was sponsored by the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association.
Michael S. Bauer M’04
Sioux Falls, S.D., joined the Surgical Institute of South Dakota in July 2009, after completing general surgical residency.

Maria Mauricio-Dosseh CLS’04
Omaha, Neb., achieved certification maintenance with the American Society for Clinical Pathology. She has spent the past eight years as the technical service manager at Streck.

Chris A. Unterseher M’05
Ord, Neb., joined the staff of medical providers at Valley County Health System in Ord.

Abigail M. Ihrke M’06
Carroll, Neb., joined the McFarland Clinic Family Medicine Department in Carroll.

Michelle L. Sell M’06
Genoa, Neb., joined the Park Street Medical Clinic and Genoa Community Hospital in May with interests in women’s health and pediatrics.

Christina A. Shaw CLS’06
Alexandria, Va., works for the hematology laboratory at Walter Reed Hospital.

Luisa A. (Creswell) Rounds N’07
Omaha, Neb., is one of only 17 Nebraskans to sit on the State Board of Health. She was appointed in September 2009 by Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman to serve the first of two five-year terms.

David J. Powell PA’08
Holdrege, Neb., joined the Family Medical Specialties medical staff in Holdrege specializing in men’s health. Powell also covers the emergency room at the Phelps Memorial Health Center four days a week.

Clint R. Jordan D’09
Loup City, Neb., a Rural Health Opportunities Program graduate, joined Family First Dental in Loup City.

Lindsey N. Michael PT’10
Ord, Neb., joined Valley County Health System in the rehabilitation services department in Ord.

Medical Residents

Richard Bransford, M.D.
Kijabe, Kenya, has been honored by the American Medical Association Foundation as the 2010 recipient of the Dr. Nathan Davis International Award in Medicine. This award is part of the Excellence in Medicine Awards program and is presented to a physician who has dramatically improved health care for an international patient population.

Jeffrey A. Holloway, M.D.
Scottsbluff, Neb., is the medical director of Regional West Medical Center’s bariatric program. He and his wife, Kim, also travel to Haiti twice a year as part of a local medical mission group.

Bill Lydiatt, vice president of the College of Medicine Alumni Association (left), recognizes College of Medicine faculty who have completed 25 years of service to the College at the AOA/Faculty Honors Convocation in March. Pictured recipients include Carol Casey, Ph.D., professor, internal medicine; Dennis Weisenburger, M.D., professor, pathology/microbiology; James O’Dell, M.D., professor, internal medicine. Not pictured are: George Casale, Ph.D., associate professor, surgery; Jeffrey Hill, M.D., associate professor, family medicine; Rodney McComb, professor, M.D., pathology/microbiology; and Stephen Rennard, M.D., professor, internal medicine.

First-year medical students relax at their “Post Comp Party” in May. The College of Medicine Parents and Family Association sponsors this event after the post comprehensive exam.
Scott Howe, M.D.
Kearney, Neb., was named Tri Valley Health System’s “Specialist of the Month” for November 2009. Dr. Howe operates Kearney Urology.

Marriages

Danielle l. (Hess) Bishop M’02
Chicago, Ill., married Jeff Bishop in May 2009.

Maria Mauricio-Dosseh CLS’04
Omaha, Neb., married Tinno Dosseh in October 2009.

Baljit CLS’06 and Jessicka V. (Martinez) Singh CLS’06
West Jordan, Utah, were married in October 2009.

Andrea Stieren PH’08
Omaha, Neb., married Chris Ott on Feb. 27, 2010 in West Point, Neb.

Carrie L. (Dickes) Torczon PA’06
Omaha, Neb., married Derek Torczon on June 27, 2009.

Births

Aaron I. PA’99 and Niki L. (Frates) Salamon P’02
Gothenburg, Neb., are the proud parents of a son, Andrew Carsen, May 16. Andrew joins sister Avery, 3. Aaron joined Gothenburg Family Practice in April. Niki is a staff pharmacist at Barmore Drug in Lexington, Neb.

Yeisha C. (Keopké) Culp PT’00
Plano, Texas, and her husband, Will, welcomed their first daughter, Jacquelynn Alivia, on Aug. 28, 2009.

Kristen L. (Roemmich) Bishop P’01
Grand Island, Neb., welcomed a daughter, Addisen Leigh, in February 2010. She also has a 2-year-old son, Riley.

Andrea Kara (Zins) Parde M’01
Lincoln, Neb., and her husband, Jarrod, celebrated the arrival of their son, Dalton Lee Parde, on Dec. 12, 2009.

Elizabeth M’02 and Michael S. Bauer M’04
Sioux Falls, S.D., welcomed their daughter, Julia Ruth, on May 8, 2009.

In Remembrance...

Retraction:
In the previous issue of UNMC Connect, Bernard J. Moran D’49 was listed as deceased. It was his spouse who passed away. We apologize to Dr. Moran and his family for this error.

Donald B. Barth P’40
Chandler, Ariz., April 28, 2010

Dorothy M. Olson N’43
Omaha, Neb., June 30, 2010

George E. Larson M’44
Lincoln, Neb., May 11, 2010

F. Dixon Conlin M’46
Hilton Head Island, S.C., Aug. 3, 2010

George W. Loomis M’47
Omaha, Neb., April 30, 2010

Howard T. Robson D’53
Grand Island, Neb., Dec. 16, 2009

George R. Dachs D’54
Kalspell, Mont., March 5, 2010

Charles F. Bower D’56
Lincoln, Neb., April 25, 2010

Roland R. Morgan M’56
Cambridge, Neb., May 8, 2010

Hal K. Mardis M’58
Omaha, Neb., Feb. 28, 2010

Howard F. Koch M’61
Alliance, Neb., Jan. 23, 2010

Kathryn M. (Colgan) Reynolds N’61
Kearney, Neb., July 16, 2010

Lorraine L. Hedman N’64
Omaha, Neb., Jan. 8, 2010

James K. Anthony M’65
Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 29, 2008

Guy T. Haven Sr. M’66
Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 20, 2010

Donald R. Townsend M’67
Oakland, Calif., Oct. 7, 2009

Richard E. Imm, M’69
Celebrating the end of medical school at their senior banquet are members of the College of Medicine Class of 2010. The banquet is sponsored by the College of Medicine Alumni Association.

We apologize for not being able to publish all class notes due to the overwhelming number received for this edition. Please visit your alumni chapter Website at http://unmc.edu/alumni/chapters.htm for a complete listing of class notes. Thank you for your notes.

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Shelly Wonder was 24 when the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law.

She remembers the date – July 26, 1990 – largely because her son was born that year. “It was important because of the symbolism behind it,” she said, acknowledging that the 47-page document lacked legislative teeth until amendments were added in 2008.

A disabilities advocate within the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute’s AmeriCorp program, Wonder has watched how the ADA impacted society, including her own life with cerebral palsy. “We’ve taken baby steps, but it’s allowed people to know they have rights to function in society,” she said. “A law that started as a Model T is now a ‘53 Thunderbird – someday it will be a Prius.”

And, while she’s benefited from the act, she also was taught long ago: “The world isn’t going to adapt to me so I better adapt to the world and do it better.”

Fiercely independent, she’s grateful for the childhood services she received from the Munroe-Meyer Institute, where faculty and staff have unlocked the potential of children and adults long before the ADA. Today, people with disabilities are a more visible and vibrant part of society, said Michael Leibowitz, Ph.D., director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute. And, although not a panacea, the ADA has benefitted all of us in simple and profound ways from speech recognition software, which is now part of cell phones, to curb cuts used by everyone to increased access and opportunities for people with disabilities.

“Disabilities are a natural part of life and, as we age, more and more of us will come to appreciate the wisdom of the writers of the law,” Dr. Leibowitz said.

For Wonder, the ADA movement is largely about changing attitudes. “Living successfully with a disability is all about how you adapt in the world,” she said. “We need to see ourselves as competitive, reliable, engaging and contributing to society. We can change other people’s attitudes only once we have changed our own.”

In many ways, Wonder is well ahead of the pack. “Like MMI, I believe it’s important to empower people to be functionally independent. Maximize what you can do. Laugh off the things that are really hard. The only time I really feel disabled is when I’m fighting winter ice and snow,” Wonder joked. “By May, I forget about it.”

View a gallery of photos from the Special Olympics Health Symposium, sponsored in part by the UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute. Held on the UNMC campus, the symposium took place on the eve of the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln. Learn the 10 Commandments of Communicating with People with Disabilities at www.unmc.edu/connect.
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