UNMC’s ‘butterfly effect’ triggers global change
ON THE COVER:
UNMC students and faculty — like butterflies — create small, but vital changes that make lasting improvements to a great many people. It’s UNMC’s outreach effect.

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IN THE Loop

MARCH 16
Match Day Sorrell Center

MARCH 18
Deans in the Desert UNMC Alumni Outreach Event Scottsdale, Ariz.

MARCH 26
Richard B. Davis Lecture Todd Savitt, East Carolina University Eppley Science Hall Amphitheater

MARCH 31
Concert to benefit pancreatic cancer research Westside High School, Omaha
One of the issues that we continue to address in Nebraska is a projected shortage of nurses. This number continues to grow because of an aging population and greater longevity, an increased need for health care, and retirement of nurses and nurse educators.

By 2020, Nebraska is projected to have a shortage of more than 3,800 nurses, despite the formation of UNMC’s fifth College of Nursing division in northern Nebraska (Norfolk) in 2010 and the expansion of the College of Nursing-Omaha Division that same year.

For the future health of our state, we must do more, and the University of Nebraska’s “Building a Healthier Nebraska” initiative aims to do just that.

The initiative seeks a $91 million investment from the state’s cash reserve fund to support four capital projects, three of which have direct UNMC ties: $50 million toward a cancer research tower at UNMC; $17 million for a College of Nursing facility in Lincoln; and $19 million for a building addition at the University of Nebraska at Kearney that would provide space for health sciences education programs, including expansion of the College of Nursing’s Kearney Division and the addition of UNMC allied health professions programs.

A fourth project would use $5 million to plan and design a new Veterinary Diagnostic Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At the time of publication, the Legislature is considering the funding for this initiative.

The $50 million request for the cancer research tower is less than half of the $110 million cost of the 10-level facility, which is one part of a larger $370 million cancer center project at UNMC. This project will be transformational for all Nebraskans. In addition to the research tower, it will include a multidisciplinary outpatient cancer clinic, an inpatient hospital bed tower dedicated to cancer, and an ambulatory care clinic that would provide outpatient space for UNMC’s clinical programs outside of cancer. In its entirety, the Cancer Center project will support more than 4,500 jobs on an ongoing basis.

The nursing shortage will be addressed through the facilities in Lincoln and Kearney. In Lincoln, the new facility would replace the current one downtown. Currently, 60 percent of qualified applicants are turned away each year because of space limitations. The new facility would accommodate 314 students annually, compared to the current 250. This is imperative for the state’s entire nursing workforce, especially in rural areas.

In Kearney, the 30,000-square-foot facility would allow annual enrollment growth by 40 nursing students, compared to the current 124. It also would allow for our School of Allied Health Professions to serve about 46 students, when fully implemented, in the fields of clinical laboratory science, diagnostic medical sonography, physician assistant, physical therapy and radiography.

All of these projects are important to the health and well-being of Nebraska. This initiative will create well-paying jobs, expand the health care workforce and enhance Nebraska’s reputation in cancer research and treatment. This initiative deserves our support.

Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
UNMC Chancellor
UNMC -
ON THE FRONT LINES

Like the butterfly effect, UNMC’s outreach programs create small, but vital changes that make lasting improvements to a great many people.

From around the world to within Omaha’s city limits, UNMC students and faculty members give of themselves to provide direct or indirect care to those in underserved areas.

Care comes in many forms, from flu shots and free knee replacements to critical dental care and data collection for future health policies. Many of these programs function on pure volunteer dedication, while other projects are funded through grants.

The stories that follow are but a small sample of the countless projects underway at UNMC to help people who don’t have regular access to health care.

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN GLOBAL HEALTH IN OMAHA

A mericans take much for granted— from refrigerators to toilets to health care.

But refugees seeking asylum from war zones in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa often don’t know what to put in a refrigerator, how to use a toilet, where to get their children immunized and that they can question their health provider.

They are among the 42 million people uprooted by war who have survived unsanitary conditions, sparse food and unclean water in crowded camps of makeshift tents.

Once in America, they must cope with an unfamiliar culture and a foreign language.

For the past two years, more than 135 UNMC students have engaged with more than 1,000 refugees from eight different countries, through the Bridge to Care (BTC) program.

This interprofessional initiative brings together students from medicine, public health, nursing, pharmacy and the allied health professions, to partner with community leaders, health care providers and community and state organizations serving the refugees of Nebraska.

BTC works directly with the Southern Sudan Community Association and the International Center of the Heartland (ICH) — the two federally designated providers of refugee resettlement agencies in Nebraska. The mission— educate, assist and empower refugees to become self-sufficient and culturally integrated members of American society.

BTC assesses each refugee group’s specific needs, aides in understanding the health care system, and improves cultural awareness among community health care providers and students. In return, the students gain real-life experience in caring for the growing refugee population.

“This program helps us become culturally competent with these diverse groups,” said Thu Hong Bui, a second-year pharmacy student and president of BTC. “This will help me become a better pharmacist.”
The student-run program is coordinated through UNMC’s Service Learning Academy in the College of Public Health. Founding director is Ruth Margalit, M.D., associate professor of health promotion, social and behavioral health, and a family physician.

“Service-learning seeks to link educational goals with experiences in our community by responding to health needs,” Dr. Margalit said. “Our students connect with people from various parts of the world. This local engagement deepens their understanding and assists students in developing global knowledge that will make them better practitioners. Global citizenship begins at home.”

In the past decade, refugees have resettled in Omaha from Sudan, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, Somalia (and Somali Bantu), Burundi, Ethiopia, Burma and Bhutan. ICH estimates there are up to 15,000 Sudanese (the largest group in the United States) and about 5,000 each of Somali and Burmese in Omaha.

During a leadership meeting last year, the refugee community identified five major areas of challenges: housing, health, education, employment and transportation. Some of the health issues include access to care, health literacy, well-balanced nutrition practices, maternal and child health, good hygiene care, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

Students meet with each group of refugees for three consecutive months, during which they address these issues, provide health education with the help of interpreters and share a cultural meal.

Before each monthly meeting, students hear from nurse Pam Franks, a longtime supporter of refugees in Omaha who has extensive experience in global health. She explains the definition of ‘refugee’ and shares experiences, challenges and barriers they face before and after resettlement.

“Students develop their leadership, organizational and professional skills, learn to work with and appreciate students from other health care professions, develop cultural awareness and civic responsibility while providing service to the community,” Dr. Margalit said.

“And there is added value in this experience — community engaged scholarship. One student used the program to complete her capstone project for a master’s in public health. The program was presented at an international conference on global health and a manuscript for peer review publication is in preparation.”

Bridge to Care began in 2010 by a fourth-year medical student who recognized the need for students to learn hands-on about refugees, become more culturally competent and serve these communities.

The program was initially funded by a grant from the College of Medicine Alumni Association and then received substantial funding from the College of Public Health Dean’s challenge grant. In addition, the office of Minority Health, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, helps with funding, materials and other support.

Assimilation into a new culture is challenging and requires physical and emotional resources. For children and youths, it can be confusing and some refugee youths turn to risky behaviors to feel included. Nurse Carri Stinn, a previous student volunteer and now the flu shot coordinator with BTC, worries about refugee youths becoming involved with violence.

In addition to the monthly meetings, BTC sponsors flu shot clinics in the fall, an annual health fair in the spring and participates in the citywide World Refugee Day each year in June.

Elsie Forsung, a native of Cameroon, is a third-year pharmacy student and BTC vice president. Her father works for the United Nations and helps refugees from Africa settle in the United States.

“He doesn’t know what happens to them after they arrive so he was happy that we’re here to make a difference,” she said. “It sort of completes the circle.”

“This is global health right here in Omaha.”
The Guatemalan woman’s rheumatoid arthritis so incapacitated her that she couldn’t get around her house to handle the most common tasks.

She came to the clinic in Antigua where Kevin Garvin, M.D., and others from UNMC provided relief.

“Her case was among the most challenging that we’ve seen,” said Dr. Garvin, chairman of orthopaedic surgery. “Even in the states, this surgery would have proven challenging.”

Her condition was such that she couldn’t bend or straighten her knees.

The team decided the woman needed both knees replaced, then during surgery, her knee contractures were released.

“This should allow her to achieve her goal of being pain free, able to walk and go up and down stairs,” said Dr. Garvin, who for the past two years has led teams from UNMC to Guatemala to assist with Operation Walk — a national initiative to provide orthopaedic care in poorer nations.

In a trip this past fall, a UNMC team and other groups from North America performed 73 joint replacement surgeries in one week in Guatemala.

Dr. Garvin was struck by the gratitude, work ethic and toughness of the patients he encountered.

“We took 100 Vicodin — a narcotic pain medication – with us and we didn’t use them all,” he said. “We would have gone through thousands of narcotic pills for the same number of patients in the U.S.”

The pain tolerance of the patients reflected the conditions in Guatemala, where patients often deal with high levels of severe discomfort because care is lacking for joint problems caused by arthritis and other conditions.

It also validated the efforts of Dr. Garvin and UNMC teams that traveled to the Central American country.

There are plans for UNMC to participate in Operation Walk again this year, Dr. Garvin said.

Also, this past fall, UNMC participated in Operation Walk U.S.A., which allowed about 85 uninsured patients from around the U.S. to receive free joint replacement surgeries. One of those surgeries was performed by UNMC surgeons at The Nebraska Medical Center.

Chad Vokoun, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, was among those who participated in Operation Walk in Guatemala.

To see patients get up and walk and move, sometimes after many years of immobility, provided a lot of satisfaction, he said.

“It’s been amazing to see them get up and walk just two hours after their anesthesia wore off,” Dr. Vokoun said. “I’ll always remember how much fun we had getting them up and active again.”
Just four months into her new job as dental clinic director for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Stephanie Lake, D.D.S., was shocked by what she found.

The lack of a full-time dentist for the past four years had taken a toll on the oral health of the tribe’s children.

Dr. Lake had never seen cavities, abscesses and tooth decay so severe in children so young.

“One 4-year-old had cavities in 16 out of 20 teeth,” she said. “There is more treatment here than I could ever do alone.”

But help is on the way.

In October, an affiliation agreement was signed with the Omaha Tribe that allows pediatric and adult dentistry residents, dental assistants and faculty from the UNMC College of Dentistry to provide services at the dental clinic in the Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center in Macy, Neb.

Funded by two grants totaling $3.5 million from the Health Resources Services Administration, the program gives senior dental students and more pediatric residents the opportunity to practice in a rural community.

“It wasn’t until three years ago that we could send a few pediatric residents on rural rotations. Now, all eight pediatric residents can participate, and we’ve increased the length of the rotations for senior dental students from four to six weeks,” said Kimberly McFarland, D.D.S., professor in the UNMC College of Dentistry and principal investigator on the grants.

Rural rotations as a permanent part of the dental school training experience significantly increases critical access to dental care in rural and underserved parts of the state, she said.

It’s the type of care that is vitally needed on the northeast Nebraska Indian reservation. In December, pediatric residents screened 70 children at the tribal clinic and plan to return monthly to provide restorative care and more screenings.

Approximately one-third of the children between the ages of 3 and 5 screened on Dec. 5 will require general anesthesia for their dental work due to their young age and severity of tooth decay, Dr. Lake said.

Those children, she said, will be sent to UNMC for their treatment.

Along with providing an extra set of hands in rural communities like Macy, a key component of the grant is to promote the use of the statewide tele-health network by equipping senior dental students with intraoral cameras and laptop computers to take on their rotation.

With the equipment, the students are able to consult with specialists at the College of Dentistry enabling them to become familiar with the technology and the benefits of using it in a rural setting.

The hope, Dr. McFarland said, is that once the students are exposed to the needs and charm of working in a rural community, some will practice there.

“We have 20 counties in Nebraska that have no dentist whatsoever and 30 others where there are only one or two dentists,” she said. “We need to find ways to not only expose our students to rural practice but encourage them to return to those communities with the promise that through technology the College of Dentistry will support them.”
June Poole’s words echo the messages her slumped shoulders and pursed lips already have sent her primary care physician.

“I’m just pissed off all the time,” Poole tells Dr. Fox. “I’m tired. I don’t have energy and I just lie there thinking about stuff.”

After a brief visit with Poole and her mother, in which it is learned the high school senior has recently been humiliated by a “sexting” incident at school, Dr. Fox concludes that June is depressed and suggests she start an antidepressant.

The exchange is from a fictional video enactment performed by actors as part of a new online mental health training module for primary care practitioners, but it’s also a common scene in primary care clinics throughout Nebraska.

It’s estimated that more than half of all U.S. mental health care takes place at the primary care level, said Howard Liu, M.D., a UNMC child and adolescent psychiatrist and interprofessional education director for the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN). That number jumps to nearly 80 percent in rural areas where there often are no mental health practitioners for miles, he said.

BHECN — a UNMC program that aims to improve mental health care throughout the state — has created and implemented the online training modules to help primary care providers better handle and treat patients with mental health issues.

Poole’s case is featured in the first module — which was released in September and focuses on the treatment of teens with depression.

“With this particular module, we hope to teach primary care clinicians to become more comfortable treating depressed teenagers and referring them to talk therapy,” Dr. Liu said. “Currently, many primary care providers are uncomfortable prescribing antidepressants to children and adolescents due to an FDA black box warning on the drugs about suicidal ideation.”

Additional modules, one to help primary care providers treat adult depression and another that focuses depression treatment in geriatric patients — will be released this winter.

In the modules, practitioners watch video, review text and graphs and take quizzes designed to teach them more about depression treatment. Continuing education credits are available to those who participate in the training.

“I’m not as angry as I was,” Poole tells Dr. Fox during a follow-up visit. “I still feel really empty and kind of down about stuff.”

Poole has taken the medications prescribed in the first visit and says they were somewhat effective but some of her depressive symptoms persist.

At the end of the visit, Poole and Dr. Fox decide that she should continue her medications and also undergo cognitive behavioral therapy with a therapist in a nearby town.

In cognitive behavioral therapy — known as CBT — patients and therapists examine a patient’s beliefs and attitudes to see where misperceptions and misconceptions exist that could contribute to depression.

Research shows that depression is best treated through a combination of medication and CBT.

These modules will be particularly helpful in rural areas where the need for mental health care is overwhelming, said Angie Brennan, M.D., a primary care physician at Howard County Medical Center in St. Paul, Neb.

She estimates that 35 percent of all primary care visits have some mental health component and in rural areas, typical challenges of the treatment of psychiatric disorders — reluctance to see a counselor and a lack of mental health insurance coverage — combine with an intensified fear that someone in the community will find out a patient has mental health issues.

“Many patients in small towns have anxiety that someone may see them walk into the counselor’s office on Main Street,” said Paul Paulman, M.D., assistant dean for clinical skills, education and quality in the College of Medicine, who helped create the modules. “The stigma of mental illness is definitely exacerbated in rural areas.”

This contributes to more untreated conditions, he said. And often, when treatment is finally sought, the conditions have progressed to the point that the primary care professionals aren’t equipped to treat them, said Dr. Paulman, who treated patients in rural Nebraska for several years before he came to UNMC.
“And in rural areas, where physicians already are overwhelmed by massive patient loads, this problem becomes all the more acute,” he said.

After several months of medication, therapy and psychiatry visits, Poole and her mother return to Dr. Fox’s office with smiles on their faces.

June’s symptoms have subsided, her grades are up and she’s college bound. She credits the combination of therapies for her improved status.

“Our primary care practitioners are on the front lines in the battle against mental health and in many ways they are overwhelmed,” Dr. Liu said.

With the training modules, the hope is primary care physicians will be armed with the tools that will lead more patients with depression to have results similar to June Poole’s, said Dr. Liu, who noted that the BHECN training modules could serve as national training models and could be used by primary care practitioners around the country.

“The challenges in mental health are significant and the consequences for not meeting these challenges are great,” Dr. Liu said. “We want our training modules to provide practitioners with the skills and insight needed to help address the great need for increased and improved mental health treatment.”

The modules also are designed to help practitioners know when the time is right to refer their patients on to psychiatrists and specialists, Dr. Liu said.

Primary care physicians get fairly extensive psychiatric training in medical school, but it simply isn’t their specialty and their skills aren’t adequate to meet the demand for mental health care in their clinics, Dr. Paulman said.

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“We focus on research and education, using the strengths of UNMC and our partners,” said Risto Rautiainen, Ph.D., associate professor of environmental, agricultural and occupational health, College of Public Health, and administrator of the grant.

The center’s research will focus on:

- **Sleep deprivation for farmers.** Farmers work long days during planting and harvest times. After 18 hours of work, bodily functions become impaired similar to exceeding 0.08 percent blood alcohol level, the legal limit for driving. This study, which is partially funded by Nebraska’s tobacco settlement fund, will develop knowledge for self-regulating sleeping hours and functioning safely.

- **Asthma.** Researchers will study the mechanisms behind organic dust exposure that cause asthma. New information will be used to develop better treatments and interventions.

- **Injuries.** Through UNMC’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health at UNMC serves Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and North and South Dakota.

- **Noise exposure and prevention of hearing loss.** Convenience is a barrier to using hearing protection. Researchers will test whether storing pairs of earmuffs next to the loudest sources of noise increases their use.

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As a youngster, Bradley Britigan, M.D., was fascinated by science and math. Biology became his major interest, but he also wanted to help people. Medicine seemed a natural choice.

Not until he entered subspecialty training in infectious diseases at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, did he become involved in lab research. It was through research and academic medicine that he found a creative way to advance human health.

Today, as dean of the UNMC College of Medicine, Dr. Britigan’s achievements and experience make him a “triple threat” in education, patient care and funded thematic research.

Dr. Britigan joined UNMC in July 2011 from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine where he was professor and chairman of internal medicine. At UNMC, he also is the Stokes-Shackleford chairman of infectious disease.

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

Recently, Dr. Britigan was an author on a landmark study that determined why bacteria are antibiotic resistant and how disrupting key bacterial functions could lead to more effective antibiotics. His team found that bacteria starvation initiates a reaction that actually lets the bugs resist antibiotics.

He studies organisms that cause tuberculosis and lung infections in people who have cystic fibrosis, immunocompromised systems and are in intensive care. His goal is to develop new antibiotics or ways to prevent damage to the infected lung.

He and his wife, Denise, a faculty member in UNMC’s College of Public Health, have two grown children.

Here, Dr. Britigan talks about his vision for the college.

**Where would you like to see the college in the next five years?**

I want the college to emerge as a national and international leader in research, clinical care and education. I envision moving to a collaborative and integrative approach to health care delivery that also supports our educational and research missions with our hospital partners and prepares students to practice medicine as part of patient-centered, team-based care.

We must sustain and grow a culture in which research and educational excellence are an expectation for all of our departments. This will involve rigorous strategic planning efforts to define where resources are best invested and a governance structure that supports and encourages growth and development of our faculty and trainees.

**Discuss the next development in medical education.**

Interprofessional education will continue to grow as we train medical students to be part of a team of specialized health care providers, with an increasing emphasis on assessment of quality of care, evidence-based medicine and use of the electronic medical record to facilitate and standardize care.

I also see an increase in the use of computer simulation and web-based education to provide realistic experiences that expose students to rare diseases.

**What impressed you about Nebraska?**

I’ve been impressed by the friendliness and sincerity of the people, their strong work ethic and their expectation that anything can be accomplished with hard work.

I’ve traveled throughout the state and sense the enormous pride that Nebraskans, and in particular our alumni, feel toward the medical center. The financial support provided by friends and alumni is unsurpassed by any medical center with which I have been associated.

UNMC is clearly an under-recognized gem in academic medicine, but we can change that by making our accomplishments and opportunities more visible.
Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., is a nationally-known nursing leader whose research focus is on organization of care for underserved populations.

The new dean of the College of Nursing comes to UNMC from the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Nursing, where she was dean and professor. Prior to that, she was assistant dean for advanced practice nursing and professor at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. She succeeds Virginia Tilden, D.N.Sc., who retired after nearly eight years.

Dr. Sebastian is an expert in the organization of care delivery systems, care for underserved populations, academic nursing practice and nurse-managed centers, and doctor of nursing practice program curricula.

“Nursing is where I can combine natural and behavioral sciences, analytical approaches and make a difference to people every day,” she said. “It’s a perfect choice.”

She and her husband, Russell, enjoy travel, musical theatre and outdoor activities. Their daughter lives in Atlanta.

Here, Dr. Sebastian talks about her vision and goals.

Where do you see the college headed in the next five years?

I see wonderful opportunities given the growing needs for nursing research, education and practice resulting from health care reform, changing demographics, increasingly sophisticated technology and global connectivity.

Our faculty members have done an excellent job including concept-based, learner-centered and team-oriented approaches in the curriculum, which models the expansive thinking and sophisticated clinical reasoning needed in today’s health care. We will continue to expand our research and clinical programs, while moving forward with innovative and integrative learning opportunities.

How is UNMC addressing the nursing workforce shortage? What role will the proposed facility in Lincoln play in addressing this shortage?

With the addition of the Northern Division in Norfolk and the new Center for Nursing Science in Omaha, the college has increased its capacity for expansion of programs at all levels. Our goal is to continue this growth with the proposed buildings for the Lincoln Division and the Kearney Division, which also will house programs from the School of Allied Health Professions. As a whole, these projects create substantial capacity for expansion that further eases the nursing shortage in Nebraska. Not only can we graduate more new nurses at the baccalaureate level, but, we also can educate additional graduate-prepared nurses who can help alleviate the shortage of primary care nurse practitioners and nursing faculty and scientists.

What excites you about the college?

Without a doubt, it’s the talent of the faculty, staff and students, and the fact that we have five vibrant divisions across the state. The faith our extraordinarily generous donors have shown in the college and the amazing accomplishments of our alumni help move us forward.

How will nursing education change in the next decade?

Our scientists, clinicians and educators will work together to develop, test, adopt and evaluate new ways to provide nursing and to help people optimally manage health. We will partner with clinical entities and community organizations and keep environmental factors in mind as we deal with people from different socioeconomic, cultural, family and community environments.
A UNMC professor asked his first-year med students to share why they wanted to be doctors. All the stories were good, but none was better than Sarah Synovec’s.

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate, Sarah dreamed of being a doctor all of her life. As a sixth-grader, she volunteered at the hospital in her hometown of Topeka, Kan.

One day she came in early and, by mistake, witnessed doctors and nurses trying to save a man who’d been shot in the head. She saw the entrance and exit wounds. She saw the blood. The man looked like something out of a horror film.

Instead of turning her stomach, she was fascinated and more determined than ever to become a doctor.

On that first day of med school, Sarah told her UNMC classmates and professor how she herself had been saved. At 19, she survived Hodgkin lymphoma and a softball-size mass in her chest.

“You know,” the professor said, “you wouldn’t even be sitting here 20 years ago. You wouldn’t be alive. That’s how far we’ve come in cancer research.”

Sarah’s type of cancer is highly curable now with a 95 percent survival rate, even in advanced stages. She’s alive because cancer researchers worked hard to find effective treatments.

And, because people cared enough to give money to cancer research.

She is amazed at how far treatment for Hodgkin has come, and that her UNMC physician, James Armitage, M.D., had so much to do with those medical advancements.

Now 23, Sarah is cancer-free and newly married. Inspired by Dr. Armitage, she plans to become an oncologist.

Sarah’s dad, Mark, graduated in 1986 from UNMC, where he also did his residency. Her mom, Susan, worked at UNMC in the bone-marrow transplant program. After Sarah’s diagnosis four years ago, they knew they could trust only one person, Dr. Armitage, a 1973 UNMC grad.

“Dr. Armitage was a little terrifying to me actually,” Sarah said. “I had always heard about him because my mom worked for him back in the ’80s. And here I am, 19, wanting to be a doctor and then meeting one of the world’s most renowned physicians. It was really intimidating.

“But my parents assured me, ‘If anyone can fix it, he can.’”

She was impressed with Dr. Armitage and how he connected with her family. Her disease taught her what it’s like to be a patient with a life-threatening illness, but Dr. Armitage taught her how to be a doctor with a heart.

“The cancer center and the quality of care that I received was truly remarkable,” she said. “One reason I chose to apply to medical school at Nebraska was that I knew that after having gone through treatment here, after having worked with the physicians and nurses, that there was no other place to be. I knew they turned out fantastic doctors. I knew they were heading into the right place for cancer research.

“I knew that to get the best education, you had to go to the best place.”

by Colleen Fleischer
That’s what Jim Temme called Charles O’Malley, even though they weren’t related.

By the time Uncle Chuck, an habitual storyteller, died nine years ago at 93, Temme had heard many of his stories.

A native of Perry, Iowa, O’Malley was 17 when he hopped a freight train to Boston during the Depression. He studied nursing, but eventually landed in New York City where, through skill, or Irish luck, earned large sums of money in oil, shipping and the stock market.

Uncle Chuck always seemed to be in the right place at the right time. He knew the likes of New York “power broker” Robert Moses and shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis. He lived comfortably in a ninth-floor apartment on Park Avenue.

He loved to tell stories about his endeavors and interactions with people, said Temme, associate professor and director of radiation science technology education in UNMC’s School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP).
One year ago, Temme was appointed the first Charles R. O’Malley Chair for Radiation Science Technology Education.

It’s the first endowed chair ever given to a faculty member in SAHP. Trustees of the Charles R. O’Malley Charitable Lead Trust established the honor with the University of Nebraska Foundation.

“It wasn’t like finding out about my firstborn,” Temme says. “But it was right up there.”

How many chairs, he wondered, ever knew their donor?

Uncle Chuck never had a driver’s license, Temme said. He didn’t need to, living in New York City. He never married. He was from a large Catholic family and had many nieces and nephews.

One of his nephews, Richard Kelly, was a clinical instructor and supervisor of nuclear medicine at UNMC. Temme met him while on a clinical internship in the early ’70s and they became friends. Temme then met Uncle Chuck.

“Richard was the person you would go to who always knew the answers,” Temme said. “He never made mistakes.”

Kelly worked at UNMC for 35 years and remained an ardent supporter of the nuclear medicine education program and the radiation science division. He knew the excellent work they did and the high quality of students they graduated.

When he became a trustee of his uncle’s trust, he knew he had a unique opportunity to advance the work of the division.

SOME STORIES ABOUT TEMME:

He grew up in Petersburg, Neb., and fought in Vietnam. When he returned to the U.S., he was met at the San Francisco airport with jeers and spit. Back in Nebraska, he was unsure about his future. A sign for a new community college inspired him. He enrolled. From there, he entered UNMC. He graduated from its radiology program one Sunday in 1974. The very next day, he joined the faculty as a clinical coordinator of education programs.

“It was a pretty major job. Maybe it shows how few applicants they had, I don’t know.” He laughs.

Over the decades, he and Kelly became great friends. The two meet at least once a week for lunch to talk politics, the economy and the stock market.

Kelly attended the ceremony when Temme received the honor.

Most of Temme’s family also attended.

After the ceremony, Temme’s 10-year-old nephew needed some clarification.

“Uncle Jim,” he said. “I’m sorry. But I don’t get it. What’s this ‘chair’ thing all about?”

“It was funny because most people don’t really understand what a chair is, if you’re not in the academic world. I tried to tell him that it’s both recognition for a position and a source of ongoing money that allows me to help my division. And that’s basically what it comes down to — you get some money from someone who likes what you do so you can keep doing it.”

This was an incredible gift, Temme said, to the SAHP and the Radiation Science Technology Education division.

“It provides ongoing funding for us to advance our teaching and research missions. I consider it a tremendous honor to hold the first endowed chair in the school.

“And it’s worth so much to me because it carries the name of Charles R. O’Malley.”

Uncle Chuck.

UNMC’s School of Allied Health Professions is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in patient care, research and education. It offers programs for 12 professions, including clinical laboratory science, physical therapy and physician assistant.

Besides the endowed chair, the Charles R. O’Malley Trust also created the opportunity to fund four professorships within the School of Allied Health Professions.

These are matching gift opportunities: The trust donates $150,000 and the donor contributes $100,000. (The O’Malley Trust will allow the other donor to name the professorship.)

One professorship already has been realized, the M. Patricia and James W. Leuschen Professorship for the Advancement of Research in the Allied Health Sciences. The O’Malley matching gift opportunities expire Dec. 31, 2014.

If you are interested in this opportunity to help the SAHP, contact the University of Nebraska Foundation’s Patty Sherman at 402-502-4114 or psherman@nufoundation.org.

“Richard was the person you would go to who always knew the answers. He never made mistakes.”

Jim Temme
A PIPELINE TO BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH
by Lisa Spellman

A decade ago, UNMC built a pipeline across Nebraska — a pipeline for scientists.

Since its inception, the Nebraska INBRE program has opened the door to careers in biomedical research for hundreds of talented youths across the state.

The pipeline program reaches into community colleges, undergraduate universities and one tribal college to introduce students to research and mentoring opportunities that otherwise would be out of reach.

“INBRE graduates contribute to the scientific workforce for Nebraska industry,” said James Turpen, Ph.D., principal investigator on the grant. “They pursue advanced degrees in biomedical-related areas such as science, medicine and other health profession programs.”

More than 250 undergraduate students have taken part in the program, which is funded by a $17.2 million grant from the Institutional Development Award Program Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), a division of the National Institutes of Health. It is the state’s largest grant.

**INBRE’s success can be measured by its numbers:**
- 42 percent of participants have gone on to graduate school;
- 37 percent have gone on to professional school; and
- 16 percent have entered the scientific workforce in some capacity.

“These numbers would not be possible without the support of the faculty and administration at the participating institutions,” Dr. Turpen said. “Each recognizes the importance of providing research opportunities to undergraduate students.”

**The 12 participating institutions are:**
- Creighton University
- College of Saint Mary
- Doane College
- Little Priest Tribal College
- Nebraska Wesleyan University
- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Wayne State College
- Chadron State College
- Western Nebraska Community College

The INBRE pipeline includes 12 institutions in eight communities across the state.
Nebraska Neuroscience Alliance forms

UNMC physicians, allied health practitioners and scientists have formed the Nebraska Neuroscience Alliance (NNA) in an effort to better serve people with developmental and degenerative diseases of the nervous system.

The NNA unites three of UNMC’s top neuroscience programs — the departments of neurological sciences and pharmacology and experimental neuroscience, as well as the Munroe-Meyer Institute — to:

- Facilitate cooperative research activities;
- Enhance recruitment and retention of UNMC physicians and scientists; and
- Develop novel, state-of-the-art patient diagnostics and therapeutics.

The NNA targets neurodevelopment and disorders of cognition and movement. These include the spectrum of brain, nerve and spinal cord diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease, autism, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, microbial infections, stroke and genetic disease.

The architects of the NNA are: Howard Gendelman, M.D., chairman of the department of pharmacology and experimental neuroscience; Daniel Murman, M.D., interim chairman of the department of neurological sciences; and J. Michael Leibowitz, Ph.D., director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute.

“This alliance will bring together experts in research and clinical care with the shared goal of moving breakthroughs made in the laboratory to the patient bedside,” said Bradley Britigan, M.D., dean of the UNMC College of Medicine. “There’s no reason anybody with a neurological disorder should ever have to leave the state for their medical care.”

Dr. Dele Davies named new academic affairs vice chancellor/dean of graduate studies

H. Dele Davies, M.D., has been named vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies at UNMC.

The appointment is effective April 1. Dr. Davies — a recognized expert in pediatric infectious diseases — is professor and chairman of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Pediatrics and Human Development Department.

“The combination of his expertise, leadership skills, academic credentials and passion for community work make Dele (pronounced ‘deli’) the right individual to lead our academic efforts,” said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D.

Dr. Davies has a strong record of faculty and student mentorship and a strong interest in community health, evidenced by his creation of the Obesity Council at Michigan State, which brought diverse faculty members together to discover innovative solutions to the obesity problem. The effort led to increased grant submissions and a book titled, “Obesity in Childhood and Adolescence.”

Originally from Nigeria, he also has lived in England and Canada. His research focus is in streptococcal disease. He is co-investigator on a $7.3 million National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases grant and a $5.6 million Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant. He has authored more than 145 peer-reviewed or juried publications and is a journal reviewer for more than 15 journals including the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Davies succeeds Rubens Parmies, M.D., who died on Feb. 26, 2011. After Dr. Parmies’ death, David Crouse, Ph.D., postponed his retirement to serve as interim vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies.

Country star Justin Moore to perform at 2012 Cattlemen’s Ball

Country music star Justin Moore — known for top 10 singles “Small Town USA,” “If Heaven Wasn’t so Far Away” and “Backwoods” — will headline the entertainment at the 2012 Cattlemen’s Ball.

The June 2 event, hosted by the Allen and Shelly Clark family of McCool Junction, Neb., will be at the Stone Creek Event Center.

Moore’s performance is one of the many highlights of the 2012 Cattlemen’s Ball. Other activities include: a prime rib dinner, art show, wine tasting, fashion show, silent auction, Barney Fife impersonator Rix Roberts, comic and magician Gayle Becwar and a dance following the Moore concert featuring regional favorites, The Innocence.

The Cattlemen’s Ball — hosted by a different Nebraska ranch or feedlot every year — raises money for cancer research at the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center, while showcasing rural Nebraska and promoting beef as a part of a healthy diet.

Since its inception, the Cattlemen’s Ball has raised more than $6.29 million.
UNMC, The Nebraska Medical Center unveil plans for a new cancer center

Medical center leaders call it the largest project ever proposed on the Omaha campus.

They also know it’s an investment that will transform cancer care.

Leaders from UNMC and its hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center, plan to build a new cancer center at the medical center’s Omaha campus. The cancer center would house research facilities, a multidisciplinary outpatient treatment center and clinic and a new hospital tower.

“This is a transformational project for all Nebraskans,” said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. “These facilities will not only benefit our clinicians and researchers but most importantly, patients.”

Initial plans call for three facilities — a multidisciplinary outpatient clinic, a 98-lab research tower, and a hospital tower with 108 beds dedicated to oncology patients. The $370 million project will be built on the west side of the medical center campus and require the demolition of Swanson Hall and the parking structure to its south. More than 85 percent of the costs are expected to come from private funds.

In addition to the cancer center project, plans also call for construction of a fourth building — an ambulatory care clinic — to be built near 42nd and Farnam streets. This building would provide outpatient clinic space for the medical center’s various programs outside of cancer.

The University of Nebraska seeks $50 million from the state to support construction of the cancer research tower as part of the University of Nebraska’s “Building a Healthier Nebraska” initiative. In all, the initiative seeks $91 million from the state’s cash reserve fund to support projects that also include:

- A new $17 million College of Nursing facility in Lincoln;
- A $19 million, 30,000-square-foot addition to the Bruner Hall of Science at the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide space for nursing and an expansion of UNMC’s School of Allied Health Professions programs in the fields of clinical laboratory science, diagnostic medical sonography, physician assistant, physical therapy and radiography; and
- Planning and design funds for a new Veterinary Diagnostic Center at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s East Campus.

The cancer campus project would be an economic boon to Nebraska. Medical center leaders expect the cancer project will create about 1,200 new jobs by 2020 and infuse $100 million annually into Nebraska’s economy.

“This is a collaborative effort to bring a sizable amount of economic development to our community and state,” said Michael Yanney, local businessman and chairman of the UNMC committee for Campaign for Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Foundation’s comprehensive fundraising campaign. “It will make the city and region a major player in cancer treatment and research.”

The new cancer facility also would help the medical center in its goal to become a National Institutes of Health Comprehensive Cancer Center by 2020. Presently only 40 NIH Comprehensive Cancer Centers exist.

“This kind of single-site facility is the future of cancer care and research,” said Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center and oncologist at The Nebraska Medical Center. “Very few academic medical centers are positioned this well geographically and programmatically. We can provide an all-embracing cancer center with great access, and more importantly, outstanding care and expertise.”

Read more about the cancer campus and NU’s initiative. unmc.edu/connect
College of Dentistry
- Members of the Dental Class of 2014 (current D-2) recently celebrated a 100 percent first-attempt pass of Dental National Board Exam Part I. This is the second consecutive year COD students have had a 100 percent Part I pass, and the five-year average pass rate has been 99 percent.
- On Sept. 29, 2011, the COD SHARING Clinic served a record 81 patients. This volunteer evening clinic provides free basic and emergency dental treatment for homeless and other patients with health care disparities.

College of Medicine
- The Olson Center for Women’s Health provides ongoing funding for community education, research and novel clinical programs. Under the umbrella of UNMC, it recently surpassed $5 million in investment in basic and clinical research. The outpatient facility, which combines specialty and general OB/GYN, general internal medicine, prenatal diagnosis, surgical oncology focusing on breast disease, and mammography/women’s imaging, has become UNMC’s single largest clinic location.
- Three UNMC faculty — the late Carl Camras, M.D., ophthalmology; Denham Harman, M.D., Ph.D., internal medicine; and the late Hobart Wiltse, M.D., Ph.D., pediatricians — were honored as legends by the Olson Center. Theodoros (Toni) Hollingsworth, Ph.D., Keith Johnson, Ph.D., and Rakesh Singh, Ph.D., Camras, M.D., ophthalmology; Denham Harman, M.D., Ph.D., internal medicine; and the late Hobart Wiltse, M.D., Ph.D., pediatricians — were honored as legends by the Olson Center. Theodoros (Toni) Hollingsworth, Ph.D., Keith Johnson, Ph.D., and Rakesh Singh, Ph.D.

College of Public Health
- The college received accreditation from the Council on Education in Public Health through 2016, and is now a full member of the Association of Schools of Public Health.
- Student enrollment begins this fall for three new academic programs — a doctor of public health, a master of public health in social marketing and health communication, and a master of public health in global health.

College of Nursing
- The college opened the doctor of nursing practice program in summer 2011. The program provides master’s prepared nurses with sophisticated advanced clinical and health systems knowledge.
- The National Institutes of Health P20 Exploratory Center grant led by Carol Pullen, Ed.D., and titled “Healthy Heart Center: Linking Rural Populations by Technology” is underway. The project uses an interdisciplinary team to promote cardiovascular health among people living in rural areas through the use of technology.
- A new training grant is underway to provide additional instruction for family nurse practitioners in provision of care in emergency rooms in rural hospitals. The grant, funded by the Health Resources Services Administration and titled “Advanced Rural Hospital Care,” is directed by Kathy Morris, D.N.P., and provides additional education for nurses practitioners who work in emergency rooms in rural hospitals.

College of Pharmacy
- For a third-consecutive year, the graduating class had a 100 percent pass rate on the national licensing examination. All 60 students passed the examination on their first attempt. UNMC students scored 112.43 percent, well above the national pass rate, 96.57, and average for all colleges, 105.03.
- Kristen Cook, Pharm.D., ’05, associate professor of pharmacy practice, received the College of Pharmacy 2011 Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Cook is the 18th recipient of this award and first female. The award is given by the Student Advisory Committee.
- More than $600,000 in scholarships and other leadership awards and prizes were presented to 100 pharmacy students at the annual Fall Honors Convocation. Most of these scholarships and awards come from the professional success — and generosity — of alumni and friends.

Eppley Institute / UNMC Eppley Cancer Center
- Jennifer Black, Ph.D., Adrian Black, Ph.D., and Adam Karpf, Ph.D., joined the Eppley Institute faculty in late 2011. All three were formerly on the faculty of Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y.
- UNMC researcher Surinder Batra, Ph.D., and collaborators have received a $4.2 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to study the tumor microenvironment of pancreatic cancer cells. UNMC has more than $25 million in funding for pancreatic cancer research through several National Institutes of Health grants. Project leaders, along with Dr. Batra, are Tony Hollingsworth, Ph.D., Keith Johnson, Ph.D., and Rakesh Singh, Ph.D.

Munroe-Meyer Institute
- The MMI-Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Interdisciplinary Training Program was awarded five-year funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Combating Autism Act. The grant will substantially increase both interdisciplinary and autism-specific leadership training for graduate students at MMI and practicing professionals in the community. Funding also was provided for enhanced collaboration and outreach activities with community partners.
- The Department of Education at MMI partnered with Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Services and Teen Parent and Young Adult Programs. An evaluation process was implemented to improve their educational practices.

School of Allied Health Professions
- Jack Turman Jr., Ph.D., director, physical therapy education, leads the newly developed Connections Project. Funded by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and private donors, the project seeks to implement community-based strategies to improve birth outcomes in the African-American community.
- M. Patricia Leuschon, Ph.D., made a gift of $100,000 to the University of Nebraska Foundation to establish the M. Patricia and James W. Leuschon Professorship for Advancing Research in the Allied Health Sciences. The professorship was made possible by a matching gift from the Charles R. O’Malley Charitable Trust Fund (see story page 14).
- The School of Allied Health Professions became the new administrative home for the Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety (NCPS) in May 2011. As Nebraska’s patient safety organization, the NCPS works to reduce medical errors in Nebraska’s hospitals, 47 of whom are members. The move coincided with the naming of Ann McGowan as the first full-time executive director of the NCPS and her appointment to the School.
- The division of radiation science technology education was awarded accreditation in September 2011 for a new program to educate magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technologists. The program is one of only four in the United States accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.
One Class — World Class Reunion Comes Full Circle

In October 2011, the UNMC Alumni Association hosted the annual One Class — World Class alumni reunion. The reunion marked the fifth year for honor classes across UNMC professions to return to campus for class parties, tours, education sessions and the Alumni Celebration and Awards Banquet.

Once again, nearly 200 alumni and their guests returned to UNMC for the reunion and were welcomed back to campus with two full days of activities.

Here are some highlights of the weekend, as recounted by the reunion attendees:

The highlight of Alumni Reunion Weekend 2011 was...

“...catching up with my classmates at DJ’s Dugout (which was one of our hangouts during medical school) since we are all starting to finish up residency, moving on to either fellowships or jobs, and starting families. It was also incredible to see the changes UNMC has made to their College of Medicine facilities in just a short 5 years... makes me jealous!”

Nick Behrendt, M.D., Medicine Class of 2006

Celebrated his five-year class reunion

“...reconnecting with classmates I haven’t seen in years and seeing all of the wonderful changes and progress being made at UNMC.”

Michelle Powell, Pharm.D., Pharmacy Class of 1991

Celebrated her 20-year class reunion

“...the PT Jeopardy game at the all PT. reunion. It was a lot of fun to realize all the minutia from studies years ago that I remembered, and a little humbling to realize all the things I’d forgotten. If I remember correctly, the oldsters gave the youngsters a run for their money! Guess all that experience counts for something!”

Laurie Straw, P.T., Physical Therapy Class of 1986

Celebrated the all P.T. class reunion

A survey of alumni who attended the One Class — World Class reunion between 2007 and 2011 indicated that more than 50 percent of UNMC alumni enjoy the opportunity to attend events with alumni from all UNMC professions. The reunion in 2012 will capture this momentum by offering a similar format, featuring: class parties, tours, the alumni awards banquet and more. And, if you haven’t been to Omaha for awhile, be sure to make plans to take the Ollie the Trolley Tour of Omaha, which sold out at the 2011 reunion. Save the date for Sept. 7-8, with honor year invitations sent to those alumni who graduated in a year ending in “2” and “7.” However, all alumni are welcome!

Alumni Reunion Award Recipients

The following individuals were recognized during Alumni Reunion Weekend. To read their full bios, visit unmc.edu/alumni.

College of Medicine Alumni Association
Distinguished Alumnus Award
F. William Karrer, MD ’56

College of Medicine Alumni Association
Early Career Achievement Award
William E. Thorell, MD ’96

College of Medicine Alumni Association
Honorary Alumnus Award
David A. Crouse, PhD

School of Allied Health Professions Alumni Chapters
Distinguished Alumnus Award
William Sangster, RSTE ’66

College of Public Health Alumni Chapter
Spirit of Service Award
James R. Anderson, PhD

College of Nursing Alumni Chapter
Distinguished Alumnus Award
Liane Connelly, PhD, RN, (ASN ’81)

College of Nursing Alumni Chapter
Nursing Excellence Award
Suzanne Nuss, PhD, RN, (ASN ’82, PhD ’07)

College of Pharmacy Alumni Chapter
Distinguished Alumnus Award
Charles H. Krabort, PharmD, RPh, ’69, ’84

College of Pharmacy Alumni Chapter
Honorary Alumnus Award
Edward B. “Ted” Roche, Ph.D.

Calling Class Coordinators for 2012 Reunion

Did you graduate from UNMC in 1962, 1972, 1977, 1987, or another year ending in “2” or “7”? We need your help to plan your class-specific party. In a survey of past reunion attendees, 76 percent of respondents indicated their favorite aspect of alumni reunion weekend is their class party. Help make your class-specific reception or dinner a success by contacting UNMC Alumni Relations today at alumni@unmc.edu or (888) 725-8664.
Coming Soon: UNMC Alumni Directory

The UNMC Alumni Association has partnered with PCI, a directory publishing company, to publish an updated alumni directory. That means representatives from PCI will be contacting you to update your basic contact information, including personal and professional. No one is required to give out their contact information; however, doing so will help us keep in touch with you in the years ahead. Participants will have the option to purchase a printed or CD copy of the directory for their personal use. Please keep in mind that PCI will not share your personal information with anyone else. An alumni directory is a common tool used by universities across the country to track their graduates. If you have any questions about the new UNMC Alumni Directory, contact Stephanie Krebs at (402) 559-1063.

Alumni Chapters Honor Past Presidents

In recent months, several UNMC Alumni Chapters have honored the service of past presidents of their organizations. Each chapter created their own “Past Presidents’ Fund,” earmarking funds for future scholarships or student activities, with the seed money for the funds allocated in the names of the past presidents. Those honored include: Rebecca Keating-Lefler, Ph.D., R.N., past president of the College of Nursing Alumni Chapter; Danny Chambers, PA-C, past president of the Physician Assistant Alumni Chapter; and Mike Westcott, M.D., and Susan Westcott, M.D., past co-presidents of the College of Medicine Parents and Family Association (both Drs. Westcott are UNMC alumni).

Over the summer, the College of Medicine Alumni Association honored its past presidents since 1985, who have overseen an outstanding period of growth. Through their leadership, the Association increased its fiscal assets to $3.4 million. Thanks to all the alumni chapter board members who continue to serve.

Tailgate with UNMC in Laramie, Wyoming

Continuing its efforts to host alumni outreach events, the UNMC Alumni Association headed to Laramie, Wyo., for a tailgate party prior to the Nebraska vs. Wyoming football game on Sept. 24, 2011. More than 60 alums from five UNMC colleges, as well as College of Medicine Dean Bradley Britigan, M.D., attended the tailgate party. The Nebraska Cornhuskers went on to beat the Cowboys 38-14. Watch for information about two upcoming outreach events: March 18, 2012 in Scottsdale, Ariz., and summer 2012 in Fort Collins & Colorado Springs, Colo.

Continuing Education Offerings Available for Alumni

The UNMC Center for Continuing Education will hold a webinar series, the Educational Interventions to Improve Primary Care series. The webinars will provide CME credit. They were made possible by an educational grant from Pfizer, Inc. They will be presented “live” once a month, featuring a wide range of topics. One week after their live broadcast, the webinars will be accessible on the UNMC Center for Continuing Education’s website at www.unmc.edu/cee/outreach. Alumni are invited to take advantage of these webinars to meet their CME requirements. There is no charge for these programs.
Simulated patients, student scholarships and state-of-the-art equipment all help the next generation of health care providers perfect the art of healing.

Many are funded by gifts from alumni, who know first-hand the value of such gifts to the educational process. Over the years, gifts to class funds have supported various needs of UNMC colleges.

“Reunion class gifts have been remarkably generous and of great benefit to our students, faculty and educational programs,” said John Reinhardt, D.D.S., dean of the College of Dentistry.

“In addition to raising money for scholarships, faculty endowments and facilities improvements, the gifts have helped purchase state-of-the-art technology and equipment so our students can strengthen their clinical and patient care skills.”

The College of Dentistry, he said, recently acquired SimMan®, a humanoid medical emergency simulator that helps students gain experience in practice settings. “The ability to learn from and rehearse simulated emergencies will better prepare our graduates to save lives in the future,” he said.

Since 2005, College of Dentistry alumni have contributed more than $1.9 million to reunion year gifts.

In 2011, alumni supported numerous class gifts benefiting the colleges of nursing, medicine and dentistry, including the:

- Class of 1961 Discretionary BSN Student Fund, Omaha campus;
- Class of 1961 College of Medicine Scholarship Fund; and
- Class of 1986 College of Medicine Educational Excellence Fund.

The College of Medicine Class of 1962 created the college’s first class gift in 1987. Since then, medicine alumni have created 58 class funds and contributed more than $2.6 million.

For Don Gibbens, M.D., ’85, giving back through a class gift is a way to express his appreciation for the education he received.

“I am forever grateful to UNMC for the opportunity and experience they offered me,” Dr. Gibbens said. “I feel as if I can never repay the debt I owe for that opportunity. That is why I serve on the College of Medicine Alumni Association board and have done so for many years.

“Giving to our class gift was my attempt to say ‘thank you’ to UNMC for believing in my potential and giving others the same opportunity.”

To make a class gift, call the University of Nebraska Foundation at 402-502-0300.

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Medicine

Gerald D. Young M’54
Tower Lakes, Ill., and his wife, Alita, celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary.

 Rex T. Hoffmeister M’55
Zillah, Wash., was awarded the lifetime achievement award from the Northwest Rheumatism Society on April 30, 2011.

 Ernest Johnson M’56
Sacramento, Calif., was awarded the 2011 Golden Stethoscope Award from the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society, the Society’s highest honor presented to a member, recognizing their devotion to patient care and the medical needs of their community.

 Thomas G. Magruder III M’56
Omaha, Neb., son, Thomas IV (4th), graduated from the UNMC College of Medicine and is now in family practice. His grandson, Thomas V (5th), is a fourth-year medical student.

 Manis C. Edwards M’58
Wichita, Kan., attended UNMC’s dedication of the Harold M. and Beverly Maurer Center for Public Health on May 18, 2011, as a conference room was named in honor of classmate Gretchen Glode Berggren and her husband, Warren, for their global public health accomplishments.

 Gerald L. Engelsgjerd M’59
Duluth, Minn., retired in July 2009 from urology practice. He still does some locum tenens work.

 Margaret (Hancock) Peterson M’59
Lake Forest, Calif., is retired and enjoys staying in touch with her fellow classmates, Marilyn Myers and Carol Swarts.

 Calvin J. Hobel M’63
Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., lives in France half of the time with his wife, and travels back and forth to California to work half time. He also was in Iraq for one year.

 Leonard K. Lamberty M’66
Park Rapids, Minn., is retired but enjoys public health consulting. He also spends time woodworking, fishing, traveling and visiting his nine grandchildren.

 Richard A. Ahlstrand M’67
Wichita, Kan., works as a consultant at the Wichita Radiology Group. His wife, Suzie, is president and CEO of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

 LeMoyne Johnson M’70
Bradenton, Fla., retired in 2000 from surgery, and now owns a camera store and portrait studio specializing in high school senior portraits.

 Merlene McAley M’71
Houston, Texas, retired from pediatrics and now enjoys traveling and volunteer work.

 Gary R. Carlton M’72
Sioux City, Iowa, is the recipient of the Dr. George G. Spellman Annual Service award presented by the Mercy Medical Center Foundation in Sioux City, Iowa.

 Robert H. Laugen M’72
Spokane, Wash., celebrated his 33rd anniversary in oncology hematology practice with Cancer Care Northwest in Spokane in July 2011.

 Charles Gregorius M’73
Lincoln, Neb., was inaugurated as president of the Nebraska Medical Association on Sept. 30, 2011.

 Richard A. Hranac M’73
Kearney, Neb., still enjoys the practice of medicine. His free time is spent with family and on the golf course.

 Christopher P. Crotty M’75
Orlando, Fla., works at Sand Lake Dermatology Center and is a faculty member at the University of South Florida and University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

 Thomas H. Wiig M’76
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 Robert H. Laugen M’72
Spokane, Wash., celebrated his 33rd anniversary in oncology hematology practice with Cancer Care Northwest in Spokane in July 2011.

 Charles Gregorius M’73
Lincoln, Neb., was inaugurated as president of the Nebraska Medical Association on Sept. 30, 2011.

 Richard A. Hranac M’73
Kearney, Neb., still enjoys the practice of medicine. His free time is spent with family and on the golf course.

 Christopher P. Crotty M’75
Orlando, Fla., works at Sand Lake Dermatology Center and is a faculty member at the University of South Florida and University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

 Thomas H. Wiig M’76
Duluth, Minn., retired in 2000 from surgery, and now owns a camera store and portrait studio specializing in high school senior portraits.

 Merlene McAley M’71
Houston, Texas, retired from pediatrics and now enjoys traveling and volunteer work.

 Gary R. Carlton M’72
Sioux City, Iowa, is the recipient of the Dr. George G. Spellman Annual Service award presented by the Mercy Medical Center Foundation in Sioux City, Iowa.
Alan Nissen M’77
Lincoln, Neb., retired from active medical practice in August 2011.

Leslie Spry M’77
Lincoln, Neb., is the senior delegate to the American Medical Association from Nebraska.

John Beithon M’78
Shorewood, Minn., continues to work as a family physician.

Michael Farritor M’79
Sioux Falls, S.D., is the chief operating officer and senior vice president of family and regional medicine at Sanford Clinic.

William H. H. Reeder III M’80
Redding, Calif., celebrated 25 years as a rheumatologist in private practice.

Shelly Menolascino M’83
New York, N.Y., and her brother, Michael Menolascino, MD (’86), founded the Frank J. Menolascino Foundation to carry on their father’s mission of advocating for the developmentally challenged.

M. Linda Sutherland M’83
Santa Ana, Calif., specializes in Egyptian mummy CT reconstruction. She is a member of the Horus Group Paleocardiology Foundation.

Jeffrey Cooper M’87
Tacoma, Wash., returned to the UNMC Department of Emergency Medicine and Hyperbaric Medicine in fall 2011.

David G. Owen M’90
Kearney, Neb., son, Benjamin D. Owen, was accepted into the UNMC College of Medicine Class of 2015.

Curtis D. Reimer M’92
Hastings, Neb., has his own private practice and is a team physician for Hastings High School and Hastings College. He has been married to his wife, Kathy, for 22 years. They have four children, Ben, 19, Will, 16, Sam, 13, and Julia, 11.

Craig E. Hinkle M’95
Anchorage, Alaska, is the physician owner of the Surgery Center of Anchorage and is a managing partner at Alaska Women’s Health, PC.

Heidi Strouth M’00
Rapid City, S.D., joined the clinic staff at Regional Medical Clinic-Aspen Centre in Rapid City. She previously practiced in Alabama at the Baptist Medical Center and Montgomery Primary Medicine Associates.

Michelle Ellis M’02
Lincoln, Neb., began work at Prairie Lake Family Medicine as a general practitioner.

Megan L. Irwin M’07
Omaha, Neb., joined Methodist Women’s Center as an obstetrics and gynecology specialist.

Chandra Ljunggren M’07
Lincoln, Neb., joined Contemporary Health Care for Women.

Chad Read M’07
Omaha, Neb., joined Methodist Physicians as an internal medicine physician.

Carolyn (Lawson) Washburn N’48
Hastings, Iowa, and her husband, Albert, have been married for 62 ½ years. They have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She volunteers at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs.

JoAnne (Smolczyk) Harms N’54
Brule, Neb., will turn 80 this year, and lives on a farm.

Janet R. Karrer N’58
Grand Island, Neb., and her husband, Stew, volunteer for Meals on Wheels and at the Stuhr Museum. They like to travel, golf, work on their yard and play bridge.

Joan M. (Bock) Groves N’59
Lincoln, Neb., and husband, Allen, have a great grandson, Trevor Allen, who turned 2 in August 2011.

Kathryn Reynolds N’61
Kearney, Neb., willed a generous gift for nursing scholarships from her estate. She died on July 16, 2010.

Nancy (Lightfoot) Williams N’63
Albion, Mich., retired in 2006. She and her husband sold their home and travel full time.

Karen (Peterson) Fischer N’66
Beatrice, Neb., retired after working 44 years. During that time she worked as a clinic coordinator at Beatrice Community Hospital for Lincoln Physicians. She also was assistant director at Lincoln General Hospital.

Maggie Bragg N’68
Pequot Lakes, Minn., retired in December 2011.

Larry Siref, M.D. ’83 and his son Andy Siref (M1) at the College of Medicine White Coat Ceremony in August 2011.

Mark Duff M’85
Manhattan, Kan., is a board member at Maury Regional Medical Center. In 2009, he traveled to Haiti on a medical mission trip.

Michael K. Matthews M’85
Niles, Ohio, is the chief of staff of UPMC Horizon Hospital System.

Dorothy Zink M’86
Omaha, Neb., retired from Physician Clinic.

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Chad Read M’07
Omaha, Neb., joined Methodist Physicians as an internal medicine physician.

Dorothy M. Patach N’44
Omaha, Neb., had a community garden named after her in South Omaha. The produce is donated to local residents.

Alice (Andersen) Roth N’46
Deerfield, Ill., was part of the Cadet Nurse Corps. She has five children and 11 grandchildren.

Mary Jean (Binions) Schindler N’46
Redding, Calif., celebrated 25 years as a rheumatologist in private practice.

Larry Siref, M.D. ’83 and his son Andy Siref (M1) at the College of Medicine White Coat Ceremony in August 2011.

*Indicates alumni dues-paying member | ©Life Member in alumni association

College of Nursing Alumni Association President Anita Evers N’72, ’96, presents Hannah Steele the Irma Kyle Kramer Nursing Student Award.
Mary (Rowoldt) Martin N’69
Lincoln, Neb., participated in the seventh dental/medical mission trip to Honduras with the Southwood Lutheran Church, as well as Heart to Honduras.

Linda L. Lazure N’75
Omaha, Neb., is a member of the Nebraska Board of Nursing, where she is the bachelor of science in nursing educator. She also is a member of the Nebraska Action Coalition.

Cindy Miller N’90
Lincoln, Neb., joined BryanLGH Medical Center in Lincoln, as a rehabilitation nurse manager. Previously a nurse manager at Tabitha Health Care Services, she has more than 20 years of experience in nursing and 17 years of nursing management.

Cynthia Pedersen Lebruska Francisco N’91
Scottsbluff, Neb., graduated from Union Institute and University with her master’s of art degree in health and wellness. Her field of study was human lactation. She works as a lactation nurse at Regional West Medical Center in the Birth and Infant Care Center.

Lynnette Wheeler N’93
Kansas City, Mo., was named the Chief Nursing Officer at Truman Medical Centers.

Kelly Thelen N’95
Lincoln, Neb., joined JMISKO Surgical Design in Lincoln. She joins fellow alumnus Justin D. Misko M’07.

Heather Elton N’96
Columbus, Neb., was appointed director of Occupational Health Services, a division of Columbus Community Hospital. She was elected director of public relations for the Nebraska Association of Occupational Health Nurses. She and her husband, Bill, have two children, Derek, 10, and Makenna, 9.

Julie Klahn N’97
Omaha, Neb., joined OneWorld Community Health Centers. Julie works as a family nurse practitioner at the Indian Hills and Spring Lake Elementary OneWorld locations.

Janet Cuddigan N’99
Omaha, Neb., was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing.

Juli (Glanzer) Heitman N’99
Manhattan, Kan., graduated from the University of Central Missouri in December 2010 with a master of science in nursing (Nurse Educator Track).

Jean Meister N’04
Lincoln, Neb., joined Tabitha Health Care Services, serving the communities of York, Grand Island and the surrounding areas.

Kimberly Goracke N’05
Omaha, Neb., received the Robert E. Murphy Spirit of Caring Award from Children’s Hospital & Medical Center. She has three certifications in the fields of pediatric and neonatal care.

Mary Filipi N’05
Omaha, Neb., received the Robert M. Herndon Award for her outstanding article in the International Journal of Multiple Sclerosis.

James Wolfe N’05
Lincoln, Neb., joined Lincoln Orthopaedic Care as a nurse practitioner. He and wife, Kari, have a 6-month-old daughter.

Amy E. Theesen N’06
Hastings, Neb., joined Wagoner Medical Group in Grand Island in July as a certified nurse practitioner.

Pharmacy

Lester Reemts P’59
Kimball, Neb., celebrated his 55th wedding anniversary and 80th birthday with his wife Beverly.

Roger L. Miller P’67
Lincoln, Neb., retired in 1989 as USAF pharmacist (Lt. Col). He now works as a hospital pharmacist.

Dave Liebsack P’83
Sioux City, Iowa, was selected as the new CEO/administrator at Baum Harmon Mercy Hospital. He has worked at Mercy Medical Center for 14 years as the hospital’s director of pharmacy and radiology.

Kevin Borcher P’86
Omaha, Neb., was elected chairman of the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy.

Patty Gollner P’90
Hastings, Neb., was appointed to the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy.

Vince Jorn P’02
LaVista, Neb., is the director of pharmacy for Kohll’s Pharmacy and Homecare. He has been with Kohll’s Pharmacy since 1997.

Michael Erwin P’04
Durango Colo., moved to Colorado in March 2011. He enjoys the hospital he works at as well as skiing and other outdoor activities.

Michael Dreesen P’05
Columbus, Neb., is a pharmacist at Bob’s U-save Pharmacy. He and his family moved to Columbus after practicing pharmacy in Grand Island for six years. He and his wife, Kim P’04, have two children, Mallory and Hannah.
Beth Boals P’10
Pender, Neb., joined Pender Community Hospital in August 2011.

Rachel DeVries P’11
Beatrice, Neb., joined Vital Care Pharmacy in Norfolk.

Renee Kohles P’11
Omaha, Neb., was promoted to captain in the United States Air Force.

Patrick Meyer P’11
Neihgt, Neb., works at Wanek Pharmacy. He also assists with pharmacy duties at Elgin Pharmacy and Gift and Wells Drug in Albion, Neb.

Dentistry

Steve Anderson D’69
Grand Island, Neb., was selected as the Grand Island Independent’s 2011 Man of the Year for his contributions to improving the health of Nebraskans and for his tireless volunteer efforts, particularly with the free dental care program known as Mission of Mercy. He is active with the Third City Community Clinic and the Heartland United Way in Grand Island.

Charles Craft D’80
Hickman, Neb., was inducted into the Norris High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame for his actions, deeds and spirit of service to the Norris community.

Meghann Longo Dietz D’06
Bellevue, Neb., joined Longo Orthodontics. She works alongside her father, who owned the practice since 1983. She and husband, Nick, have two children: Katherine and Charlie.

Elizabeth (Brehm) Papineau D’09
York, Neb., joined York Family Dentistry as a general family dentist. She and husband, Pepper, recently moved to York from St. Paul, Minn.

Mark Griffths D’10
Crawford, Neb., joined Horizon West Dental in Alliance, Neb., along with Travis Dickey D’11 (Lincoln, Neb.) and Kaylene Harms D’11 (Crawford, Neb.).

Noah Piskorski D’11
Ord, Neb., joined Burwell Dental Clinic in Burwell, Neb., as a general dentist.

Amy Ruf D’11
Omaha, Neb., joined Hillsborough Family Dentistry in Omaha.

Physical Therapy

Chris Schlegel PT’00

Brent Bednar PT’02
Lincoln, Neb., earned his certification in American Physical Therapy Association and is now a board certified orthopedic physical therapist.

Ben Deutschman PT’10
Blair, Neb., joined Horizon Spine Rehabilitation in Blair. He also joins fellow alumni, Troy and Tammy Roehrs PT’90.

 Lanell (Hipke) Graham PT’10
Valentine, Neb., opened her own physical therapy clinic, Valentine Physical Therapy.

Amy Strand PT’10
Arapahoe, Neb., joined Southwest Nebraska Physical Therapy in July 2011.

Brett Kolars PT’11
Norfolk, Neb., joined McMeen Physical Therapy, P.C. at the Broken Bow, Neb. location in August 2011.

Clinical Laboratory Science

Mary Kathleen Jones CLS’70
Carmichael, Calif., has been married to her husband, Daniel, for 42 years. They have two children and one son-in-law.
Sean K. Conroy CLS’04
Oberlin, Kan., is in family practice after graduating from Union College’s physician assistant program in 2010.

Christine Shaw CLS’06
Rockville, Md., works in hematology and flow cytometry at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. She also is pursuing a master’s degree in public health.

Susanne Bishop CLS’07
Omaha, Neb., obtained her specialist in blood banking certification through the American Society for Clinical Pathology in February 2011.

Carol Mcglade RSTE ‘81, ‘82
Omaha, Neb., was named the School of Allied Health Professions’ Alumni Chapters representative to the UNMC Alumni Association.

In Remembrance...

Peyton Thomas Pratt M’44
Omaha, Neb., July 23, 2011

Willard G. Kuehn M’47
Clarinda, Iowa, March 26, 2011

Elsie Bowker N’48
Norfolk, Neb., Sept. 7, 2011

William Alton Doering M’49
Franklin, Neb., Nov. 2, 2011

Frank G. White M’51
Burns, Ore., March 28, 2011

Jean Lyon Bader M’51
Slayton, Minn., July 14, 2011

Douglas W. Lindahl P’51
Bloomfield, Neb., Sept. 3, 2011

Carl R. Aschoff M’52
Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 2, 2011

Thomas H. Luby M’52
Phoenix, Ariz., June 21, 2010

William E. Thompson M’55
Wichita, Kan., Oct. 5, 2011

Thomas G. Magruder III, M’56
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 31, 2011

Robert B. Barnwell M’58
Gering, Neb., July 10, 2011

Daniel Kemp M’58
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 13, 2011

Stanley A. Serbousek M’59
Chadron, Neb., Aug. 25, 2011

Brent E. Krantz M’66
Blair, Neb., Aug. 21, 2011

Michael Jones D’71
Aurora, Neb., Oct. 6, 2011

Reita (Reisig) Young N’71
Scottsbluff, Neb., June 21, 2011

Larry P. Ebmeier P’73
Holdrege, Neb., Sept. 18, 2011

Joseph Washburn M’73
Sioux City, Iowa, Sept. 28, 2011

Harry McFadden M’74
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 14, 2011

Sheila Ciculla N’77
Omaha, Neb., Oct. 26, 2011

Gayleen M. Eilers M’82

Births

Ladd Lake M’98 and Kristin (Bird) Lake M’98
Omaha, Neb., welcomed twins, Samuel and Sydney in July 2010.

Lynne Knowles M’99
Austin, Texas, and husband, Todd Burns, welcomed a daughter, Megan Ashley Burns, on March 26, 2011.

Karen (Dewey) Clark PT’99
Omaha, Neb., and husband Allen, welcomed a daughter, Sarah Delores, on Sept. 27, 2011.

Yeisha (Keepke) Culp PT’00
Plano, Texas, and husband, Will, welcomed a son, Bryce Wilson, on July 30, 2011. He joins big sister, Jacquelyn, who is 2.

Andrea Parde M’01
Lincoln, Neb., welcomed a son, Devin William, on April 12, 2011.

Kristin (Bertrand) Gall N’02
Lincoln, Neb., welcomed son Carson on June 23, 2011.

Scott Goodman RSTE ’04 and Anne (Walton) Goodman RSTE’04
Omaha, Neb., welcomed a second daughter, Emily Pearl, in Sept. 2011.

Scott Krobot PA’05 and Kristin (Kirkwood) Krobot PA’05
Omaha, Neb., welcomed baby girl, Brooklyn Nicole, on June 28, 2011. She was welcomed home by big brother Samuel.

Melissa Soester PA’05
Seward, Neb., welcomed a son, Brecken Jay, on Nov. 3, 2011. He was welcomed home by big brother Braden, 4.

Ashley Presler P’04
Omaha, Neb., and husband Justin, welcomed a daughter, Paisley Lynn, on Sept. 16, 2011.

Brooke Jones P’06
Sioux Falls, S.D., welcomed a son, Layken Carter, on March 22, 2011.

Lacy Wright RSTE’06
Lincoln, Neb., welcomed a baby boy, Henry, on May 11, 2011.

Jessica (Boro) Grosse PA’06
Omaha, Neb., welcomed a son, Jacob Michael, on March 19, 2011.

Elizabeth Hytrek N’06
Council Bluffs, Iowa, and her husband, Chris, welcomed their second baby, Allie Meredith, on Oct. 10, 2010.

Jade (Hicks) Malcolm N’06, ‘11
Gering, Neb., and her husband welcomed a son, Kellen Carter, on June 14, 2011. Kellen is welcomed by big brothers, Kaden and Carsten.

Leah (Klossen) Schardt P’07 and Gregory Schardt P’09
Omaha, Neb., welcomed a son, Holden Abraham, on April 9, 2011.

Rebecca Siecke PA’07
Omaha, Neb., welcomed a son, Holden Abraham, on April 9, 2011.

Jamie Blum PT’08
Manning, Iowa, welcomed a daughter, Annabelle, on Aug. 9, 2010.
Andrew Coughlin M’08
Galveston, Texas, and wife, Jennifer, welcomed twins, Claire Alice and Lucas William, on July 29, 2011.

Rachel Christensen N’09
Kearney, Neb., and her husband, Matt, welcomed a daughter, Daenic JoLee, on March 3, 2011.

Deborah Repaskey M’09
Tampa, Fla., and husband Matt welcomed a baby girl, Selah Rose, on Sept. 27, 2010.

Maggie Condon-Carson RSTE’10
North Platte, Neb., and her husband, John, welcomed a son, Crayton John, in Dec. 2011.

Marriages

• Donald H. Wahl M’59
  Modesto, Calif., married Joan Nicholson on Sept. 11, 2011.

• Eddie J. Pierce M’84
  Minden, Neb., married Jane Elizabeth Pierce on June 4, 2011.

• Melissa Stade M’02

• Paige Lindstedt N’95
  Lincoln, Neb., married John Sweeney on July 16, 2011.

• Allison Shuman N’01

Angela Thorberg RSTE ’03
Lincoln, Neb., married Edward Arnold on June 11, 2011.

Trisha Madsen N’04
Olathe, Kan., married Shane Ulick on May 28, 2011.

• Floyd Jordan Colwell N’09 and Tiann M. Allsion N’09
  Alliance, Neb., were married Sept. 3, 2011.

John Nesiba D’09 and Pota A. Rakes D’08
Royal Oaks, Minn., were married Sept. 10, 2011.

Mark Griffiths D’10 and Kaylene Harms D’11
Crawford, Neb., were married June 11, 2011.

Robert Dahlquist M’11
Charlotte, N.C., married Lindsey Willis on Nov. 5, 2011.

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519

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University of Nebraska Foundation
Years ago, on a cold, icy day, a teenager who had yet to master winter driving, skidded into the mailbox outside the house belonging to Maurice Godfrey, Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics for UNMC and the Munroe-Meyer Institute.

Imagine the moment, the panic: What do I do now?

The young man gathered his courage, walked to the door, took a deep breath and rang the bell.

Jason Cisler apologized for the accident and promised restitution. Dr. Godfrey was impressed with the boy’s integrity and instantly forgave him.

But, the story continues. Dr. Godfrey took the high school student into his lab, then into his life. Inspired by working with his new mentor, Jason went to college, then medical school at UNMC. They co-authored several papers together.

Dr. Godfrey said one of his sons was inspired by Jason to become a physician. “He was like a big brother for my children.”

Today, the teenager who hit the mailbox in 1990 practices at Midwest Gastrointestinal Associates in Omaha.

This story of fate, compassion and creativity could have ended much differently, but for the integrity of these two people who went out of their way to do the right thing. The story appeared in print in February 1992 and inspired others in the community to send Jason money to help pay for college.

But, it also inspired Dr. Godfrey in ways he never expected.

“I saw the power of mentoring,” Dr. Godfrey said, “and the potential that’s unlocked when you give a chance to students who others might have written off.”

Today, his personal mission is to find teens who, like Jason, need someone to spark their interest in science.

Since 2005, he has been the principal investigator of a Science Education Partnership Award grant, funded by the National Center for Research Resources, a division of the National Institutes of Health. The purpose of the grant is to strengthen the math and science curriculum of American Indian youths living on reservations and in urban areas in Nebraska and South Dakota.

“You never know. You might inspire someone,” Dr. Godfrey said, “the way Jason inspired me.”
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