

UNMC Connect

Reaching alumni & friends of the
University of Nebraska Medical Center

WINTER 2009

the
disappearing
workforce



outset

An architectural masterpiece, China's Great Wall is a symbol of man's ability to achieve. UNMC has its own lofty goal: to be a world leader among academic health science centers. Building the wall took time and great care. Diligence and persistence paid off. For the past five years, UNMC has worked to build strong international relationships, particularly in China. Beginning on page 18, you can read how UNMC's Asia Pacific Rim Development Program has fueled health care collaboration and research for students and faculty members here and abroad.



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UNMC Connect is the campus/alumni magazine published twice a year by the Departments of Public Relations and Alumni Relations at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Issues of the magazine can be found at www.unmc.edu, News link. Permission is granted to reprint any written materials herein, provided proper credit is given. Direct requests to ekumru@unmc.edu.

UNMC enjoys full accreditation (of all its colleges, programs and sites) by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

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.

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WINTER 2009

in the Loop

South Omaha Community Care Council 10th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, March 12, 6 p.m., Livestock Exchange Building, Omaha
Soccc.com

College of Medicine Match Day

Thursday, March 19, 11 a.m., Sorrell Center, UNMC campus

Sharing the Vision Conference

Friday – Sunday, March 27 – 29, Sorrell Center, UNMC campus
unmc.edu/sharing

Munroe-Meyer Institute Symposium on Down syndrome

Saturday, April 25, 8:15 a.m., Sorrell Center, UNMC campus
unmc.edu/mmi

UNMC Commencement

Omaha – Friday, May 1, 10:30 a.m., Omaha Civic Auditorium
Lincoln – Friday, May 8, 2 p.m., Lied Center for Performing Arts
Kearney – Thursday, May 7, 7 p.m., UNK Health and Sports Center
Scottsbluff – Saturday, May 9, 2 p.m., Gering Civic Center

Dedication of Durham Research Center II

Wednesday, May 6, 10 a.m., DRC II

Public Open House for the Durham Research Center II

Saturday, May 9, 1 to 3 p.m., DRC II

11th Annual Cattlemen's Ball

Friday & Saturday, June 5 - 6, near Doniphan, Neb. Benefit
for UNMC/Eppley Cancer Center
www.cattlemensball.com

Munroe-Meyer Guild Garden Walk

Sunday, June 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rain or shine. Five Omaha-area
gardens featured in the 41st garden walk
mmiguild.com

College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony

Wednesday, Aug. 19, Sorrell Center, UNMC campus

College of Medicine Family Day

Friday, Aug. 21, UNMC campus

College of Medicine White Coat Ceremony

Friday, Aug. 21, UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center

College of Nursing White Coat Ceremony

Friday, Aug. 21, located at respective divisions

UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 - 3, UNMC campus

P E R S P E C T I V E

UNMC seeks solutions to health care shortage

An important piece of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's mission is to educate health care professionals to serve the state of Nebraska and beyond. We take this role very seriously, as evidenced by our nationally recognized programs and the high quality of health care in Nebraska. As this issue of UNMC Connect illustrates, however, the demand for health care professionals nationally outpaces the supply, and Nebraska is no different.

Shortages of physicians, nurses and other health care providers are prevalent, and these shortages will be even more acute as the workforce gets older and an aging population requires more care. More than 36 million Americans are older than 65. By 2030, that number will nearly double, with one in five Americans being over age 65. With the huge number of baby boomers now in retirement or nearing retirement, providing quality care to seniors is perhaps the most significant health care challenge faced by our country. The need for specialized care in geriatric medicine has never been greater.

At UNMC, we treat every challenge as an opportunity, and we're addressing the shortage of health care professionals and the aging population at several levels.

One, we're constructing the Home Instead Center for Successful Aging.

This \$10.2 million facility will offer specialized services aimed at helping seniors age better and live healthier lives. It will be the region's only free-standing center focused on aging that is tied to an academic medical center. The lead gift for this center came from Lori and Paul Hogan, co-founders of Home Instead Senior Care.

Two, we've increased the number of students that we accept in our College of Medicine classes. This year, for the first time in 30 years, we increased our class size – from 120 students to 130. Within two years, we hope to increase that number to 140 students. This change was made possible, in part, because of the construction of the Michael E. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education, which opened this past fall. More than 1,200 donors, led by Omahans Ruth and Bill Scott and including nearly 1,000 alumni, made that \$52.7 million facility possible.

Three, we're expanding the number of students whom we educate in the College of Nursing. Already, we've broken ground on the Center for College of Nursing Sciences, a \$14 million, privately funded nursing center in Omaha, again with the support of Ruth and Bill Scott. We're also excited about the proposed College of Nursing Northern Division, which would be centered in Norfolk. Citizens in that community have raised money to construct the facility,



and we've asked for state support to support our operations there. We're hopeful that the Legislature will fund this, as well as the construction of a new nursing facility in Lincoln. Combined, these projects will allow us to educate many more nurses who will directly serve patients, as well as train and educate faculty who will teach those students.

The work is far from done. We must expand the class size in all of our professional programs, but we must have additional resources to add faculty and educational space. Despite tough economic times, the state of Nebraska must act now to ensure that Nebraska citizens receive the best health care in the years to come.

Harold M. Maurer, M.D.

HAROLD M. MAURER, M.D.
Chancellor

In the coming years, competition for health care professionals will become more fierce as work shortages grow. UNMC wants answers to ease the strain.

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on the cover:
Jennifer Zehnder, Vince Morris and Jamie Erickson, nurses working for UNMC's hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center, are in high demand as shortages in all health care professions build across the nation.

We value your opinion and welcome letters to the editor. Please send your letter to UNMC Connect Editor, UNMC, 985230 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-5230, or email ekumru@unmc.edu. Letters will be verified before they are printed.

WHO WILL BE LEFT TO CARE FOR YOU?

by Elizabeth Kumru

KEITH MUELLER, PH.D., HAS COMPILED MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF DATA FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE LOOMING HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE IN NEBRASKA.

UNMC's rural health expert has numbers, maps and projections. He knows how the state will suffer along with the rest of the country as the economy worsens, job cuts continue and retiring baby boomers enroll in the already overloaded Medicare program.

Then it hits him. In about 10 years, he expects to retire – and so will his physician.

"Who will take care of my health care needs?" Dr. Mueller asks.

That's the question many will ask in the next 15 years as a disproportionate number of people seek care from a smaller pool of health care professionals. People will have to wait longer or go without care.

As director of the Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research and interim dean of the UNMC College of Public Health, Dr. Mueller is tasked with writing "A critical match: Nebraska's Health Workforce Planning Project Report."

The comprehensive report provides a snapshot of the current supply, composition and geographical distribution of health professionals in Nebraska. It also compares the state with national averages. The third of the four-part report – a strategic plan for the health planning region – is due this spring.

Already, Dr. Mueller knows: in the next 10 to 15 years, 55 percent of all nurses, one-third of all physicians, dentists and psychiatrists and 20 percent of the pharmacists in Nebraska are likely to retire.

"The shortage is happening everywhere," Dr. Mueller said. "We'll see the results in the next decade."

UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., said three major health care issues face the country.

"The first is the outrageous cost of health care, the second is health care insurance – these issues have the government's attention," he said. "But, the third, the workforce shortage issue,

is not being addressed by the government at all."

Dr. Mueller's report will help call attention to this problem, Dr. Maurer said.

"The population is aging and people are living longer with chronic diseases. There won't be enough health care providers to meet the need. Even today, it's difficult for a family to secure a primary care physician. There are not enough providers to give services," he said.

Any discussion about the health care workforce shortage is a discussion of numbers and dire predictions.

The federal government estimates that by the year 2020, the United States will be short 200,000 doctors, 1 million nurses and 29,000 pharmacists.

Dr. Mueller's report, a \$100,000 project funded by the Larson Medical Research Fund through the University of Nebraska Foundation, is expected to be the most comprehensive look yet at Nebraska's health care workforce. It will include information on physicians, non-physician clinicians, dental professionals, pharmacists, mental health professionals, allied health professionals, auxiliary health professionals, nurses and public health professionals.

"This is a looming national crisis," Dr. Mueller said. "Nebraska needs a multi-pronged strategy ready in the next two years to address the workforce shortage and the demand for care. I expect this report to help bring the stakeholders together to develop that plan."

The strategy should include a public health workforce dedicated to preventive care and solutions to two major problems, obesity and sedentary lifestyles, Dr. Mueller said.

"If we don't address the problems and change behaviors now, we're going to have a lot of young and elderly people who need care," Dr. Mueller said.

An older population with serious conditions requires more nursing care. Also, there is a need to focus more on public health, long term care, safety and quality issues.

"We're in the middle of a maze and there's no clear path out," Dr. Mueller said.

The shortage of nurses will be critical in just a few years. On the right, technician Cynthia Marshall and nurse Pamela Denney, who work for UNMC's hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center, are part of the health care workforce that will retire in the next 15 years. From left are nurses Jennifer Zehnder, Vince Morris and Jamie Erickson.

NEBRASKA HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE BY THE NUMBERS

POPULATION – 1.77 MILLION
PEOPLE PER SQUARE MILE – 22

EMPLOYED REGISTERED NURSES	14,348
PRACTICING PHYSICIANS	3,432
PRACTICING MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS	1,796
PRACTICING NURSE PRACTITIONERS	654

NEBRASKA COUNTIES – 93

COUNTIES WITHOUT:

NURSE PRACTITIONERS	33
MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS	31
PHYSICIANS	18
DENTISTS	18
REGISTERED NURSES	9

COUNTIES WITH A SHORTAGE OF:

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS	88
NON-PHYSICIAN PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS	76
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS	46+
REGISTERED NURSES	23
DENTAL HEALTH	11

Data for these 2007-08 statistics came from a variety of sources, including the Health Professions Tracking Center, part of the UNMC College of Public Health; the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Licensure and Regulation Unit; the Nebraska Center for Nursing; Nebraska Nurse Practitioners Association database; Nebraska Center for Nursing Employer Vacancy Survey, and state and local public health departments.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Educate young people about the available health care opportunities.
- Make teachers, counselors and parents more aware of the variety of health care jobs so they can help children explore potential careers.
- Raise awareness among state, local and federal officials of the health care worker shortage.
- Support the health care professions and encourage people to pursue such careers.
- Increase the cultural diversity of the health care workforce and, thereby, increase community access to care.
- Practice preventive care to lower your health risk.
- Mentor a young person interested in health care.

UNMC'S RESPONSE

Competition for quality health care professionals will only become fiercer as the shortage grows. New graduates seek high paying jobs in order to pay off school loans that climb into six-figures. The average debt for UNMC medical students is \$120,000; the national average is \$139,500.

The bidding war may get too pricey, especially for rural areas where the workforce shortage is greatest. The federal government and the state of Nebraska both have student loan and loan forgiveness programs to encourage students to practice, and hopefully stay, in shortage areas.

The problems surrounding the health care workforce shortage are complex and require multi-faceted solutions. UNMC recognized the need for an increased number of health care professionals more than a decade ago and initiated new programs to boost general enrollment and recruitment and subsequent retention in rural communities.



Keith Mueller, Ph.D.

RURAL HEALTH

UNMC administrators developed several programs in the early 1990s to recruit and educate rural health practitioners with the idea that they ultimately will practice in shortage areas. These programs have paid large dividends:

- The Rural Health Education Network, a partnership between UNMC and Nebraska communities to meet the health profession needs of greater Nebraska;
- Rural Health Opportunities Program, a partnership between Chadron State College and Wayne State College that allows early acceptance into medical and dental school when qualified students begin undergraduate studies. To date, 333 RHOP students have graduated from UNMC and 203 are attending Chadron State, Wayne State or UNMC. Of the UNMC graduates who have completed residencies and are practicing health professionals, 61 percent are practicing in rural communities with 52 percent practicing in rural Nebraska, and 71 percent of all practicing graduates have worked in a rural community at some point in their career; and
- UNMC students are required to do rural rotations, during which health profession training is provided under the supervision of volunteer preceptors in communities.

“What’s impressive is that these programs permeate throughout all of what UNMC offers and develops a pipeline for future rural health care professionals,” Dr. Mueller said.

NURSING

UNMC turned away more than 1,000 qualified nursing school applicants in the past five years due to a lack of space in its facilities and a shortage of those who teach students.

To meet future needs, the College of Nursing has:

- Increased enrollment by 30 percent since 2002 — without new resources;
- Initiated accelerated programs for students and faculty - one-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Fast-Track BSN to PhD, Registered Nurse (RN) to BSN to advance current nurses, and added education tracks to prepare more teachers in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and PhD programs;
- Invested \$600,000 in classrooms, skills labs and educational technology in Scottsbluff;
- Broke ground on a \$14 million additional building in 2008, thanks to a large gift from Ruth and Bill Scott. The building will enable the college to annually enroll 265 additional students in Omaha by the year 2020 — an increase of nearly 70 percent over the current 385 students. The college also will dramatically increase graduates in its master’s and doctoral programs — programs that prepare nurses to become faculty members;

- Planned a new \$17.5 million home for the Lincoln Division. By 2020, with the new facility, the division is projected to increase by 40 undergraduate students, 16 master’s degree students, eight doctoral students and seven professors.
- Supported a dynamic regional effort to establish a College of Nursing Division in Northeast Nebraska.
- Investigated student capacity expansion and learning support upgrades at the Kearney division.

All these measures combined will prepare 1,000 new nurses by 2020 and impact the anticipated state shortage by 25 percent.

“We’re forming benefit-laden educational partnerships throughout Nebraska to help communities attract, retain and upgrade nurses,” said Virginia Tilden, D.N.Sc., dean of UNMC’s College of Nursing. “We work with community leaders, med centers, hospitals, community clinics, physician groups, nursing homes, community colleges, school systems and other stakeholders. About 95 percent of our graduates get jobs in Nebraska.”

MENTAL HEALTH

In one-third of Nebraska’s 93 counties, residents have no one to turn to when in distress.

In fact, the entire state — outside the Omaha-Lincoln area — is considered a shortage area for mental health professionals.

There are 1,796 mental health practitioners in the state, but only 475 practice in greater Nebraska. Of those, 23 are psychiatrists and 51 are psychologists.

Patients are known to drive 300 miles round trip for an appointment, said Joe Evans, Ph.D., director of psychology at the Munroe-Meyer Institute and professor in the department of pediatrics.

“The main problem is a lack of access for individuals and families to mental health services,” Dr. Evans said. “We operate 14 clinics across the state and because people drive long distances to get care they don’t return on a regular basis.”

UNMC’s clinics serve as a mental health pipeline to rural Nebraska. Each year, eight interns spend a year at these clinics. Some stay another year as a post-doc. If they settle in the community, they become faculty and help train new interns.

“Our goal is to recruit, train and retain,” Dr. Evans said. “We’d like to get a pediatric psychologist in every one of the 16 pediatric practices outside Omaha and Lincoln.

“But, it’s hard to recruit and retain interns because Medicaid rules changed last year and now they aren’t paid for their services,” he said. “New resources are needed to help the interns.

“Rural families turn to their family practice physician for treatment of anxiety, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, ADHD and other stress-inducing mental health issues,” he said. “Physicians are becoming burned out because they have no mental health professionals nearby that they can refer their patients.”

ALLIED HEALTH

Allied health professionals work alongside physicians, nurses, pharmacists and public health specialists to provide critical diagnostic, intervention or technology support services. Increased awareness of allied health opportunities is vitally important in the midst of an extensive workforce shortage.

The demand for the allied health professionals will only increase in the years ahead. Based on estimates of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for many of the allied health professionals educated at UNMC will vary from 15 percent to 27 percent over the next eight years.

Last year, UNMC’s School of Allied Health Professions received nearly four times the number of applications needed to fill the 170 slots in its 11 programs, said Kyle Meyer, Ph.D., associate dean of SAHP.

In response to the demand, SAHP has:

- Increased student enrollment in its physical therapy program by 25 percent beginning with the fall of 2009 entering class. The physician assistant program also is investigating a possible increase in class size.
- Offered clinical laboratory science courses through distance education to students in rural areas since 1992. Participants — about 10 per year — go through clinical training at affiliated hospitals in Norfolk, Kearney, Hastings, Grand Island and North Platte. A similar program exists for radiography in Grand Island and Columbus. ☺☺



More on shortage areas and student loan/repayment programs www.dhhs.ne.gov/orh/

Workforce Shortage Report
www.unmc.edu/rural/documents/InterimWorkforceReport090308.pdf

UNMC A LEADER IN SERVING RURAL NEBRASKA

UNMC has been a national leader in innovative primary care and rural education programs. Most notably, the Primary Care Program was the first collaborative family medicine and internal medicine training program and the Rural Training Tracks was one of the first programs in the country to allow university-based residents to train in rural communities.

According to the Health Professions Tracking Service at UNMC, approximately 64 percent of the practicing primary care physicians in Nebraska – and 74 percent of those in rural counties – received their medical education from UNMC.

LACK OF PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS PRESENTS A MAJOR CHALLENGE

by Lisa Spellman

Matt Johnson, M.D., looked forward to building a career and raising his family in rural Nebraska.

But, being one of only a few physicians in a small primary care practice in North Platte proved to be overwhelming for the UNMC graduate.

Dr. Johnson's enthusiasm was high when he joined the practice in 2005, but that soon was replaced with exhaustion. He worked long hours and moonlit at Omaha hospitals on the weekends to provide for his family and meet his student loan obligations.

Now, he has returned to UNMC to specialize in cardiology.

Dr. Johnson's story is not unique. In the past decade alone, the number of U.S. medical school graduates entering family practice residencies has dropped by 50 percent.

"The dwindling number of primary care physicians and decreasing number of medical students choosing primary care as a career is becoming critical," said Thomas Tape, M.D., chief of general internal medicine at UNMC and governor of the Nebraska chapter of the American College of Physicians.

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association last fall sounded an alarm. Of 1,200 fourth-year medical students, only 2 percent planned to go into primary care internal medicine, compared with 9 percent in a 1990 survey.

The demands on a primary care physician – which includes those who specialize in family medicine, general pediatrics or general internal medicine – are often overwhelming.

"Today's primary care physicians struggle to keep up with the swelling tide of patients and paperwork," Dr. Tape said. "They face inadequate reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid, which impacts how well they can meet the costs of running a clinic, support their families and pay their student loans."

The American College of Physicians (ACP) worked with Congress on the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act (H.R. 7192), designed to help reverse the growing shortage of primary care physicians.

The bill, which will be reintroduced this session, proposes easing the financial burden on primary care physicians by having

their medical education expenses paid for, or reduced, through scholarships or repayment of debt. In return, the physician would have a primary care service obligation care to fulfill.

While Nebraska does offer scholarships and loan repayment programs, these are targeted toward rural areas and require local matching funds. More support for primary care will be needed to meet the demand for patient care across the state.

Nebraska is facing a terrible shortage of primary care physicians and it will just get worse as the population ages, said Michael Sitorius, M.D., professor and chairman of family medicine. Dr. Sitorius has served on the Rural Health Advisory Commission for 12 years.

"UNMC has taken the lead on this issue, but we need more incentives for students to practice in rural areas. The programs in place now are underfunded," he said.

In Nebraska, only 39 percent of physicians are primary care doctors. That translates to 1,441 doctors. Not nearly enough to meet the demand.

"We need to redesign the primary care practice so it is something that people want to do and will be financially feasible for them," Dr. Tape said.

The Patient Centered Medical Home concept, which also is promoted by the bill being submitted to Congress, would do just that. A physician practicing in a "medical home" can practice medicine as it should be practiced, Dr. Tape said.

In this concept, each patient would have a personal physician who works with a health care team to provide comprehensive care. The concept also involves the patient as a partner in working with the team to enhance wellness. Medical homes would monitor the progress of their patients and remind them when recommended care is due.

"The medical home approach is expected to improve health as well as save money," he said. "It's the best hope for saving primary care."

Students who came to UNMC through the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) meet monthly to encourage other students to consider rural practice. Andrew Pohlmeier, a second-year medical student from Lawrence, Neb., is president of the Student Association for Rural Health.

"We host speakers and forums to stimulate interest in rural practice and it works. I've heard from several students that they've decided to locate in a rural community after they graduate," he said. The group also helps with high school career day and RHOP student visits.

Renovated Bennett Hall Unites Allied Health

by Karen Burbach

UNMC's School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) was formed 37 years ago, but it has never been under the same roof. Last year, all that changed.

The \$8.9 million renovation of Bennett Hall turned a building built during Woodrow Wilson's presidency into a modernized home for SAHP's 11 educational programs, as well as its distance education department.

"The consolidation of our faculty and administrative functions has generated great enthusiasm among our faculty, staff and students," said Kyle Meyer, Ph.D., associate dean of the SAHP. "I am confident it will lead to greater collaboration and innovation among our faculty in both research and teaching."

The third-oldest building on the UNMC campus (after Poynter Hall and University Tower reopened last fall to rave reviews as natural light spilled through oversized windows and into corridors with dark crown moldings and granite floors. High ceilings, wall sconces, opaque glass on office doors, a restored stairway and Earth tones further compliment the building's early history.

The dramatic renovation is the result of a 2006 legislative bill (LB605) that provided state funds to upgrade buildings on all four University of Nebraska campuses.

The renovation compliments the SAHP's vision to increase its clinical research funding, as well as its scholarly activity. "We are focused on research that advances rural health and promotes quality aging – two issues vital to Nebraskans," Dr. Meyer said.

The SAHP already plays a critical role in the state's health care system through its educational mission. The school graduates approximately 175 allied health practitioners annually; many of whom stay in Nebraska.

Nationally, 60 percent of the health care workforce is made up of allied health care professionals, who work with colleagues in medicine, nursing, pharmacy and public health to provide critical diagnostic, intervention or technology support services, Dr. Meyer said.

The demand for allied health professionals continues to grow. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that, between 2006

and 2016, increased demand for physician assistants, physical therapists, radiation therapists, clinical laboratory scientists, radiographers, sonographers and nuclear medicine technologists – all of which UNMC educates – will range from 15 percent to 27 percent.

EDUCATIONAL SPACE – integrated throughout the building – includes:

- A tiered amphitheater that accommodates up to 40 students with technology for distance education;
- A 2,000-plus square foot classroom and laboratory for physical therapy and physician assistant students;
- The Karen Allen Linder Microscopy Suite for cytotechnology students;
- A multi-purpose microscopy and learning resource room for clinical laboratory science students;
- Classroom and resource room equipped for distance education for clinical perfusion students; and
- A reading room designed to create a comfortable space for faculty and faculty-student interaction.

The proximity of the building, which sits on the northwest corner of 42nd and Emile Streets and is directly west of the new Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education, greatly benefits the school's 350 students, 53 faculty and 16 staff members.

The consolidation also provides a much-needed physical identity for the SAHP, Dr. Meyer said.

"The SAHP is delighted to physically join the 'educational corridor' with our colleagues from medicine, pharmacy and nursing," he said. "We appreciate all who have worked to make Bennett Hall not only the new, but the first home, of the School of Allied Health Professions." ☺☺



Thomas Tape, M.D.

CLASSMATES PROUD OF ALMA MATER

by Lisa Spellman

MUCH AT UNMC HAS CHANGED SINCE MURIEL FRANK, M.D., AUSTIN MUTZ, M.D., AND HARRY MCFADDEN JR., M.D., GRADUATED IN 1943.

One is the vast front lawn and magnificent staircase that greeted medical students as they entered University Hospital. Gone, too, is the accelerated curriculum put in place during World War II to graduate more doctors.

What hasn't changed, the trio said during their 65-year reunion, is the role UNMC plays in Nebraska.

As the state's only public academic health science center, UNMC is even more critical to the state's health care workforce and the region's vibrancy. That is evident with each graduate, faculty recruit, research discovery and new building.

"UNMC was vital to the region in 1943 just as it is today because of the doctors and nurses trained there," Dr. McFadden said. "Today that importance has increased as new disciplines have come into being, such as those in the School of Allied Health Professions. But the goals and responsibilities remain the same and that is to provide well-educated physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and allied health professionals."

The three friends graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine the same year 7 million Americans, nearly 10 percent of the population, were involved in World War II in Europe and the South Pacific.

People on the home front did everything they could to contribute to the war effort. Nearly every student enrolled in the medical school had either enlisted in the Army or Navy medical corps, they said.

"Almost everyone was drafted into the army," Dr. Mutz said. "All of the young instructors, those in their 30s and 40s, signed up for the war. Some of our good teachers left. After our junior and senior year, the faculty was made up entirely of volunteer physicians who also practiced in the city."

During the students' clinical rotations, they said, it was the interns and residents who became their teachers. "The interns and residents had more clinical responsibility for the patients, but they helped us a great deal," Dr. McFadden said.

In an effort to graduate more doctors quickly, the medical college curriculum was accelerated and the three-month summer vacation was cut.

Everyone did what was needed for the war effort, Dr. Frank said.

Two classes graduated in 1943. Drs. Frank and Mutz received their degrees in March; Dr. McFadden received his in December.

After graduation, Dr. Frank began her career in anesthesiology at Methodist Hospital in Omaha after a short stint in the pharmacology lab at UNMC.

Drs. Mutz and McFadden finished their internships and residencies and then were sent into service.



MURIEL FRANK, M.D.



HARRY MCFADDEN JR., M.D.



AUSTIN MUTZ, M.D.



Dr. Mutz went to the South Pacific, then settled in Spalding when he returned to Nebraska in 1946. Today, he lives in Denver.

Dr. McFadden eventually landed in Berlin where he was chief of laboratory services. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps for two years before returning to Omaha.

Dr. McFadden taught at UNMC from 1948 to 1987 and practiced in an independent lab. He retired in 1996.

In spite of the war, those were happy times, the trio said.

"We were happy to be in school," Dr. Frank said. "Every one of us felt fortunate." ☺☺

Nebraska's Area Health Education Centers

*Connecting Students to Careers,
Professionals to Communities,
and Communities to Better Health*



"Our daughter was a senior in high school and had decided on a career path in health care, but wasn't really sure. She attended a health careers camp put on by the Northern Nebraska AHEC and let me tell you, she couldn't stop talking about it! She came away knowing that health care is where her future is."

Brian Kreikemeier
West Point, Neb.

"The AHECs are vitally important for the support of health care employers and the recruitment of our future work force, especially within rural communities."

Jane McConkey, R.N.
Box Butte General Hospital
Alliance, Neb.

"With the shortage of doctors in primary care, we have to approach the shortage with as many different efforts as we can. AHEC does that."

Pete Johnson, M.D.
Family Medicine Preceptor
Scottsbluff, Neb.



Funded in part through the Health Resources & Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions Federal Grant U76HP00592

The Nebraska AHEC Program Office
(402) 559-9509
www.unmc.edu/dept/ahec

Celebrating a century of pharmacy education

by Nicole Lindquist

Father of Nebraska pharmacy education impacted nation

Rufus A. Lyman, M.D., wasn't a pharmacist by training, but he was one of the most outspoken champions of increasing standards in American pharmacy education.

In 1908, he also was the founding director of the University of Nebraska School of Pharmacy, which was elevated to a college in 1915.

Last year, the UNMC College of Pharmacy celebrated 100 years of pharmacy education, in part, by remembering Dr. Lyman – the first dean of the College of Pharmacy – and his influence both in Nebraska and across the United States.

"We've been at the forefront of pharmacy education for a long time," said Courtney Fletcher, Pharm.D., dean of UNMC's College of Pharmacy.

UNMC's College of Pharmacy – ranked in the top 25 percent of pharmacy schools in the country by U.S. News and World Report – was only the third college of pharmacy in the nation to offer a doctorate of pharmacy degree in the early 1900s.

Dr. Lyman was first to recommend that all pharmacy colleges require students to have a high school diploma, as well as minimum college requirements. He also was an advocate for students and an early champion for women in pharmacy – his three daughters all became pharmacists.

"He was an influential figure in pharmacy education," said Dennis B. Worthen, Ph.D., Lloyd Scholar at the Lloyd Library and Museum in Cincinnati, who has studied Dr. Lyman extensively.

In 1946, at age 72, Dr. Lyman retired from the University of Nebraska as dean emeritus.

Still, his unwavering support for high standards continues at UNMC.

Today, the college prepares students for future changes in the practice environment.

"Pharmacy education is moving from a product focus to a patient focus," Dr. Fletcher said. "This is driven by an increasing need and demand on the part of patients for drug-related information, and the public's access to the pharmacist."

Because of this shift, College of Pharmacy faculty members are changing educational programs so students can partake in patient care experiences in their first year of pharmacy school. In the past, students were required to have three years of classroom experience before their first patient interaction.



Third-year pharmacy student, Derek Deyle consults with a patient about a prescription.

Faculty members also plan to increase the prerequisite requirements to enter the college's professional doctoral program and expand the curriculum to offer more elective courses for pharmacy students in courses such as pediatric and geriatric drug therapy.

"It is a unique plan, but I believe all schools will follow this direction; we are simply out in front," said Dr. Fletcher, who hopes to incorporate more cross-discipline collaboration among physicians and nurses within the education program.

"Solving all the health care problems for society is best done by a team, not one type of health care professional. This is true for research as well as direct patient care. Our research doesn't just stay on the bench," Dr. Fletcher said, citing the studies of Alexander "Sasha" Kabanov, Ph.D., on nanomedicine drug delivery, Jonathan Vennerstrom, Ph.D., on a malaria vaccine and Dong Wang, Ph.D., on drug delivery to the bones and joints of patients with arthritis and osteoporosis.

"College of Pharmacy scientists work with clinicians in order to understand the drug therapy problems of patients and to help move their basic discoveries into clinical use," he said.

In addition to their responsibilities in education and research, faculty members have continued Dr. Lyman's legacy of service and leadership. Jeff Baldwin, Pharm.D., associate professor, is now president-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

"We're at the beginning of our next 100 years of pharmacy education and research," Dr. Fletcher said. "This anniversary is an opportunity to look back, but also to think about the 200-year anniversary and what people will remember us for."

History, is on UNMC's side, Dr. Worthen told UNMC pharmacy alumni this past fall. "You had a phenomenal leader who set the tone, not only for you, but for the rest of pharmacy education," he said. "You are each a legacy of the light of Rufus Lyman." ☺☺

by Elizabeth Kumru

DOUBLE THE PROMISE

UNMC'S DURHAM RESEARCH CENTER II OPENS

For some Omahans, UNMC's new Durham Research Center II is a midtown landmark that they pass on their daily commute to work. Others see only the glistening wall of windows and the shadows cast onto Saddle Creek Road.

But, to UNMC researcher Steven Hinrichs, M.D., the glass and brick tower is a beacon – and a promise of a better tomorrow.

"This building allows us to meet the challenge of big science," Dr. Hinrichs said. "It's a place where multiple people with different expertise come together to work on complex problems. It's through that type of collaborative approach that science is best advanced and the quality of people's lives improved."

That collaboration, although not unusual at UNMC, only will increase as the first of 47 researchers begin to move into the 10-level building – almost a mirror image of the Durham Research Center I.

The scientists come from different disciplines, but have one thing in common – each has at least \$1 million in research funding. That minimum threshold helps determine who gets assigned space in the coveted tower.

Once inside, a myriad of research – ranging from regenerating organs and curing lung disease to developing vaccines for Alzheimer's and emerging diseases – and training will take place in the 98 laboratories.

Although each level has a primary research focus, scientists will collaborate on ideas with colleagues throughout the building and across campus. The following outlines the areas of research being done on each level:

■ **FIRST FLOOR** – Pulmonology research with faculty from internal medicine and the College of Public Health. The first floor also will house four core laboratories – microarray, mouse genome and DNA sequencing (both moving from UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute) and tissue banking and histology. These core facilities – sometimes called shared resources – provide sophisticated, expensive technology and expertise that no single lab would have the financial resources to purchase and learn.

■ **THIRD FLOOR** – Neurodevelopment

■ **FOURTH & FIFTH FLOORS** – Cancer



■ **SIXTH FLOOR** – Regenerative Medicine/Gastroenterology/Hepatology

■ **SEVENTH FLOOR** – Infectious diseases

■ **EIGHTH FLOOR** – Nebraska Public Health Laboratory and the Air Force Research Laboratory

The opening of UNMC's newest research tower is evidence of the vital role academic medical centers play in boosting today's economy and workforce. It demonstrates that UNMC is an active developer of new health care concepts and therapies.

The Durham Research Center II is named – as is the twin facility that opened in 2003 – for the late Chuck Durham, who died in April 2008 at age 90. Durham provided the lead gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation and was an ardent supporter of UNMC. Funding for the \$74 million facility came largely through private support.

Grand opening festivities for the second tower are set for May 5 and 6, during which a commemorative sculpture of Durham by Omaha artist John Labja will be unveiled.

Long after the festivities end, however, Dr. Hinrichs and his research colleagues will continue to ask, study and advance the health science questions that signify the promise of a better tomorrow for all. ☺☺

BEEFING UP HEALTH CARE ON THE RESERVATION

by Lisa Spellman



UNMC PARTNERS WITH NORTHERN PLAINS TRIBES

Charles Grim, D.D.S., was blunt when he spoke to researchers gathered for a 2006 advisory council meeting on native health research.

“Past abuses, real and perceived, have contributed to a general distrust of research in the Indian community,” said the former director of the Indian Health Service (IHS). The old model – known as helicopter research – only made matters worse.

“This was where some faculty member from some university descended upon the reservation to do research on Indians that might or might not address the needs of the tribal community. The person then left just as quickly as they had come, never to be heard from again,” Dr. Grim said.

The result: skepticism and a poor track record between researchers and American Indians.

UNMC’s 10-year relationship with tribes in Nebraska and South Dakota, however, has built a new model that’s allowed hundreds of tribal members to participate in studies involving diabetes, asthma and cancer. Here are a few of their stories:

Getting diabetes under control

Linae Big Fire is the project coordinator and director of Ho-Chunk Hope, a diabetes prevention program on the Winnebago Indian Reservation funded by a \$2 million grant from the IHS.

Peg Bottjen, an assistant professor in the UNMC School of Allied Health Professions, obtained the five-year grant to screen people for pre-diabetes and provide preventive measures through diet and exercise.

During the past 12 years, Bottjen has taught the people of the Winnebago Tribe about the importance of a healthy diet and exercise, trained students at the tribal college so they in turn could provide diabetes education and wrote numerous grants, one of which was used to fund a summer feeding program for the tribe’s children.

“UNMC’s projects benefit the tribe,” Big Fire said. “The university has a good reputation here. They’ve tried to solve some of our health care issues.”

The diabetes prevention program – one of 34 such programs in the United States – has been so successful the IHS extended it for a sixth year.

“WITH THIS STUDY, WE HOPE TO GAIN A MORE ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF WHY NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTHS ARE AT HIGHER RISK FOR DIABETES THAN YOUTHS IN OTHER GROUPS.”

DR. JENNIFER LARSON

Since the Ho-Chunk Hope program began in 2004, 1,800 people have been screened for diabetes using a simple finger prick test. Of those, 181 people agreed to take the oral glucose test, which resulted in 68 people testing normal, 13 testing positive for diabetes and 100 who were found to have pre-diabetes.

Of those in the pre-diabetic group, 74 enrolled in the program and lost an average of 8 pounds; 56 decreased their fasting blood sugar to a normal range.

“The results prove we can prevent diabetes,” Bottjen said.

In another study, Jennifer Larsen, M.D., wants to better predict who will develop diabetes.

Dr. Larsen, associate dean for clinical research in the College of Medicine, is the principal investigator of the diabetes risk project, which was funded through an IHS Native American Research Center for Health grant. The Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center, which is part of the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman’s Health Board (AATCHB), submitted the grant.

“The prevalence of diabetes is increasing across the United States, but particularly in American Indian communities, where Type 2 diabetes is more than twice as common,” Dr. Larsen said.

Within the American Indian population, the greatest increases of Type 2 diabetes are among youths age 15 to 19. The prevalence of diabetes varies from tribe to tribe, Dr. Larsen said, but is about 18 percent in adults for the Aberdeen Area Great Plains tribes, compared to 9 percent for the rest of the population.

Dr. Larsen’s project evaluates the prevalence of insulin resistance in children of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. With the help of the Rosebud Tribal Diabetes Program, the goal is to identify the best predictors for diabetes risk in American Indian youths and identify new strategies that can prevent or delay the onset of diabetes.

“There haven’t been that many studies that identify the prevalence of diabetes and pre-diabetes in Native American youths, but information suggests that the incidence is growing faster in this group than any other segment of the U.S. population,” Dr. Larsen said.

“With this study, we hope to gain a more accurate representation of why Native American youths are at higher risk than youths in other groups.”

Dr. Larsen, a member of the advisory council for the Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center, also serves as program director for the Native American Research Center for Health grant, which addresses health disparities.

Cancer takes a toll

Before one of her goals was realized, Carole Anne Heart, the former director of AATCHB, died of cancer, the second leading cause of death among American Indians.

Under Heart’s leadership, the AATCHB hired UNMC epidemiologist Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway, Ph.D., to help collect and analyze data on cancer among the Northern Plains tribes. The goal: improve access to treatments for members of the 18 Indian tribes served by the AATCHB.

The data will be used to write grants that provide access to screenings, cancer education and treatments – a big benefit to the Northern Plains Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at AATCHB, said Tinka Duran, outreach coordinator.

A member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Duran said the fear of cancer is monumental among American Indians. “They think cancer is a death sentence,” she said, noting the perception isn’t far from the reality.

“Diagnosis of cancer is often made at a late stage, when it’s harder to treat and often fatal,” Duran said.

The perception is compounded by a common belief that the rate of cancer among American Indians is low, Dr. Watanabe-Galloway said. But, the National Cancer Society reports a higher incidence of certain types of cancers in different regions of the country.

UNMC also is involved in two other projects:

Kim Rodehorst-Weber, Ph.D., assistant professor in the UNMC College of Nursing – Scottsbluff division, works with families on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and the Spirit Lake Tribe in North Dakota, to identify children between the ages of 6 and 18 at risk for developing asthma. Her four-year, \$250,000 Native American Research Center for Health grant is ends soon.

Madeline West, M.D., an assistant professor of psychiatry in the UNMC College of Medicine, travels from Omaha to the Winnebago Indian Reservation once a month to provide psychiatric services to the tribe’s youths. She treats many children for depression and ADHD and said there is a great need for more Native American therapists. ☺☺

WORLD GROWS SMALLER FOR DREAMERS

by Elizabeth Kumru

KANGMU MA HAS A DREAM.

SINCE CHILDHOOD, HE'S WANTED TO BE A SCIENTIST OR DOCTOR.

Now, he's working to accomplish both. The 24-year-old native of Shanghai wants to be the best of the best and he believes that to be the best physician, he also needs to be the best researcher.

Ma, who goes by the nickname "Ben," is the first Chinese student to enter the new Physician Scientist Graduate Training Program (PSGTP), a joint M.D./Ph.D. program between UNMC and Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (SJTUSM).

"This program is a great chance for medical students to have a more complete education," Ma said. "When I started my medical training in China, I found it was not enough for today's professional to provide the best care. The training at UNMC will allow me to understand the disease more thoroughly and be able to translate treatments between the laboratory and clinic."

Kangmu Ma is the first participant in the joint M.D./Ph.D. program between UNMC and Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine.

Under the program, students spend their first two years in medical school at SJTUSM and then come to UNMC for four years to earn their Ph.D., before returning to SJTUSM for two years to earn their medical degree.

Instrumental in developing UNMC's relationships with China is Jialin Zheng, M.D., who earned his medical degree in his native China. Dr. Zheng began his postdoctoral research training at UNMC in 1993 and is now associate dean of graduate studies-international affairs, director of the Asia Pacific Rim Development Program and a professor in the UNMC departments of pharmacology/experimental neuroscience and pathology/microbiology.

"With effort, support and hard work from all PSGTP committee members, we have adapted UNMC's well-built M.D./Ph.D. training model and the Biomedical Research Training Program mechanism to establish this new program with our collaborators at SJTUSM," Dr. Zheng said. "The joint M.D./Ph.D. program allows Chinese medical students to put two perspectives together and better understand diseases."

Initiation of the joint M.D./Ph.D. program, one of the first of its kind between the United States and China, was based on an agreement Tom Rosenquist, Ph.D., vice chancellor for research, signed last year with SJTUSM President Zhenggang Zhu when Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman's delegation visited Shanghai.

The program was officially inaugurated in August when UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., signed the final agreement with SJTUSM while in China.

The China Scholarship Council (CSC) program provides \$1,050 a month for Ma's stipend and UNMC supplements an additional \$750 to total the equivalent of what other graduate

students receive. As with other graduate students, UNMC also waives Ma's tuition.

Over the past few years, UNMC has developed a strong relationship with the CSC under the leadership of Drs. Maurer and Rosenquist, Don Leuenberger, vice chancellor for business and finance, Rubens Pamies, M.D., vice chancellor of academic affairs, and others, Dr. Zheng said.

While in China this past October, UNMC's delegation, led by Leuenberger, signed a formal agreement with the CSC to accept Ph.D. students from other top Chinese universities. In addition, the new agreement allows UNMC to accept Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows, who will be partially supported by the CSC, to all UNMC colleges. Next year, UNMC plans to accept up to three M.D./Ph.D. students to the PSGTP and up to 10 CSC-supported students.

"Education is very important for friendship," Dr. Zheng said. "Friendships last forever – from generation to generation. It allows us to build a bridge between China and Omaha."

Ma, who pulled his American name "Ben" out of a hat in English class when he was 8 years old, comes from a family steeped in medicine. His grandfather, an internist, and grandmother, a pediatrician, were famous physicians in Shanghai. Before retirement, both of them were chiefs of physicians at a Shanghai hospital, Ma said.

"They are proud, as am I, that I've followed my dream," he said. ∞



UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., talks about UNMC's newest program with China. www.unmc.edu/discover

PH.D. STUDENTS FROM CHINA ALSO ATTEND UNMC

Kangmu Ma joins nine other students from China who are financially supported by the China Scholarship Council program this year. These students work on their Ph.D. degrees through the Medical Sciences Interdepartmental Area, and UNMC's colleges of public health, medicine and pharmacy.

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

"We cooperate with different medical schools," he said. "The relationship with your university I think is the best. You really do something with the faculty and students going back and forth. The action is real. With other schools, we often see no action."

Leaders of institutions and government officials in China have recognized that UNMC keeps its promises, said Jialin Zheng, M.D., director of the Asia Pacific Rim Development Program. "It's what sets UNMC apart."

SJTUSM sends six medical students to Omaha for three months of clinical rotations. The school has sent four groups of students to UNMC. Starting in August, UNMC will send four medical students to Shanghai three times a year for one month with a maximum complement of 12 students participating per year.

In nursing, four UNMC students annually spend a month in Shanghai, and SJTUSM sends four of its students to UNMC.

"The students really want to come to Omaha," Dr. Zheng said, noting that 19 percent of UNMC's post docs hail from China.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A UNMC committee was formed to carry out the tasks associated with the newly established joint UNMC-SJTUSM M.D./Ph.D. program. Along with Dr. Zheng, committee members are:

STEVEN HINRICHS, M.D., chairman, Stokes-Shackelford professor and chairman of the department of pathology/microbiology and senior associate dean for research, serves as chairman of the PSGTP committee;

DAVID CROUSE, PH.D., associate vice chancellor, academic affairs, executive associate dean, graduate studies, and professor, genetics cell biology;

KAI FU, M.D., PH.D., assistant professor, pathology/microbiology;

DAN MONAGHAN, PH.D., director, Biomedical Research Training Program, and professor and director, pharmacology/experimental neuroscience;

GERALD MOORE, M.D., professor, rheumatology, and senior associate dean for academic affairs;

DEBRA ROMBERGER, M.D., co-director, UNMC Ph.D.- M.D. program, and professor, pulmonology;

SHELLEY SMITH, PH.D., director, UNMC Ph.D.- M.D. program, and professor, molecular genetics, Munroe-Meyer Institute; and

MARY CAVELL, APRDP coordinator.

Gala raises \$1.1 million for cancer research



Robin Roberts

Last fall's Ambassador of Hope Gala raised more than \$1.1 million to support research at the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center.

The Oct. 18 event featured comments from the 2008 Ambassador of Hope Award recipient, Robin Roberts of ABC's Good Morning America. Roberts – who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 – was honored for raising awareness about the disease.

More than 800 people attended the gala at the Qwest Center Omaha and several more attended a satellite gala in Scottsbluff. In addition to Roberts, previous recipients of the Ambassador of Hope Award include Tom Brokaw, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Sam Donaldson and the late Omaha philanthropist Chuck Durham.

Student enrollment sets record high

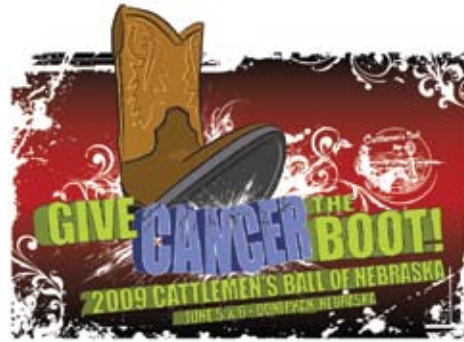
For the fourth straight year, student enrollment at UNMC reached an all-time high with 3,189 students enrolled for the 2008-09 school year – an increase of 2 percent over last year's previous record of 3,128.

Sizable increases occurred in both the graduate college and in the professional level, which includes the colleges of dentistry, pharmacy and medicine and such programs in the School of Allied Health Professions as physician assistant and physical therapy.

Enrollment in the graduate college climbed by 45 students, or 7 percent, going from 647 to 692. At the professional level, there was an increase of 37 students, or 2.2 percent, boosting the total of professional students from 1,652 to 1,689.

Buffett autographs boots for auction

The Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska got an unexpected boost – and some unexpected boots – for its June 5-6 "Famous Boots Auction" thanks to Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett.



autographed boots

Buffett, chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., autographed a pair of cowboy boots donated by The Boot Rack in Albion, Neb., and Justin Boots, a Berkshire Hathaway company in Fort Worth, Texas. In addition to his signature, the well-known

steak lover wrote "I love beef!" on one boot.

The Famous Boots Auction will be among the scheduled fundraising activities during the 11th annual Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska event near Doniphan, Neb.

Robb Feed Yard, the Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, the village of Doniphan and surrounding communities will host this year's Cattlemen's Ball. The event's theme, "Give Cancer the Boot," reflects both the fun-filled spirit the event's organizers have created and the seriousness with which they see their cause.

To date, the Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska has raised more than \$3 million for the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center, while 10 percent of these funds have been granted to local health care organizations. For ticket information, visit www.cattlemensball.com.

New center for humanities, ethics

The new Center for Humanities, Ethics and Society in UNMC's College of Public Health will centralize campus projects that involve issues in humanities, ethics and law.

The center, approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents in January, will work on programs in six critical areas: clinical ethics and patient care, humanities and the arts, interprofessionalism, research ethics, values and the environment and health care reform.

Ethics extend far beyond patient rooms, said Toby Schonfeld, Ph.D., associate professor of health care ethics and the center's director. Climate change, industrial reform and global consumerism impact our physical world, which in turn influences the health of society.

Dr. Maurer to be inducted into Omaha Business Hall of Fame



Harold M. Maurer, M.D.

The Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce will soon induct UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., and six others into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame.

The April 16 gala honors individuals whose accomplishments in business are historically significant to the development of Omaha.

"I'm tremendously honored to receive this recognition," said Dr. Maurer, who marked his 10th anniversary as chancellor this past December.

"My induction into the Hall of Fame is a testament to UNMC's progress in becoming a world-class academic health sciences center and is reflective of our current vitality in the city of Omaha and beyond. I would not be receiving this recognition without the tremendous work of UNMC faculty and staff, as well my wife Beverly's support and tireless advocacy for UNMC," he said.

The honor is one of Dr. Maurer's many commendations that include an international Lifetime Achievement Award in cancer research, the region's Midlander of the Year honor and the King of Ak-Sar-Ben crown.

Dr. Maurer joined UNMC in 1993 as the dean of the College of Medicine. He became chancellor in 1998. A pediatric hematologist/ oncologist, Dr. Maurer is internationally known for his expertise in rhabdomyosarcoma, a fast-growing, highly malignant tumor that accounts for more than half of the soft tissue cancers in children. For 26 years, he chaired the national Intergroup Rhabdomyosarcoma Study Group, which has been credited with raising the cure rate from 20 percent to 75 percent by developing a repetitive-course, multi-agent chemotherapy treatment.

In 2003, the Children's Oncology Group awarded Dr. Maurer with its most prestigious honor – the Lifetime Achievement Award – recognizing his leadership and contributions in this important area of cancer research. In 2008, the National Cancer Institute recognized the work of the IRSG as one of the top 28 milestones over the past 60 years in pediatric oncology.

His achievements at UNMC include leading the merger of University Hospital and Clarkson Hospital to form The Nebraska Medical Center; leading the institution to new heights of excellence in education, research and clinical care, including construction of new facilities such as the Durham Research Center and Durham Research Center II, the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education, the Hixson-Lied Center for Clinical Excellence and several facilities that have yet to open.

Science Cafes draw big crowds

More than 200 young adults interested in science attended UNMC's first two "Science Cafes" in February. UNMC has teamed with the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures and Bio Nebraska to host these events in local coffeehouses and bars.

UNMC neurosurgeon William Thorrell, M.D., and epileptologist Sanjay Singh, M.D., discussed how the brain works during two initial events at the Slowdown in downtown Omaha.

"This format leads to face-to-face discussions in a more informal, fun environment," said Bob Bartee, vice chancellor for external affairs at UNMC. "We're hopeful that the Science Cafes will appeal to young adults and help re-introduce them to science."

The Science Cafes are part of an effort by UNMC and other groups to increase the population's science literacy. A more scientifically literate populace is a goal in UNMC's strategic plan, and a 17-member team comprising UNMC faculty and staff, as well as Omaha area community leaders, is addressing the issue. For more information, visit www.unmc.edu/sciencecafe.

Highly-trained MS specialist joins UNMC



Rana Zabad, M.D.

UNMC expanded the care of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) with the hiring of Rana Zabad, M.D., the first fellowship-trained MS neurologist to practice in the state of Nebraska.

Dr. Zabad will serve as assistant professor

and director of the multiple sclerosis program in the UNMC Department of Neurological Sciences.

Her leadership will build upon UNMC's already successful MS clinic. Established in 1997, the clinic has contributed to national research and advances in MS; however, in the past, many patients have been referred to other national centers of excellence.

"Though our neurologists are appropriately trained and qualified to treat patients with MS, the challenging aspects of diagnosis and complex choices of treatments make Dr. Zabad critical to providing an advanced standard of care," said Pierre Fayad, M.D., Reynolds Centennial Professor and chairman of neurological sciences. ☺



College of Nursing students surround Dr. Rebecca Keating-Lefler, who serves UNMC as a professor, alumni association president and scholarship donor

A tragedy at a young age paved the way for an Omaha native to impact nursing in many ways.

Rebecca Keating-Lefler, Ph.D., was only 14 when her mother died from a tragic fall. It was then she knew that helping people was the way to honor her mother's memory.

"My mother's passing was significant," she said. "She inspired me in many ways. She emphasized the importance of making a difference in the lives of others as the greatest life activity.

"I knew I could honor her by becoming a nurse because nurses are the most visible health care professionals who are always at the bedside and who focus on delivering holistic care to patients and also to their families." The recent passing of Dr. Lefler's father, who also inspired her by his altruistic attitude and behaviors, renewed her passion for giving back to those in need.

Nursing was the right choice for Dr. Keating-Lefler, who earned her associate's degree from the UNMC College of Nursing in 1986, then her bachelor's degree the following year. While working on her BSN, she got a taste of research.

"I had some brilliant mentors in the college who I was able to assist with a parent-infant research study. It's here that I discovered a love of teaching and research," she said.

After Dr. Keating-Lefler earned her master's degree in 1992, she began teaching at the Nebraska Methodist College. In 1995, she returned to UNMC to pursue a doctorate in nursing and upon completion she stayed to continue her research and teach.

As an assistant professor in the department of Families and Health Systems, Dr. Keating-Lefler saw a need to do more.

"I always believed there was something I could give back to students," she said. "They inspire me on a daily basis, and I hope I can do the same for them."

Dr. Keating-Lefler decided to expand her sphere of influence and provide financial support to nursing students. In 2003, she and her husband established the Dr. Rebecca Keating-Lefler and Steven Lefler Scholarship Fund. This award is given to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who want to enter the nursing program at UNMC.

"I knew it was important to target vulnerable populations with this scholarship," she said. "My research team works to improve outcomes for single, low-income mothers and their children. I know first hand their immense needs and want to provide choices to students who have limited opportunities so they can improve their chances of career success."

Not only does Dr. Keating-Lefler support the College of Nursing through her teaching and scholarship support, she also helps former students stay connected to UNMC through her position as president of the UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association. She hopes to reconnect as many alumni as possible with UNMC and encourage them to support student activities and the college's financial needs.

"The most important thing alumni can do is to give back to those who helped assure their professional success," she said.

Through her various efforts, Dr. Keating-Lefler hopes to continually be a vital member of the UNMC family – dedicated to the college's programs and goals of achieving excellence in academics and clinical performance.

"Health care in our country is at a critical point in time," she said. "Nurses are in a pivotal position to lead the interprofessional health care teams to assure quality and safe patient care is delivered to every person regardless of cultural, social, physical, mental and financial status." ∞



WHEN YOU SEE ANOTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IN NEBRASKA, THERE'S ALMOST A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE THEY GRADUATED FROM UNMC.

Nearly half of Nebraska's doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health care providers received their training at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. That says a lot about the programs at UNMC and how much they help the people of Nebraska. As an alum of UNMC it also says you're in great company. A lot of great company.

These are exciting times at UNMC with exceptional growth and impressive plans for the future. But to keep the momentum going, we need your help.

Please consider making a contribution to the school that helped you be a success and to the medical center so important to all Nebraskans. To donate, contact Amy Volk at the University of Nebraska Foundation, 402-502-4112, avolk@nufoundation.org.



UNMC ALUM LEADS AIR FORCE MEDICAL EFFORTS

by Chuck Brown



Lt. Gen. James Roudebush, M.D., Air Force surgeon general, chats with a wounded soldier returning from overseas at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

GROWING UP IN GERING, NEB., LT. GEN. JAMES ROUDEBUSH, M.D., HAD THREE HEROES – HIS MOTHER, FATHER AND HIS FAMILY PHYSICIAN, JACOB KRIEG, M.D.

Dr. Krieg made house calls, many of them to the Roudebush residence to clean up the numerous cuts, bumps and bruises the adventurous Dr. Roudebush incurred because of his youthful exuberance.

“Dr. Krieg was really like a member of our family,” Dr. Roudebush said, “and he was an excellent example of what a family physician should be.”

Dr. Krieg’s influence motivated Dr. Roudebush toward a career in medicine. It’s a career path that began at UNMC in the 1970s and has led to his current position as Surgeon General of the Air Force.

Dr. Roudebush entered the UNMC College of Medicine in 1971 after earning a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy at the NU school of pharmacy, which was then in Lincoln.

During his four years at UNMC, Dr. Roudebush would receive what he called an incredibly well-rounded education that left him prepared to handle the military family medicine career he eventually would undertake.

“The strong didactic training and the hands-on training I received during clinical rotations, particularly in rural areas, set me up well for what followed,” Dr. Roudebush said.

He also recalls feeling fortunate to be around amazing UNMC professors and clinicians including Michael Sorrell, M.D., Mary Jo Henn, M.D., Edward Holyoke, M.D., Ph.D., and LeRoy Meyer, M.D.

“These people were setting the standards as far as medical education was concerned,” he said.

What followed was a military medicine career that was necessitated in part by a need to pay off mounting bills related to medical school. As he was entering his second-year at UNMC, Dr. Roudebush applied for and was accepted into one of the first cadres of the military’s Health Professions Scholarship Program.

He chose to enter the Air Force for two reasons: it offered one of the best family medicine fellowships around and he loved flying. He even had a private pilot’s license.

But his vision wasn’t good enough to enter flight school, so Dr. Roudebush started down the road toward a distinguished career in military medicine, although it didn’t seem at first that it would be all that long.

His first station was at F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo., which is about 100 miles from Dr. Roudebush’s native Gering.

“The way it set up, I figured I’d finish my training and my first tour, then hop on the road, head home and set up a practice,” Dr. Roudebush said.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the Panhandle, Dr. Roudebush fell in love with the Air Force and his role in the service. He loved working with the patients and their families.

“I found it extremely rewarding,” he said. “I still do.”

So instead of heading home, Dr. Roudebush stuck with the military which has allowed him to practice all over the globe, including Europe and the Middle East.

After working in several clinical settings, Dr. Roudebush moved into administrative posts and served as commander of various clinics, hospitals, medical centers and command areas before moving into his current position.

As surgeon general of the Air Force, Dr. Roudebush advises Air Force and Defense Department senior leaders on medical aspects of the air expeditionary force and the health of Air Force personnel.

Dr. Roudebush manages more than 43,100 people assigned to 75 medical facilities worldwide. Many of these medics play a critical role in the care of American service members wounded while fighting the war on terrorism.

“What I really do is make sure every Air Force medic can do their job,” he said. “I work to ensure they have the right training, resources, policies and support to carry out our mission.”

Last fall, Dr. Roudebush visited UNMC during activities related to Air Force Week in Omaha. The general was amazed at the progress that has occurred at his alma mater.

“I was very impressed,” he said. “The tradition of solid, high-quality education was certainly very evident and the university has progressed impressively with technology and research.”

“I was delighted to come back and see that kind of progress. I still consider myself a Nebraskan and seeing what has happened at UNMC makes me very proud of my heritage.” ∞

Four receive awards at UNMC alumni reunion

Four distinguished alumni were honored at the UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend on Sept. 19-20 in Omaha.

The College of Medicine Alumni Association awarded the UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award to Paul Young, M.D., '58, of Lexington, Ky.

A native of Fairfield, Neb., Dr. Young has enjoyed a long career in academic medicine. From 1967-75, he was at the University of Missouri and started the first approved family practice residency program in the state. In 1975, he returned to Nebraska to serve as professor and chairman of the UNMC Department of Family Practice.

From Nebraska, Dr. Young went on to become professor and chairman of the department of family medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He then joined the American Board of Family Practice as associate executive director and eventually was named executive director. Today, he is executive director emeritus.

Dr. Young is the founding editor of Family Practice Recertification and the Journal of the American Board of Family Practice. He has done consulting work with the Kellogg Foundation to help develop family medicine residencies in Mexico and South America. He and his wife, Betty, are now retired and live in Lexington, Ky.

The College of Nursing Alumni Association awarded the UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award to Col. Kimberly Siniscalchi, '88, of Dayton, Ohio.

At the time of the award, Col. Siniscalchi served as Deputy Command Surgeon and Command Nurse, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. She assisted the command surgeon in leading the command's eight community-based medical treatment facilities, which provide combat support for more than 7,000 medical personnel and peacetime health care for more than 435,000 beneficiaries. Her leadership experience includes eight years as the Air Force Nurse assigned to the White House Medical Unit, serving Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton.



Alumni honored with awards during the Alumni Reunion Weekend included: Daren Knoell, Pharm.D., '89, UNMC College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Early Career Achievement Award; Patricia Hageman, PT, Ph.D., '79, UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter Distinguished Alumnus Award; Col. Kimberly Siniscalchi, '88, UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award; and Paul Young, M.D., '58, UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award.

In December, Col. Siniscalchi was promoted to major general – a unique accomplishment as she skipped over the brigadier general ranking. She and her husband, Col. Joe Siniscalchi (Ret.), have moved to Washington, D.C., where she is stationed at Bolling Air Force Base.

After earning her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Col. Siniscalchi received her commission in 1979 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship Program at the University of Pittsburgh. She then was assigned to Offutt Air Force Base from 1982 to 1988. During this time, she earned her master's of science degree in nursing from UNMC and worked as a clinical nurse specialist.

The College of Pharmacy Alumni Association awarded the UNMC College of Pharmacy Alumni Association Early Career Achievement Award to Daren Knoell, Pharm.D., '89, of Columbus, Ohio.

A native of Chadron, Neb., Dr. Knoell joined The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy in 1994. He is director of the Heart and Lung Research Institute and associate professor in the departments of pharmacy and internal medicine. He also serves as a clinical pharmacist/asthma educator and is a member of the OSU Center of Pharmacogenomics.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the American Lung Association, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy fund Dr. Knoell's research on lung disease.

Dr. Knoell's research has been published in leading scientific journals and he is frequently invited to present at national meetings. His accomplishments have earned him recognition as a fellow in ACCP and committee appointments with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the NIH.

The Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter awarded the UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter Distinguished Alumnus Award to Patricia Hageman, Ph.D., '79, of Ithaca, Neb.

Dr. Hageman has been director of the physical therapy education program in UNMC's School of Allied Health Professions for the past 19 years. In October, she stepped down as program director to begin a

yearlong faculty development fellowship. She will continue as a tenured professor in the physical therapy education program and focus her efforts on education and research in rural health and gerontology.

Throughout her career, Dr. Hageman has been a national leader in advancing physical therapy education. Nearly 70 percent of the UNMC physical therapy graduates completed their course of study during her tenure as program director. Also during that time, the PT program enjoyed continuous accreditation and underwent two major curriculum changes and degree conversions. Class size has grown 100 percent – from 20 to 40 students.

One of the top accomplishments of the PT program under Dr. Hageman's leadership occurred in 2006 when the program was awarded the prestigious University-Wide Departmental Teaching Award from the University of Nebraska.

Jokela named new alumni director



Roxanna Jokela has been named the new director of alumni relations. Jokela, who has served as interim director since October, will take over on April 13, said Bob Bartee, vice chancellor for external affairs.

At that time, Jokela also will step away from her duties as director of the Rural Health Education Network (RHEN) at UNMC.

"As alumni director, I look forward to working closely with UNMC graduates from all corners of the state and nation," Jokela said.

She will take over as alumni director 16 years and one day after she joined UNMC to lead the RHEN program.

During her time as RHEN director, she oversaw the development of several innovative initiatives and programs that have garnered national prominence for UNMC.

In 2001, Jokela also took on the position of deputy director for the AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) Program. Through her work with Mike Sitorius, M.D., UNMC chairman of family medicine, the medical center's AHEC and RHEN programs have become leaders in meeting the rural workforce needs.

Among other developments Jokela helped initiate were the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP), eighth grade science meets and other health career promotion programs.

RHOP was established to draw more students to UNMC from rural areas. Program participants are granted admission into UNMC programs right out of high school pending their successful completion of undergraduate course work at certain state colleges.

Jokela serves on the congress and the board of trustees for the National Rural Health Association and she is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

As alumni director, Jokela said she looks forward to taking a more unified approach to dealing with medical center alumni from the various colleges and schools.

"It will be beneficial to all parties to see how we can bring our various alumni groups under a more cohesive umbrella," Jokela said. "Although we must promote each alumni chapter's identity, all of our alumni are UNMC alumni and it's important that we build and maintain collaboration among our various alumni organizations and members."

"Roxanna has performed superbly as interim director and has demonstrated the vision and passion to take our alumni activities to the next level," Bartee said. "She clearly emerged from a national search as the leading candidate among an outstanding field of candidates."

Record crowd turns out for alumni weekend



Physical therapy class of 1993 members Cindy Dennis, Jake Wear, Natalie Harms and Barb Leymaster catch up on the past 15 years.



Pharmacy class of 1968 alumni Arlan Stutheit, Fran Moore, Dan Hughes, and his wife, Patty Hughes, enjoy the alumni reception.



Doug Brouillette and Rod Markin, both from the College of Medicine class of 1988, present UNMC College of Medicine Dean John Gollan, M.D., Ph.D., with their class gift of \$243,200 to be used for new technology in the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education.



Reminiscing at their 50-year reunion are College of Nursing graduates: Loretta Little, Marilyn Seidel, Jo Ann Mulligan and Jeanne Greving-Hauserman.

A record 550-plus people attended the UNMC Alumni Weekend Reunion on Sept. 19-20.

"It was a great turnout," said Kim Cuda, then director of alumni relations. "We received lots of calls and e-mails from people who really enjoyed the reunion."

For the first time, many of the alumni events took place in the new Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education. "The Sorrell Center is a wonderful facility and our alumni were proud to see it," Cuda said.

For the second straight year, the reunion brought together alumni from four different UNMC academic units – the colleges of medicine, nursing and pharmacy and the School of Allied Health Professions.

Prior to 2007, each unit held its own separate reunion.

This year's alumni reunion honored the classes of 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 and those who graduated more than 50 years ago.

During a luncheon in the Sorrell Center's Truhlsen Campus Events Center, alumni heard presentations from the four deans of the academic units involved in the reunion.

Later that day, a reception for all attendees was held in the Truhlsen Campus Events Center followed by reunion parties and dinners for the honor classes at a variety of Omaha locations. Several of the honor classes presented class gifts to their alumni associations at the reception.

Alumni activities on Sept. 20 included a presentation on philanthropic tax advantages, campus tours and a trolley tour of Omaha.

The day culminated with the UNMC Alumni Celebration and Awards Dinner at the Holiday Inn Central. Festivities included a video of alumni reminiscences, a tribute to alumni award recipients and a special recognition of Half Century Club members (those graduating 50 or more years ago).

During the video presentation, 12 UNMC alumni reflected on their careers and student days at UNMC. Representing their colleges and class years were, from the College of Medicine – Muriel Frank, '43, Dave Goldner, '98, John Goldner, '63, Don Skoog, '58, Ed Smith, '58, Denny Strauss, '68; College of Nursing - Jeanette Ekberg, '58, Karen Kresnik, '98, Sharon Redding, '68; College of Pharmacy - Paul Athey, '83, Frances Moore, '68; and School of Allied Health Profession's physical therapy program - Natalie Harms, '93.

"You could really feel an electric atmosphere in the crowd at the awards dinner," Cuda said. "The video reminiscences were well received. Some of them were quite funny, and it was obvious that the crowd enjoyed them."

The 2009 UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend is slated for Oct. 2-3.

alumni class notes

1930s

R. WILLIAM KARRER M'38

Omaha, Neb., and his wife Beverly were inducted into the Ak-Sar-Ben Court of Honor; Dr. Karrer for excelling in his profession and Beverly for her service to youth.

1940s

ROBERT B. KALMANSON M'48

Los Angeles, Calif., is on the Cedars Sinai Medical Center Board of Governors and is a visiting professor of cardiology at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. He also is a member of the American Medical Tennis Association.

1950s

DONNA D. SACK N'51

Livingston, Texas, is retired and is the caretaker of her youngest daughter.

ROBERT C. BECKMAN M'55

Salem, Ore., is retired.

HAROLD M. NORDLUND M'55

York, Neb., retired 15 years ago. He swims regularly and enjoys keeping track of wildlife as it moves across his well-forested acreage.

JERRY GRAVES P'58

Hickman, Neb., was honored at the Nebraska Pharmacy convention in June 2008 in Lincoln for 50 years of service to the pharmacy field. He received the Outstanding Service to Nebraska Pharmacies Award in 1992. He also was named an admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska.

PAUL R. YOUNG M'58

Lexington, Ky., is retired. He is executive director emeritus for the American Board of Family Medicine.

1960s

MAURICE D. SKEITH M'60

Seattle, Wash., retired in 2004 from his rheumatology practice in Seattle. He is a clinical professor at the University of Washington. Dr. Skeith and his wife, Shirley, celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2007. They enjoy traveling from Florida to California to visit their grandchildren. Dr. Skeith enjoys fly fishing and fly tying.



Teresa Hartman, associate professor, McGoogan Library, gives a tour of the McGoogan Library to Dennis Strauss, Craig Urbauer and Dean Thomas, all 1968 graduates of the College of Medicine.

WILLIAM W. BURGIN M'61

Corpus Christi, Texas, has an active practice and is the health authority for Corpus Christi and Nueces County.

JAMES H. BELL M'62

Newport Beach, Calif., retired after 46 years of practicing obstetrics and gynecology and spends more time with his six grandchildren.

DONALD A. ARGO M'64

Marysville, Kan., retired in 2005 and travels often in his fifth wheel camper.

LYNN R. FRARY M'64

Berien, Wash., was named Western Section of the American Urological Association Distinguished Member for 2008.

RICHARD F. BROUILLETTE M'65

York, Neb., is retired.

HAROLD W. KEENAN M'65

Big Springs, Neb., is chief of staff at Garden County Health Services in Oshkosh.

RAMSON D. VARNEY P'65

Broken Bow, Neb., was elected Custer County supervisor in 2006 for a four-year term.

PAUL E. COLLICOT M'66

Chicago, Ill., received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor awarded by the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons.

ROWEN ZETTERMAN M'69

Omaha, Neb., has been named the new dean of Creighton University's School of Medicine.

1970s

DAVID L. BOLAM M'70

Omaha, Neb., is celebrating his 35th year as a full-time faculty member of UNMC's Department of Pediatrics.

KATHRYN M. GRAMS N'70

Carrollton, Ga., has been named the first dean of the University of West Georgia's new School of Nursing.

LEMOYNE F. JOHNSON M'70

Bradenton, Fla., retired eight years ago and continues with Johnson Photo Imaging.

JOHN H. STEVENS M'70

Bayard, Neb., has retired. He plays lawn tennis and enjoys his grandchildren.



More than 50 UNMC alumni and friends attended the Deans in the Desert events in Scottsdale, Ariz., in January. The UNMC deans spoke about their respective colleges and the changes on campus. Michael Bates, M.D., '74; CJ LaBenz, M.D., '75; Bonnie Caniglia, Loren Faaborg, M.D., '75; and Ron Caniglia, M.D., '87; enjoy the alumni reception. Dr. and Mrs. Caniglia hosted the event in their home.



Air Force Surgeon General James Roudebush, M.D., of the College of Medicine class of 1975, and Alan Sooho, M.D., chief of staff, Veterans Administration Medical Center, reacquaint themselves at the 2008 Annual Congress of the American College of Health Care Executives.

JOHN J. CANNELLA M'73

Grand Island, Neb., limits his practice to aviation medicine and gastrointestinal endoscopy.

ROBERT M. HOUSE M'75

Denver, Colo., served with the 1835th Medical Detachment in Balad, Iraq, from September through December 2008.

JOSEPH E. F. SHANAHAN M'75

Burr Ridge, Ill., was honored by Adventist GlenOaks Hospital in Glendale Heights when the emergency department was named after him.

PAUL V. SHELLABARGER PA'76

Cambridge, Neb., joined Tri Valley Health Systems in 1976. He was the Nebraska PA of the Year in 1994 and 1999, and also received the Caring Kind Award in 1993.

ORTRUDE E. SNYDER N'76

Fairbury, Neb., lives on an acreage north of Fairbury and volunteers at Jefferson Community Health Center and other nursing homes.

SCOTT P. LIGGETT M'77

Rochester, Minn., sold his consulting nephrology practice and has begun work for the Mayo Clinic's international practice.

W. SCOTT CARPENTER M'79

Park Falls, Wis., has a daughter, Meredith, who is in her first-year of medical school at UNMC.

MICHAEL R. GERMAN P'79

Lincoln, Neb., is the recipient of the Health-System Pharmacist of the Year Award, which was presented as part of the Nebraska Pharmacy Association's Annual Convention in 2008.

1980s

LINDA S. BELLOWS N'80

Ocala, Fla., is pursuing a master's of science in nursing degree for an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner-Family Nurse Practitioner at the University of South Florida.

*DEAN L. ARNESON P'81

Mequon, Wis., has been named academic dean and associate professor of pharmacy administration for the new School of Pharmacy at Concordia University.

CHARLES C. BARR P'81

Fort Calhoun, Neb., is an associate professor of pharmacy practice and assistant dean for alumni relations at Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. Dr. Barr also is the owner of Barr Pharmacy and Blair Medical Supply. He has been selected as the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy honorary president for 2008.

TARI M. ERNST M'81

Andover, Kan., opened a new office in Wichita, Kan. She has three sons: Michael Ierger, a sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Christopher and Patrick, both eighth-graders.



Daniel P. Gillen M'82

DANIEL P. GILLEN M'82

Belleville, Ill., recently was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve.

NILA NOVOTNY M'82

Columbus, Neb., serves Columbus and the surrounding area. She founded the Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic connected to the new Columbus Hospital.

HELEN M. CALMES P'83

New Orleans, La., is assistant director of pharmacy at Children's Hospital in New Orleans. She served as chairwoman of the inpatient care practitioners of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists for 2007-2008 and is immediate past-chair for 2008-2009. She is the treasurer of the Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

SUSAN B. HASSMILLER N'83

East Wind, N.J., was appointed a senior adviser to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for Nursing.

RON P. MORSE M'83

Creighton, Neb., is celebrating 25 years as a physician practicing at Creighton Area Health Services Veridgre Clinic. He also is the supervising physician at Bloomfield Medical Clinic.

LENNIE DEAVER M'84

Cambridge, Neb., is celebrating more than 21 years with Tri Valley Health Systems.

*KRISTINE STORY N'85

Omaha, Neb., was awarded the 2009 Nurse Practitioner State Award for Excellence by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

*ALLISON M. DERING-ANDERSON P'86

Lincoln, Neb., was honored by the Nebraska Pharmacists Association as its 2008 recipient of the Cora Mae Briggs Outstanding Service to Nebraska Pharmacy Award.

MARJORIE J. HEIER M'86

Denton, Neb., joined the medical staff at Crete Area Medical Center-Physician Clinic in July 2007.

KIMBERLY A. SINISCALCHI N'88

Bolling A.F.B., was promoted to the rank of major general in the U.S. Air Force, by-passing the one-star rank. She also is assistant surgeon general for medical force development with the Office of the Surgeon General at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

JEFFERY D. HARRISON M'88

Papillion, Neb., has been appointed assistant dean for admissions at UNMC.

MICHAEL C. HAVEKOST M'88

Beatrice, Neb., is the medical director of the emergency department at the Beatrice Community Hospital, where he practices full-time in the emergency room.

WILLIAM H. MALCHOW PA'88

Cambridge, Neb., joined Tri Valley Health System in 1992. He also specializes as a family practice physician assistant.

JAMES H. SORRELL M'88

Omaha, Neb., has been appointed assistant dean for student affairs at UNMC.



Rebecca Keating-Lefler, Ph.D., '86, president of the College of Nursing Alumni Association (second from the left) congratulates Aric Thalman, Anita Soto and Kristi Schroeder, all from the class of 2011, after January's College of Nursing Nightingale White Coat Ceremony in Omaha.

DENISE R. BOGARD M'89

Roseville, Calif., took a trip with the non-profit Rotaplast to do cleft lip and palate repair on young children who would otherwise not receive surgical intervention. She is planning another trip to Brazil in 2009 and hopes to do this every year.

ERIC L. JOHNSON M'89

Grand Forks, N.D., is employed as an assistant professor of family and community medicine at the University of North Dakota, Fargo. He and his wife, Lisa, have four sons.

DAVID K. KORTJE M'89

Benton, Kan., authored "Fighting the Unseen War," a book on tools for spiritual warfare.

JILL S. REEL M'89

Arlington, Neb., is a Nebraska Medical Association delegate and a board member of Project Harmony.

1990s

JULIANA M. WRIGHT P'90

Lees Summit, Mo., has been selected to the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. She is a professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in the section of clinical pharmacology, where she teaches clinical pharmacology and specializes in HIV/AIDS clinical research.

NANCY J. BASHAM N'92

Lincoln, Neb., is an instructor in the adult health and illness department of the UNMC College of Nursing Omaha division.

SHEILA J. ELLIS M'92

Omaha, Neb., is interim chairwoman for the UNMC Department of Anesthesiology, in addition to her role as the department's chief clinical director and anesthesiology service chief.

*TODD A. PANKRATZ M'92

Hastings, Neb., is seeing patients at the Community Hospital's Medical Specialists Clinic. He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

RACHELLE KASPER-COPE M'93

Cambridge, Neb., became board certified in family medicine in 1996 and serves Tri Valley Health Systems as chief of staff.

LAURA E. PETER M'93

Eleva, Wis., predominantly does non-surgical orthopedics in Chippewa Falls. She and her husband, Don, have three daughters.

THOMAS SACHTLEBEN M'93

Windsor, Colo., works with Orthopedic Center of the Rockies and Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He and his wife, Camille, are the proud parents of Carson, 7, and Alana, 5.

PETER L. GALLAGHER M'94

Lincoln, Neb., has joined the Nebraska Heart Institute.

COREY J. MAYBERGER M'97

Norfolk, Neb., has joined Faith Regional Health Services.

WILLIAM J. OSTDIEK M'97

Omaha, Neb., was the commencement speaker at his alma mater, Gretna High School.

TOBY D. FREE M'98

LaVista, Neb., resigned from the Community Hospital of McCook, Neb., to accept a position with the family medicine residency program at UNMC.

MARY C. SNYDER M'98

Scottsbluff, Neb., works for Box Butte General Hospital's Multi-Specialty Clinic. She previously served as the assistant professor in plastic surgery at UNMC.

JEFF YOSTEN M'98

Norfolk, Neb., is director of emergency medicine at Faith Regional Health Systems in Norfolk. He and his wife, Lisa Yosten M'99, have three children ages 4, 2, and 4 months.

DONNA F. CANFIELD N'99

Las Vegas, Nev., graduated in 2008 with a master's degree in education in school nursing from Cambridge College in Ontario, Calif. She has worked in the Clark County School District since 2000 and received her National Certification for School Nurses in 2001.

CHRISTINA L. GROSSHANS PA'99

St. Louis, Mo., was appointed to the Advisory Commission for Physician Assistants to the Missouri State Board of Healing Arts. She was elected madam chairperson in 2007.

KEVIN J. POLICKY M'99

Chesapeake, Va., recently finished board certification in anesthesiology and became a pediatric and neonatal anesthesiologist at Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Va. He is deployed with the Marines 1st Medical Battalion in Al Taqaddum, Iraq.

CHRISTOPHER C. SEIP M'99

North Platte, Neb., sees patients in McCook, Neb., as well as North Platte. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons and the Christian Medical and Dental Association.

LISA YOSTEN M'99

Norfolk, Neb., recently accepted a full-time emergency room staff position at Faith Regional Health Systems.

2000s

DUSTY G. DUIS N'00

Beatrice, Neb., works for the Dialysis Center of Beatrice and is the school nurse for the Diller/Odell Public Schools. She also serves on the membership committee of the Nebraska School Nurse Association Board of Directors. She and her husband, Matt, have a daughter, Ashley.



Nick Reiss, D.P.T., '00, president of the Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter, welcomes Jeff Foster to the class of 2011 during the recent Physical Therapy White Coat Ceremony, which was sponsored by the alumni chapter.

JEREMIAH V. JENSEN N'00

Grand Island, Neb., has joined Surgery Group of Grand Island as an advanced practice registered nurse.

JANE MEYER N'00

Sutherland, Neb., works for Internal Medicine Associates in North Platte, Neb.

BECCA E. ENGELKEMIER N'01

Memphis, Tenn., graduated in 2006 with a master's of science in nursing from Emory University and is a family nurse practitioner/certified nurse midwife. She recently traveled to Lebanon, Syria and Afghanistan. She works at a Community Health Center in Memphis.

BEAU S. KONIGSBERG M'01

Omaha, Neb., joined the faculty at UNMC as an assistant professor in the department of orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation.

DOUGLAS L. KOSMICKI M'01

Grand Island, Neb., completed interventional cardiology at the University of Utah and joined the Nebraska Heart Institute in Grand Island. Doug, his wife, Kimberly, and their three sons enjoy being back in Nebraska.



Josie McCune, Breanne Chambers, Haley Reeves, Megan Otte, Jacey Klaver, Katie Blacketer, Sarah Janecek, Sarah Selle and Kate Bailey enjoy the PT "Send Off" Pizza Party sponsored by the Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter.

JEFFERY A. HIMMELBERG M'02

Omaha, Neb., has joined the staff at Fremont Area Medical Center in Fremont, Neb., where he specializes in interventional radiology.

PETER J. LINDBLOOM PA'02

Milaca, Minn., received the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants 2008 PA of the Year Award. Last spring, the Minnesota Commissioner of Health appointed him to serve as the PA representative to the State Trauma Advisory Council. Lindbloom works at Mille Lacs Health Systems in Onamia, Minn.



Dave Barlow, president of the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants, honors Peter Lindbloom, PA'02, with the 2008 PA of the Year Award.

RODNEY R. MILES M'02

Salt Lake City, Utah, is an assistant professor in pathology and has a dual role of teaching hematopathology and developing an independent research program in basic and translational hematopathology.

JERAD P. MILLER M'02

Columbus, Ohio, has joined Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital and Benrus Surgical Associates Inc. in St. Peters, Mo.

DARLA E. SPIRES M'02

Cook, Neb., practices at Gynecology and Fertility PC in Omaha.

KIMBERLY L. FRANZEN M'03

Helotes, Texas, has completed her surgery residency at Brooke Army Medical Center. She is assigned to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research and is completing a burn surgery fellowship. Dr. Franzen is scheduled to be deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in the spring of 2009. Her husband, Julio, serves as an U.S. Air Force EMS consultant to the surgeon general, as well as trains residents in emergency medicine.

JAY C. ANDERSON M'04

Grand Island, Neb., has joined Internal Medical Associates in Grand Island.

KATE E. BOOS M'05

Cozad, Neb., completed her residency in July 2008. She has joined the staff at Cozad Community Hospital.

LISA A. EISENMENGER PT'05

West Point, Neb., works at UNMC.

AMY L. FORD N'05

Council Bluffs, Iowa, has joined the UNMC College of Nursing as an instructor in the families and health systems department.

KYLEEN KLINKEBIEL PA'07

Cambridge, Neb., joined Tri Valley Health System.

ELIZABETH A. WARMAN PA'07

Ellinwood, Kan., has joined Ellinwood Hospital Clinic.

BRANDLIN L. DANNENBERG N'08

Kearney, Neb., has accepted a position at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

ANGELA R. DAVIS N'08

Gibbon, Neb., recently began work at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

ANGELA K. DINGES N'08

Waterloo, Iowa, has started work at Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo.

MELISSA L. FEIL N'08

Gering, Neb., recently joined Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff.

VANESSA L. HARMAN N'08

Omaha, Neb., serves in the labor and delivery unit at Bergan Mercy Medical Center.

CHRYSTAL K. LOVELACE N'08

Scottsbluff, Neb., is employed by Regional West Medical Center in the medical oncology unit.

JESSICA M. MILLER N'08

Omaha, Neb., accepted a position in the pediatric ICU at Children's Hospital and Medical Center.

CONNIE R. MORRILL N'08

Mitchell, Neb., works at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff.

SHANNA M. OLNEY N'08

Omaha, Neb., works for UNMC in the pediatric intensive care unit.

JOELY T. PETERSON N'08

Juniata, Neb., works at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln.

KRISTINA M. PETERSON N'08

Scottsbluff, Neb., works at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff.

LORI J. RASMUSSEN N'08

Rochester, Minn., is employed by the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

MARIA L. RITTER N'08

Axtell, Neb., works at Christian Homes in Holdrege.

JAMIE L. ROOKS N'08

Omaha, Neb., accepted a position with UNMC.

KIMBERLY A. SCHLAUTMAN N'08

Columbus, Neb., recently was hired at Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha.

STESHA L. SCHNEIDER N'08

Kearney, Neb., has accepted a position with Saint Elizabeth Hospital in orthopedics.

MATT SCHWAGER, PT'08

Lincoln, Neb., joined Milford Physical Therapy after completing his doctorate.

KATHLEEN M. THACKER N'08

Omaha, Neb., is employed by Alegent Health Systems at Bergan Mercy Hospital in the oncology department.

Medical Residents

ERIN L. COOPER, M.D.

Bellevue, Neb., is serving her residency at UNMC.

JEFF J. COOPER, M.D.

Bellevue, Neb., is serving his residency at UNMC.

DAVID DEAN, M.D.

Springfield, Ill., is serving his residency at UNMC.



Proud medical alumni are pictured with their Class of 2012 sons and daughters at the College of Medicine White Coat Ceremony.



KELLY L. ELLIS, M.D.

Norfolk, Neb., completed her family medicine residency at UNMC and now sees patients with the Faith Regional Medical Services in Norfolk.

SHOUPING LI, M.D.

Winnemucca, Nev., completed his family practice residency at UNMC and now practices in Winnemucca.

PAULA J. MALIN, M.D.

Bellevue, Neb., completed her residency program at UNMC. She received the Golden Apple Award from the Creighton University School of Medicine students during her first year on the faculty.

BLANCA L. MARKY, M.D.

Omaha, Neb., completed her neurology residency at UNMC and sees patients at Alegent Health Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

ARNALDO F. TRABUCCO, M.D.

Sparks, Nev., completed his urological residency training at UNMC and now practices at the Northern Nevada Medical Center.

WENDY L. VETTER, M.D.

Ralston, Neb., is doing an internal medicine/pediatrics residency at UNMC.

JOSH J. VETTER, M.D.

Omaha, Neb., is doing his internal medicine residency at UNMC.

Marriages

NICHOLLE S. ENDSLEY N'06

Omaha, Neb., married Adam Bruhn on June 21, 2008.

KAYLA M. KAPELS PA'07

Creston, Iowa, and Waylan Dicke were married Dec. 29, 2007.

CHELSIE LAMMERS PA'07

Wood River, Neb., and Tyler Doane were married March 8, 2008.

LISA A. BERGT EISENMENGER PT'05

West Point, Neb., married Chad Eisenmenger on May 23, 2008.

KIMBERLY L. CARLSON OLSUFKA N'07

Omaha, Neb., married Michael Olsufka on May 10, 2008.

Births

PATRICK J. DUEY M'90

Billings, Mont., and his wife, Janell, welcomed their first child, a son, Wyatt James, on Sept. 12, 2008.

CHRISTINA L. GROSSHANS PA'99

St. Louis, Mo., and husband, David, welcomed their first child, a son, Wesley Aiden, on March 31, 2008.

MARIA A. MICHAELIS M'01

Omaha, Neb., and husband, Clayton, welcomed their second child, Alaina.

ANGELA M. OBERMILLER P'01

Grand Island, Neb., and her husband welcomed their second baby, Michael John, on March 1, 2008.

KEITH E. BAYNES M'02

Milwaukee, Wis., and his wife, Tanya, welcomed Ivan Randall on July 30, 2008.

MEGAN (FUSSELMAN) THORNTON P'03

Ankeny, Iowa, and her husband, "Brock," welcomed twin sons, Ethan Jonathan and Jacob Joe, on June 4, 2008.

AMBER D. HERRINGTON PT'07

Bennet, Neb., welcomed a new addition to the family, Carter Roscoe, on July 13, 2008.

Remembering...

ELVERA E. BOGGS N'28

Cozad, Neb., May 2, 2008

WILLIAM J. RESNICK M'37

Long Beach, Calif., Aug. 20, 2008

GWYNETH P. HULBERT N'39

Omaha, Neb., July 19, 2008

MARGARET E. STUART N'39

Rushville, Neb., March 11, 2008

EVA SPEIER P'42

Ames, Iowa, May 26, 2008

MELVIN R. GIBSON P'42

Spokane, Wash., May 15, 2008

LUCILLE I. STANLEY N'43

Chillicothe, Ohio, Oct. 22, 2007

PAUL C. GRIFFITH M'43

Seattle, Wash., April 26, 2007

RICHARD H. LINN M'43

Littleton, Colo., August 2008

KENNETH P. WITTSTRUCK M'43

Portland, Ore., June 1, 2007

GRACE E. DEVNICH M'45

Livermore, Calif., Sept. 23, 2008

KERMIT LEONARD M'46

Garrison, N.D., April 19, 2008

JEAN M. CRELLIN N'46

Billings, Mont., Dec. 16, 2008

DONALD C. KENT M'47

Stonington, Conn., April 27, 2007

FREDERICK G. COLLINS M'47

Ingram, Texas, May 29, 2007

DONALD D. HAASE M'47
Blue Springs, Mo., Feb. 9, 2007

ELIZABETH A. KENTOPP N'48
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 11, 2008

IRWIN B. BRAVERMAN M'49
Tulsa, Okla., Aug. 8, 2008

DAVID W. DAVIS M'53
Cottage Grove, Wis., Dec. 8, 2008

WILLIAM J. RUSSUM M'53
Dallas, Texas, April 4, 2008

JEROLD F. STEINHOOR M'53
Colorado Springs, Colo., Oct. 29, 2008

CLIFFORD J. HASKIN M'54
Escalon, Calif., Feb. 16, 2007

HOWARD A. DINSDALE M'54
Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 30, 2008

RICHARD BARMORE P'55
Lexington, Neb., Sept. 3, 2007

PAUL G. ISAAK M'56
Soldonta, Alaska, April 24, 2007

WILLIAM R. BASLER M'56
Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 1, 2008

DONALD E. PARKISON M'56
Springfield, Mo., July 30, 2008

LEONARD E. WALLACE M'56
Lexington, Ky., July 26, 2008

DONALD F. PRICE M'57
Minden, Neb., Aug. 24, 2007

DEAN C. SLOAN M'59
Seattle, Wash., Sept. 11, 2007

ROBERT S. SETTE M'60
Rio Vista, Calif., Feb. 2, 2008

WILLIAM „BILL“ JENSEN M'61
Leawood, Kan., Aug. 23, 2008

MARJORIE J. RICHISON N'63
Norman, Okla., April 6, 2008

R. BENNER ALBEE M'63
Novato, Calif., Jan. 28, 2007

HELEN J. DUNCAN N'63
Greeley, Colo., June 25, 2008

JOHN B. BYRD M'69
Sargent, Neb., Oct. 27, 2008

MARK CHRISTENSEN M'73
Omaha, Neb., July 16, 2008

DAVID C. RADA M'80
Lake Quivira, Kan., Dec. 6, 2008

KIMBERLY L. HACKER N'93
Omaha, Neb., Aug. 2, 2007

CLYDE YENCER, PA'00
Hershey, Mich., July 28, 2008

GARY A. FEINBERG PA'02
Sag Harbor, N.Y., March 26, 2006

MARLENE TULLY, FORMER FACULTY
Omaha, Neb., May 2008

JOHN F. CONNOLLY M.D., FORMER FACULTY
Orlando, Fla., August 2007

F. MILES SKULTETY, FORMER FACULTY
Omaha, Neb., Oct. 4, 2008

MARGARET “PEGGY” WHEELOCK, PH.D.
professor in the College of Dentistry's department of oral biology and one of the medical center's leading cell biologists, died Feb. 14, 2009, from complications related to cancer.

THREE CHEERS FOR CHIRS

by Nicole Lindquist

When plagued by a health problem or distraught by a diagnosis, patients and their loved ones often turn to the Internet and “Google” medical terminology or search for answers on Web MD.

But, results regularly return an overload of information in which advertisements are indistinguishable from reliable sources and accuracy is questionable.

That's what Donna Mahlendorf of Blair, Neb., found when she searched for information about her husband Mike's tongue cancer diagnosis.

Then Mahlendorf, a member of the UNMC Board of Counselors, discovered one of UNMC's best-kept secrets: the CHIRS program.

CHIRS (Consumer Health Information Resource Service) is a medical resource that has been offered by UNMC's McGoogan Library since 1985. The free service is available to Nebraska residents, UNMC students and employees, and health care professionals and patients of The Nebraska Medical Center.

Mahlendorf sought peer-reviewed journal articles on how to treat a dying jaw bone after an infection caused severe swelling in Mike's face. Doctors treated it with hyperbaric oxygen treatments to increase the blood supply that had diminished since chemotherapy and radiation treatments, but the Mahlendorks were concerned that the cancer cells could get enough oxygen to return.

Research provided by the CHIRS program quashed those fears. “They sent us a two-inch thick packet of information on treatments and what to expect. For me, a lay person who doesn't have a medical background, it was extremely helpful,” Mahlendorf said. “There's a lot of junk on the Internet and you have to leaf through so much before you find what you're looking for. The McGoogan Library gave us exactly what we needed.”

Mahlendorf shared what she learned about antibiotic treatments with the treatment team at UNMC, a practice encouraged by the CHIRS staff.

“We hope patients share what they learn with their health care providers. Our main goal is a more knowledgeable patient,” said Roxanne Cox, head of the reference department at the McGoogan Library. “When patients use the Internet as a source for information, they don't always know its quality. Our information is strictly factual, peer-reviewed material.”

As one of the top medical libraries in the nation, the McGoogan Library fills an average of 500 CHIRS requests a year, ranging from breast cancer to West Nile virus.

“Other places charge between \$150 to \$300 for such resources, but we provide people with quality health information free of charge whether they live in Omaha or Valentine, Neb.,” Cox said.

Typically, librarians respond to a CHIRS request with detailed information via e-mail within 24 to 48 hours. If patients request printed material, it may take five to seven days to mail. Cox encourages more people to take advantage of the service, just as the Mahlendorks did.

“I wish there were billboards to promote CHIRS because it's an invaluable service,” Mahlendorf said. “When a family member or friend is diagnosed with a disease or condition, everybody scrambles for information because they feel powerless. Knowledge gives you power.”

**Editor's note: As for Mike Mahlendorf, he's doing well. He celebrated his fifth year in remission this last July.*

Donna Mahlendorf reads through the information gathered by CHIRS.



Do you know UNMC alumni deserving of recognition for their personal and professional achievements?

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- ▶ Honorary Alumnus Award

The Physical Therapy alumni Chapter presents an award in the following category:

- ▶ Distinguished Alumnus Award

For more information, visit www.unmc.edu/alumni or call (402)559-4385 or toll free (888)725-8664.

Deadline for nominations is April 1.

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Please send your professional and personal news for Class Notes to:

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Kyle P. Meyer, PhD, PT

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