UNMC’s iEXCEL™

to transform health care education
Many of you may have heard me say that while we are becoming more and more of a high-tech organization, we will never stop being a high-touch organization. That is, whatever technological innovations we utilize, we still emphasize the personal and humane, the human touch.

And so, when we talk about iEXCEL℠ and other educational initiatives, as you will read about in the pages to come of this issue of Connect, you should know that we are using technology not just for technology’s sake. Rather, we are using this incredible next-generation technology to move our students and faculty from a classroom environment to an experiential environment where they can even more effectively blend technology with the human touch.

We are bringing together the very best of technology and applying it to the knowledge and skills that health care professionals of the future will need.

We have long been among the nation’s early adapters when it comes to innovative educational models. But, we will further position our learners for success with the embrace of blended learning, advanced simulation and virtual immersive reality. We will use this new technology and these new teaching methods to better relate to how people actually acquire and retain useful information, and apply this knowledge and skills to our future patients’ needs.

But to what end? To be the best prepared for our patients. To produce graduates who are not only skilled in technology and science, who are high-tech, but who also are high-touch.

Everything we do must do with the realization that we carry the moral and ethical obligation to society to continue to turn out a cohort of the very best health care professionals.

Educators often are accused of “teaching to the test.” And in truth, we do that to some extent and it is important to do so—our graduates must master their respective exam in order to obtain licensure.

But, what we sometimes think of as our end goals are really surrogates for much more meaningful outcomes.

The deeper truth is, ours is a different test. What we do in academic medicine, what we do at UNMC, is change the world. And on the educational side we change the world by creating the next generation of people who are going to carry the same values and the same vision, to transform lives for a healthier future.

The knowledge and skills, the professionalism and attitudes that they will acquire here, they will carry with them for a lifelong, multi-decade career.

When we talk about our educational initiatives, what we really are talking about is this: turning out graduates whom we would be perfectly comfortable asking to care for us, for our children, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren when that day comes.

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.
UNMC Chancellor
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

Connect

SUMMER 2015

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Alumni Weekend
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OCTOBER 19
Registration for Nebraska Science Festival opens
nescifest.com

OCTOBER 19-23
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A gout epidemic is sweeping the U.S. Four percent of the U.S. population has gout, and the number is going up rapidly. It has become the most common form of inflammatory arthritis in adults. It also is associated with significant morbidity and mortality in older men and magnified in patients with chronic kidney disease.

James O’Dell, M.D., Bruce professor and chief of the UNMC Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, is the principal investigator on a four-year, $23 million VA Cooperative Study titled “Comparative Effectiveness in Gout: Allopurinol vs. Febuxostat.”

The study will include 950 patients from contracted sites around the country, including UNMC, various VA sites and various Rheumatoid Arthritis Investigational Network (RAIN) sites. Because gout is common in the demographic of the VA patient population, this study could lead to significantly improved patient outcomes.

Documentation shows gout is the most mismanaged chronic disease there is, Dr. O’Dell said. “Our study will be the first time that a substantial number of patients with kidney disease, who have gout, will be studied.”

Two drugs for lowering uric acid levels, allopurinol and febuxostat, will be compared to determine which is the most clinically and economically effective. Both drugs are effective and generally well tolerated, but febuxostat costs considerably more. However, according to a previous survey of 179 VA practitioners, febuxostat appears to be the drug of choice. The reasoning seems to be the perception that febuxostat provided superior efficacy and tolerability.

This study will compare the two therapies for lowering uric acid levels to see which is the most clinically and economically effective, Dr. O’Dell said.

Nebraska Medicine to manage UNL health center

UNMC’s College of Nursing Lincoln Division gets a new building and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus gets a new University Health Center under an agreement reached in June and approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.

UNMC’s primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, will manage the health center, now located at 1500 U St. while a new combined structure near 19th and S Streets is built. The new $41.5 million building will provide 55,000 square feet of state-of-the-art space for the health center and about 100,000 square feet for the nursing division.

The new facility will expand collaboration between the two NU campuses, create more shared student experiences, increase educational opportunities, improve campus health options and allow for cost savings.

The cutting-edge building will facilitate the highest quality of patient care, sized to provide programmatic capacity to expand health care services based on projected student patient volumes and to consolidate counseling and psychological services into one campus location.

The new building will provide medical, dental and physical therapy clinic areas and the infrastructure to accommodate contemporary health care technology. It also will be the first permanent home for the College of Nursing in Lincoln, replacing the college’s current location in downtown Lincoln.

Occupancy is expected in fall 2017. UNMC also will work to build a referral network with specialty partners in the Lincoln and Omaha areas to ensure the highest quality and best access and follow-up to health care services for students.

Successful INBRE grant renewed for $16.2 million

A 14-year-old program based at UNMC that promotes biomedical research among Nebraska’s undergraduate students received a $16.2 million, five-year grant renewal from the National Institutes of Health.

The Institutional Development Award Program (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) grant has reached 324 students since 2001. The grant is overseen by principal investigator Jim Turpen, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and a professor of genetics, cell biology and anatomy.

To date, 27 percent of the graduates have continued on to graduate school, 28 percent have entered professional schools and 20 percent have taken jobs in the scientific workforce.

Students from eight different undergraduate colleges enter the program after completing their sophomore year of college upon recommendation by their college professors.

The students are given a two-year scholarship and spend 10 weeks each summer conducting research on either their home campus or at UNMC, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or Creighton University.

Jim Turpen, Ph.D.
Tammy Kielian, Ph.D., professor of pathology and microbiology, took on the search for a treatment for Juvenile Batten disease (JBD) when her niece was diagnosed with the rare, fatal disorder. In June, UNeMed, the technology transfer and commercialization office for UNMC, entered into a licensing agreement with PlasmaTech Biopharmaceuticals to further develop a gene therapy approach discovered in her laboratory that holds promise as a possible therapeutic.

It’s a potential breakthrough development in the fight against a devastating childhood disease that as yet has no treatment or cure.

Dr. Kielian said a final product might still be years away, but her lab is working on a solution that does more than just slow disease progression. “Ours is a demonstration of a treatment that would correct the genetic defect,” she said.

Also known as juvenile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis, JBD is an inherited, autosomal recessive, neurodegenerative disorder that results in lysosomal storage problems – basically, due to a gene mutation, protein and lipids build up inside brain cells, resulting in neuron death in the central nervous system. Other cells outside the brain also accumulate this material, leading to other complications typical of the disorder, including heart disease.

The first symptom is vision loss, followed by seizures, cognitive loss and motor decline. Finally, premature death.

Steven Hinrichs, M.D., chair of pathology and microbiology, said the research turned on a key finding: “Her laboratory demonstrated that expression of the therapeutic gene in only a few cells was able to benefit neighboring cells. That discovery completely changes the outlook for gene therapy in Juvenile Batten disease and makes a true therapy possible for this terrible disorder.”

UNMC expands RHOP program at Peru State College

UNMC and Peru State College have expanded their partnership in UNMC’s Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) to now include the clinical laboratory science, physical therapy, physician assistant and radiography professions.

Under the agreement, beginning this fall, qualifying Peru State College students may apply for admission to RHOP and provisional acceptance into one of these College of Allied Health Professions educational programs.

Peru State College now has early admissions programs with four UNMC colleges, including RHOP agreements with UNMC’s colleges of nursing, pharmacy and allied health professions, and the Public Health Early Admissions Student Track (PHEAST) agreement with the College of Public Health.

Peru State College students accepted into RHOP will receive a full tuition waiver from Peru State during their undergraduate years. Each provisionally admitted student will be appointed a faculty mentor from Peru State and a faculty mentor from the UNMC allied health program of study. Mentors will advise the students on academic and career development.

Dr. Kielian, UNeMed ink deal with pharmaceutical company

Tammy Kielian, Ph.D., professor of pathology and microbiology, took on the search for a treatment for Juvenile Batten disease (JBD) when her niece was diagnosed with the rare, fatal disorder. In June, UNeMed, the technology transfer and commercialization office for UNMC, entered into a licensing agreement with PlasmaTech Biopharmaceuticals to further develop a gene therapy approach discovered in her laboratory that holds promise as a possible therapeutic.

Students learn to respond to emergencies

Natural disasters and disease outbreaks stretch resources available to local health departments quite thin. That’s why they are always looking for well-educated public health volunteers.

To meet that need, about 30 students in the College of Public Health organized a Student Response Team earlier this year.

Stephanie Nelson, a joint MPH health administration and MBA degree student at UNMC and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, was elected president of the group.

“We aim to train students as potential responders in an emergency or disaster – whether through social media monitoring, mass drug dispensing, or helping local health departments with the epidemiological work in a disease outbreak,” she said.

The team also provides hands-on experience for students in emergency preparedness and outbreak response, said faculty adviser Sharon Medcalf, Ph.D., assistant professor of health promotion, social and behavioral health.

“UNMC’s Student Response Team capabilities provide a win-win for everyone. Requesting agencies gain much needed manpower in an emergency and students gain experience in the field,” she said.

College of Public Health Dean Ali S. Khan, M.D., M.P.H., said the hands-on field experience with outbreak management is invaluable.

“This will help them learn to be expert public health practitioners and enhance the student experience. These are the types of public health professionals we need to help make Nebraska the healthiest state in the union by 2020.”
ANNUAL FACULTY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

THIS SPRING, SEVEN UNMC FACULTY MEMBERS WERE HONORED FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING, MENTORING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE. TWO FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVED UNIVERSITY-WIDE RECOGNITION.

The University of Nebraska Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA)

Wayne Fisher, Ph.D., Hattie B. Munroe Endowed Professor & director, Munroe-Meyer Institute Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, oversees four clinical programs at UNMC: the Autism Diagnostic Clinic, Severe Behavior Disorders Program, Early Intervention Program, and Virtual Care Program. He conducts groundbreaking research into the assessment and treatment of severe destructive behavior. And, in the past nine years, he has secured $3.6 million to support his work.

Watch a video about Dr. Fisher and his work.

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

Chandrakanth Are, M.B.B.S., J/C Varner Professor of surgical oncology, established a six-month international rotation program for residents in India and developed a novel surgical anatomy curriculum for first-year medical, physician assistant and physical therapy students. Similarly, he developed an innovative and unique open surgical skills/procedures training curriculum for general surgery residents using lightly embalmed cadavers.

Watch a video about Dr. Are and his work.

UNMC Spirit of Community Service Award

Laurey Steinke, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, has a passion for science literacy and critical thinking. Through her work with REASON, a science literacy organization, she engages children of all ages with puzzles and magic to demonstrate scientific methods, evidence, logic and reason to gain insight and understanding.

UNMC Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Junior Faculty

Keith Johnson, Ph.D., professor of oral biology, College of Dentistry, has been described as a selfless leader who leads by example and is dedicated to promoting the next generation of scientists. He is credited with directly overseeing the career development of six junior faculty members at UNMC and Creighton University and 13 additional faculty members at UNMC and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Johnson’s management of the CoBRE grant allows individuals to grow and learn to succeed as independent investigators.

UNMC Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Graduate Students

Angie Rizzino, Ph.D., professor & program director, biochemistry and molecular biology, Eppley Institute, modifies his mentorship style based on each graduate student’s needs. Although he is now working with his 20th Ph.D. student, Dr. Rizzino has affected hundreds of young scientists during his 30 years at UNMC.

Rakesh Singh, Ph.D., professor of pathology and microbiology, does not sugar-coat the realities of life as a researcher for his mentees. Nevertheless, he is constantly encouraging, letting them know he is in their corner, in good times and bad. Dr. Singh embodies the difference between being a supervisor and a true mentor. Years after obtaining their degrees, students still trust Dr. Singh for guidance and support along their career paths.

UNMC Outstanding Teacher Award

Micah Beachy, D.O., assistant professor of internal medicine, is described as a master educator. He routinely challenges the clinical decisions of his residents to build confidence in patient care and to probe their thought processes. An excellent teacher of evidence-based medicine, Dr. Beachy includes medical care costs in his teaching and developed a novel case-based, interactive game to teach the principles of cost-conscious care to residents.

Katherine Bravo, Ph.D., assistant professor, College of Nursing, is an expert in directing the learning of students. She designs learning experiences that accommodate the level of the learner, whether the student is a traditional undergraduate, accelerated undergraduate or RN-BSN student. As coordinator for the accelerated BSN program, Dr. Bravo promotes critical thinking and challenges and inspires students to perform at a high level.

Jon Thompson, M.D., professor of surgery, is a model surgeon who seize every moment to teach. He is revered for his patience and compassion and for teaching students both “subject mastery” and “how to think.” His style has earned him the department’s Outstanding Teaching Award six times since its inception in 1992. Dr. Thompson uses an educational approach that combines scientific accuracy, patient privacy, fairness to the trainee and surgical acumen.
College of Dentistry

Amy Killeen, D.D.S., assistant professor in the department of surgical specialties, received the 2015 American Dental Education Association Council of Students, Residents and Fellows/Colgate-Palmolive Co. Junior Faculty Award. In her nomination, students describe the dedication, talent and creativity of their periodontal professor, and sum it up with a catch phrase: “We have learned to go above and beyond and to be ‘Killeen.’”

Fifteen College of Dentistry students, a record number, and seven faculty members gave presentations in March at the annual meeting of the American Association for Dental Research.

Third-year dental student Erica Jasa was selected as an American Dental Education Association (ADEA) board director to represent the Council of Students, Residents and Fellows. Second-year dental student Shawn Custer was selected as one of two ADEA Midwest representatives for the Council of Students, Residents and Fellows. Both will serve one-year terms.

College of Medicine

The Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology received funding from the National Institutes of Health for its Program Project Grant on the Neural Control of the Circulation in Heart Failure. This five-year award will begin its 16th year in the department.

SHARING Clinics have thrived during the past 17 years since a medical student had the vision to provide quality care to Omaha’s underserved. These clinics now provide not only general health care, but additional clinics specialize in diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases, vision and dental care too.

The establishment of a department of physical medicine and rehabilitation in affiliation with Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital helps fill a critical gap in the health care continuum for all Nebraskans. Nebraska’s aging population brings with it the greater need for high quality rehabilitative services for stroke and other age-associated conditions.

College of Nursing

Liane Connelly, Ph.D., and Jana Pressler, Ph.D., received a two-year Health Resources and Services Administration Nursing Workforce Diversity grant for a program titled, “Link to Learn.” This grant includes summer camps to introduce youth to nursing as a potential career choice. The Northern and West Nebraska Divisions held camps this summer.

Effective July 1, Ann Berger, Ph.D., was selected as the college’s new associate dean for research, and Teresa Hultquist, Ph.D., was selected as interim director of evaluation.

As part of its continuing effort to address the state’s nursing shortage, the college will offer its accelerated bachelor’s degree in nursing program in Kearney and admit more students in its program in Scottsbluff. The program at the West Nebraska Division in Scottsbluff is expanding to accept two more students each year.

College of Pharmacy

A potential single-dose antimalarial drug developed by a team led by Jonathan Vennestrom, Ph.D., professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences, was named one of “30 high-impact innovations to save lives” by the inaugural report of the Innovation Countdown 2030 initiative.

Yuri Lyubchenko, Ph.D., professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been awarded three new grants, two from the National Institutes of Health and one from the National Science Foundation. The grants total approximately $5.4 million over five years and begin this fall.

College of Public Health

COPH faculty and students were involved in the medical center’s Ebola and biocontainment response. Their efforts resulted in 23 publications so far, five of which include student authors. Faculty members have delivered approximately 75 presentations to national and international audiences, including the Institute of Medicine National Academy of Science. Students have delivered 10 national and international presentations.

Three COPH students and seven College of Nursing students traveled to Nicaragua in March to participate in a global health program and to distribute donated medical supplies. Based in the mountain town of Esteli, they visited rural villages to provide basic health services under the guidance of the local public health nurse.

Denise Britigan, Ph.D., and Analisa McMillan led the team that designed and taught the University of Nebraska’s first Massive Open Online Course. A total of 10,017 students from 178 countries and more than 70 professions engaged in the course, “Health Literacy and Communication for Health Professionals.”

Eppley Institute/Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

The annual Cattlemen’s Ball of Nebraska, held June 5 and 6 in Lynch, Neb., hosted a sellout crowd of more than 4,000 people on the Redbird Ranch. The event showcases beef as part of a healthy diet, promotes rural Nebraska and raises funds for cancer research at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. This year, attendees signed three beams that were placed in the new Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

Members of Project Purple, a not-for-profit organization with a mission of raising awareness and funds toward a cure for pancreatic cancer, and representatives from the Lincoln Marathon presented a check for $52,000 to Tony Hollingsworth, Ph.D., on Aug. 11. The funds, raised through the Lincoln Marathon, will be used to support a postdoctoral associate in his laboratory. Dr. Hollingsworth’s research focuses on pancreatic cancer.

Munroe-Meyer Institute

MMI’s Department of Developmental Medicine was selected as a site to participate in an industry-sponsored study of an investigational medication for the treatment of Fragile X syndrome in adolescent and adult males ages 12-45.

College of Allied Health Professions

Stephane VanderMeulen, assistant professor of physician assistant education, is 2015 president of the Physician Assistant Education Association, a national organization representing physician assistant educational programs. In April, she testified before a U.S. congressional subcommittee on the important role of physician assistants in the changing world of health care.

For the first time simultaneously, the presidents of the faculty and student senates will come from allied health. Second-year physical therapy student Andrew Shaw was elected president of the Student Senate and UNMC’s student regent. Darwin Brown, assistant professor and clinical director of the physician assistant program, is president of the Faculty Senate.
For an instant, a UNMC radiation therapy student, wearing special 3-D goggles, felt super powers while fully immersed in the VERT. It was mindboggling, she said.

The VERT, short for Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training system, allows students to “see”—as if with 3-D, X-ray vision—internal organs being hit with rays of radiation and its effects, making for a powerful lesson on what really happens inside a body during radiation therapy, and the importance of putting the proper dose in the right place.

Yes, health care education is changing. The age-old teaching mantra ‘See one, Do one, Teach one’ is being replaced with simulators, holograms and digital learning walls that allow students to hone their skills in risk-free environments.

Tomorrow’s health professions students will step inside a virtual heart, explore a three-dimensional lung, work in simulated clinical settings and, perhaps even learn from faculty members transported virtually from another site.

UNMC leaders are moving ahead with the Interprofessional Experiential Center for Enduring Learning, also known as iEXCEL™, a bold initiative that will transform health care education. Through iEXCEL™, learners will acquire knowledge, and learn and practice professional skills before encountering real-life patient care situations.

“This is a unique opportunity for UNMC and Nebraska to be a world leader in using near ‘real life virtual reality scenarios’ to transform performance in career-long health care education and
innovation, including the creation of educational courses that might allow trainees to ‘fly’ through the human heart, or see real patient imagery in 3-D in order to ‘rehearse’ surgical procedures prior to actual operations.

“The effective use of technology to teach has become a necessity to meet the needs of the digitally-native millennial and post-millennial students,” he said.

It also emphasizes active participation, the importance of which Abraham Flexner recognized in his 1910 Report of medical education, when he wrote:

“Each day students were subjected to interminable lectures and recitations… three or four or even five lectures delivered in methodical fashion … they observed more than participated.”

Long before that, an oft-attributed Ben Franklin quote, which arguably originated earlier from the works of Chinese philosopher Xun Kuang states: “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

So true, Dr. Davies said, noting reports that learners remember 90 percent of what they do, as opposed to 10, 20 or 30 percent of what is respectively read, heard or seen.

At the heart of iEXCEL\textsuperscript{SM} is the planned Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning, a cutting-edge training facility at UNMC that will house a variety of spaces in which learners are immersed in simulated and virtual, life-like scenarios (see story, page 11). These scenarios will enable health professions students to practice individual and team skills, as well as test their skill development, without putting them or their patients at risk.

The ideas behind iEXCEL\textsuperscript{SM} reach well beyond the actual building, however. iEXCEL\textsuperscript{SM} will be adopted across all UNMC campuses and offer new ways of teaching students – at all levels of training and in all health care disciplines – through interactive discussions, “flipped” classrooms, simulated activities and team-based training.

These new teaching methods are being employed and supported by the UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Teachers. iEXCEL\textsuperscript{SM} also will enable practicing providers (including military personnel) across Nebraska and around the world to master and upgrade their clinical care skills, as well as introduce and inspire health careers among elementary/secondary students.

Technology deployed across Nebraska’s communities will allow the center to be a resource for the entire state and beyond. Mobile, high fidelity simulation units will supplement simulation centers in Kearney, Norfolk and Lincoln and help bolster continuing education, as well as maintenance of certification, through statewide training opportunities.

The overall goal? To provide better health and better care for Nebraska through improved training outcomes.
Why iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup>?

With iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup>, students will learn many skills and concepts more effectively, because it will be hands-on and competency-based, which allows individuals to progress at their own pace until they fully master material or a skill. The iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup> initiative has the potential to decrease the cost of health care as providers master preparedness at all levels, function more effectively as teams and make fewer errors because they’ve received a more effective education.

The ability to “practice” real-life scenarios in a virtual environment before treating patients is critical, said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., particularly for such devastating diseases as Ebola, or for many other uncommon and challenging medical situations and surgical procedures.

The initiative also will be an economic driver for the community, state and region, as faculty would partner with the federal government and industry to research, develop and stay abreast of the newest tools and techniques necessary for the next generation of health care.

Leading iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup>

Pamela Boyers, Ph.D.

A medical educator with expertise in interprofessional simulation in health care has joined UNMC to help spearhead the iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup> initiative.

In July, Pamela Boyers, Ph.D., joined UNMC as associate vice chancellor for Interprofessional Education & Experiential Learning. She has extensive knowledge and experience in this area having most recently served as executive director of the University of Toledo (UT) Interprofessional Immersive Simulation Center and assistant professor in the department of surgery.

Through iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup>, learners will acquire knowledge, and learn and practice professional skills using a wide variety of simulation modalities in order to practice patient care before encountering real-life situations.

“Dr. Boyers has a wealth of knowledge on integrating simulation technology into the curriculum of health care professionals,” said Dele Davies, M.D., vice chancellor for academic affairs. “With her experience at UT and prior, she will be invaluable as we continue to create a networked interprofessional simulation center that is unique to Nebraska.”

“iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup> provides an extraordinary opportunity for UNMC to provide much needed leadership in the field of health care education,” Dr. Boyers said. “While the focus for iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup> is directed to the education of health care professionals, the ultimate recipients will be the patients who receive their care. The goal is to improve patient safety by teaching procedures, communication skills and teamwork in safe simulated health care settings.”

It’s important to note, she said, that iEXCEL<sup>SM</sup> “is a means to an end, but is not the end.” Rather, it’s a springboard into the future and learning with interactive, touch screen walls; surgical simulation; and 3-D, virtual reality and holographic technology. “Our opportunities are limited only by our imagination.”

A lifelong medical educator, Dr. Boyers was born in England where she completed her education as a registered nurse and professional counselor. She says that it was during these formative professional years that she developed a strong and enduring interest in positively impacting patient safety and improving the outcomes of health care through the education of health care professionals. Her master’s degree and Ph.D. in counseling and education were received from The Ohio State University.
The iEXCEL™ initiative will be housed in the Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning, a $102 million project planned for the southeast corner of 42nd and Emile Streets in Omaha.

The proposed three-story, 125,000-square foot facility would serve as a resource for the state, the nation and beyond. The facility, in part, would be capable of virtual immersive reality environments for both individual and interprofessional learning, and have tele-education, telepresence (visualization) and telehealth networking capabilities. It also would have collaborative space for engineers, graphic artists and instructional design experts to develop and research new learning tools and techniques.

Earlier this year, the Legislature approved $25 million for construction of a simulated education building at UNMC, as well as $2 million for operations and maintenance of the new facility. Additional funding support for iEXCEL™ and the proposed Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning will come from industry partnerships and private funds.

While based at UNMC’s Omaha campus, the center will benefit the entire state, including UNMC campuses in Lincoln, Kearney, Scottsbluff and Norfolk, as well as UNMC’s primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, and its regional health partners. It also will serve as a resource to Nebraska’s state colleges and the military, while bolstering continuing education and statewide training for all of Nebraska’s health care practitioners.

As such, the care provided to patients would improve, making Nebraska a healthier state in which to live, said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

In addition to improved quality of care, the center would provide:

- Better population health through emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion.
- Lower costs of care by improved quality and safety outcomes.
- Enhanced learning and preparedness through revitalized education models and more effective techniques.
- Economic development opportunities through course development and health care training.

The NU Board of Regents is expected to vote on the project’s program statement this fall. If approved, construction could begin in early 2017 with possible completion in summer 2018.
A new era for educating health professionals in Nebraska has begun on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus.

The UNMC Health Science Education Complex (HSEC) recently opened to provide a world-class environment for students in the UNMC colleges of nursing and allied health professions.

The College of Nursing Kearney Division, which has provided quality nursing programs there for 20 years, has expanded its degree offerings. The new College of Allied Health Professions now offers seven allied health professions programs that are unique to the area. When all the programs are fully implemented, an enrollment of roughly 300 students a year is expected.

Students from both colleges learn in the new $19 million, 46,000-square foot building that features next-generation technologies, simulation, experiential and hands-on learning. An array of classroom and clinical opportunities exposes them to an environment that promotes team-based care that provides optimal health care for patients and their families and reduces errors.

The programs in Kearney are led by Mary Ann Mertz, Ed.D., interim assistant dean of the College of Nursing Kearney division, and Greg Karst, Ph.D., assistant dean for academic affairs in the College of Allied Health Professions.

“With this facility, we finally have the physical space and the technology to support more learner-centered, activity-based teaching,” Dr. Mertz said.

Dr. Karst said he is excited about the state-of-the-art gross anatomy lab; an “energized lab,” or fully-functional digital X-ray suite for training radiography students; a digital, virtual anatomy table; simulation suites that provide audio and
video of students’ performances for later review; and digital X-ray images showing how the procedure would have turned out.

“Students get risk-free, realistic training without tying up clinical facilities or worrying about making a mistake on a real patient,” Dr. Karst said. “By the time they get to their clinical rotations, students will have more confidence because they’ve perfected their skills and experienced situations similar to what will be encountered in the real world.”

UNMC administrators liken the new technology to flight simulators used by would-be airline pilots.

The HSEC also will have the technology to conduct “synchronous distance education.” Some classes taught at UNMC’s Omaha campus will be experienced simultaneously in Kearney through video link-up. Some Kearney-originated programming also will be experienced in Omaha, Columbus, Norfolk and Scottsbluff.

Through “collaboration software,” students can view the instructor’s presentation on a monitor at their table, or share presentations. “It’s an amazing and collaborative learning experience,” Dr. Mertz said.

The HSEC was built to address critical health care workforce shortages and provide educational opportunities to students interested in rural health and primary care without having to relocate to eastern Nebraska. From the beginning, it’s been a model of collaboration – a partnership across the University of Nebraska system, state and community.

DONORS ARE FOUNDATION OF NEW BUILDING

The Health Science Education Complex is made possible with support from the Nebraska Legislature through the Building a Healthier Nebraska initiative, as well as generous private support, including leadership and major gifts from the following individuals and organizations:

- Sharron Altmaier
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- CHI Health Good Samaritan
- CHI Health St. Francis
- First National Bank
- Gloria G. Tye Family
- Tom & Mary Henning Kearney Clinic
- John & Sharon Martin
- Wayne & Virginia McKinney
- Minden Exchange Bank
- J. Scott & Teri Nelson
- New West Orthopaedic and Sports Rehabilitation
- Phelps Memorial Health Center
- Jim & Faye Rasmussen
- Ron & Carol Cope Foundation
- John & Sonia Sahling
- Emma Jane Wilder
- William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation
- Paul & Linda Younes

Though fundraising for the building is complete, program excellence and scholarship funds are vital to expand the impact of the Health Science Education Complex. For more information on how you can help, contact Lucas Dart at 308.698.5272 or lucas.dart@nufoundation.org.
Since Day One of his new job as president of the University of Nebraska, Hank Bounds, Ph.D., has been on the move.

Dr. Bounds, who began in April, has spent time getting to know the University of Nebraska campuses, visiting communities from the eastern part of the state to the Panhandle, and meeting with as many constituents – faculty, staff, current and prospective students, alumni, donors, leaders in education, business and agriculture, policymakers and other Nebraskans – as possible.

We caught up with Dr. Bounds, a Mississippi native who most recently served as commissioner of higher education there, to talk about his goals for the university and UNMC’s role in achieving them.

What is your vision for the University of Nebraska?

I’ve always wanted to be in a position where I could help change the world. The University of Nebraska presidency is that position. We have an opportunity to be a giant in higher education, doing even more to impact the lives of Nebraskans and people around the world. I’m humbled and honored to be a part of it.

How does UNMC fit into your vision?

The University of Nebraska can play a leading global role in key areas where we have built expertise and capacity – and our state’s only public academic health sciences center is right in the middle of that conversation.

Take cancer research and care. Cancer affects every Nebraskan. The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center will position UNMC and Nebraska Medicine to lead the way in developing more effective treatments, advancing research, educating the next generation of scientists and physicians, and improving the quality of life for patients.

Our designation as a national Ebola center is proof of our reputation for fighting infectious diseases. And we are known in many other areas as well: public health, transplantation, allied health sciences and pharmacy.

How does UNMC serve the entire state?

My travels around Nebraska tell me UNMC touches every corner of the state. I’m proud of the work we do to provide care to people in rural and urban communities, educate students no matter where they’re from and grow the economy and meet workforce needs. The Health Science Education Complex on the UNK campus – an innovative cross-campus collaboration – is a tremendously exciting project, made possible by generous public and private support, that will expand educational opportunities for our students and meet critical needs for more nurses, physician assistants, physical therapists and other allied health workers in rural parts of the state.

To me, that’s a perfect illustration of the power of the University of Nebraska. Each of our campuses has a unique mission. But we also have an opportunity to be stronger together – one university working to serve Nebraskans.

New University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds: UNMC CAN HELP MAKE NU A ‘GIANT IN HIGHER ED’ by Melissa Lee
With that cry from 3-year-old Emily Stephenson – echoed by her 5-year-old sister, Julia – the first signed beam was raised to the top of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

Emily Stephenson, who her mother said is being treated at Nebraska Medicine for a blood disorder, may have been the tiniest VIP in attendance, but she was as enthusiastic as any of the other cancer center supporters.

Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert was on hand to extend congratulations on the construction milestone, saying the tower cranes on the Omaha skyline point to “a future of growth.”

Calling the project “a commitment to save lives,” Mayor Stothert said the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center will provide important job opportunities before and after the building is completed, adding $500 million to the local economy.

Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, noted that it would only be 18 more months before the group gathers again for the center’s opening.

“Tremendous progress has been made, and every day we are closer to this state-of-the-art cancer center that will really transform Nebraska, the region and the country,” Dr. Cowan said.

Nebraska Medicine interim CEO Rosanna Morris said that when the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center opens, “it will have everything our cancer center patients need, all in one place. How do we know? Because we’ve involved physicians, researchers, staff members and – most importantly – cancer patients in every aspect of the design of the facilities.

“We know, and they know, that curing cancer is not just about eradicating cancer cells,” she said. “It’s about so much more. It’s about treating the whole person – mind, body and spirit.”

A Kiewit representative helps Emily Stephenson, 3, and sister Julia, 5, signal for the beam-raising as their mom, Amy Stephenson, looks on with UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

Nebraska Medicine staff and UNMC faculty, staff and students, came out – along with donors, campus and community leaders and other supporters – to sign the beams and see them raised.

View a photo album of the beam raising.
See beam signings throughout Nebraska.
Read a fact sheet on the beams.
Watch campus leaders discuss the impact of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.

unmc.edu/connect
Nate Breske, D.P.T., a 2004 graduate of what was then the School of Allied Health Professions, was interviewing for his dream job – head trainer for the Chicago Bears.

The lifelong Bears fan thought it had been going well, but then it ended abruptly and next thing he knew he was in a car headed for the airport, wondering where it had all gone wrong.

That’s when his cell phone rang. They wanted to hire him.

“I gave fist bumps to my imaginary friends in the backseat,” he said.

His UNMC education was a big plus for the NFL team. “He’s a physical therapist and an athletic trainer,” Bears general manager Ryan Pace told Chicago reporters. “He has a well-rounded background. He’s progressive and forward-thinking.”

He thinks in terms of preventing injury, Pace continued. He wants to fix more than current injuries.

“He’s a high-energy, high-burn guy who puts off a positive presence that I like.”

Dr. Breske began with the Bears June 1 with offseason practices and then full-scale training camp in July. “It’s been a crazy whirlwind,” he said.

It wasn’t the first pro football job he’s had.

While at UNMC, Dr. Breske interned with the New England Patriots and enjoyed it so much, “I dang near didn’t come back to PT school,” he said, only half-joking.

But, after graduation he went home to Watertown, S.D., to open a PT practice and raise a family. “We loved it,” he said. “I thought we would be there forever.”

Then one day in 2008, he got a call from the San Francisco 49ers.

He started as an assistant for the 49ers and was on track for the head job when the Bears called.

Dr. Breske, an all-state player in South Dakota and a college quarterback at Division II Northern State, relishes those times he is out on the field working with players. “The cool part is that on game day, I know I’ve done my part to help the team.”
Leslie loved the outdoors. She loved the flowers and playing outside. She was a beautiful child, her mother remembers.

Now Marshall and Mona Faith of Omaha are honoring their daughter Leslie who lost her life to pediatric cancer at age 2, approximately 60 years ago, with a gift to create an outdoor garden – Leslie’s Healing Garden as part of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center’s Healing Arts Program.

“She is behind all our thoughts,” Marshall said. “It fits us as a way to put her name, in a small way, into the future.”

There will be a lot of colors, flowers, evergreens and heated paths.

“How nice it would have been to take her into a garden. I would have had to carry her, but I would have been happy to carry her into the garden we’re creating,” Mona said. “I think all children want to go out and play and that was especially true for her.”

The healing garden will serve as a place to enhance the healing process. It offers patients the opportunity to reflect and to get outside.

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., UNMC chancellor and chairman of the Nebraska Medicine Advisory Board, said that the Faiths’ gift will be an integral part of the Healing Arts Program, which is being developed using evidence-based research to aid in the healing of patients.

“Our patients will truly benefit from Leslie’s Garden and the entire Healing Arts Program,” Dr. Gold said. “We could not be more grateful to the Faiths for their generous gift.”

From reduced pain perception, anxiety, stress, loneliness and depression to providing new insight and clarity into the feelings about a cancer diagnosis and treatment, the Healing Arts Program will include the most motivating and meaningful works of art to help heal the human spirit.

“Healing requires more than just treating patients medically,” said Ken Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. “Studies have shown creating an atmosphere of hope and resilience through artwork goes beyond curing a disease and leads to improved patient outcomes.”

The Healing Arts Program could feature more than 200 original works of art that could reflect a diversity of cultures and perspectives, create an oasis of calm and opportunity for introspection that will motivate, rejuvenate and build endurance to fight cancer on all fronts, Dr. Cowan said.

“The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center is creating a place of continued innovation, holistic healing and an environment that serves patients beyond their expectations,” said Gail Yanney, M.D., a Healing Arts Program committee member and UNMC graduate. “Leslie’s Healing Garden is the first of many exciting announcements about the Healing Arts Program. There is a vision to present a prestigious and diverse healing art collection.”

For more information about supporting the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center’s Healing Arts Program, contact the University of Nebraska Foundation’s Amy Volk at 402.502.4112 or amy.volk@nufoundation.org.

The Faiths share their story of Leslie in a video. unmc.edu/connect
A key goal of the UNMC College of Public Health is to make Nebraska the healthiest state in the country by 2020. Now, thanks to a $1 million gift from longtime UNMC supporters, Ruth and Bill Scott of Omaha, the college should be able to make significant strides toward achieving this goal.

Over dinner on May 4, the Scotts surprised former UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., with a gift bag. Inside was a miniature engraved antique chair expressing the Scotts’ “grateful recognition of visionary leadership.”

But, Dr. Maurer admits, when he opened the bag the implication of the little antique chair didn’t immediately register with him. “When I realized they were establishing an endowed chair in my name, I was absolutely speechless,” he said. “It’s a great honor.”

The Scotts have created an endowed chair in the College of Public Health and named it the Harold M. Maurer, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Public Health in honor of Dr. Maurer, who served as chancellor from 1999 to 2014 and was instrumental in establishing the college in 2006.

“Creation of endowed chairs is very important to our future excellence,” said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D. “Endowed professorships and chairs provide the funding we need to hire top experts – individuals who can truly make a difference in making Nebraska a healthier state.

“Naming this endowed chair in honor of Dr. Maurer is a perfect fit, as he was the visionary leader who recognized the importance of public health and saw the need to create a

RUTH AND BILL SCOTT

- An Ashland, Neb. native, Bill Scott joined Buffett Partnership in 1959 and Berkshire Hathaway in 1970, where he remained until he retired in the early 1990s.
- Ruth Scott also grew up in Ashland. She went on to be a school teacher and founded the Omaha Bridge Studio.
- Both are graduates of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- In 2009, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents presented the Scotts with its most prestigious award, the Regents Medal, for their extraordinary contributions to the university’s academic programs, scholarships and facilities.
new college. We are incredibly grateful to Bill and Ruth Scott for their ongoing transformative support of UNMC.”

“The Ebola epidemic put the College of Public Health’s name all over the globe,” Ruth Scott said. “Bill and I thought the endowed chair would be a good way to keep the momentum going. Additional public and private support will be needed to make Nebraska the healthiest state in the union.”

Nebraska currently is ranked as the 10th healthiest state in the country by the United Health Foundation, gaining one notch in the 2014 rankings.

“The Scotts support of public health programs with this endowed chair is transformational for the college,” said Ali S. Khan, M.D., M.P.H., dean of the UNMC College of Public Health. “It will be the first endowed chair for Nebraska’s young College of Public Health and will allow us to recruit a national leader to head our health promotion programs.

“It’s a critical position that will be instrumental in allowing us to build outstanding programs to become a healthier state and develop into a world-class public health college worthy of this amazing state. We can’t thank the Scotts enough for this incredible generosity including our new building also named in Dr. Maurer’s honor.”

For Dr. Maurer, who is now serving as emeritus chancellor and professor of pediatrics-oncology and hematology, the gift came as a tremendous surprise and honor.

“The Scotts have done so much for the medical center, the city of Omaha and the state of Nebraska,” he said. “They are the most generous people I’ve ever encountered. They are marvelous people and have done a lot for Beverly and me. We truly love them.”

WHERE NEBRASKA STANDS

Top 10 healthiest states
1) Hawaii
2) Vermont
3) Massachusetts
4) Connecticut
5) Utah
6) Minnesota
7) New Hampshire
8) Colorado
9) North Dakota
10) Nebraska

Rank of states surrounding Nebraska
18) South Dakota
24) Iowa
25) Wyoming
27) Kansas
36) Missouri

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Latta Lecture Featuring College of Medicine Alumnus Joseph P. Vacanti, MD

On March 24, the College of Medicine Alumni Chapter hosted the 29th John S. Latta Lecture, “From Omaha to Boston; From Brain Polyribosomes to Tissue Engineering” presented by Joseph P. Vacanti, MD, class of 1974. Dr. Vacanti spoke to a packed auditorium about his upbringing in Omaha and how his background enabled him to become a successful doctor, researcher and teacher.

Dr. Vacanti has been working in the field of tissue engineering since its beginnings in the early 1980s – a mission that stems from his long-held interest in solving the problem of organ shortages. His approach to developing tissue involves a scaffold made of an artificial, biodegradable polymer, seeding it with living cells, and bathing it in growth factors.

Dr. Vacanti holds many positions including: John Homans Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; chief, department of pediatric surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), emeritus; surgeon-in-chief, MGH Hospital for Children, emeritus; co-director, Center for Regenerative Medicine, MGH; director, Laboratory for Tissue Engineering and Organ Fabrication, MGH; and chief, pediatric transplantation, MGH.

The John S. Latta Lectureship was established by the College of Medicine Alumni Chapter in 1980 to commemorate Dr. Latta’s dedicated service to the College of Medicine. Dr. Latta taught courses in embryology and histology at UNMC from 1921 until 1963. He was chairman of the department of anatomy from 1940 to 1960, when he retired. As the number of years of teaching increased and number of students multiplied, Dr. Latta became one of the most admired and respected faculty members of the college. He died in 1989 at age 94. Lecture invitees included alumni, UNMC faculty, staff and students.

The 30th John S. Latta Lectureship is scheduled for Oct. 1, and will feature College of Medicine alumnus Luanne Thorndyke, MD ’83.

Alumni Volunteers Gather for Annual All Board Member Retreat

Volunteer board members representing each UNMC alumni chapter gathered on July 24 at Mahoney State Park in Ashland, Neb., to participate in planning for a new era of alumni engagement at UNMC.

The half-day’s activities included remarks from Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, a panel presentation about new ideas for alumni engagement, small group strategic planning sessions, and the opportunity to hear from three UNMC deans about their vision for working with alumni.

Overall, the goal of the retreat was to equip volunteers with the information, resources and networking opportunities that will enable them to actively engage alumni in the year ahead.

More information about the retreat planning will be reported over the next few months as new activities and programs are rolled out to alumni.

View more pictures from these events at www.facebook.com/unmcalum.

Retreat participants included, from left: Caryn Vincent, MPH, COPH ’14; M. Patricia Leuschen, PhD, GS’76; Patty Sherman, University of Nebraska Foundation; Susan Christensen, DDS, D’81; Juliann Sebastian, PhD, dean of the UNMC College of Nursing; and Wayne Stuberg, PhD, GS’89.
Alumni Gather for Tailgate, Baseball at 5th Annual Showdown in O-Town

Now in the fifth year at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, the annual Showdown in O-Town, Creighton vs. Nebraska baseball game took place on April 28. Alumni and friends from seven UNMC colleges attended the event, with a tailgate picnic dinner at the Bullpen, home to the NCAA Men’s College World Series’ “Baseball Village.” Guests enjoyed visiting with old friends, a cook-out dinner, seats at TD Ameritrade Park directly behind home plate, and a 7-6 Nebraska victory.

The Showdown in O-Town is part of the UNMC Alumni Association’s outreach activities for sports fans. The Alumni Association hosted “Kick-Off with the UNMC Alumni Association” on Sept. 12 at the Grand Manse in Lincoln, Neb. The event was a tailgate party prior to the South Alabama vs. Nebraska football game.

Chancellor Gold, UNMC Deans Attend Alumni Outreach Events in Arizona

The UNMC Alumni Association hosted two outreach events for alumni in Arizona in February. The events featured several special guests, including UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, College of Medicine Dean Bradley Britigan, MD, and College of Allied Health Professions Dean Kyle Meyer, PhD. The purpose of the Alumni Association’s outreach events is to strengthen the connection between UNMC alumni, the university and its leadership, and to foster networking and social relationships among alums.

The first event was held at the home of alumnus Lynn Juracek, MD ’86 and his wife, Deanne. The Juraceks hosted a Mardi Gras-themed event for 65 guests in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area. The second event was held at the Mountain Oyster Club in Tucson. This event was hosted by alumnus Robert Volz, MD ’57 and his wife, Ann.

Thirty guests enjoyed a lively cocktail reception with great conversation, catching up with past colleagues and the opportunity to meet new friends.

Events Center Discount for Alumni

UNMC Alumni receive a 20 percent discount on facility rental rates at the Truhlsen Campus Events Center for personal events (i.e., wedding receptions, anniversary parties, retirement receptions, baby showers, etc.).

The Campus Events Center is located inside the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education on the Omaha campus. The discount does not apply to business or organizational functions. To receive the discount, alumni must be the event honoree or the parent/grandparent of the event honoree. For more information, contact the Campus Events Center Coordinator at 402.559.5192 or eventscenter@unmc.edu.

Alumni news
Medicine

Bill Mannschreck M’51
Lewiston, Ind., turned 90 this year. He and his wife, Roena Mannschreck N’49, are happy and mobile.

Leo McCarthy M’64
Indianapolis, Ind., received the National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Graduate Award from St. Margaret Mary School in Omaha, Neb.

Kenneth Petersen M’71
Goshen, Ind., retired in 2011, but spends 6-8 weeks each year in Bangladesh providing OB/GYN services to underserved women at Memorial Christian Hospital.

Barbara Hurlbert M’71
Omaha, Neb., will retire in September 2015 after 41 years of teaching students and residents.

Gerald Luckey M’74
David City, Neb., received the Marion D. and Theodore H. Koefoot, Jr., M.D. Outstanding Preceptor in Rural Family Medicine Award by the UNMC Department of Family Medicine. The award is given to a UNMC volunteer faculty member who provides outstanding teaching and mentoring of medical students during their family medicine rural preceptorship, while also serving as an outstanding community physician.

Joseph Vacanti M’74
Winchester, Mass., received the 21st Jacobson Innovation Award from the American College of Surgeons at a June 5 dinner in Chicago. Dr. Vacanti was recognized for his groundbreaking work in the field of tissue engineering over the past 30 years and for starting the first pediatric liver transplant program in the country. The award honors living surgeons who have been innovative in the development of a new technique in any field of surgery. An Omaha native, Dr. Vacanti is the John Homans Professor of Surgery for Harvard Medical School. He returned to Omaha this year to deliver the John S. Latta Lecture at UNMC on March 24.

Karen Higgins M’77
Grand Island, Neb., was selected as volunteer faculty member of the year for 2015 by the UNMC Chapter of AOA and continues to practice pediatrics in Grand Island.

John Holland M’77
Olympia, Wash., has served as chief medical officer for the Union Pacific Railroad since 2010. He is a clinical professor in the department of environmental and occupational health services at the University of Washington. From 2003-2004, he served as president of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He also serves on the board of external advisors for the UNMC College of Public Health.

Howard McCollister M’77
Deerwood, Minn., has been elected and installed as president of the Minnesota chapter of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

Susan Strate M’79
Wichita Falls, Texas, was elected as speaker of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) House of Delegates. She recently completed her third term as vice speaker of the TMA House.

W. Brad Lockee M’79
Pierce, Neb., joined Antelope Memorial Hospital.

Valerie Arkoosh M’86
Glenside, Pa., joined the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Tyler Martin M’86
Roca, Neb., joined Dance Biopharm Inc. as the new president and a member of the board of directors. The company’s focus is on the development of inhaled insulin products for diabetic patients.

Harris Frankel M’86
Omaha, Neb., joined the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) board of directors. He is senior vice president and chief medical officer at Nebraska Medicine. He joined the department of neurological sciences at UNMC and serves as the medical director for the UNMC Physicians Clinical Neurosciences Center.

Kristie Johnson-Bohac M’87
Waverly, Neb., left medicine in 2004 to pursue a career in ministry. She attended Luther Seminary and is now a pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church.

Steve Boyer M’88
Mullen, Neb., is the chief of medical staff at Regional West Garden County in Oshkosh, Neb.

Jon Paul Trevisani M’88
Winter Park, Fla., was appointed to the faculty of the University of Central Florida College of Medicine in Orlando, Fla., as assistant professor of plastic surgery. He has worked in private practice for the past 20 years in Maitland, Fla.

Debra Romberger M’90
Omaha, Neb., was appointed to lead UNMC’s Internal Medicine Department.

John Beacom M’93
Chicago, Ill., joined Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa, as co-medical director of anesthesia.
Robert Allison M’94
Fort Pierre, S.D., received the Richard Neubauer Advocate for Internal Medicine Award of 2015 from the American College of Physicians at the Leadership Day Awards Program in Washington, DC.

Troy Dawson M’94
Nebraska, was awarded the 2015 Caring Kind Award of Antelope Memorial Hospital.

Richard Blatny M’98
Fairbury, Neb., served as the 2014-15 president of the Nebraska Medical Association.

Todd Tissendorf M’00
Lincoln, Neb., joined Antelope Memorial Hospital in the outpatient cardiology clinic.

Susan Ohnoutka M’01
Omaha, Neb., joined the Madonna Rehabilitation Specialty Hospital in Bellevue, Neb., as an internist.

Maria Michaelis M’01
Omaha, Neb., received her board certification in pediatric anesthesiology and is developing the Pediatric Anesthesia Division at Nebraska Medicine.

Scott Waterman M’02
Muncie, Ind., joins Central Indiana Orthopedics.

Morgan LaHolt M’06
Lincoln, Neb., serves as Madonna’s Brain Injury Program medical director at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Garrett Pohlman M’07
Kearney, Neb., joined the Melham Medical Center in Broken Bow, Neb., and its specialty clinic.

John Steuter M’08
Walton, Neb., joined Rock County Hospital for monthly cardiology outreach.

Phillip Guillen M’10
Lake Grove, N.Y., recently traveled to Banepa, Nepal, with a small California volunteer surgical team from Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he was a resident. The team assisted the local orthopedic surgeon with spine, heel and long bone lower extremity fractures at Scheer Memorial Hospital – all while experiencing aftershocks from a major earthquake that had struck the country.

Nathan Krug M’10
Central City, Neb., became the medical director of the NCAA Men’s College World Series.

Gina Weir M’10
Lincoln, Neb., joined South Lincoln Dermatology.

Brady Beecham M’11
Lexington, Neb., joined Lexington Regional Health Center at their Family Medicine Specialists clinic. In spring 2014 she completed her residency in family medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Hilary Miller M’12
Spalding, Neb., joined Valley County Health System in Ord, Neb.

Maris Hoke M’13
Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will join Myrtle Medical Center in September 2016 as a family physician. She is currently completing her family practice residency at Cedar Rapids Medical Education Foundation.

Alicia O’Malley M’13
Omaha, Neb., joined Butler County Health Care Center and Butler County Clinic in David City, Neb.

Roena Mannschreck N’49
Lewiston, Ind., and her husband, Bill Mannschreck, M’51, celebrated 64 years of marriage this year. They are happy and mobile.

Peggy Kaufmann N’55
David City, Neb., retired in 2014 after 30 years in long term care.

Alice Allen N’57
Bassett, Neb., returned to Nebraska after 47 years. She was the surgery supervisor in the Cage California Hospital.

Nancy Blume N’65
Kearney, Neb., retired as emeritus professor, director of graduate nursing at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. She continues to teach part-time in the on-line program.

Marilyn Braun N’65
San Diego, Calif., is enjoying retirement and staying active in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Chapter in San Diego.

Catherine Todero N’74
La Mesa, Calif., is the new dean of the College of Nursing at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

Nancy (Reis) Beitenman N’75
Bellevue, Neb., is a retired psychiatric and infection prevention practitioner.

Linda Lazure N’75
Omaha, Neb., retired July 2015 from Creighton University. She recently received the status of emeritus associate professor, as well as the Creighton Distinguished Administrator Award, the Joan Norris Mentorship Award and the Nebraska Nurses Association Outstanding Achievement Award.

Susan Black N’78
Rockford, Ill., works as an emergency nurse and has spent the past 20 years in management. She is starting her 10th year of teaching in a bachelor-degree program at Saint Anthony College of Nursing in Rockford, Ill.

Phyllis Gaspar N’79
Maumee, Ohio, was appointed national director of research and development for the Goodman Group.

Kimberly Leighton N’82
Lincoln, Neb., was inducted as a fellow of the Academy of Nursing Education in honor of her significant contributions to nursing education. She facilitated the development of the program for nursing curriculum integration. She also is the president of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Stimulation and Learning.
Suzanne Nuss N’82
Omaha, Neb., was selected to serve as interim chief nursing officer at Nebraska Medicine in April 2015.

Mary Trauenicht N’82
Lincoln, Neb., joined Bryan Medical Center.

Julie Starr N’84
Fort Collins, Colo., earned her MSN-Ed in May 2012 from the University of Northern Colorado. Her daughter Eliza Starr graduated with her BSN with honors from the Denver School of Nursing in June 2015.

Cynthia Polage N’91
Malcolm, Neb., works at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services as a psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner.

Connie Miller N’93
Omaha, Neb., was named assistant dean of the UNMC College of Nursing – Omaha division in June 2015.

Angela Pfeiffer N’93
Garland, Neb., was awarded an Excellence in Nursing Award for orthopedics from Omaha Magazine.

Michelle Lemon N’94
Omaha, Neb., opened Genesis Psychiatric Group.

David Kahle N’95
Imperial, Neb., has spent the past 10 years serving the Imperial area as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church.

Tonja Petersen-Anderson N’97
Pocahontas, Iowa, joined Stewart Memorial Community Hospital and McCrary Rost Clinic.

Jennifer Kuluza N’99
La Vista, Neb., was awarded an Excellence in Nursing Award for hospice/home health from Omaha Magazine.

Elizabeth Lynn Beam N’00
Omaha, Neb., was awarded an Excellence in Nursing Award for educators from Omaha Magazine.

Lindsey Gross-Rhode N’01
Plattsburgh, Neb., was awarded an Excellence in Nursing Award for Early Childhood Center from Omaha Magazine. She works at the Plattsburgh Early Childhood Center where she is the health and nutrition manager as well as the school nurse.

Nancy Fahrenwald N’02
Brookings, S.D., was named in the top 30 most influential deans of nursing in the United States by Mometrix Test Preparation.

Michelle McNea N’12
North Platte, Neb., works in nursing administration as house supervisor at Great Plains Health in North Platte, Neb. She completed a four-year term on the North Platte City Council in December 2014.

Carlene Springer N’13
Hastings, Neb., joined Morrison Cancer Center in Hastings, Neb.

Graduate Studies

Geoff Thiele PhD’85
Omaha, Neb., received the UNMC Hirschmann Prize for Excellence in Education from the medical students for outstanding teaching. He teaches internal medicine-rheumatology, basic science at UNMC.

John Jackson PhD’87
Clemmons, N.C., is a faculty member in the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Dentistry

C. N. Zidko D’65
Spencer, Neb., was honored for 50 years in dentistry at the Nebraska Dental Association state convention.

Bruce Hanson D’80
Johnson Lake, Neb., renamed his business Plum Creek Dentistry.

Richard Bokemper D’81
Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, was elected vice president of the Iowa Dental Association.

Molly McNeely D’01
Nebraska City, Neb., received the Fellowship Award from the Academy of General Dentistry during the 2015 annual meeting.
Pharmacy

• Roger Miller P’67
  Lincoln, Neb., in his retirement serves as a trustee for the University of Nebraska.

• Phillip Minnick P’85
  Elmwood, Neb., retired in 2015 from the U.S. Public Health Service at the rank of captain.

• Amy Minnick P’86
  Elmwood, Neb., retired after 25 years in the U.S. Public Health Service at the rank of captain.

Monica Strauss P’94
  Johnson Lake, Neb., is manager of the Wal-Mart Pharmacy in Lexington, Neb.

• Lee Handke P’99
  Omaha, Neb., was named the new chief executive officer for the Nebraska Health Network (NHN).

• Niki Salomon P’02
  Gothenburg, Neb., joined USave Pharmacy in Lexington, Neb., and also works part time at Gothenburg Discount Pharmacy.

• William Goble P’02
  Aurora, Colo., became the pharmacy clinical coordinator at Mercy Regional Medical Center/ Centura Health in March 2015.

• Brooke Heine P’07
  Crawford, Neb., opened her own pharmacy seven years ago in Crawford, Neb.

• Mary Theiler PT’93
  Arlington, Neb., practices at Community Rehab.

• Amy Skolaut PT’98
  Omaha, Neb., is developing a physical therapy program for Essentials, an integrative health and wellness business in Omaha.

• Kathleen Klapatauskas PT’99
  Dubuque, Iowa, has written and published a children’s book titled “Libby’s Gift.”

• Dawn Venema PT’99
  Clarkson, Neb., received the 2015 Excellence in Geriatric Research Award from the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy.

• Jason Keel PT’99
  Boise, Idaho, joined St. Alphonsus Rehabilitation Services in December 2014 and in June 2015 became a certified spinal manual therapist through the International Spine and Pain Institute.

• Nate Breske PT’04
  Santa Clara, Calif., joined the Chicago Bears as the head athletic trainer. He was the former assistant athletic trainer for the San Francisco 49ers.

• Colby Fox PT’10
  Grand Island, Neb., joined Hastings Physical Therapy.

• Abigail Keilwitz PT’12
  Alliance, Neb., practices at Box Butte General Hospital.

• Kristin Riekenberg PT’13
  Wilber, Neb., joined Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center Rehab Services Department.

• Kala Kuhlmann PT’14
  Genoa, Neb., joined Genoa Medical Facilities.

Residents

Brent Timperley M’07, Ophthalmology Resident ’11
Omaha, Neb., joined the Truhlsen Eye Institute in 2015 in the specialty of cornea and refractive surgery. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children, Jackson, Joseph and Hadley.

College of Pharmacy class of 2016 students
Breann Baker, Jenna Sedlacek, Meagan Doyle, and Courtney Anderson enjoy lunch at the P3 send-off hosted by the College of Pharmacy Alumni Chapter.

SUMMER 2015
Physician Assistant

- Mark Christiansen PA’77
  Herald, Calif., founding director of new PA program at the University of the Pacific.

- Juli Habegger PA’90
  Pawnee City, Neb., practices at Pawnee Rural Health Clinic.

- Nichole Bateman Satterwhite PA’93
  Miami, Okla., returned to OB/GYN Specialty Practice and has become involved with PAs For Tomorrow.

- Daytha Lindburg PA’02
  Lindsborg, Kan., started her new position of family planning coordinator at the Saline County Health Department in Salina, Kan. This comes after working in OB/GYN at Mowery Clinic in Salina for 21 years. She is a distinguished fellow in the American Academy of Physicians Assistants.

- Wyatt Kramer PA’02
  Bayard, Neb., after serving 30 years in the armed forces providing health care to the troops, is working closer to home at Regional West Garden County in Oshkosh, Neb., where he provides a full spectrum of emergency care.

- Andrea Hibma PA’04
  Fort Collins, Colo., joined University of Colorado Health General Surgery team.

- Sarah Minarick PA’07
  Lincoln, Neb., joined Sutton Ryan Dermatology and Aesthetic Center.

- Riki Rutz PA’11
  Omaha, Neb., joined Nebraska City Medical Clinic and CHI Health St. Mary’s.

- Holly DeVorss PA’12
  Central City, Neb., joined the Memorial Community Hospital.

- Erin Dorn PA’13
  Beatrice, Neb., joined the Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center at the Wymore Medical Clinic.

- Natalie Willer PA’14
  Central City, Neb., joined Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital and Lone Tree Medical Clinic.

- Megan Moser PA’14
  North Platte, Neb., joined States Family Practice.

Katie DeMuth PA’14
Creighton, Neb., joined Antelope Memorial Hospital in Neihg, Neb.

Erin Dorn PA’14
Adams, Neb., joined Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center at the Wymore Medical Clinic.

Tammy Wendt PA’14
Fullerton, Neb., joined the Boone County Health Center in Albion, Neb.

Kylie Parshall PA’14
Hamburg, Iowa, joined Hamburg Medical Clinic.

Jessica Borenphol PA’14
Tecumseh, Neb., joins Fairbury Clinic in Fairbury, Neb.

Ross Thibodeau PA’14
Lynn, Mass., upon graduation was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and received the U.S. Army Medical Regimental Insignia Pin.

Clinical Laboratory Science

Bernadette Graves CLS’80
Kansas City, Mo., now works part time and has completed her training to become a spiritual director.

Gail Burke CLS’83
Alliance, Neb., works as the laboratory manager at Box Butte General Hospital.

Radiation Science Technology Education

Jody Woodworth RSTE’78
Omaha, Neb., joined Nebraska Methodist College as the vice president of academic affairs.

Reed Fricke RSTE’06
Worthington, Minn., became the director of Outpatient and Ancillary Services at Sanford Worthington Medical Center.

Kellyn Olberding RSTE’10
Stuart, Neb., earned certification from the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

- Stephanie Vas RSTE’10
  Omaha, Neb., is the magnetic resonance imaging program director at UNMC. She is working toward her master’s degree in educational administration at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and was recently elected to the board of directors to the UNMC Radiation Science Technology Education Alumni Chapter.

- Chad Schock RSTE’14
  Norfolk, Neb., had his artwork selected to be on one of next year’s covers of Radiologic Technology, the Journal of the American Society of Radiologic Technologist.

- Emily Schlautman RSTE’14
  Lincoln, Neb., recently marked one year of working at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, where she is a radiology technologist. She was recently elected to the board of directors to the UNMC Radiation Science Technology Education Alumni Chapter.

Clinical Laboratory Science students in the class of 2015 display coffee mugs that served as graduation gifts from the CLS Alumni Chapter.

- Indicates alumni dues-paying member | © Life Member in alumni association
In Remembrance…

Margaret Reiner N’37

Stanley Schonberger M’40
Oakland, Calif., Jan. 6, 2015.

Carl Leach P’43

Byron Brown M’46

Bernice Comish N’46
Arcadia, Wis., April 28, 2015.

Evelyn Burns N’47

Helen David N’47

Myron Rubnitz M’47

Paul Stoesz M’47
Santa Fe, N.M., Jan. 7, 2015.

Albert Abbott M’49

Merlin Broers M’50

Jerry Tamisiea M’50

Frederick Wefso P’51
Rushville, Neb., March 27, 2015.

Henry Deines P’53

Elizabeth Dixon P’53
Easton, Md., June 17, 2015.

Merle Johnson M’53
Homer, Ark., June 27, 2015.

Thomas Murray M’53
Kearney, Neb., April 23, 2015.

Houtz Steenburg M’53
Sun City West, Ariz., April 26, 2015.

Howard Yost M’53

Jack Leland Donelson P’54

George Newkirk M’54

Warren Berggren M’55

Glenn Brown M’55

Donn Lenihan P’55

Alta Johnson N’57
Salem, Ore., May 19, 2015.

Glenn Rosenquist M’57

Robert Trupper M’58

Robert Hagg M’59

Kathryn Barnard N’60

Bert Spencer M’60

Lois Wilke N’60

Blaine Roffman M’61
Omaha, Neb., April 6, 2015.

Carter Beghtol M’62
Houston, Texas, April 30, 2015.

Marcia Meshbesher N’63
Chasburg, Wis., Jan. 11, 2015.

Gerald Miller M’64
Omaha, Neb., Feb. 4, 2015.

Sharon Holmberg N’67
Omaha, Neb., April 24, 2015.

Thomas Tibbels M’67

Michael Grush M’68
Omaha, Neb., April 23, 2015.

Charles Stuckey M’68

Samuel Benson P’69

Suzanne Tonniges N’70

Linda Lundholm N’71

Ann Manzo N’72
McComb, Miss., Feb. 18, 2015.

Phyllis Hamilton Freudenburg N’73

James Hoover P’75

Elizabeth Stanislav N’75

Douglas McGirr M’76
Stockton, Calif., March 2015.

Patrick Dunlap M’77

Terry Grzebielski N’77

Jean Saigh M’79

Michael McCarty M’80
Grand Island, Neb., Nov. 6, 2014.

Theresa Hermes N’85
Gering, Neb., June 1, 2015.

Judy Kinnan N’86

Janice Burwell N’86

Dana Hlavinka N’94
Sidney, Neb., April 19, 2015.

David Jones PA’00

Neb Coyle PA’08

Kimberlee Loutzenhiser (Koehler) N’09
Omaha, Neb., March 14, 2015.

Nolan Hannan P’15
Omaha, Neb., April 5, 2015.

Warren Sanger, Faculty
Births

Kristin Bertrang Gall N’02/’06 & Eric Gall P’05
Lincoln, Neb., welcomed a daughter, Alana Michelle, Nov. 24, 2014.

• Jamie Blum PT’08
Manning, Iowa, welcomed a son, Joseph Blum, on Aug. 19, 2014.

• Amy Jorgensen PA’11
Norfolk, Neb., and her husband Greg welcomed son, Peyton Dean, on March 25, 2015.

• Linsey Donner CLS’11
Omaha, Neb., and her husband David welcomed son, Arlin James, on May 4, 2015.

Gregory Nissen M’11
Bear, Del., and his wife Amy welcomed a daughter, Brooklyn Marie, on March 10, 2015.

Bobbie Lea Peterson N’11
Elkhorn, Neb., and her husband Corey welcomed son, Sawyer Bennett, on Oct. 6, 2014.

Marriages

• Cynthia Peterson N’91 & Jeffrey Polage

• Tiffany Grueber P’04 & Grantham Hogeland
Denver, Colo., Nov. 8, 2014.

Whitney Quinlan N’10 &
Brad Lipsey

Karissa Johnson M’10 &
Ryan Sanders
Danbury, Conn., May 24, 2015.

Danielle Webben RSTE’11 &
Nick Lausterer

• Natalie Hart M’11 &
Daniel Connolly

Adam Anderson D’13 &
Kelly Russell D’13

• Emily Gentleman PT’13 &
Brody Crowe P’14

@ Chad Schock RSTE’14 &
Bethany Kleinsch
Norfolk, Neb., April 18, 2015.

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

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About a year ago, Phil Smith, M.D., professor of internal medicine, division of infectious diseases, and medical director of the Biocontainment Unit, wanted to step away from patient care and focus more on teaching in the College of Public Health.

But, three days later, Nebraska Medicine’s first Ebola patient, Rick Sacra, M.D., arrived.

Fast forward to a slightly altered version of the original plans.

As of June 30, Dr. Smith reduced his work hours by 20 percent to share his Ebola expertise with other health professionals around the country.

Dr. Smith and the leadership team of Nebraska’s Biocontainment Unit (NBU), the largest unit in the nation, were thrust into the national limelight last year when three people who had become infected with Ebola arrived in Omaha for treatment. The team was ready for them and provided such stellar treatment that President Barack Obama called it “world-class care” in the Ebola fight.

Since then, the disease has become front and center in Dr. Smith's life.

First, the leadership team was called on to create online Ebola education courses and share its gold standards of treatment and procedures. The downloadable courses provided instruction and resources for health care professionals, as well as the general public, around the world. Then, in January, Dr. Smith was invited by U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse to attend the President’s State of the Union Address.

In June, Nebraska Medicine – Nebraska Medical Center in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services was selected as one of nine health departments and associated partner hospitals to create a new network to respond to outbreaks of severe, highly infectious diseases. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funds the project.

In the latest development, Dr. Smith, 68, will now devote most of his time to his new role as one of three principal investigators of the National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC). He will work with co-investigators at Emory University, Atlanta, and Bellevue Hospital Center, New York. The ultimate goal is to bring 55 U.S. hospitals to a higher level of preparation for Ebola and other infectious disease threats.

UNMC and its primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, will receive $5.1 million of the $12 million federal grant – the largest share of the three collaborating institutions.

As part of NETEC, Dr. Smith and his team will spend one-half of their time traveling, defining preparedness metrics, developing learning material repositories, and holding telemedicine conferences.

“I don’t plan to fully retire for another two to five years,” he said. “At this point, I’m working as hard as I ever have and like what I do.”
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