UNMC and Nebraska Medicine’s Ebola fighters
On Feb. 1 of last year, I was honored to assume my duties as UNMC’s eighth chancellor. It’s been a remarkable 15 months. I came to this community with tremendous expectations for all of our missions – education, research and clinical care.

I have come to realize that these expectations, while lofty, have been met and often exceeded.

This year saw the integration of UNMC and its primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine. This included a brand launch and a new, unified emblem. But most importantly, it included a stand, a cultural declaration for the future, an unwavering commitment that the combined entity of UNMC and Nebraska Medicine leads the world in transforming lives to create a healthy future through extraordinary care, discovery and learning.

Nowhere was our ability to lead the world more evident than in our work on Ebola, which earned local, national and international accolades this past year. I am so proud of all of the work done by the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit, and more specifically the consummate professionals who staff it, to provide treatment, to advance discovery and to educate the world on what we have learned.

Washington, D.C., also has taken note of our success. In November, I was asked to testify before Congress. And, in February, Drs. Phil Smith and Angela Hewlett and I were in attendance at a White House event in which President Obama lauded our Ebola care as “world-class.” We plan to continue this momentum by becoming a national center for health security and biomedical preparedness.

Last year we welcomed new deans for our colleges of dentistry and public health. And in July we will establish a freestanding College of Allied Health Professions.

We also came together as UNMC stakeholders – be they internal, our legislative partners or community members – to craft a new strategic plan, a vision as to where UNMC and Nebraska Medicine are going together. The aforementioned brand and stand came from these meetings. You’ll see more of what we call our “big rock” priorities in the days and months to come.

I thank each one of you for your hard work and fellowship in making my first year as chancellor an incredibly memorable one.

I’ve come to believe that nothing is impossible for this institution to do in partnership with our community. The state of Nebraska has a tremendous can-do work ethic balancing great pride and true humility. When we talk about opportunities, the response is, “How can we do this? Let’s make this happen.”

Let’s make it happen, together, in the years to come.

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.
UNMC Chancellor
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The words “State Department” flashed on the cell phone of Phil Smith, M.D. “We think you have a great unit. How would you like an Ebola patient?”

It was Sept. 2, 2014, and the international president of Doctors Without Borders was telling the United Nations how the world was “losing the battle” to contain the Ebola outbreak.

Dr. Smith, medical director of the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit (NBU), turned to Angela Hewlett, M.D., associate medical director of the NBU and the only other physician trained for biocontainment: “I hope you don’t have plans for the next week.”

“Boy, was that an understatement,” she said.

They spent the next several weeks in around-the-clock care for their first patient, Richard Sacra, M.D.

From the day Dr. Smith’s vision of a biocontainment unit became a reality 10 years ago, his team had drilled for a variety of scenarios – an emerging disease like pandemic influenza, a bioterrorist attack, a public health emergency. They had even practiced for managing patients with viral hemorrhagic fevers, which include Ebola.

And that’s exactly what the unit was first used for in the fall of 2014. One at a time, over a period of three months, three patients were treated for the contagious and deadly filovirus. Since then, the actions of the NBU team have propelled UNMC and Nebraska Medicine onto the world stage. Dr. Smith, professor of infectious diseases at UNMC, and his team set standards that are being shared with providers and organizations around the world.

After the Sept. 2 call, Dr. Smith activated his chain of command. Nebraska’s unit is the only one in the
U.S. that is independent of the federal government. UNMC, Nebraska Medicine and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are partners in the unit and must agree to accept patients. Dr. Smith conferred with Joseph Acierno, M.D., chief medical officer and director of public health for DHHS, and UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

On Sept. 3, Dr. Smith received the green light and immediately sought advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and Emory University, where two Ebola patients already had been treated.

“I learned that aggressive supportive care is key,” he said. “Watch the labs and give plenty of fluids and nutrition.”

With a two-day notice to fully activate the unit, Shelly Schwedhelm, executive director of infection prevention and emergency preparedness at Nebraska Medicine, and Kate Boulter, lead nurse of the NBU, alerted the team. “It seemed like there were 50,000 things to do,” Schwedhelm said. “We’re a just-in-time department and all supplies need to be fresh.”

Medical supplies were stocked, equipment prepared and personal protective equipment (PPE) procedures reviewed. “No request was too much,” she said. “Whatever we needed, it got done.”

Some technology updates were added to the unit. Max Thacker, associate director, ITS Video Services, recommended that a video telephone system be installed to allow patients to video chat with family and health care professionals outside the room and around the world.

“New technology connected the patient with his family,” Schwedhelm said. “That was a major benefit.”

Although the 40-member team had drilled quarterly, there was excitement and apprehension about being around a deadly virus. Still, no one on the team backed out. In fact, many more volunteered, Schwedhelm said.

“I’m very proud of our team,” she said. “There is incredible breadth and depth of expertise to the entire team. The work is taxing and precise. We encourage everyone to speak up if they see something not quite right.”

Meanwhile, because Ebola kills within two weeks of infection, Dr. Smith knew his window to treatment options depended on Dr. Sacra’s condition upon arrival – and the possibility of using experimental drugs and convalescent serum.

Chris Kratochvil, M.D., associate vice chancellor for research, worked with individuals from the CDC, the Food and Drug Administration, and the pharmaceutical industry to identify potential treatments and a pathway to obtain them.

“That first 24 hours we had significant conversations with many individuals from across the federal government, industry, and internal teams, all of which were more than happy to pitch in and facilitate the process,” Dr. Kratochvil said.

Very few experimental drugs were available, but the Canadian drug company Tekmira had a promising drug, TKM-Ebola, which they provided for
The drug works by blocking viral RNA and keeps it from replicating. The drug had been tested on animals and a small number of humans, but not people with Ebola. Dr. Kratochvil worked with the UNMC Sponsored Programs Administration team that rapidly reviewed and executed the necessary documents and signed the confidentiality disclosure. He then arranged for shipping.

Members of the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Clinical Research Center and the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee jumped into action. Procedures that normally take weeks were completed within hours.

“We literally worked through the night,” Dr. Kratochvil said. “Everyone dropped what they were doing and got it done.”

The 20-page IRB document spelled out risks and benefits for the drug, options for treatment, consent, what would happen and any costs incurred in participating in the trial. There were no costs to the patient for receiving the research drug.

Testing the patient’s contaminated blood presented other issues. Peter Iwen, Ph.D., director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), which contains a BSL-3 containment laboratory and is located on the UNMC campus, was finishing his report on the West Nile virus in Nebraska when his phone rang: He realized that the NPHL would become the first state public health lab in the U.S. to test Ebola virus-infected specimens.

He gathered his staff of six for a pep talk and began to schedule two-person shifts to provide round-the-clock testing. “We work on the buddy system in the lab,” he said, noting that they check each other’s PPE, safety practices while working within the biosafety cabinet – the primary containment box – and double check lab results.

“It was a unique situation,” Dr. Iwen said. “When you’re holding a tube of the patient’s blood, you realized you had a deadly virus in your hand. All safety precautions needed to be considered to include the use of plastic disposable containers and to eliminate the need for sharp objects such as glass and needles.”

Blood samples required special handling. There were entire protocols for the lab personnel to learn about preparing and shipping samples to the CDC in Atlanta for additional testing.

“You can’t ship known Ebola virus-infected blood samples through FedEx,” he said. “We had a courier in place, but I later discovered that they were driving the samples to Chicago and then flying them to Atlanta. We were fortunate to work out the details to get the samples shipped in a timely fashion.”

On Sept. 5, at 5 a.m., the plane transporting Dr. Sacra landed at Offutt Air Force Base.

Waiting for him were decontamination and transportation experts Shawn Gibbs, Ph.D., professor, and John Lowe, Ph.D., assistant professor of environmental, agricultural and occupational health, UNMC College of Public Health, and graduate student Katelyn Jelden, who, having arrived at UNMC in August, was getting a unique start to her public health education.

The trio spent a great deal of time coordinating with transportation partners so that they were ready to receive the patient. This also included time preparing Omaha Fire Department ambulances to transport Dr. Sacra to Nebraska Medicine. They did this by lining the entire interior of the vehicle with 6-mil plastic sheeting and duct tape.
The 15-mile transport to move Omaha’s first Ebola patient through rush-hour traffic required a massive effort coordinated with Omaha Police and Fire and the Nebraska State Patrol, Dr. Gibbs said. “Teamwork is important and I can’t say enough great things about these people.”

Dr. Gibbs and Jelden prepared to receive the patient at the hospital, while Dr. Lowe followed the ambulance in the chase car. The three spent the rest of the day decontaminating the vehicle.

News cameras captured the action live as the ambulance turned the corner at 42nd and Emile streets at 6:30 a.m. to take Dr. Sacra to the NBU.

Pieces were falling into place. The patient had arrived, the IRB review was complete, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) provided approval for use of an experimental drug and TKM-Ebola would arrive later that day.

All they were missing was LuAnn Larson, nurse manager of the Clinical Research Center, an experienced research coordinator who would don PPE and administer the experimental infusion.

She was in Baltimore, about to return home for her niece’s wedding when Dr. Kratochvil reached her. As she flew back to Omaha, she read the background materials about the study drug and a 50-page protocol that had been emailed to her. She arrived at the airport 30 minutes before the drug and never made it to the wedding. “How can I not be there and be part of the team?” she told him.

Dr. Sacra’s 22-hour trek from Monrovia, Liberia, to Omaha had left him dehydrated and confused. He had been sedated and encapsulated in his own biocontainment space suit the entire time.

“He was very sick when he arrived,” Dr. Smith said.

The experimental drug was administered once a day for seven days. On Sept. 6, Dr. Sacra also received convalescent serum from Emory’s first Ebola patient, Kent Brantley, M.D., who had received convalescent serum when he was in Africa, and the experimental drug ZMapp in the U.S.

For the first week, Dr. Smith spent a great deal of time in the patient’s room; most of the health care team communicated through video chat. It was difficult to bond through all the protective gear, so the team gave Dr. Sacra color photos and bios of themselves.

“He liked seeing who was caring for him,” Dr. Hewlett said. “When he left the unit, the entire team lined up to shake his hand and he correctly identified everyone. He recognized us from our eyes – the one thing he could see.”

Treating the disease was only part of the battle. The team also had to care for Dr. Sacra’s spirit. Nurses talked and played chess with him, and also brought in books, magazines and movies. As his health improved, he made use of an exercise bike that was brought into his room.

As his appetite improved, Patricia Taye, a hospital housekeeping employee from Liberia, brought home-cooked meals to him and let him know that prayers were being sent from her home country, which also had been his home for 15 years.

And three weeks later, when he left the unit, team members celebrated his recovery.

“When we planned this unit, hemorrhagic fever was not felt to be likely,” Dr. Smith said. “I thought it would be nice to get a less dangerous disease such as monkeypox or extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis.

“But, after having gone through this, our team feels they can handle anything. There’s always something new”

Editor’s note:
UNMC and Nebraska Medicine have become a global resource for information, training and research for Ebola and other infectious diseases. The U.S. Health and Human Services is now considering designating UNMC a National Center for Health Security and Biomedical Preparedness.

unmc.edu/connect
There are a few things that have become evident about the man who became UNMC’s chancellor more than a year ago.

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., works early mornings and late into the night. He advocates excellence and eminence.

He declares research is about more than getting a grant funded or a paper published. It’s about taking what we know and learn to impact and improve peoples’ lives.

He says that the quality of patient care should be measured not by numbers or metrics, but by what you would expect for your aging parents or your own kids.

What drives a man like this? I sat down with him recently and this is what I learned about our chancellor.

When he was in middle school, his mom was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. He saw how something like this affects a family. He lived it. At first, he, his brother and his dad, witnessed the wonder of medicine – fancy tests and effective therapies.

And then, the wonder ceased. “I saw that medicine can run out of great ideas and the patient suffers,” Dr. Gold said.

He saw how this realization affected his mom’s health care providers, too. He saw the family focus evolve from caring for children to caring for the one who is chronically ill. Not that he and his father and brother minded. They rallied. The family grew even closer still.

“It was a wonderful aspect of a family tragedy,” Dr. Gold said.

But it was not easy. As his mom’s illness progressed, her mobility diminished and she needed them more and more.

She was completely wheelchair-bound by the time he graduated high school. She couldn’t attend his college graduation, his med school graduation.

His father, who sold ladies stockings in the retail business, is still the greatest health care provider Dr. Gold has ever known.

“When my father passed away several years ago, I thought about the things that he stood for in his life and what he accomplished,” Dr. Gold said. “The unwavering care of my mom through 15 years of illness was certainly one of them.”

This is why Dr. Gold talks about research and education and quality of care.

This is why, in long talks with his family, he decided to become a physician. This is also why he majored in engineering, because he needed a scholarship and engineering scholarships were easier to get.
This is why he became a cardiovascular surgeon.

“I chose an area where the impact is immediate,” Dr. Gold said. “An overwhelmingly high percentage of time, I could talk to a family about their loved one on the day of surgery and tell them that everything went well and that their child or their family member was going to be fine.”

So, he chose an area where the problem was fixable. A magical blend of art and science, or engineering and medicine.

“Maybe that’s one of the reasons I did what I did,” he said. “But I also chose it because it was a field that was rapidly advancing. There is a mechanical side, almost a plumbing side to the science and I had an engineering background. I was interested in materials and fluid dynamics and blood flow and things along those lines so it all sort of fit.”

And in each of his cases, he has seen how personal health care decisions are made, how a family member’s health affects the entire family, just as it had with his. To have the privilege of that family giving you its trust …

“The incredible positive feedback – the warmth, the friendship, the long-term relationships that occurred from that time have been absolutely amazing in my life,” Dr. Gold said.

That’s one of the aspects of the educational process that he wants all those in health care – especially those preparing to go into it – to know. Commit to an unwavering declaration for our future, he said. Commit to “transforming lives for a healthier future.” It’s worth it.

“And those rewards are huge, and they are the core of what makes medicine an enduring profession.”

He’s grateful for what he and his family learned that helped make him who he is today. He’s grateful to his mom for who she was – and how, even as her condition became worse, she always faced adversity with great courage and continued to make all of them better.

But he’s never forgotten how hard it all seemed. He never will.

When Dr. Gold was in his first year of his surgery residency, he lost his mom.

“I hoped there were better treatments,” Dr. Gold said. “I hoped she would not be taken away from me at that time – I was married just over a year when this loss happened. It was really sad that I was at this stage of my life and she was not there to join me. She never experienced the joys of grandchildren or the results of life-long investments in our education.

“But it also inspired me. I’ve done a good deal of research in my life. I still do. It is exactly aimed at this goal of trying to pay it forward. Trying to improve the quantity and quality, the satisfaction and fulfillment of peoples’ lives. And that’s a significant way to change the life of a patient, a community and the world.”

It’s why education and research to him is about people, not papers. It’s why patient care is about families, not numbers. It’s why he talks about excellence and eminence, why he wants everyone at UNMC to not just come to work, but take a stand. For everyone to take professional and personal ownership of our culture, as we are all joined by this common goal – to improve the human condition.

It’s why he works early mornings and late into the night.

It’s why, in just about every talk he gives, Dr. Gold talks about wandering the halls of the hospital – looking for families and patients who are going through what he and his family went through, a long time ago. 😊
The physical proximity of UNMC and its primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, has long led to a perception that they are “one-and-the-same.”

In truth, the two are distinctly separate organizations, but closely aligned through clinical care, research and education.

That alignment became stronger Oct. 13, 2014, when the two announced that they would share a visual identifier—a shield featuring a subtle red “N” in the upper right corner. It was also on that day that Nebraska Medicine launched its new name, uniting three previously separate entities: UNMC Physicians, Bellevue Medical Center and The Nebraska Medical Center.

“This transition not only makes our organization stronger, but it also improves our patients’ experiences, through better coordination of care and more efficient access for our patients, among many other improvements,” said Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., UNMC chancellor and chairman of the Nebraska Medicine Advisory Board.

“This integrated organization will gain increased national recognition as we transform lives to create a healthy future through extraordinary care, remarkable discovery and relevant learning.”

The newly integrated organization, which includes more than 6,100 employees, allows Nebraska Medicine to strengthen its services by expanding collaboration among its partners. It also provides patients with increased access to approximately 1,100 physicians and 678 licensed hospital beds as well as 39 ambulatory clinics in Omaha and the surrounding area.

Nebraska Medicine continues to serve as the primary clinical teaching partner for UNMC and its health sciences programs. UNMC, with about 4,700 employees, remains a separate entity from Nebraska Medicine, but shares an emblem or logo.

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The new name and logo is reflective of the organization’s more comprehensive level of services and leans on the legacy of the individual entities that comprise it.

“The integration represents the next stage of a strong Nebraska health care organization known for its excellence, innovation and quality patient care, as well as its cutting-edge internationally recognized medical research and its education of the majority of Nebraska health care providers,” said Bradley Britigan, M.D., dean of the UNMC College of Medicine and president of Nebraska Medicine.

UNMC retained its theme, “Breakthroughs for Life” and its brand personality, while Nebraska Medicine retained its brand promise of “Serious Medicine. Extraordinary Care.”

“This is an investment in the future of our organization that must be made considering our role as a leading academic medical center and the evolving health care market that exists in the region,” Dr. Gold said.
Count Adam Kafka, M.D., and Morgan LaHolt, M.D., both College of Medicine alums, as among those who applaud the new partnership between UNMC/Nebraska Medicine and Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Drs. Kafka and LaHolt work at Madonna as physiatrists (that’s phys-EYE-a-trists) – physicians whose specialty is physical medicine and rehabilitation. As they put it, if you’re stable but still have a way to go to recover, these are the doctors who head up the team that helps you go the rest of the way.

And it is a team, they said. Each day, physiatrists at Madonna sit down with physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, a case manager, social worker and neuropsychologist, and go over each patient’s case.

Interdisciplinary teamwork has been hailed as the future of health care, but physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) have done it for some time. The problems they work to solve call for nothing less.

“For anyone who comes in for rehabilitation, this is one of the biggest things that has ever happened to them,” Dr. LaHolt said.

That’s why Drs. Kafka and LaHolt are excited to see these services coming to Omaha – currently, an underserved area for such services.

The goal is that a new Madonna rehab and long-term care hospital at Village Pointe will serve as the primary training site for a UNMC-supported residency program in PM&R, the first in Nebraska and one of the few in the upper Midwest. UNMC also will develop a PM&R department within the College of Medicine. Since the residency program and academic department require approval of several accrediting bodies, the clinical facilities will open first.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to transform the lives of adults and children seeking rehabilitative care, as well as provide quality academic experiences for our residents, medical students and other health professionals,” said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

Both Madonna and UNMC/Nebraska Medicine will work together to advance their clinical, teaching and research missions, as well as technology development.

Madonna already has established a long-term acute care hospital and inpatient rehab services at Nebraska Medicine-Bellevue as a transition step to the new Omaha Madonna campus, which is set to open in 2016. The new facility will serve adult and pediatric patients with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, stroke and neurological diseases.

Dr. Kafka is the physiatrist at Alexis Verzal Children’s Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln. He completed his residency at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison. Dr. LaHolt is medical director of Madonna’s brain injury program and was chief resident at the University of Missouri - Columbia.

But now, with additional planning and approval of the appropriate accrediting bodies, the next generation of Nebraska physiatrists will have the opportunity to go through residency at UNMC.
UNMC and its primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, have made headlines in the global fight against Ebola, playing an integral role in improving guidelines for disease management and care.

On the home front, the partners also play an essential role in the state’s economic success.

A study released in February shows that UNMC and Nebraska Medicine have a combined $4.2 billion annual impact on Nebraska’s economy.

The study, completed by nationally recognized consulting firm Tripp Umbach, shows that the Med Center not only contributes to the state’s well-being in health care, but also is a major player in driving its economy, said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

“Our work impacts Nebraskans every day. Although our primary goal is to improve the lives of Nebraskans through clinical care, education, research and community outreach, we’re proud to be such a strong contributor to the state’s economy. We take that responsibility seriously,” said Dr. Gold, who also serves as chairman of Nebraska Medicine’s advisory board.

Tripp Umbach studied fiscal year 2013-2014, and its study includes UNMC, Nebraska Medicine, and the work that those organizations’ employees do for affiliates such as the VA Medical Center and Children’s Hospital & Medical Center. Since 1995, Tripp Umbach has completed economic impact studies of all 130 medical schools and 400 teaching hospitals for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

“It’s clear that UNMC and Nebraska Medicine have a significant impact on the economic health and well-being of our state. The education, research and patient care happening here attracts talent to Nebraska, produces a skilled workforce, leads to new products and innovations, and improves the quality of life for people around the state and the world,” said University of Nebraska Interim President James Linder, M.D, who stepped down in April.

Of the $4.2 billion impact, $1.8 billion was through direct expenditures for goods and services by UNMC, employees, students, out-of-state patients and visitors. The remaining $2.4 billion came in the form of indirect spending within Nebraska, meaning the businesses and individuals who received direct payments from the medical center and its affiliates then respent their money within the state.

Dr. Gold noted that a key economic benefit of the Med Center is attracting fresh dollars to the state’s economy and keeping dollars from leaking out of the state to other academic health centers.

For instance, the Tripp Umbach report concluded that two clinical service lines – cancer and transplantation – have an
economic impact of $377.8 million and $139.1 million, respectively, on the state’s economy, at a total of $516.9 million in direct and indirect spending.

“Programs such as these serve a double benefit by keeping money in the state’s economy and attracting dollars to the Nebraska economy from other regions of the country and internationally,” Dr. Gold said.

**Other findings of the report included:**

- UNMC and Nebraska Medicine generate $99.1 million per year in state and local taxes (i.e. dividends, sales, fines/fees, property, real estate, motor vehicle, licensing and other taxes).
- UNMC and Nebraska Medicine create and support more than 28,927 Nebraska jobs in fiscal year 2013-2014.
- UNMC graduates working throughout Nebraska generate an economic impact of $3.9 billion. Based on profession, physicians have a $2.7 billion impact or $1.3 million per graduate, followed by dentists ($534 million total/ $750,000 per grad), pharmacists ($339.9 million/$300,000 per grad), advanced practice registered nurses ($147 million/$250,000 per grad); physician assistants ($134.7 million/$250,000 per grad) and physical therapists ($111.4 million/$200,000 per grad).
- The study also showed that about $1 in every $25 in the Nebraska economy is generated by UNMC/Nebraska Medicine, and the Med Center generates one in every 35 jobs in the state.

“It’s both humbling and gratifying to know how connected and significant our work is in keeping a strong Nebraska economy,” Dr. Gold said.

Nearly half of Nebraska’s physicians, dental professionals, bachelor-prepared nurses and allied health professionals have graduated from UNMC. [Read more about UNMC’s economic impact.](http://unmc.edu/connect)

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UNMC’s building boom continues as $447.8 million in educational and patient care buildings in Omaha and Kearney reach various points of completion.

Tower cranes dot the landscape on UNMC’s Omaha campus as work continues on the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, the Lauritzen Outpatient Center, and the Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education/UNMC Center for Drug Discovery.

The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, expected to be completed in early 2017, will include three areas dedicated to cancer:

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

Five new translational cancer researchers have been added to the staff in recent months. The recruits hail from some of the nation’s top scientific and medical institutions. Collectively, they bring more than $5 million in cancer research funding to Nebraska.

On the east side of campus, the new $70.8 million, 168,000-square-feet outpatient center and the $35 million, 85,000-square-feet pharmacy buildings are on schedule.

The Lauritzen Outpatient Center will contain outpatient clinics, clinical laboratory space and an outpatient pharmacy. A significant part of this new center will be the Fritch Surgery Center, which will include state-of-the-art, multi-specialty outpatient operating rooms, with easy access for patients. Four of the operating rooms will be dedicated to ophthalmic surgery affiliated with the Truhlsen Eye Institute. An orthopaedic surgery academic center and a new center for telehealth will be located on the fourth floor, supported by a gift from longtime UNMC supporters Ruth and Bill Scott. It is scheduled to open in late 2016.

Across the street, the new Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education/UNMC Center for Drug Discovery will give pharmacy students every advantage heading into today’s changing health care landscape, and UNMC’s esteemed research corps every tool available in order to uncover tomorrow’s breakthroughs.

Research activities conducted in the Center for Drug Discovery will be especially focused on infectious diseases, making UNMC a national leader in the field. The new pharmacy building is slated to open in spring 2016.

In Kearney, the $19 million UNMC/UNK Health Science Education Complex positions the university to better meet health needs in rural Nebraska, where shortages of health care workers are especially acute. It is set to open Aug. 20 with students scheduled to begin classes in the new building the following week.

Educational programs slated for expansion at UNK include physician assistants, physical therapists, clinical laboratory scientists, radiographers and diagnostic medical sonographers, as well as the master’s program for nurse practitioners and bachelor’s in nursing programs.

The four projects, largely funded by private donors, will provide an economic impact that exceeds the $447.8 million in total construction costs. The Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and the Lauritzen Outpatient Center alone will provide 4,657 new jobs to the metro area, infusing $537 million annually into the economy.
It’s been nearly two years since UNMC’s Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery opened its state-of-the-art bone lab, and the results have been superlative, allowing otolaryngology and neurosurgery residents to hone their skills in a facility that compares favorably with any other in the country.

Dwight Jones, M.D., chairman of the department, said that since the bone lab opened, there have been a number of regular courses, drawing regional and national attention.

Every year since the bone lab opened, courses have been offered in basic temporal bone anatomy; advanced surgery of base-of-skull for neurosurgeons; endoscopic sinus; and microvascular flap, in which residents are taught to sew microscopic blood vessels together, he said.

“The microvascular flap course now is a national course,” Dr. Jones said.

When the bone lab opened in Poynter Hall in May 2013, Dr. Jones was excited for the possibilities, but the lab has proved even more popular than he expected.

“I did not foresee that the bone lab would be this versatile,” he said. “Neurosurgeons use it weekly, but it never dawned on me the kinds of things we could do in this lab. After the lab opened, then we realized the flexibility and opportunity it provided.”

The lab offers roughly three times the space of its earlier counterpart, with 10 microscope stations (up from two) and video screens that allow faculty to interact with residents in real time. In addition, the video screens allow the instructors to monitor up to four or five residents at a time.

Students were ecstatic when it opened.

Asked to compare the new space to the old one, resident Jessica Moran-Hansen, M.D., called it “100 times better. “There is no comparison to this and other national laboratories that we’ve visited,” she said. Reactions like this have helped the lab recruit top medical students and residents to UNMC, Dr. Jones said.

“Our is one of the top bone labs for ENT/neurosurgery in the country,” he said.

In addition to the annual courses, the lab now hosts a biannual regional temporal bone program that draws students from Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma as well as Nebraska. Oral surgeons use the lab annually for a mandibular and facial fracture plating course.

Dr. Jones expects to see more national courses in the future. There is a national endoscopic sinus surgery course coming up, and there will be national temporal bone courses as well.

“I’d like to have at least one – local or national – course going on in the lab every month,” he said.

Raising funds for the lab was a process that took more than two years, but it’s proved worth it, Dr. Jones said. “This is the type of investment in technology and infrastructure that has really helped boost our program to higher national recognition,” he said. “Since it opened, we’ve had more resident applicants per year than the department has ever had.”

Kimberly Joynt, second-year resident, practices in the bone lab.
In 2005, the University of Nebraska Foundation launched the most ambitious fundraising effort in its history — the Campaign for Nebraska. The goal: raise $1.2 billion in support of the University of Nebraska's commitment to becoming the best public university in America in terms of the impact it has on the people it serves.

At the conclusion of the campaign, 98,369 donors had contributed $1.89 billion — more than 50 percent beyond the original goal. This support has transformed programs and opportunities across the university.

For UNMC, campaign funding has provided student scholarships that help ease the debt many students incur while earning a degree. It has created endowed chairs and professorships that further enable UNMC to attract and retain top faculty. And it has physically transformed UNMC campuses with the addition of 14 new facilities.

These opportunities would not be possible without the extraordinary commitment of UNMC's donors and campaign volunteers. In addition to private support, nearly 90 individuals gave of their time, serving on the UNMC or college campaign committees. These volunteers included Gail Walling Yanney, M.D., and Michael Yanney who co-chaired the overall UNMC Campaign Committee and championed UNMC's vision of eminence.

The Campaign for Nebraska has been the most successful campaign ever for the University of Nebraska and UNMC. The next few pages illustrate just a sampling of the impact that you, our friends and alumni, have made on UNMC.
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2005:
Campaign begins with $1.2 billion goal.

Sonny Johansson, he continued to hold until his retirement in 2014.

2005
Durham Research Center II. The research tower is ground is broken for the April 2007 - Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Research.

2006
UNMC dedicates July 2007 - Ruth and Bill Scott.

2007
Her gift also supports innovative research in areas such as UNMC celebrates the opening of the UNMC Center for Nursing Science. Ruth and Bill Scott

2008
UNMC names its new student plaza in whose generosity has transformed the academic level of senior care available in Nebraska.

2009:
Campaign is announced to the public.

2010:
The estate of Dr. Byron and Mary Virginia Weeth provides endowed support to benefit the College of Dentistry.

2011:
Donald R. Voelte, Jr., Chair in Neurosurgery introduced as the first Nancy A. Keegan & Kenneth A. Follett, M.D., is

2012:
The original goal of $1.2 billion is met.

2013:
$1.89 billion raised.

2014:
$1.8 billion raised.
Debra Romberger, M.D., was selected as the Henry J. Lenhoff Professor and Chairperson for the department of internal medicine effective April 1. A UNMC faculty member since 1990, she has served as interim chair since July 2014.

“Among several impressive candidates, Dr. Romberger was clearly the person who stood out as the ideal person to lead this department,” said Bradley Britigan, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine. “Her vision, well-developed leadership skills, and intimate knowledge of the department will enable her to build on the department’s proven strengths and lead its outstanding faculty to even greater levels of accomplishment.”

A highly accomplished and internationally recognized researcher, Dr. Romberger has been the recipient of 35 research grants and is an author of 130 scientific articles and 17 book chapters and reviews. Her research focuses on understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of environment-induced inflammatory airway disease.

College of Nursing expands doctoral program

To better meet the growing demand from advanced practice nurses with leadership and research skills, the UNMC College of Nursing has expanded its Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree to reach students with bachelor’s degrees.

The program, which will help prepare more nurses to meet the growing health needs of Nebraskans, is available at the college’s five campuses in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Scottsbluff and Norfolk, and through online courses.

The degree is for those who want to expand their nursing career options as advanced practice registered nurses. Potential candidates include nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and nurse administrators who wish to further develop their leadership and research skills to improve health care delivery and patient outcomes.

The next round of applications will be accepted Oct. 1 through Jan. 15, 2016, for the summer and following fall semesters. For more information, contact Will Roberts at 402.559.4120.

J. Michael Leibowitz, Ph.D., to retire from MMI

J. Michael Leibowitz, Ph.D., director of the Munroe-Meyer Institute, announced in January that he will retire this year. He did not immediately set a date for his retirement.

Dr. Leibowitz has been the director of MMI since May 1, 2009, after serving as interim director since Nov. 15, 2007.

Prior to being named the director, Dr. Leibowitz served as deputy director of MMI for 10 years. He also served as director of the Nebraska Center for Disabilities at MMI. He has been at MMI for 41 years.

“Dr. Leibowitz has been a tireless and visionary leader for the Munroe-Meyer Institute,” said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

“Since he took over as director in 2009, the institute has grown in stature both locally and nationally. With his emphasis on MMI’s educational, research, clinical and outreach missions, he and his staff have made a difference in the lives of thousands of children with developmental disabilities and their families. He will be a difficult man to replace, but we wish him well in his retirement.”

A search committee, led by UNMC College of Nursing Dean Juliann Sebastian, Ph.D., is being formed to identify candidates to succeed Dr. Leibowitz.

Debra Romberger, M.D., named internal medicine chair

Debra Romberger, M.D., was selected as the Henry J. Lenhoff Professor and Chairperson for the department of internal medicine effective April 1. A UNMC faculty member since 1990, she has served as interim chair since July 2014.

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Regents OK shift for SAHP to become college

The School of Allied Health Professions, currently an academic unit within the College of Medicine, will soon become UNMC’s sixth independent college.

In February, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved an initiative for the change. The school will ascend to college status in July 2015, joining medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy and public health. UNMC also offers graduate studies as part of the university wide Graduate College.

It has been estimated that as many as 60 percent of the U.S. health care workforce are allied health professionals. Allied health professionals play key roles in the provision of high quality, accessible and affordable care, and the need for these health professionals continues to grow in Nebraska and nationwide.

“The transition will enhance our already strong national reputation, promote faculty and student recruitment and facilitate our education and research missions,” said Kyle Meyer, Ph.D., senior associate dean of the SAHP. “We have advanced to the point where becoming a college is the next natural step in the evolution of allied health education at UNMC.”

SAHP already:

- Has the second-highest enrollment among UNMC colleges, behind only the College of Nursing.
- Has increased its research funding by 64 percent from 2009 to 2014.
- Has added six new endowed faculty positions since 2010.
- Plans to add full-scale health-professions programs at the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus beginning in 2015.
- Has produced leading research and outreach in areas such as rural medicine, hospital safety, and chronic disease management.

Emergency department sees millionth patient

The merger 17 years ago that brought together UNMC’s University Hospital and Bishop Clarkson Regional Medical Center created a new kind of hospital – one with deep roots in the community, a background in internationally acclaimed research and a focus on treating the sickest and most critically ill patients in the region.

Last fall, Nebraska Medicine and its partner hospital in West Omaha, Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital (NOH), treated their one millionth emergency department patient since the merger.

In the years after the merger, there were still two separate EDs downtown and a freestanding ED in West Omaha. Before long, it became clear the newly joined hospital would need a central emergency department. The current ED at Nebraska Medicine opened in 2005 and continues to be a hub of activity.

NOH opened in 2004 as Nebraska’s first and only specialty orthopaedic hospital. It took over operations of the emergency room of what was then known as Clarkson West Hospital in 2010.

The two EDs see a combined total of approximately 62,000 patients per year—about 8,000 at NOH and 55,000 at the med center. Since July 1, the med center’s ED patient volume has increased about 10 percent.

UNMC recognized for community engagement

UNMC was the only academic health science center in the United States to be awarded the “Community Engagement” designation by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching this year.

The classification, announced in January, recognizes more than six decades of UNMC’s commitment to Nebraska’s urban and rural communities. It provides a way for institutions to describe their identity and commitment to community with a public and nationally recognized classification.

Two of the Service Learning Academy (SLA) projects in the College of Public Health were part of UNMC’s 14 community engagement efforts that led to the Carnegie Foundation designation. The application effort was initiated and led by the SLA team and Ruth Margalit M.D., associate professor and director of the SLA.

See a list of institutions that hold the Community Engagement Classification.

unmc.edu/connect
College of Dentistry

- Senior dental student Matthew Freyer was the third-place winner of the 55th American Dental Association DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Program in the Clinical Research/Public Health Category at the 2014 American Dental Association Annual Meeting in San Antonio. He is the only eighth COD student to place in the top three in the 55-year history of this competition. Henry St. Germain, D.D.S., associate professor in the department of adult restorative dentistry, served as his faculty mentor.

- The college provided about $100,000 in free dental treatment to approximately 190 children from Eastern and Central Nebraska at its 27th Children’s Dental Day Event on Feb. 6.

College of Medicine

- The department of neurological sciences is participating in a new, national Alzheimer’s disease (AD) clinical research study. The study, directed at the estimated 5 million people in the United States that suffer from mild-to-moderate AD, will evaluate a treatment that may help people suffering from AD, as well as advance the research around breakthrough therapy options.

- A four-person team from the infectious disease division of the department of internal medicine has determined that a long time antibiotic, vancomycin, is still effective in treating Staphylococcus aureus. Staphylococcus aureus is among the most common causes of health care-associated infection throughout the world. This work was published in the Oct. 15, 2014, issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, one of the leading research journals in the country.

College of Nursing

- The College welcomed the following faculty members:
  » Kathleen Hanna, Ph.D., who was named the inaugural holder of the Carol Wilson Endowed Chair in Nursing.
  » Lynnette Leeseberg Stamler, Ph.D., who serves as professor and associate dean for academic programs.
  » Kathryn Fiantdt, Ph.D., who serves as the inaugural associate dean for transformational practice and partnerships. The college partnered with Nebraska’s six community colleges to initiate the Nebraska RN-BSN Collaborative, which provides early admission for highly qualified students in the community college associate degree in nursing programs to UNMC College of Nursing’s RN-BSN bridge program.

College of Pharmacy

- Tatiana Bronich, Ph.D., professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the College of Pharmacy and co-director of the Center for Drug Delivery and Nanomedicine, has been named UNMC’s ninth Scientist Laureate. The award is the highest honor UNMC bestows on a researcher.

College of Public Health

- Of the 224 students enrolled in the COPH, 47 are from 19 different countries. Of the 177 U.S. students, 82 percent are from Nebraska and 18 percent represent 14 other states. This mix provides a rich and diverse cultural environment for students, faculty and staff.

- Ten M.P.H. and Ph.D. students will spend summer 2015 conducting cancer epidemiology research through the NIH-funded Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations training program. They will work in Tanzania, Egypt, Bulgaria, Michigan and Omaha under cancer specialist preceptors. Thirty-two COPH students have benefited from the program since Amr Soliman, M.D., Ph.D., transferred it to UNMC from the University of Michigan in 2012. During its four years at Michigan, 51 students participated.

Eppley Institute/Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

- The Ambassador of Hope Gala was March 21 at the CenturyLink Center. ABC news correspondent Amy Robach, who was diagnosed with breast cancer after receiving her first mammogram on the air, received the Ambassador of Hope Award. Walter and the late Suzanne Scott received the Margre and Chuck Durham Spirit of Nebraska Award for their support of cancer research.

Munroe-Meyer Institute

- In January, the MMI LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) Program was awarded supplemental funding from the Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism and Developmental Disabilities at the Association of University Centers on Disability to develop the role and capacity of a new Cultural Diversity Coordinator. Working with the UNMC Division of Employee Relations, Organizational Development & Diversity and an outside consultant, the LEND Program also will create an action plan to improve cultural awareness and inclusive recruitment practices within the program.

School of Allied Health Professions

- The SAHP Radiation Therapy program has acquired one of only two Virtual Environment Radiation Therapy Training (VERT) systems in the United States. The VERT teaches students to operate a linear accelerator in a safe and engaging environment, much like pilot training using a flight simulator. It provides a 3-D view inside the body and allows students to visualize the path of the radiation beam as they learn how to provide the safest and most effective treatment for patients requiring radiation therapy.

- Stephane VanderMeulen, academic director and assistant professor of physical assistant education, has stepped into her yearlong role as president of the Physician Assistant Education Association, a national organization representing physician assistant educational programs.
More than 200 alumni and guests attended the Oct. 17-18 UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend. Alumni who graduated in years ending in “4” or “9” from the colleges of nursing, medicine and pharmacy joined in the events that took place on UNMC’s campus and at the Embassy Suites Downtown/Old Market. The event was the third UNMC alumni reunion with the theme Now & Then. Each year, the reunion serves as an opportunity for alumni to re-connect with their classmates and UNMC.

A member of the College of Nursing Class of 1964, Janice Bright of Bellevue, Neb., summarized the reunion best when she wrote, “It was a great time of renewing friendships and for telling wonderful stories. It was a time to hear the paths others of our class have walked. It was a time to be grateful for all the lives touched over the years. It was a time to miss those not there. It was a time to look forward to seeing one another in less than 50 years!”

Highlights of the reunion included:
- 52 alumni participated in a continuing education session.
- 175 alumni attended a class dinner or gathering.
- Four alumni awards were presented.
- 29 states were represented by alumni and their guests.
- 68 alumni participated in one of two campus walking tours and 37 alumni rode along for one of two Ollie the Trolley tours of Omaha.
- Countless new memories were made.
Alumni Chapter Award Recipients Include: McCarthy, Hall, Woelfl, Waltman

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<tr>
<th>Alumni Chapter</th>
<th>Award Name</th>
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<td>College of Medicine Alumni Chapter</td>
<td>Distinguished Alumnus Award</td>
<td>Leo J. McCarthy, MD, FRCP Edin/Ire Class of 1964</td>
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<td>Robert T. Hall, MD Class of 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Medicine Alumni Chapter</td>
<td>Honorary Alumnus Award</td>
<td>Nancy N. Woelfl, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Nursing Alumni Chapter</td>
<td>Distinguished Alumnus Award</td>
<td>Nancy L. Waltman, PhD, APRN-NP BSN Class of 1967, MSN Class of 1978</td>
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Full biographies of these outstanding award recipients are available on the Alumni Relations Office's website at [www.unmc.edu/alumni](http://www.unmc.edu/alumni). You also can download a nomination form to nominate a colleague for a 2015 alumni award.

College of Public Health Alumni Chapter Hosts First Alumni Reunion

The College of Public Health Alumni Chapter marked the five-year anniversary of its chapter in 2014. After building the organization, the COPH Alumni Chapter hosted its first all-school reunion on Oct. 10.

The reunion enabled alumni to: reunite with fellow College of Public Health classmates and faculty; celebrate the five-year anniversary of the alumni chapter and learn about the chapter’s future; and give alumni the opportunity to network with COPH leadership, including the college’s new dean, Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH.

The event was attended by alumni from every College of Public Health graduating class, except for one, spanning 2003-2014.

“Our alumni network has grown substantially,” said Valeriya Kettelhut, MD, MPH ‘07, president of the College of Public Health Alumni Chapter. “Our organization has an exciting future ahead, and there will be many opportunities for alumni to support the college, current students and the alumni chapter.”

RSTE Alumni Chapter Hosts Continuing Education Program

The Radiation Science Technology Education Alumni Chapter hosted its second continuing education program and social event in November 2014. The program paired a social event with three hours of continuing education credit and was open to alumni, other radiation science professionals and students. The event’s 35 attendees heard presentations on three topics:

- Where Art Meets Science: The Radiographic Analysis of Artwork;
- Health Literacy: Making Understanding Happen; and
- A Review of Anatomy & Physiology using the Anatomage Virtual Dissection Table.

All attendees who completed a follow-up survey reported an interest in attending a similar event in the future and the topics were praised as “outside the box.” For more UNMC alumni-sponsored continuing education events, visit [www.unmc.edu/alumni](http://www.unmc.edu/alumni).
College of Nursing Alumni Chapter Hosts First Reunion in West Nebraska

The first all-school reunion for the West Nebraska General Hospital School of Nursing and UNMC College of Nursing West Nebraska Division was held on Sept. 12-13 in Scottsbluff, Neb. More than 90 alumni and guests from the classes of 1948 through 2013 came from 12 different states to attend the two-day event.

Activities during the reunion included:
- Brunch with award presentations,
- Fun facts,
- A history in pictures slideshow,
- The “I Love UNMC” video,
- A campus tour with live simulations by current students,
- The annual white coat professionalism ceremony, and
- A pre-tailgate party prior to the Nebraska vs. Fresno State football game.

The reunion celebrated past friendships and excellent nursing education and provided alumni an opportunity to learn about changes in nursing education.

“It was truly heartwarming to witness the hugs, conversations, and even a few ‘happy’ tears,” said Sue Wilhelm, PhD, RN, assistant dean of the West Nebraska Division.

As part of the reunion, three alums and two nurse leaders were recognized for their contributions to nursing education and care:

- Honorary Nursing Alumnus: Joan McVay, MA, MSN, EdD, RN
- Honorary Nursing Alumnus: Virginia Miller, BA, RN
- Nursing Excellence Award: Betsy Walton, MSN-NP, MBA, RN (BSN 2012)
- Dorothy Patach Spirit of Service Award: Clark Philson, BSN, RN (BSN 1995)

UNMC Alumni Association Hosts Third Annual Tailgate Party

The UNMC Alumni Association hosted the third annual alumni tailgate party prior to the Miami (Fla.) vs. Nebraska football game in Lincoln, Neb. The kickoff with the UNMC Alumni Association event was held at the Grand Manse on Sept. 20. Attendees included more than 100 alumni and their guests representing every UNMC college and the School of Allied Health Professions.

Alumni who attended the football game enjoyed watching the Huskers beat the Hurricanes 41-31. The tailgate gathering was part of the UNMC Alumni Association’s outreach events held across Nebraska and around the country. On April 28, the UNMC Alumni Association hosted a baseball event, the fifth annual Showdown in O-Town, for the Nebraska at Creighton baseball game. For more information about this event, visit: www.unmc.edu/alumni.

Special reunion notes for 2015:

- The 2015 Alumni Reunion Weekend for the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing will be Oct. 2-3, in Omaha. Honor classes are those ending in a “0” or “5.”
- College of Pharmacy alumni with honor years in 2015 have the option to participate in Alumni Reunion Weekend, or may hold their reunion in the spring of 2016 in conjunction with the opening of the new Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education/UNMC Center for Drug Discovery.
- If you are interested in hosting a class reunion or serving as a class leader, please contact Roxanna Jokela in the UNMC Alumni Relations Office at 402.559.4385 or rjokela@unmc.edu.
Medicine

Margaret Miller M’49
San Francisco, Calif., works with agencies to provide resources that enable the elderly, and adults with disabilities, to stay in their homes. She has served on an advisory committee to the mayor’s office and is on the board of directors for an agency that works on this goal. She also is active in aqua fit, swimming, Tai Chi and gentle yoga.

Patrick Clare M’66
Lincoln, Neb., retired from his position as chief surgeon for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He spent 40 years in the position treating student athletes. He also works at Nebraska Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine.

LeMoyne Johnson M’70
Brandenton, Fla., is president and owner of Johnson Photo Imaging, a camera store and portrait studio. The business was named 2013 Small Business of the Year — best full service camera store — on the west coast of Florida. He is partially retired and travels often in his motorhome with his wife Darlene and their Doberman.

David Meyer M’73
Omaha, Neb., retired from the U.S. Army in 2008 and retired as a contract surgeon with the U.S. Army in 2013.

Bruce Elliott M’77
Wadmalaw Island, S.C., is interim vice president for medical affairs at the Medical University of South Carolina. He previously was professor and chief of the division of vascular surgery.

Thomas McKnight M’77
Fremont, Neb., was named the 2014 Nebraska Family Physician of the Year by the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants.

James O’Dell M’77
Omaha, Neb., received the 2014 Lee C. Howley Sr. Prize for Research in Arthritis. Bestowed by the national Arthritis Foundation, the award recognizes the most important scientific paper that will lead to a faster cure for arthritis and related diseases.

Paul Sherrerd M’77
Omaha, Neb., joined Columbus Community Hospital’s otolaryngology practice. He currently is with Family Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic P.C. in Omaha.

Nancy Snyderman M’77
New York, N.Y., returned to UNMC in March to give the keynote address at the Leadership Summit planned and executed by the Student Senate. She also toured the Bioccontainment Unit, gave a Grand Rounds presentation and met with campus leaders and researchers. She said she was proud of UNMC and its leadership during the Ebola crisis. She led a distinguished career as a medical reporter on network television – 15 years with ABC and the past nine years as chief medical editor with NBC.

Lawrence Banta M’78
Caldwell, Neb., is a psychiatrist with West Valley Medical Center for the inpatient, outpatient and partial hospitalization programs. He is the medical director for the inpatient and partial hospitalization programs.

Alan Fuss M’78
Omaha, Neb., after working in the Children’s Hospital Emergency Department for more than 24 years, his practice setting was switched to part time at Children’s Urgent Care. As of summer 2014, he was planning to retire by the end of the year.

Jeffrey Grubbe M’78
Lincoln, Neb., has served as chief medical director for All State Insurance Company since 2006. He also is president of the Midwestern Medical Directors Association, on the executive committee of the American Academy of Insurance Medicine and a fellow in the American College of Physicians.

Robert Wergin M’79
Lincoln, Neb., assumed his role as president of the American Academy of Family Physicians in October 2014. The organization represents 115,900 physicians and medical students nationwide.

Michael Ferris M’80
Lincoln, Neb., was named chief medical officer at CHI Health St. Elizabeth. He has served the Lincoln community as an ear, nose and throat surgeon for the past 20 years.

Carrie Borchardt M’83
Apple Valley, Minn., is excited that her son, Greg Dean, is in his first year of medical school at UNMC.

Hans Zinnecker M’83
Holdrege, Neb., joined Phelps Memorial Health Center as a general surgeon. He and his wife have two children. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, water skiing, snow skiing, reading and gardening.

Steven Lau M’85
Walton, Neb., and his wife, Elizabeth M’86, are excited to have their son Jason in his first year of medical school at UNMC.

Nicholas Lorenzo M’88
Grapevine, Texas, has been appointed chief medical officer for online medical service provider MeMD.

William Lydiatt M’88
Bellevue, Neb., was appointed vice chair of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Thyroid Guidelines Panel. The NCCN is a not-for-profit alliance of 25 of the world’s leading cancer centers devoted to patient care, research and education. He has been a member of the head and neck committee since the 1990s and is excited to assume a new leadership role.

Marie Clyne M’89
Lincoln, Neb., opened TMS Center of Nebraska. The center specializes in the treatment of major depression using the FDA-approved TMS Therapy System (Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation).

Jay Hinkhouse M’89
Ames, Iowa, is starting his 18th year at Children’s Urgent Care in Omaha. He continues to do all the annual physicals/health assessments for the State of Iowa Department of Public Safety (20 years so far). He is beginning his third year as part-time staff physician at Student Health at Iowa State University.

C. Rocky White M’91
Colorado Springs, Colo., and his wife Debbie moved to Colorado Springs where he was recently promoted to market medical director of the southern Colorado region for Kaiser Permanente.
Edward Fehringer M’95  
Columbus, Neb., is an orthopedic surgeon at Columbus Orthopedic and Sports Medicine. His research interest is in rotator cuff tears and their association with aging, and shoulder socket reconstruction in shoulders with arthritis.

Chris Madden, M’96  
Longmont, Colo., is serving as president of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine. He is a family medicine physician with an added qualification in sports medicine. He currently practices at Longs Peak Family Practice. AMSSM is a multi-disciplinary organization of 2,500 sports medicine physicians dedicated to education, research, advocacy and the care of athletes of all ages.

Todd Stull M’96  
Omaha, Neb., was presented the prestigious Frank J. Menolascino Award for Excellence from the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD). The NADD’s highest award recognizes an individual for significant contributions in the field of psychiatry. He is a medical director for the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Cory Olsen M’98  
Aurora, Neb., was elected to the Aurora 4R School Board in November 2014.

Shellie Faris M’02  
Hastings, Neb., is now seeing patients at Central Nebraska General Surgery, a part of the Mary Lanning Healthcare system.

Wade Fomander M’02  
Lincoln, Neb., joined Prairie Lake Family Medicine in Lincoln.

Melissa Stade M’02  
Kearney, Neb., is a general surgeon at the Kearney Regional Medical Center. She was recently elected to membership in the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. Before moving to Kearney, she practiced for seven years at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Neb.

Jake Wiesen M’06  
Fremont, Neb., joined Fremont Health Medical Center’s The Surgical Group in September.

Kevin Grosshans M’08  
Omaha, Neb., joined OrthoWest, specialists in orthopaedic and sports medicine. Prior to joining OrthoWest, he completed an orthopaedic foot and ankle fellowship at the Institute for Foot and Ankle Reconstruction at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

John Steuter M’08  
Walton, Neb., joined West Holt Memorial Hospital and Nebraska Heart Institute in Atkinson, Neb., where he will provide cardiology services twice a month.

Jeremy Gallant M’10  
Omaha, Neb., joined Methodist Physicians Clinic HealthWest in Omaha.

Jamie Haferbier-Gustafson M’10  
Fremont, Neb., joined Fremont Health Medical Center Health Care for Women in August.

Nathan Krug M’10  
Central City, Neb., joined Litzenberg Memorial County Hospital. He will provide sports medicine services at the hospital and at Lone Tree Medical Clinic. He also will attend local sporting events to provide care to injured athletes if needed. He has extensive sports medicine experience, including as a team physician.

Ross Mathiasen M’10  
Iowa City, Iowa, was the University of Iowa Department of Emergency Medicine’s first research fellow in 2013-2014. He is now completing a fellowship in primary care sports medicine at Iowa.

Rachel Swim M’10  
Lincoln, Neb., recently joined the Women’s Clinic of Lincoln, NE. She specializes in routine and high risk care, in-office procedures and minimally invasive surgery.

Andrew Casper M’11  
Kearney, Neb., joined the Kearney Clinic as a pediatrician. A native of Minden, Neb., he is married with one child.

Jessica Heckman M’11  
Lincoln, Neb., joined Antelope Creek Family Physicians.

Kurt Kapels M’11  
Columbus, Neb., joined Columbus Community Health Center last summer as a hospitalist.

Andrew Opp M’11  
Wahoo, Neb., joined Fremont Health Medical Center’s 23rd Family Med last September as a family practice physician.

Benjamin Thayer M’11  
Lincoln, Neb., joined Southwest Family Health.

Ian Young M’11  
Rochester, Minn., joined the staff at Winona Health and sees patients at the Urgent Care Clinic in Winona.

Nursing

• Jean Molde N’52  
Reno, Nev., and a classmate developed a newsletter to update their eight living classmates on their personal status. It was a rewarding process reminiscing about their years at what used to be the School of Nursing.

• Margaret Mastal N’70  
Alexandria, Va., is now retired, but stays active with the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing. She is on a task force to identify and define nurse sensitive indicators of quality in outpatient care. She earned her Ph.D. in public policy in 1999 from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Patti Bretschneider N’79, ’88, ’13  
Norfolk, Neb., is a nursing instructor at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Neb. She has experience working in the areas of: pediatrics, urology, emergency department, oncology, nursery and outpatient therapy.

Stephanie Burge N’90, ’95  
Kearney, Neb., now provides regular rotations at the Franklin County Pool Medical Clinic. She also is an instructor at the UNMC College of Nursing – Kearney Division.

Wende Heckert N’98  
Norfolk, Neb., opened Heckert Health Center, a new direct-pay health care clinic. She is a family nurse practitioner and earned her doctorate in forensic nursing from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. In November, she received the March of Dimes of Nebraska Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year award.
Pharmacy

Dennis Jorgensen P’71
Panora, Iowa, sold his interest in three pharmacies last May and retired to relief pharmacy work.

Virginia French P’76, ’78
Wichita, Kan., was recognized by Continental Who’s Who as a Pinnacle Professional in the field of finance for her role as president and owner of French and French, LLC, an investment company. In addition to her career as a pharmacist, she has worked in finance for nearly 40 years.

Patrick Woster P’78, GS’87
Charleston, S.C., was elected as a Fellow of the American Chemical Society in July.

Allison Dering-Anderson P’86
Lincoln, Neb., was recognized as the Distinguished Teacher of the Year by the UNMC College of Pharmacy Student Advisory Committee for her passion and enthusiasm for the profession, her willingness to help students succeed and follow their dreams, her entertaining and educational lectures and for being a true advocate for the profession of pharmacy.

Allison Dering-Anderson

Dentistry

Timothy Davis D’86
Naples, Fla., is a periodontist and now provides a minimally invasive alternative to treat gum disease, called LANAP. Only 1 percent of dentists in the country currently offer the procedure.

Brion Dalton D’99
Omaha, Neb., joined his father’s dental practice, Lincoln Dental Associates. He had operated his own practice in Omaha since 2003.

Marse McCann-Carpenter D’96
Mindemay, Neb., received the Academy of General Dentistry’s (AGD) Mastership Award. The highest honor available from the AGD, it signifies completion of 1,100 hours of continuing dental education in addition to receiving a fellowship award.

Benjamin Lashley D’99
North Platte, Neb., was recognized with the State Children’s Champion Award from the Region VII Head Start Association. The award recognizes individuals who stand out for their leadership, community service, and make a difference. He has provided services to several Head Start centers.

Sheena Brannan DH’10
Lincoln, Neb., joined All Smiles Dentistry after working in a busy private practice in Denver.

BrONSEN SCHLIEP D’10
Larkspur, Colo., joined Webb Orthodontics with fellow alumnus Samantha Webb D’00. They serve the Nebraska panhandle with orthodontics services. He and his wife Priscilla have two young daughters.

Noah Piskorski D’11
Ord, Neb., took over First Dental. He had worked at the Burwell Dental Clinic since 2011. He is a native of Ord.

Kristi Kuper-Williams P’99
Katy, Texas, is now clinical pharmacy manager for the VHA Gulf Shores Purchasing Coalition based in Houston, Texas.

Tillara Kruse P’13
Pender, Neb., moved her family to Oregon for a job with Mike’s Medical Pharmacy last July.

Travis Kuchar P’14
Meadow Grove, Neb., joined Norm’s U-Save Pharmacy in Central City, Neb.

Tiffany Weeder N’14
Mindemay, Neb., joined the active medical staff at Kearney County Health Services as a nurse practitioner at the Minden Medical Clinic. She had been a part of the acute care nursing staff since 2007. She is certified as a wound care nurse and holds a weekly wound care clinic.
Physical Therapy

**Wayne Stuber PT’77, GS’89**
Omaha, Neb., was elected the chairman of Nebraska’s State Board of Health. His one-year term began in January.

**Gilbert “Gib” Willett PT’97, GS’06**
Papillion, Neb., was inducted as a Distinguished Alum in the Papillion-La Vista Schools Hall of Fame. The award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and/or through exemplary public service.

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**Joe Kennedy PT’97**
Nome, Alaska, completed his transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy at the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in April. He planned to sit for the exam for the certification in Orthopedic Specialty in March. A commissioned officer of the United States Public Health Service since March 2006, he now holds the rank of lieutenant commander. In January, he was detailed with the Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, as director of physical therapy for a brand new PT program. He has three daughters.

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**Tara Benes PT’02**
Waverly, Neb., joined Horizon Physical Therapy. She has experience in outpatient orthopedics, neurology, pediatrics and home care.

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**Deniece Petersen PT’11**
Broken Bow, Neb., joined McMeen Physical Therapy, PC. at the Broken Bow location. Her area of interest is acute rehabilitation with emphasis in stroke rehabilitation.

**Jeremy Stoker PT’12**
South Weber, Utah, passed the orthopedic clinical specialist certification test.

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**Megan Masada Freeman PT’14**
Lincoln, Neb., joined Proformance Physical Therapy and Sports Rehab in Lincoln.

**Rebecca Katham PT’14**
Lawrence, Neb., joined McMeen Physical Therapy, PC. Her areas of interest are sports and orthopedics rehabilitation and manual therapy.

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**Callie King PT’14**
Firth, Neb., joined Peak Physical Therapy in Hickman, Neb. Her passion for health and wellness extends to her personal interests in running marathons, working out and riding horses. She also enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband and family.

**Morgan Nolte PT’14**
Plattsburgh, Neb., is the geriatric resident for Creighton-Hillcrest Health Systems program.

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**Physician Assistant**

**Bryan Myers PA’94**
Stromsburg, Neb., opened a new Urgent Care location in York, Neb., where he will primarily see patients. He and his wife Diane have five children.

**Stephane VanderMeulen PA’94**
Omaha, Neb., assumed her one-year position as president of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), a national organization representing physician assistant education programs.

**Scott Shephard PA’95**
Navarre, Fla., joined Gulf Coast Dermatology in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

**Travis Roethler PA’99**
Nerstrand, Minn., joined the Mayo Clinic in Kenyon, Minn., practicing family medicine.

**Erica Tubbs PA’03**
Stuart, Neb., and her husband own three rural health clinics in Nebraska. They enjoy practicing in their hometown and surrounding communities. She recently became a certified diabetes educator.

**Gina Jones PA’04**
Medford, Ore., joined Gastroenterology Consultants’ inpatient team in January 2014. She has two children.

**Nathan Reyelts PA’04**
Fairmont, Minn., has spent five years working part time for Mankato Clinic Urgent Care in Mankato, Minn., and six years full time at Dulciner Medical Center in Fairmont.

**Kayla Dicke PA’07**
Ewing, Neb., practices at Columbus Children’s Health Care in Columbus, Neb.

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**Clinical Laboratory Science**

**Terry Swagerty CLS’69**
Portland, Ore., retired in 2009 and recently moved to Portland, Ore., to be closer to children and grandchildren. He received an MBA from Oregon State University in 1975 and later worked for a community college in Roseburg, Ore., for 27 years.

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**Radiation Science Technology Education**

**Cindy Seier RSTE’75**
Omaha, Neb., works at Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in the radiation oncology department. She works in a dual position as a radiation therapist and medical dosimetrist. Her spare time is spent with her four daughters and their families. She also is a host mom for various international programs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

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**Angela Watts RSTE’07**
Navarre, Fla., joined Gulf Coast Dermatology in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

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**Public Health**

**Michele Kassmeier PH’12**
Omaha, Neb., became a member of the Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society.

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**Sarena Dacus PH’13**
Omaha, Neb., is the executive director at FAMILY, Inc., a non-profit providing family support and public health services to children and families in southeast Iowa. Her husband, Rashad, is a firefighter with the City of Omaha. They have two children, Emery and Everett.

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**Theresa Tonozzi PH’13**
Morgantown, W.V., is completing an Association of School and Programs of Public Health/Centers for Disease Control fellowship at the Division of Safety Research in Morgantown. She analyzes agricultural workers injury data and other occupational safety and public health practices.
Lisa Vajgrt-Smith PH’13
Berkeley, Calif., works at Contra Cosa EMS where she is implementing her capstone project. She also assists with other program planning and grant funded projects in the area of disaster preparedness.

Gwen Zhou GS’97
Omaha, Neb., is a practicing physician who joined a Methodist Physicians Clinic family medicine clinic. She spent the past three years working at both the Columbus Community Hospital and the East-Central District Health Department. She has completed research appointments in the areas of pediatrics and surgery.

Lakshmi Chandramohan GS’09
Spring, Texas, is a certified Diplomat of the American Board of Medical Microbiology. To earn this credential, she underwent rigorous educational and experiential eligibility requirements and passed a written examination. She is a research scientist at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Sara Myers GS’11
Omaha, Neb., was recognized as one of the Midlands Business Journal’s “40 Under 40” in the Omaha area. She is the director of the Gait Analysis Laboratory in the Biomechanics Research Building at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is part of a grant team at UNO’s Center for Research in Human Movement Variability that received the largest award in the school’s history.

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.

In Remembrance…
Annabel Lee N’42

Kenneth Holland D’43

Robert Wood D’44
Billings, Mont., Oct. 6, 2014.

Dorothy Stoesz N’45
Santa Fe, N.M., June 21, 2014.

Hubert Rodman M’46

Lloyd Naden P’47

Glendoris Chicone N’48

Louis Hanisch M’48

Robert Brehm P’50

Alma Petersen D’50

Rachel Bayless N’51
Lubbock, Texas, July 22, 2014.

Dale Graham P’52

Twila Johnson Smith N’52
Omaha, Neb., Oct. 12, 2014.

John Kahle M’53

George Osborne M’53
Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 8, 2014.

Frederick Paustian M’53
Omaha, Neb., Nov. 2, 2014.

Warren Berggren M’55

Alice Racher M’53

Lars Kleppe M’55
Las Cruces, N.M., Nov. 17, 2014.

Gerald Holcomb M’57

John Haebeler P’58

Lumier Hanzel M’58

Quinter Kahn M’58

Susan Schnier N’58
Oshkosh, Wis., July 5, 2014.

John Winter P’58

Donna Buffington N’59

Robert Hagg M’59
Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 6, 2014.

Leonard Swanson M’59
Rolling Hills, Calif., July 18, 2014.

Paul Jewett M’60

Christopher Moller M’60

Lee Pulley M’61

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

Paul Ellis P’65

Stephen Hwang D’65

John Hinze P’66
Ankeny, Iowa, Aug. 18, 2014.

Karla Dyer CLS’67

William Hollander D’67
Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 21, 2014.

Robert Ayres M’68
Lawrence, Kan., May 27, 2014.

Mary Reinhardt N’71, ’76
Juniata, Neb., Nov. 12, 2014.
Robert Williams GS’76

Harold Skrabal P’82

Warren Kamtz P’78

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

Martha Burch CLS’81

Doug Dalke M’82

Scott Swigart P’82

Julie Jump N’91
Elkhorn, Neb., July 8, 2014.

John Gollan, M.D., Ph.D.
UNMC College of Medicine Dean, 2003-2010.
Omaha, Neb., Jan. 6, 2015.

Manuchair “Mike” Ebadi, Ph.D.
Chairman, UNMC Department of Pharmacology, 1971-1988. Laguna Niguel,

Warren Sanger, Ph.D.
Founder/director of the Human Genetics Laboratory, director of clinical genetics,

Kelly Wemhoff PA’10
Lincoln, Neb., and her husband Cori welcomed twin girls, Makenzie and Makayla,
on Oct. 12, 2013.

Angela Yelinek P’02
Omaha, Neb., married Christopher Hawkins on Aug. 2, 2014.

Kris Brandl CLS’97

Bobbie Mansur N’11
Omaha, Neb., married Corey Petersen on June 8, 2013.

Jenna Ahrens RSTE’12

Births

• Nathan Reyelts PA’03
Fairmont, Minn., and his wife Kellie welcomed a daughter, Julia Jean, in May.

• Wendy Van Ittersum M’03
Hudson, Ohio, and her husband Derek welcomed a son, Theo Bry, on Dec. 31, 2013.

• Julie Rempe PA’05
York, Neb., and her husband Christopher welcomed a daughter, Evelyn Jean,
on June 23.

Marriages

• Kris Brandl CLS’97

• Bobbie Mansur N’11
Omaha, Neb., married Corey Petersen on June 8, 2013.

• Jenna Ahrens RSTE’12

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On the night it all changed, there was an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Baghdad, downtown. Marshall Bahr, who was then an Army Ranger, pulled a man out of a burning truck. The man, a fellow Ranger, was in critical condition, the prognosis grim. Bahr, a medic for the elite special operations unit, worked furiously. But on the flight out on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, the man lost consciousness. Bahr couldn’t help but think it: “He’s just fading away.”

But he got his fellow Ranger to the trauma center alive. “It felt like hours,” Bahr said. “But, it was just seven-and-a-half minutes.” There, the doctors took his report, then politely pushed him aside: “We’ve got it from here,” they told him.

As he stood there helpless, it hit him: He had to become one of them—a person who can take it the rest of the way.

He will. Today, he’s a UNMC medical school graduate. On Match Day he secured a residency in anesthesiology at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He hopes to land an eventual fellowship in chronic pain medicine. Having seen firsthand the physical and mental injuries of returning military veterans, he wants to fight for their proper treatment and a change in national policy of pain management.

He wants to help returning vets take it the rest of the way.

Bahr got a jump on undergrad while still serving overseas, taking some classes online. He tells a story of mixing compounds for a chemistry final in a little room on an airstrip in Iraq. The other Rangers rolled their eyes: What’s “Doc” up to now?

Since coming home he’s drawn strength from a network established by the Pat Tillman Foundation. Bahr is one of nearly 350 Tillman Scholars nationwide, people with similar experiences and equally lofty goals. That’s important, because no one else knows what it was like to be there, and no one else knows what it is like to be back.

“As much as you try to explain it,” Bahr said, “no one will truly understand.”

The Ranger Bahr kept alive that night lost part of an arm, but as this story was being written, he was climbing Aconcagua, one of the world’s tallest peaks.

Now, as his career begins, Bahr can’t help but dream. Maybe he could work at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Maybe down the line help reform VA health care.

He knows he wants to be there for returning combat veterans. This time he’ll be the one to take it from here.
When young Wolf Wolfensberger escaped Nazi Germany for Denmark, then later immigrated to the United States, he took a few things with him.

For the rest of his life, he kept them.

Turns out, he kept everything.

Wolfensberger, Ph.D., was an extraordinary man. He came to America. He educated himself. He was a researcher at the former Nebraska Psychiatric Institute from 1964 to 1971 and a faculty member in the department of psychiatry that would later become part of UNMC. He would become a world-renowned advocate for, and expert on the care of, the developmentally disabled.

“He revolutionized services for people with disabilities,” said Mike Leibowitz, Ph.D., director of Munroe-Meyer Institute.

During a period when the developmentally disabled were routinely shifted off to institutions, literally cast off from society, he recognized their humanity.

We know he gave everything because he kept everything. He saved it all. The sheer volume is staggering.

When it arrived, the collection took up 1,584 square feet. “The size of a house!” McGoogan Library of Medicine head of special collections John Schleicher said.

Dr. Wolfensberger had worked at several places. After he died in 2011, most institutions looked at his collection and wanted portions. But only one – the McGoogan Library – wanted all of it.

Munroe-Meyer Institute, the Nebraska Developmental Disabilities Council and UNMC collaborated to take the entire collection. All the scratch paper. All the boxes. All the books. All the items. A lifetime worth of stuff.

“Fifty years of advances for the developmentally disabled,” Boettcher said.

Because of Dr. Wolfensberger’s efforts, Boettcher said, people who otherwise would have been shipped to institutions are now in classrooms, working, living full lives.

Boettcher looked out over the collection, shook his head and grinned.

He’s determined to sift this vast collection into something the public can appreciate, so the world can see who Wolf Wolfensberger was, what he did and what his work meant.

Because he gave so much.
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