



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER
Breakthroughs for life.

UNMC Connect[®]

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS



**THE FRED & PAMELA BUFFETT CANCER CENTER:
AN INTERNATIONAL BEACON OF LIGHT**

SUMMER

2013

(chancellor's perspective)

The passion of giving

UNMC's momentum is driven by the curiosity, doggedness and dedication of our researchers, educators, students and staff. But it is also driven by something else: the passion of UNMC's dedicated donors.

In recent months, I have had the privilege of presiding over two groundbreakings — for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, and for the Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education and Center for Drug Discovery; a grand opening — for the Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute; and a ribbon-cutting for the Mary and Dick Holland Regenerative Medicine Program. During my tenure as chancellor, it has been my honor to have overseen more than a dozen such groundbreakings, as our campus has continued its ascent toward becoming a world-class academic health sciences center.

While I myself am understandably excited and proud at these momentous occasions, my role as emcee offers an additional treat. From my vantage point at the podium, I am the only one able to look out into the audience to see the pride and joy evident on the faces of those who helped us get here.

They are not excited to have their names put on buildings — although it was touching to see the emotional reaction of Mike Yanney and his wife Gail Walling Yanney, M.D., at the surprise announcement that a conference center in the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center will be named in their honor.

Our donors don't merely sign checks. They sign on. They share our vision for the future of the medical center, and they become a part of our team.

They know that we couldn't have done this without them, but also, that we have done it together.

And so, it was especially gratifying to see the joy, radiance and pride evident in our donors and their families at the recent dedications of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, the Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education and Center for Drug Discovery, the Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute, and the Mary and Dick Holland Regenerative Medicine Program.

But I see these expressions in more than just the faces in the first and second rows. One does not need to be a lead donor in order to feel this passion or share our vision. Our own medical center employees showed this when they raised more than \$315,000 for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center with gifts large and small.

We are able to do what we do thanks to the contributions of visionary people who are very generous with their hard-earned monies. They want us to do great things for Nebraska. We have and we will, together.



Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
UNMC Chancellor

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UNMC is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA) and enjoys full accreditation of all its professional academic programs.

UNMC's mission is to improve the health of Nebraska through premier educational programs, innovative research, the highest quality patient care and outreach to underserved populations.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center does not discriminate in its academic, employment or admissions programs, and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to same.

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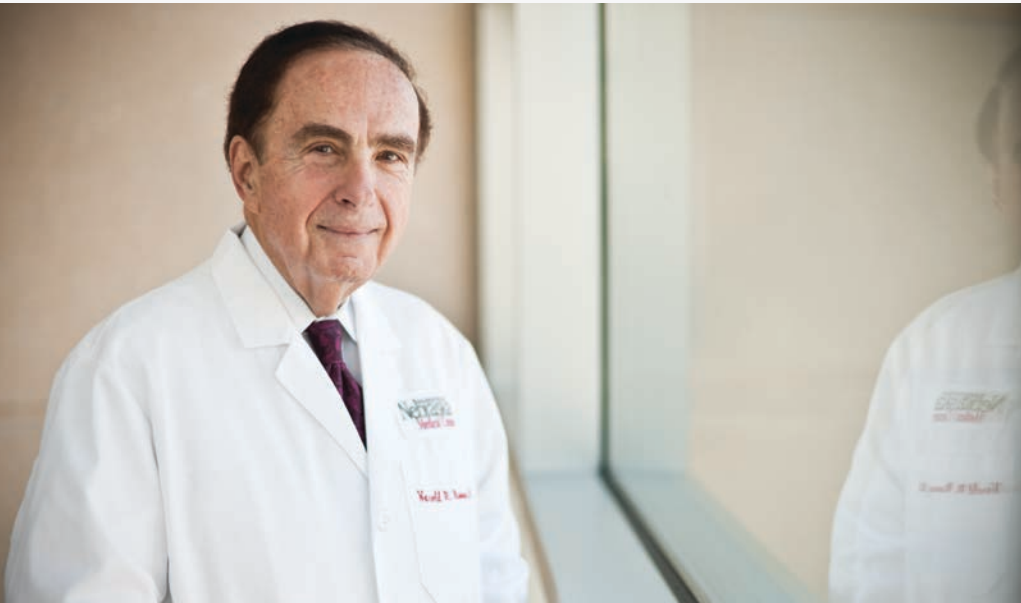
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- OCT. 7 - 11**
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Omaha
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8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Women's Health and Wellness Conference
La Vista Conference Center
(402) 559-6345
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Alumni Reunion
Colleges of Medicine, Nursing & Pharmacy
UNMC campus, Omaha, Neb.
- FEB. 7, 2014**
Children's Dental Day
UNMC College of Dentistry
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2014 Nebraska Science Festival
nescifest.com

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Science Festival returns in 2014

Get ready to love science. The Nebraska Science Festival returns in 2014 — April 24-27 to be exact.

Last year's inaugural festival wowed kids of all ages with Bill Nye's discussion of climate change, sundials and new ways to store energy. More than 2,000 people filled the Durham Museum during a two-day Science Expo that featured the Dancing Scientist, along with hair-raising lessons on static electricity, magnified zebrafish embryos and a gravity operated paintbrush.

Elsewhere, the three-day festival featured an array of science and technology-related activities across the Omaha area from charcuterie and dinosaurs to art and astronauts — at City Sprouts Community Garden, Film Streams at the Ruth



Bill Randby, KETV, Channel 7 weatherman, explains weather patterns to children at the Nebraska Science Festival.

Sokolof Theater, Fontenelle Forest, the French Bulldog, Hot Shops, Joslyn Art Museum, Lauritzen Gardens, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, Strategic Air & Space Museum and the UNMC College of Dentistry.

The 2014 festival, to be presented again by UNMC, will expand to four days and extend programming into Lincoln as it gradually builds toward being a statewide celebration.



View photos and a video from the inaugural Science Festival Expo. Stay informed via the website, Facebook and Twitter. unmc.edu/connect

College of Dentistry dean to step down in 2014

John Reinhardt, D.D.S., who has served as dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry for 13 years, will step down from his post on June 30, 2014.

"It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as dean since 2000, and now it is time for someone new to guide the College of Dentistry to ever higher levels of achievement," Dr. Reinhardt said.

"Under John's leadership, the College of Dentistry has continued to attract and educate the best dental students in the nation," said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. "In addition, national research funding in the college has risen dramatically, and the college has provided dental care to many underserved individuals across the state."

Dr. Reinhardt said several reasons led to his decision to step down as dean. He noted his tenure, which will be 14 years, is lengthy for a dean. Also, the college surpassed its \$12 million fund-raising goal as part of the Campaign for Nebraska



John Reinhardt, D.D.S.

more than two years ahead of schedule and numerous renovation projects to the college's clinical areas are concluding. That modernization of clinics was part of more than \$15 million in facility improvements that took place under Dr. Reinhardt's watch.

Dr. Reinhardt plans to assume faculty duties once he steps down from the dean's position.



Read more about Dr. Reinhardt's accomplishments during his tenure as dean. unmc.edu/connect

Legislature votes to fund College of Nursing facility

There will be a new facility for the Lincoln division of the College of Nursing, after all. The Legislature's Appropriations Committee recommended an override of Gov. Dave Heineman's veto of funding for the new facility. In May, the Legislature voted 34-5 to override the veto.

In all, the Legislature appropriated \$12 million toward construction of the Lincoln facility. An additional \$5.5 million in private support and other funding will be necessary to build the facility. The new facility will provide space for expanded educational and research programming to prepare additional nurses, nurse practitioners and faculty members.

"We could not be more grateful to the senators who supported this initiative," said Bob Barte, UNMC vice chancellor for external affairs. "This project will help to alleviate future shortages of nurses, particularly in southeastern Nebraska, improving the collective health of citizens throughout this region and beyond."

University of Nebraska announces finalists for UNMC chancellor position

Three candidates are vying for the role of UNMC chancellor.

"I'm pleased that this position has attracted such a talented pool of candidates — individuals who are leaders in health science teaching, research and patient care," said NU President James B. Milliken.

Following a national search, the following finalists visited campus in June and July:

- Fred Meyers, M.D., executive associate dean of the School of Medicine at the University of California, Davis
- Daniel Wilson, M.D., Ph.D., vice president for health affairs and dean of medicine at the University of Florida Health Science Center in Jacksonville
- Robert Calif, M.D., vice chancellor for clinical research and director of the Duke Translational Medicine Institute at Duke University Medical Center

The fourth candidate - Stephen Klasko, M.D., dean of the Morsani College of Medicine and CEO of the Health Sciences Center at the University of South Florida — later withdrew his name from the search.

In June, Milliken asked UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., who had announced his intention to step down June 30, to remain in his current role while the university's search for his successor wraps up. Dr. Maurer, who has served as chancellor since 1998, will move to a new fundraising role at the University of Nebraska Foundation.

MMI program expands behavioral health screenings for children

A new law pushes Nebraska to the forefront of states providing behavioral health services for children in rural areas. Legislative Bill 556 approves \$900,000 over two years for UNMC's Nebraska Behavioral Health Education Center and Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) to:

- Establish pilot programs in integrated primary care pediatric settings for behavioral health screenings and treatment; and
- Triage behavioral health consultation to UNMC specialists for children who are most in need.

Referrals for the screenings will come from parents, schools with parental permission, or physicians with parental permission. Pilot programs will be run in three of MMI's 17 outstate clinics.

"These three trial sites will provide us with enough data to determine if the screening programs are effective and can be replicated in other areas of the state," said Joseph Evans, Ph.D., associate director of MMI.

The three locations have not yet been selected.

The new law is important, Dr. Evans said, because of a severe shortage of mental health professionals in rural Nebraska, especially those specializing in children. The pilot program, if successful, will help create access to behavioral health care for children in underserved counties.

Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium forms

Leaders from the Big Ten universities have kicked off the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium.

Launched this spring, the consortium will transform cancer research through collaborative oncology trials that leverage the scientific and clinical expertise of the Big Ten universities.

"The consortium will allow our physicians more options for new treatments for all types of cancers available for patients in the region," said Julie Vose, M.D., Neumann M. and Mildred E. Harris Professor and chief of the UNMC Division of Hematology/Oncology. "It also means that patients at the other cancer centers can participate in our clinical trials and our patients in other centers' clinical trials without having to travel for specific types of newer therapies and treatments."

The Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium creates a unique team-research culture in which cancer leaders collaborate with and mentor the research leaders of tomorrow. The consortium also provides junior faculty and fellows the opportunity to write, conduct and complete trials, which would not normally be done at a single institution or on a national level for young investigators.



See the list of universities and cancer centers comprise the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium.
unmc.edu/connect

Jane Meza, Ph.D., named interim dean of College of Public Health

Jane Meza, Ph.D., professor and chairwoman in the department of biostatistics, has been named interim dean of the College of Public Health effective Sept. 1.

In making the announcement, UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., said: "Jane is highly regarded by the faculty in the

college and on campus. She is well known nationally in her field. Her enthusiasm, sincerity, motivation, knowledge and leadership skills will continue to move the college forward during the interim period."

Dr. Meza, who also is director for the Center for Collaboration on Research, Design and

Analysis, joined UNMC in 2000 after receiving her Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.


She steps in for Ayman El-Mohandes, M.B.Ch., M.D., M.P.H., who, after four years at UNMC, will become dean of the School of Public Health at the City University of New York.

This spring, nine UNMC faculty members were honored for their exceptional teaching, mentoring and community service.



The University of Nebraska Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA)

Ed Vandenberg, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine, division of geriatrics and gerontology, is famous for his dramatic appearance in medieval knight's armor for a lecture on geriatric falls.


 Watch a video feature at unmc.edu/connect.

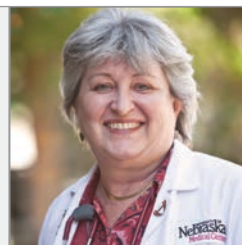


NU's Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA)

Thomas Porter, M.D.,

Hubbard Chair of Cardiology and professor of internal medicine, has been a prolific developer of new techniques, novel concepts and new inventions. He is widely recognized as a national leader in cardiac ultrasound and his innovative approaches have made it a means of delivering therapeutic interventions.


 Watch a video feature at unmc.edu/connect.



NU's Innovation, Development and Engagement Award (IDEA)

Susan Swindells,

M.B.B.S., the Terry K. Watanabe chairwoman for HIV/AIDS Research and Care, and professor of internal medicine, is a world-renowned researcher for HIV/AIDS. Dr. Swindells has been the primary mover behind all the changes in HIV clinical care for adults and children, research and education at UNMC.

 Watch a video feature at unmc.edu/connect.



UNMC Spirit of Community Service Award

Ruti Margalit, M.D., associate professor in the

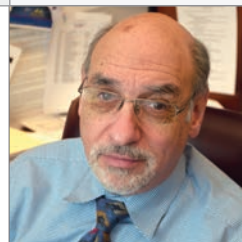
College of Public Health, founded and directs the Service Learning Academy — a program to help health professions students find the true meaning of service through authentic community engagement. Every year, more than 600 students work with inmates, war zone refugees, the homeless, victims of domestic violence and minority populations.



UNMC Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Graduate Students Award

Wallace Thoreson,

Ph.D., the Gilmore Professor and vice chairman for research in ophthalmology and visual sciences, encourages students to present new data at conferences, apply for external funding and publish results; whatever is necessary for his trainees to be successful.



UNMC Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Graduate Students Award

Irving H. Zucker,

Ph.D., professor and chairman of cellular and integrative physiology, is an internationally recognized cardiovascular researcher who is never too busy for his students. He attends every presentation, reads every abstract, critiques every poster, assists with every fellowship application and is never more than a phone call away.



UNMC Outstanding Teacher Award

Paul Dobesh, Pharm.D., associate professor, College of Pharmacy,

is so passionate and excited about teaching that students occasionally have to re-watch his lectures in order to catch everything he said. A national leader in cardiology and anticoagulation research, Dr. Dobesh imbues his passion to his students.



UNMC Outstanding Teacher Award

William Lyons, M.D., associate professor of geriatrics, finds that his

greatest reward of teaching comes from the opportunity to influence the next generation of health professionals, to not only help them acquire knowledge and skills, but to affect how they perceive their life's work.



UNMC Outstanding Teacher Award

Kendra Schmid, Ph.D., assistant professor, department

of biostatistics director, College of Public Health Masters Programs, excels in teaching a subject that many students find challenging and irrelevant. She is able to communicate the relevance and importance of biostatistics in education, careers and everyday life.

College of Dentistry

- More than 70 students, faculty and staff traveled to western Nebraska to provide dental care to underserved children as part of the Panhandle Children's Dental Day program May 31-June 1. This is the 10th year for the Panhandle program; 265 children were treated this year.
- More than 100 participants attended the third annual Dental Preceptor's Training Conference in June to learn about service-learning, interprofessional education and teledentistry. The event is funded through the COD's grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

College of Medicine

- The Next Accreditation System (NAS) — touted as the biggest change in the medical education of residents and fellows in the past 100 years — went into effect across the country in July with seven specialties: internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, neurosurgery, radiology, urology and orthopaedic surgery. By July 2014, all 23 medical specialties and their fellowships will have to implement the NAS. Physicians-in-training will be evaluated on tasks in six general competencies: patient care, medical knowledge, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvement, and system-based practice.
- With health care reform on the horizon, the College of Medicine and its health care partners are coming together as one coordinated team whose primary goal is to optimize the health of patients. A representative team of health care experts will define the necessary steps to accomplish this change. Education and research also will benefit.

College of Nursing

- UNMC's Lani Zimmerman, Ph.D.; Bunny Pozehl, Ph.D.; Myra Schmaderer and staff from St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Lincoln received a \$200,000 grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to study cognitive factors that influence successful discharge to the home. This will help tailor transitional care to reduce unnecessary readmissions and enhance quality of life.
- Jana Pressler, Ph.D., became assistant dean of the College of Nursing Lincoln Division on Aug. 1. An expert in neonatal nursing care and outcomes, she formerly was associate dean for graduate programs at East Carolina University College of Nursing.

College of Pharmacy

- Sixty-five students graduated from the College of Pharmacy on May 4. Of those, 42 percent (27) accepted professional opportunities in Nebraska, 37 percent (24) accepted positions out-of-state with 12 at community pharmacies and 12 at residencies, and 21 percent (14) are currently undecided/pursuing opportunities. The majority will work in community pharmacy settings, including two graduates taking on ownership responsibilities in Pender, Neb., at the Apothecary Shop and independent pharmacies in western Nebraska and eastern Colorado. Seventeen will be completing postdoctoral residencies throughout the United States.

College of Public Health

- The college received approval to form the Gamma Omicron chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society of Public Health. The Honorary Society has more than 14,000 members nationally that includes 17 new inductees from the alumni, faculty and friends of the college.
- The Hon. John J. Cavanaugh received the 2013 Chancellor Robert D. Sparks, MD, Award in Public Health and Preventive Medicine at the COPH Annual Awards Dinner.
- COPH will offer two new dual-degree programs, a Master of Business Administration/Master of Public Health with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a Juris Doctorate/Master of Public Health with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The programs will begin enrolling students for the fall.

Eppley Institute/Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

- In June, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved changing the name of the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center to the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. As a result, Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., is now director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, in addition to being director of the Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases.
- The first Peggy Wheelock Award For Excellence in Research, Mentoring and Promotion of Women in Science was presented in June to Jean Schwarzbauer, Ph.D., of Princeton University. Dr. Wheelock focused her research efforts on oral cancer, and was a member of the department of oral biology in the UNMC College of Dentistry until her death in 2009. She was closely associated with the Eppley Institute, mentoring graduate students and junior faculty.

- The Hanging H Ranch in the Sandhills of Nebraska was the setting for the 2013 Cattlemen's Ball, which raised \$2.12 million to support cancer research — shattering the event's previous record of \$1.49 million. Ninety percent of the proceeds will support cancer research at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center in Omaha. Ten percent of the proceeds will be distributed as grants to health and wellness organizations in the Paxton-Sutherland area. The 2014 Ball will be June 6-7 at the Hoot Owl Ranch in Harrisburg, Neb.

Munroe-Meyer Institute

- Shelley Smith, Ph.D., director of the developmental neuroscience department, was named the first-ever recipient of the Bruce A. Buehler, M.D. Professorship. Bob and Myrna Krohn established the professorship through a donation to the University of Nebraska Foundation. Dr. Buehler was the director of MMI from 1983 to 2007.
- More than 235 campers are registered for Camp Munroe, MMI's popular summer camp for children with developmental disabilities. Now, in its 31st year, the six-week recreational day camp also draws approximately 250 volunteers.
- Nearly 2,000 riders turned out in July for the fourth annual Owl Ride, Omaha's nighttime urban cycling adventure. The ride benefits the Meyer Foundation for Disabilities, which supports social and recreational programs for people with developmental disabilities in the Omaha metro area, including MMI.

School of Allied Health Professions

- Members of the Clinical Perfusion Education Class of 2013 are the champions of the Annual AmSECT Student Perfusion Bowl. AmSECT is the largest perfusion professional society in the world. All the perfusion schools in the U.S. participate in this event, which is similar to Jeopardy.
- Karen Honeycutt, assistant professor, was named the director of Clinical Laboratory Science.
- Pat Hageman, Ph.D., was honored with the inaugural Karen Linder Distinguished Professorship for Women's Health.
- Corrine Hanson, Ph.D., was awarded the inaugural M. Patricia and James W. Leuschen Professorship for the Advancement of Research in the Allied Health Professions.

An artist's rendering of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

SPRING BRINGS GROWTH TO UNMC



Donors and supporters, including from left: Amy Scott, Pamela Buffett, Gov. Dave Heineman, Susie Buffett, C.L. Werner and Rachel Werner, prepare for the ceremonial groundbreaking.



Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, talks to the media about the new center.



Susie Buffett and Pamela Buffett.



Gail Walling Yanney, M.D., and Michael Yanney are co-chairs of UNMC's \$500 million portion of the Campaign for Nebraska. They have been tireless in their efforts to raise private funds for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. They were surprised to learn that the Conference Center will be named in honor of their outstanding support of UNMC.

One building sprouted this spring and two more were planted in a series of unprecedented public and privately supported projects at the medical center — buildings that will put UNMC on the leading edge of patient care, education and research.

In a 10-week period from May to July, UNMC hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, a ribbon-cutting for the Mary and Dick Holland Regenerative Medicine Program and the grand opening of the Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute.

Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., who has now presided over groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings and dedications for 16 different buildings in his 15 years of leadership at UNMC, called the changes “transformational.”

The new \$323 million Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, the largest project ever at UNMC, was named in recognition of a gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation from Pamela Buffett, through her foundation, the Rebecca Susan Buffett Foundation. Pamela's husband, Fred “Fritz” Buffett, died in 1997 after fighting kidney cancer.

Omaha philanthropist Susie Buffett, representing Pamela Buffett, called the new center “an international beacon of light.”

“These patients will benefit from the research advances that will be developed here, as well as the outstanding patient care that will be delivered,” she said.

Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, said the center will integrate state-of-the-art cancer research with state-of-the-art cancer care.

The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center includes:

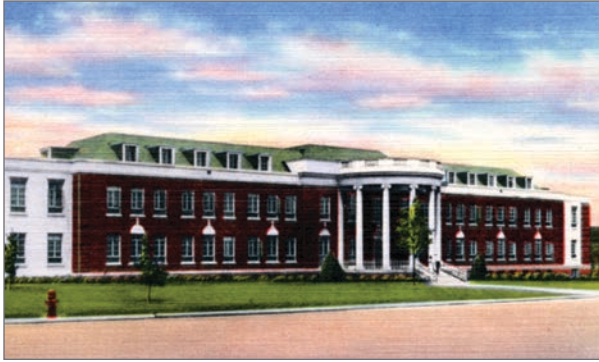
- a 10-story, 98-laboratory research tower named the Suzanne and Walter Scott Cancer Research Tower;
- a seven-story, 108-bed inpatient treatment center named the C.L. Werner Cancer Hospital; and
- a multidisciplinary outpatient center.

The project will create thousands of jobs citywide in construction and other industries. In addition, approximately 1,200 jobs will be needed at the medical center — each with an average salary of approximately \$70,000. In all, the project will provide 4,657 new jobs to the metro area, infusing \$537 million annually into the economy on an on-going basis. The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center will be ready for occupancy in 2017.



Learn more about the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. Press conference highlights. Pamela Buffett speaks about the center. Community members, others share thoughts on the center. Slideshow: The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center groundbreaking.

SWANSON HALL'S SWAN SONG by John Keenan



Swanson Hall was originally constructed as Children's Memorial Hospital in 1948.

 Read memories of Swanson Hall at unmc.edu/connect.

Swanson Hall was created as a place to save lives. Its demise will lay the groundwork to save even more.

Swanson Hall is being razed for construction of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center on the UNMC campus.

The building was many things to many people. For 33 years it was a place where young lives were saved, then for 32 more years it was home to the Swanson Center for Nutrition and UNMC offices and labs.

From Children's Memorial Hospital in 1948 to the Carl and

Caroline Swanson Hall in 1981, the building stirred memories for the 50 former and current Children's and UNMC staff members, as well as some former patients, who attended a May tribute.

"Even though this building will soon be demolished, the legacy of the good done here will continue for future generations," said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. "Most importantly, we will continue to do good work in this space, which will improve the lives of generations to come."

HOLLAND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE PROGRAM PROMOTES INNOVATIVE RESEARCH by John Keenan

Regenerative medicine — a research area that will dramatically impact health and change disease outcomes — got a big boost at UNMC with a gift from Mary and Dick Holland.

Calling himself "a living example of the need for regenerative medicine," Holland used humor at the July ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Mary and Dick Holland Regenerative Medicine Program on the sixth floor of the Durham Research Center II.

Nora Sarvetnick, Ph.D., director of the regenerative medicine program, called Holland a passionate believer in regenerative medicine and research and said his gift would greatly impact the program, improving recruitment efforts and strengthening key initiatives.

UNMC supporter Mike Yanney called Holland "the single greatest difference-maker this city has."

In the past several decades, Holland "has done a lot of things to change human lives," Yanney said, citing his support not only of UNMC, but of cultural and educational institutions.

"I've never seen anyone like Dick Holland, who does it with flair, who does it with a lot

of humor, and who never asks for anything in return," Yanney said.

UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., called Holland and his late wife, Mary,



Mary and Dick Holland

"the epitome of giving."
"Without Dick and Mary, UNMC would not be where it is today," he said. "They have supported construction of the Durham Research Centers, the Sorrell Center for Health Science Education, the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, and many others, including the College of Public Health. We could not be more grateful to Mary and Dick for the gift to this regenerative medicine program."

The regenerative medicine program brings together forward-thinking scientists and clinicians who are committed to understanding the basic science behind tissue engineering and development, Dr. Maurer said. The field

"the epitome of giving."

"Without Dick and Mary, UNMC would not be where it is today," he said. "They have supported construction of the Durham




Beverly Maurer, left, and Nora Sarvetnick, Ph.D., congratulate Dick Holland following the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the regenerative medicine program.

involves innovative approaches that will enable the body to repair, replace, restore and regenerate damaged or diseased cells, tissues and organs.

Holland said such programs are needed in medicine today.

"The ability to build organs and change lives is a great tool," Holland said. "I know this isn't going to be a cinch."

Dr. Sarvetnick will use the gift to recruit kidney, gastrointestinal and neural-cell experts. "We want to augment UNMC's strong clinical presence with basic science and bioengineering."

 See photos from the event at unmc.edu/connect.

INNOVATIVE EYE TREATMENTS THE GOAL AT NEW INSTITUTE

by Elizabeth Kumru & Lisa Spellman

The new Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute will be the center of translational research and clinical trials for eye diseases.

Retina and uveitis specialists Quan Dong Nguyen, M.D., and his wife, Diana Do, M.D., want patients from all over the world to know about the institute and to be referred here for their eye care.

“Our goal is to provide new and innovative treatments for eye diseases and bring hope to patients through this institute,” said Dr. Nguyen, chairman of ophthalmology and visual sciences and director of the Truhlsen Eye Institute.

From basic eye exams to complex treatments for specialized diseases, expert clinicians at the institute provide clinical care to patients in a state-of-the-art facility.

The clinic houses 50 exam rooms in 10 areas dedicated to eight subspecialties:

- cornea and cataract;
- comprehensive ophthalmology;
- optometry and contact lenses;
- oculofacial plastics;
- children’s eye care center;
- glaucoma;
- neuro-ophthalmology and uveitis; and
- retinal diseases.

Patients who come to the Truhlsen Eye Institute will receive care that combines the clinical expertise of specialized physicians with the innovative therapeutic options and better diagnostic equipment that only an academic medical center can provide.

“There is no need to go outside of Nebraska anymore,” Dr. Nguyen said. “We have it all here at the Truhlsen Eye Institute.”


Eye care experts in the Carl Camras Center for Innovative Clinical Trials offer patients cutting-edge, new therapeutic options for eye care — options not available elsewhere in the region. The center will provide the latest treatments for retinal diseases and anterior segment disorders.

Also, basic eye exams become even more convenient with a new expanded optical shop offering attractive frames, sunglasses and accessories to complement all faces and personalities.

The goal to improve eye care for patients in all areas of the region is becoming a reality with plans to hold subspecialty clinics in rural areas such as Grand Island, with telemedicine sessions for monitoring and follow-up care.

The Truhlsen Eye Institute is expected to attract patients from all areas of the state. Certain subspecialty care like Dr. Nguyen’s expertise in uveitis and ocular inflammation is an example of something that has not been available up to this point.

“Previously, patients had to travel a long distance to get this type of care,” Dr. Nguyen said.

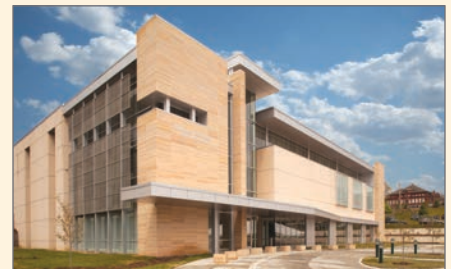
The institute is named after legendary Omaha ophthalmologist Stanley M. Truhlsen, M.D., who has been affiliated with UNMC for more than 40 years and made the lead gift on the facility. Dr. Truhlsen, 92, is active in numerous national ophthalmology organizations. 



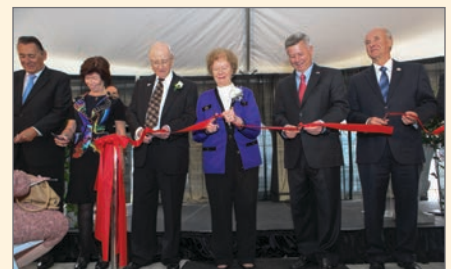
Quan Dong Nguyen, M.D., and his wife, Diana Do, M.D. Dr. Nguyen is the chairman of ophthalmology and visual sciences and director of the Truhlsen Eye Institute. Dr. Do is vice chairwoman for education, director of residency training and director of the Carl Camras Center for Innovative Clinical Trials in Ophthalmology.



An exam room



The Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute



From left, Charles Fritch, M.D., Judith Fritch, Stanley M. Truhlsen, M.D., Dorothy Truhlsen, Gov. Dave Heineman and former Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle.



The children of Dr. Stanley M. Truhlsen and the late Ruth Truhlsen gave a joint gift that establishes the Ruth H. Truhlsen Educational Center. From left, William C. Truhlsen, Barbara Truhlsen Mitchell, Nancy Truhlsen Brager and Stanley M. Truhlsen Jr.



Representing the Williamsons were Ann and Loren Harris. Ann, standing with her husband, is the niece of the late Alice Williamson. Alice and Robert Williamson’s gift was given in honor of Thomas Hejkal, M.D., Ph.D., who helped Alice Williamson maintain her vision. The atrium extends to the facility’s three levels.



A floor is dedicated to donors Marshall and Mona Faith. It was her experience with macular degeneration that ignited a passion to invest in a local institute for the treatment of ocular disease.

Health policy expert is in the house

by Elizabeth Kumru

A minimalist by nature, Jim Stimpson, Ph.D., occupies an office with no papers on the desk, no pictures on the walls.

Dr. Stimpson, director of the Center for Health Policy in the College of Public Health, prefers the stark, zen look. There's nothing to distract his mind as it races to find innovative and sustainable interventions that will benefit public health.

Public health policies help keep the general population safe and healthy. Today we enjoy clean air, water and food, child vaccinations and seat belts thanks to public health policies that have become law.

Dr. Stimpson is a reflection of his office — he is precise, objective and logical in his thought process and in the way he conducts research. His vision is to build the center into a vital resource for decision makers who seek policy solutions that will improve the health of Nebraskans.

His work will help define the future and he's well on his way.

Just over a year old, the center has released 14 reports that cover such wide-ranging state and national public health policies as access to care, provider shortages and impaired driving laws.

But, most of his attention has been on the Affordable Care Act, or ACA — the new health care law of the land.

At age 39, Dr. Stimpson is perhaps one of the youngest in the state who understands the ACA.

He understands it because he's read it, cover to cover — all nine titles, 487 sections and 418,779 words.

"It's shorter than the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, but not as riveting," he said.

President Barack Obama's health care law is the most significant government expansion and regulatory overhaul of the U.S. health care system since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965.

The ACA is primarily administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which establishes rules and guidelines. New developments occur daily and, to stay current, Dr. Stimpson spends at least one hour a day reading all the updates.


"Uninsured people now have limited options to access care and often wait until their illness is serious and then go to the emergency room. If they had insurance, then they would have better access to preventive and primary care, which would be less costly. Which is more efficient? Paying to provide citizens with basic insurance or paying higher private insurance premiums because of uncompensated care in the emergency room?"

To make the ACA more understandable, Dr. Stimpson posts updates and information on a blog. Posts range from the top five things you



Jim Stimpson, Ph.D.

should know about health reform to a study that shows major disparities for Latinos and immigrants in Nebraska and Iowa.

"The most frustrating thing for me is all the misinformation and lack of information out there. But, what excites me about this law is that it begs a vast number of research questions. I'm excited by the challenge of unraveling the complexity of the law and informing people about how it will impact them." 

Contact the Center

The Center for Health Policy contracts with businesses and non-profits to research issues that are relevant to organizational success.

Among the areas of expertise are: impaired driving prevention, health care access, health care workforce shortage and health insurance coverage in Nebraska. Learn more: call Dr. Jim Stimpson at (402) 559-5260.



Read Dr. Jim Stimpson's blog.
Visit the Center's website.
Visit the federal resource for the ACA.
unmc.edu/connect

FULFILLING A DREAM

by John Keenan

T. PAUL TRAN, M.D., HAD A DREAM.

UNMC's emergency department research director, who died in 2012, planned to return to his native Vietnam to teach the U.S. approach to graduate medical education. He was going to improve patient care through better education in the region where he was born. He was going to make a difference.

"Paul dreamed of fostering closer academic collaborations in medicine between his birth country of Vietnam and the United States," said his wife, Christine Nguyen.

Dr. Tran also had friends, many of them. They admired his compassion, his knowledge, his commitment to medicine and his drive. They appreciated all he had done for UNMC, all he had done for his students and his colleagues.

That is why, nearly a year after Dr. Tran passed away, his friends and colleagues in the

department of emergency medicine are bringing his dream to life — pleased that they have a chance to see Dr. Tran's project to fruition.

In April, Michael Wadman, M.D., and his colleagues received notice that they were awarded a \$33,515 Vietnam Education Foundation/U.S. Faculty Scholar Program grant — the very grant that Dr. Tran had received, and which had to be withdrawn following his death.

Beyond Dr. Wadman, the project involves UNMC emergency medicine team members Thang Nguyen, clinical research nurse; Robert Muelleman, M.D., chairman of the department; Wesley Zeger, D.O., clinical director; Alisa Seidler, administrative operations lead for the department; and Laura Robinson, administrator for the department. Seidler and Robinson will not be part of the travel team.

"We reworked the grant and submitted it early last year," Dr. Wadman said. "We are

now making plans for two trips to Vietnam late this summer and fall."

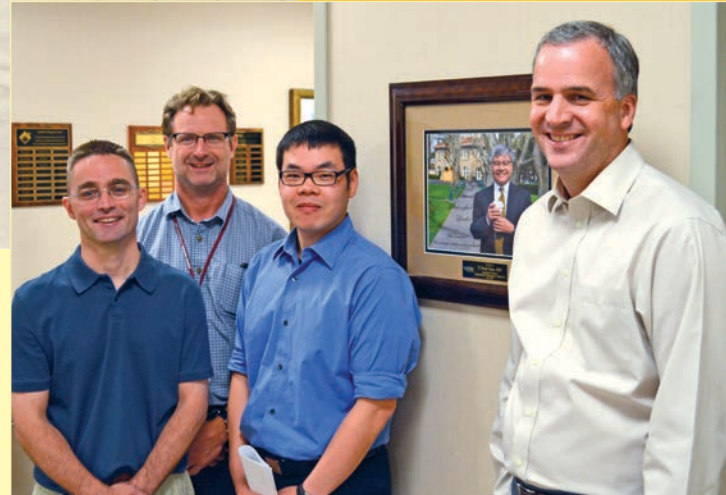
The project is essentially what Dr. Tran had envisioned. In addition to the two trips, UNMC faculty will participate in teleconferences with emergency physicians from Thai Binh Medical University, the Vietnamese partnering institution, between the visits and on an ongoing basis after the project is completed.

Although he lived most of his life in the United States, Dr. Tran felt his Vietnamese heritage and upbringing had shaped his life, Christine Nguyen said.

"Paul's parents were born in Thai Binh (a coastal eastern province of northern Vietnam), and despite the separation in time and space, Paul never forgot his ancestral town," she said. "After Paul and I made a trip to Thai Binh in 1998, Paul yearned to return and share what he had learned throughout his medical career.



Dr. Paul Tran visiting a patient in an emergency room in Vietnam.



Team members going to Vietnam are, from left, Wesley Zeger, D.O.; Robert Muellemann, M.D.; Thang Nguyen and Michael Wadman, M.D.

“Paul wished to dedicate his life to leaving the world a better place.”

UNMC’s Department of Emergency Medicine founded the first emergency medicine residency program in Nebraska, and the lessons learned in that effort will help Thai Binh Medical University incorporate effective educational methods in graduate medical education, Dr. Wadman said.

“But we also will perform a needs assessment so that the tools and techniques we introduce fit well with their clinical environment,” he added.

After discovering which patient presentations are common and most critical for the region, the team will present the emergency medicine diagnostic approach, as well as focus on stabilization and initial treatment, including procedural skills.

“Airway management techniques, vascular access techniques and ultrasound for procedural guidance and bedside diagnostic purposes will make up the core of the procedural skills component,” Dr. Wadman said. “In the end, we are likely to learn quite a bit from our hosts, and this will allow us to tailor Graduate Medical Education residency and fellowship programs to our partner program in Vietnam.

“We may even learn some things that will help us here in our program, especially since we train residents that end up practicing in rural emergency departments without much back up,” he said.

“This was a well-thought-out project by Paul,” Dr. Wadman said. “It’s definitely a worthwhile project – but more than that, it was Paul’s dream.”

After Dr. Tran became ill, Dr. Wadman promised his friend that the department Dr. Tran had helped found would carry out the project.


“We talked a lot about this,” Dr. Wadman said. “We had to change some things – you can’t replace Paul – but it is entirely based on Paul’s idea.”

Dr. Tran wanted the people from his region of Vietnam to benefit from what he had learned in his career and at UNMC, Dr. Wadman said.

“He mentioned several times that this was what his career was all about – giving back to his students, residents and the community.”

Christine Nguyen said she and her daughters are touched by the efforts of Dr. Tran’s colleagues.

“Last year, my daughters and I were devastated to learn that the Vietnam Education Foundation had withdrawn the grant Paul received,” she said. “We are grateful to the team . . . for restoring the project’s grant and ensuring that Paul’s efforts weren’t in vain. We are touched that Paul will be remembered by his desire to improve medicine and education in his ancestral town.”

“We are all motivated to do this,” Dr. Wadman said. “It meant a lot to Paul – and it means a lot to the department.” 

POWER WHEELS TO MAKESHIFT POWER WHEELCHAIRS

by Nicole Lindquist

The idea to modify cars is not new. Just look at reality shows like “Trick My Truck.” But the concept of adapting toy cars for children with disabilities? Now, that’s novel.

That’s exactly what happened at UNMC’s Center for Healthy Living this spring. Fifty area physical therapists broke out the power tools and listened to national early mobility expert Cole Galloway, Ph.D., from the University of Delaware, teach them how to turn “Power Wheels” into early versions of power wheelchairs.

First, they ripped off the steering wheels of six toy trucks and attached big red buttons in their place. Then, they added kill switches by drilling holes into the plastic near the license plates. Next, they added padded PVC pipe frames and finally, seatbelts. Last but not least, decal stickers made the Larry the Cable Guy character car come to life.

The cost: \$89 for each car, plus supplies. The cost for a power wheelchair: somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5,000 to \$20,000.

“Most adaptive equipment is considered medical equipment, therefore they don’t sell very many and it drives up the cost,” said Reggie Harbourne, Ph.D., associate professor of physical therapy at UNMC’s Munroe-Meyer Institute and organizer of the workshop. “This is so easy, what do we have to lose?”



Brad Corr, physical therapist at UNMC’s Munroe-Meyer Institute, makes further modifications to Brandon McFarland’s toy car. At 11 months, Brandon was the youngest child to try out the adaptive cars, but Dr. Galloway said he’s had children as young as 4 months give them a test drive.

“IT’S A LOT OF NEW INFORMATION. THE NOISE, THE SPEED, AND FOR SOME IT MAY BE THE FIRST TIME THEY’VE EVER CAUSED SOMETHING TO GO.”

REGGIE HARBOURNE, PH.D.



Josie Baker had fun test driving her adaptive car, while others were a bit more nervous. “They do tend to cry the first couple times,” said Reggie Harbourne, Ph.D., organizer of the event.



National early mobility expert Cole Galloway, Ph.D., from the University of Delaware, instructed 50 physical therapists on how to adapt toy cars for children with disabilities at a recent workshop at UNMC.

Physical therapists spent about an hour transforming the toy cars. Finally, the big moment: putting kids behind the wheel for a test drive.

First up was 3-year-old Tyler Lundy, who has cerebral palsy. Much like a 16-year-old trying to operate a stick shift, his driving was herky-jerky at best. After a few tries, he put the red button to the floor and cruised around the gym at three miles per hour. Just when his parents saw their son growing up before their eyes, the car stopped abruptly. Tyler was crying. He couldn’t see his mom anymore.

“They do tend to cry the first couple times,” Dr. Harbourne said. “It’s a lot of new information. The noise, the speed, and for some it may be the first time they’ve ever caused something to go.”

Next up was Brandon. At just 11 months, he was the smallest of the children to try out the truck. Born prematurely, he is still learning to roll over. While an initial smile crossed his lips when he hit the gas, it wasn’t long before he, too, was in tears.

His face said it all: “Where’s my mom?”

The access to mobility for children who can’t move on their own is beneficial in two ways, Dr. Harbourne said. It allows them to control their environment and to socialize. Just like adults who get something new and want to show it off to their friends, kids clamor to get close to TowMater or Mater, as he’s known in the movie.


“Other kids Tyler’s age normally don’t want his toy; nobody wants a stroller. But with this, they’ll come talk to him, and he can work

on his social and language skills, too,” Dr. Harbourne said.

Without mobility, kids with disabilities don’t have much of a chance to create cause and effect, which helps them understand concepts like over, under, around and through.

“If children don’t have the motor capacity to do things they cause the effect of, it can lead to delays in others area, like cognition or language. They don’t learn by watching others do things,” Dr. Harbourne said.

Tyler got the “cause and effect” message loud and clear. His parents were excited for him to take the car home.

“This is a great way for him to keep up with his peers,” said his mom, Jennifer. “Just like any typical boy...he loves to go fast.” 



Learn more about
Dr. Galloway’s work.
unmc.edu/connect

SEE ONE, DO ONE, TEACH ONE?



JAMES SULLIVAN, M.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ANESTHESIOLOGY;
JENNIFER ADAMS, M.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ANESTHESIOLOGY;
AND CHANDRA ARE, M.B.B.S., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SURGICAL
ONCOLOGY, DEMONSTRATE THE SURGICAL SIMULATION SUITE
CAPABILITIES DURING THE DEDICATION CEREMONY.

NOT ANYMORE.

by John Keenan



Instruction of the next generation of surgeons just became more high-tech with the June opening of the Dr. Wayne and Eileen Ryan Surgical Simulation Suite.

The new facility simulates what happens in a modern operating room and features high-tech mannequins and an audio-visual retrieval system that allows students and teachers to enhance learning by reviewing training sessions.

Patti Carstens, program manager in the clinical skills center, said the room was built to be flexible for future technological advances. "We're probably never going to get a donation like this again."


The suite was made possible by a \$1 million gift from Wayne Ryan, Ph.D., and his late wife Eileen. Dr. Ryan, chairman, CEO and founder of Streck Labs, is a former biochemistry and research associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the UNMC College of Medicine.

"There's only one place I know that even comes close to what they have and that's Mayo Clinic, but I don't think theirs is nearly as sophisticated as this one," Dr. Ryan said.

Modeled after the simulation center at the Mayo Clinic, the surgical suite is the most technologically advanced in the country and will allow UNMC to become a regional training and testing site for medical students. Only one-third of all medical schools in the United States have a simulation center.

Through a partnership agreement, the facility also will be used by students and faculty at Creighton University Medical School.

"The field of surgery has changed," said Chandra Are, M.B.B.S., associate professor, surgical oncology. "We've seen more changes in the past 20 years than in the 100 previous years.

"We can now see many procedures and do many before we ever do one on a real patient," he said. 



Wayne Ryan, Ph.D., at the Dr. Wayne and Eileen Ryan Surgical Suite.



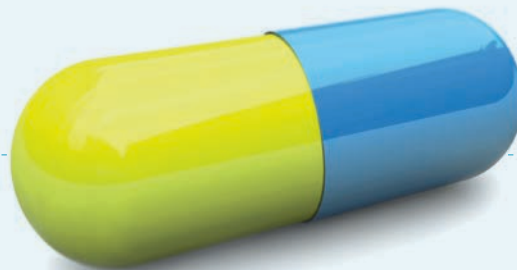
See KETV coverage of the event.
See photos from the event.
unmc.edu/connect

Antidepressants reduce depression in head and neck cancer patients



UNMC STUDY COULD CHANGE GUIDELINES FOR TREATING THESE CANCERS

by Tom O'Connor



A UNMC study has determined that giving head and neck cancer patients an antidepressant prior to treatment can reduce the incidence of depression by more than 50 percent and improve their quality of life.

Results of the study were reported in the June 20 issue of *JAMA Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery*. Co-principal investigators on the study were William Lydiatt, M.D., otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, and William Burke, M.D., psychiatry.

The randomized, double-blind trial included 148 newly diagnosed head and neck cancer patients entering treatment who did not yet have a diagnosis of depression.

Half the patients received escitalopram, an antidepressant with the trade name of Lexapro. The other half received matching placebo pills.

Patients received one 10 mg tablet daily for the first week then took two tablets daily until week 16, followed by an additional week

of one tablet daily. During the acute phase of the study, dosage was reduced to one tablet per day when adverse events occurred.

Only 10 percent of patients taking the antidepressant developed depression compared to 24.6 percent of patients on the placebo. In addition, patients who took the antidepressant and completed the study without developing depression rated their overall quality of life as significantly better than those in the placebo group for three



William Burke, M.D.



William Lydiatt, M.D.

consecutive months after ending treatment with the antidepressant.

"We think this has the potential to change the treatment guidelines for head and neck cancer patients," said Dr. Burke, who noted that this was the first study to ever address the issue of depression in cancer patients. "It's extraordinary that you can prevent depression by taking a pill.

"It's important that cancer patients avoid becoming depressed. We think that the antidepressant medication is helping to improve the resiliency of these patients who are in a stressful and challenging position. Overall, this improved resiliency can help them better deal with their cancer situation."

Dr. Lydiatt said head and neck cancer patients have a three times greater risk of committing suicide than the general public.

He said head and neck cancers represent about 4 percent of all cancers. Those that

are related to the human papilloma virus — a growing percentage — tend to happen to younger, healthier people and thus can have a more long-term negative effect on them.


"It's a controversial idea to put someone on an antidepressant who isn't depressed," said Dr. Lydiatt, "but if you go to the prevention paradigm, it's not much different than healthy people taking a baby aspirin to ward off a possible heart attack."

Another finding of the study was that patients who received radiation as their primary treatment modality had a higher rate of depression than those patients who underwent surgery.

Radiation produces inflammatory cytokines, he said, and these cytokines can result in patients experiencing something like a posttraumatic stress disorder. On the other hand, surgery typically results in more immediate improvement in patients.

Typically, head and neck cancer patients would undergo 35 radiation treatments over a seven-week period, Dr. Lydiatt said.

Half the patients were treated at The Nebraska Medical Center, and half were treated at Methodist Hospital. The results confirmed a 2008 pilot study conducted by the same UNMC group that looked at a smaller number of patients.

Through Campaign for Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities, UNMC and the University of Nebraska Foundation are raising private support for cancer research programs at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. To learn more, contact Tom Thompson at 402-502-4116 or tthompson@nufoundation.org. 



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MEDICAL STUDENT HAS ROOTS IN NEBRASKA SOIL

by Kalani Simpson

Wes Whitten, M.D., with wife Kari and son Winston, sticks to his roots.

Over hours on a tractor, the stress and strife of med school seem to melt away.

Some have their bubble bath. He has his alfalfa patch.

Wes Whitten grew up farming and ranching near Overton, Neb. During his second year of undergrad he saw an opportunity. An older gentleman in town was selling some land. Wes qualified for a loan.

"I got in just before land values about tripled," he said.

And over four years of medical school at UNMC, he farmed.

Farming as a part-time job? He can make it work because it's a summer crop. He tends 125 pivot-irrigated acres near Overton. He plants, cuts, rakes, bales, stacks and delivers. Over the past four years he's lived the stressful life of a medical student, part of the College of Medicine's class of 2013.

But in those hours on that tractor, he's at peace.

The cross-country trip, driving those alfalfa bales down to Texas, to sell - what does he think about as those miles roll by?

"Everything," he said. "And nothing at all."

This is his release.

The farming helped him pay for med school. He enjoys the business side of it, too.

"It's been a good investment," he said.

A lot of doctors back home are businessmen.

That's what he's going to do. He's going to be a farming doctor, and a doctor farmer. He's going to set up a side business and his own practice. And he's going to get out on the land.

He'll be out in the heat and the dust, the smell of freshly-mowed alfalfa in the air.

Have you ever inhaled deep on a warm summer day? Nothing like it.


It smells like home.

At the College of Medicine's 2013 Match Day, he and wife Kari walked up to the podium to the country tune of having come from a "map dot." They carried son Winston, just 6 weeks old.

Then they ripped the envelope and read the news. Then Wes and Kari donned hats that denoted their destination. Wake Forest?

Why not? He knows where he'll settle, where he'll plant and grow. Why not see another part of the world for a few years? Why not have one last adventure first?

Residency for new doctors is exhaustion and adrenaline and days without sleep. But Wes isn't worried.

He has that tractor waiting for him when he gets back. 

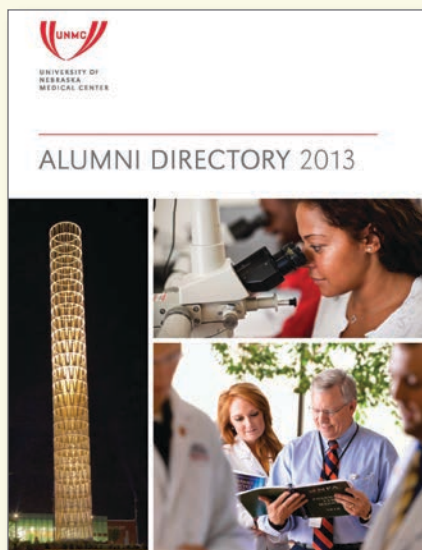
UNMC Alumni Directory Project Now Complete

Through a partnership with Publishing Concepts, Inc., the UNMC Alumni Relations Office has now completed the 2013 directory project.

After a short publication delay, the completed directories were delivered this summer to alumni who purchased a print and/or digital copy.

The directory project helped the UNMC Alumni Relations Office update alumni contact information and will serve as a valuable resource for those who purchased it. The last UNMC Alumni Directory project was completed in 2001.

"Thank you to everyone who participated in the directory project by updating their contact information and to those who purchased a copy," said Roxanna Jokela, director of the UNMC Alumni Relations Office. "We hope our alumni find the directory to be as valuable a resource as we do at UNMC."



Third Annual Showdown in O-Town

Now in its third year at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, the annual Showdown in O-Town, Creighton vs. Nebraska baseball game was on May 14. Alumni and friends from every UNMC college attended the event with a tailgate picnic dinner in the parking lot at the Old Mattress Factory, just a few blocks from the stadium. Guests enjoyed visits with old friends, seats behind home plate and a 12-9 Nebraska victory over Creighton.



UNMC alumni and guests enjoy burgers and brats prior to the Creighton vs. Nebraska baseball game at TD Ameritrade Park.

HOST Program Adds Cities in Second Year

The College of Medicine Alumni Association has expanded the Host our Students as they Travel (HOST) program to include an additional nine cities in its second year.

The program matches fourth-year medical students with alumni living in targeted cities around the country as the students embark on residency interviews. Alumni are asked to consider providing transportation, meals and/or lodging to

the student along with the opportunity to discuss the city and its medical community.

The new cities include: Seattle; Portland, Ore.; Charleston, S.C.; Oklahoma City; Dallas; San Antonio; Houston; Gainesville, Fla.; and Winston-Salem, N.C. A total of 23 cities are now part of the program.

To sign up to host a student, contact Alumni Relations at alumni@unmc.edu or call 888-725-8664.

Clinical Perfusion Education Program Forms New Alumni Chapter

The Clinical Perfusion Education Program is working with alumni relations on the beginning phases of a new Clinical Perfusion Education Alumni Chapter. The chapter sent its first membership solicitation and is seeking interested alums to serve on the inaugural board of directors. The new board will work with the alumni relations office and

clinical perfusion director David Holt, and will help establish a mission and goals for the chapter.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact Roxanna Jokela in the UNMC Alumni Relations Office at (402) 559-4378.

School of Allied Health Professions Presents Alumni Awards

On July 19-20, SAHP hosted its first all school reunion, Allies Assemble. The reunion had a great turnout with more than 150 alumni attending at least one reunion event. Activities included continuing education, social receptions, campus tours, the Heroes Luncheon honoring award recipients and the 75th anniversary celebration of the Clinical Laboratory Science Program.

The following alumni were recognized for their outstanding professional accomplishments at the reunion.



SAHP reunion honorees received their awards on Saturday, July 20 at the all school Heroes Luncheon at the Truhlsen Campus Events Center.

PROFESSION	AWARD	RECIPIENT
Radiation Science Technology Education Alumni Chapter	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Carol (Farha) McGlade, BS, RT, (R) (QM), '81, '82
Physician Assistant Alumni Chapter	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Roger Wells, PA-C '87
Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Gilbert M. Willett, PT, PhD, OCS, CSCS (PT '87)
Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Connie Ryan '74 Judith Thompson Weeks '70
Medical Nutrition Program	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Kevin Haubrick MS, RD, LD '97
Cytotechnology Program	Early Career Achievement Award	Maheswari Mukherjee, PhD, MS, CT (ASCP) '10
Clinical Perfusion Program	Distinguished Alumnus Award	Ben Greenfield MPS, LP '03



Read full biographies of these award winners' accomplishments, and view more pictures from the reunion at unmc.edu/connect.

PA Alumni Chapter Hosts Reception at National Meeting

The UNMC Physician Assistant Alumni Chapter co-hosted a reception for physician assistants with Nebraska ties at the American Academy of Physician Assistants annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 26. Co-hosts included the Union College Physician Assistant Program and the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants. The reception welcomed UNMC alumni, Union College alumni, and any physician assistant educated or living in Nebraska. The event is planned every other year to coincide with the national meeting of physician assistants, which draws attendees from around the country.



Jeanne Bird PA'98, Darwin Brown PA'86, Alexa Grzywa PA'12 and Tom Grothe PA'85 reconnect in Washington, D.C.

Medicine

• Gordon Adams M'56

Norfolk, Neb., has been retired from medical practice since 2002 and was mayor of Norfolk until 2008. He now enjoys full retirement.

• Dean Smernoff M'57

Denver, Colo., as a Korean War veteran, went on a revisit program to South Korea with his son. He served in the 11th Evacuation Hospital.

• Maurice Mathews M'59

Saint Paul, Neb., is a black walnut grower at a co-op in Valparaiso, Neb. They sell nutcrackers and walnuts using locally produced shell and nutmeats.

• Thomas Largen M'64

Hamburg, Iowa, retired Jan. 1, after 45 years of medical practice.

• Eugene Regier M'65

Canton, S.D., serves as medical director at the Keystone Treatment Center in Canton, S.D. He also is employed by the South Dakota Department of Health and is a medical provider at the South Dakota State Prison in Sioux Falls, S.D.

• Philip Rosene M'65

Georgetown, Mass., continues to enjoy retirement and his hobbies: competitive rifle and pistol target shooting, hunting pheasants and deer, and fishing ventures into coastal waters. He looks forward to the class of 1965's 50-year class reunion in 2015.

• E. Eugene Baillie M'67

Anderson, S.C., retired from the practice of pathology to care for his wife full time. She is undergoing a second round of chemotherapy. At the request of family and friends, he has written about their experience in a book titled, "The Journey Home."

• Lemoyne Johnson M'70

Bradenton, Fla., is partially retired from his camera store and portrait studio and enjoys traveling with his wife Darlene in their motor home. Many of their trips begin and end in North Carolina visiting their daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter.

• Kenton Shaffer M'71

Kearney, Neb., was honored with the UNMC J.G. (Jack) Elliott Award in May for his decades of service to Nebraska as an outstanding physician, leader, educator and innovator. The award is given in memory of J.G. Elliott, who served on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents for 20 years prior to his death in 1974.

• Ronald Asher M'73

North Platte, Neb., started a new role as a visiting nephrologist at the Community Hospital's Medical Specialists Center in McCook, Neb. He has a regular practice with Internal Medicine Associates in North Platte. He sees patients in McCook one day each month.

• Stephen Erickson M'73

Rochester, Minn., was voted teacher of the year by the nephrology fellows at the Mayo Clinic.

• Gary Penner M'74

Fairfax, Va., is a member of the Senior Foreign Service with the U.S. Department of State. He was recently appointed director of medical services. In this position, he is the senior medical officer for the department and medical advisor to the Secretary of State, responsible for promoting the health and well-being of American diplomats. He has traveled to more than 80 countries to provide health care to embassy staff since joining the Senior Foreign Service in 1989.

• Gary Schiffbauer M'74

Springfield, Mo., joined CoxHealth's Pediatric Center in Springfield.

• Thomas Tonniges M'74

Omaha, Neb., was appointed to the board of directors of Doane College in Crete, Neb.

• Frank Waechter M'75

Payson, Ariz., joined the medical staff at Payson Regional Medical Center as an OB-GYN. He moved from Livingston, Texas, with his wife, Betty.

• Ed Vandenberg M'76

Omaha, Neb., received the Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award from the University of Nebraska. He is known for innovative teaching techniques to train students to provide excellent geriatric care. He has been a faculty member at UNMC since 1998.



Jill Westcott, M'13, center, with her parents Drs. Susan M'84 and Michael M'75 Westcott. Dr. Westcott will complete her ob/gyn residency at UNMC.

• Gregg Dimmick M'77

Wharton, Texas, celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary with wife Debbi in June. Their son, Josh, is a dermatologist and their daughter, Kaydi, is a nurse. He has practiced pediatrics for 32 years in Wharton. Memorial Hermann Hospitals Medical Group of Houston recently purchased his clinic.

• John Holland M'77

Olympia, Wash., has worked as chief medical officer for Union Pacific Railroad since 2010. He is on the panel of advisors for the UNMC College of Public Health.

• William Carpenter M'79

Park Falls, Wis., enjoys flying a float plane and spending time with his kids and grandkids. He works full time in rural emergency medicine in northern Wisconsin.



College of Medicine Dean Bradley Britigan, MD, right, visits with Shannon Stemm, M'85, husband Jeff Mead M'87, and Marty Fattig, CEO of Nemaha County Hospital, on a community visit to Auburn, Neb., in May.

• **Alan Thorson M'79**

Omaha, Neb., is president of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons.

• **Paul Post M'82**

Scottsbluff, Neb., works part time as a staff doctor at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff and full time on his Diamond P ranch.

• **Timothy Tesmer M'82**

Lincoln, Neb., has been in private practice in Lincoln since 1998. Before that, he was in private practice in Springfield, Mo., and in Colorado Springs, Colo.

• **Steven Freeman M'84**

Omaha, Neb., joined Clarinda Regional Health Center in Clarinda, Iowa. He practices internal medicine.

• **Edward Raines M'84**

Norfolk, Neb., joined Faith Regional Cardiovascular Institute in Norfolk as a cardiothoracic surgeon.

• **Catherine Mason M'86**

Napa, Calif., works as a child psychiatrist in an inpatient unit, working with children ages 3 to 17.

• **Jeffrey Cooper M'87**

Omaha, Neb., returned to Omaha after 24 years to become the new director of hyperbaric medicine at The Nebraska Medical Center. He also is trained by the U.S. Navy as a diving medical officer.

• **Eric Johnson M'89**

Grand Forks, N.D., just marked 20 years of practice in Grand Forks, where he is an associate professor at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the director of inter-professional education. Additionally, he is the assistant medical director at the Altru Diabetes Center and Valley Memorial Homes Long Term Care, and is a physician consultant for the NDQuits Tobacco Cessation Program. He is active with the American Diabetes Association-North Dakota Affiliate, and just completed a term as board president.

• **Roger Quiring M'89**

Lincoln, Neb., joined the Physician Network at Linc Care Urgent Care Clinic in Lincoln.

• **Michael Jurgens M'94**

North Sioux City, S.D., joined Orange City Area Health System in Orange City, Iowa, as a family physician.

• **Vilma Rodriguez-Cline M'95**

Norfolk, Neb., is the medical doctor at Faith Regional Physician Service, Madison Family Medicine, a new clinic that opened in November 2012.

• **Jeffrey King M'97**

Grand Island, Neb., is the new lead cardiologist for Franklin County Memorial Hospital. He will primarily see patients in Grand Island and Hastings, Neb. He and his wife have three children.

• **W. Victor Fattig M'98**

Johnson Lake, Neb., joined the Greater Nebraska Medical & Surgical Services at Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance, Neb. He will serve as a general practitioner and practice internal medicine. He also will serve as medical director of the Greater Nebraska Medical & Surgical Services Hyannis Clinic.

• **Andrew Reynolds M'99**

Norfolk, Neb., joined Faith Regional Health Services as a general surgeon. He comes to Faith Regional from Memorial Community Hospital and Health System in Blair, Neb.

• **Kelly Caverzagie M'01**

Omaha, Neb., assumed a new role in the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine as associate vice chairman for quality and physician competence.

• **Elizabeth Mahoney Davis M'01**

Newburyport, Mass., joined Colden & Seymour Ear, Nose, Throat & Allergy as an otolaryngologist.

• **Preston Renshaw M'03**

O'Neill, Neb., was named medical director at Golden Living Center-O'Neill. He specializes in family medicine and health care quality improvement.

• **Casey Beran M'05**

Omaha, Neb., was elected to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. He played college football for the Chadron State Eagles from 1995-1999. He is an orthopedic surgeon for Alegent Creighton Health in Omaha.

• **Mike Feilmeier M'05**

Omaha, Neb., was named one of the Midlands Business Journal's 40 Under 40 in 2012. He is an ophthalmologist and cornea specialist at Midwest Eye Care and has provided sight restoring surgery to the blind in India, Haiti, Nepal, Ghana and the Dominican Republic. With his passion for global health care, he launched the International Division of Ophthalmology at UNMC. The division teaches surgeons how to provide quality eye care and surgery in developing nations.

• **Gina Mentzer M'06 (CLS'00)**

Columbus, Ohio, will move to Lincoln, Neb., in the fall of 2013. She will work for the Nebraska Heart Institute/The Physician Network as medical director of the Heart Failure Program. She and her husband, Mike, have two children.

• **David Rhodes M'06**

Great Bend, Kan., joined the Central Kansas Orthopedic Group in the summer of 2012. He and his wife, Darcy, have five children.

• **Tyler Adam M'07**

Hastings, Neb., joined Fillmore County Hospital's Specialty Clinic as an OB/GYN.

• **Andrew Coughlin M'08**

Omaha, Neb., completed his residency in ENT at the University of Texas Medical Branch in June 2013 and started a fellowship in head and neck at UNMC in July 2013.

• **Sara Reppert M'10**

Rochester, Minn., was awarded the 2013 LeAnn McCaffrey, M.D., Women in Medicine Award from the Mayo Clinic Department of Internal Medicine. The award recognizes global excellence in clinical medicine, research and scholarly accomplishments. She also was recently selected as chief resident in the Mayo Clinic's Internal Medicine Training Program.

Nursing

• **Jeanette Ekberg N'58**

Omaha, Neb., retired in May after 55 years in nursing. For the past 10 years, she was the clinical IT trainer at Methodist Hospital in Omaha.

• **Janet Karrer N'58**

Grand Island, Neb., and her husband Stew still deliver Meals on Wheels in their community. They also spend time volunteering and enjoying their kids and grandkids.

• **Anita Roth N'63**

Bellevue, Neb., is now retired from the State of Alaska as a regional manager of public health nursing.

• **Marilyn Howard N'66**

Cupertino, Calif., is now fully retired. She spends time with her children and grandchildren and also travels, takes photographs, hikes, and participates in water aerobics and dragon boating.



College of Nursing Alumni Association immediate past president Anita Evers N'72, '96 with Irma Kyle Kramer Award recipients from the Scottsbluff campus, Ava Vardell N'13 and Rahne Kunzman N'13. The Irma Kyle Kramer award is for highest GPA.

◦ Sandra Baesler N'69

Sarasota, Fla., is retired after 27 years at Sarasota Memorial Hospital, mostly serving in social services and case management. She has been happily married for 43 years with two children and a new grandbaby.

◦ M. Diane Estes N'73

Omaha, Neb., is a licensed professional counselor and holistic nurse consultant at the Women's Therapy and Learning Center in Omaha.

◦ Donna Bader N'75

Lincoln, Neb., co-authored "Forensic Nursing: A Concise Manual," published in 2010, the first textbook on forensic nursing for those with little or no forensic nursing knowledge.

Caryl Grorud N'75

Fremont, Neb., retired in May after 21 years as an elementary school nurse with the Fremont Public Schools. In her retirement, she plans to travel and spend time with her grandchildren.

◦ Bunny Pozehl N'76, '78, '83

Lincoln, Neb., is the principal investigator on a \$3.4 million National Institutes of Health grant at the UNMC College of Nursing-Lincoln Division that studies the benefits of regular exercise for people with failing hearts.

Kimberly Joy N'82

Lincoln, Neb., is a nurse practitioner with the Care Navigation Clinic in the Physician Network. Her role is to reduce the chance of hospital readmissions by working with patients on their medications, coordinating care and determining conditions that may need monitoring.

Paulette Kuhlman N'82

Bennet, Neb., joined the People's Health Center in Lincoln, Neb., as the operations director in October. She earned her master's of business administration in 2011 from Bellevue University.

⊙ Denise Harrison N'84

Lincoln, Neb., was appointed associate director for operations for the Department of Veterans Affairs Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in February. She is a fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives.

Phyllis (Koudelka) Ahlman N'85

Alexandria, Va., retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Medical Inspector, Under Secretary for Health in Washington D.C. in December after 35 years of service. She recently accepted a position with the Joint Commission Resources as the National VA Project Director.

Kathleen Zajic N'90

McClelland, Iowa, was named chair of the College of Saint Mary Division of Health Professions. In this role, she oversees all undergraduate and graduate health professions programs. She has been with the College of Saint Mary for 21 years.

Shannon Stafford N'94

Council Bluffs, Iowa, works as a women's health nurse practitioner for the Douglas County Health Department in Omaha, Neb.

Phyllis Gundersen N'95

Hastings, Neb., joined AseraCare Hospice in Grand Island, Neb. She is responsible for face-to-face assessments to certify hospice eligibility.

◦ Heather Solon N'96

Kadoka, S.D., works at Rapid City Regional Hospital in Rapid City, S.D., on the maternal child floor as a post-partum/nursery RN.

◦ Mary Roh N'96

Omaha, Neb., retired from her last nursing position in August. She is grateful to those who supported her at the UNMC College of Nursing and for those she had the privilege of working with and the patients she cared for during her nursing career.

Katrina Dannewitz N'02

Lincoln, Neb., joined the Homestead Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln as a nurse practitioner.

Deborah Sheldon N'07, '10

Riverdale, Neb., joined Good Samaritan Hospital as a nurse practitioner, where she specializes in palliative care.

◦ Nechole Beale N'10

Omaha, Neb., represented Vetter Health Services at the 2012 American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living Congressional Briefing in Washington D.C. in July.

Adrian Robison N'10

Junja, Uganda, Africa, is a volunteer nurse at Our Own Home, an orphanage for 54 children living with HIV/AIDS. She raised the money to make the journey to Uganda and accepts contributions to support her living expenses. She is originally from Alma, Neb.

Sgt. Ryan Zulkoski N'10

Grand Island, Neb., graduated from a two-week Army National Guard Battalion Career Counselor Course in January. He is the first cook with the Nebraska Army National Guard's Company A, 1-376th Aviation. The course provides training in encouraging fellow soldiers to re-enlist.

Tara Goodman N'11

Tabor, Iowa, is trained as a pediatric nurse practitioner at George C. Grape Hospital in Hamburg, Iowa. She is a member of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. She and her husband have three daughters.

Melissa Marshall N'12

Sidney, Iowa, joined the staff of the Hamburg, Iowa, Medical Clinic in November. She and her husband have four grown daughters.

Carol Schlismann N'12

Norfolk, Neb., started a new position as clinical educator at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk in October.

Pharmacy

Thomas Sweet P'65

Evergreen, Colo., retired in 2012 after 44 years in Idaho Springs, Colo.

Russell Harder P'68, '79

Algona, Iowa, practices retail pharmacy about 30 hours a week at his local Hy-Vee. He intends to retire in the next few years and looks forward to traveling with his wife, spending time with his grandchildren and renewing old acquaintances with family and friends.

◦ Daniel Hughes P'68

San Diego, Calif., is now retired from Roche after 31 years in Los Angeles. He and his wife Patty have enjoyed several trips abroad since retirement. They relocated to San Diego last year.

Carolyn Lyon P'74

Kennewick, Wash., is a staff pharmacist at Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Wash.

⊙ Carol Ann Kuchmark P'76

Napa, Calif., after obtaining her medical degree, worked for two decades as a forensic staff psychiatrist for the State of California Department of Mental Health at Napa State Hospital. She retired in 2010 and now travels the west coast and spends time in Las Vegas and Palm Springs.

Curt Butler P'80

Lincoln, Neb., was named pharmacy director at the Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. He formerly was a pharmacy manager at Madonna.

Nancy Rydholm P'84

Roseville, Minn., works as a medical science liaison with Salodax Biologics and is involved with using their assays to provide dose optimization for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. She brings more than 25 years of clinical hematology/oncology experience to the position.

Allan Uettwiller P'86

Omaha, Neb., became a relief floater pharmacist for several companies as of April. He married his wife, Laura, in Cabo San Lucas in October.

Cynthia Cooper P'88

Holyoke, Colo., became the pharmacist at Abts Express in Holyoke. She came to Colorado via North Platte, Neb., and previously worked 20 years in Boulder, Colo.

Laura Grothe P'93

Omaha, Neb., is the pharmacy manager at the Visiting Nurse Association. She is an accomplished athlete, completing six marathons in the past 10 years.



Members of the College of Pharmacy class of 2014 enjoy lunch provided by the Alumni Association at the P3 send-off party prior to their rotations.

• **Tim Candy P'02**

Grayslake, Ill., accepted the position of associate director in Global Regulatory Affairs at Hospira, Inc. in October.

Jennifer Novotny P'08

Pueblo West, Colo., was hired as pharmacy administrator for the Colorado Department of Corrections in February.

Jason Burke P'13

Imperial, Neb., purchased the Grant Pharmacy in Imperial with a business colleague. He will be the pharmacist in charge of the store. The two also have plans to open a pharmacy in Holyoke, Colo.

Dentistry

• **George (Jerry) Sweeney D'66**

Lincoln, Neb., marked 20 years of retirement on July 1.

Erin Diers D'06

Brookings, S.D., joined the Brookings Dental Clinic. Erin and her husband, Joel, have two sons.

Elisa Wiest D'07

Omaha, Neb., joined Plattsmouth Family Dentistry.

Brett Carranza D'08

Kearney, Neb., opened his own practice, Kearney Pediatric Dentistry, in his hometown.

Emily Egley D'10

Lincoln, Neb., joined Lincoln Pediatric Dentistry in July.

Jennifer Alexander D'11

Lexington, Neb., joined Lexington Family Dentistry. The practice also includes her father-in-law, Tom Fagot D'83 and her husband, Tom Alexander D'10.

Physical Therapy

• **Andrea Hazen PT'72**

Omaha, Neb., has been employed at Bergan Mercy for more than 40 years.

Julie Giannangelo PT'75

Omaha, Neb., is now retired from Methodist Hospital in Omaha. She travels, volunteers, fishes with her husband and spends time with her two grown children. She thanks UNMC for a quality education that compared favorably against other programs around the country.

• **Casey Cortney PT'95**

Sidney, Neb., is celebrating five years in private practice ownership at Sidney Rehabilitation & Wellness Clinic and is launching its first web site. She works on program development including industrial services by offering Physical Capacity Profile testing and wellness programs to area employers.

Patricia Kearns PT'99

Bennington, Neb., became CEO at Quality Living, Inc., which provides rehabilitation and care for individuals who have suffered a brain or spinal cord injury. She started her career with QLI as a physical therapist 12 years ago.

• **Robert Dyer PT'01, '05**

Cozad, Neb., lives in Cozad with his wife, Ann, who is an occupational therapist. They both work at Cozad Community Physical Therapy, where Robert is the director, and they have three children. He recently became board certified as an orthopedic specialist.

Jon Brezenski, PT '05

Columbus, Neb., provides full-time athletic training at Scotus Central Catholic High School. He is employed at Columbus Community Hospital as physical therapist and athletic trainer.

Nick Konrad PT '05

Atkinson, Neb., joined the West Holt Medical Services Foundation's Board of Directors for West Holt Memorial Hospital. Since April 2010, he has been the director of physical therapy at West Holt Medical Services. He and his wife, Carissa, have four children.

Amber Balius PT'06

Cheyenne, Wyo., completed her lymphedema training and is now a certified lymphedema therapist. She works at the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center.

• **Jamie Blum PT'08**

Manning, Iowa, opened Blum Physical Therapy in Manning.

Jessica Turner PT'10

Omaha, Neb., passed the Orthopedic Certified Specialist Exam.

• **Abigail Keilwitz PT'12**

Alliance, Neb., joined the Rehab and Wellness Center at Box Butte General Hospital as a rehab tech last summer. Keilwitz is happy to be practicing in the town where she also grew up.

Kelsey Murphy PT'12

Beatrice, Neb., joined the Rehabilitation Department at Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center as a full-time physical therapist.

Physician Assistant

Lt. Col. Dan Danaher PA'75

Lincoln, Neb., was honored as one of 16 physician assistants of the year by the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants during their 38th Annual Spring Conference. He is the state surgeon for the Nebraska National Guard.

• **Mark Christiansen PA'77**

Herald, Calif., is chair of the board of directors of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). He is the program director of the Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program at the University of California, Davis and practices at the Family Practice Clinic at the UC Davis Medical Center. He also is a former president of the UNMC Physician Assistant Alumni Chapter Board of Directors.

Maj. James Allen PA'97

McCook, Neb., was honored as one of 16 physician assistants of the year by the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants during their 38th Annual Spring Conference. He serves as a squadron physician for the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Thomas Schmadeke PA'02

Red Oak, Iowa, joined Clarinda Regional Health Center in Clarinda, Iowa. He sees patients at Clarinda Medical Associates and the Villisca Family Health Center.

Denise Taggart PA'06

Yankton, S.D., joined Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. She specializes in internal medicine.

Jason Olnes PA'07

Lincoln, Neb., joined the Boone County Health Center and clinics as a physician assistant. Prior to this position, he provided primary care at Ehrling Bergquist Clinic in Bellevue, Neb., where he was responsible for the health care of military members, their families and veterans.

Jill Connealy PA'10

Tekamah, Neb., joined the Blair Clinic in Blair, Neb., in January. She sees patients at the walk-in clinic.

Katie Gentry PA'11

New Richmond, Ind., joined United Healthcare Lafayette Surgical Clinic in November.

Monica Hilger PA'11

Lincoln, Neb., joined Southwest Family Health & Physician Network in Lincoln, Neb.

Holly DeVorss PA'12

Central City, Neb., joined Lone Tree Medical Clinic in Central City.

Amber Krikke PA'12

Norfolk, Neb., joined Norfolk Family Medicine.

Laura Pearson PA'12

St. Paul, Neb., joined the medical staff at Howard County Medical Center in St. Paul.

Chelsea Richardson PA'12

Estherville, Iowa, joined Avera Holy Family of Estherville in January.

Jessica Stanton PA'12

St. Paul, Neb., joined the medical staff at Howard County Medical Center in St. Paul.

Clinical Laboratory Science

Nancy May CLS'74

Omaha, Neb., is a senior technical integration specialist with Sysmex America, Inc.

Lisa Miers CLS'84

Omaha, Neb., recently was promoted to senior mortgage loan officer at Mutual of Omaha Bank in Omaha. She has been a mortgage officer for more than 10 years.

David Heckman CLS'85

Broken Arrow, Okla., has been the supervisor at Saint Francis Hospital South in Tulsa, Okla., for 23 years.

Shannon Klingelhofer CLS'91

Amherst, Neb., works in the laboratory at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb.

Ashley Collins CLS'12

Omaha, Neb., was accepted into the 2013-2014 American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science Leadership Academy. She also serves on the UNMC Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter Board of Directors.

Megan Dirks CLS'12

Omaha, Neb., works full time in the hematology department at Physicians Laboratory Services. She is an active member of their safety committee. She also volunteers at her church, including a trip to Guatemala in July, and at the Hope Center for Kids.

Einstein Juma CLS'12

Omaha, Neb., joined the UNMC College of Medicine class of 2016 last fall.

Radiation Science Technology Education

Zachary VanDiest RSTE'04

Doniphan, Neb., works as a radiation therapist at Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings, Neb. He and his wife, Trisha, have three children.

Scott Degenhardt RSTE'07

Omaha, Neb., earned a master's degree of imaging sciences nuclear medicine, advanced associate with honors, from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in May. He is a member of Lambda Nu Chi Honor Society for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences.

Joe Novotny RSTE'11

Omaha, Neb., accepted the position of lead nuclear medicine technologist at Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha.

Public Health

Tamara Bernard PH'05

Council Bluffs, Iowa, earned her BSN from the accelerated BSN program at Creighton University in August 2009. She is the bariatric program coordinator at Creighton University. In February, she and her husband and their two children traveled to Ethiopia and taught pediatric advanced life support to nurse anesthetist students. In May she started the MSN program at Nebraska Methodist College.



College of Public Health Alumni Chapter immediate past president, Stephen Jackson MPH'06 (second from right) recognizes the newest alumni at the annual COPH new graduate brunch in April.



Radiation Science Technology Education Alumni Chapter board members and student representatives gather at the 2013 New Graduate Breakfast.

• Brandon Grimm PH'05

Papillion, Neb., received the 2013 Balderson Award for the Support of Public Health Leadership Development from the Association of Schools of Public Health. The award recognizes individuals who play an important role in the support and promotion of the public health leadership institutes and/or public health leadership in general.

• Michele Kassmeier PH'12

Omaha, Neb., works at the Center for Preparedness Education in the UNMC College of Public Health. She was elected to serve on the UNMC College of Public Health Alumni Chapter Board of Directors.

In Remembrance...

• John Batty M'38

McCook, Neb., Jan. 11, 2013.

Harvey Copsey M'41

Spokane, Wash., March 8, 2013.

Donald Purvis M'41

Lincoln, Neb., March 28, 2013.

Louis Bunting M'42

Hebron, Neb., March 21, 2013.

Leland Olson, M'44

Omaha, Neb., July 6, 2013.

Barney Rees M'44

Omaha, Neb., March 8, 2013.

Gilbert Schreiner M'47

Omaha, Neb., March 28, 2013.

William Kramer D'48

Fort Collins, Colo., March 9, 2013.

James Dunlap M'50

Norfolk, Neb., April 23, 2013.

Loran Grubbs M'50

Scottsbluff, Neb., March 12, 2013.

William Upton D'51

Superior, Neb., May 2, 2013.

Gwen (Grillet) Namiks N'52

Santa Rosa, Calif., April 8, 2012.

Ⓞ Lou (McConnell) Mitchell N'52

Folsom, Calif., Oct. 5, 2012.

Elizabeth (Lokie) Pearson N'52

Beulah, N.D., Nov. 2, 2012.

F.E. Whitla P'52, M'60

Lincoln, Neb., April 14, 2013.

• LaRue Dahlquist M'62

Saint Cloud, Minn., Feb. 23, 2013.

Maynard Campbell D'53

Federal Way, Wash., March 15, 2013.

Robert Osborne M'56

Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 28, 2012.

Carl Sasse M'58

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 1, 2013.

James Rud M'59

Rapid City, S.D., Feb. 11, 2013.

• David Williams M'59

Rochester, Minn., Feb. 3, 2013.

• Lloyd Westerbuhr M'62

Tucson, Ariz., March 21, 2013.

Vale Sorensen M'64

Omaha, Neb., June 8, 2013.

Ann Hinrichs P'65

Grand Island, Neb., April 10, 2013.

Monte Nowak M'65

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 19, 2012.

Karen (Nielsen) Wilcox N'65

Virginia Beach, Va., Jan. 17, 2013.

Ronald Marshall M'67

Collinsville, Okla., April 7, 2013.

Chester "Chet" Paul M'69

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 14, 2012.

Daniel Dietrich M'73

Omaha, Neb., March 28, 2013.

• Mary McQuin PT'73

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 2, 2013.

William Ruben D'73

Grand Island, Neb., March 26, 2013.

Harold "Hal" Humphrey M'74

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 18, 2012.

Susan McGill N'74

Omaha, Neb., June 22, 2013.

Col. Chris Maasdam M'75

Walton, Neb., Dec. 5, 2012.

Roger Wyssman P'77

Spokane Valley, Wash., Jan. 7, 2013.

William "Bill" Lear M'78

Lebanon, Ore., Nov. 22, 2012.

Geri Doran Yanes M'86

Rochester, Minn., Dec. 28, 2012.

Paul Henningson D'96

Baxter, Minn., April 5, 2013.

Karen Shea RSTE'05

Lincoln, Neb., May 5, 2013.

Kelly Soder-Blackman D'06

Longmont, Colo., June 3, 2013.

Korey Huebner N'12

Hershey, Neb., Jan. 28, 2013.

Births

• Heather Solon N'96

Kadoka, S.D., and her husband Patrick welcomed their fourth child, son Ridge, on July 26, 2012.

• Tim Candy P'02

Grayslake, Ill., and his wife Tami welcomed a daughter, Teagan Elizabeth, on June 9, 2012.

Sharee Cohoon RSTE'03

Omaha, Neb., and her husband Drew welcomed a daughter, Kenna, in April 2013.

Tori Castagna RSTE'04

Bellevue, Neb., and her husband Richard welcomed a son, Brennan, in October 2012.

Jamie Muhr RSTE'04

Sidney, Neb., and her husband Brian welcomed a son, Dawson James, on June 19, 2013.

Gina (Cummings) Jones PA'04

Medford, Ore., and her husband Peter welcomed a daughter, Carwyn Claire, on Nov. 19, 2013.

Laura Wojtkiewicz RSTE'04

Omaha, Neb., and her husband Aaron welcomed a daughter, Ainsley, in December 2012.

• Amy Blakely P'05

Gretna, Neb., and her husband Nate welcomed a daughter, Blakely Ann, on Jan. 12, 2013.

• Mikayla Spangler P'05

Omaha, Neb., and her husband Jon welcomed a daughter, Ruvani Mona, on July 20, 2011.

• Chelsea Dockins Reischl CLS'08

Omaha, Neb., and her husband Adam welcomed a son, Mason Charles, on Dec. 9, 2012.

Erin (Hunt) Thoman N'08

Omaha, Neb., welcomed a daughter, Ellie Ann, in August 2012.

Andrew Gard M'09

Omaha, Neb., and his wife Amber welcomed a son, Andrew Joseph, on Nov. 28, 2012.

Melissa (Edson) Hall PA '09

Omaha, Neb., and her husband Jesse welcomed a son, Carter John, on Dec. 15, 2012.

Kayla Moore RSTE'11

Lincoln, Neb., welcomed a daughter, Hannah Kay, on May 31, 2013.

Melanie Miller RSTE'12

Omaha, Neb., and her husband Curtis welcomed a son, Carl John, on March 29, 2013.

Joseph Radke N'13

Kearney, Neb., and his wife Kari welcomed a son, Parker Joseph, on March 30, 2013.

Marriages

• **Donald Wahl M'59**

Modesto, Calif., married Joan Nicholson on Sept. 11, 2011.

• **Megan Sever RSTE'08**

Lincoln, Neb., married Jaren Hutchens in May 2013.

• **Tracy Muehling RSTE '09**

Omaha, Neb., married Matt Muehling on Aug. 11, 2012.

• **Elizabeth Payne RSTE'09**

Omaha, Neb., married Drew Butler in April 2013.

Amanda Reed RSTE'09

Sibley, Iowa, married Lance Groen in June 2013.

Matt Wattson RSTE'11

Papillion, Neb., married Bridgette Liston on June 15, 2013.

Gina Schroeder N'12

Hastings, Neb., married Josh Campa on Oct. 6, 2012.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

COM Class of 1973 Alumni Reunion

Sept. 20-21
Omaha & Lincoln, Neb.

College of Dentistry Alumni Homecoming

Oct. 4-5
UNMC College of Dentistry
Lincoln, Neb.

Alumni Reunion

Colleges of Medicine, Nursing & Pharmacy
Oct. 11-12
UNMC campus, Omaha, Neb.

For more information about these events, contact the UNMC Alumni Relations Office at (402) 559-4385 or alumni@unmc.edu.

We love hearing from you! Please send your professional and personal news for Class Notes to:

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website: www.unmc.edu/alumni

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CAMPAIGN for NEBRASKA

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

2005

Amount Raised Toward \$500 Million Campaign Goal

2014

\$432,846,055*

81%

of UNMC campaign gifts are from Nebraska households/organizations.



616

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

30%

of donors supporting UNMC during the campaign are UNMC graduates.

15,727

individuals have made donations to UNMC during the campaign. Approximately 57% are first-time donors to UNMC.

95%

of UNMC students apply for financial assistance.

* In addition to this fundraising total \$291,362,888 has been committed for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center project. These funds were provided from sources other than private gifts or were private gifts committed but not yet meeting the Campaign for Nebraska's reporting criteria. To date a total of \$383 million has been committed to the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

CAMPAIGN for
NEBRASKA
UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA FOUNDATION

campaignfornebraska.org/unmc

All statistics as of May 31, 2013. The Campaign for Nebraska began in July 2005 and will conclude in December 2014.

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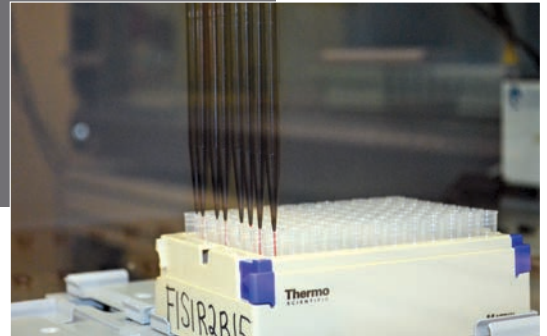
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VIALS OF HOPE FILL NEBRASKA BIOBANK

SYSTEM PREPARES BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES FOR LONG-TERM STORAGE, RESEARCH

by Karen Burbach



For hours on end, a mechanical arm sorts through hundreds, even thousands, of vials of leftover blood that may provide clues to improved treatments for debilitating diseases.

Bar codes, printed on each vial, indicate whether patients have allowed their leftover blood sample to join the Nebraska Biobank, a collection of samples that can help UNMC investigators speed research in health care.

Not interested in participating? The robotic arm systematically separates your vial out to be discarded.

Interested? The onboard decapper plucks off the cap and places the vial in a separate rack to be moved to a sister machine.

Once there, the TECAN Freedom Evo 200, a nondescript liquid-handling platform with a hefty price tag, pipettes one millimeter of blood — about 15 drops that contain DNA, plasma or serum — into a new tube with another bar code that deidentifies the sample.

That new code is entered into a specially protected computer that can help match the sample with facts about the person's health. Names and other information that might identify the person are no longer associated

with the sample; vials, therefore, cannot be linked back to a single person. Tubes then are stored in a large freezer at minus 80 degrees (far below the typical minus-20 degree freezer).

"We get broad based samples, which helps us create a general DNA library," said Jim Eudy, Ph.D., director of UNMC's DNA Microarray and Sequencing Core Facilities and associate professor of genetics, cell biology and anatomy. "Without the technology, we would not be able to manually sort 1,000 vials in one day."

The Nebraska Biobank staff retrieves upwards of 1,000 vials per day of leftover blood from pathology. No extra blood is drawn for the biobank — staff members simply collect any blood that was left over after normal blood tests were done.


The automated technology, then, efficiently sorts, prepares and stores samples that can later be accessed by researchers to improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease and better understand normal life processes.

Although UNMC has many biobanks focused on specific diseases, the Nebraska Biobank, launched earlier this year, is unique because it can provide samples linked to a

variety of different diseases or to people with no disease that can serve as "controls" for other biobanks, said Chris Kratochvil, M.D., associate vice chancellor for clinical research at UNMC and chief medical officer for UNeHealth.

Researchers can ask for certain types of samples for their studies based upon the de-identified health facts of the person, such as their illness, which are linked to the stored sample. An oversight committee reviews each research request.

In addition to DNA, by saving both serum and plasma, the fluid part of blood without cells, researchers can measure different health factors including hormones, chemicals, drug and environmental toxin levels, and other chemical messengers.

At least once a year, upon check-in for care, patients have the opportunity to "opt out" and not have their extra blood saved for the Nebraska Biobank. Those who choose to participate, however, may help researchers better understand such diseases as cancer, asthma, diabetes, heart disease and Alzheimer's. 



UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend October 11-12, 2013

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