As the popular song goes, “There is no place like Nebraska.” Although I’ve lived in the state for only two months, it’s been quite evident to me that I am in a special place. The hospitality, innovative spirit, can-do attitude, willingness to work together – all of these traits and many others make this a remarkable region of the world.

I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve as chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I knew when I accepted this position that UNMC was on the rise. I now know that UNMC is poised to become one of the nation’s elite academic health science centers. My job is to continue the medical center’s momentum and accelerate it.

We face challenges, as do all academic health centers across the country. One of the most important tasks is fully integrating the clinical enterprise associated with UNMC (see story, page 12). If we are to flourish, we will need to continue to strengthen our partners and ourselves to offer the highest-quality health care. A unified clinical enterprise – of UNMC, its hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center; UNMC Physicians; Bellevue Medical Center; our patient referral network; and others – is a necessary first step.

The decisions that are necessary to move UNMC forward will not be made in a vacuum. I think that all voices should be heard and respected, and I always welcome input from our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends. I promise to take the ethical high road to decision-making.

In the coming months, I look forward to learning more about the state of Nebraska and what is important to its citizens. Our medical center must offer solutions to health issues affecting our state’s citizens, first and foremost, and be a thought leader in affecting health change in our communities.

Whether we are partnering with local schools on exercise and nutrition, with faith-based organizations on physical and emotional health, with other governmental and private agencies on community fitness, or with other groups on meaningful ideas, we will be leaders in improving the health of individuals and communities. We collectively own this responsibility and the keys to its success.

My wife, Robin, and I share the very strong ties that I know are woven tightly across Nebraska families. Our son, Matthew, works for Google in California, and our daughter, Stephanie, is a medical student at Cornell. I could not be prouder of them; they are the “wind that fills my sails.”

I look forward to working with all of you to advance UNMC to become the powerhouse medical center for which it is poised to be.
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JUNE 8 Garden Walk
Dundee/Midtown area, Omaha

JULY 12 Owl, Ride
Downtown to midtown Omaha
Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., began work Feb. 1 as UNMC’s chancellor. Below, he talks about his vision for UNMC.

Q: What excites you about being UNMC’s chancellor?
A: I’m excited for the opportunity to advance the greatness and distinction of UNMC, the related clinical enterprise and the health care delivery system in Nebraska. All of the foundational elements for a highly regarded and successful academic health science center are present in very high quality in Nebraska.

I look forward to working hard to further integrate our clinical care, research and education missions, so that we can serve the people of our state. Nebraskans expect and deserve the best. It’s my goal to build upon this institution’s legacy, elevating UNMC even higher as a very top-tier academic medical center.

Q: What are some of the critical challenges facing academic health science centers?
A: Challenges abound throughout the enterprise, but I know that these challenges also bring opportunities. Federal research funding is flat or declining, and competition for these dollars is fierce. There are opportunities for funding from private sources, but we need to ensure that our industry-funded research is done ethically and in a transparent manner.

In education, student learning is shifting rapidly from traditional classrooms to high-technology delivery mechanisms, such as clinical simulation and virtual reality, among others. We need to be a leader in these areas not only to provide our students with the environment that they expect, but more importantly to provide the best education possible to improve care delivery.

On the clinical side, the forces that led to creation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) perhaps offer our greatest challenges and opportunities. Access to health care must be reshaped, our payer system must be improved, and health professional workforce shortages are curbing our efforts to provide health care to those who desperately need it.

In addition, all reputable indices indicate that Americans don’t get what they pay for in health care – our costs are by far the highest in the world, but our life expectancy nationally is about 10 years lower than the world’s best. That’s unacceptable, and UNMC must be a thought leader in offering solutions to these challenges, serving our state and as a model globally.

Q: What role do students play in the vibrancy of UNMC?
A: I really prefer the term “learners,” because that term encompasses residents, fellows and all those seeking continuing education. We all should be learners at every phase of our professional life, and I hope that we have a campus full of learners.

This zest for learning creates a passion for knowledge and discovery that every great academic health science center has.

Per traditional students, I view my role to not only be accessible as a mentor professionally, but also to ensure that our medical center is an absolutely state-of-the-art learning environment.

To do so, we must embrace the best pedagogy and the latest, best technological tools. I fully anticipate that we will accelerate our efforts on this front.

In addition, the learning environment is a key determinant of educational and clinical outcomes for our learners and our patients. This focus is critical for our future.

Q: How important are alumni and community leaders to the success of UNMC?
A: All alumni of UNMC have given to the institution their time, talent and investment,
and they need to be respected for their contributions – both past and present – to the medical center.

Part of my responsibility is to ensure that the university is delivering a return on that investment by advancing its reputation, as the UNMC diploma’s value ebbs and flows as the university’s reputation fluctuates.

We will engage our alumni through numerous channels, and I will urge them to be key ambassadors for our university throughout their communities and their professional organizations. Certainly, UNMC has had tremendous success in receiving the support of community and philanthropic leaders. We will build on these private-public partnerships and will continue to be an academic medical center in which people want to invest.

There’s no question that alumni and community support will be essential to accomplishing many of our goals. We will steward their loyalty with great care.

Q: As chancellor, you also will serve in the new role of chairman of the board of the clinical enterprise. Why is this an important assignment?

A: It’s a great honor to join the team at a time that such important governance changes are being completed. The newly formed clinical enterprise organization will streamline patient experiences and reduce duplication of administrative services.

The new governance model will provide a mechanism of oversight that will ensure that all of our missions – clinical care, research and education – are working as mutually beneficial and highly integrated units.

It is imperative that all of our faculty and staff – whether they’re focused on research, education, clinical care or support services – collaborate and cooperate toward the common goals of the overall medical center.

This will enable us not only to survive, but to thrive in our current health care environment and into the future. The established time frame to complete these governance changes is critical to deriving optimal success.

Dr. Gold served at the University of Toledo, the third-largest public university in Ohio, since 2005. In that role, he had full leadership responsibility of the clinical, education and research programs of the university’s health sciences, the faculty practice plan and the clinical delivery system.

Dr. Gold graduated from the Cornell University College of Engineering, where he majored in theoretical and applied mechanics. He earned his M.D. from the Weill Cornell College of Medicine and completed his general surgery residency at The New York Hospital and Memorial Hospital, where he served as the administrative chief resident. He did his cardiothoracic residency training at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Boston Children’s Hospital of Harvard Medical School.

Prior to joining the University of Toledo, Dr. Gold served at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Weill Cornell Medical College. He was first in his class in engineering and medicine.

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To Kacie Gerard, it sounded like a good idea: Gather a group of people in a casual setting, maybe a bar, listen to an expert discuss an interesting scientific topic, then open it up for questions.

The manager of the Slowdown thought the concept was interesting. So one February night, neurosurgeon William Thorell, M.D., talked about brain aneurysms.

From that first event in 2009, it was a hit. Dr. Thorell’s presentation drew approximately 80 people. A neurologist’s follow-up presentation on how the brain works drew more than 200. UNMC’s Science Café was born.

This February, Steven Wengel, M.D., psychiatry chairman, presented on bipolar disorder, marking the fifth anniversary for the event, one of UNMC’s most successful science outreach efforts ever.

But Science Cafés aren’t the only way UNMC expands science literacy in Nebraska.

In April, UNMC will be the presenting sponsor of the second annual Nebraska Science Festival, with many of its colleges and departments represented by educational booths at the expo.

After a first year that drew more than 2,000 people in Omaha, the Science Festival is expanding with more venues, more presenters, and a greater reach across Nebraska, with activities in Lincoln, Wayne, Ashland and Jansen.

Events that promote science literacy have evolved over time. From 1997 to 2008, UNMC sponsored the semiannual Mini-Medical School lectures that were broadcast across the state. Last year, Gerard was named the science outreach coordinator for UNMC and tasked with expanding the Science Festival and the Science Cafés while creating even more events.

Jeff Corwin, “Animal Planet” host and leading conservationist, will headline the Nebraska Science Festival in April.
“It gives me the opportunity to reach out to communities and develop new science outreach programs throughout the year,” she said.

For the Science Cafes, topics have run the gamut – sex, brain surgery, mental illness, dinosaurs, sleep apnea, asteroids, immunizations, suicide.

Although the cafe was envisioned as outreach to young professionals, Gerard said it has proved popular across all ages.

A similar event is held regularly in Lincoln, and UNMC-sponsored Science Cafes also have been held in Kearney, Scottsbluff and Nebraska City.

“The Science Cafes are specifically for adults,” Gerard said. “With the Science Festival, we aim for all ages. We definitely have specific activities geared to children and families, but this year we’ve added a lot of adult programming.”

Gerard thinks outside the box. With Omaha Community Playhouse officials, she developed two well-attended, post-performance discussion events.

When the playhouse mounted “Evil Dead: The Musical,” faculty of UNMC’s College of Public Health gave presentations on surviving a zombie apocalypse that was loaded with information on disaster preparedness, pandemics, biohazards and other public health topics.

And for the recent production of “Next to Normal,” a Pulitzer Prize-winning musical that features a character with bipolar disorder, UNMC experts discussed mental illness.

“It was a way to try something new and reach an audience that wouldn’t normally attend a science-related event,” she said.

In 2015, Gerard wants to move the Science Festival even further west, as well as create Science Cafes for high school students – though not in bars.

“There are a lot of great possibilities, and if you do it right, people will always be interested,” she said. “Make it interesting, and they’ll have a great time.”
Amy Cannella, M.D., knows some students don’t like to sit in lectures, especially when they can obtain the information at home, on their own time.

To better engage students, she and a team of rheumatologists are developing an e-learning game in which students and patients ride a dune buggy as they navigate the symptoms and treatment of gout, a potentially disabling form of arthritis.

“There are high stakes,” said Dr. Cannella, internal medicine, rheumatology. “Players must avoid hazards, which increase their risk of gout, and correctly answer questions about the disease.”

Racers collect bonus points for making choices that lower their risk for the disease.

On a modest scale to begin, UNMC is building a health science version of Khan Academy, a popular e-learning site that boasts interactive courses in math, science, economics and humanities.

“Across the country, we’re seeing a dramatic change in how we teach,” said Dele Davies, M.D., vice chancellor for academic affairs at UNMC. “It’s the first transformative change in the past 100 years in the science of teaching.”

Interactive e-learning provides students and faculty members with opportunities to maximize learning – both at home and in the classroom. As part of a strategic initiative to enhance on-campus learning, Dr. Davies has challenged faculty to develop a blended approach that uses e-modules and e-courses coupled with flipped classrooms.

“E-learning comes in with a promise,” he said. “Whether it meets that promise will depend on how creative and innovative we are with it.”
“Still, our goal is to be a national leader in blended (online integrated with face-to-face) classrooms. This will enhance teaching at all levels, allow us to adopt best practices quickly, and promulgate research in teaching innovation among our faculty.”

Dr. Cannella and UNMC faculty members Carrie Elzie, Ph.D., and Ryan Splittgerber, Ph.D., are among the more than 25 faculty members leading e-learning innovation at UNMC, thanks to a grant from the vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Assistant professors in UNMC’s Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy, Drs. Elzie and Splittgerber are transforming traditional PowerPoint lectures into 18 interactive, self-contained, e-learning modules that can be used with flipped classrooms, to better help first-year students prepare for gross anatomy.

“We’re bringing one-dimensional PowerPoints to life,” Dr. Splittgerber said.

The planned modules, designed with mobile capability, will cover an array of topics from terminology to anatomical positions and planes of the body. In addition to first-year students, they envision the modules being used as tutorials by high school students, summer undergraduate students, even patients.

“They’ll be brief and basic and give feedback that PowerPoint never did,” Dr. Splittgerber said. “Students can learn by doing, get it wrong and do it again until they understand.”

That’s one of the promises of e-learning, Dr. Davies said. “You put a lecture online and build in opportunities to practice and master
Health professional students will learn more about gout via an e-learning game that’s being developed by Amy Cannella, M.D., James O’Dell, M.D., Ted Mikuls, M.D., and Alan Erickson, M.D.

The goal is to have a blend of interactive e-learning modules, some traditional classrooms and some flipped classrooms, in which students watch an e-learning module and then come to class to put the lessons into practice.

“This generation is excellent at getting information,” Dr. Davies said, noting that they opt to listen to the recorded lecture on their own at double speed. “Up to 50 percent of students may not show up for a lecture and do fine in spite of not coming. What they aren’t as good at is critical thinking and how to use the information.”

With a flipped classroom, students review didactic material prior to class and then, in class, gain context for their training. UNMC’s long-standing Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and Integrated Clinical Experience (ICE) courses are strong examples of a flipped classroom, where the teacher becomes more of a facilitator than a content deliverer.

During PBL, groups discuss a case and students develop a differential diagnosis or hypotheses to explain the nature of the patient’s problems and make decisions about diagnostic testing and therapeutic management. During ICE, students are exposed to clinical issues and receive instruction on topics from history and physical examinations to communication skills and behavioral sciences.

“With flipped classrooms, conversations can occur at a higher level,” said Howard Liu, M.D., director of faculty development programs at UNMC who is playing a major role in this initiative. “Students know the background knowledge, so they can focus on developing higher order skills such as critical thinking when they come to class.”

A learner-centered mission requires meeting the students where they are, and today’s students are comfortable with technology, he said. “From the students’ perspective, they always want what’s best and most efficient.”

E-learning offers the promise — and potential — to flatten the world. Khan Academy’s goal is to provide a world-class education to anyone, anywhere and at anytime, all for free. That’s different than Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), which drew great interest in 2012. Such courses, however, are designed for large audiences and continue the traditional model of a cohort tied to a course with a set start and end date. “They can be excellent, but they are not for everyone,” Dr. Davies said.

E-learning courses also offer the promise of reducing the cost of education, Dr. Davies said. Students may be able to move along at their own pace, which could shorten their training, as well as lower the tremendous debt burden carried by many students.

“The flexibility afforded by this blended model of learning will be critical to the success of our students, faculty, alumni and partners in the new era of the Affordable Care Act,” Dr. Davies said.

For Drs. Elzie and Splittgerber, the greatest promise is in a more engaged learner.

Built-in assessments, including multiple choice questions and embedded 3-D images, will enable Drs. Elzie and Splittgerber to know whether students struggled with particular sections or quickly mastered it.

“As teachers, we want to help students learn at their maximum potential,” Dr. Elzie said. “This mirrors how students engage and learn today and, with the feedback, allows us to tailor or place greater emphasis on certain topics during class.”

As they develop the modules, they also are sharing their knowledge with colleagues across campus. “We want to be a resource to other faculty and elevate those who are interested,” Dr. Elzie said.

The initial interest from faculty and their stellar proposals bode well for UNMC’s current and future status as a national and international leader in teaching innovations, Dr. Davies said.

“These courses should be an excellent foundation for building our vision of a premier health sciences e-learning center on campus.”

WINTER 2014
My symptoms – chills, aches, fatigue, fever, swollen glands and a particularly icky and painful sore throat – kept getting worse. But I wondered: What if it was simply psychosomatic?

Through my job at UNMC, I’d been talking, reading, writing about strep throat and influenza for months. I seem to get strep at least every other year, and it hits hard. That’s why I was so excited when Donald Klepser, Ph.D., and Ally Dering-Anderson, Pharm.D., assistant professors of pharmacy practice at the UNMC College of Pharmacy, first told me about their research project several months ago.

Drs. Klepser and Dering-Anderson have a pilot study, in collaboration with Ferris State University and scores of community pharmacies in Michigan, Minnesota and Nebraska. In it, through a collaborative practice agreement between pharmacists and physicians, you or I wouldn’t have to go to a doctor’s office or physician assistant or nurse practitioner’s clinic to get tested for flu or strep. Instead, we could go to the pharmacy and see a specially-trained pharmacist. With a rapid test, we’d know the results within minutes. And, through the collaborative practice agreement, the pharmacist could then immediately fill a prescription to treat us. All in a single, convenient, walk-in visit.

The pharmacists offer to share this information with your doctor – and if you’re in really bad shape, they’ll refer you on anyway. “This is not to replace physician services,” Dr. Klepser said.

But logic says that we are more likely to seek immediate treatment (and keep infectious diseases from spreading) if it’s convenient. And, with more people having health insurance, under health care reform, physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners are going to be more overbooked than ever. A highly-educated, professionally-trained pharmacist can, in this instance, fill the gap.

So, we’d been talking about the program for months. And then, the very week the study was rolling out in Omaha, I could feel the old, familiar symptoms slipping in.

I approached the counter at the Omaha Hy-Vee pharmacy at 108th and Fort streets. Had they started the rapid testing program yet?

The pharmacy tech was excited: Yes, they had! She almost ran to get the paperwork, then stopped, puzzled: Hey, how did you know?

I had an inside tip. (The press release I’d written would hit the news the very next day.) The pharmacist talked to me, took my vitals and swabbed my throat. It couldn’t have been more than 5 minutes before a pink line appeared: positive.

When I emailed Dr. Dering-Anderson, she replied: “Can I be sorry you have strep and thrilled at the same time?”

The study later confirmed it: I was the first in Omaha to test positive and receive medication per the collaborative practice agreement. But at the time I was just glad to have been able to walk in, see a trained professional, get tested and start treatment, all in one easy visit.

I was then able to look forward to feeling better, thanks to the UNMC study.
Clinical enterprise leaders are:

- Joe Graham, senior vice president of Operations & Transformation Improvement;
- Dave Fuller, interim chief process officer;
- David W. Mercer, M.D., senior vice president of medical services;
- Cory Shaw, senior vice president of the System Provider Network;
- Harris Frankel, M.D., senior vice president of Medical Affairs;
- Mike Siorius, M.D., senior vice president of Clinic Operations;
- Tadd Pullin, interim human capital officer & senior vice president of Marketing and Planning;
- Levi Scheppers, chief administrative officer;
- Paulette Davidson, chief operating officer, Bellevue Medical Center;
- Rosanna Morris, chief nursing officer for the Enterprise and chief operating officer for The Nebraska Medical Center;
- Dennis Bierle, chief operating officer, Clinic Operations;
- Stephanie Daubert, chief financial officer;
- Chris Katochvil, M.D., clinical enterprise research, and
- Kelly Caverzagie, M.D., education.

UNMC’s new chancellor, Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., chairs the advisory board. The other members are:

- Brad Britigan, M.D., dean of the UNMC College of Medicine and president of the clinical enterprise;
- Bill Dinsmoor, CEO of the clinical enterprise;
- Mogens Bay, CEO and chairman of the board of Valmont Industries;
- Bruce Grewcock, chairman and CEO of Peter Kiewit Sons’, Inc.;
- Nancy Keegan, co-founder, Prestwick Companies; former chair of the University of Nebraska Foundation;
- Jim McClurg, Ph.D., president, Technical Development Resources Company, former chairman of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents;
- Charlie Burt, M.D., orthopaedic surgeon; chair of Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital;
- Tim Kingston, M.D., general surgeon; longtime member of The Nebraska Medical Center and Bellevue Medical Center medical staff;
- Debra Romberger, M.D., UNMC professor of internal medicine, critical care pulmonologist, and;
- Carl Smith, M.D., chair of UNMC’s Department of OB/GYN; president of UNMC Physicians.

Clinical Enterprise Initiative by Elizabeth Kumru

When patients think of the medical center, they make no distinction between the UNMC College of Medicine, The Nebraska Medical Center, UNMC Physicians, Bellevue Medical Center and Private Practice Associates.

Campus leaders say the more than 11,700 employees of these entities, must do the same as they work toward a more efficient and integrated clinical enterprise. The goal: Be the region’s leading health system, comprised of nationally recognized academic and community-based providers, aligned to deliver the best health care for patients.

Brad Britigan, M.D., dean of UNMC’s College of Medicine and clinical enterprise president, and CEO Bill Dinsmoor announced the new executive leadership structure for the organization in January.

The new leadership structure, built for the future of health care reform, unifies ambulatory clinic and hospital operations. What once were separate operations managed by UNMC Physicians, The Nebraska Medical Center or Bellevue Medical Center are now connected.

“We have been, historically, a collection of tribes,” Dinsmoor said. “That doesn’t work anymore. We can respect our past cultures, but we are building for the future. We are building a new culture.

“We’re in the midst of a profound and historic change in the way health care is organized and delivered.”

The integrated approach is necessary to pursue strategic opportunities in an evolving health care environment, said Cory Shaw, senior vice president of the System Provider Network of the clinical enterprise and former chief executive officer of UNMC Physicians.

“We need to think differently about how we deliver care,” he said. “Not just what happens in the four walls of the hospital or in our outpatient clinics, but rather how we move patients across the continuum of care in a seamless way.”

The clinical integration project, which began in 2012, is leading toward a full legal integration of UNMC Physicians, Bellevue Medical Center and The Nebraska Medical Center. Clinical enterprise leaders expect that legal designation to be completed by July. Hundreds of staff members from all corners of the clinical enterprise are currently working on dozens of performance improvement projects that will improve patient experiences, quality, and the work environment.

“It is more important than ever that our entire clinical enterprise be aligned, strategic and focused,” said University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken. “This new structure, thoughtfully developed with the involvement of scores of key health care leaders, positions us very well for success in this new era.”

A new advisory board also has been created to provide the clinical enterprise with advice, support and eventually oversight.

“The level of clinician leadership on this board is extremely important,” Dr. Britigan said.
We’re entering a time in health care when the voice of the provider will be more important than ever in shaping the most efficient and best quality care for our patients.”

“It is a great honor to join the team at a time that such important governance changes are being completed,” said Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., UNMC Chancellor. “This structure will well serve the future needs of the region, optimizing the resources to provide university-quality, patient-centered care. Congratulations to all those with the vision to make this a reality.”

The board’s makeup represents the history of the different organizations coming together to create this new enterprise, Dr. Britigan said. Past members of The Nebraska Medical Center’s board of directors, leaders in academic medicine and research, private practice community physicians and international business leaders will bring an understanding of the importance of innovation and culture to the creation of a successful organization.

The board will serve in an advisory role for the next several months. Leaders expect to form an official legal entity by July, at which time a governing board of directors will form.

In February, more than 500 staff members from across the system began work on 45 performance improvement projects. The projects range in scope from clinical care to financial operations and culture change.

The momentum already has begun. The Accountable Care Alliance (ACA), now covers nearly 17,000 people – the employees of the medical center’s clinical enterprise and Methodist Health Systems.

Jim Canedy, M.D., and Marcel Devetten, M.D., continue their roles as medical leaders with the ACA. Joining them is Troy Wilhelm, current chief financial officer for UNMC Physicians. Dinsmoor believes the ACA will play a major role in the future of the clinical enterprise, accounting for 50 percent of future revenue.

An agreement was signed by the nine founding health systems of the regional provider network, a group of hospitals that eventually will cover most of Nebraska and parts of western Iowa. The nine founding members are: The Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Methodist Health System, Omaha, Neb.; Bryan LGH Medical Center, Lincoln, Neb.; Faith Regional Health Services, Norfolk, Neb.; Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff, Neb.; Fremont Area Medical Center; Great Plains Regional Medical Center, North Platte, Neb.; Columbus Community Hospital; and Mary Lanning Healthcare, Hastings, Neb.

Also, construction will proceed on a new ambulatory clinic and surgical facility at 41st and Emile streets, as well as an ambulatory surgery facility at Village Pointe in west Omaha.

You’re invited to a FREE “Lunch and Learn” hosted by the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures

Paul S. Knoepfler, PhD, an Associate Professor of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy at the UC Davis School of Medicine will be the featured speaker at a “Lunch and Learn” April 25 and 26 in Lincoln and Omaha.

The Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures invites you to be its guest to hear Dr. Knoepfler discuss and answer questions about stem cell science that will help attendees distinguish between false hype and legitimate hope.

Dr. Knoepfler is a cancer survivor, patient advocate, writer and only faculty level academic blogger on stem cell research in the world. He was the recipient of the Genetic Policy Institute 2013 National Advocacy Award, previously won by Michael J. Fox.

Schedule of Events:

Friday April 25, 2014
Lunch and Learn | 11:30am-1:00pm
Nebraska Champions Club
707 Stadium Drive
Lincoln, NE

Saturday April 26, 2014
Lunch and Learn | 11:30am-1:00pm
UNMC Sorrell Center For Health Science Education,
NE Corner of 42nd St. & Emile
Omaha, NE

For more information or to reserve your space today, visit Nebraskacures.com
Donald McIntyre, M.D., remembers his childhood days spent at UNMC with his parents, who both had advanced degrees in the sciences. The medical center was a stimulating environment for his growing mind. Some weekends were spent in the lab with his father amid fascinating research.

After college, he returned to UNMC as a medical student, studying with his father, who was teaching in what was then known as the department of physiology and pharmacology.

Even though a young McIntyre no longer roams the halls of UNMC, the legacy of the McIntyre family and his father’s teaching lives on through the creation of the A. Ross McIntyre, M.D., Ph.D., Professorship in Physiology.

Dr. A. Ross McIntyre was a professor of physiology and pharmacology at UNMC for nearly 40 years. He was a well-known pharmacologist who was credited with developing a new adjunct for general anesthesia. He was the first to use curare, a poison used by natives in the Amazon River region, as an aide to anesthesia.

A native of London, Dr. McIntyre received his doctorate in 1930 and medical degree in 1931 all from the University of Chicago.

During his time at UNMC, Dr. McIntyre not only taught, but also served as department chairman for 32 years. He developed graduate programs that eventually led to the granting of a master’s degree and Ph.D. in physiology and pharmacology.

In honor of his contributions to medicine and medical education, Dr. McIntyre received the Distinguished Service to Medicine Award from UNMC in 1975. Now, his son has ensured that his legacy lives on.

“My dad’s job at UNMC allowed him to shelter, feed, clothe and educate me,” Dr. Donald McIntyre said. “UNMC granted me a doctor of medicine degree, which became the basis of my professional life. In a sense, UNMC has supported me my entire life. The creation of this professorship allowed me to show my gratitude to both the university as well as to my dad and to honor him for his successes and contributions to the field of medicine.”

In November, Kaushik Patel, Ph.D., was named the inaugural A. Ross McIntyre M.D., Ph.D., Professor.

Faculty support remains a top priority for UNMC through the University of Nebraska Foundation’s Campaign for Nebraska. For more information, contact Meg Johnson at (402) 502-4107 or mjohnson@nufoundation.org.

The legacy of A. Ross McIntyre, M.D., Ph.D., lives on through the creation of a named professorship in physiology.

Dr. McIntyre legacy lives on at UNMC

by Carrielle Sedersten
In support of continuing education opportunities for health care professionals, Phelps Memorial Health Center of Holdrege, Neb., has become a community partner with a contribution to the UNMC and University of Nebraska at Kearney’s (UNK) new Health Science Education Complex.

The 30,000-square-foot building will be at the corner of Highway 30 and University Drive, just west of the West Center Building on the UNK campus. Construction is set to start this spring with proposed completion by June 2015.

“The gift from Phelps Memorial Health Center is a tremendous investment in the future of nursing and allied health education at the Kearney Division,” said Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Nursing. “Investments like these are vital to realizing the full potential the new health science education building will represent and ensuring lifelong learning opportunities for clinicians practicing in rural Nebraska.”

The building, which can be expanded in the future, will feature clinical simulation, anatomy and physiology laboratories and state-of-the-art technology for distance nursing and allied health education programs.

Mark Harrel, CEO of the Phelps Memorial Health Center, said one of his chief goals is to help build an exceptional health care workforce.

“The addition of the UNMC/UNK Health Science Complex will further solidify the workforce in this area. And, knowing we will be able to use the new simulation laboratories to help our nurses and others gain experience in some necessary procedures will help us continue to be well equipped to serve our patients.”

One of the goals of expanding facilities and programs on the UNK campus is to prepare students for health care opportunities in rural Nebraska.

By 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor projects a shortage of nearly 1.2 million registered nurses in the United States and more than 3,800 nurses in Nebraska. Similarly, the national demand for allied health professionals is expected to increase by 30 percent by 2020, representing a net increase of more than 3.6 million jobs.

“We have worked closely with UNK for years and appreciate the opportunities UNMC/UNK are bringing to this area,” said Rhonda Johnson, director of the Phelps Memorial Health Center Foundation. “As more students are educated in the new health science complex, the entire health care community in south central Nebraska benefits.”

To learn more about supporting the building project, contact Sarah Gloden Carlson at (402) 502-4113 or scarlson@nufoundation.org.
The richness of diversity on the UNMC campus was the focus of the first International Week celebration in early November. Sponsored by the Global Health Student & Faculty Advisory Committee, the celebration provided opportunities for the UNMC community to meet and mingle with faculty, students and staff who hail from other parts of the world.
Among the many activities during the week was an international photography contest. Every year, international visitors from more than 60 countries come to campus and many faculty, staff and students travel around the world. Entrants were encouraged to share those experiences.

Forty-six photographs were submitted for consideration, and of those, five rose to the top as the most aesthetically appealing.

From that group, one was honored as the best in show.

Omaha area photographers and UNMC-approved vendors Scott Dobry and Philip Nealey chose the five entries listed for their interesting and colorful imagery.

The grand prize winner, Clayton Damme, M1, who submitted “Latraviesa,” was praised by the judges for his “bold use of color, strong composition and great light.”

OTHER WINNERS WERE:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juefie Wu</td>
<td>“Sandhill Cranes”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nirakar Rajbhandari</td>
<td>“Henna Tattoo”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin Please</td>
<td>“Bridge”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zijian Qin</td>
<td>“Sunburst”</td>
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Enjoy the photo contest gallery unmc.edu/connect
Dr. Klassen to step down as internal medicine chairman

When Lynell Klassen, M.D., accepted the position of chairman of the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine in 2005, he indicated he would hold it for no more than 10 years. “As I begin my ninth year as chair, it is time to initiate a smooth transition of leadership of the department,” he said. “At the request of the dean, I will continue to discharge the duties of department chair until he appoints my replacement.”

Brad Britigan, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine, anticipates the search will take between 12 and 18 months. Once a new chairman is found, Dr. Klassen, the Henry J. Lehnhoff Professor, will return to a faculty position in the rheumatology division, continuing his clinical, research and teaching activities.

“As chair of internal medicine and throughout his 30-plus years as a faculty member, Dr. Klassen has contributed immensely to the success of the department and UNMC,” Dr. Britigan said.

With more than 180 physicians and scientists, internal medicine is the largest department within the UNMC College of Medicine. The department is organized by disease specialty into 10 divisions.

McElroy to take reins at McGoogan Library of Medicine

Emily McElroy was appointed the new director of the McGoogan Library of Medicine, effective Dec. 16, 2013.

“Emily brings a special set of management, leadership and interpersonal skills to UNMC which should help us build upon the excellence for which the library is known,” said Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dele Davies, M.D., in announcing the appointment.

McElroy was the associate university librarian for content management and systems at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), where she worked since 2007. As a member of the senior management team, McElroy helped oversee collection development, digital collections, scholarly communication and electronic resources including systems.

Prior to OHSU, she was head of library acquisitions at New York University. She also has held positions at the University of Oregon and Loyola University’s Health Sciences Library. She is a nationally recognized speaker on the management of library resources.

Marie Reidelbach had served as interim director of the library since the retirement of Nancy Woelffl, Ph.D., on June 30, 2013.

UNMC to begin student exchange with South Korean university

In November, UNMC signed a memorandum of understanding to begin a student exchange with Seoul National University in Seoul, South Korea.

The agreement, which begins in the 2014-2015 academic year, will mark UNMC’s entry into South Korea and expand the scope of the medical center’s Asia Pacific Rim Development Program (APRDP).

Currently, UNMC has partnerships with four Chinese institutions — Tongji University in Shanghai, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Xian Jiao Tong University and Beijing Life Science Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences — as well as in India.

SNU is considered the best university in South Korea, said Jialin Zheng, M.D., associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and director of UNMC’s APRDP. Initially, the student exchange will involve two students from each campus, he said.

A South Korean native, Woo-Yang Kim, Ph.D., assistant professor, department of developmental neuroscience at UNMC’s Munroe-Meyer Institute, will serve as a contact person and faculty advisor for the exchange program.
Mural unveiling celebrates ‘The Gift of Sight’

In December, the Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute and the UNMC Prevention of Global Blindness Division unveiled “The Gift of Sight,” a roughly 13-foot by 21-foot mural designed to recognize vision-saving efforts throughout the world.

Featuring images donated from award-winning photojournalists and other organizations, the montage will be on display at the Truhlsen indefinitely.

“The ‘Gift of Sight’ was developed to showcase the gratitude the Prevention of Global Blindness Division and all of our international and domestic partners receive for the work we do,” said Jessica Feilmeier, development director for the institute. “Giving the gift of sight is humbling when the response is so overwhelming, and we merely tried to capture that in the images selected for this piece.”

“It is wonderful for the Truhlsen Eye Institute to celebrate The Gift of Sight as a testimony to one of our missions: to preserve and enhance vision for patients from every corner of the world,” said Quan Dong Nguyen, M.D., inaugural director of the Institute and chair of ophthalmology and visual sciences.

Montgomery Gentry to headline Cattlemen’s Ball

The country music duo Montgomery Gentry will headline the entertainment at the 2014 Cattlemen’s Ball of Nebraska, which will be held June 6-7 at Hoot Owl Ranch, near Harrisburg, in Banner County in the Nebraska Panhandle.

The duo, which includes Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry, has had 14 Top 10 singles, including five No. 1 hits — “Something to be Proud of,” “If You Ever Stop Loving Me,” “Lucky Man,” “Back When I Knew It All” and “Roll With Me.”

The Cattlemen’s Ball is hosted annually by a different Nebraska family involved in the beef industry. Its mission is to raise money for cancer research, while showcasing rural Nebraska and promoting beef as part of a healthy diet. Since it began in 1998, the Cattlemen’s Ball of Nebraska has raised more than $9.73 million. This year’s goal is to raise $2.5 million for cancer research and local medical causes.

As in past years, 90 percent of the proceeds will go to the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center at UNMC with the remaining 10 percent earmarked toward regional medical organizations.

Host families for this year’s event will be Kenny and Misty Stauffer along with the ranch owners Jeff and Kathy May. Co-chairs are Jeff Heldt and Monty Stoddard.

Tickets are on sale at cattlemensball.com or by calling (308) 235-2289.

UNMC designated as endoscopic surgery testing center

UNMC is one of the first three centers in the country to be designated as a testing center for the Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) program.

The program is a comprehensive educational and assessment tool designed to teach and evaluate the fundamental knowledge, clinical judgment and technical skills required in the performance of basic gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopic surgery (endoscopy).

The program allows participants to learn the fundamentals of endoscopic surgery in a consistent, scientifically accepted format and to test cognitive and technical skills, while improving the quality of patient care.

“Being able to use flexible endoscopy for upper GI procedures and colonoscopies is an important skill for surgeons,” said Dmitry Oleynikov, M.D., the Joseph and Richard Still Endowed Professor of Surgery. “Just like you have to pass a driving test to be able to drive a car, the testing center will allow us to make sure that surgeons are proficient in endoscopic procedures.”

The UNMC center was made possible in part by a donation from Paul Hodgson, M.D., establishing the Paul E. Hodgson, M.D. Innovations in Surgical Technology Fund through the University of Nebraska Foundation. Dr. Hodgson, former chairman of the UNMC Department of Surgery, died Aug. 28, 2013, at the age of 91.

Dr. Hodgson’s fund paid for half of the equipment and materials needed for the testing center. The other half of the funding will come from the Alton K. Wong, M.D., Distinguished Professorship held by pediatric surgeon Ken Azarow, M.D.
**College of Dentistry**
- Paul Johnson, a fourth-year dental student, earned first place in the 54th American Dental Association/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Program at the ADA annual session in New Orleans. Johnson, who competed with students from 56 U.S. dental schools, presented “Alveolar Bone Loss in Subjects with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Osteoarthritis.”
- The Dental Hygiene Program recently celebrated the fact that their students have not had a single failure on the National Board Dental Hygiene examination since 1999. More than 300 dental hygiene students over the past 14 years have contributed to that amazing feat.
- Julie Marshall, D.D.S., interim chair of the department of adult restorative dentistry, is the inaugural Dr. William and Kathryn Greer Faculty Fellow. Dr. Greer (D.D.S. 1955), and Mrs. Greer, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate, established this endowment as an expression of gratitude for the excellent education they received at the university.

**College of Medicine**
- UNMC has been selected as one of four institutions to participate in a pilot program designed to transform the way resident physicians are trained in primary care. The project Primary Care Faculty Development Initiative brings together three key disciplines – family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics – in a coordinated effort to better prepare physicians for the rapidly evolving health care system. The pilot project will require collaboration between UNMC, The Nebraska Medical Center, UNMC Physicians and Children’s Hospital & Medical Center.
- A 73-year-old grandmother worried for several months whether or not she would be able to get her driver’s license renewed. The Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation helped her overcome her anxiety. Through the use of the center’s biopic telescopes, she “could see 20/20.” The center trained her how to use the aid by having her read road signs as a passenger. Gradually, she was able to begin driving while using the aid.
- Through the creation of a library of more than 2,000 mutant strains of the Staphylococcus aureus bacteria, UNMC has provided an important tool for scientists around the world seeking answers for how to better deal with staph infections. Developed over the past four years, the library of mutant staph bacteria is essential in allowing scientists to better understand how staph genes cause infections. It also is critical in helping pharmaceutical companies develop new drugs to combat staph infections.

**College of Nursing**
- In May 2013 the Nebraska Legislature approved $12 million for a new College of Nursing building in Lincoln. Another $5.5 million must be raised to complete the funding needed. The building will provide additional space for educating nurses, nurse practitioners and faculty members and for expanding nursing research.
- The College of Nursing received full accreditation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program until 2018, the maximum period allowed.
- Lani Zimmerman, Ph.D., was named to the Florence Niedfelt Professorship in Nursing for a three-year term. Dr. Zimmerman will focus on the use of technology in nursing research and on expanding nursing faculty engagement in interdisciplinary, multi-site, multi-campus translational research.
- The College of Nursing’s West Nebraska Division relocated its classrooms and offices in summer 2013 due to renovations at the Elliott Building in Scottsbluff. Faculty offices are in Regional West Medical Center and classrooms and administration are at the Western Nebraska Community College. This strengthens partnerships with both institutions.

**College of Pharmacy**
- The existing College of Pharmacy building will be named the Joseph D. & Millie E. Williams Science Hall. Two auditoriums in the planned Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education and Center for Drug Discovery will also be named for the couple. Joe and Millie have been longtime advocates for, and donors to, the College of Pharmacy, establishing a Scholarship Leadership Award and recently serving as a principal donor to the new state-of-the-art facility.
- Third-year students Caroline Jamison and Ashley Schenk represented the college at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists’ midyear meeting in the clinical skills competition. More than 100 teams competed. Jamison and Schenk were the only P3s in the country to finish in the top 10.

**College of Public Health**
- The COPH has expanded its online program offerings, tailored to fit the needs of professionals regardless of where they reside. A major advantage is that all online students pay the same affordable tuition per credit hour. Online programs include Professional Certificates in Public Health and Emergency Preparedness, Master of Science in Emergency Preparedness, and Master of Public Health in Biostatistics, Environmental and Occupational Health, and Public Health Practice.
- The COPH offers MPH dual-degree programs in collaboration with UNMC’s Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and School of Allied Health Professions; the University of Nebraska at Omaha School of Social Work, College of Information Science and Technology, and College of Business; and the University of Nebraska Lincoln College of Law. Dual-degree programs offer students the opportunity to integrate their training with a population-based public health degree. The seven dual-degree programs are: BSIT/MPH, JD/MPH, MBA/MPH, MD/MPH, MPA/MPH, MPH/MSW and PharmD/MPH.
- The COPH continues its strong trajectory of growth. COPH student enrollment increased 15 percent to 223 total, with 50 PhD students, 138 master’s students and 35 certificate and non-degree program students. COPH received 240 qualified applicants for its programs in fall 2015, a 95 percent increase over fall 2012. Additionally, COPH grants and contracts increased by 45 percent in FY12–13.

**Eppley Institute/Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center**
- Julie Vose, M.D., has been elected president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) for a one-year term beginning in June 2015. She will take office as president-elect in June during the ASCO annual meeting.

**Munroe-Meyer Institute**
- Autism affects one in 68 children. Thanks to the United Way of the Midlands’ Karnett Family Trust grant, UNMC’s Munroe-Meyer Institute is able to provide treatment to more children on the spectrum. Held at the Autism Center of Nebraska, the Autism Clinic for Toddlers targets the youngest children (18–36 months) for early intervention.
Alumni House Renovation Complete

The UNMC Alumni House will look different the next time you visit campus. In recent months, the Alumni House has undergone both internal and external renovations.

Outside the House, visitors will see a new roof, yard and landscaping. The yard at the Alumni House is frequently used for student picnics and will continue to be available for activities in the future.

The internal renovations include refinishing the House’s original woodwork, new flooring in common areas and offices and a partial kitchen renovation.

The Alumni House is home to the UNMC Alumni Relations Office, and is available for rent for both alumni and private events.

UNMC Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences Hosts Alumni Reception

The Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute and the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences hosted a resident and alumni reception at the 2013 annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in New Orleans. More than 30 guests attended the Nov. 17 reception, which was an opportunity for resident alumni, fellows, UNMC College of Medicine alumni, and friends to reconnect and learn about the advances and goals of the department and the Truhlsen Eye Institute. “Thank you to everyone who attended the alumni reception and helped make it a resounding success,” said Quan Dong Nguyen, MD, director of the Truhlsen Eye Institute and chairman of the department. The event also honored two of the department’s employees in appreciation for 20 years of service: Kathy Austin and Thomas Hejkal, MD, PhD.

Unmc.edu/Connect

For more information about renting the UNMC Alumni House, visit www.unmc.edu/alumni/rentals.htm

School of Allied Health Professions

This past fall, Joe Norman, Ph.D., professor of physical therapy education, was named director of the physical therapy program. Tammy Jones, assistant professor of radiation science technology education, was named director of the radiography program.

Patricia Hageman, Ph.D., professor, physical therapy education, was appointed by U.S. Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to serve on the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) External Advisory Committee. Dr. Hageman was a contributor to the recently released 12th annual report of the US-HRSA External Advisory Committee, “Redesigning Health Professions Education and Practice to Prepare the Interprofessional Team to Care for Populations.”

Amber Donnelly, Ph.D., associate professor and program director of cytotechnology education, was awarded a $50,000 American Society for Cytopathology Investigator Grant to investigate the development of an online cytotechnology program using virtual microscopy.
New Alumni Chapter: Graduate Studies

The newest chapter of the UNMC Alumni Association officially has a board of directors and dues structure. The UNMC Graduate Studies Alumni Chapter was formed last fall. The board of directors has five members with M. Patricia Leuschen, PhD, serving as the inaugural president. “I look forward to working with the Graduate Studies alumni to build a strong network of professionals and to continue to support UNMC,” Dr. Leuschen said.

The Graduate Studies Alumni Chapter is open to UNMC alumni who earned degrees from the UNMC Graduate Studies Program of the University of Nebraska Graduate College, which is made up of master’s and PhD programs from such disciplines as the basic sciences, nursing, public health and the medical sciences. These graduates include medical scientists and academicians. The new chapter will support the UNMC Graduate Studies Office and its students.

One of its first official functions will be to support the Graduate Studies Office in planning its inaugural Honors Convocation on May 9. Graduate studies alumni should expect an initial membership packet this spring with information on how to join the chapter.

Interested alumni also may contact the UNMC Alumni Office at alumni@unmc.edu or may join online at www.unmc.edu/alumni.

Alumni Reunion 2013 Award Recipients

Each year, during Alumni Reunion Weekend, the alumni chapters honor outstanding graduates who have made substantial contributions in their fields.

The 2013 award recipients were:

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<th>ALUMNI CHAPTER</th>
<th>AWARD NAME</th>
<th>RECIPIENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>College of Medicine</td>
<td>Distinguished Alumnus Award</td>
<td>Richard Hranac, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class of 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Medicine</td>
<td>Early Career Achievement Award</td>
<td>Sheila Sternberg Ellis, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class of 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Nursing</td>
<td>Distinguished Alumnus Award</td>
<td>Cynthia Dougherty, PhD, ARNP, FAHA, FAAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class of 1977 (ASN), 1979 (BSN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Pharmacy</td>
<td>Early Career Achievement Award</td>
<td>Elizabeth Hermsen, PharmD, MBA, BCPS-ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class of 2001</td>
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CODAA honorees in 2013 were:
- Distinguished Service Award
  Paul Swanson, DDS ’58
- Alumni Achievement Award
  David Neumeister, DDS ’69
- Honorary Life Membership Award
  John W. Reinhardt, DDS
- Dean of the College of Dentistry
- Outstanding Teaching Award
  Eric Fung, PhD

For more information about these individuals’ significant achievements, visit: www.unmc.edu/alumni, where you also can download a nomination form to nominate a colleague for a future alumni award.

The College of Dentistry Alumni Association (CODAA) also honored alumni during its annual Homecoming Reunion, held on Oct. 4-5.

Interested alumni also may contact the UNMC Alumni Office at alumni@unmc.edu or may join online at www.unmc.edu/alumni.

West Nebraska Division Nursing Campus to Host Alumni Reunion

The UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Chapter has formed a committee to plan an all class reunion scheduled for Sept. 12-13, for alumni from West Nebraska General Hospital and the College of Nursing West Nebraska Division.

Reunion activities include: an opportunity to “go back to school” with current students, campus tours, the White Coat ceremony at the West Nebraska Division, and a tailgate party for the Nebraska vs. Fresno State football game (televised).

“We look forward to welcoming our outstanding nursing alumni to Scottsbluff to learn how things have changed in nursing education,” said Sue Wilhelm, assistant dean, UNMC College of Nursing West Nebraska Division. “We are excited to see our alumni and learn about their achievements.”

Alumni who would like to organize this reunion or get involved should call Roxanna Jokela at the UNMC Alumni Relations office at (402) 559-4385 or email rjokela@unmc.edu.
Alumni Gather in Omaha for 2013 Alumni Reunion Weekend

Another successful reunion weekend was held Oct. 11-12 in Omaha for alumni of the colleges of medicine, nursing and pharmacy. More than 175 alumni and their guests attended the weekend events, which included class parties, campus tours, a welcome back lunch with the deans, continuing education, the celebration and awards banquet, and two Ollie the Trolley tours of Omaha. The 2013 Alumni Reunion Weekend celebrated “honor years” ending in “3” or “8.”

Highlights from the weekend included:

- The College of Pharmacy offered the Fall Continuing Education Program for pharmacists, preceptors and alumni during reunion weekend.
- Cynthia Dougherty, PhD, ARNP, FAHA, FAAN (ASN ’77, BSN ’79), received the College of Nursing Alumni Chapter second annual Distinguished Nursing Alumnus Award. Her presentation was titled, “Interventions to Promote Physical Functioning and Psychological Adjustment in Advanced Heart Disease.”
- More than 50 alumni and guests participated in walking tours of campus and two Ollie the Trolley tours, with a capacity of 22 guests each, were sold out.
- 130 alumni, including many with their guests, attended an honor year class party during the reunion.

Alumni Reunion Weekend 2014 will be Oct. 17-18 in Omaha. The Alumni Relations Office seeks honor year class coordinators for the 2014 reunion. If you are interested in serving as a leader for your class, please contact Alumni Relations Director Ravanna Jokela at (402) 559-4385 or rjokela@unmc.edu.

Also, if you plan to attend the reunion, call for reservations at the Embassy Suites Downtown/Old Market at (402) 346-9000 and ask for the UNMC alumni rate of $142/night.

Alumni Gather for Husker Tailgate Party

As part of outreach events across Nebraska, the UNMC Alumni Association hosted a tailgate party at the Grand Manse in Lincoln, Neb., prior to the Nebraska vs. Wyoming football game. The Aug. 31 event brought together more than 50 alumni and guests from the colleges of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, public health and the school of allied health professions. Alumni who attended the football game enjoyed a 37-34 Husker win. The UNMC Alumni Association hosted a spring training game in Scottsdale, Ariz. A second event, the Showdown in O-Town for Nebraska at Creighton, is set for April 29.

For more information about these events, visit www.unmc.edu/alumni.
**Medicine**

- **Stanley Schonberger M’40**
  Oakland, Calif., has been retired for 17 years. He plays bridge, walks and goes to hospital meetings. He will celebrate his 98th birthday in May.

- **Ernest Johnson M’56**
  Sacramento, Calif., retired last year after 50 years of practicing otolaryngology in Sacramento. He still continues medical practice up to two days a week.

- **Fredric Boyden, M’60**
  Reno, Nev., received the Arthur J. Lurie, MD, Distinguished Physician Award from the Renown Health Foundation. The award is given to a physician in recognition of humanitarian, medical and community service.

- **James Bell M’62**
  Newport Coast, Calif., is fully retired and spends time with his six grandchildren.

- **Calvin Habel M’63**
  Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., works part time doing research on Vitamin D deficiency and pre-term birth and obesity.

- **Keith Shuey M’64**
  Tecumseh, Neb., has worked full time at the same office since 1966. He does not plan to retire for at least another two or three years.

- **Steve Cunningham M’70**
  Reno, Nev., enjoys retirement after 30 years of orthopedic surgery with Alpine Bone and Joint Clinic in Reno.

- **Joseph Drozda M’70**
  Chesterfield, Mo., was appointed chair of the Healthcare Transformation Group’s Research Team, an alliance of five large health systems working to create a system for using electronic health record data for doing post-market surveillance of medical devices and comparative effectiveness research.

- **Richard Elliott M’70**
  Sun City West, Ariz., marked two honors this past year – he was named a distinguished alumnus from Peeping Water High School and received the Banner Medical Group’s Best Physician Award.

- **Lowell Harvey M’70**
  Wichita Falls, Texas, continues to practice full time as a critical care/pulmonary physician. He received the 2013 Distinguished Service Award from the Wichita County Medical Society for his dedicated and loyal practice of medicine for more than 35 years.

- **David Imes M’73**
  Gering, Neb., retired Jan. 1 from Regional West Physicians Clinic-Family Medicine in Gering after nearly 40 years of service to the community.

- **Larry Wilson M’73**
  Excelsior Springs, Mo., accepted the position of chief medical officer at the Kansas City Military Entrance Processing Station.

- **Thomas Tonniges M’74**
  Omaha, Neb., received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Voices for Children in Nebraska, a non-profit organization that advocates for the needs of children.

- **Daniel Durrie M’75**
  Mission Hills, Kan., will serve as the chief physician officer of the newly established Aphabeton Corporation, a company operating solely in the self-pay lifestyle sector of health care. He is a refractive surgeon and the founder and president of Durrie Vision, a self-pay vision correction surgery center in Overland Park, Kan.

- **Kurt Johnson M’77**
  Ogallala, Neb., retired as a family physician in October. He spent 33 years as a family doctor where he has seen countless patients and delivered more than 1,000 babies.

- **James O’Dell M’77**
  Omaha, Neb., recently completed a term as president of the American College of Rheumatology. Last July, he published an article in the New England Journal of Medicine on the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

- **Dennis Hickstein M’78**
  Bethesda, Md., was inducted into the Grand Island (Neb.) Senior High School Hall of Honor, of which he is an alumnus. He directs the National Institutes of Health program in molecular oncology and gene transfer and designs clinical trials in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and gene therapy for children and adults with genetic immunodeficiency diseases.

- **Robert Wergin M’79**
  Lincoln, Neb., was chosen president-elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Previously, he served three years as a member of the organization’s board of directors. He practices family medicine in Milford, Neb.

- **Dennis Bozarth M’83**
  Lincoln, Neb., joined the medical staff at Lincoln Orthopedic Center as an orthopedic surgeon who focuses on returning individuals to an active and productive lifestyle.

- **Luanne Thordyke M’83**
  Shrewsbury, Mass., was named the 2013 recipient of the Individual Leadership Development Award by the Group on Women in Medicine and Science Leadership of the Association of American Medical Colleges. The award recognizes leaders for their extraordinary, innovative and far-reaching contributions to advancing women leaders in academic medicine.

- **Deborah Perry M’84**
  Omaha, Neb., was recognized by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) with the CAP Excellence in Teaching Award at a ceremony in Orlando, Fla. in October. She received the award for her role as a facilitator for the nationally recognized Laboratory Medical Director Advanced Practical Pathology Program.

- **Julie Vose M’84**
  Omaha, Neb., was elected president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology for a one-year term beginning in June 2015. She takes office as president-elect in June 2014. ASCO is the largest international organization of health care professionals in oncology.

- **Mark Duff M’85**
  Manhattan, Kan., practices general pediatrics as a partner in a seven-person group in Manhattan, Kan. He also serves on the Mercy Hospital Board of Directors. He and his wife Annette recently celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary.

- **Michael Johnson M’85**
  Hastings, Neb., has practiced family medicine for 24 years in Hastings. He has three teenagers.

- **Jeffrey Binder M’86**
  Milwaukee, Wis., was named chairman of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, an international organization formed in 2009 to foster progress in understanding the neurobiological basis for language. He practices at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee.

- **Bryan Brethauer M’85**
  Omaha, Neb., joined Fremont Area Medical Center as an orthopedic surgeon.

- **Jeffrey David M’86**
  Lincoln, Neb., was named the Nebraska Medical Association Physician of the Year due to his wide ranging community involvement as a physician-leader. He is a pediatrician with the Lincoln Pediatric Group.

- **Timothy Sullivan M’86**
  Lincoln, Neb., started a new full-service family practice in Lincoln early this year called Coddington Medical Family Practice.

- **David Vlach M’89**
  Huntington, N.J., joined Avera Medical Group Yankton Behavioral Health.

- **Charles Smith M’91**
  Blair, Neb., joined Memorial Community Hospital in Blair. He also will see patients at the Tekamah Cottonwood Clinic. His interests include family practice, obstetrics, pediatrics and sports medicine.

- **Troy Dawson M’97 and Roger Rudloff M’94**
  Neligh, Neb., were both recognized by the Nebraska Rural Health Association with the 2013 Nebraska Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner Award.
The award recognizes individuals that exhibit outstanding leadership in bringing and/or improving health services in rural Nebraska.

- **James Malone M’95**
  Atascadero, Calif., continues his hematology private practice. He also continues to serve as lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and is an Iraq War veteran.

- **Deborah Clements M’97**
  Glenview, Ill., was named program director of the Northwestern McGow Family Medicine Residency at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital. She also practices family medicine with the Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group in Grayslake, and is professor and chairwoman of the department of family and community medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

- **Troy Plumb M’97**
  Omaha, Neb., was appointed chief of the nephrology division at UNMC after serving in the role on an interim basis. He was selected after a national search.

- **Julie Fedderson M’98**
  Papillion, Neb., is the chief quality and outcomes officer at The Nebraska Medical Center.

- **Garret Shaw M’98**
  Blair, Neb., joined Gothenburg Memorial Hospital in Gothenburg, Neb., as a family practitioner.

- **Andrew Buresh M’99**
  Scottsdale, Ariz., was featured on the cover of the Phoenix Magazine Top Doctors 2013 issue. The magazine picks the top doctors in 49 specialties in the entire Phoenix valley based on level of care and patient satisfaction.

- **Anne Newland M’99**
  Flagstaff, Ariz., completed her MPH and fellowship in Minority Health Policy in May 2013 from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is the deputy chief medical officer for North Country Health Care, a federally qualified health center in Flagstaff.

- **Christine Stanko M’00**
  Gladwyne, Pa., is the owner/president of Bryn Mawr Dermatology. She and her husband have two daughters.

- **Nicole Anderson-Erickson M’01**
  Lincoln, Neb., is a hospitalist at Bryan LGH in Lincoln.

- **Douglas Althouse M’03**
  Eagle, Neb., joined Prairie Lake Family Medicine in Lincoln, Neb. He has experience in hospice care, emergency medicine and family practice.

- **Joshua McConkey M’03**
  Holly Springs, N.C., accepted a faculty appointment at Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, N.C., in July 2013. He is an assistant professor in the division of emergency medicine.

- **Benjamin Bissell M’04**
  North Platte, Neb., joined CNOS P.C. in Dakota Dunes, S.D. He is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine, shoulder, knee and hip surgery, and general orthopedics.

- **Benjamin Fago M’04**
  Hastings, Neb., joined Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings as the emergency services medical director.

- **Elizabeth Hartman M’05**
  Dakota Dunes, S.D., joined CNOS P.C. in Dakota Dunes as a neurologist and multiple sclerosis specialist.

- **Dana Hess M’05**
  Philadelphia, Pa., is an orthopedic surgeon completing a one-year hand fellowship at the Philadelphia Hand Hospital.

- **Tyler Adam M’07**
  Hastings, Neb., joined Fillmore County Hospital’s Specialty Clinic. He started an ob/gyn practice in Hastings in 2011.

- **Ryan Martin M’07**
  Lincoln, Neb., began providing outreach services for the Nebraska Pulmonary Specialties Columbus outreach clinic in October 2013.

- **Susan Cooper-Morphew M’09**
  Champaign, Ill., joined the Christie Clinic’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Champaign.

- **Melissa Mosel M’09**
  North Platte, Neb., joined Great Plains Pediatrics in North Platte.

- **Brad Bohn M’10**
  Kearney, Neb., received the Young Alumnus Award from the University of Nebraska at Kearney Alumni Association in September 2013. He is a captain in the medical corps of the United States Air National Guard. He started practicing at the Kearney Clinic in the summer of 2013.

- **Joe Dangberg M’10**
  Pender, Neb., joined the medical teams at Pender Community Hospital and Pender Mercy Medical Clinic. A native of Wayne, Neb., he and his wife Denise are excited about living and working in a rural area similar to where they grew up.

- **Jason Lembrecht M’10**
  Papillion, Neb., joined Alegent Creighton Health Bergan Mercy Medical Center as a hospitalist.

- **Craig Pekny M’10**
  Columbus, Neb., joined Columbus Medical Center in Columbus as a family physician. He is returning to his hometown with his wife, Kasey, who is a special education teacher.

- **Tiffany Ward M’10**
  Demopolis, Ala., joined the Chu Clinic in Demopolis after completing her residency in Texas. She will practice obstetrics.

- **Natalie Stavas M’11**
  Boston, Mass., was named a 2013 Bostonian of the Year by the Boston Globe Magazine for her heroic response at the finish line after the Boston Marathon bombing in April 2013.

**Nursing**

- **Beatrice Kalisch N’65**
  Ann Arbor, Mich., was chosen as the 2013-2014 Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies. The program provides a year-long leadership opportunity in health care policy at the IOM.

- **Pamela Harvey N’69**
  Wichita Falls, Texas, recently retired from neonatal nursing.

- **Bunny Pozeil N’76, ’78, ’83**
  Lincoln, Neb., was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in October 2013.

- **Marie Haddad N’79**
  Omaha, Neb., was named president-elect of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH). The ASBH is a bioethics and health-related humanities organization that promotes interdisciplinary scholarship, research, teaching, policy development, professional development, and collegiality among people engaged in endeavors related to clinical and academic bioethics and health-related humanities.

- **Susan Hassmiller N’83**
  Plainsboro, N.J., received the Harriman Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service from the American Red Cross. The award is the group’s highest honor in volunteerism. She currently serves as the board chairwoman of the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey, and the chairwoman of communications for the National Nursing Committee. She has worked with the Red Cross since 1975.

- **Missy Fleck N’81, ’84 ’90**
  Tecumseh, Neb., accepted a new position as the director of nursing at Johnson County Hospital in Tecumseh.
Kimberly Siniscalchi N’88
Rockwall, Texas, was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in October 2013.

Polly Stern N’90
Omaha, Neb., was appointed the new director of clinical services at The Ambassador Omaha health system. She will oversee the clinical operation and staff for the rehabilitation, adult pulmonary and pediatric specialty care units. She has been with the organization for 20 years.

Kristen Rickertsen N’93, ‘09
Gothenburg, Neb., recently joined the staff at Gothenburg Family Practice as a nurse practitioner. She and her husband have three children.

Melissa Borman N’95
Lincoln, Neb., was elected president of the Nebraska Philanthropic Educational Organization, which celebrates the advancement of women.

Kathy Hoebelheinrich N’97
Lincoln, Neb., was named Nurse of the Year at the Nebraska Nurse’s Association annual convention in October 2013. As executive secretary of the Nebraska Nurse’s Association, she led a successful scope of practice credentialing review for nurse practitioners in the past year that recommends removal of the Integrated Practice Agreement requirement between nurse practitioners and physicians. She is a diabetes case manager at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Emily Hensley N’01, ‘13
Kearney, Neb., joined the staff of the Richard Young Behavioral Health Center Outpatient Clinic. She specializes in psychiatry and mental health.

Celeste Warlick N’03
Marshall, Mich., joined the Oaklawn Medical Group in Battle Creek, Mich., as a nurse practitioner. She earned a master’s degree in nursing from Old Dominion, Norfolk, Va., in 2012.

Shannon Kuehn N’05
Heartwell, Neb., joined Kearney County Hospital and the affiliated Minden Medical Clinic as an advanced nurse practitioner. She has experience in the emergency room, hospital and specialty clinic environments as a nurse and charge nurse.

Angela Curran N’07, N’13
Lincoln, Neb., joined Surgical Associates, P.C. in Lincoln as a nurse practitioner.

April Schubert N’07, N’13
Champaign, Ill., joined Carle Foundation Hospital as a nurse practitioner specializing in women’s health.

Todd Falter N’07
Omaha, Neb., is an emergency room team leader and emergency medical services coordinator for Midlands Hospital in Papillion, Neb. He also serves as director of risk management and infection control for the Lincoln Regional Center.

Ann Scott N’09
Gothenburg, Neb., joined Gothenburg Medical Arts as a nurse practitioner. She will provide women’s health services and also round at the Brady Rural Health Clinic two mornings per week.

Angela Patrick N’11
Grant, Neb., joined the Grant Medical Clinic as a family nurse practitioner. She also volunteers at the Perkins County Schools reading program and for health screenings.

Manuel Wolf N’11
Franklin, Neb., was appointed chief executive officer at the Harlan County Health System in October 2013. Previously, she was the chief nursing officer.

Sarah Anderson N’12
Tilden, Neb., joined Tilden Community Hospital as a nurse practitioner.

Gara Sibley N’13
Red Cloud, Neb., accepted a position at the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kan., in the cardiovascular surgery intensive care unit.

Taylor Westring N’13
Stromsburg, Neb., joined St. Elizabeth’s Regional Medical Center in Lincoln, Neb., in the Progressive/Modified Intensive Care Unit.

Pharmacy

Kevin Linn P’76 and Robert Bailey P’89
Mitchell, Neb., and Grand Island, Neb., respectively, have gone into business together and opened a new pharmacy in Mitchell, Neb. The two are old friends. The new business, Mitchell Drug, opened in the summer of 2013.

Kathryn Lobbe P’78
Mesa, Ariz., received the 2013 Bowl of Hygeia Award from the Arizona Pharmacy Association. The award is the highest recognition for an Arizona pharmacist.

Nancy Sloan P’80
Scottsbluff, Neb., was honored by UNMC’s College of Pharmacy as the 2013 Preceptor of the Year.

Mitch Marsh P’88
Lincoln, Neb., was named pharmacy residency program director for Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln. He established the program in 2012 after joining Saint Elizabeth in 2001 as the clinical pharmacy coordinator. Previously, he spent 10 years as a clinical pharmacy specialist at Ingalls Hospital in Harvey, Ill.

Daren Knaoll P’89
Hilliard, Ohio, recently received the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy Kimberly Professorship and was selected as chairman of the department of pharmacy practice and administration.

Kim Aldridge P’91
Lincoln, Neb., is the pharmacy operations supervisor at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. She and her husband Derek have four children.

Jennifer DiGiacinto P’97
Washington, D.C., joined RRD International as a senior technical advisor. She will work closely with partner companies to provide strategic direction on clinical pharmacology and regulatory issues related to their development programs.

Marcus Thoendel P’03
Bellwood, Neb., joined Bob’s U-Save Pharmacy in Columbus, Neb. He and his wife Carrie have three children.

Ben Grote P’04
Papillion, Neb., recently accepted a staff pharmacist position in South Sioux City, Neb., and is proud of his eldest daughter, who is now serving overseas in the U.S. Air Force.

Michael Daly P’05
Ballwin, Mo., accepted a new position as the clinical manager at St. Louis University Hospital.

Amy Reiner P’12
Columbus, Neb., is an inpatient pharmacist at Columbus Community Hospital. She and her husband Scott celebrated the first birthday of their daughter, Charlotte, in September 2013.

Colby Haynes P’13
Auburn, Neb., joinedChief Drug in Tecumseh, Neb., as the full-time pharmacist.

Holly Mussman P’13
Bruning, Neb., joined Waver Pharmacy in Geneva, Neb.

Cristin Soucie P’13
Cambridge, Neb., is a new pharmacist at U-Save Pharmacy in McCook, Neb.

Dentistry

Paul Swanson D’58
Redlands, Calif., received the Distinguished Service Award from the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association during the October 2013 homecoming reunion.

James Slominski D’63
Falls City, Neb., recently retired and is transitioning his dental practice, Parkside Dental, to Kobza Dental operated by UNMC alumnus J. Travis Kobza, D’06. Dr. Slominski will practice two days per week during the transition.
Roger Curry D’69
Papillion, Neb., received a national award as the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society’s Volunteer of the Year.

David Neumeister D’69
Brattleboro, Vt., received the Alumni Achievement Award from the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association during the October 2013 homecoming reunion.

Janna Spahr D’98
Milford, Neb., received the Academy of General Dentistry Association’s Mastership Award during the 2013 annual meeting. The Mastership Award is the highest AGD honor available. She received the award for completing more than 1,100 hours of continuing dental education.

Stephanie Vondrak D’02
Omaha, Neb., was named to the Midlands Business Journal’s list of 40 Under 40 for 2013. The list recognizes local entrepreneurs, executives and professionals under age 40.

Elizabeth Katzberg D’10
Lincoln, Neb., joined the Genesis Orthodontics practice in Lincoln.

Piper Larson D’12
Omaha, Neb., joined Premier Dental in Omaha.

Erin Anderson D’13
Norfolk, Neb., joined the Dental Wellness Center practice in Norfolk.

Physical Therapy

John Long PT’94
Lincoln, Neb., was granted full status in the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists. He is one of 887 fellows in the United States, a number that represents less than 1 percent of all physical therapists. He is one of three in Nebraska.

• Dawn Venema PT’99
Omaha, Neb., was selected as the 2013 recipient of the Achievement in Education Award from the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association. She is an assistant professor at UNMC in the physical therapy education program.

• Michael Moravec PT’04
Scottsbluff, Neb., is the supervising physical therapist at Monument Physical Therapy in Gering, Neb. He and his wife, Lisa, have four boys; Lisa is a dental hygienist and works at the UNMC Dental Hygiene College satellite location in Gering. He was elected to the UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter Board of Directors in the summer of 2013.

Rebecca Setlik PT’06
Loup City, Neb., practices at the Valley County Health System Loup City Clinic. Her areas of interest include orthopedics and post-surgical rehabilitation.

In December, seven physician assistant graduates were inducted into the Alpha Eta Honor Society, which promotes scholarship and friendship and the recognition of high attainments in the allied health professions. From left: Morgan Achterhoff, Bethany Berg, Hannah Hoy-Elswick, Sadie Johnson, Amy Newbold, Emily Plautz and nuclear medicine student Dana Riter. The students are with Alpha Eta chairman Jim Temme (left) and SAHP Dean Kyle Meyer, PhD, PT (right).

Stacie Christensen PT’08
Kearney, Neb., is in her fifth year working at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. She has two sons, Drake and Aiden.

• Lindsey Oldaker PT’10
Aboon, Neb., practices at the Valley County Health System clinics in Ord and Burwell, Neb. Her areas of interest include orthopedics and post-surgical rehabilitation.

Krista Cullen PT’11
Kearney, Neb., joined McMeen Physical Therapy at its Kearney location. She previously was a staff therapist at Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy in Fort Collins, Colo. She is a certified exercise expert for aging adults.

• Les Kleinjan PT’11
Lincoln, Neb., was elected in the summer of 2013 to the UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter Board of Directors.

• Elliot Taoprich PT’12
Omaha, Neb., works for Excel Physical Therapy at its South Omaha location. He was elected in the summer of 2013 to the UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter Board of Directors.

Stephanie Borst PT’13
Lincoln, Neb., joined the staff at Midwest Physical Therapy Pine Lake in Lincoln.

Brandon Deeds PT’13
Falls City, Neb., joined Physical and Respiratory Therapy Services in Falls City.

Kyle Fornoff PT’13
Gothenburg, Neb., recently joined McMeen Physical Therapy at its Gothenburg location. His areas of interest are sports and orthopedics rehabilitation.

Kelsi Lemon PT’13
Papillion, Neb., works for RehabVisions as a physical therapist. She was elected in the summer of 2013 to the UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter Board of Directors.

Aaron Olson PT’13
Sioux Falls, S.D., joined the Orthopedic Institute of Sioux Falls. He and his wife, Becca, recently relocated to Sioux Falls, where she will teach in the Sioux Falls Public School System.

Sarah Poe PT’13
Omaha, Neb., accepted a physical therapist position with Community Rehab Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine in Omaha.

Physician Assistant

Roger Wells PA’87
Saint Paul, Neb., received the Outstanding Rural Health Achievement Award from the Nebraska Rural Health Association. The award recognizes individuals for leadership and noteworthy initiative in promoting the development of community-oriented, rural health care delivery.

Bryan Myers PA’94
Stromsburg, Neb., opened a new urgent care clinic in Wahoo, Neb. He also has a clinic in Papillion, Neb.

Carol Cornelius PA’00
Benkelman, Neb., joined the Grant Medical Clinic in Grant, Neb.

Christy Snyder PA’02
Waverly, Neb., joined East Lincoln Internal Medicine. She practices internal medicine and enjoys caring for diabetic patients and practicing women’s health.

Cody Sasek PA’09
Omaha, Neb., joined the UNMC Physician Assistant Program as an assistant professor. Since graduation, he has practiced orthopedics and sports medicine in private practice in Kansas City.

Diana Podlecki PA’10
Columbus, Neb., joined Columbus Community Hospital.

Timothy Nickell PA’11
Shell Lake, Wis., joined Essentia Health Spooner Clinic Family Medicine Department in Spooner, Wis.

Michael Iten PA’12
Broken Arrow, Okla., joined the Lithica Park Clinic. Broken Arrow North location in Oklahoma and specializes in family medicine. He has served as an infantry combat medic for the U.S. Army National Guard since 2003.
Clinical Laboratory Science

Verlin Janzen CLS’78, M’85
Hutchinson, Kan., is in his 18th year of practice in Hutchinson, Kan. He directs the lab in a 70-physician practice with more than one million tests per year. While he also is trained as a physician, he has used his medical technology training every day.

George McMillan CLS’92
Council Bluffs, Iowa, works for Catholic Health Initiatives as an application developer.

Pam Foster CLS’95
Manhattan, Kan., recently accepted the position of director of Equal Opportunity at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan.

Kris Brandl CLS’97
Lincoln, Neb., became engaged to Chris Geis in October 2013 and is planning a fall wedding. They also welcomed a grandson, Liam, in January.

Sarah Keim Janssen CLS’01, PhD’08
Omaha, Neb., was recognized by Chadron State College with the Distinguished Young Alumni Award in October 2013. She is the course director for the physician assistant/physical therapy anatomy and medical embryology courses and co-director for neuromuscular physical therapy at UNMC’s Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy.

Ashley Collins CLS’12
Fort Bliss, Texas, is stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas with the United States Army. She works in the laboratory of the Soldier Resilience and Readiness Center and was promoted to sergeant in December 2013.

Megan Dirks CLS’12
Omaha, Neb., works at the Bellevue Medical Center in Bellevue, Neb. She traveled to the Ukraine for a week in March where she taught English to college students.

Tamara Ritter CLS’12
Kearney, Neb., accepted a position in November at Kearney Regional Medical Center, a new hospital in Kearney.

Graduate Studies

Geoffrey Thiele PhD’85
Omaha, Neb., is a professor of internal medicine at UNMC in the division of rheumatology. He has been married to his wife Lorraine for 30 years. Their daughter, Jennifer, graduated from the UNMC College of Pharmacy in 2012. Their son, Geoffrey, was accepted into medical school starting this August. Dr. Thiele is a founding member of the UNMC Graduate Studies Alumni Chapter.

Wayne Stuberg PhD’89 (PT’77)
Omaha, Neb., was named associate director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) at UNMC. A federally designated University Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service, MMI specializes in providing services and support for persons with intellectual, developmental and/or genetic disorders. He is a founding member of the UNMC Graduate Studies Alumni Chapter.

Archana Chatterjee PhD’93
Omaha, Neb., was named chairwoman of the University of South Dakota Department of Pediatrics.

Vivek Gautam PhD’09
Medford, Mass., is a research fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He recently received an award from the Bright Focus Foundation to support his research in the field of Alzheimer’s disease.

Zagit Gigmalov PhD’09
Chapel Hill, N.C., co-founded NeuroNano Pharma pharmaceutical company with his PhD advisor, Alexander Kabanov, PhD, DSc.

Anna Brynskikh Boyum PhD’13
Omaha, Neb., is a researcher at UNMC. She co-founded Elegant Instruments, a company that creates laboratory tools. She is a founding member of the UNMC Graduate Studies Alumni Chapter.

In Remembrance...

Louis Gilbert M’43

Rhoda Caswell N’46

Lloyd Downing M’47
San Antonio, Texas, July 6, 2013.

Frederick Hecox D’48
Czeah, Neb., July 1, 2013.

Richard Elston M’50

Robert Gillespie M’50

Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni Chapter board members Karen Stiles CLS’78, Kevin McGuire CLS’11, Marnie Imhoff CLS’95 and Donna Kruger CLS’91 share a congratulatory cake with CLS students at their winter party in December.

Research

Brandon Grimm PH’05
Papillion, Neb., completed his PhD in December in health promotion, disease prevention research at UNMC.

Mahar Farid PH’12
Memphis, Tenn., is working on a post-doctoral research position in the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. He works in the Children’s Foundation Research Institute on a project that seeks to understand how infant exposure to particulate matter and air pollutants could lead to the development of respiratory disease later in adulthood. She had a baby in March.

Chad Wetzel PH’13
Omaha, Neb., was hired as an epidemiologist at the Douglas County Health Department in Omaha in April 2013. Since that time, he has worked alongside disease investigators to investigate and track reportable infectious diseases and outbreaks within the community. Most notably, he aided in the investigation of the nationwide Cyclospora outbreak that occurred last summer.

Public Health

Tammy Jones RSTE’00
Gretna, Neb., was named director of radiography in the UNMC School of Allied Health Professions.

WINTER 2014
Betty (Petr) Littrell N’52, ’53
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 12, 2013.

Willard Guard D’53

Gordon Pejsar D’55
Lincoln, Neb., July 8, 2013.

Dave Van Buren Stephenson M’58

Robert Lund P’59
Vermillion, S.D., July 1, 2013.

*Willis Mundt M’60

Donald Asbjornson D’62

Owen Smith M’76

Richard Dermer N’91

Linda Glenn N’97

Births

Karen Clark PT’99
Omaha, Neb., welcomed a son, Nathaniel Howard, on April 8, 2013.

Lacey Frank Hess N’02 and Dana Hess M’05

Angela Arnold CLS’03
Lincoln, Neb., welcomed a son, Liam, on Nov. 25, 2013.

*Kathleen Brandert PH’04
Omaha, Neb., and her husband Corey welcomed a son, Clayton Larell, on Dec. 6, 2013.

Karin Bellows RSTE’10
Council Bluffs, Iowa, and her husband Paul welcomed a son, Noah Allen, on March 21, 2012, and a daughter, Alexis Avery, on Sept. 12, 2013.

Marriages

Richard Dolbec M’63
San Francisco, Calif., married Alex Freeman on Oct. 11, 2013.

*Nicole Anderson M’01
Lincoln, Neb., married Bruce Erickson on Dec. 29, 2012.

Christina Araujo RSTE’06

Melissa Bivens RSTE’09
Omaha, Neb., married Michael Bachman on March 9, 2013.

Kathryn Bartek N’10

Nicole Folker N’11

Jeff Gossman PT’13

UPCOMING EVENTS

College of Medicine Alumni Chapter
Latta Lecture
April 24
Presented by Evelyn McKnight
College of Nursing, Room 2010
Omaha, Neb.

Showdown in O-Town
Creighton vs. Nebraska Baseball Game
April 29
Old Mattress Factory & TD Ameritrade Park Omaha
Omaha, Neb.

College of Nursing West Nebraska Division
Alumni Reunion
Sept. 12-13
Scottsbluff, Neb.

UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend
Oct. 17-18
Omaha, Neb.

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

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985200 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-5200

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Toll free: (888) 725-8664
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For more information about these events, contact the UNMC Alumni Relations Office at (402) 559-4385 or alumni@unmc.edu.

Please visit www.unmc.edu/alumni for a complete listing of class notes. Thank you for your notes.
All statistics as of December 31, 2013. The Campaign for Nebraska began in July 2005 and will conclude in December 2014.

79% of UNMC campaign gifts are from Nebraska households/organizations.

29% of donors supporting UNMC during the campaign are UNMC graduates.

16,419 individuals have made donations to UNMC during the campaign. Approximately 57% are first-time donors to UNMC.

95% of UNMC students apply for financial assistance.

* In addition to this fundraising total $243,700,000 has been committed for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center project. These funds were provided from sources other than private gifts or were private gifts committed but not yet meeting the Campaign for Nebraska’s reporting criteria. To date a total of $392,119,102 has been committed to the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

For information on how you can support UNMC, please contact:

**UNMC**
Amy Volk
402-502-4112
avolk@nufoundation.org

Anne Constantino
402-502-4115
aconstantino@nufoundation.org

Meg Johnson
402-502-4107
mjohnson@nufoundation.org

Karen Levin
402-502-4921
klevin@nufoundation.org

Melonie Welsh
402-502-4117
mwelsh@nufoundation.org

**College of Medicine**

Susan Norby
402-458-1183
snorby@nufoundation.org

Sarah Gloden Carlson
402-502-4113
scarlson@nufoundation.org

Patty Sherman
402-502-4114
psherman@nufoundation.org

Karen Levin
402-502-4921
klevin@nufoundation.org

**College of Dentistry**

**College of Nursing**

**Munroe-Meyer Institute**

**School of Allied Health Professions**

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center
Tom Thompson
402-502-4116
tthompson@nufoundation.org

Melonie Welsh
402-502-4117
mwelsh@nufoundation.org

Patty Sherman
402-502-4114
psherman@nufoundation.org

campaignfornebraska.org/unmc

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YOU LEARN SOMETHING – YOU GIVE BACK.

That’s the philosophy Ira Combs, community nurse liaison in UNMC’s Center for Reducing Health Disparities in the College of Public Health, has had for more than 20 years, as he has encouraged African-Americans to become involved in health education.

An oncology nurse whose emphasis now is public health, Combs was selected last fall by the White House as a Public Health and Prevention Champion of Change. The program recognizes everyday Americans who are making positive changes in their communities. This event honored people who are leading extraordinary efforts in prevention and public health that will have lasting effects on the health of Americans.

Combs was honored at a White House reception and participated in a panel discussion with seven other Champions from around the country. These leaders help communities focus on prevention and public health by tackling childhood obesity, health disparities and health care acquired infections. They create ways to make America healthier – based on wellness and prevention, rather than sickness and disease. Nearly 900 people were nominated, according to the White House.

A non-traditional student, Combs received his nursing degree at the age of 40 and immediately created North Omaha Area Health (NOAH), an agency that addresses the needs of the underserved in North Omaha.

“I work with a handful of dedicated community volunteers and limited funding to produce health-oriented comics and coloring books for kids, and sponsor and maintain websites and social media networks that provide information about healthy living,” he said.

He is perhaps best known for his puppet characters, Dr. Jesse (shown above), Dr. Healthy (a female doctor) and Mr. Jones, who never does anything right, and such other African-American superheroes as Prevention Man, Medical Dude and Vernon the Vegetarian Veggie Bird – all who make it fun to learn about health.

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He created Youth Expressions of Health, which includes an annual Youth Summer Internship Program in partnership with UNMC. It has helped more than 45 young people prepare for and start college with a focus on entering the field of health care.

Combs also coordinates health fairs for minority and underserved populations.

“I try to keep people healthy so they don’t have to go to the emergency room,” he said.

“This is what it’s all about,” Combs said. “Reaching people one-by-one at their point of need can change their life and the lives of their family.

“I thought about retiring last year, but with this award I will use it to benefit the community. This is quite an honor,” he said.
UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend
October 17–18, 2014

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