Teens prep for health careers
ON THE COVER:
Head and neck surgeon, Bill Lydiatt, M.D., preps the next generation of health professionals.

TEENS PREP FOR HEALTH CAREERS
Students from metro area high schools converge on the UNMC campus to get a jump start on a career in the health professions.

A RETURN ON INVESTMENT THAT CAN’T BE BEAT
An investment decision made 10 years ago has returned money to Nebraska that some call phenomenal.

MEDICARE PATIENTS – “STAY OUT OF THE HOLE”
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web extra unmc.edu/connect
State leaders have profound foresight

Ten years ago, when other states were pouring their tobacco settlement dollars into the repayment of long-term debt, building new roads or other one-time projects, the Nebraska Legislature and governor chose prudently to place its share of the money in health-related initiatives.

This decision continues to pay dividends, as is detailed in an article on page 10 of this issue of UNMC Connect. A particularly beneficial component of the state’s decision to support biomedical research is that about one-third of that money goes toward biomedical research.

The four institutions that receive this funding - UNMC, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Creighton University and Boys Town National Research Hospital - continue to use the tobacco settlement dollars to garner additional grants and gifts. In fact, a recent study by noted economist Ernie Goss indicated that tobacco settlement funds invested in biomedical research thus far have produced an eight-to-one return. In other words, our institutions’ good stewardship has turned $106 million of tobacco settlement deposits into an additional $853 million in grants and gifts.

In addition, this funding has generated more than $98 million in state and local tax collections and has supported an average of 1,791 jobs with a total payroll of approximately $78.3 million. Scientific and research jobs increased by 105.5 percent in Nebraska between 2002 and 2008 when similar job growth expanded by only 63.8 percent across the nation.

At UNMC, we’ve received about half of the tobacco settlement money dedicated to biomedical research each year. We’ve used this funding to recruit or retain 128 national experts in cancer, cardiology, ophthalmology, neurosciences, infectious diseases and other areas.

These biomedical scientists work hard each day to find treatments and cures to devastating diseases and illnesses. Because of their ingenuity and perseverance, Nebraskans will be the first to receive these cutting-edge treatments and cures.

One of my goals when I first became chancellor at UNMC was to invigorate the research enterprise. Programs such as the tobacco initiative, when coupled with innovative faculty and generous philanthropists, have propelled our research to unprecedented heights. Our extramural funding, which hovered around $30 million annually at the turn of the century, now exceeds $115 million. This growth means more money to Nebraska’s economy and new developments daily in the fight against disease and illness. It’s just one more way in which UNMC is providing breakthroughs for life to Nebraskans.

Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
UNMC Chancellor

$282,120,691

New funds have been established during the campaign to support students, faculty, facilities and programs at UNMC.

87%
of UNMC campaign gifts are from Nebraska households/organizations.

459
new funds have been established during the campaign to support students, faculty, facilities and programs at UNMC.

32%
of donors supporting UNMC during the campaign are UNMC graduates.

11,568
individuals and organizations have made donations to UNMC during the campaign. More than 50% are first-time donors to UNMC.

95%
of UNMC students apply for financial assistance.

campaignfornebraska.org/unmc
TEENS PREP FOR HEALTH CAREERS
A few words whispered in her ear brought Fujehat Ara to her knees and forever changed her world.

“Your daddy has cancer,” her physician uncle said.

Her hero, the man who gave up his dream of becoming a doctor so his brother could become one, was going to die.

Devastated, Ara’s resolve to pursue her father’s dream grew stronger and led the Central High School senior to enroll in the first class of a unique program – the UNMC High School Alliance.

Sadly, her father, an immigrant from Bangladesh, died in 2008.

Today, Ara slips on tan pants and a black polo – the Alliance uniform – and drives to the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education at UNMC to join other area high schoolers for classes taught by the faculty there.

The alliance provides hands-on learning experiences unlike what students receive in high school, said Ashlie Nelson, a certified teacher with Omaha Public Schools and the UNMC High School Alliance liaison. This unique program is one of only a few in the country that brings together students from 17 high schools in two states. Another bonus: most of the courses offered in the program are eligible for dual enrollment credit with the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

For her course on biomedical science, Ara spent time in the lab of Ken Bayles, Ph.D., a professor in the College of Medicine and director of the Center for Staphylococcal Research at UNMC. Dr. Bayles, who studies antibiotic resistant MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), showed Ara how to make biofilms or petri dishes filled with bacteria.

“His lab was really laid back,” she said. “It was cool to learn all the aspects of his research and make my own biofilm.”

Bob Bartee, UNMC vice chancellor for external affairs, said the high school alliance creates a pipeline of students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in the health sciences and provides them with a rich and creative learning environment.

“It is a great start toward our primary objective of having a health sciences high school in Nebraska,” he said.

The interest from UNMC faculty and staff to make the program a reality has been overwhelmingly positive, Bartee said.

Bill Lydiatt, M.D., a professor of otolaryngology - head and neck surgery at UNMC, teaches medical decision-making to Alliance students. He said a strong science background is important. “It is part of a critical foundation that helps prepare students for the rigors of college and their professional school coursework.”

The alliance does that by exposing students to key concepts in biology, basic scientific research and critical thinking in ways that expand their understanding of the health sciences.

Using head and neck cancer case studies, Dr. Lydiatt challenged the students to discern how they would approach a medical situation.

“The high school alliance creates a pipeline of students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in the health sciences and provides them with a rich and creative learning environment.”

Bob Bartee, UNMC Vice Chancellor for External Affairs

**ALLIANCE FACTS**

- The High School Alliance is a partnership between UNMC, nine metropolitan area school districts and an educational service unit (ESU-3).
- Participating school districts for 2011-2012 include: Bellevue Public Schools, Bennington Public Schools, Council Bluffs Community Schools, Douglas County West Community Schools, ESU-3, Gretna Public Schools, Millard Public Schools, Omaha Public Schools, Papillion-LaVista School District and Westside Community Schools.
- It is funded primarily through the Sherwood Foundation, but receives support from the UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association, UNMC and Omaha Public Schools. One goal of the program is to make it available to students from all socio-economic groups. Forty percent of the current class qualifies for the free and reduced lunch program at their school.
- Alliance courses cover such topics as human anatomy, career exploration and medical decision-making. The program allows high school students to take specially designed college-level courses in preparation for health care careers.
- The response to the program has been overwhelming – more than 100 students applied for the initial 36 slots. Currently, applications for the 2011-12 school year are being reviewed. Only 50 students will be accepted into the alliance.
Would they do surgery, offer chemotherapy or radiation? Why? How would they justify their treatment plan? More importantly, how would they explain these decisions to the patient?

“I wanted to show them the complexity of weighing the various known and unknown issues in patient care to help the students gain a deeper perspective on the humanity involved in health and illness,” he said.

Through the most unlikely of teachers – Nebraska poet Ted Kooser and Scottish artist Mark Gilbert – students discovered that medical decisions are based in part on the personalities, life expectations and life experiences of everyone involved – the patient, doctor and family members, Dr. Lydiatt said.

The impact on the students is evident.

“Dr. Lydiatt didn’t just teach us lessons on the ethics of medical decision making, but life lessons on how to be a better person,” Ara said. During another session, Howard Fox, M.D., Ph.D., senior associate dean for research and development in the UNMC College of Medicine, introduced students to basic scientific research in breast cancer, neurodegeneration, diabetes and HIV.

Dr. Fox’s course, Nelson said, exposed students to another side of medicine.

“Initially, they didn’t connect biomedical research to the medical profession,” Nelson said. “Now they understand how vital one is to the other.”

The program also gives students insight into the broad range of biomedical and health sciences and inspires them to excel in all their academic pursuits, she said. “Each takes that excitement back to their high school classrooms.”

For Ara the experience holds deeper meaning.

“I know my dad would be proud of what I’m doing.”

Ashlie Nelson, a certified teacher with Omaha Public Schools and the UNMC High School Alliance liaison, poses for students in the life drawing class taught by Scottish artist Mark Gilbert.

Leah Whitney, a junior from Bellevue West, looks for veins in Fujehat Ara’s neck on a tour of the emergency room at The Nebraska Medical Center.
When he was in the third grade Henry Black tested at the maturity level of an 18-year-old. His parents weren’t surprised. Their son had demonstrated maturity and intelligence at a very young age.

“From the time he was really small, Henry spoke in complete sentences,” Laura Black said.

Educating Henry, 17, has been a challenge said Laura, who home-schooled her son on two occasions, once in elementary school and another time in junior high.

That was until last fall when Henry had the opportunity to join other students like him – eager, talented and intelligent – in a unique, new program at UNMC.

The UNMC High School Alliance is exactly the kind of environment in which exceptional students like Henry thrive.

Henry, who has mild cerebral palsy, first became interested in medicine after a seventh-grade visit to a neurologist to see if he could play football. There, it was discovered that he had suffered a stroke while still in his mother’s womb. His fascination with medicine only intensified when he began volunteering at Jenny Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The alliance has motivated, inspired and surprised Henry, now a junior at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs.

“The medical decision-making class was almost indescribable,” he said. “Dr. Lydiatt did a fantastic job of getting the point across that medicine is not just a job, but about humanity and being empathetic to your patients.”

Bill Lydiatt, M.D., enjoyed teaching Henry as much as his student enjoyed learning.

“I was struck by Henry’s enthusiasm,” Dr. Lydiatt said. “He is quick to understand concepts and is able to think through them to arrive at questions that either further his knowledge or challenge ideas being presented.”

Henry, he said, demonstrates understanding beyond his years.

On a tour of the da Vinci robotic surgical system, Henry discovered that even with limited fine motor skills, he is still able to tie a suture, something he thought he would never be able to do.

“He came home that day just bursting with excitement,” his mother recalled.

And while the medical and scientific terminology sometimes floated over his head, Henry embraced the challenges presented in the alliance courses.

The challenge of deciphering technical research jargon, making connections between basic biomedical research and patient outcomes and seeing first-hand the impact of patient care in a clinical setting left Henry wanting more.

“I feel fortunate to have this opportunity,” Henry said. “The alliance is giving me the experience of a lifetime.”
A decade ago, Nebraska’s governor and legislators decided to invest the tobacco settlement fund monies in research at UNMC and three other institutions and the return has been nothing short of phenomenal.

From 2002 through 2010, annual tobacco settlement allocations to UNMC have totaled more than $50.2 million. The majority of the money – $31.6 million – was used to recruit and retain top researchers, and the remainder was used to develop infrastructure and research projects directed at health care disparities.

With tobacco money as a springboard during that nine-year period, UNMC’s strategic recruitment and retention of top-notch scientists has garnered an additional $472 million in grants and contracts. Every dollar invested in recruitment attracted an additional $15 that otherwise wouldn’t have come to Nebraska, outperforming Berkshire Hathaway and stocks in the Standard & Poor’s 500 Index in that same time period.

Tom Rosenquist, Ph.D., vice chancellor for research, said UNMC used the funds for the strategic recruitment or retention of 128 national experts in such fields as cancer, cardiology, neuroscience and infectious disease.
“The tobacco settlement funds helped UNMC get to the next level,” Dr. Rosenquist said. “But, how do you measure the success of saving lives and finding cures? It’s intangible.”

The next level brings UNMC closer to world-class status, a goal Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., set 12 years ago.

One of the researchers recruited was Ken Bayles, Ph.D., professor of pathology and microbiology, in whom UNMC invested $900,000 over five years to purchase expensive, but highly essential laboratory equipment and hire research assistants. He brought with him about $1.5 million in grants.

In less than four years, the investment in Dr. Bayles was returned when he was awarded an $11.1 million program project grant to build the nation’s first Center for Staphylococcal Research. The multidisciplinary center now boasts 14 investigators, including surgeons, neurologists and infectious disease experts, and 41 post-docs, graduate students and research personnel.

In addition, Dr. Bayles received a renewal for his $1 million grant and was awarded a $2 million earmark grant from the U.S. Department of Defense. His work has generated one patent; another patent is pending.

Staphylococcus aureus, which frequently lives on the skin, can turn into dangerous staph infections. These infections kill about 100,000 Americans each year, causes 1.7 million infections annually in the nation, and because of its resistance to drugs, is now striking healthy individuals.

“This center brings together researchers and clinicians from various disciplines to conduct research and develop treatments for staph infections. It will allow UNMC to become the national hub for basic and clinical staph research,” Dr. Rosenquist said.

Through the center, researchers collaborate with orthopedic surgeons to reduce the number of infections related to artificial knees and hips.

Nationally, about 2 percent of people who have knee or hip replacement surgery get infections and about 60 percent of these infections are caused by staph. At UNMC, the infection rate has been 0.4 percent due to a multimodal approach to reduce infections.

As the population ages, the demand for artificial hips and knees will rise. Estimates are that by 2030, the total demand for new hips will climb 174 percent to 572,000, and 673 percent to 3.48 million for knees. Deep infection has the potential to become the most frequent failure mode for hip and knee replacements in the United States within the next two to three decades.

“It’s a huge problem,” Dr. Bayles said. “Usually the only way to treat these infections is to pull out the device and replace it. Working with surgeons has been valuable – we’re all interested in reducing the number of infections.

“We’ve discovered a new DNA-based matrix that allows bacteria biofilm to stick to the surfaces of orthopedic devices, so we’ve started working on nucleic acid-based approaches to keep bacteria from sticking to these orthopedic devices,” he said.

“Tobacco settlement funds profoundly affect our ability to recruit the top experts we need to take discoveries like these from the bench to the bedside,” he said.

UNMC has been successful in acquiring philanthropic gifts to build new buildings – most notably the two Durham Research Center towers, Dr. Bayles said.

“I don’t see how we’ll recruit high profile experts to occupy these beautiful new facilities if those extra funds were to go away.”

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To facilitate this kind of research, UNMC also established the Center for Reducing Health Disparities, which saves lives by engaging communities to reduce health disparities through workshops, presentations and health screenings.

Learn more about how an investment in research impacted Nebraska and read the summary of an economic impact report by renowned economist Ernie Goss, Ph.D. [unmc.edu/connect]
Roger, a patient at the Beatrice Pamida pharmacy, was headed directly for the dreaded “donut hole,” which, unlike its confectionary namesake, is anything but sweet.

It’s actually the term used to describe the payment gap that Medicare Part D participants must cover out of their own pockets when their annual prescription drug payments are between $2,840 and $4,550.

Roger was on a high-priced blood pressure medication that quickly drove his drug costs toward the donut hole or “gap” as it’s otherwise known.

Fortunately, he crossed paths with members of the UNMC College of Pharmacy Rural Pharmacy Student Association (RPSA), who were in town that November morning to host a workshop on Medicare Part D.

The students shined a light on options Roger didn’t know about, particularly in regard to a cheaper generic drug in the same therapeutic class as his pricey brand name medication. A switch to the generic could halt or at least slow Roger’s slide into the donut hole.

Discussions with his physician and pharmacist helped Roger transition to the generic drug.

“This was powerful outreach that had a tremendous effect on the patients who attended,” said the Pamida pharmacist, Peter Vu, Pharm.D., who just last year was on the student side of the workshop.

The UNMC pharmacy students helped about 30 patients that day. They conducted thorough reviews of medication lists and showed patients options to save money and spare aggravation. They also educated patients about programs offered by pharmacies including one in which patients pay only $4 for 30 days of generic drugs.

“The workshop was a great way to keep people informed because a lot of people don’t know how their insurance works,” said Kyle Clarey, a third-year pharmacy student and co-president of the RPSA. “It’s helpful to have people ask questions.”

“The service the students provide is invaluable,” Dr. Vu said, “as enrollment in a Medicare Part D plan is complicated.”

It was the second consecutive year for the RPSA workshop at the Beatrice pharmacy and a third trip is planned for November.

Clarey saw the benefit of the event when he watched one patient exit the pharmacy in a much better mood than when she had entered.

“Our team was able to show her some options in terms of generic medications that could greatly reduce her drug expenditures,” Clarey said, “and when she left she was all smiles.”

NOTE: Many variables affect out-of-pocket expenses under Medicare Part D. For more information: www.medicare.gov
To inspire. To inform. To connect. Those are the objectives of UNMC’s social media sites which include Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Below are stories of those objectives in action.

To Inspire
A simple request posted on the UNMC Facebook page on Dec. 28, 2010, to its 1,803 fans resulted in an inspirational response.

The post: Tell us who is VITAL to you in 350 characters.

The response...
The treatment professionals (at UNMC) who have helped me be clean and sober for over a year….There are so many people I can’t name them all; I just know that words cannot express how much they mean to me. I owe my life and my wellness to these people. They saved my life!

Many people have shared their vitality stories on the site and you can too at: unmc.edu/vital.

To Inform
UNMC prides itself on being a trusted resource for Nebraskans and beyond. For instance an “Ask UNMC” segment featured a faculty expert who answered the question “What is a colposcopy?”

In her one-minute video answer, Sonja Kinney, M.D., a UNMC OB/GYN, explains that a colposcopy is a pelvic exam with a magnified view of the cervix to help identify what causes an abnormal pap smear. The video was featured on KETV Channel 7 and later on UNMC’s YouTube channel. In less than two years, it had been viewed 28,010 times. A trusted resource, indeed.

To Connect
There’s never been an easier way to directly connect with everyone from senators to students. Through Twitter, it was discovered that a UNMC faculty member published a fiction “lablit” novel called “Matter Over Mind.” Subsequent publicity on Twitter and in UNMC’s internal newsletter, along with the author’s personal efforts on social media sites, resulted in the sale of about 40 books. And it all started with one little tweet.

In the summer of 2009, UNMC Alumni Relations launched several social networking sites to connect with alumni. The sites include Facebook pages for each chapter, a Flickr account to share event photos and LinkedIn for professional groups. Since then, more than 1,400 people have become fans, followers and members resulting in an online reunion.

“Our goal is to connect to alumni and for alumni to connect to each other in a virtual environment,” said Catherine Mello, associate director for communication and outreach in Alumni Relations. “Social networking is such an integral part of all of our lives today that it’s a natural fit for the Alumni Relations Office to use these valuable marketing tools to engage UNMC alumni around the world.”
A VISION FOR BETTER VISION

by Colleen Kenney Fleischer
If you’re reading this with healthy eyes, you’re not like Hal Spurrier.

The retired Lincoln business owner and University of Nebraska grad was diagnosed with glaucoma 42 years ago, when he was just 28.

“I was too stupid to know how bad it was,” he said, smiling.

The eye drops in those days had terrible side effects. They made his eyes red. They dilated his pupils to the point he could no longer play tennis, a sport he loved – one eye would be blown up and the other would be small. He lost his depth perception.

“Those drops would actually make my vision twice as bad. I’d wear contacts and I’d wear giant glasses over the contacts.”

For years, he kept the disease at bay with drugs. But over time, one by one, each drug became ineffective and he’d have to find another. By the early 1990s, he’d tried every drug possible. None was left.

It appeared the glaucoma was going to win.

Lucky for him, he moved from California back home to Nebraska around that time and became part of a clinical trial for a new glaucoma drug being developed by UNMC ophthalmologist Carl Camras, M.D.

Spurrier had no idea that the medical center had such great clinical faculty in people like Dr. Camras who was conducting world-class eye research.

The drug developed by Dr. Camras worked. It stabilized Spurrier’s glaucoma, with no side effects.

The drug, latanoprost, is now the gold standard around the world for treating glaucoma.

“It was a tremendous breakthrough,” Spurrier said. “And it happened right here.

“It’s a big secret – how good these guys here are.”

On Dec. 6, Spurrier watched from the crowd as NU officials, Stanley Truhlsen, M.D., a legendary ophthalmologist and 1944 UNMC alumnus, and other dignitaries broke ground for the Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute.

(Hejkal attended the groundbreaking.)

The institute will transform vision care in the region by bringing UNMC researchers, clinicians and patients together in a state-of-the-art facility.

The first phase – a 47,000-square-foot building expected to be finished in late 2012 – will include:

• A children’s eye-care center.
• Space for clinical research.
• A regional diagnostic center that offers services currently not available in the state, such as high resolution laser and ultrasound imaging.
• Outpatient eye exam facilities for all eye subspecialties.

The institute is named for Dr. Truhlsen, who gave the lead gift for the center.

The new building will be at 40th and Leavenworth streets in Omaha, west of the Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation and the Home Instead Center for Successful Aging.

A surgical wing, the Center for Surgical Innovation, will be added later. UNMC alumnus Dr. Charles (David) Fritch and his wife Judy have made a lead gift to support the center. Fritch, a 1968 graduate of the College of Medicine, was mentored by Dr. Truhlsen during his final year of medical school.

Clinical studies at the new institute will concentrate on the department’s current strengths, including glaucoma, cataracts and retinal diseases such as macular degeneration.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness. It affects more than 2 million people in the United States. Another million people have it but haven’t been diagnosed.

By the year 2020, age-related eye diseases like glaucoma will increase by 30 percent in the United States, said Thomas Hejkal, M.D., Ph.D., chairman of the UNMC Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and 1990 College of Medicine graduate.

That’s going to create a need for more eye care specialists. The new facility, Dr. Hejkal said, will allow UNMC to train the next generation of eye care specialists to meet those needs.

The plan, he said, is to double the number of faculty members and increase the number of ophthalmologists UNMC can educate and train.

“We’re tremendously excited about this great new venture,” Dr. Hejkal said. “We’ve been limited in our ability to take those advances to patients because of our outdated and obsolete clinical facilities.

“This will enable us to get to the next level, bring those research advances to our patients and bring the best eye care in the world to patients here in this region.”

“But the goal of the new institute,” he said, “is not just to treat eye problems. It’s to find cures for blindness.”

Spurrier feels lucky to have found the med center.

“Ultimately,” he said, “that drug probably saved my sight.”

He still doesn’t see well enough to play tennis. His right eye has no vision in the center. But his left eye is pretty good. He can drive a car during the day.

“I can’t see little things, like a golf ball.”

He smiles.

“But I do play golf.”

The Truhlsen Eye Institute is one of UNMC’s top three priorities for the Campaign for Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities. Fundraising for the eye institute, a $30 million project, continues. If you’d like to support this initiative, please contact the NU Foundation’s Karen Levin at 402-502-4921 or klevin@nufoundation.org. You also can donate to it online at campaignfornebraska/eyeinstitute.
Capt. Thomas Bowden, M.D., or Thunderbird #9, is team physician for high flyers.
A medical degree from UNMC has taken Capt. Thomas Bowden, M.D., to new heights. As the physician for the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, Dr. Bowden often finds himself at 33,000 feet in a F-16 fighter jet, one of the most advanced military fighter aircraft in the world.

An Ambassador in Blue since November 2009, he’s the one who keeps the prestigious 130-member precision aerial demonstration team at peak performance.

“I like being around people and love medicine,” said Dr. Bowden, a 2006 graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine. “With the Thunderbirds, I practice medicine, travel around the world, and represent and promote the Air Force and the Air Force Medical Service.”

In the world of air shows, the Thunderbirds are rock stars. Each year, millions of adults and children watch the Thunderbirds perform in an aerial dance of electrifying maneuvers. At times, they exceed 500 miles per hour, climb three miles vertically above the spectators and fly less than 18 inches apart.

As the team’s physician, Dr. Bowden will be on the road more than 200 days this year while the team performs 70 crowd-pleasing air shows in the United States and Europe.

The aerobatic maneuvers performed by the pilots place a great deal of gravitational force on their bodies, up to nine times the normal gravitational pull. It is Dr. Bowden’s priority to keep the pilots in optimal health.

When he’s not caring for his patients, he signs autographs, participates in various ceremonies, visits children’s and veteran’s hospitals and attends special events such as the NBA All-Star game and Daytona 500.

Every day is memorable.

“I like being a part of the mission while continuing to practice medicine. It is an immense honor to be able to represent all of our airmen, 40,000 of whom are currently deployed around the world defending our freedom. These airmen epitomize the virtues and values of sacrifice and selflessness, leaving their families behind for months at a time.”

His best advice from medical school? “Keep an open mind and assume nothing,” he said. “I learned that from Dr. Gerald Moore, and it’s the best advice I’ve received to date in medicine – even the simplest assumptions can be wrong.”

Once his two-year tour ends later this year, Dr. Bowden will plant his feet firmly on the ground – this time to continue his training in radiology.
Dr. Rosenquist to step down as vice chancellor for research

After masterminding UNMC’s research initiative for the past 11 years, Tom Rosenquist, Ph.D., will step down June 30 as vice chancellor for research.

He will resume his position as professor of genetics, cell biology and anatomy at UNMC and continue his research in congenital heart defects.

Named director of research development in 1999, Dr. Rosenquist was then appointed UNMC's first vice chancellor for research in 2002 by Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D.

"Tom has elevated our research from minor league status to the big leagues," Dr. Maurer said. "We've come a long way and he has put us in position to soar to even greater heights."

Under his direction, UNMC's research funding tripled from $30.9 million in 1999 to more than $115 million in 2010, and the research enterprise received a boost with the construction of the twin Durham research towers.

A prolific researcher, Dr. Rosenquist has secured more than $11 million in research funding for UNMC. In 2010, his research group published a paper that proved a key role for folic acid in normal heart development. He also plans to further his research based on the 2002 patent of a unique theory of atherosclerosis, which has caught the attention of some pharmaceutical companies.

Cincinnati physician selected as dean of UNMC College of Medicine

Bradley Britigan, M.D., Taylor Professor and chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, has been selected as the new dean for the UNMC College of Medicine.

The appointment, which is subject to approval of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents at its March 11 meeting, was announced by UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. It is effective July 1.

"Brad has an outstanding record of achievement and experience in education, patient care and funded thematic research," Dr. Maurer said. "I would call him a triple threat. He's outstanding in each of those areas. People today are usually more targeted in one or two but not all three."

Dr. Britigan has 24 years in academic medicine – 17 years at the University of Iowa, where he served as the director of the division of infectious diseases, and the past seven years at Cincinnati. He also has a 23-year association with the Department of Veterans Affairs as a staff physician and researcher in Iowa City and Cincinnati.

As chairman of internal medicine at Cincinnati, Dr. Britigan oversees a $90 million budget and about 500 employees, including approximately 220 faculty and 175 resident physicians and fellows.

Dr. Maurer named to National Health Care Workforce Commission

Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., will help advise the president, Congress and other government officials on workforce issues related to health care reform as part of his role on the newly created National Health Care Workforce Commission.

Dr. Maurer was one of 15 members appointed to the landmark new group charged with addressing the health care workforce shortages that need to be addressed in this era of health care reform. He is one of five appointees selected to serve the maximum term of three years. In the area of workforce development and analysis, the commission will:

- Communicate and coordinate with federal departments;
- Develop and commission evaluations of education and training activities;
- Identify barriers to improved coordination at the federal, state, and local levels and recommend ways to address them; and
- Encourage innovations that address population needs, changing technology, and other environmental factors.

"I am honored to be selected for the commission," Dr. Maurer said. "My selection speaks volumes for the respect that UNMC has earned in the health care field."
Key UNMC administrator dies unexpectedly

Rubens Pamies, M.D., vice chancellor for academic affairs, died Feb. 26 at his sister’s home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, of an apparent heart attack. He was 52.

Dr. Pamies had served as UNMC’s vice chancellor of academic affairs and dean for graduate studies for more than eight years.

A native of Haiti, Dr. Pamies’ death was a shock to UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., and his wife, Beverly.

“He had so much more to contribute to health care and the greater community world,” Dr. Maurer said. “He was a champion for great causes. He became a close and loyal friend and confidant. Beverly and I will miss him very much.”

Dr. Maurer saluted Dr. Pamies for his work on numerous initiatives, including:

- Initiating the first online pre-matriculation program for first-year medical students;
- Founding the Virginia-Nebraska Alliance to attract minorities to health professions;
- Promoting diversity and interprofessional education with the support of a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; and
- Leading a comprehensive medical center relief effort in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake that devastated Dr. Pamies’ homeland.

Read a full obituary, read comments from others or post your own at: unmc.edu/connect.

Nursing dean Dr. Tilden to retire

Virginia Tilden, D.N.Sc., dean of the College of Nursing for the past seven years, will retire in June after 36 years in nursing education.

Her decision stems from a desire to be closer to her six children and six grandchildren on the west coast. “It’s given me tremendous satisfaction to lead a college of high caliber within an excellent academic medical center. Whatever success the college has had is a direct credit to the hard work of the faculty.”

Under Dr. Tilden’s leadership, the college increased the number of nurses in the state through expanded enrollment and more programs. Accomplishments include:

- The addition of a fifth division in Norfolk and a new nursing science facility in Omaha;
- Approval from the Board of Regents for a new facility for the UNMC College of Nursing Lincoln Division;
- Two new accelerated degree programs and a post-doctoral research program;
- Three endowed chairs; and
- A flawless report in its national re-accreditation process.

UNMC CHANCELLOR Harold M. Maurer, M.D., said Dr. Tilden has been a model dean and a national leader in nursing. “Her accomplishments at UNMC are exemplary,” he said.

Dr. Tilden was the college’s sixth dean and succeeded Ada Lindsey, Ph.D. A national firm will assist a 17-person UNMC committee in the search for a new dean.

UNMC SHARING Clinics have new schedule, locations

The student-run SHARING Clinics for UNMC have new schedules and locations to continue to serve patients in its three clinics.

- The SHARING Medical Clinic (Student Health Alliance Reaching Indigent Needy Groups) provides general health care for adults and children in need. It operates on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the UNMC Specialty Care Center, 804 S. 52nd St. The SHARING Medical Clinic relocated after UNMC’s South Omaha Community Health Center, which previously housed and supported the SHARING Clinic, was closed Dec. 1 due to a loss of grant funding.

- The SHARING Clinic also had operated its RESPECT Clinic on Wednesday nights out of the South Omaha Community Health Center. This year, the RESPECT Clinic (Responsible Early STD Prevention Education and Community Testing) moved to Baker Place, 5050 Ames Ave.

- The SHARING Clinic continues to offer the GOODLIFE Clinic at Baker Place, 5050 Ames Ave., on the second Wednesday of each month. The GOODLIFE Clinic (Greater Omaha Outreach for Diabetes Lifestyles Impacting Fitness and Education) offers treatment of Type II diabetes.

“We are excited to continue to serve patients at all three of our clinics,” said SHARING Clinic co-president and medical student Kara Markin. “The SHARING Clinics provide important health care services in our community and offer valuable experience to students across UNMC’s academic programs.”

For more information about the clinics, visit: unmc.edu/sharing.
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
- Kim McFarland, D.D.S., received two grants totaling $3.5 million from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to enhance opportunities to serve rural Nebraskans and improve their access to dental care.
- In October, the postgraduate pediatric dentistry program opened a new clinic at the Specialty Pediatric Center, 84th and West Dodge Streets, Omaha.
- Every member of the Dental Class of 2013 passed the Dental National Board Examination Part I on their first attempt.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
- Devin Nickol, M.D., was named assistant dean for interprofessional education (IPE). The new office will organize IPE activities and conduct research on the benefits of IPE.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
- Ken Follett, M.D., Ph.D., division chief of neurosurgery, became interim chairman of the department of anesthesiology in July.
- In September, Don Leopold, M.D., stepped down as chairman of the department of otolaryngology – head and neck surgery after 11 years. He enhanced resident education, led departmental research funding to an all-time high and grew the department’s clinical enterprise by 85 percent. Dan Lydiatt, M.D., who helped grow the department’s division of head and neck surgical oncology into a world-renowned practice, is interim chairman.
- In January, Pierre Fayad, M.D., stepped down as chairman of the department of neurological sciences after 10 years. Dr. Fayad added seven areas of subspecialty expertise and enhanced the residency program. Dan Murman, M.D., whose focus is on memory disorders and dementia, is interim chairman.

COLLEGE OF NURSING
- The college has $9.7 million in National Institutes of Health research grants. Among them, the college’s Heart Health Research Center is one of only 11 in the country funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research for the development of nurse scientists in a focused area of health improvement.
- The college has $5.8 million in federal and foundation grants for education and training programs. These include four master’s level tracks (nurse educator, behavioral health nurse practitioner, geriatric nurse practitioner and executive nurse leader) that address workforce shortages in Nebraska.
- Two Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants ($800,000) were awarded to test delirium among older critically ill patients in ICUs and provide management training to registered nurses in long-term care facilities across Nebraska.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
- Paul Dobesh, Pharm.D., associate professor of pharmacy practice, received the College of Pharmacy 2010 Distinguished Teacher Award. Pharmacy students select the awardee annually. He also won the award in 2007.
- For a second consecutive year, the College of Pharmacy graduating class had a 100 percent pass rate on the national pharmacy licensing examination. All 69 of UNMC’s graduating pharmacy students passed on their first attempt. The national pass rate for all colleges of pharmacy was 93.3 percent. The average score for UNMC students was 109.8, compared with the national average score of 103.1.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
- The dedication and grand opening of the Harold M. and Beverly Maurer Center for Public Health is set for May 18.
- The COPH’s accreditation site visit is May 23-25.
- In the past year, COPH student enrollment doubled, the college’s research portfolio grew by more than 25 percent and new international partners were established in India and Taiwan.

EPPELY INSTITUTE / UNMC EPPELEY CANCER CENTER
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Center Support Grant – approximately $7.5 million over five years – was renewed. The grant bestows NCI designation on the Cancer Center, the only one in Nebraska to earn this designation. The Eppley Cancer Center has had continuous NCI funding since 1984.
- The 2010 Ambassador of Hope Gala raised $1 million for cancer research at the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center. More than 800 attendees attended the Oct. 26 event where Condoleezza Rice, the 66th U.S. Secretary of State, was honored for her efforts to raise awareness about cancer research.
- Tahir Tahirzov, Ph.D., professor, structural biology, Eppley Institute, collaborated with scientists from the University of Iowa in discovering the TAT protein structure, important for HIV/AIDS therapy and HIV related malignancies. Their findings were published in Nature (June 10, 2010 edition).

MUNROE-MEYER INSTITUTE
- The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, directed by Wayne Fisher, Ph.D., received a $1.5 million grant from the U.S. Army to study the use of telehealth and web-based technologies to train paraprofessionals to provide services to children with autism in military families.
- The new Department of Developmental Neuroscience conducts research into the neurodevelopmental causes of autism, cognitive and motor delays, and language disorders. On July 1, three new faculty members with expertise in brain development and learning processes joined MMI – Anna Dunaevsky, Ph.D., Woo-Yang Kim, Ph.D., and Jyothi Arikkath, Ph.D.

SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS
- James Temme, RSTE ’74, associate director of radiation science technology education, has been appointed to the Charles R. O’Malley Chair for Radiation Science Technology Education, SAHP’s first endowed faculty chair.
- A new Office of Student Affairs oversees recruitment and admissions and student engagement for all of SAHP’s 11 educational programs. Anne Constantino is director of student affairs.
- Jack Turman Jr., Ph.D., the new director of physical therapy education, came to UNMC from the University of Southern California with more than 25 years of clinical and academic experience. His research involves the study of environmental determinants on developmental outcomes in preterm infants.
New associate director helps boost alumni communications

In an effort to engage alumni through social media and outreach events, the UNMC Alumni Relations Office hired Catherine Mello to serve as associate director for communication and outreach. Mello will work with the UNMC Alumni Association’s chapters to plan events, grow the Alumni Association’s presence on social media sites and maintain the Alumni Relations office’s website.

“I’m excited to join the Alumni Relations Office and help UNMC’s alumni continue to feel a strong connection to the university,” Mello said. “Our alumni chapters are strong and vital, and I am confident we will see their growth continue in the years ahead.”

Roxanna Jokela, director of the UNMC Alumni Office, said she is extremely pleased to have Mello join the staff. “She has already proven to be a go-getter in reaching out to serve our alumni.”

Prior to joining UNMC, Mello worked for three years in communications at the City of Omaha and two years as a graduate research assistant in UNMC’s College of Public Health. She has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

College of Medicine Alumni Association awards grants & allocations

The College of Medicine Alumni Chapter Education Committee recommended the Alumni Association Board fund six awards totaling $13,050 for programs and activities.

Every year, the chapter issues a request for proposals for up to $25,000 for its first round of two semi-annual funding cycles for programming and activities.

Recently, eight student and faculty groups requested $29,975 for projects. The committee recommended the following projects:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decreasing the bone marrow donor deficit</td>
<td>A student project to provide education on bone marrow donations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGoogan Library of Medicine</td>
<td>Purchase new, cutting-edge medical textbooks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM Class of 2013</td>
<td>Support activities and lectures for the Class of 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHARING Clinics</td>
<td>Partially support student travel to present at SHARING the Vision, in Texas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 2011 Match Day</td>
<td>Support Match Day celebration, including facility rental, equipment rental and catering costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNMC High School Alliance</td>
<td>Provide support for a staff person who will coordinate shadowing experiences for 12 high school students.</td>
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Honor a classmate or colleague

The Alumni Relations Office is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Reunion Weekend. Visit www.unmc.edu/alumni/awards_program.htm to access the nomination form. Nominations are due by April 1.

CLASS GIFTS

Each year, the College of Medicine classes honored at the reunion present class gifts to the college. At the 2010 Alumni Reunion Weekend, the classes of 1960, 1975 and 1985 raised a total of $53,700 in recognition of their 50th, 35th and 25th anniversaries. Specifically, their gifts supported the:

- Class of 1960 Scholarship Fund
- Class of 1975 Mary Jo Henn Scholarship Fund
- Class of 1985 College of Medicine Education and Technology Excellence Fund

These gifts combined with the classes’ previous support of their funds bring the total giving to $324,415.

“The goal of the grants and allocations program is to fund projects that support the college’s mission,” said Bill Lydiatt, M.D., ’88, chairman of the Education Committee. “We continue to be impressed by the proposals we receive and are proud to make awards that support the UNMC College of Medicine and its students.”

This spring, the association will issue an additional request for proposals and will consider funding additional projects.
Alumni converge on Omaha for 2010 reunion weekend

A lumni, faculty and friends of the UNMC colleges of medicine, nursing, pharmacy and public health and the School of Allied Health Professions celebrated the 2010 alumni reunion on Oct. 8-9 with the theme One Class – World Class.

The honor years were those ending in “00” and “05”, and those who graduated more than 50 years ago. Notably, the Class of 1985 celebrated its 25-year reunion and the Class of 1960 celebrated its 50-year reunion.

“We were pleased to welcome back our alumni and their families for the reunion weekend,” said Bob Bartee, vice chancellor for external affairs. “The reunion weekend is always a great time for our alumni to visit campus and reconnect with old friends, and for the university to welcome back its former students to learn about UNMC’s phenomenal growth.”

The weekend was filled with tours, activities and parties for alumni to reconnect with their classmates. On Friday, UNMC colleges hosted open houses for alums. True to tradition, class parties were held Friday evening across the Omaha metropolitan area, including the Omaha Press Club, Vicenzo’s Ristorante, Champions Run and Harrah’s Casino. Many alumni opened their homes to host their colleagues in a casual atmosphere. Saturday’s activities included guided walking tours and a shuttle tour of UNMC, lunch with the deans and the Alumni Celebration and Awards Dinner at the Hilton Omaha.

“The growth on UNMC’s campus is exceptional,” said Roger Johnson, P’60. “It was fun to have the opportunity to catch up with my classmates and relive memories from our days as students. The reunion gave us the chance to reconnect and see how UNMC has grown since our time on campus.”

More than 400 alumni and guests returned from 27 states across the country.

The 2011 Alumni Reunion Weekend will be Oct. 21-22 at the Embassy Suites Old Market in Omaha. The honor years for 2011 include those ending in “01” and “06”, and those who graduated more than 50 years ago. Be sure to visit unmc.edu/alumni for more information.

Iota Benefit, Phi Rho Sigma medical society alumni honor Fred Paustian

The Iota Benefit and Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society recently honored Fred Paustian, M.D., for his many years of service to the organization with a luncheon on campus. Dr. Paustian is a legendary UNMC physician and the state’s first specialty-trained gastroenterologist. Throughout his career, Dr. Paustian generously supported Phi Rho Sigma, a national medical student organization, and UNMC.

“This is truly an honor and I am thankful for the recognition,” Dr. Paustian said. He and his wife, Diane, attended the ceremony with two dozen medical professionals, University of Nebraska Foundation representatives and UNMC Alumni Relations staff.

Dr. Carol Drake presents Dr. Paustain with a plaque that will hang in the Sorrell Center.
College of Medicine parents and family association gathers for fall reception

The College of Medicine (COM) Parents and Family Association continues to expand its membership to enhance communication amongst parents and family members of COM students, the college and the university.

In November, the COM Parents and Family Association hosted its fall reception for families of COM students. The reception drew an active group of families interested in supporting their students and staying informed about COM news and activities.

The COM Parents and Family Association is always seeking members for its Advisory Council. If you’re interested, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at (402) 559-4385 or alumni@unmc.edu. This Council is a rewarding opportunity to stay involved with the College of Medicine and support its students. Current co-presidents are Mike, M.D., ’75 and Susan, M.D., ’84 Westcott.

Dentistry recognizes alums at fall reunion

In September 2010, the UNMC College of Dentistry and the Dentistry Alumni Association welcomed alumni to the Fall Reunion in Lincoln. The College of Dentistry and the Alumni Association honored three individuals with awards at the alumni reception and awards banquet. The honorees included:

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD
- Kim McFarland, D.D.S.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- Erik Olsen, D.D.S., 1960

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

2010 COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
- David Blaha, D.D.S., 1980

Alumni reunion weekend awards

Each year at the Alumni Reunion, the Alumni Association chapters honor distinguished colleagues and individuals who support their professions. Below is a list of the 2010 winners.

UNMC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
- Myrna C. Newland, M.D. – 1964

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
- Robert S. Wigton, M.D. – 1969

EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- J. Scott Neumeister, M.D. – 1995

HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD
- John L. Gollan, M.D., Ph.D.

UNMC COLLEGE OF NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
- Linda S. Hemminger, R.N., M.S.N. – 1985

NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARD

HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD
- Ruth Scott

UNMC COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- Sara Burda Alvarez – Pharm.D. – 2002

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
- Sidney J. Stohs, Ph.D.

HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD
- R. Desmond Gibson, Ph.D.

SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD
**Medicine**

- **Woodrow W. Meier M’44**
  Downey, Calif., and his wife are still “Go Big Red” fans. He is in his wheelchair most of the time and can’t believe he is 91 years old!

- **Warren Boley M’44**
  Omaha, Neb., practiced pediatrics for 60 years and is now retired. He has been the president of the Nebraska Medical Association, emeritus professor at the UNMC College of Medicine, emeritus member of the American Board of Pediatrics.

**Lynn A. James M’45**
Grand Junction, Colo., wife, Patricia, died Feb. 2, 2008. He was doctor of the year (Saccamanno Award) in September of 2009 and the banquet featured Husker colored decorations and music by his four granddaughters.

- **George M. Horner M’46**
  Shawnee, Wyo., was married 65 years in September of 2009. He practiced in Denver, Colo., for 31 years and served as associate professor of OB/GYN at the University of Colorado Medical School.

- **Gordon N. Farner M’48**
  Cleveland, Ohio, and his wife, Jeanne, live in Jupiter, Fla., in the winter and Cleveland during the summer. They have three children – one is a registered nurse and one is a physician. His granddaughter is applying to medical school.

**Clifford C. Pinkerton M’50**
Sun City West, Ariz., and his wife, Marj, celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in September 2010.

- **John B. Davis M’51**
  Omaha, Neb., after the death of his wife of 63 years in 2000, he is now remarried to a widow he met in California. They send their winters in Palm Desert, Calif.

- **Carl M. Hasegawa M’54**
  Troy, Mich., has been retired for the past 23 years from practicing pathology, is in good general health and still enjoys traveling.

**Jerry D. Colling M’56**
Carlsbad, Calif., retired from family practice in 1997. He enjoys retirement with his wife, Tina, children and grandchildren. He runs 5K races, volunteers and is active in his church.

- **Manis C. Edwards M’58**
  Wichita, Kan., fully retired from everything except travel, fun and a volunteer job at his church, which prints the Holy Bible in Braille. This work center, one of 200 throughout the United States and Canada, has been under the leadership of his wife for 35 years.

- **Walter E. Reiss M’58**
  Lodi, Calif., was honored when the Lodi Memorial Hospital’s free outreach clinic for the uninsured relocated and was renamed for him.

- **Gerald L. Engelsjörd M’59**
  Duluth, Minn., retired from practice in August 2009. He did Locums work in California and in Green Bay, Wis., from October 2010 to February 2011.

- **Donald H. Wahl M’59**
  Modesto, Calif., retired on Dec. 31, 2006 and is engaged to Joan Nicholson.

- **David E. Williams M’59**
  Rochester, Minn., and his wife Aileen have moved into a retirement home, Charter House, in downtown Rochester.

- **Norman A. Gosch M’62**
  University Place, Wash., is a primary care provider at the Madigan Army Medical Clinics at Joint Base Lewis McChord in Washington. He received the Commanding General’s Award for Excellence in the Western Regional Medical Command.

- **Donald D. Bell M’64**
  Norfolk, Neb., remains full-time in the practice of vascular and general surgery at Northwest Vascular.

- **Philip G. Rosene M’65**
  Georgetown, Mass., graduated with distinction, interned at the United States Naval Hospital (USNH) in Charleston, S.C. He was stationed USNH Guam; USNH Yokosuka, Japan; USNH Boston. His total time in the U.S. Navy: nine years active duty and 3 4 years reserve duty.

- **John Y. Donaldson M’66**
  Omaha, Neb., has retired from office practice. While he is no longer admitting, he still does part time consulting. He is active in the Nebraska Psychiatric Society and the Chi Club.

- **Richard A. Ahlstrand M’67**
  Wichita, Kan., is starting his 38th year (part-time) with the Wichita Radiology Group. His wife Suzie works full-time running the Wichita Chamber of Commerce. They have three children and nine grandchildren. His oldest daughter married Jim C. Anderson, M.D. ’91, and lives in Portland.

- **Kathleen A. Bliese-Walk M’68**
  Grand Island, Neb., was awarded the International 2010 Executive of the Year representing the Ministry Leadership Industry.

- **Paul E. Plessman M’69**
  Lincoln, Neb., retired in December 2009 from his position as medical director for Hospice of Tabitha in Lincoln.

- **Edward A. Holyoke M’70**
  Omaha, Neb., and his wife, Sharon, are both retired. They hope to travel and become more active in volunteer work in health-related areas.

- **Joel F. Hutchins M’70**
  Gordon, Neb., retired in October 2009. He travels and restores cars.

- **LeMayne F. Johnson M’70**
  Bradenton, Fla., is partially retired and enjoys traveling. He loves photography and has a 3-year-old granddaughter.

- **Kenneth D. Petersen M’71**
  Goshen, Ind., has limited gynecology practice in Goshen; however he still practices complicated OB/ GYN overseas, primarily in Togo, West Africa and Bangladesh. He made his 24th medical mission last fall to provide care to women in need.

- **Ernest K. Bussinger M’72**
  Scottsbluff, Neb., started practicing 30 years ago – July 7, 1980 – in OB/GYN. He stopped practicing obstetrics in July of 2007 but continues to practice gynecology.
Robert M. House M’75
Denver, Colo., retired as a colonel from the Army Reserve after 28 years of service.

Michael L. Westcott M’75 and Susan A. Westcott M’84
Omaha, Neb., daughter Jill is in medical school at UNMC and is a member of the class of 2009. The Westcotts are the current co-chairs of the UNMC College of Medicine Parents and Family Association.

Kristen L. Hoffman M’77
Omaha, Neb., and her fellow Methodist Physicians Clinic Women’s Center physicians have opened the first women’s hospital in the region along with attached medical offices.

Terri G. Monk M’77
Durham, N.C., is a professor of anesthesiology at Duke University Medical Center. She is involved with both clinical research and care of the elderly.

James P. Steinberg M’79
Lincoln, Neb., is beginning his 22nd year at Thayer County Health Services. His partners are Scott Vonderfecht M’92, Bryan Hubl M’02 and Aaron Lanik M’07 and physician assistants Brent Madsen PA ’94 and Maggie Johnson PA ’01.

Daniel P. Gillen M’82
Bellevue, III., has been a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force Reserves since 2008 and is assigned as the mobilization assistant to the Deputy Surgeon General USAF at the Pentagon.

Christopher J. Cold M’84
Marshfield, Wis., has worked at the Marshfield Clinic for the past 17 years and has served as chairman of anatomic pathology for the past three years. He served 10 years in the Navy.

Kevin J. Fitzmaurice M’85
Luneka, Kan., is the president and practicing internist at Encompass Medical Group for greater Kansas City.

Michael K. Matthews, Jr. M’85
Niles, Ohio, began his term as chief of staff at UPMC-Horizon on July 1, 2010.

Kathy Morse M’86
Kioa, Colo., retired in July 2009 and now works as a physician consultant at Quality for Health Grades in Golden, Colo., traveling around the country assisting hospitals in this capacity.

Timothy J. Sullivan M’86
Lincoln, Neb., is beginning his 22nd year at Thayer County Health Services. His partners are Scott Vonderfecht M’92, Bryan Hubl M’02 and Aaron Lanik M’07 and physician assistants Brent Madsen PA ’94 and Maggie Johnson PA ’01.

Daniel Phan M’89
Lynnwood, Wash., is the Colonel, State Surgeon of Washington National Army National Guard and Commander of Medical Command, WA ARNG.

Lynn R. Mack M’91
Omaha, Neb., is an adult endocrinologist.

Grant F. Hutchins M’96
Omaha, Neb., is the director of advanced endoscopy at The Nebraska Medical Center. He married Brooke Allman at Lake Tahoe in September of 2009.

Deborah S. (McPherson) Clements M’97
Overland Park, Kan., recently returned from Haiti where she worked with Heart to Heart International providing medical care to earthquake survivors. She is the program director for the University of Kansas Family Medicine residency program in Kansas City, Kan.

Jeffrey S. Rose M’02
Batesville, Ohio, is an assistant professor of medicine in the division of oncology and practices gastrointestinal oncology at Ohio State University.

Jeffrey Parks M’03
Ormond Beach, Fla., started a new company, Skin Health Technology, to produce topical creams that treat and prevent bruising, heal acne and provide sunscreen protection.

Raymond O. Naumann M’73
Tucson, Ariz., retired in 2005 due to Parkinson’s disease. He has three sons – Chris is in his fourth year as a GI fellow at the University of Washington; Mike is an interventional radiology fellow at Northwestern University and Andy works at IBM in Austin, Texas.

Steven B. Plettner M’73
Bangladesh, supervises a medical transcription business. Learn more at www.destinyassoc.com.

Dennis L. Ross M’73
Wichita, Kan., has practiced nephrology in Wichita since 1978, is training to become an interventional nephrologist and has started a research company for nephrology patients. He has four children and four grandchildren.

M. A. Tompkins M’74
Grand Island, Neb., married Donna in May of 2007. He retired from active practice in April 2008, and is now the medical director for AseraCare Hospice of Central Nebraska, based in Grand Island.

Robert L. Wergin M’79
Denver, Colo., was elected to the board of directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Deborah A. Brogan M’81
Mesa, Ariz., and her husband, Steve, moved to Arizona after completing a psychiatry residency at Albany Medical College. Deborah retired in June 2010 from Arizona State University after 22 years. She’s also had a private practice since 1994. She’s been elected multiple times by colleagues to “Phoenix Top Docs” Best Psychiatrists in America and Best Doctors in America.

Carolyn (Lawson) Washburn N’48
Hastings, Iowa, enjoys four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She is an antique dealer and also works as a volunteer at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Shane J. Burr M’06
Wood River, Neb., finished his residency in June 2010 and started as medical director of the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit at Saint Francis Medical Center in Grand Island, Neb.

Nursing

Virginia M. (Lundberg) Johnson N’45
San Diego, Calif., and her husband, Kennard, are retired. They were married on Dec. 27, 1945 and have two daughters, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Marjorie F. (Taylor) Schwisow N’45
Beatrice, Neb., has been retired 20 years. She worked at an antique mall for 18 years and has retired from that as well, although she still goes to auctions. Her husband died more than eight years ago.

Glendoris (Mendenhall) Chicoine N’47
Lincoln, Neb., married Edgar Chicoine in 1947 and has three children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Phyllis Demorest N’47
Sacramento, Calif., out of the initial 47 graduating class of 43, there remains 20 members who contribute their own family news, experiences and nursing news to their round robin. It continues to be a close group, especially since they lived near each other for three years.

Doris M. Brodick N’48
Rapid City, S.D., is 84, still lives in her home and has few health problems. Her granddaughter entered nursing school at South Dakota University in December 2010.

Carolyn (Lawson) Washburn N’48
Hastings, Iowa, enjoys four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She is an antique dealer and also works as a volunteer at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa.
Participants gather on the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge during the School of Allied Health Profession’s Fun Run on Sept. 18, 2010.

• Ardis J. (Bruce) Comfort N’51
  Lawrence, Kan., enjoys her hobbies: oil painting, sculpting bronze and gardening.

• Dixie R. (Scott) Kerr N’51
  Hastings, Neb., celebrated her 80th birthday with seven children and their spouses and 14 grandchildren at Chadron State Park over five days.

Patricia A. Beyersdorf N’55
  Grand Island, Neb., retired after working for the Air Force Military Hospital in Japan nursing the Vietnam wounded.

Marilyn J. Rajakovich N’55
  San Francisco, Calif., has volunteered at the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, Calif., for the past 18 years, providing animal care and education.

• Janet R. Karrer N’58
  Grand Island, Neb., and her husband Stew did Meals on Wheels, Stuhhr Museum flowers and State Fair flower planting this year. They still play golf, go fishing in Minnesota and play bridge. They enjoy visiting their kids.

• Joann M. Graves N’59
  Lincoln, Neb., after seven granddaughters she now has a great-grandson, Trevor Allen Graves-Carney. She and her husband, Allen, recently celebrated their youngest granddaughter’s fifth birthday.

• Carol (Raddie) Swanson N’59
  Tampa, Fla., spends the winter and spring in Florida and the summer and fall in North Carolina. She has five grandchildren, three in Atlanta and two in Portland, Ore.

Sandra S. Bothwell N’60
  Superior, Neb., retired March 2, 2010, as director of social services at Brodstone Memorial Hospital in Superior, where she worked 48 of the past 49 years in both nursing and social work.

• Sharon K. (Dunmire) Fowler N’63
  Pueblo, Colo., and her husband, James, enjoy traveling, including a trip to Egypt in October 2010 and a trip to Malaga, Spain in January 2011. They have two grandsons, 18 months and 3 1/2, in Casper, Wyo.

• Kathleen K. (Walker) Johnson N’63
  Palm Harbor, Fla., works as a volunteer at a homeless shelter for veterans, where most of the veterans have major physical and psychological conditions.

• Nancy E. (Lightfoot) Williams N’63
  Albon, Mich., retired five years ago from a 42-year career in perioperative nursing. She and her husband now travel and spend five months each winter in Florida.

• Sharon (Bonham) Holyoke N’66
  Omaha, Neb., worked as a nurse practitioner and a nursing teacher in August 2010, after having taught nursing for 35 years.

• Cyd Q. Graft N’70
  Cedar Falls, Iowa, continues to work full time as a child and family psychiatric nurse practitioner.

• L. Sue Gabriel N’71

• Ann M. (Barelman) Ross N’71
  Wichita, Kan., retired from nursing in 1976 and had the ICU Simulation Lab named after her in UNMC’s new Center for Nursing Science in Omaha. She participated in the grand opening of the new facility in October. She enjoys her grandchildren, church activities, traveling and still follows Husker football.

• Shella Malolepszy N’72
  Livermore, Calif., retired in 2008 from operating room nursing (38 years) as RN, BSN, CNOR, 10 years as LPN and three years as Surgical Tech First Class in the U.S. Air Force.

• Carol A. (Brower) Bradley N’74
  Portland, Ore., is at Legacy Health in Portland, Ore., as the senior vice president/chief nursing officer at the system level.

• Rodney D. Koehler N’75
  Ogden, Utah, was the recipient of the 2010 Excellence in Neonatal Nursing Practice Award presented by the Academy of Neonatal Nursing Practice.

• Linda L. Lazare N’75
  Omaha, Neb., is the associate dean for external relations at Creighton University School of Nursing. She also completed terms on the Nebraska Board of Health where she served as chairwoman for three years.

• Donna J. Middaugh N’76
  Little Rock, Ark., was named associate dean for academic programs at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing on July 1, 2010.

Roger C. Delight N’85
  Elk Grove, Calif., retired as a major in the Air National Guard Nursing Corps. He also recently retired from the County of Sacramento Sheriff Department’s Correctional Health Services. He is preparing for retirement employment in disaster resilience/preparedness and emergency medical equipment system management.

• Kathleen A. (Lavenz-Miller) Bickerstaff N’90
  Bellevue, Neb., was awarded the 2010 Ada M. Lindsey Professional Service Award from UNMC’s College of Nursing.

• Nicolette Thompson N’91
  El Paso, Texas, works for the U.S. Army, WBAMC Fort Bliss and was promoted to Captain in June 2010.

Ruth Fournier N’92
  Camden Wyoming, Del., earned a master of science in nursing degree and works as a nurse consultant for the Division of Public Health in the State of Delaware.

• Deborah (Marks) Conley N’94
  Omaha, Neb., was awarded the Sigma Theta Tau International Tau Chapter Star Award for advancing nursing research and evidence-based practice.

Beckie Keating-Leifer MSN ‘92, PhD ’01, president of the College of Nursing Alumni Chapter, and Diane Hughes BSN ’60, MSN ’86, treasurer of the College of Nursing Alumni Chapter, serve ice cream at the Nurses Week Ice Cream Social at the Storz Pavilion.

• Paige A. Lindstedt N’95
  Lincoln, Neb., works as a flight nurse with a national/international flight program.

• Kathleen E. (O’Hearn) Pepin N’99
  Papillion, Neb., received her Ph.D. in gerontology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Health Sciences in 2009.

• Lacey N. (Vanderbeek) Frank N’02
  San Antonio, Texas, works at STOH Clinical Research at the START Center for Cancer Care as the director of clinical research. She also is a captain in the Air Force Reserve.
Pharmacy

George H. Coupe P’50
Palm Harbor, Fla., is in his 52nd year practicing osteopathic medicine.

Donald L. Bauermeister P’62
Norfolk, Neb., retired in March 2010 from aerial applicator (crop duster) and continues to work as a relief pharmacist.

John (Bud) G. Johnson P’65
South Hampton, Pa., received his Pharm.D. in 1991 at The Ohio State University and completed an infectious diseases residency at the University of Texas/Audie Murphy V.A. Hospital in 1992.

Richard C. Sachan P’66
Joplin, Mo., completed requirements to renew his certification as a Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP) through the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy.

G. Richard Keidel P’67
Wayne, Neb., retired in 2002. He enjoys traveling and fills his spare time with activities related to being chairman of the First National Bank of Wayne Board of Directors. He also is on the fundraising committee for the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

William J. Dana P’68
Houston, Texas, has retired from M.D. Anderson after 34 years. He works part-time at Harris County Hospital System with their adverse drug reaction computer system.

Murl M. Abts P’71
Julesburg, Colo., and wife Judy retired after selling their Julesburg store in June 2009. The couple who purchased the business operate it as Abts Pharmacy.

Linda M. Wiater P’85
Omaha, Neb., celebrated her 25th anniversary at Lantheus Medical Imaging in October 2010.

Kevin C. Borcher P’86
Omaha, Neb., serves as vice chairman of the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy.

Mark R. Swenson P’86
Norfolk, Neb., has taken disability from his hospital and retail jobs due to chronic renal failure, diabetes and severe knee damage, which has led him to be wheelchair bound.

David J. Warner P’87
Cary, N.C., was appointed chief pharmacy officer of clinical and patient care services at Duke University Hospital in March 2010.

Physical Therapy

Casey M. Cortney PT’95
Sidney, Neb., has owned the Sidney Rehabilitation and Wellness Clinic since June 2008.

Susan A. Dickson-Matsunami PT’96
Omaha, Neb., earned the distinction of being a pediatric certified specialist.

Amy A. (Albrecht) Bloomquist PT’00
Lincoln, Neb., provides outpatient therapy services at Madonna Women’s Hospital.

Robert “Bobby” L. Griese PT’02
Chadron, Neb., is a certified strength and conditioning specialist. He has three children, Rowen, 4, Jove, 22 months, and Reid, 5 months.

Jacob C. Costello PT’07
Omaha, Neb., began work at Hillcrest Health and Rehab in November of 2009.

Physician Assistant

Sandy M. (Siroky) Henry PA’91
Albion, Neb., and husband Brian have been married 18 years and have four children: Hunter, 15, Keaton, 12, Carter, 10, and Serena, 6. She has lived in Albion since graduation.

Pharmacy

Pamela S. Miller P’88
Omaha, Neb., was the recipient of the Health-System Pharmacist of the Year Award as part of the Nebraska Pharmacists Association’s Annual Convention on June 12, 2010.

Charles R. Phillips P’88
Waukee, Iowa, is the assistant dean of assessment and an associate professor at Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Des Moines. He was one of three individuals awarded the 2010 Award for Excellence in Assessment from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Pam R. (Wallis) Miller P’91
Council Bluffs, Iowa, is the pharmacy director at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs.

Michele Higgins P’92
Omaha, Neb., is the pharmacy director at the new Methodist Women’s Hospital.

Tamela L. McCreadie P’00
Omaha, Neb., is a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist and the clinical pharmacist in charge for The Nebraska Medical Center Bellevue Pharmacy, now relocated from Summit Plaza to the new Bellevue Medical Center on 25th Street and Highway 370.

Clinical Laboratory Science

Cleo J. (Finnell) Bachus CLS’68
Paradise Valley, Ariz., is retired and volunteers one day a week as an interpreter and lab back-up at an indigent clinic.

Joan Mares CLS’69
Omaha, Neb., retired from UNMC in January 2011 after more than 40 years. At UNMC, she worked in several areas including hematology, flow cytometry and molecular diagnostics. She served as both the team leader of the specialty lab and microbiology and manager of the specialty lab, before finishing her career as manager of laboratory business and compliance.

Radiation Science Technology Education

Diane K. Chadwell RSTE’72
Raleigh, N.C., served as the radiation therapy program director at UNMC for approximately seven years and then moved to Michigan, where she was chairman of radiation technology at Wayne State University in Detroit until her retirement in 2005. During her professional career, she was honored as a fellow of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and received the Varian Award for Achievement in Radiation Therapy Technology.
Frank Gorishek RSTE’72
Bella Vista, Ark., retired after 30 years in the field of radiological technology.

Carol (Farha) McClade RSTE’82
Omaha, Neb., after graduating, she served as administrative director of radiology at Children’s Hospital in Omaha until 2000. She is on the volunteer faculty at UNMC, president of the newly formed RSTE Alumni Association, a mentor with the Teammates program and an avid community volunteer.

Tanya Custer RSTE’95
Gretna, Neb., became a faculty member in the division of radiation science education at UNMC in March 2006. She received her master’s degree in leadership education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2009. Tanya serves on the board of the RSTE Alumni Association and the Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists.

Samantha (Crawford) Palensky RSTE’08
Omaha, Neb., began work in 2008 as a nuclear medicine technologist at The Nebraska Medical Center. She is pursuing a master’s degree in health care administration through Clarkson College. She and her husband, Andy, have two dogs, Mia and Brody.

Michelle (Vogel) Verzal RSTE’08
La Vista, Neb., works at The Nebraska Medical Center as a nuclear medicine technologist. She and her husband, Josh, have a cat, Charlie.

In Remembrance…

• John H. Brush M’43
  Omaha, Neb., Dec. 14, 2010

• Harold A. "Pete" Mattson M’43
  Richardson, Texas, Dec. 27, 2010

• Lewis S. Winter M’44
  Paradise Valley, Ariz., Nov. 23, 2010

• Betty E. Letzig N’45
  Richmond, Mo., Feb. 27, 2010

• James E. Weesner D’45
  Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 14, 2010

• Dean D. Yates D’45
  Denver, Colo., June 7, 2010

• Richard M. Batchelder D’47

• Joseph F. Zastera, Jr. P’49
  Two Harbors, Minn., June 10, 2010

• Thomas F. Hegert M’54
  Orlando, Fla., Aug. 29, 2010

• Loyd Schultz M’55
  Omaha, Neb., Dec. 4, 2010

• Stanley E. Pollman M’56
  Larkspur, Colo., Dec. 24, 2010

• Herbert Reese M’56
  Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 17, 2010

• Robert Fenster, D’57
  Williamsburg, Va., Jan. 28, 2008

• Henry J. Quiring M ’57
  Omaha, Neb., Nov. 24, 2010

• George O. Hufette D’60
  Reno, Nev., Dec. 21, 2010

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

• Donald V. Dichsen M’64
  Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 6, 2010

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

• Robert L. Edgington P’70
  Callaway, Neb., June 28, 2010

• Bryan J. Melvin D’70
  Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 24, 2010

• David Allerheiligen M’75
  Casper, Wyo., July 14, 2010

• Robert E. Etzel Miller D’76
  Minden, Neb., June 6, 2010

• Judith Irene (Daubendiek) Shaneyfelt N’82
  Elkhorn, Neb., Dec. 5, 2010

• Richard E. Petersen, M’84
  Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 1, 2011

• Jeff Podraza P’97
  Omaha, Neb., Dec. 18, 2010

• Derek L. Shickell M’97
  Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 9, 2010

• Cathie (Ellison) McRoberts N’07
  Scottsbluff, Neb., Jan. 2, 2011

• Rubens Parnies, M.D.
  Vice chancellor for academic affairs
  Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Feb. 26, 2011

Births

• Patrick J. Duay M’90
  Billings, Mont., and his wife, Jennell, welcomed a son, Samuel Patrick, on May 27, 2010. Samuel weighed 9 lb. 2 oz. and was 22 inches long. He joins brother, Wyatt.

• Brandi Nielsen PA’97
  Omaha, Neb., and her husband Chris, welcomed a daughter, Tatum Lane, on Feb. 15, 2010. She joins brother Tucker, 2½.

• Jana Kath RSTE’98
  Omaha, Neb., and her husband Matt, welcomed a son, Austen Matthew on March 25, 2010. Austen joins brothers Alex (7) and Aaron (4½).

• Kristine M. Kuper Williams P’99
  Katy, Texas, and her husband, John, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Sydney Addison, born Nov. 28, 2009.

• Amy A. (Albrecht) Bloomquist PT’00
  Lincoln, Neb., and her husband, David, welcomed a daughter, Aslynn Leann, in February 2009. She joins brother Garrett, 5.

• Beth A. (Herling) Ludwig PT’00
  Cortland, Neb., and her husband, Joe, welcomed a daughter, Anna Sophia, on Feb. 28, 2010.

• Bryan Reuss M’00

Public Health

• Kathleen (Katie) Brondert MPH’04
  Omaha, Neb., has worked at CityMatCH, a national maternal and child health organization housed within UNMC, for eight years. She is the education and training manager and since September 2010 has served as acting associate director for programs.

• Stephen Jackson MPH’06
  Omaha, Neb., celebrated 17 years with Nebraska Health and Human Services this past fall. He continues to be active in the community, playing softball and consulting.

Dentistry

Jason Showman D’81
Seneca, Kan., was awarded the Order of Military Medical Merit Medal at the annual Association of Military Surgeons of the United States convention in Phoenix, Ariz. He is a colonel in the United States Army and a member of the U.S. Army Dental Corps. On active duty, he is stationed at Fort Riley in Kansas.
Lacey N. (Vanderbeek) Frank ’02
San Antonio, Texas, celebrated the arrival of her daughter, Sophia, on Nov. 16, 2007.

Katharine A. (Crites) Reisbig ’03
Omaha, Neb., celebrated the first birthday of daughters, Emmy and Grace, in September 2010, with her husband Greg and oldest daughter Ava.

Sally A. (McConaughy) Snyder ’05
Omaha, Neb., and her husband, Dave, welcomed a son, William “Will” James, on Dec. 5, 2009.

Carrie L. (Dickes) Torczon ’06
Omaha, Neb., and her husband, Derek, welcomed a son, Isaac Michael, on June 26, 2010.

Kate Hesser ’06 and Jason Hesser ’07
Crete, Neb., welcomed a son, Samuel Walter, on Dec. 13, 2010.

Deborah (Luiken) Repaskey ’09
Tampa, Fla., and her husband, Matt, welcomed a daughter, Selah Rose, on Sept. 27, 2010.

Gregory L. Schardt ’09 and Leah (Klassen) Schardt ’07
Omaha, Neb., welcomed a son, London Gregory, on July 6, 2009.

Marriages

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

Katie (Grosshans) Penas RSTE ’06
Omaha, Neb., married Dustin Penas on June 11, 2010.

Jacob C. Costello ’07
Omaha, Neb., married Kellie Rush in October 2010.

Chelsea (Dockins) Reischl ’08
Omaha, Neb., married Adam Reischl on Oct. 9, 2010.

Alicia (Eisenmenger) Sherry ’08
Omaha, Neb., married Paul Sherry on Aug. 28, 2010.

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

Mark C. Hamann ’09
Omaha, Neb., married Julie D’Agata on October 8, 2010.

Tyler L. Smith ’09 and Carrie L. Althoff PT ’08
Omaha, Neb., were married May 29, 2010.

Lindsay N. (Michael) Oldaker ’10
Burwell, Neb., married Melvin Oldaker on September 4, 2010.

Please visit www.unmc.edu/alumni for a complete listing of class notes. Thank you for your notes.

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tinyurl.com/UNMCLinkedIn

Upcoming Events

March 17
Match Day Sorrell Center

March 30
UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association Community Reception, Scottsbluff Country Club

March 31
College of Nursing Alumni Community Reception, Scottsbluff Country Club

April 20
Alumni Denver Community Reception Embassy Suites, Downtown Denver

August 19
College of Medicine Family Day Sorrell Center
On a cold November evening, Daniel Kreis rode his beat-up mountain bike five miles to the UNMC College of Dentistry in Lincoln for the second time that day. The pain of two cracked molars drove him to seek relief at the student-run dental SHARING Clinic.

In his haste to get help, Kreis initially arrived at the clinic at 5 a.m. only to find out he would have to return 12 hours later. The 52-year-old homeless man was one of 64 men, women and children who received dental care that night from students eager to help.

"Tonight we are Daniel’s dental office," said Mike Houk, D.D.S., a practicing dentist from Sioux Falls, S.D., who teaches part-time at the dental school and helps facilitate the clinic. "He provides just as much of a service to us as we do him," Dr. Houk said. "What better way to teach these students the value of giving back than through this type of clinic."

"Kries struggles to find work as a welder and is grateful that there’s “somewhere, anywhere” he can go for help. “The students really work hard to take care of you.”

Smoking, irregular dental care and poor nutrition are common underlying factors among the patients seen in the SHARING Clinic. Since the dental college started its SHARING Clinic in 2008, an estimated 650 patients have come through the doors and received $225,000 in care.

That November day, Kreis’ mouth was a mess of plaque, cavities and nearly abscessed teeth.

The two cracked molars had to be pulled, which left gaping holes in the back of his mouth. Third-year dental student Natalie Fendrick gingerly filled the holes with gauze. Three cavities were left to fill.

Dean John Reinhardt, D.D.S., stopped by to observe the students’ work and was concerned about the overall condition of Kreis’ teeth. Dr. Reinhardt asked him questions about diet and dental care.

“I eat whatever I can get and brush when I can,” Kreis said. “I’ve made a toothbrush out of a stick before and used my knife to whittle it and make bristles. I’ve even used string or paper to floss with. You use whatever you can get your hands on."

Dr. Reinhardt quickly supplied Kries with a toothbrush and several tubes of toothpaste.

As the 9 p.m. closing time approached, Dr. Reinhardt chatted with a group of dentists at the front of the clinic. Someone mentioned how a patient rode a bike to the college that morning. It was Kreis, another replies.

“Oh, no!” Dr. Reinhardt said. “We can’t let him ride his bike home tonight – the exercise will increase his heart rate and cause his gums to bleed more.”

Out in the parking lot, an icy rain began to fall as Dr. Reinhardt loaded the mountain bike into the back of his grey SUV.

Kreis – minus the dull ache in his mouth – sat in the front seat awaiting his ride home.
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