Smart technology opens new doors to health care education, delivery
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5 Malaria drug will help millions half a world away.

ON THE COVER:
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We live in a small world and are all intertwined. Universities that want to succeed aggressively develop global relationships. With the use of information technology, almost anything can be done today.

And as health care reform takes shape, we must use new technology not only to enhance our global standing, but to further reinforce our role as one of Nebraska’s most trusted resources.

Our state’s rural communities often find themselves miles and miles from the health care resources many of us take for granted. At UNMC, we remain committed to the concept of the 500-mile-wide campus. With the advent of modern technology, we are even better prepared to take our breakthroughs to Nebraskans all over the state.

UNMC employs a number of innovative teaching tools driven by the latest technologies in health care education. We also work to meet the changing educational requirements by building collaborations among our teaching faculty.

How do we use this incredible tool without losing the personal touch that our patients expect from us? You’ll read several articles in this magazine that show how our faculty and clinicians are doing just that.

You’ll discover how Thomas Magnuson, M.D., sees patients in 55 communities from his iPad; Shawneen Gonzalez, D.D.S., aka @DrGtoothpix, uses Twitter to further dentistry education; UNMC’s Mobile Nursing Center uses live telehealth technology to connect geriatric patients with specialists from around the state; and how Ally Dering-Anderson, Pharm.D., dispenses counsel and outreach via a radio call-in show.

These are just a few of the highlighted examples of how technology is used on campus. You also will enjoy reading about other exciting work underway by UNMC faculty. We are proud of this work. As we strive toward becoming a world-class academic health science center we will continue to use the fruits of this labor to serve the people of our home state.

Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
UNMC Chancellor
To Jonathan Vennerstrom, Ph.D., his childhood was unremarkable. It was a good childhood: The days were wide open, and the nights came too quickly — without twilight, it seemed. He hiked and hunted and fished.

He lived in the mountains: “Pretty country,” he said.

He played pick-up sports with his friends. “It was a great place to grow up,” he said.

On one of those fishing trips his dad hooked a crocodile.

All these years later, Dr. Vennerstrom can still see it leaping out of the river, the Blue Nile.

ILLNESS ON THE HOME FRONT

From the ages of about 7 to 16, Dr. Vennerstrom lived in Ethiopia, in the highlands outside of Addis Ababa. But it was no big deal, of course. Except for the crocodile.

And except for the time some kids at school got sick — deathly sick. “They were flat on their backs,” Dr. Vennerstrom said.

It was malaria.

FORTUNATE ONES

His friends recovered. The highlands are not malaria’s stomping grounds.

But years later, Dr. Vennerstrom’s parents, who were teachers at mission schools, would know two kids in Cameroon, West Africa, who came down with the disease. They died in two days.

About 1 million people a year die from malaria. And most of them are children younger than 5.

FLANKING MALARIA

In college, the soon-to-be Dr. Vennerstrom fell in love with chemistry. As a postdoc at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, he started to research malaria — which also is considered a soldier’s disease.

And somehow, that made sense.

Dr. Vennerstrom is a quiet man. He doesn’t tend to wax poetic. He’d rather get back to work.

But, using his chemistry prowess to combat malaria? That’s the Africa in him.

His work in this area helped him earn the University of Nebraska’s 2012 Innovation, Development and Engagement Award.

SO CLOSE, SO FAR

In April, on World Malaria Day, Indian pharmaceutical firm Ranbaxy announced the launch of Synriam, a combination of his team’s drug, arterolane maleate with piperaquine phosphate. (Dr. Vennerstrom has another potential drug, a single-dose cure, still in clinical trials, sponsored by Medicines for Malaria Venture.)

It’s exciting, of course, but difficult too. He’s handed the work off, and all he can do is watch from afar.

THE LONG RUN

That’s the way it is with discovery. “You have so many people involved along the way, no one person stays with it all the way through,” he said.

“I just hope it’s passed on like a baton.”
It’s all about connectivity.

Smartphones, tablets and other high-tech gadgets connect people in urban and rural areas both here and around the world.

At UNMC, such connectivity is about more than the latest Twitter feed and Facebook post.

It’s about greater access to improved health and increased knowledge.

For decades, UNMC has used telecommunications to strengthen ties to rural communities and make it easier for students in distant areas to attend class. But, until recently, students had to travel to local colleges or hospitals where special video streaming equipment allowed them to attend distance education classes.

Health professionals, too, saw these connections as a resource to access patients in rural areas. But, not until now has telecommunications advanced to a point where distance is no longer a barrier to medical care and education.

Instead of going to the doctor, technology brings the doctor to you. Appointments, in the not-too-distant future, may be in your living room rather than an exam room.

And, instead of long commutes to school, technology allows you to sit at home and join your classmates in real time, face-to-face training that originates across the state.

If Internet exists, you’re connected.

Rod Markin, M.D., Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for business development, chief technology officer and one of UNMC’s most prolific inventors, sees technology as one way to solve severe health care access problems.

“This technology is not going to replace health providers. It’s a way to get needed health services to folks more conveniently, not only for patients and families, but also for health professionals.”

At UNMC, faculty members work closely with the medical center’s Information Technology Services’ staff to develop and adapt hardware and software technologies to reach students and patients anywhere in the world.

Meet a few of the forward-thinking faculty members who, thanks to technology, teach and treat patients without boundaries.
PSYCH NURSE PRACTITIONERS STUDY FROM HOME

by Elizabeth Kumru

Physical walls no longer define a nursing classroom at UNMC.

From Scottsbluff to Omaha, and everywhere in between, students in the psychiatric nurse practitioner program log in from their home computer to join classmates for a lecture, chat or to work on group projects.

A leader in tele-education, the College of Nursing launched a new educational program in 2009 that integrates secure social media networks with web conferencing to reach nurses in rural areas who want to obtain a master’s degree in the psychiatric nurse practitioner specialty.

The brainchild of Michael Rice, Ph.D., MSN ’76, the Primary Integrated Psychiatric Nursing (PIPN) program is designed to address the behavioral health workforce shortage throughout the state. It is the first graduate nursing program at UNMC using the Adobe Connect web conferencing system and social media tools similar to Facebook and Twitter as primary methods of course delivery.

The need is great. In Nebraska, 78 of 93 counties have no practicing psychiatrist, and 88 counties are designated as mental health professional shortage areas. In the United States, there is one psychiatrist for every 7,299 persons. In Nebraska, the ratio is 1 to 11,273.

Dr. Rice, professor of community-based health in the College of Nursing, is PIPN’s project director. He also is associate director of the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska. Julia Haufek, Ph.D., MSN ’75, professor of community-based health, is co-director of the PIPN project.

Fifty students from 22 medically underserved counties are enrolled.

“PIPN is mobile and flexible,” Dr. Rice said. “In the morning I can visit with each of my students all over the state without leaving my office. It’s like Skype on steroids.”

So far, 26 students have graduated; some work in rural communities that have never had a psychiatric nurse practitioner. Dr. Rice estimates that the program saves each student an average of $3,000 a year in mileage costs alone.

“We can literally cover every square foot of the state with this program,” he said.
TELEPSYCHIATRY HELPS RURAL PATIENTS

by Karen Burbach

Thomas Magnuson, M’95, is the first to admit he is not tech-savvy. “I have no technological sophistication. None,” he said, remarking how libraries still should have card catalogs.

Yet, Dr. Magnuson spends hours each week “seeing” patients 60 and older via his sleek 9.7-inch iPad screen or 15-inch Dell monitor.

Since 2004, he has seen 300 long-term care patients in 45 Nebraska communities and 55 nursing and assisted living homes through the telepsychiatry program he developed with UNMC Information Technology Services’ staff. And, yes, he still sees patients in person in his Omaha office.

Telepsychiatry, however, is a boon for Dr. Magnuson and his rural patients, many of whom would have to travel hundreds of miles to see a geriatric psychiatrist or may have physical or psychological disabilities that prevent travel.

His ability to reach out to rural patients has evolved since he first used the Nebraska Telehealth Network’s video technology eight years ago to connect to hospitals, clinics and health departments. Then, he would “see” patients via a television screen on a strict by-the-clock schedule. And, if he needed a few extra minutes with a patient than what had been scheduled? Sorry, the system would cut out mid-conversation.

Today, he uses Vidyo, a flexible, secure video communication system that transforms his Dell and iPad into split-screen, “Skype”-like clinics for geriatric psychiatry patients, their loved ones and the health care professionals who care for them.

“I could be at a conference in San Antonio and still see patients in St. Edward, Neb.”

Web-based counseling works well since Dr. Magnuson’s hour-long consults generally don’t require a physical exam. And, with minimal investment, Nebraska’s critical access hospitals and nursing and assisted living homes can provide their patients and staff with telehealth access to UNMC’s geriatric psychiatrists.

“This enables us to see anybody, anywhere in the state,” Dr. Magnuson said, “which further advances the University’s mission to serve all Nebraskans.”

TWITTER TEETH

by Lisa Spellman

Shawneen Gonzalez, D.D.S., is becoming increasingly well-known in the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and dental schools around the United States.

It’s not something the College of Dentistry radiology instructor expected.

“It seems I’ve become this reference tool for dental students,” Dr. Gonzalez said laughing.

Her popularity started when she began posting radiograph, or X-ray, images of teeth followed by a simple description on a Twitter account she created in 2010.

Since then she has posted hundreds of “radiographs of the day” images and received thousands of responses from nearly 650 followers.

Twitter, she said, is an excellent way to engage students.

“The 140-character limit helps me, and them, focus on exactly what we are looking at and forces us to get to the point when answering a question,” Dr. Gonzalez said.

She is surprised by the way it has engaged students and dental health professionals.

“I had a dental hygienist from Ohio tell me that her radiographic interpretation skills have improved just by following the account.”

Many users share their thoughts on images she’s posted or ask questions that prompt other discussions.

Through it all, Dr. Gonzalez has seen examples of different disease processes that affect the teeth, some more severe than others, which she incorporates with permission, into her instructional materials.

“It’s given me more to teach with in class,” she said.

Along with her Twitter account, Dr. Gonzalez also writes a weekly blog post where she writes about a different case each week. And more recently, she began using Pinterest as a way to create an online clearinghouse of other hospitals, dental schools and dentists who have posted normal and abnormal radiograph images of teeth.

“I’m learning a lot and hoping to teach others about oral radiology.”
More elderly citizens in rural northeast Nebraska are being introduced to virtual health care access through UNMC’s Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment mobile nurse managed clinic.

On certain days of the month, they can drive to O’Neill, Norfolk or Neligh where the 38-foot, custom-built mobile clinic is parked by a regional health clinic. The clinic, a rotation site for 25 students enrolled in the college’s geriatric nurse practitioner program, fills a critical need for comprehensive geriatric assessments for frail older adults in rural areas.

Claudia Chaperon, Ph.D., associate professor of community-based health in the College of Nursing and project director of the mobile center, uses technology to access UNMC specialists after patients have been seen by one of three geriatric nurse practitioners who travel with her.

Through the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network, Dr. Chaperon conferences with the patient’s local physician and family, and specialists in Omaha, Norfolk, Kearney and Lincoln — from the rural site. High-definition video provides clear images of participants and medical exams.

“The idea is improved communication,” Dr. Chaperon said. “Everyone has input and can make adjustments in the care plan to attain better outcomes and a higher quality of life for the patient.”

For example: a patient with multiple atrophies, similar to Lou Gehrig’s disease, visited the mobile geriatric center citing drug interactions from his many medications.

“We used telehealth to access geriatric nurse practitioner counseling for this man and had multiple conversations with his urologist and cardiologist in Norfolk. Then we all talked to our Pharm.D. specialist in Omaha,” Dr. Chaperon said. “In the end, we developed an intraprofessional collaborative treatment plan that decreased his meds by one-third.”

Since she tracks more than one patient at a time, and since 60 percent of her patients are from a rural area, Dr. Chaperon believes it’s important that all the players have the same technology.

“The more we get providers involved in this type of technology, the better for the patient,” she said.

UNMC, a hub site for the telehealth network, offers videoconferencing to more than 100 not-for-profit hospitals, public health departments and mental health clinics across the state and other health care facilities worldwide. Providers consult with each other and access other specialized services such as tele-emergency and telepharmacy.

Access to the secure network has been expanded to computers and mobile devices, which enables providers to consult from virtually anywhere Internet is provided.

It’s 9 a.m. in the studios at radio station KFOR in Lincoln, Neb., and soothing music flows. Notes taped to the control-room window represent callers — Rudy, nasal congestion, line 2 — already are lined up.

Marconi-winning broadcaster Cathy Blythe begins the show: “Welcome to ‘Problems and Solutions.’ It’s a Dr. Ally day.”

Dr. Ally is Ally Dering-Anderson, Pharm.D., assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy, who teaches pharmacy law and ethics and coordinates the over-the-counter products class. In her 16th year as co-host, Dr. Ally takes questions twice a month from an audience that now encompasses parts of four states.

She often takes her students to the radio station to show them that, “Counseling is not this sideline thing that we also do. It’s an important skill set.”

Many calls are questions people might be hesitant to ask their own pharmacist. But they’re eager to talk to Dr. Ally with thousands listening in.

She takes as many calls off the air as she does on, hustling to the phone to talk to more callers during breaks.

Dr. Ally loves the feeling, at the end of each show, that she’s done something tangible to help people. “I love it when they say, ‘The College of Pharmacy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.’

“We are the premier educational institution in health care and we’re giving back. I love bragging about this place.”
Imagine coming upon the scene of an accident. A car has hit a pedestrian then a tree. The crash has closed the road.

You’re a health care professional, but you have limited resources. Help can’t get in or out. But you have to do something, and you have to do it now.

Can you picture it?

Well, apparently, imagining this scenario is easier, we’re told, than pretending to do it at SimWars.

The instruction sheet circulated at the event describes it thusly: SimWars is “an interactive simulation competition that allows teams of clinical providers to compete against each other on simulated patient encounters in front of a large audience.”

So during UNMC’s inaugural SimWars, teams of anesthesiology and emergency residents walked into a large auditorium in the Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education to find this: an audience, filled mostly with summer undergraduate students; a cardboard car, apparently crashed (animated smoke on the big screen told us the car was on fire, but nobody got that); a simulation mannequin, moaning; an actor, playing a protester; a security officer, playing a security officer; an assistant dean, wearing a referee’s stripes.

One of the team captains immediately burst out laughing when she saw this, which, though understandable, was not the best first move. It only fed the insanity, which included other actors playing assorted lookie-loos (one of whom “fainted”).

Paul Paulman, M.D., assistant dean for clinical skills and quality, College of Medicine, was the man in the referee uniform. He admitted there was an element of silliness to SimWars. But, “This exercise has a purpose,” he said. “And could someday save lives and improve health care.”

At times the teams looked as if they had been pushed out of a plane, but not told where the parachute was, or if they had one. “It’s disorienting,” one of the residents said, upon debriefing.

But the members of the emergency medicine team were able to grab a lifeline, and hang on, and even, occasionally, wrest some sense of control. Maybe it’s that they practice for stuff like this.

Maybe it’s that they went second. But they were able to bark out instructions, and take the silliness seriously, and even co-opt the crazed “protester” who’d interrupted at every turn. They would be the ones to have their names inscribed on the plaque in Sorrell’s simulation room. They would win the trophy.

The baptism by (imaginary) fire had taught them much.

“You guys are brave to put yourselves up for scrutiny,” said one of the judges, David Gannon, M.D., associate professor, internal medicine, and critical care medical director at The Nebraska Medical Center.

“It reinforced the need to stay focused,” said winning team captain Eric Schneider, M4.

A smartphone application that could help children with autism communicate more effectively began the beta testing phase this spring.

Developed by Keith Allen, Ph.D., professor of psychology at the Munroe-Meyer Institute, the app uses evidence-based naturalistic teaching procedures to foster communication between parent and child.

“We wanted a tool that could help parents teach their children basic communication skills in their homes and was backed by research,” Dr. Allen said. “Naturalistic teaching that provides pictures of objects and prompts for parents fit all of these requirements.”

“We” is Dr. Allen and BehaviorApp, LLC — a Lincoln-based smartphone app development company. They hope “MySocius” will be released to the public later this year.

“This allows us to put the experience of a professional like Dr. Allen into the hands of many families of children with autism,” said Evelyn Bartlett, BehaviorApp CEO.

Dr. Allen emphasized that the app is not designed to substitute or replace trained professionals who specialize in treating speech and communication problems in young children with autism.

The CDC’s most recent figures reported that one in 88 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.
The days of bulging clinical coats are over. Clinical clerks and students armed with smartphones are traveling light and the McGoogan Library travels with them.

The library offers convenient connections to 16 mobile applications supporting clinical rotation, individual study and group assignments. Users have viewed the library’s mobile website more than 6,000 times since its debut in 2011.

During a family medicine clerkship, fourth-year medical student Faisal Ahmed had to decide what antibiotic — and what dose — he would give a 7-year-old boy with pertussis prophylaxis. Instead of skimming the index of his Sanford pocketbook, he pulled out his smartphone.

“Internet access is so ubiquitous on campus that before I might have written a note and looked it up later, but now I can use my smartphone and quickly find what I need.”

Mobile medical apps provide invaluable just-in-time information, said Gerald Moore, M.D., senior associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Medicine. Any downside? Students who once sought similar information by perusing books may “miss the serendipity of leafing through textbook pages.”

“The use of mobile apps is not a substitute for thinking,” Dr. Moore said. Nor, he said, are physicians of the future simply managers of information.

Mobile apps, however, are yet another resource that enhance the student/patient-experience.

“Our smartphones have almost become required during clinical years,” Ahmed said. “The pocketbooks students used to carry are now apps that we carry in our phones.”

Pharmacy students often use Micromedics for evidence-based drug information, while medical students are avid users of such apps as:

- UpToDate, which provides evidence-based knowledge to clinical care questions;
- Epocrates, which provides quick access to drug, disease and diagnostic information;
- The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy; and
- First Consult, which provides clinical information on evaluation, diagnosis, clinical management, prognosis and prevention.

Mobile technology has slimmed clinical coat pockets, provided health care professionals with quick and easy-to-access data and even sparked a wave of new white coats specifically designed to hold iPads.

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She’s the person to whom physicians refer their patients with incontinence issues. She’s the one adept at easing the fear and anxiety of patients undergoing gynecological exams. And, she’s the one whose kindness, compassion and patience give her the skills to work effortlessly with patients who have intellectual disabilities.

She is Kelley Hasenauer, a family nurse practitioner, who, with Mike Trierweiler, M.D., sees patients on a regular basis in their new women’s health practice, Platte Valley Women’s Health Care Clinic.

Yep, that’s right, their new practice.

Hasenauer is a full partner in the medical practice she and Dr. Trierweiler opened in North Platte, Neb., on June 4. The clinic offers comprehensive women’s primary care in all aspects of life, from birth to death, including obstetrics and gynecology.

The practice of employing nurse practitioners has come a long way since 1994 when UNMC graduated its first class. Before that there were only 51 nurse practitioners in the state.

Today, there are more than 837.

But running a medical practice as a full partner is unheard of in the state.

“There has never been a partnership like this,” Dr. Trierweiler said.

Yet, when he decided to open a practice in North Platte he knew he would need help and his first thought was of Hasenauer, with whom he had worked before.

“Kelley has the knowledge and depth of clinical expertise that I needed,” he said.

Hasenauer also has hospital privileges. She can admit and discharge patients, sign death certificates and assist in surgery.

Together, she and Dr. Trierweiler see 20 to 30 patients a day and the numbers are growing.

“The North Platte community has really embraced the practice,” Hasenauer said.

A native of North Platte, Hasenauer lived and worked there for nine years before leaving in 2010 to take a faculty teaching position at UNMC. Two years later she jumped at the opportunity to move back and open a practice with Dr. Trierweiler.

“I’m thrilled to be back,” Hasenauer said. “I’ve always felt my patients were supportive of my role as a nurse practitioner and appreciated the unique contribution I can make to their health.”

The clinic, she said, is a testament to the quality of health care that nurse practitioners can, and do, provide.
The Ph.D. candidate was there at 8:20 for a 9 a.m. presentation, because that is what you do on the day of your final oral defense.

By 8:40, a box of donuts and a pot of coffee were ready on the table in the back. Her PowerPoint presentation was up, its cover page showing on the projector screen.

“Do you need a laser pointer?” someone asked.
She had one, of course. Still: “Let me check it one more time.”

This was the day. She’d been working on this project for more than six years.

“That’s a long time,” she said. “So I better graduate!”
And she laughed. A nervous, giddy laugh. A beautiful laugh.

Then the room was quiet. The clock ticked. Five minutes later:
“I hope everyone remembers to come,” she said.
The air-filtration system whispered.

She sipped her drink, reviewed her notes and the butterflies did their work. Finally, people came in a trickle, and then the dam burst: Her committee chair. “Hey!” he said. “Are you all ready?”
He wore patches on his elbows and a 100-watt grin.
“I think so,” she said.
They took a picture together. One nervous. One proud.

And at the stroke of 9 the room bustled, maybe 30 people in all.

“After all the years of hard work,” the committee chair said, “she is ready to defend.”
She gave her presentation. It took 45 minutes. The room was rapt.

Then, the acknowledgements, with photos: Lab mates and mentors, a team picture. Friends. The sister whose wedding she’d missed.

The father who told her it was OK to leave their conservative family to become a scientist in the United States.

A toddler son in a football shirt.

“I thank him for waking me up every day at 3 a.m.,” she said.
“He has no snooze button.”

The husband, who stayed up all hours with her, when she had to do experiments at odd times, so the cells wouldn’t die. They went to IHOP breakfasts afterward. They’d made it work.

All to get to this day.

“Thank you,” she said. Applause.
Was that it? Did she pass?
“We will conduct the exam now,” her committee chair said.
Oh. Do we stay for that? Or do we go?
“You go,” he said.
With that, the real grilling began.

That afternoon, word came down: She’d done it.
Soon, we’ll call her “doctor.”
Call her doctor, at last.
She typed the words “leading lymphoma treatment center” into the Google search box and pressed enter.

It was September 2004 and Chris Pilcher-Huerter of Omaha, who days before was living a happy and seemingly healthy life, was now seeking treatment advice for her newly diagnosed Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

The search results that appeared on her computer screen matched what she already knew — what everyone, including her family full of respected medical professionals, had told her. The best option was only a few miles from home — the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Pilcher-Huerter made an appointment with international lymphoma expert Julie Vose, M.D., M.B.A., the Neumann M. and Mildred E. Harris Professor, chief of the UNMC Division of Oncology and Hematology and a 1984 UNMC graduate. Soon after, she met her medical team and began treatment.

“I had the opportunity and the means to go anywhere. I could’ve gone to one of the most well-known cancer centers in the country,”
“THE NEW FACILITIES WILL ELEVATE NEBRASKA’S STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL LEADER IN HEALTH SCIENCE AND HEALTH CARE.” HAROLD M. MAURER, M.D.

Pilcher-Huerter said. “But after my initial meeting with Dr. Vose, and the immediacy the team showed, I chose with confidence to stay right here at home.”

By January 2005, Pilcher-Huerter had completed chemotherapy and radiation, and the lymphoma had gone into remission. Three years later, though, it relapsed and she was again faced with treatment decisions.

“Naturally, I knew I would go back to UNMC,” said Pilcher-Huerter.

With an aggressive treatment plan, one that included a stem cell transplant, Pilcher-Huerter beat lymphoma a second time.

Now three years cancer-free, Pilcher-Huerter “strives to pay it back” to the place and the people that gave her life back. She is an active volunteer at UNMC where she serves in many capacities, including as a member of the Patient Family Advisory Council.

It was through her work with the council that Pilcher-Huerter first became aware of the plans for a new cancer center on the UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center campus in Omaha.

Plans for the center, a $370 million project with expected completion in 2016, call for construction of adjoining, state-of-the-art facilities dedicated to cancer. The center will include a 98-lab research tower, a multidisciplinary outpatient clinic and a three-level inpatient facility – all under one roof. The project also includes construction of a new medical clinic building, an ambulatory care center, on campus.

Pilcher-Huerter recognizes the need for this facility. She witnessed first-hand the growing number of cancer patients while she received treatment at UNMC.

“With the high incidence of lymphoma here in the corn belt, along with today’s longer life expectancy, it is imperative to be prepared to treat this increasing number of cancer patients,” she said.

Fundraising for the project already has begun. To date, the campus has received a commitment of $50 million in support from the State of Nebraska. An additional $200 million is needed in private funding.

The single-site facility will provide the entire scope of cancer treatment and therapy by a multi-disciplinary team, bringing together physicians, nurses, pharmacists, cancer researchers and others in an environment where research and patient care seamlessly integrate.

This, Pilcher-Huerter said, “is huge.”

“From a patient’s point of view, going from one clinic to the next to the next can be very trying,” she said. “The whole idea of having physicians, scientists, clinics and treatment facilities in one place is going to be so much more convenient for patients, for loved ones, for family members. And to have that here in Nebraska is absolutely unbelievable.”

UNMC has been a national leader in the fight against cancer for more than 40 years but the new cancer center campus will further enhance its reputation, making Nebraska synonymous with world-class cancer treatment.

“The new facilities will elevate Nebraska’s status as an international leader in health science and health care,” said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. “Most of the current comprehensive cancer centers are on the east or west coasts. We need a complex like this here.”

The campus will position UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center to earn the National Cancer Institute’s top designation of Comprehensive Cancer Center. This achievement would place the medical center among the best cancer centers in the country.

Translational cancer medicine — taking research from bench to bedside — will increase dramatically.

“Laboratory researchers will literally be shoulder to shoulder with practicing physicians,” said Kenneth Cowan, M.D., Ph.D., director of the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center. “Their proximity will hasten the transfer of discoveries from the lab into new treatments that benefit patients.”

As UNMC scientists develop the next generation of therapies based on the genetic makeup of a patient’s cancer cells, clinicians will integrate this research to provide the best opportunity for cancer care.

“Researchers, who work closely with the physicians, provide and ensure that patients have the most up-to-date possible treatments and considerations available to them every day,” said Glenn Fosdick, president and CEO of The Nebraska Medical Center.

The thought of such extensive care for cancer patients in Nebraska excites Pilcher-Huerter.

“Not that I plan on having cancer again,” she said with a laugh, “But this will elevate the superior care that’s right here in our backyard. And it’s going to impact all Nebraskans, not just the ones with cancer.”

She raises a good point — the new campus is expected to add 4,657 new jobs: 1,200 jobs directly to UNMC and its hospital partner, as well as another 3,457 continuing new jobs to the Omaha area. All told, this will infuse $537 million per year into the economy.

“It’s a win-win for everyone,” Pilcher-Huerter said. “I wish it could happen sooner.”

The cancer center campus project is one of UNMC’s top priorities for the Campaign for Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities. For more information, contact Amy Volk at 402-502-4112 or avolk@nufoundation.org.
IMMERSED IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

by Chuck Brown

Gerald Moore, M.D., the College of Medicine’s senior associate dean for academic affairs, center, joins Drs. Edwards, Fullner, Welsh and Stone on a visit to the Great Wall of China. While there, Dr. Moore and the four then-medical students presented at symposia where they discussed medical school life in the United States.
Before they graduated this past spring, four soon-to-be College of Medicine alums spent a month in China on formal rotations in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

While there, Ryan Edwards, M.D.; Jeremy Stone, M.D.; Jonathan Fullner, M.D., and Shea Welsh, M.D., saw acupuncture and “fire cups” used hand-in-hand with modern medicine practices.

In April, the then-UNMC students worked at Renji Hospital in the heart of Shanghai. There, they saw health professionals use TCM methods such as “fire cups” — heated suction cups placed on skin to promote blood flow — and moxibustion — the burning of mugwort herb over the skin.

“Learning about traditional Chinese medicine...has expanded our perceptions about the benefits of alternative medicine to a degree that wouldn’t have been possible here at home,” Dr. Edwards said. “We were impressed by how effective TCM was in treating common ailments, particularly pain syndromes.”

They also discussed life as American medical students as they and Gerald Moore, M.D., senior associate dean for academic affairs, presented at symposia at Shanghai Tongji University School of Medicine and Xi’an Jiao Tong University School of Medicine.

Such rotations are among the benefits UNMC students get because of the med center’s strong relationships with partners in China, said Jialin Zheng, M.D., assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and director of the UNMC Asia-Pacific Rim Development Program.

The partnerships have allowed UNMC to send 18 medical students and 24 nursing students to China for one-month rotations since 2008, Dr. Zheng said.

“In today’s global economy, such experiences for our students are invaluable,” Dr. Zheng said, who noted that UNMC students will get many more opportunities to study in China as the med center’s partnerships grow.

Shea Welsh, M.D., Pender, Neb.; Jonathan Fullner, M.D., Madison, Neb.; Ryan Edwards, M.D., Rapid City, S.D.; and Jeremy Stone, M.D., Coleridge, Neb., on the ancient city wall in Xi’an, China. The four recently capped their medical school careers with a rotation in traditional Chinese Medicine.
**New physician assistant program director named**

Michael Huckabee, Ph.D., a professor and director of the Union College Physician Assistant Program for the past 15 years, joined UNMC on May 1 as the new director of the physician assistant program in the School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP). He succeeds Jim Somers, Ph.D., who retired after 21 years. Dr. Huckabee has 29 years of clinical practice, primarily in rural family practice and emergency medicine, and more recently in pediatrics.

**Health care reform law upheld; what does it mean?**

UNMC and its partners already have taken important measures to adapt to the health care reforms called for in the Affordable Care Act that was largely upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in June. The Court upheld the Individual Mandate, which requires citizens to purchase health insurance.

“This law is an important step toward achieving the goal of ensuring all Americans have access to health care,” said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. “Nationwide, addressing the projected health care workforce shortage is now more important than ever, to treat these newly insured. As larger numbers of newly insured patients begin to access primary care, the shortage of primary care providers could worsen.”

Learn more at unmc.edu/govtrelations/healthcarereform

**New Foundation CEO announced**

Brian Hastings, a senior executive at The Ohio State University, has been named president and CEO of the University of Nebraska Foundation by its board of directors.

Hastings, who will assume his new role in early fall, brings more than two decades of experience in higher education fundraising, along with strong expertise in implementing universitywide advancement strategies. He most recently served as executive director of The Ohio State University’s $2.5 billion fundraising campaign, in addition to his duties as senior associate vice president at the university.

“Brian Hastings brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from a Big Ten peer institution,” said Peter Whitted, chair of the foundation’s board of directors and a member of the search committee.

The University of Nebraska Foundation launched the Campaign for Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities, a comprehensive fundraising campaign on behalf of the University of Nebraska, in 2005. The campaign ends in 2014. Gifts to the campaign currently exceed $1.2 billion.

**Medicine names two new department chairs**

The College of Medicine has named two department chairs:

- Dwight Jones, M.D., otolaryngology - head and neck surgery, and
- Steven lisco, M.D., anesthesiology.

Dr. Jones served on the Harvard faculty for nearly 24 years. He is a pediatric otolaryngologist and 1983 UNMC College of Medicine graduate. His research and clinical expertise is in sinonasal disorders, cystic fibrosis and tonsillectomy complications.

Dr. lisco had been with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine since 2004, where he was director of three programs — Critical Care Services, Out-of-OR Anesthesiology, and the Critical Care Consult Service.
The University of Nebraska’s Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA)

Richard MacDonald, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, had no formal educational training before he took his first faculty position at UNMC in May 1988, yet is now one of the top teachers on campus. He uses an innovative teaching style that incorporates 21st century tools and goals in a multidisciplinary environment to fully engage medical and graduate students. The only complaint from students: They wish he taught more sections.

Watch a video feature at unmc.edu/connect.

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

Jonathan Vennerstrom, Ph.D., professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences in the College of Pharmacy, is one of the world’s leading experts in anti-malarial drug development — critical work, given that there are more than 300 million cases of malaria each year and that malaria causes more than 2 percent of deaths worldwide.

Watch a video feature at unmc.edu/connect.

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

Howard Gendelman, M.D., chairman of the department of pharmacology and experimental neuroscience and Larson Professor of internal medicine and infectious diseases, developed the theory that the interplay between the immune system and the brain can be harnessed to counter the death of brain cells due to viral infection or during neurodegenerative processes. The theory wasn’t immediately embraced — but time has proven his theory to be valid.

UNMC Outstanding Teacher Awards

Claudia Chaperon, Ph.D., MSN ’97, PhD ’05, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, directs the mobile Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment Programs. “If you can help an older person stay in their preferred home, maintain their independence and function, have improved memory and alleviate other health problems, he or she will be the most appreciative patient you can hope to have.”

Michael Brattain, Ph.D., professor and associate director for basic research in the Eppley Institute, has mentored more than 50 graduate students and currently has seven Ph.D. students in his laboratory. Students are amazed at how he remembers every little piece of data shown to him, and how he asks questions that make them want to learn more.

Kay-Uwe Wagner, Ph.D., professor in the Eppley Institute, tells his students that he expects straight A’s, that they will work long and hard, and that they conduct themselves accordingly in all professional situations. But he counters a “tough” exterior with warm, caring conversations and hands-on teaching. He makes sure his students stay grounded, even as he drives them to reach new heights.

UNMC Spirit of Community Service Award

Claudia Chaperon, Ph.D., MSN ’97, PhD ’05, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, directs the mobile Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment Programs. “If you can help an older person stay in their preferred home, maintain their independence and function, have improved memory and alleviate other health problems, he or she will be the most appreciative patient you can hope to have.”

Craig Piquette, M.D., associate professor of internal medicine in the section of pulmonary, critical care, sleep and allergy medicine, is a dedicated educator whose innovative teaching methods extend beyond his students. “I not only teach residents and students, but patients as well and when they come back and tell me that they made behavior changes to improve their health based on my suggestions, it reminds me I have the greatest job in the world.”

Whitney Goldner, M.D., M ’98, associate professor of internal medicine in the section of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism, finds the greatest rewards in helping students, residents and fellows rotate through the division. “The most exciting moment is when you see someone transform from observing to really understanding what they are learning.”

William Chaney, Ph.D., professor in the department of biochemistry and molecular biology, is where he belongs. “About five years ago I decided that my dream to become a power forward in the NBA was not going to happen. I realized then that I had made the correct choice to become a scientist/educator.” His greatest moments occur when “a student suddenly ‘gets it’ and I see the look of comprehension come to his or her face.”
College of Dentistry

- The dental class of 2012 received notice of a 100 percent pass rate on their National Dental Board Part II. COD students have scored above the national average on board exams for 28 consecutive tests over 14 years. Dental hygiene students have not had a failure in 12 years.
- Three dental students were among only 27 students from all U.S. dental schools who received IADR Bloc grant support to travel to the International Dental Association Meeting in Iguazu Falls, Brazil, and present their research.

College of Medicine

- Every eight years the college must seek reaccreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). The college has begun that process by initiating a nine-month self-study to measure its compliance with LCME standards.
- Researchers at the Orthopaedics Biomechanics and Advanced Surgical Technologies Laboratory in the department of orthopaedic surgery are developing a novel 3-dimensional freehand surgical navigation system for use in knee replacement surgery. The technique reduces the need for bulky instruments, and uses ‘GPS style technology’ to help navigate the hands of a surgeon, making surgery more accurate, faster and less traumatic.

College of Nursing

- The Nebraska Legislature appropriated funding for “Building a Healthier Nebraska” that included $15 million for a new health sciences building on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus. The building will house an expansion of the UNMC College of Nursing, Kearney Division and programs from the UNMC School of Allied Health Professions.
- The college’s newest division, the Northern Division, in Norfolk, Neb., graduated its first cohort of 24 students in May.

College of Pharmacy

- Marcia Mueting, Pharm.D., ’91, was named Preceptor of the Year at the annual Spring Honors Convocation. Dr. Mueting is the Drug Utilization Review Director for Nebraska Medicaid and works for the Nebraska Pharmacists Association.
- Kristen Cook, Pharm.D., assistant professor of pharmacy practice, and students Kyle McCartney, Mary Manning Kechely, Brandon Bohn and Becky Schainost, won an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Student Community Engaged Service Award. They received $20,000 to further develop student community service projects at the UNMC SHARING Clinic’s pharmacy.

College of Public Health

- The college has several new academic programs: a doctor of philosophy in epidemiology, a master of science in emergency preparedness, a master of public health in health policy, a MPAS/MPH dual-degree and a BS/MPH dual-degree. Students will begin enrolling in these programs in the 2012-13 academic year.
- The newly established Center for Health Policy will help shape health policy decisions and serve as a bridge between academic health researchers, state and local government, health care organizations and community leaders.

Eppley Institute / UNMC Eppley Cancer Center

- Tony Hollingsworth, Ph.D., professor in the Eppley Institute, was named the 2011 UNMC Scientist Laureate for his work in pancreatic cancer research. He joined the Eppley Institute in 1991.
- The Ambassador of Hope Gala will be held Oct. 23 at CenturyLink Center Omaha. Jim Clifton, chairman and CEO of Gallup, will receive the Ambassador of Hope Award. Mike and Gail Yanney will receive the Spirit of Nebraska Award for their efforts to raise awareness about cancer research. The gala is a major fundraiser for cancer research at the Eppley Cancer Center.

Munroe-Meyer Institute

- Nebraska lawmakers recently passed LB831, which provides genetic counselors with a formal licensure process for practicing their craft. Rules and regulations will be established at a state level by Jan. 1, 2013. All nine of MMI’s genetic counselors meet the training and certification requirements necessary for licensure.
- MMI’s Camp Munroe marked its 30th anniversary this summer. Hosted by the recreation therapy department, Camp Munroe is the only full-service day camp in the Omaha metro area for children with special needs ages 3 to 21. About 225 volunteers collectively serve 10,000 hours to create a traditional day camp experience.

School of Allied Health Professions

- Physical therapy education faculty and Munroe-Meyer Institute therapists are co-investigators in a phase II clinical trial on the efficacy of electrotactile feedback on the tongue to promote improved balance and walking in individuals with multiple sclerosis.
- SAHP’s inaugural All-School Reunion will be July 19-20, 2013. This will be in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the clinical laboratory science program.
- As the lead author of a peer-reviewed article that made an important contribution to the dietetics profession, Corrine Hanson, Ph.D., assistant professor, medical nutrition education, won the 2011 Huddleson Award for her manuscript published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association.
On May 8, UNMC alumni and friends returned to TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha for the second annual Showdown in O-Town. Prior to the Creighton vs. Nebraska baseball game, alumni and guests enjoyed a cookout at the Old Mattress Factory Bar & Grill just blocks from the stadium. This year’s attendees included UNMC Deans Bradley Britigan, MD, from the College of Medicine and Courtney Fletcher, PharmD, from the College of Pharmacy. The 144 UNMC alumni attendees joined the 12,184 attending the game. See pictures from the event at www.facebook.com/unmcalum.

Alumni Association Hosts 2nd Annual Showdown in O-Town

Alumni Association Hosts Deans in the Desert

After recent alumni outreach events in Denver and Laramie, Wyo., the UNMC Alumni Association traveled to Scottsdale, Ariz., in March for the "Deans in the Desert" event. Hosted by the UNMC Alumni Association, 50 alumni and guests gathered at the home of Ron Caniglia, MD ’87 and his wife, Bonnie. Members of UNMC’s leadership made the trip: College of Medicine Dean Bradley Britigan, MD, College of Nursing Dean Juliann Sebastian, PhD, and College of Pharmacy Associate Dean Charles Krobot, PharmD.

College of Public Health Alumni Chapter Presents First Award

The UNMC Alumni Association College of Public Health Alumni Chapter has presented Jim Anderson, PhD, with its inaugural Spirit of Service Award. Anderson is a faculty member and associate dean in the College of Public Health.

“Dr. Anderson was one of the first champions of our alumni chapter and has continued to offer his generous support throughout the past few years,” said Stephen Jackson, MPH ’06, COPH Alumni Chapter president. “We truly value Dr. Anderson’s leadership and he is certainly a deserving recipient of our chapter’s first award.”

The UNMC Alumni Association chapters make awards each year to distinguished, honorary and young alumni. For a complete list of award categories and awardees, visit: www.unmc.edu/alumni/awards_program.htm.

UNMC Alumni Association Elects New Officers

In May, the UNMC Alumni Association (UNMCAA) elected John C. Mitchell II, MD ’84, as its president. Joshua Hite, PharmD ’06, was elected vice president. Drs. Mitchell and Hite replace James Reilly, MD ’85 and John Ridgway, RPh ’71, who served as the founding president and vice president, respectively, when the new UNMC Alumni Association was formed in 2009.

Under their leadership, the UNMCAA has expanded to include nine chapters. The organization serves as the responsible party for required reporting of nonprofit status, fiscal compliance and activities for the alumni chapters. Since its founding, the UNMCAA has overseen three successful reunion weekends, acquired officer and liability insurance for the organization and overseen the organization’s audit.

“These individuals play an important advisory and decision-making role for the UNMC alumni chapters and the Alumni Relations Office,” said Roxanna Jokela, UNMC Alumni Relations Director.

Other members of the UNMC Alumni Association board of directors include: Anita Evers, MSN, RN, ’72, ’96, Stephen Jackson, MPH ’06, Sue Christensen, DDS ’81, and Carol McGlade, RSTE ’81, ’82. In addition to these board members, the new officers assumed their positions effective July 1, and will serve through June 30, 2014. Dr. Reilly will remain on the board of directors as past president in an advisory role.
In 1962, when gasoline cost 28 cents per gallon, Karen Gerdes graduated from nursing school at UNMC. On June 22, Karen and 21 of her classmates celebrated their 50th anniversary of graduating from the UNMC College of Nursing.

“It’s just been so wonderful to catch up with everyone and share our memories,” Gerdes said. “And to see all the changes at UNMC has been very impressive.”

The group began their day at the College of Nursing, reuniting and sharing memories about their time on campus. The day continued with a campus tour, including the CON Simulation Lab and the CON History Museum, lunch at the College of Nursing and a tour of Omaha via Ollie the Trolley.

Over lunch, one of the class members recalled with pride that they were the first nursing class to achieve a 100 percent pass rate on their boards.

Many other UNMC 2012 honor classes, including the College of Medicine class of 1962, will reunite during Alumni Reunion Weekend on Sept. 7-8.
Woodrow Meier M’44  
Downey, Calif., and his wife, Charlotte, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this year. Also, after 50 years of practicing medicine, he retired at age 85.

George Post M’50  
Bridgeport, Neb., and his wife made a generous gift to the Morrill County Medical Hospital Foundation. He provided medical care to citizens of Morrill County for 45 years before retiring.

Donn Crilly M’54  
Superior, Neb., recently released a book, “A History of the World”, which is now available online and in several bookstores. Retirement has given him more time to pursue his interest in history.

Vernon Ward M’54  
Omaha, Neb., has enjoyed retirement since 2005. In 2011, he was awarded the Alumni Achievement Award from Nebraska Wesleyan University for his career work in the medical field.

Walter Reiss M’58  
Lodi, Calif., who provided free outreach medical help to uninsured persons for more than 15 years died in June. After 14 years of being in a small office in a Salvation Army building, his clinic had recently moved into a new building built in his honor.

Gerald Engelsgjerd M’59  
Duluth, Minn., recently retired but has been spending his time doing locum tenens around his community.

Robert Fryzek M’60  
Glenwood, Iowa, and his wife, Barbara, were named Citizens of the Year in Glenwood by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce. Both are active in their church and community and Robert has run a family practice for more than 40 years.

Gail Walling Yanney M’61  
Omaha, Neb., and husband, Michael, were named Citizens of the Year by the United Way. Together, they have started and aided various nonprofit groups throughout the Omaha area.

Philip Rosene M’65  
Georgetown, Mass., spends his retirement doing the things he loves most: target shooting and attending rifle and pistol competitions. In December, he and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Robert Travnichek M’65  
Long Beach, Miss., received the 2012 Community Service Award from the Mississippi State Medical Association. The MSMA recognized his work in public health, his vast community service and his response efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

Stuart Embury M’69  
Holdrege, Neb., has retired from active practice but still does locum tenens work as needed. He enjoys traveling and visiting his three grandchildren.

Roger Bower M’70  
Ormond Beach, Fla., is the chief medical officer of the VA multi-specialty clinic in Daytona. He and his wife recently celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary. They have two children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Herbert Saloum M’72  
Sioux Falls, S.D., retired after almost 40 years in private practice. He now works part time as the medical director of Avera Tri-State Affiliates, a physician hospital organization headquartered in Sioux Falls.

Gerald Luckey M’73  
David City, Neb., received the J.G. Elliott Award from UNMC for his outstanding work as physician, leader and innovator in rural medicine.

Thomas Conley M’76  
Lakeview, Texas, and his wife, Sara, moved to Texas to be with their children. Thomas still works with Impulse Monitoring, a leader in devices and monitoring for minimally invasive spine surgery.
Tim Grendnan M’76
Sacramento, Calif., recently received the University of California Davis Health System 2012 Volunteer Clinical Faculty Appreciation Award. He is a medical oncologist with Kaiser Permanente and has received numerous awards from them and the University of California, Davis. He and his wife, Celeste, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year.

• James O’Dell M’77
  Omaha, Neb., was named the 2012 president of the American College of Rheumatology during the college’s annual business meeting. He is a rheumatologist and professor at UNMC.

• Frederic Ogren M’77
  Omaha, Neb., is the division leader of Alegent ENT, which is based at Lakeside Hospital in Omaha.

• Leslie Spry M’77
  Lincoln, Neb., is the Nebraska Delegate to the American Medical Association. He also writes a blog for the National Kidney Foundation and the Huffman Post.

• Steven Buskirk M’79
  Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., is professor and chairman of the department of radiation oncology at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. He also is a member of the board of trustees for the Mayo Clinic.

• Susan Strate M’79
  Wichita Falls, Texas, was elected vice speaker of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) House of Delegates. She also was past president of the TMA Foundation and is an active member of the TMA Foundation’s Leadership Society.

• R. Samuel Bryant M’81
  Lincoln, Neb., was awarded the 2011 Patient’s Choice Award from the online site patientschoice.org. The award is decided by patients who go online and rate various aspects of the doctor’s behaviors. This is Dr. Bryant’s second year to receive the honor.

Jeffrey Allen M’82
  Mantowoc, Wis., joined Holy Family Memorial Hospital. His primary focus is diagnosing and treating infectious diseases, especially those dealing with foreign travel.

David Jameson M’83
  York, Neb., was named associate medical director at Aseracare Hospice. He will continue to see patients at Prairie Creek Clinic while performing his associate director duties.

Wendy Arnesson M’87
  Mequon, Wis., works for the American Society for Clinical Pathology as an international technical training manager. The majority of her work to increase laboratory capacity takes place in Africa and other developing countries.

Milton A. Fowler M’87
  Clatshe, Kan., was among 12 recipients of the Black Achievers Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City. He is the section chief of the emergency department at Children’s Mercy South. Dr. Fowler also is an officer for the medical corps in the Army Reserves with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

W. Thomas Sorrell M’88
  McCook, Neb., joined Tri Valley Health Systems. He will practice general surgery within the system.

Michael Hurt M’89
  West Des Moines, Iowa, is chief of medical staff at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. He is involved in the Physician Leadership Academy working toward an MBA and master’s in medical management.

• Jill Reel M’89
  Arlington, Neb., has been a pediatrician at Boys Town Pediatrics in Omaha for almost 20 years. She and her husband, Jeff, have two children: Brooke, 20, and Jack, 18, who studies biology at Doane College, and Nick, 18, who studies business at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Joseph Liewer M’92
  Sioux City, Iowa, was named to Briar Cliff University’s Board of Trustees. He and wife, Sheila, have five children.

• Edward Fehringer M’95
  Columbus, Neb., moved back to his hometown and works for Columbus Community Hospital. He specializes in orthopedic surgery and shoulder work.

G. Matt Longo M’96
  Columbus, Neb., opened a satellite practice and will see patients once a month in Columbus.

Chelsea Chesen M’97
  Omaha, Neb., received the Eating Disorder Advocacy Award from OMNI Behavioral Health for persevering in the promotion of awareness and treatment of eating disorders. She also was awarded fellowship status in the American Psychiatric Association.

Whitney Goldner M’98
  Omaha, Neb., was awarded an Outstanding Teaching Award from UNMC in April. She is an associate professor of internal medicine in the diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism section.

Shiuvan Jaeger M’98
  McCook, Neb., joined Tri Valley Health System as a family practice/obstetric staff member.

John Majerus M’98
  Lincoln, Neb., joined Fallbrook Family Health Center. Previously, he worked at Holmes Lake Family Health Center.

• Susan Schuckert M’98
  North Platte, Neb., works part time at a private practice and also travels to Scottsbluff part time to work as a hospitalist.

Jeff Yosten M’98
  Norfolk, Neb., works full time in the emergency department of Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk. He also is the medical director of the emergency department.

Heather Christianson M’99
  Lincoln, Neb., joined Complete Children’s Health in Lincoln, Neb. She brings 12 years of pediatric experience and is a fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics.

New M2 students gather for dinner following their M1 comprehensive exam in May 2012. The College of Medicine Parents & Family Association sponsored the cookout.
Lisa Yosten M’99
Norfolk, Neb., works for Faith Regional Health Services as the assistant director of the emergency department. She and husband, Jeff, have three children, Owen, 8, Avery, 6, and Gage, 4.

Tina Flores M’01
Carroll, Iowa, joined St. Anthony Regional Hospital. She and husband, Jeremy, have four children.

Robert Kizer M’01
Omaha, Neb., joined Creighton Medical Associates. He previously worked as a hospitalist for Methodist Hospital’s Inpatient Medicine Program.

Kimberly Chapman M’02
Omaha, Neb., joined Children’s National Medical Center in the Genetic Medicine Research Department. She specializes in Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM) research.

Benjamin Bissell M’04
McCook, Neb., joined McCook Community Hospital as an orthopedic surgeon.

Jason Wilken M’04
New Haven, Conn., recently was appointed to the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service, an exclusive two-year program in epidemiology. He is now one of only 83 EIS officers who take investigatory roles in national disasters and emergencies.

Mathue Baker M’05
La Vista, Neb., joined BryanLGH Heart Institute in Lincoln, Neb.

Renee Engler M’05
North Platte, Neb., joined Great Plains Regional Medical Center as part of the emergency department.

Matthew Stritt M’05
Hastings, Neb., joined Mary Lanning Memorial Health Care and Hastings Pulmonary and Sleep Clinic.

Kara Meinke-Baehr M’06
Lincoln, Neb., joined Nebraska Endocrinology Specialists.

Craig Nemechek M’06
Dakota Dunes, S.D., recently joined Midlands Clinic in Dakota Dunes as a general surgeon. He specializes in laparoscopic surgery. Craig and his wife have a 10-month-old son, Eli.

Michelle Sell M’06
Central City, Neb., joined Park Street Medical Clinic in Genoa. She and her husband, Don, have two children, Logan, 2, and Kate, 1.

Jay Hawkins M’06
Ord, Neb., recently joined Valley County Health Systems. He works for Wagoner Medical Group in Grand Island, but sees patients monthly in Ord.

Joseph L. Citta III M’08
Omaha, Neb., joined Columbus Family Practice as a partner in August 2011.

Jamie Drake M’08
Omaha, Neb., joined Children’s Physicians. She specializes in allergies and asthma, nutrition and adolescent medicine.

Allison Stangel M’08
Onawa, Iowa, received the Tracy Osborne Award from the Nebraska Medical Directors Association on Sept. 14, 2011. The award honors those who show genuine interest in improving care of nursing home residents and recruiting physicians to nursing homes.

Anita Evers, N’72 ‘96, president of the College of Nursing Alumni Association, and Dorothy Patach, N’44 enjoy ice cream cones at TD Ameritrade Park for the showdown in O-Town alumni gathering.

Megan Faltsy (Cada) M’08
Schuyler, Neb., joined Alegent Health medical clinics in Howells and Clarkson as a general practitioner. She and husband, Marcus, have three children: Mary, Pete and Audrey.

Sonya M. Reynolds M’08
Lincoln, Neb., joined Complete Children’s Health.

Apo Charging Thunder M’08
Scottsbluff, Neb., joined the Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska Health Clinic in Scottsbluff. She and her husband have six children.

Daniel Schneider M’08
Ord, Neb., joined Valley County Health System Medical Clinic in Ord. He and his wife, Natalie, recently moved to Ord so he could begin his medical practice.

Oman, Iowa, received the Tracy Osborne Award from the Nebraska Medical Directors Association on Sept. 14, 2011. The award honors those who show genuine interest in improving care of nursing home residents and recruiting physicians to nursing homes.

• Elsie Weyrauch N’49
Marietta, Ga., has been married to husband, Jerry, for 60 years. Both retired, they enjoy spending time with their four children and four grandchildren.

• Ann Maas N’60
Brooklyn Park, Minn., has officially retired after 50 years in nursing. During her time as a nurse, Ann was licensed in five states.

• Lynda Gabriel N’71
Lincoln, Neb., is an associate professor at BryanLGH College of Nursing. She is the co-author of “Forensic Nursing” and is certified as a forensic nurse.

• Ann Ross N’71
Wichita, Kan., recently had a simulation lab named in her honor at the new College of Nursing facility in Omaha. She and her husband, Dennis, have four children and six grandchildren, whom they enjoy visiting. During her free time, she enjoys volunteering around her community, especially with the musical arts.

• Connie Hyde N’74
Hastings, Neb., works at Mary Lanning Health Care as the manager of infection control. She and her husband have two sons who graduated recently, one with a medical degree, and the other with a physician assistant degree.
Marilyn Erickson N’84
Omaha, Neb., was recently certified as a family psychology mental health nurse practitioner. She is now certified in both family medicine and psychology.

Toni Blazek N’88
Omaha, Neb., was honored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for her volunteerism.

LaDonna Hart N’93
Lincoln, Neb., returned to Milius, Gibbens, Friesen, Hattan, Martin, and Rauner LLP. She will see patients in gynecology, infertility and other female specialties.

Renee Johnson-Sayer N’93, ’00
Schuyler, Neb., works for Alegent Health as a family nurse practitioner. She is pursuing her doctor of nursing practice degree, which she expects to receive in spring 2014.

Kari Bartholomew N’95
Lincoln, Neb., was named “2010 Best Nurse in Nebraska,” an award given by the Lincoln Journal Star newspaper. She also was awarded the “2011 RN of the Year” by Bickford Cottage Assisted Living.

Paige Lindstedt-Sweeney
Lincoln, Neb., works at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center and recently received her certification in emergency nursing.

Anne Hippe N’97
Scottsbluff, Neb., just completed her 30th year in the nursing education department of Western Nebraska Community College. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in community college leadership.

Karen Kresnik N’98, ’02
Elkhorn, Neb., was promoted to supply chain executive at Cardinal Health. She and husband, Andy, have a son, Archer.

Amy Tegels N’01
Plattsmouth, Neb., was named Plattsmouth Business Person of the Year for 2012. As a nurse practitioner, she is the main health care provider at Plattsmouth Health Care Urgent Care. She and husband, Justin, have three daughters: Sophia, Ava and Ella.

Kelly Dean N’03
Scottsbluff, Neb., joined Western Nebraska Community College as a nursing instructor. She will instruct courses in practical and pre-professional nursing programs.

Michelle Johnson N’04
Lincoln, Neb., is pursuing her Ph.D. in nursing at UNMC and was awarded the Jonas Nurse Leader Scholarship. She also is an assistant professor at BryanLGH where she teaches an undergraduate medical-surgical class.

Alyssa Curl N’06
McCook, Neb., joined McCook Clinic and has begun seeing patients. She received her practitioner certification in August 2011.

Sirenia Ruelas N’07
Omaha, Neb., joined OneWorld Community Health Centers as a pediatric nurse practitioner. She is a member of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

Miranda Brannon N’08
Baltimore, Md., was inducted into the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Nu Beta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing for her exceptional achievements.

Deborah Gates N’09
Friend, Neb., was named director of nursing at Friend Manor, a 51-bed long-term care facility at Warren Memorial Hospital.

Lauren Soper N’09
Oshkosh, Neb., accepted a position at Garden County Health Services in general practice. She and her husband, Mark, have three children.

Andrea Davis N’10
Lincoln, Neb., joined Women’s Clinic of Lincoln, PC. She works in the clinical research department and sees patients a few days each week.

Chase Engel N’10
Scottsbluff, Neb., joined Regional West Medical Center after graduation. He enjoys running in his free time.

Kathy Richardson N’10
Carroll, Iowa, joined St. Anthony Regional Hospital as an advanced nurse practitioner specializing in psychiatry.

Tara Goodman N’11
Malvern, Iowa, joined the Medical Center in Hamburg, Iowa in July. She has worked in pediatrics for 12 years.

Vickie Vinton N’11
Omaha, Neb., was appointed director of Nebraska Action Coalition for the Future of Nursing Campaign. The coalition seeks partnerships with businesses, consumers and leadership across the state.

Cynthia North N’12
Omaha, Neb., accepted a position at The Nebraska Medical Center on the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit following graduation.

Pharmacy

Edward Holscher P’44
Savannah, Ga., is retired and continues his 13-year volunteer service at Hospice Savannah Inc. He also volunteers with a stroke survivors group.

Ransom Vorney P’65
Broken Bow, Neb., is serving his second term on the District 3 Custer County Board of Supervisors.

Roger Miller P’67
Lincoln, Neb., spent 20 years as an Air Force pharmacist in management and clinical roles, but has since retired.

Kurt Clyne P’72
Lincoln, Neb., will retire this year after 33 years as director of pharmacy at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center.

Victoria Roche P’81
Bellevue, Neb., received the 2012 Rho Chi Society Lecture Award for outstanding achievements by distinguished scholars from the Rho Chi honor society in pharmacy.

Third-year College of Pharmacy students enjoy lunch from the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association at the P3 send-off party, when the alumni host a send-off prior to rotations.
Carmen Fusselman P’89
Fullerton, Neb., was promoted to director of pharmacy at Shopko. She has worked as a pharmacist for Shopko for almost 20 years. She and her husband, Terry, have two sons, Aaron and Ryan.

- Patricia Gollner P’90
Hastings, Neb., received the Exemplary Committee Service Award from the Nebraska Pharmacists Association. She was recognized for her outstanding work in promoting pharmacy.

- Sheri Jacoby P’91
Fort Calhoun, Neb., works for Alegent Immanuel Inpatient Pharmacy. She also helps her husband who owns Alpacas of the Heartland, where they raise 25 alpacas.

- Kelley Oelhke P’01
Sioux Falls, S.D., was honored as Pharmacist of the Year in South Dakota. She is residency program director at the Sioux Falls VA and an adjunct professor with South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy. She and husband Karl have two children, Klaire and Kade.

Cynthia Gunderson P’04
Bemidji, Minn., was named Indian Health Service’s Junior Pharmacist of the Year for 2012.

- Brooke Heine P’07
Crawford, Neb., celebrated her fifth year in business after opening her own pharmacy.

Adrianna Garcia P’10
Lincoln, Neb., joined the Madonna Rehabilitation Center as their clinical pharmacy manager.

Donyel Bartels P’12
Fairbury, Neb., joined Shopko Pharmacy in Omaha immediately following graduation.

Amanda Miller D’09
Omaha, Neb., recently began work at the Pentagon as a dentist. She also was named a captain in the Air Force.

Addison Killeen D’11
Lincoln, Neb., joined Williamsburg Dental where he will specialize in general dental practice.

Ginny McCracken D’11
Lincoln, Neb., joined Star City Dental as a dental hygienist. When not working, she enjoys being with her daughter, Gianna, and doing outdoor activities.

Michael Sullivan D’11
York, Neb., recently purchased a dental practice in York and began seeing patients. He and wife, Amanda, have a 15 month-old son, Aiden.

Jon Jessen D’12
Neilgh, Neb., accepted a position, after graduation, as an associate with Family Dentistry and Dental Hygiene of Neilgh.

Physical Therapy

- Andrea Hazen PT’72
Omaha, Neb., celebrated 40 years as the operations director of Rehab Services at Bergan Mercy.

Rachel Reiman PT’86
Fremont, Neb., was appointed to the Fremont Area Chamber Board of Directors. She is administrator for Al Merrick Manor for Fremont Area Medical Center and is vice chairwoman of the Board of Physical Therapy for the state of Nebraska.

Brandy (Pernicek) Escamilla PT’06
Lincoln, Neb., opened a second location of Leaps & Bounds Pediatric Therapy in Lincoln.

Kasey Theye PT’12
Fairbury, Neb., accepted a position with Beatrice Community Hospital.

Physician Assistant

John Lopes PA’77
Lansing, Mich., was appointed to the State of Michigan’s Task Force on Physician Assistants by Gov. Rick Snyder. The task force regulates physician assistants throughout Michigan and approves the qualifications of physician assistants.

Douglas Stamp PA’88
Olympia, Wash., joined South Sound Family & Sports Medicine. He is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the Washington Academy of Physician Assistants.

Michael Huckabee PA ’83, ’97
Omaha, Neb., was named director of the physician assistant program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Karen Bumann PA’05
White, S.D., joined White Medical Clinic, which recently opened as part of Brookings Health Clinic. She also is on the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee to the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners.

Dentistry

Michael Houlk D’77
Sioux Falls, S.D., was awarded the South Dakota Dental Association’s Humanitarian Award, which is presented to individuals who show outstanding service in their specific profession. He has been practicing dentistry in Sioux Falls for more than 30 years.

Abby (Lemerond) Merz D’08
Falls City, Neb., joined Parkside Dental Clinic as a certified dental hygienist.

Cherie Uchida D’08
Honolulu, Hawaii, was named a 2012 Best Dentist of Hawaii by Honolulu Magazine. She works with her father and twin sister in their family dentistry practice.

Renee Uchida D’08
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Renee Uchida D’08
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Melissa Fullner-Marshall PA’07
Verdigre, Neb., returned to Nebraska and began work at Avera Medical Group in the Verdigre Clinic. She is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

Quintin Treadway PA’07
Omaha, Neb., was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his exceptionally commendable service from the U.S. Armed Forces. His efforts to support Operation New Dawn were critical to the success of the mission to protect and stabilize a region in Baghdad.

Jodi (Stowater) Goodrich PA’08
Atlantic, Iowa, joined the physician assistant team at Atlantic Medical Center. She provides general family care.

Jeremy Welsh PA’08
Potsdam, N.Y., earned a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Emergency Medicine. Only one of 235 physician assistants to earn the specialty credential in its first year, Welsh earned the distinction by meeting licensure, education and experience qualifications and then passing an exam in the specialty.

John Ayers PA’10
Lincoln, Neb., recently joined Lincoln Orthopedic Center. He is a member of the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants and the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Dawn White PA’10
Potsdam, N.Y., recently joined Clarkson University as a clinical assistant professor of physician assistant studies. She is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the New York State Society of Physician Assistants.

Stephanie Hall PA’11
Omaha, Neb., joined OneWorld Community Health Centers. She is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants.

Monica Hilger PA’11
Lincoln, Neb., joined Lincoln Orthopedic Center.

Jennifer (Edeal) Hunke PA’11
Lexington, Neb., joined Plum Creek Medical group. She lives in Lexington with her husband, Chris, and stepdaughter.

Katie Messer PA’11
Holdredge, Neb., joined Family Medical Specialties. She is member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and received the Nebraska Academy Physician Assistants Excellence Award.

Nathan Stec PA’11
Plainview, Neb., joined Plainview Area Health System. He and wife, Lyn, live in Plainview.

Public Health

Kathleen Brandort PH’04
Omaha, Neb., accepted a position at the UNMC College of Public Health serving complimentary roles as manager of workforce development and leadership and director of the Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute.

In Remembrance…

Herbert Williams D’44
Centennial, Colo., April 7, 2012

Carlyle Wilson M’45
Omaha, Neb., Jan. 27, 2012

Irene Anderson N’46
Golden Valley, Minn., Feb. 4, 2012

Kenneth Chinburg M’46
Oakland, Neb., January 7, 2011

Betty Floyd N’46
Scottsbluff, Neb., April 6, 2012

Dale Porter M’46
Kettering, Ohio, Jan. 19, 2012

Richard Hay D’47
Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 13, 2012

Robert Koefoot M’47
Grand Island, Neb., March 22, 2012

Richard Bradley D’50
Lincoln, Neb., March 11, 2012

George Post M’50

Marion G. Reis P’53
Bartlesville, Okla., Oct. 11, 2011

Robert Carnahan M’55
Casper, Wyo., Jan. 8, 2012

Donald Wilkinson M’56
Scottsbluff, Neb., April 16, 2011

Robert Quick M’58
Crete, Neb., Dec. 14, 2011

Walter Reiss M’58
Lodi, Calif., June 24, 2012

John Schluter P’58
Omaha, Neb., Oct. 28, 2011

John Ford III M’63
Westminster, Colo., Nov. 18, 2011

Sharon Field N’69, ’95
Hastings, Neb., Feb. 15, 2012

Larry Jensen P’71
Lyons, Neb., June 24, 2011

Lawrence Fitzgerald M’75
Orlando Park, Fla., May 8, 2012

Robin Kammandel N’82
Omaha, Neb., Jan. 16, 2012

Jana Stenslokken N’82
Omaha, Neb., March 10, 2011

Barbara (Medich) Meyer N’93
North Platte, Neb., Dec. 17, 2011
Births
Karen Kresnik N’98
Elkhorn, Neb., and husband Andy, welcomed their first child, Archer James, on Jan. 24, 2012.

Kristine Kuper-Williams P’99
Katy, Texas, and husband, John welcomed twins, Alex and Emma, on Feb. 8, 2012.

Amberly Byington PT’02

Maggie Krezci PA’05
Omaha, Neb., and husband Brian welcomed a son, Liam Christopher, on Dec. 16, 2011. Liam has a big sister, Quinn, 2.

Brandy Escamilla PT’06
Lincoln, Neb., and husband Ryan welcomed their first daughter, Katelyn Marie, on Jan. 18, 2012.

Andrew Coughlin M’08
Galveston, Texas, and wife, Jennifer, welcomed twins, Claire Alice and Lucas William, on July 29, 2011.

Rachel Christensen N’09
Kearney, Neb., and her husband, Matt, welcomed a daughter, Dinah JoLee, on March 3, 2011.

Deborah Repaskey M’09
Tampa, Fla., and husband Matt welcomed a baby girl, Selah Rose, on Sept. 27, 2010.

Maggie Condon-Carson RSTE’10
North Platte, Neb., and her husband, John, welcomed a son, Crayton John, in Dec. 2011.

Marriages
Eddie Pierce M’84
Minden, Neb., married Jane Christensen on June 4, 2011.

Paige Linstedt N’95
Lincoln, Neb., married John Sweeney on July 16, 2011.

Karen Kresnik N’98
Elkhorn, Neb., married Andy Stine on March 5, 2011.

Angela Thorberg RSTE ‘03
Lincoln, Neb., married Edward Arnold on June 11, 2011.

Nichole Wiener N’04

Tanner Andersen P’09 and Lauren Bengenbach M’13
Elkhorn, Neb., were married on May 26, 2012.

Robert Dahlquist M’11
Charlotte, N.C., married Lindsey Willis on Nov. 5, 2011.

Danielle Shackleton N’11
Lincoln, Neb., married Aaron Young on June 9, 2012.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS
Alumni Reunion Weekend
Sept. 7-8
Embassy Suites Downtown/Old Market & UNMC campus
Omaha, Neb.

College of Dentistry Alumni Homecoming
Sept. 14-15
UNMC College of Dentistry
Lincoln, Neb

School of Allied Health Professions Alumni Reunion
July 19-20, 2013
UNMC campus
Omaha, Neb.

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13,606 individuals have made donations to UNMC during the campaign. Approximately 54% are first-time donors to UNMC.

95% of UNMC students apply for financial assistance.

31% of donors supporting UNMC during the campaign are UNMC graduates.

83% of UNMC campaign gifts are from Nebraska households/organizations.

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

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

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campaignfornebraska.org/unmc

If you were a medical resident at UNMC in the past 35 years or so, then you know Vicki Hamm.

She helped you fill out your licensing papers, line up your health insurance and log your travel to outstate clinics. She told you what to wear to orientation. She pointed you in the right direction when you needed academic support.

And while you took your first solo steps in your profession, she worked behind the scenes to make sure your residency program remained accredited.

“We’re kind of like the HR office for house officers,” said Hamm, who just started her 37th year as the College of Medicine’s Graduate Medical Education Program (GME) Administrator.

Hamm started at UNMC in 1975 as a residency coordinator in the department of internal medicine. But shortly after she started, Bob Wigton, M.D., was named assistant dean for graduate medical education. He asked Hamm to join him in that office. She did and never left.

“New residents are great,” Hamm said. “They are eager and scared. This is the first time they’ve really had to see patients on their own.

“Residency is a pivotal point in the careers of physicians, and it’s a joy to be able to help our residents make it through this process.”

At any given point, Hamm works with program coordinators to take care of about 500 residents in UNMC’s 40 accredited residency programs.

Spring is particularly crazy in the GME office as outgoing residents look to check out and incoming residents prepare to land.

And that’s just half of her job.

She and the GME team — which includes Dr. Wigton, now the associate dean for GME; Jim Stageman, M.D., assistant dean for GME; and Hamm’s assistant, Rachel Nelsen — work constantly to maintain accreditation for the programs.

They monitor accreditation requirements and when changes are called for, they make sure they occur. The work adds up quickly with 40 programs to monitor.

“I answer emails constantly and my blackberry is never out of sight,” Hamm said.

It is hectic, but Hamm wouldn’t have it any other way. She’s seen thousands of residents come and go. She beams with pride when she sees them become outstanding clinicians and prominent figures in medicine. Many residents have become her good friends.

And the best part is when a former resident calls out of the blue to express gratitude for Hamm’s help.

“It’s a fun job,” Hamm said. “It really is.”
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