



College Connections

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Student Spotlight

Education is one of the four pillars of UNMC's mission and our students are the lifeblood of that aspect of campus life.

In UNMC Today's Student Spotlight, we get to know some of these students, who will be tomorrow's health care professionals.

Today we meet Kimberly Terry, a third-year College of Pharmacy student.



- **Name:** Kimberly Terry
- **Hometown:** Salt Lake City
- **Year/Program:** Third year, College of Pharmacy

What is your best memory from your time at UNMC?

Having the opportunity to travel to Seattle with other students from the College of Pharmacy. We attended a conference for the American Pharmacists Association where we could network with other students and pharmacists from around the U.S. It was a blast to spend spring break hanging out with friends,

sightseeing and shopping.

Our four brand values are leadership, commitment to excellence, working together and being a trusted resource. Pick one and tell us a time you witnessed it embodied at UNMC.

Student-run clinics, such as SHARING and Goodlife, are prime examples of how student leaders from different colleges work together to ensure

patients receive good quality care. The students who attend the clinics are committed to excellence and treat their patients to the best of their ability. Many students are assigned to a single patient and manage their care until they graduate. This ensures patient care is continuous and helps develop long term relationships becoming a trusted and valuable resource.

List three things people may not know about you.

- I am a volunteer firefighter.
- I enjoy the outdoors, backpacking, camping, fly-fishing and snowboarding.
- My heart can be won over by York peppermint patties.



White Coat Ceremony

Our Twelfth Annual White Coat Ceremony took place on August 17 at the Michael F. Sorrell Events Center.

Sixty students received their professional white laboratory jackets provided by the College of Pharmacy and took the pledge of professionalism.

Paul Dobesh, Pharm.D., Associate

Professor of Pharmacy Practice, delivered the keynote presentation.

Danielle Longo, Class of 2012, also shared her reflections as a Pharmacy student.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Gary Yee, Pharm.D., and Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Charles Krobot, Pharm.D., welcomed the class of 2015 to the Ceremony and assisted with the

presentation of the white coats to the students.

The College of Pharmacy Open House followed where the new students and their families and friends were invited to mingle with faculty, students and staff.

The Open House was an enjoyable way to 'kick-off' the start of the new school year, and to welcome the Class of 2015.

Class of 2015

Courtney Anderson, *Coleridge*

Elizabeth Baier, *Wayne*

Daniel Bailey, *Boulder, CO*

Tara Bergland, *Treynor, IA*

Joshua Blood, *Beatrice*

Kelsey Bryant, *Lincoln*

Brice Buryanek, *Hawarden, IA*

David Cawthorn, *Omaha*

Angela Chronister, *Minneapolis, MN*

Jonathan Ciochon, *Fremont*

Carolyn Corn, *Omaha*

Michael Crowe, *Omaha*

Sylvia Dang, *Rosemead, CA*

Amanda Edgerton, *Cambridge*

Nolan Hannan, *Wahoo*

Sloane Hartzel, *Hallam*

Chet Hellbusch, *Columbus*

Kayla Hoelting, *Lawrence*

Yimei Huang, *Chengdu, China*

Megan Irlmeier, *Council Bluffs, IA*

Caroline Jamison, *Arlington*

Katrina Keebler, *Sterling*

Jessica Kehm, *Grand Island*

Michael Keiser, *Gothenburg*

Jenna Keller, *Lincoln*

Justin Lane, *Auburn*

Andrew Lemke, *St. Paul*

Cody Lobeda, *Phillips*

Timothy Louie, *Milpitas, CA*

Michelle Mahr, *Sidney*

Richard Marlatt, *Gordon*

Amy Mayer, *Elkhorn*

Khalid Mohamed, *Saint Paul, MN*

Ban Mohammed, *Lincoln*

Joseph Nekola, *Ralston*

Ashley Neumann, *Omaha*

Lynn Nguyen, *Lincoln*

Olivia Nguyen, *Lincoln*

Sarah Paasch, *Elkhorn*

Ashley Paseka, *Prague*

Cassandra Pauley, *Panama, IA*

Charleen Phan, *Lincoln*

Emily Prinz, *West Point*

Stephanie Rash, *Kearney*

Daralyn Roberts, *Louisville*

Andrea Scheibelhofer, *Lincoln*

Caci Schulte, *Blair*

Amanda Schultz, *Auburn*

Jenalee Schwab, *Hampton, IA*

Drew Smith, *Milburn*

Hannah Snyder, *Yutan*

Cory Sueper, *Humphrey*

Janet Tran, *Fremont*

Van Tran, *Lincoln*

Philip VanDeVelde, *Papillion*

Amanda Voigt, *Topeka, KS*

Jacelyn Watt, *Sidney*

Lance Wilson, *Grant*

Jenna Woods, *Omaha*

Li Yin, *Harbin, China*

Sixty new students with a mean GPA of 3.42 were accepted into the College of Pharmacy's Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) program. These new first-year students bring the total enrollment in the four-year Pharm.D. program to 236 students.

Among the new first-year students, 80 percent are Nebraska residents with 45 percent of the students coming from outside Omaha and Lincoln. The 20 percent of the students who are not from Nebraska come to the College of Pharmacy from as close as Iowa and as far away as China.

The breakdown of first-year students includes 67 percent female, 33 percent male. Of the 60 incoming students, 78 percent have already received a prior bachelor or higher degree.

Faculty & Staff News



Dr. Clarence Ueda retired from the faculty on August 1, 2011. Dr.

Ueda joined the faculty of the College of Pharmacy as an assistant professor of pharmaceuticals in 1974. He was appointed interim dean of the College in 1986 and subsequently dean in 1987. Dr. Ueda served twenty years as dean. He left the deanship and returned to the faculty at the end of 2007. Clarence's contributions as a member of the faculty and as dean have been numerous and meaningful.

Dr. Ueda and Dr. Dennis Robinson have both been appointed Emeritus Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Emeritus Professor and Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, respectively.

Don Klepser, Ph.D., MBA, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, was the featured guest on Channel 7 News on a discussion about Generic Drugs.



Congratulations to **Anna Damgaard-Selden**, Office Associate I in the department of Pharmacy Practice, who received the Silver 'U' award in July.

Jonathan Vennerstrom, Ph.D., Professor, has been appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He is taking over for Dr. Dennis Robinson who retired at the end of July after 25 years with the College to return to his home country of New Zealand. Dr. Vennerstrom has been with the College for 24 years and teaches in the Medicinal Chemistry course. His research focus is on finding a cost effective treatment for malaria.



Serguei Vinogradov, Ph.D., Research Professor, received a RO1, NIH sponsored grant, effective July 1, 2011. Dr. Vinogradov was awarded \$1.85 million for "CNS Delivery of Activated Antiviral Drugs with Reduced Neurotoxicity (Nano-NRTIs)."

Yuri Lyubchenko, Ph.D., D.Sc., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was awarded an NIH sponsored RO1 grant effective August 1, 2011. The \$1.1 million grant will focus on "Protein Self Assembly into Nanoaggregates."

Luis Marky, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a new \$1.06 million grant from the National Science Foundation effective August 15, 2011 for "Sequence Specific Targeting of Nucleic Acids using Intramolecular Complexes: Energetics, Kinetics and Hydration."

Elena Batrakova, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, was elected Chair of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program (PSGP) Committee. She will oversee applications, PSGP concerns and serve on the UNMC Graduate Council.

Welcome Clinical Assistant Professors

The College of Pharmacy would like to welcome twelve new Clinical Assistant Professors to the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Profiles of the new faculty will be featured in the next several editions of the College Connections.



Name: Molly Thompson,
Pharm.D.

Title: Pharmacist Coordinator in
the Department of Pharmaceutical
and Nutrition Care at The

Nebraska Medical Center; Clinical Assistant
Professor in the department of Pharmacy Practice
at the College of Pharmacy

Interests: Dr. Thompson's primary practice area is
in adult liver and intestinal transplant. In addition
to solid organ transplantation, Dr. Thompson's
interest areas include parenteral nutrition in
surgical patients and teaching pharmacy residents
and students.

Doctoral Degree: Pharm.D., University of
Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy

Memberships: Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin



Name: Alan Gross,
Pharm.D.

Title: Clinical assistant professor in
the department of Pharmacy
Practice in the College of

Pharmacy.

Interests: Dr. Gross practices in infectious diseases
and is the antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist

coordinator at The Nebraska Medical Center.

Doctoral degree: Pharm.D., Purdue University

Memberships: Society of Infectious Diseases
Pharmacists, American Society of
Microbiology, American College of Clinical
Pharmacy, American Society of Health-System
Pharmacists



Name: Megan Keck,
Pharm.D., BCPS

Title: Clinical assistant professor
in the department of Pharmacy
Practice in the College of

Pharmacy, Pharmacy Coordinator- Pediatric
Transplantation at The Nebraska Medical Center

Interests: Dr. Keck has been the clinical pharmacist

with the liver and intestinal transplant service at
The Nebraska Medical Center for the past eight
years. Her interests include immunosuppression
management and infectious disease issues seen
with transplantation. She is currently enrolled in
the Master's of Public Health Program at UNMC
with a focus in administration.

Doctoral degree: Pharm.D., University of Iowa

Upcoming Events

October 5, 2011 @ Noon, DRC 1 Auditorium

American Pharmacists Month Celebration (ASP)

October 5, 2011 @ 3pm, Sorrell Center Rm 1005

Glen Schumock, Pharm.D., MBA, FCCP

“Red Pill or Blue Pill? Comparative Effectiveness Research: What it is...and How it is Relevant to Pharmacy.”

November 9, 2011 (time/room TBD)

College of Pharmacy Seminar

Courtney Aldrich, Ph.D.

November 17, 2011 @ 3pm,

Fall Honors Convocation, Sorrell Center Rm 1001

November 18, 2011

Career Day, Student Life Center

December 1, 2011

PharmCAS Application deadline

December 9, 2011

Fall Last Day of Classes

December 12-16, 2011

Fall Finals Week

January 3, 2012

Spring Semester First day of classes

March 12-18, 2012

Spring Break P1s-P3s

March 26-April 1, 2012

Spring Break P4s

April 20, 2012

Spring Last Day of Classes

April 23-27, 2012

Spring Finals Week

May 4, 2012

Spring Honors Convocation (all faculty to attend)

May 5, 2012

Graduation

College begins work on Self Study

Every college or school of pharmacy must undergo a comprehensive review (i.e. Self Study) in order to maintain its accreditation. UNMC's accreditation site visit is scheduled for Fall 2012, and the College has started work on its Self Study. Drs. Gary Yee and Jeff Baldwin serve as co-chairs of the Self Study. The Self Study process is very labor intensive and many faculty members and staff are involved. Students will be asked for their input and opinions during the process. We appreciate your assistance and cooperation!!

As new students arrive on campus this fall, many will don the white coat for the first time.

The College of Pharmacy was the first to take the coats off the hangers as its first-year students received their coats the evening of August 17.

Among the pharmacy students who received their white coats was [Andrew Lemke](#), who discusses his somewhat circuitous path to UNMC. [Click here for video.](#)

Preceptors Retreat

The annual Preceptor Development retreat was hosted by UNMC College of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Programs (OEP) August 25 and 26, 2011 at Mahoney State Park. This year's retreat was a great success with an overwhelming response of 59 participants.

Keynote speaker, Barry Carter, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAHA, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, Patrick E Keefe Professor of Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy and Department of Family Medicine, Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa and Senior Scientist, Iowa City, VA, CRIISP, focused his presentation on "Strategies for Pharmacists to Improve Blood Pressure Control."

Other speakers included Drs. Mike Holcomb,

Tammy Winterboer, Janelle Sellers, Marcia Mueeting, Brian Trevarrow, Jennifer Nieman and Pat Fuller, as well as UNMC College of Pharmacy faculty members, Drs. Ally Dering-Anderson, Gary Yee and John Ridgway.

"The retreat was not only very informative but a good time as well," said Kimberly Norman, MA, OEP Coordinator. "We want to bring the best programming to our preceptors and show them how much we appreciate all they do for us and our students."

Thank you to all the speakers and participants who made this year's retreat a success!



Participants at the 2011 Preceptor Development Retreat

Dean's Message

Building the Future

On August 17 we welcomed sixty new first year students to the College of Pharmacy. They are an outstanding group of young men and women, from as close as Omaha to as far as Chengdu, China. Like all of the 100-plus first-year classes who have come before them, they are the future legacy of this College and the profession of pharmacy. I am confident both are in good hands.

Another key effort in Building the Future for the College and the profession are our plans to construct a new College of Pharmacy and Laboratories for Drug Discovery. This summer John Ridgway, Patty Sherman (College of Pharmacy development officer with the University of Nebraska Foundation) and I held regional meetings across Nebraska to talk with our alumni and friends about this new building. The meetings were in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Grand Island, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk and Omaha. We were very warmly received, and were so appreciative of the more than 250 alumni and friends who attended these meetings. Thank you to all who attended, and a special thanks to our local hosts at all of these meetings.



The simple truth is we have outgrown the current building: we are not able to advance an innovative, student-focused curriculum and the leadership in pharmacy education that Nebraska is known for; the building limits our commitment to improving the health of Nebraskans through our research programs in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences.

This new building represents a very special opportunity for Pharmacy in Nebraska -- it is the opportunity to imagine the future for pharmacy education, practice and research -- and then to build it! But, the second simple truth is the new College of Pharmacy can't be built without the financial help of our alumni and friends. I hope we can count on your support - as a

member of the Nebraska Pharmacy Family - to help us translate this opportunity into reality.

Warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small checkmark at the end.

Courtney V. Fletcher, Pharm.D.
Dean and Professor