Helping Nebraskans live stronger, longer
ON THE COVER:
Once a week, 68-year-old Hanna Ekström teaches strength training to the elderly.

HELPING NEBRASKANS LIVE STRONGER, LONGER
A baby boomer turns 60 every eight seconds. The challenge: Training enough geriatric specialists for this growing population.

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No group of Americans is growing faster than those Americans who are now retired or nearing retirement age. By 2030, more than 70 million Americans – one-fifth of the projected population – will be over the age of 65.

Given this fact, providing quality care to seniors is perhaps the most significant health care challenge faced by our country. The need for a specialized center for geriatric medicine has never been greater.

That’s one reason I’m so proud of the Home Instead Center for Successful Aging at UNMC. This facility will combine UNMC’s strengths in geriatric medicine, research and education with Home Instead Senior Care’s expertise in helping seniors age successfully at home. This mutually beneficial relationship will allow us to take senior care to a whole new level.

As noted in this issue’s cover story (page 6), specialized geriatric care is desperately needed. The $10.2 million Home Instead Center is unique in that it will create one location for geriatric medicine, psychiatry and fitness on the UNMC campus. Ultimately, the Home Instead Center’s services will help seniors age better and live healthier lives. It is the region’s only freestanding center focused on aging that is tied to an academic medical center.

This facility, of course, would not have been possible without the support of Paul and Lori Hogan, co-founders of Home Instead Senior Care, the world’s largest provider of non-medical home care to seniors. We are deeply indebted to the Hogans, who are the principal benefactors of the new Home Instead Center.

In addition to being a shining example of how a private gift can benefit the public, the Home Instead Center for Successful Aging also is another illustration of UNMC’s commitment to Nebraskans. UNMC is vital to keeping all Nebraskans – from small towns to cities – healthy and vibrant, through our research, education, patient care and community outreach. Through the Home Instead Center, we’re able to express that vitality to one of the most deserving groups of people – those who are successfully aging.

On page 11 is an article detailing UNMC’s efforts to assist the people in Haiti following the catastrophic earthquake in mid-January.

I’m proud of the work our faculty and staff have undertaken to assist Haiti and help its people to recover from this horrible catastrophe. I know UNMC will continue to offer much to the relief effort. I commend the dozens of volunteers from UNMC who have travelled to Haiti to treat those in greatest need.

Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
UNMC Chancellor
The University of Nebraska Foundation is involved in the Campaign for Nebraska, a $1.2 billion effort to raise funds for research, facilities, faculty and students. University of Nebraska Medical Center campaign priorities include:

**Cancer Campus**
Completion of the $250 million project will enable UNMC to become one of the nation’s premier centers for cancer treatment. The campus will feature state-of-the-art treatment and research facilities.

**Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute**
The $40 million center will house clinical research and patient care facilities plus an outpatient surgery center. It is named for legendary Omaha ophthalmologist and UNMC alumnus, Dr. Stanley Truhlsen.

**Center for Drug Discovery**
The $16 million center will facilitate the discovery and development of drugs to treat new, emerging and neglected infectious diseases. These diseases include malaria, HIV and drug-resistant tuberculosis.

To contribute, or for more information about the UNMC campaign priorities, contact Amy Volk, avolk@nufoundation.org, 402-502-4112 or 800-432-3216. Or visit campaignfornebraska.org.
Every eight seconds someone turns 60.

In Nebraska, UNMC addresses a critical shortage in geriatric health care professionals.
“Use it or lose it,” says Muriel Frank, M.D., ‘43, a 90-year-old retired anesthesiologist, who proves it by doing 100 push-ups a day – boy style.

She is one of 14 seniors enrolled in strength training and Tai Chi classes at UNMC’s Center for Healthy Living and is determined to use her muscles to keep healthy and active.

“It’s absolutely important to exercise,” Dr. Frank said.

Offered three times a week, the strength training class is taught by fitness specialist Peter Pellerito and 68-year-old Hanna Ekstrom, a retired secretary from The Nebraska Medical Center’s Community Case Management Program.

“If you want to stay well, you have to keep moving – that’s the key to healthy aging,” Ekstrom said. “Exercise helps me stay flexible and manage the pain for my arthritis, and the endorphins give me a positive attitude.”

Fitness is part of a “compression of morbidity” strategy adopted by UNMC’s Geriatric and Gerontology clinics under the leadership of Jane Potter, M.D., Neumann and Mildred Harris Geriatrics Professor and division chief of geriatrics.

“We want to compress into the fewest years possible the amount of time a person spends frail and dependent. Today’s 60 is the old 40,” Dr. Potter said.

The UNMC clinics improve and maintain the health, wellness and independence of older adults by providing patients access to routine health care, second opinions, evaluation and treatment of specific concerns and comprehensive geriatric assessments.

This summer, the $10.2 million Home Instead Center for Successful Aging will open, creating a centralized location for geriatric medicine, psychiatry and fitness on the UNMC campus.

The center will offer specialized services aimed at helping Nebraskans age better and live healthier lives.

Keeping older people healthy and independent is key when health care resources
Nebraska’s aging population

Within Nebraska, 13 percent, or 240,763 of the state’s population is over 65 – a figure that soars to nearly 20 percent in rural areas. Even so, the state has only 31 fellowship-trained geriatricians – all in Omaha and Lincoln – and a need for 89 more across the state.

The result: There are 7,767 patients in Nebraska for every fellowship-trained geriatrician today.

Nebraska’s aging population

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The result: There are 7,767 patients in Nebraska for every fellowship-trained geriatrician today.

The backbone for Nebraska’s geriatric health care is legions of providers – physicians, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, psychotherapists, psychologists and social workers – who live across the state.

“A family physician spends 60 percent of their office time with patients over the age of 65,” Dr. Potter said. “They need to know a lot about geriatric medicine.”

To help meet that need, UNMC obtained federal support for the Nebraska Geriatric Education Center (NEBGEc) in 2004 to educate health professionals and faculty members across the state in geriatrics and gerontology.

Ironically, despite the shortage, geriatricians are among the most satisfied physicians, said William Lyons, M.D., associate professor of geriatrics and fellowship director at UNMC, citing a 2002 University of California Davis study.

“Satisfaction comes because there is a variety of medical challenges – older people have a lot of diseases – and we treat them in a holistic way. It’s the Marcus Welby perspective – the medicine is not high tech, it’s more personal,” he said.

“Plus, patients appreciate us and are grateful,” Dr. Lyons said.

Interprofessional care for the 21st century

Training the next generation of health care providers for geriatric patients is a UNMC mission. Seven faculty members provide clinical care, educate students, residents and fellows and conduct research – all in an interprofessional approach.

The team, which includes physicians, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, physical therapists and social workers, wants students to see the richness of a career in geriatrics.
Because patients are complex, the interprofessional approach is needed. One care provider cannot do it all," Dr. Lyons said.

Unlike other disciplines that average 10 to 15-minute visits, geriatricians spend 30 minutes with a returning patient and an hour with a new patient.

Being able to spend extra time with patients attracted Carrie Hoarty, M.D., ’05, to the geriatric fellowship program. One of three fellows in training at UNMC, Dr. Hoarty came to the program after completing a medicine/pediatric residency.

"There’s a certain intimacy you develop with people and families. I listen to their stories, I help them develop long-range goals and work to get them the services they need.”

The interprofessional environment is a plus, Dr. Hoarty said. "I enjoy the complex medical problems and social situations that require working with health care professionals in all fields.”

"Older people want to maintain independence and UNMC’s patient-centered approach focuses on those goals. Independence requires a certain level of function to bathe, dress, eat and move around. (See story above.)

New center on aging well

Funded entirely by private donations, the Home Instead Center for Successful Aging will be the only free-standing center focused on aging that is tied to an academic medical center in the region. Paul and Lori Hogan – co-founders of Home Instead Senior Care, the world’s largest private provider of non-medical home care to seniors – are the principal donors.

Patricia Hageman, Ph.D., ’79, ’94, professor of physical therapy education in UNMC’s School of Allied Health Professions, is excited about the center. She has worked on interdisciplinary geriatrics education for years and has been a motivating force behind community outreach and health promotion aspects of the new Home Instead Center at UNMC.

"I’m passionate about empowering people to improve their lifestyle to achieve a high quality of life,” she said.

"May we all be able to do 100 push-ups at the age of 90.”

Function research to help seniors

To determine a patient’s level of function, health care providers traditionally have relied on responses to questionnaires.

Those are not very useful because the answers are subjective and don’t measure function, said Stephen Bonasera, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, geriatrics and pharmacology and experimental neuroscience at UNMC.

Instead, Dr. Bonasera is developing a non-intrusive mobile monitoring system that will objectively measure function and impact how health care is delivered for older people.

He uses cell phones, Bluetooth and GPS technology to monitor a person’s movement.

As part of Dr. Bonasera’s study, monitors that are smaller than a deck of cards will be plugged into every room in the home. A weak Bluetooth signal captures the amount of time a person spends in that room. When they go outside, the GPS tracks activity in the community.

“All we know is where that person is and how long they are there,” Dr. Bonasera said.

“This system will measure precisely how drugs affect functionality. For example, does the new drug help a person with Alzheimer’s disease maintain everyday behavior?” Dr. Bonasera said. His model soon will be ready for human trials.

Dr. Bonasera’s research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and the state’s tobacco settlement dollars.

"New center on aging well"
UNMC students spend hours in the classroom and practically live in the library. But, some of the most valuable lessons come from time spent in the community.

Twice a month, Deann Paulson, a second-year medical student, joins others to provide care and education to women who have been victims of domestic violence. They conduct free health care screenings and educational seminars at the YWCA Omaha.

“Our goal is to empower the women through knowledge of their personal health,” Paulson said.

The North Bend, Neb., native is one of approximately 160 students taking part in activities made possible by the new Interprofessional Service Learning Academy at UNMC, which engages future health professionals in supervised, community-based learning experiences to address community-identified needs.

Students are exposed to community organizations and analyze real-world problems to develop projects that fill a distinct need,” said Ruth Margalit, M.D., founder and director of the Interprofessional Service Learning Academy. “This is an expansion of the traditional classroom where our community partners become co-teachers with traditional faculty.”

It is more than volunteer work, Dr. Margalit said, as each project is tied to course objectives and incorporates critical reflection and a research component. “Service learning is both a philosophy and a teaching methodology,” she said. “Students make connections between what they are learning in the classroom and what they experience through service.”

Administered in the College of Public Health, the Service Learning Academy brings together undergraduate and graduate level students from UNMC’s college’s of nursing, public health, medicine, pharmacy and the School of Allied Health Professions to:

- Facilitate collaborative partnerships between the university and local organizations;
- Enhance student learning;
- Promote personal and professional development including creativity, leadership and professionalism;
- Improve community health; and
- Foster civic engagement and social justice awareness among students and faculty.

The YWCA project is one of a handful of UNMC projects determined to make a difference across the Omaha landscape.

Twenty-five faculty advisers participate in the interprofessional, intercampus projects that, this year, engage students with community partners such as The Nebraska AIDS Project, the Siena Francis House homeless shelter, the Douglas County Department of Corrections, City Sprouts and the Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy.

For Paulson, the service-learning project has been as valuable to her as it has been to the women it serves. “I’m learning life lessons that nobody can teach – lessons that can’t be learned until you try and fail and try again,” she said.

Her group’s next goal: Expand education and screening programs with clinical services that provide women greater access to screenings (Pap smears) and acute care.

Ellen Freeman Wakefield, chief operating officer at the YWCA Omaha, applauds the students’ efforts saying: “This project has the potential to become both a major program for underserved women in this community and an important part of the service learning program at UNMC.”

Students who choose health professions have strong ideals and the intent to make a difference while serving others, Dr. Margalit said. “The service-learning experience allows them early on to realize these pursuits.”
that Jan. 24 post from Oluyemisi Odugbesan, M.D., a UNMC instructor of anesthesiology, was the first on-the-ground report from UNMC’s initial wave of medical responders.

Soon after the Jan. 12 earthquake struck the Caribbean nation, UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., appointed Rubens Parnies, M.D., vice chancellor for academic affairs and a native of Haiti, and Ayman El-Mohandes, M.B.B.Ch., M.D., M.P.H., dean of UNMC’s College of Public Health, to lead the medical center’s response to the disaster.

Thirteen volunteers – seven physicians and six nurses from UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center – composed the first wave of volunteers sent to Port-au-Prince. Additional teams will follow in the weeks ahead.

“Our teams have done great work; people are so appreciative,” said Dr. Parnies, who led the first group to Haiti.

“We are proud to have been the first health care team from Nebraska to send volunteers into the eye of the storm in Haiti,” Dr. El-Mohandes said. “Our volunteer response has been tremendous and will continue into the foreseeable future.”

During the first deployment, Danielle Dohrmann of UNMC International Health and Medical Education was the charge nurse in the operating room at the Project Medishare Hospital at the Port-au-Prince Airport.

When Dohrmann and the others arrived, three nurses were attempting to care for 300 patients. Within a week, Dohrmann and fellow UNMC volunteers, registered nurse Nick Hall and trauma surgeon David Young, M.D., helped introduce an organizational structure that allowed the hospital to become the largest in Haiti.

“We brought excellent clinical care, organizational leadership, strategy and a sense of collaboration and dedication,” she said. “We saved a lot of lives and helped a lot of people.”

Others on the first team provided round-the-clock clinical expertise at the community and general hospitals. With deployment needs continually assessed from ground zero, UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center have called for nurses with wound care experience, pharmacists, physical therapists and physician assistants with orthopaedics and plastics expertise.

For more information about disaster response efforts, contact operations leader Magda Peck, Sc.D., associate dean for Community Engagement and Public Health Practice in the UNMC College of Public Health, at mpeck@unmc.edu.

As for Dr. Odugbesan, she’s willing to deploy again. “There are people who need help there. They need rehabilitation. Yes, I want to go back.”
Three years ago, Michelle Kowalczyk fulfilled a childhood dream to go to Africa. Little did she know she would find her life’s passion among the bright, toothy smiles of the children in the tiny village of Rau, at the southern base of Mount Kilimanjaro. “It’s a magical place,” Kowalczyk said. “The people live on so little yet live such a rich life.”

Even so, life is not easy in the East African nation where poverty, AIDS and malnutrition are as common as the dirt paths, banana groves and Swahili welcomes.

But, Kowalczyk, a 2004 College of Nursing alum who will earn her master’s degree in nursing in May, is committed to the people and their future.

In 2008, she and Kim Krowne created the Knock Foundation, a non-profit organization to support impoverished communities in the developing world. Krowne, a Northridge, Calif., native, met Kowalczyk while volunteering at a Tanzanian mother-baby clinic in 2007.

The foundation’s name exemplifies the women’s desire to open doors through opportunity and community empowerment.

“Those whom much is given, much is expected.”

John F. Kennedy

Michelle Kowalczyk, ‘04 (left in ballcap) and Kim Krowne, with children at Matumaini: (bottom row from left) Jackson, Scola, and Ericki; and (top row) Roger and (in doorway) Sharifa.
predominately AIDS orphans, live. Then the Knock Foundation initiated self-sustainable development projects with village women, built chicken coops and pig huts and conducted life skills sessions, as well as bought textbooks and lunches for students at the Mrupanga Primary School.

In February 2009, Knock purchased an acre of land near Matumaini (pronounced Mah-too-my-e-knee) to build a new child care center to house 40 children. Construction is expected soon on the $200,000 project that will include dormitories for boys and girls, a dining hall and classrooms.

"Some people search their entire life for a purpose," Kowalczyk said. "I’ve found it at such a young age and am trying to do all I can."

Upon graduating as an acute care nurse practitioner, Kowalczyk will spend five months in Tanzania and then return to the States to work and pay off school loans with a dream of one day moving to Tanzania.

Until then, she’ll raise funds to help the Knock Foundation sustain existing projects, which includes a $20,000 plus operating budget for Matumaini. She’d also like to establish business sponsors, as well as life sponsors for the children.

"People say I’m an angel for doing this, but the perspective I’ve gained is priceless. It’s addictive to wake up and make a big difference every day."

Kowalczyk, who turns 29 in April, struggles when she returns to the states. "It’s a culture shock to come back to America and know what it could do in Africa."

“We’re lucky in America that we’ve been given the opportunity to help people,” she said, urging others to volunteer in their communities or abroad. “You give a little and you get it back 10 times. It enriches your life.”

“Not only is Michelle doing great things for the children of the Matumaini orphanage, but she is raising the health of the whole community,” said Sheila Ryan, Ph.D., professor and director of international programs for nursing who visited the Tanzanian village of Rau and witnessed the foundation’s work. “It’s a fabulous experience for our students to learn from – not just what they do differently in the clinic and hospitals, but how you approach helping to lift a developing country out of their own poverty. Michelle is doing that.”

Matumaini means ‘hope’ in Swahili and Kowalczyk and the Knock Foundation team see that every day in the faces of Stefani, Sharifa, Alexi, Jackson, Monika and the others at the center.

“They’re definitely not orphans in Africa to me,” Kowalczyk said. “I can tell you their dreams and what their faces look like when they’re in a bad mood or excited…They’re my kids.”

Visit the Knock Foundation at www.knockfoundation.org or the Matumaini Child Care Center at matumainichildcare.org

"People say I’m an angel for doing this, but the perspective I’ve gained is priceless. It’s addictive to wake up and make a big difference every day."

Michelle Kowalczyk
UNMC alum to direct Rural Health Education Network

As a medical student on rotation in western Nebraska, Patrik Johansson, M.D., '97, witnessed first-hand the challenges of providing health care in rural areas, an experience that greatly influenced his career interests. Now, he has returned to Omaha to become director of the Rural Health Education Network (RHEN) at UNMC.

"The position allows me to return to my home state to address health disparities and enhance community health through workforce development," said Dr. Johansson, who also serves as associate professor in the department of health promotion, social and behavioral health in the UNMC College of Public Health.

Dr. Johansson previously taught at George Washington University’s School of Public Health and Health Services. He also served as deputy chief medical officer for the Greater Southeast Community Hospital in Washington, D.C.

He grew up in Gothenburg, Sweden, Worcester, Mass., and Omaha, where he graduated from high school. He majored in international relations and Japanese at Brown University, graduated from the UNMC College of Medicine in 1997, and obtained his master’s of public health degree from Harvard University’s School of Public Health.

UNMC partners with UNK in effort to educate more rural physicians

In a proactive move to help meet the demand for family physicians in rural Nebraska, UNMC and the University of Nebraska at Kearney have established the Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP).

"With 32 percent of rural physicians over the age of 55, workforce projections indicate a critical shortage of physicians in rural Nebraska over the next 5 to 10 years," said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D.

KHOP targets high school seniors interested in family medicine and is modeled after the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP), which UNMC started in 1990 to encourage rural residents to pursue careers in health care and practice in small communities throughout Nebraska. KHOP works like this:

- Five students a year will be accepted into the program starting with the 2010-2011 class.
- The students will be accepted into KHOP in their senior year of high school.
- After completing their undergraduate studies at UNK, they automatically will be accepted into medical school at UNMC, provided they maintain an acceptable grade point average.
- The students will receive a tuition waiver for their time at UNK but will have to pay tuition and compete for scholarships when they get to UNMC.
- Acceptance into the program is based on academic standing, ACT scores, community involvement and a desire to return to rural Nebraska.

"On average more than 60 percent of RHOP graduates go on to practice in rural communities," said Jeff Hill, M.D., ‘77, associate dean for admissions and student affairs in the UNMC College of Medicine. "UNMC has demonstrated considerable success in building pipeline programs that target shortage areas. We’re confident that the KHOP program will continue this tradition."

For more information contact: Peggy Abels, director of health science programs at UNK, (308) 865-8260, abelp@unk.edu.

Wayne State College expands involvement in RHOP

The opportunity to pursue a career as an allied health professional just got easier for students in Nebraska. UNMC’s School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) recently expanded its participation in the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) to Wayne State College.

Since the inception of the RHOP program, the SAHP, unlike the other UNMC colleges, has only provided RHOP positions for students at Chadron State College. The addition of 10 total positions at Wayne State College in physical therapy, physician assistant, clinical laboratory science and radiography education programs represents a 40 percent increase in available RHOP positions.

"The expansion of the allied health RHOP to Wayne State College is an indication of the SAHP’s commitment to both the education and health of rural Nebraskans," said Kyle Meyer, Ph.D., ‘79, associate dean of the SAHP.
A three-year, $1.18 million grant awarded to the UNMC College of Nursing by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will increase by 43 the number of psychiatric nurse practitioners available to diagnose and treat those with mental illnesses.

The grant creates access to two programs through enhanced distance education technology. The technology will enable students to complete course and clinical requirements through Internet-based learning and videoconferencing systems. The programs are:

- A 44-credit hour family psychiatric nurse practitioner master’s degree, which can be completed in four semesters; or
- A 20-credit family psychiatric nurse practitioner “Sprint Track” post master’s certificate designed for those who currently are nurse practitioners in rural areas. The program can be completed in two semesters of full-time study.

Although there are about 1.7 million residents in Nebraska, there are only 211 psychiatrists, 46 psychiatric nurse practitioners and nine psychiatric physician assistants. About 68 percent practice in the Omaha/Lincoln areas, leaving 89 of the 93 counties designated as mental health workforce shortage areas.

UNMC to offer science classes to high school students

A future shortage of health care providers across Nebraska is prompting a community effort to prepare current high school students for health care careers.

An alliance between UNMC and eight Omaha area school districts and an educational service unit will give high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to take college-level science courses in preparation for careers in health care. The alliance will expose students to the varied opportunities in health care-related professions through coursework, hands-on experiences and mentoring, said Bob Bartee, UNMC vice chancellor for external affairs.

The courses – specifically designed for high school students – will be taught by UNMC faculty on the UNMC campus and rely on high school science teachers as collaborative partners. Some of the topics include innovation of medical technologies, medical decision-making and biomedical research. The courses expand on high school classes by allowing students to gain experience in clinic settings and work in labs with world-renowned UNMC researchers, faculty and staff.

While students must meet eligibility requirements, the alliance is open to all students in participating districts. The alliance will welcome its first group of 35 students this fall. The class is the first step toward the development of a health sciences high school in the Omaha metropolitan area.

Most of the courses offered in this program will be eligible for dual enrollment credit with the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

For more information, go to unmc.edu/alliance.htm
25 years of second chances
Every morning Wayne Naro checks his lymph nodes for swelling associated with the cancer that nearly killed him 18 years ago. The ritual is his early warning system against non-Hodgkin lymphoma. With each sunrise, he gives thanks for another cancer-free day – gratitude that always includes UNMC. “I was reconciled with the fact that I wasn’t going to see my children grow up or grow old with my wife,” Naro said. “UNMC was my last chance.”

Naro was the 334th person at UNMC to receive a peripheral stem cell transplant (PSCT), a procedure that was pioneered in 1984 by Anne Kessinger, M.D., professor of oncology/hematology at UNMC and a hematologist/oncologist at The Nebraska Medical Center. Since then, more than 2,800 PSCT’s have been performed at UNMC to treat leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and testicular cancer. Today, Naro’s children are grown, he has a 4-year-old grandson, Lucas, and he and his wife are preparing to retire and move to Louisiana.

“God bless the med center.”
A comprehensive fundraising campaign announced this past fall by the University of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska Foundation will bring UNMC closer to its goal of becoming a world-class academic medical center.

The Campaign for Nebraska seeks to raise $500 million for UNMC priorities as part of a $1.2 billion, four-campus initiative.

“To be world-class means that we will be excellent in everything and outstanding in two or three areas,” said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. “Campaign for Nebraska is a tremendous opportunity to raise the private support needed for key priorities at UNMC that, when achieved, will shape health care and benefit Nebraskans in unprecedented ways.”

To date the foundation has raised more than $682 million toward its goal — the most ambitious in the organization’s 73-year history.

The nine-year campaign began in 2005 and will conclude at the end of 2014.

University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken said the university is one of the most important resources in the state. A primary goal of the campaign is to enhance the university’s ability to serve Nebraskans.

“We want the University of Nebraska to be the best public university in America in terms of the impact we have on the people we serve,” he said. “That’s what motivates us, and it’s what we’re working to achieve.”

In the past decade, donors have invested more than $350 million in new facilities at UNMC and millions more for student scholarships, endowed faculty positions and education and research program support.

“Because of the new facilities, we have been able to recruit outstanding faculty,” Dr. Maurer said. “We’ve developed new programs and have more outstanding students than we’ve ever had in the past. And we’ve done this primarily through private support.”

Every UNMC college, as well as the School of Allied Health Professions, the Munroe-Meyer Institute and the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center have determined their campaign priorities related to research, education and patient care. Individual leadership in each college also has developed campaign committees that involve volunteers from the community and beyond who work closely with deans to achieve the colleges’ goals.

Following are a few of the college fundraising priorities:

- Advance research in head and neck cancer at the College of Dentistry;
- Strengthen research programs in heart, brain and gastrointestinal disease in the College of Medicine;

Members of the UNMC Campaign Committee:

Gail Walling Yanney, M.D., ’61, co-chair
Michael Yanney, co-chair
Richard Bell
Lynne Boyer
Tim Daugherty
Richard Holland
Terry Kroeger
Bruce Lauritzen
John P. Nelson
John A. Scott
Stanley Truhlsen, M.D., ’44
Michael Yanney and Gail Walling Yanney, M.D., ’61, co-chairs of the UNMC Campaign Committee, stand with UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. The campaign’s goal is to raise $500 million for UNMC.

UNMC to the top

- Address the nursing shortage through initiatives and programs in the College of Nursing;
- Develop a laboratory for the study of drug response in the College of Pharmacy to advance personalized medicine;
- Advance maternal and child health, tobacco research and global health programs in the College of Public Health; and
- Create a radiation science technology education simulation center so allied health students can more effectively master the skills needed to use sophisticated radiation technologies.

Although Dr. Maurer is optimistic about UNMC’s future and what that means for Nebraskans, he fully realizes that the possibilities require donors to invest in UNMC’s vision.

“If you walk through this campus you hear a certain hum,” he said. “That’s everybody working together to build the future of health care for Nebraska and beyond — whether it’s education, research, patient care or outreach.

“Many institutions claim that they would like to be world-class. We intend to achieve that goal,” he said. “The campaign can help us complete the journey.”

Learn more about the Campaign for Nebraska at campaignfornebraska.org. For a complete listing of your college’s campaign priorities contact Amy Volk at the University of Nebraska Foundation at 402-502-4112 or avolk@nufoundation.org.

UNMC’s top campaign priorities include:

**Cancer Campus**

With completion of this $250 million project, UNMC will become one of the nation’s premier centers for cancer treatment. The campus will feature state-of-the-art treatment and research facilities that allow physicians and scientists to work collaboratively on the most challenging issues affecting cancer patients. UNMC plans to strengthen research programs in lymphoma, breast, pancreatic and prostate cancers, and in cancer vaccines.

**Stanley M. Truhlsen Eye Institute**

Development of the $40 million eye institute, named for a longtime UNMC faculty member and legendary Omaha ophthalmologist, will bolster education, research and patient care related to ophthalmic health. The incidences of eye diseases related to aging are expected to increase by 30 percent in the next 20 years. The institute will feature clinical research and patient care facilities and an outpatient surgery center.

**Center for Drug Discovery**

The $16 million center will facilitate the discovery and development of drugs to treat new, emerging and neglected infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV and drug-resistant tuberculosis. This facility will allow UNMC to become the first academic medical center in the United States with a drug discovery program focused on infectious diseases. The top five infectious causes of death account for 11.6 million deaths worldwide each year.
College of Nursing alumni and friends can support nursing education, while adding a personal touch to the new Center for Nursing Science on the UNMC campus.

The center, set to open this fall, will feature five classrooms, nine clinical skills development laboratories, six conference rooms, five research spaces, student interaction spaces, faculty offices and more.

The $14 million, 43,000 square-foot building was funded entirely through private donations. Omaha philanthropists Ruth and Bill Scott provided the lead gift for the facility— the largest in the history of the college.

Like the Scotts, UNMC alumni and friends have the opportunity to support Nebraska’s only public academic health science center. Naming opportunities at the new Center for Nursing Science provide a lasting way to show a personal commitment to the college and its goals.

“Because construction of the Center for Nursing Science has so generously been paid for, we have a unique opportunity to honor those making major gifts in support of faculty, students or technology by recognizing them in this beautiful new facility,” said Kathy Wolfe, director of development for the College of Nursing, University of Nebraska Foundation.

Naming opportunities range from $25,000 to name staff and faculty lounges and student study spaces to $1 million for an entire floor. The wall of honor, which will be a feature in the facility’s entrance, also will recognize founding benefactors who make gifts of $2,500 or more.

“The UNMC College of Nursing is proud of the support it has received and proud of those who have been drawn to its cause. It would be our great pleasure to add your name to our building and count you as a founding benefactor,” said Virginia Tilden, D.N.Sc., dean of the College of Nursing.

The center is opening at a critical time in Nebraska’s history as the state faces a visible nursing shortage. Already, 45 of the state’s 93 counties have a clear nursing shortage and by 2020 it is expected the state will need nearly 4,000 more registered nurses.

Dr. Tilden said the shortage is due to a growing shortage of faculty, limited and aging buildings, and overcrowded classrooms. In the fall 2009 semester, only 35 percent of qualified applicants were admitted to the UNMC College of Nursing because of limitations on space and educators.

UNMC has taken a proactive approach to solving this problem with construction of the center. The new facility will enable the college to annually enroll 265 additional students by the year 2020—an increase of nearly 70 percent over the current 385 students. Additionally, 24 more nurse faculty will be added to the current 61, as well as 11 more researchers and staff.

For information on the Center for Nursing Science and naming opportunities, contact Wolfe at (402) 502-4118 or kwolfe@nufoundation.org
Alumni Relations begins administration of SHARING Clinic

In January, the student-run SHARING Clinics came under the administration of UNMC Alumni Relations.

UNMC’s SHARING (Student Health Alliance Reaching Indigent Needy Groups) Clinics are a nationally recognized group of clinics that serve the uninsured and underinsured at little or no cost.

Founded in 1997, the SHARING Clinics include:

- SHARING for general health care;
- RESPECT for STD testing, treatment and counseling; and
- GOODLIFE for diabetes care.

Students and faculty from a variety of disciplines, including medicine, nursing, physical therapy and public health, work together to provide patients with integrated, multidisciplinary care.

“We see this as a very positive opportunity,” said Roxanna Jokela, director of alumni relations. “This will provide a great way to connect UNMC alumni with students while assisting in community service activities.”

College of Pharmacy Alumni Association scholarship recipients

Six College of Pharmacy Alumni Association students were awarded $500 scholarships in recognition of their outstanding achievements in academics and co-curricular activities including organizational involvement, leadership, research and philanthropy/community service.


Translating research into the community

The Center for Clinical and Translational Research was created to improve the translation of research from the “bench” to the bedside and from clinical trials into the community setting. As director of the center, Jennifer Larsen, M.D., professor, diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism, brings investigators from different disciplines – both at UNMC and regionally – together to work on research and health care issues. Reducing rural health disparities is the primary focus of the center. A Web site has been created to provide and communicate resources for the center (clinicalresearch.unmc.edu). Any ideas for information or resources that would be of value to one’s practice or community are welcome in the community engagement section of the Web site. To participate in regional clinical trials or learn more about clinical research or clinical trials opportunities, contact the Center for Clinical and Translational Research administrator Tara Stafford, tstafford@unmc.edu or 402-559-6803.

College of Medicine Alumni Association scholarship recipients

The College of Medicine Alumni Association announced that five medical students received scholarships, totaling more than $60,000, for the 2009-10 academic year. Recipients included: Joseph Hejkal, M1, Omaha, Neb.; Alicia Hinze, M3, Omaha, Neb.; Nathan Krug, M4, Chapman, Neb.; Jared Kvapil, M4, Littleton, Colo.; and Nicole Westercamp, M2, Omaha, Neb. The students were selected from among more than 500 students for their leadership and academic success.

If you are interested in learning more about at the SHARING Clinic, contact UNMC Alumni Relations at alumni@unmc.edu or 559-4385 or 888-725-8664.
Memories abounded as more than 400 alumni and friends gathered at UNMC for educational sessions and campus tours during the annual Alumni Weekend, Oct. 2-3. "The Alumni Reunion Weekend is always a special time and this year was no exception," said Bob Bartee, vice chancellor for external affairs. "There was a fantastic turnout and it was wonderful to see our health care professionals converge on Omaha and enjoy a weekend with friends, colleagues and faculty."


On Oct. 2, alumni toured the UNMC campus, including the new Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education and heard from five UNMC deans at the welcome back lunch.

"Our 50th reunion was a wonderful time to catch up with old classmates," said Carol Swarts, M.D., ’59. "As in other reunions, we found that even though we have aged and gone separate ways, we are still proud Nebraska graduates who have retained the values and ethics we were taught."

"It’s a rare treat to see classmates and their spouses with whom I shared the stress, struggle and joys of medical school," said Dan Bohi, M.D., ’59. "Seeing them 50 years later and hearing what they have done with their lives, reaffirms that the ‘modest midwestern medical school’ that we attended, prepared us well for the path ahead. Seeing the transformation of that school into a world-class medical center is a pleasure to behold!"

The weekend also featured a trolley tour around Omaha and the Alumni Celebration Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Embassy Suites Downtown.

James Reilly, M.D., ’85, outgoing president of the UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association, along with Rebecca Keating-Lefler, Ph.D., ’86, ’87, ’92, ’02, president of the UNMC College of Nursing Alumni Association; John Ridgway, ’72, outgoing president of the UNMC College of Pharmacy Alumni Association and Nicholas Reiss, D.P.T., ’05, president of the UNMC Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter, served as emcees for the dinner.

Eleven UNMC alumni provided reflections on their careers and student days at UNMC on video. Representing their colleges and class years were, from the College of Medicine – Dan Bohi, ’59 and Robert Muelleman, ’84; College of Nursing - Ellie Coniglio, ’04; Kathy Lewis, ’59; Dorothy Patach, ’44; Gretchen Vondrak, ’69; College of Pharmacy - Charles Krrobat, ’69, ’84; Maryann Skrabal, ’94; College of Public Health - Jan Tompkins, ’04; physical therapy - Pat Hageman, ’79; and physician assistant - Pete Thiele, ’99.

If you would like a copy of the 15-minute video, email your request to alumni@unmc.edu and include your home address.

"I enjoyed having contact with classmates," Vondrak said. "How special it was to catch up."

"I haven’t seen many of my classmates in 10 years," said Korie Cochran, PT, ’99. "Everyone had a great time reconnecting."

"I encourage each class to attend their reunion and share news and memories," Dr. Swarts said. "Life is short."

The 2010 UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend is slated for Oct. 8-9. Honor classes will include those ending in ’00 and ’05, and those graduating more than 50 years ago.
2009 UNMC Alumni Award Recipients

UNMC College of Nursing
Alumni Association
Distinguished Alumnus Award
Kathleen E. Chavanu Gorman, M.S.N., R.N.

Kathleen Chavanu Gorman began her academic career at the UNMC College of Nursing earning a bachelor’s of science in nursing degree in 1989 and a master’s of science in nursing degree in 1995.

With 20 years of pediatric nursing experience, Chavanu Gorman has extensive expertise in quality measure setting and improvement, patient safety, executive nursing leadership, evidence-based practice, workforce and nursing outcomes, revenue cycle management, case management, core coordination and utilization management.

Most recently, she joined The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia as senior vice president and chief nursing officer. She was previously employed as vice president of quality and clinical support services at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

UNMC College of Nursing
Alumni Association
Honorary Alumnus Award
Lee J. Handke, Pharm.D.

Lee Handke, Pharm.D., began his pharmacy career when he graduated from UNMC in 1999 as a doctor of pharmacy with distinction. He completed a residency in managed care pharmacy at Walgreens Health Initiatives in Deerfield. In 2005, he received his master of business administration degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

As vice president of health network services with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, Dr. Handke has been responsible for pharmacy trend and resource management, the development and implementation of employer-based wellness initiatives, oversight of provider and facility reimbursement and service and the development of initiatives to promote quality and efficient care for all Nebraskans.

Dr. Handke also has provided a significant contribution to academia. He developed the Medical Center Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Program, which is jointly sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield and UNMC. Since 2000, he has been an adjunct faculty and preceptor at UNMC, where he has been a lecturer in the College of Pharmacy in pharmacy management and drug information courses and has been the site preceptor for the managed care clinical clerkship. He currently serves on the admissions committee at UNMC’s College of Pharmacy.

UNMC College of Medicine
Alumni Association
Early Career Achievement Award
Scott C. Hofmann, M.D.

Scott Hofmann, M.D., graduated from the UNMC College of Medicine, where he earned his medical degree in 1990 with distinction. At UNMC, Dr. Hofmann completed an internship in surgery and a residency in anesthesiology. He was elected chief resident and selected as the outstanding resident in 1994.

Dr. Hofmann is the chief of anesthesiology at the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, a position he has held since 1997. He also is associate professor in anesthesiology at UNMC.

In 2005, Dr. Hofmann was recognized as the Outstanding Physician of the Year by the Omaha chapter of the Association of Operating Room Nurses and, in 2004, received the Internal Medicine Extra Mile Teaching award. He also has served as vice president and president of the UNMC chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha.

UNMC College of Medicine
Alumni Association
Distinguished Alumnus Award
Michael F. Sorrell, M.D.

Michael Sorrell, M.D., launched his career as one of UNMC’s most successful and influential alumni when he received his medical degree in 1959.

From 1960 to 1966, Dr. Sorrell worked as a general practitioner in Tecumseh, Neb. Though he enjoyed private practice, he had aspirations of becoming an academic physician. In 1966, he returned to UNMC to begin a residency in internal medicine, followed by a fellowship in gastroenterology with Fred Pautian, M.D., a legendary UNMC physician and the state’s first specialty-trained gastroenterologist.

In 1971, he joined UNMC as an assistant professor in internal medicine. From 1974 to 1982, he worked at the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in Omaha. In 1981, he became chairman of the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine. From 1991 to 2005, he served as medical director for the liver transplant program and chief of the division of gastroenterology/hepatology.

Dr. Sorrell is the Robert L. Grissom, M.D., Professor of Medicine. He continues to teach and see patients on a full-time basis.

UNMC School of Allied Health Professions
Physician Assistant Founder’s Award
Jesse C. Edwards

Jesse Edwards is the cofounder of the physician assistant program in the UNMC School of Allied Health Professions. In 1971, the Nebraska Legislature mandated the establishment of a PA program at UNMC with Edwards leading the effort. In 1992, he designed and implemented a distance learning program for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree for practicing PAs to further their education. Edwards has won numerous awards and honors recognizing his contribution to the PA profession as well as the UNMC PA Program.
1900s

Frederick W. Karrer M1904 (deceased)
Twenty-nine members of five generations of his family were honored in May 2009 at the "All University Celebration and Salute to Alumni Achievements" hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

1940s

Stanley M. Truhsen M’44
Omaha, Neb., gave a gift that will enable UNMC to build the Stanley M. Truhsen Eye Institute and conduct the most advanced clinical eye care and research in the region.

Virginia M. Johnson N’45
San Diego, Calif., was a labor and delivery nurse and has been married for 64 years to husband, Kennard. They have two daughters: one works as a coder for Kaiser and the other is a nurse in an endoscopic center.

Ruth A. (Schultze) Vogel N’45
Stanton, Neb., is pleased to have a new UNMC College of Nursing Division in Norfolk, Neb. She has a granddaughter in nursing college in Nashville, Tenn.

Edward M. Malashock M’46
Omaha, Neb., was recently honored by The Nebraska Medical Center as a Legends Award recipient.

1950s

Glen D. Knosp M’53
Lincoln, Neb., works part time (25 hours weekly) at Social Security Disability Determination.

Gayle J. (Roxberg) Barrett P’54
Denver, Colo., enjoys retirement from Gates Rubber Company Pharmacy for 12 years, but misses the customers.

Ralph J. Malott M’54
Edmonds, Wash., is busy with woodworking, gardening and traveling.

Warren L. Berggren M’55 & Gretchen M. (Glode) Berggren M’58
Goldin, Colo., both received an "Award for Excellence in Global Health" by the University of Colorado Center for Global Health in October 2009.

1960s

Harold M. Nordlund M’55
York, Neb., is enjoying his 16-year retirement. He spends his time gardening, golfing, traveling and with family and friends.

Harold A. Oberman M’56
Ann Arbor, Mich., was recently inducted into Omaha Central High School’s Hall of Fame at their 11th Annual Hall of Fame Dinner.

Barbara (Dill) Beechner N’57
Kearney, Neb., has retired but is doing volunteer work. Her husband, Richard, went through colon cancer treatment last year.

James M. Donovan M’58
LaJolla, Calif., has been coping with symptoms of post-polio syndrome in recent years. He encourages his classmates and friends to read his online remarks on stem cell research at www.poliotoday.org.

John L. Green M’58
Omaha, Neb., was recently honored by The Nebraska Medical Center as a Legends Award recipient.

W.F. Nye M’58
Lincoln, Neb., reported that his wife, Mary, died in June 2008 of Parkinson’s disease.

Carol E. Swanson N’59
Tampa, Fla., retired from Tampa VA Hospital in 1995 with 27 years of service. The hospital is associated with the University of South Florida.

Michael F. Sorrell M’59
Omaha, Neb., received the UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award during Alumni Weekend in October.

1970s

Robert F. Hamilton M’63
Godfrey, Ill., is on the board of trustees and is an Illinois State Medical Society Senior Fellow of the Heartland Foundation Advisory Board. He also is a charter member of Consumers for Health Care Choices at the Heartland Foundation.

Calvin J. Hobel M’63
Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., was recently awarded the 2009 Pioneer in Medicine Award from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif.

Bruce P. Hutson M’64
Fort Collins, Colo., retired from practice in 2007. He serves as president of a multistate long-term health care corporation.

John J. Clark P’65
McCook, Neb., is officially “retired” but works part time at Community Hospital in McCook and also at the U-Save Pharmacy in McCook. His wife, Virginia, retired from Hitchcock County School after 25 years as a special education resource teacher.

Tony Yankers, M.D., Friends of the McGoogan Library (FOL) president-elect, and Myrna Newland, M.D., ’64, FOL president, talk during the FOL Annual Meeting and Reception.

Philip G. Rosene M’65
Georgetown, Mass., retired from the department of anesthesiology at Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, Mass., after 34 years.

David R. Dyke M’66
Lincoln, Neb., retired from private practice in December, but still provides volunteer G.I. consultative care for the People’s Health Center in Lincoln.

Duane W. Krause M’67
Fremont, Neb., retired from his radiology practice in 2001 but still does radiology locum tenens part time in Nebraska, California and Washington.

John H. Worthman M’61
Cozad, Neb., recently retired after a 47-year career in the medical profession.

V. Franklin Colon M’63
Maineville, Ohio, retired in 2006. He participates in local politics as a volunteer and watches his three grandchildren, ages 10, 8 and 1, grow up. He still speaks occasionally on medical malpractice prevention.
Donald M. Gentry M’68
Gering, Neb., retired in December 2007.

Alfred E. Hartmann M’68
Sioux Falls, S.D., recently was honored with the College of American Pathologists Laboratory Improvement Program Service Award.

Sharon R. Redding N’68
Omaha, Neb., presented a paper at the Mercy Education Carlow Roundtable in Sligo, Ireland, in June as well as visiting Ann Hasebrook Jaeggi (N’68) in Switzerland, the Florence Nightingale Museum in London and Nightingale’s burial site in England.

James L. Casey M’69
Overland Park, Kan., has joined the Cotton-O’Neil medical staff. He is a pediatric endocrinologist, most recently serving as section chief of pediatric endocrinology at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan.

Susan G. Gasteyer M’69
Fort Washington, Penn., enjoys “grandmotherhood x 2” and work.

Richard E. Imm M’69
Chassell, Mich., retired from family medicine practice in 2008. He is an active member of the National Ski Patrol (both Nordic and Alpine).

Kanchan L. Lodhia M’69
Lawton, Okla., enjoyed meeting classmates, spouses and faculty at the 40th class reunion in October 2009. He still practices anesthesia half-time at Reynolds Army Hospital in Fort Sill, Okla.

Robert S. Wigton M’69
Omaha, Neb., was recently inducted into Omaha Central High School’s Hall of Fame.

1970s

Joseph P. Drozda Jr. M’70
Chesterfield, Mo., has been appointed medical director of comparative effectiveness research at Sisters of Mercy Health System. Also, he serves as chairman of the Clinical Quality Committee of the American College of Cardiology.

Joel F. Hutchins M’70
Gordon, Neb., retired on July 31, 2009. He now “works” at restoring old cars – his current project is a 1970 E type Jaguar.

Rich A. Savage M’70
Grant, Neb., and his wife, Joy, recently moved to the community to serve the Grant and Big Springs United Methodist Churches as reverend ministers.

Van E. Vaule M’70
Seward, Neb., was named 2009 Nebraska Family Physician of the Year. Dr. Vaule serves on the UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association board of directors.

Stephan K. Woodman M’70
Omaha, Neb., has worked part time at UNMC for the past two years. After 33 years in Grand Island, he and his wife, Maragry (N’69), moved to Omaha in April 2009.

Andrea S. Hazen PT’72
Omaha, Neb., has been employed at Bergan Mercy for 37 years. She is now the director of rehabilitation and respiratory therapy. She is married with five grandchildren and has a summer cabin in Colorado.

James D. Ogge M’72

James N. Shreck M’72
North Platte, Neb., serves as Rotary International District Governor for District 5630. He and his wife, Annette, have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Thomas E. Novotny M’73
San Diego, Calif., is a professor and associate director for global & border health at San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health.

William R. Palmer M’73
Omaha, Neb., was voted among the “Best Doctors in America” in rheumatology by his peers. He has been given this honor every year since 1996.

David H. Filipi M’74
Omaha, Neb., was elected president of the Nebraska Medical Association at its 141st Annual Session in October 2009.

Edward E. Gatz M’74
Omaha, Neb., has recovered from Stage 3B esophageal cancer that was diagnosed in 1988.

Daniel C. Danaher PA’75
Lincoln, Neb., recently returned to Lincoln after serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He has 24 years of military service.

Gene N. Herbek M’75
Omaha, Neb., was re-elected as secretary-treasurer of the American College of American Pathologists in October 2009.

Jeff N. MacDonald M’75
Boulder, Colo., retired to Boulder after a career in aerospace medicine, and anesthesia and emergency medicine in underserved areas of Nebraska.

James W. Miller M’75
Hastings, Neb., is the head of a UNMC legacy family. His son, Mathew M’05, is an internist at the University of Michigan Hospital. His daughter, Paige D’04, works in Omaha. His daughter-in-law, Jennifer Griffin-Miller M’02 is completing a fellowship at the University of Michigan in breast cancer research.

James G. Routledge M’75
Crafton, Md., retired as Air Force Surgeon General in August 2009. He then joined the firm of Martin, Blanck and Associates as a senior partner.

George A. Charnock M’76
Valencia, Calif., has completed 28 years of a solo endocrinology practice with plans to continue until age 100! His daughter, Katie, has completed medical school at Georgetown University and is doing a pediatrics residency.

Virginia French (Farley) PT’76
Wichita, Kan., works as the Institutional Review Board Director at Wichita Medical Research & Education Foundation.

Thomas H. Wig M’76
Duluth, Minn., has gone off the active call schedule and turned over his chief of surgery duties to his younger colleagues. He still maintains a .5 elective clinical practice and also is the physician lead for the building and implementation of his organization’s electronic medical record project.

Karen M. Higgins M’77
Grand Island, Neb., received the Outstanding Volunteer Faculty Teaching Award from the UNMC Department of Pediatrics at the seventh annual Pediatric Research Forum in Omaha. Dr. Higgins also received the award in 2000. She has been a member of UNMC’s volunteer faculty since 1980.

James R. O’Dell M’77
Omaha, Neb., is co-author of a recent study showing less expensive drug therapies used to treat rheumatoid arthritis are just as effective as more expensive options. He also was recently appointed secretary of the American College of Rheumatology.

Nancy L. Snyderman M’77
New York, N.Y., NBC’s chief medical editor and a prominent head and neck surgeon, joined relief efforts in Haiti, performing surgeries.
Alan G. Thorson M’79
Omaha, Neb., received the 2009 Individual Volunteer Service Award at the Nebraska Public Health Conference in April. He also was inaugurated as president of the American Cancer Society in November 2009.

Paul W. Kampfe M’80
Lincoln, Neb., recently joined Surgical Specialists, LLC as a specialist in general and laparoscopic surgery.

Patricia S. Klarr M’80
Northville, Mich., was elected to the Executive Committee for Clinical Affairs at the University of Michigan Hospital.

Keith M. Olsen P’80
Omaha, Neb., has been elected to serve a three-year term to the Board of Regents of the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

Joyce M Black N’81
Omaha, Neb., was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by her alma mater, Winona State University, during its spring commencement ceremony. This is only the fourth honorary doctorate degree awarded by the school in its 151-year history.

Jane E. Hokanson Hawks N’81
Underwood, Iowa, was appointed to the Medical-Surgical Nurse Content Expert Panel of the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center. She also received the Russell Church Memorial for her lecture on “Quality: a Core Competency for Nursing” at the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates Annual Conference, 2009.

Jeffrey G. Hines P’82
Lincoln, Neb., serves on the College of Pharmacy’s Alumni Association Board. He has two sons and two grandchildren. His youngest child is in pharmacy school at Creighton University in Omaha.

Richard F. Klug M’82
McCook, Neb., recently was awarded the Colorado Physicians Insurance Company’s (COPIC) Harold E. Williamson Award for Nebraska. As a result, he received a $10,000 grant to be designated to the non-profit organization of his choice.

Dwayne L. DeTurk M’83
Salina, Kan., recently completed his first novel, “So Much More,” a story about an autistic boy whose talent for music is discovered by a young nursing student. He spent about two years writing the story, but actually wrote most of it in his head during the previous five years. His book is self-published.

Rodney S. Markin M’83
Omaha, Neb., received the Lifetime Achievement Award from UNeMed Corporation for his innovations that have transformed the clinical laboratory.

Missy Ofe Fleck N’84
Lincoln, Neb., recently received the Outstanding Nurse Educator Award from the Nebraska Nurses Association. She is a UNMC faculty member at the College of Nursing Lincoln Division.

David V. O’Dell M’84
Omaha, Neb., was voted among the “Best Doctors in America” in the field of internal medicine by his peers.

Eric M. Williams M’84
Lincoln, Neb., is the senior member of the Lincoln Radiology Group and serves as medical director for the department of radiology at BryanLGH Medical Center.

Kathy Morse M’86
Kiowa, Colo., started to cut back on her practice as of July 2009 as a transition to retirement in 2011. She and her husband, Ivan Schlaching, plan to move east of Castle Rock and spend more time with family.
1990s

Scott C. Hofmann M’90
Omaha, Neb., was awarded the UNMC College of Medicine Alumni Association’s Early Career Achievement Award during Alumni Weekend in October.

Todd A. Rave M’91
Stevens Point, Wis., has been named medical director for neurosciences of Ministry Medical Group-CR.

Todd Pankratz M’92
Hastings, Neb., recently conducted an educational program for women on “Menopause and Facts & Myth about Hormone Replacement Therapy” at the Community Hospital in Hastings.

Mark R. Schlimgen M’92
Eau Claire, Wis., sits on the Oakleaf Surgical Hospital Board. Oakleaf Hospital, a physician-owned hospital in Eau Claire, recently was ranked as the No. 1 hospital by Consumer Reports magazine.

Leanna J. Scott-Timperley M’92
Santa Fe, N.M., delivered the commencement address at Chadron State College in May. She earned degrees from Chadron in 1974 and 1976.

Phyllis J. Byrd M’94
Omaha, Neb., sees patients in her midtown office, as well as the Darst Clinic in West Omaha.

Wendy L. Wells N’96
Scottsbluff, Neb., recently was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Nursing Award from the Nebraska Nurses Association. She is a UNMC faculty member at the College of Nursing’s Western Nebraska campus in Scottsbluff.

James M. Allen PA’97
McCook, Neb., recently opened the Quality Urgent Care Clinic in McCook.

Amy J. (Pinkall) Holst M’97
Lincoln, Neb., was the graduation speaker at her high school alma mater, Gretna High School.

Patrik L. Johansson M’97
Omaha, Neb., is the new director of the Rural Health Education Network at UNMC. The Mashe Wampanoag Tribe honored him for his commitment to community service efforts.

Shelley J. McCoy M’97
Scottsbluff, Neb., has joined the medical staff at Garden County Health Services.

Daniel J. Tomes M’97
Lincoln, Neb., practices with the Neurological and Spinal Surgery LLC. Dr. Tomes is president of the newly opened Southwest Lincoln Surgery Center LLC, which offers multispecialty outpatient surgical services.

Sarah Linderman PT’98
Lincoln, Neb., is certified as a STOTT Pilates instructor.

Matthew A. Beacom M’99
Fremont, Neb., was inducted into the Cedar Bluffs High School Hall of Fame. He is a 1989 graduate of the school. He also recently received the Nebraska Medical Association’s Young Physician of the Year Award.

Lee J. Handke P’99
Omaha, Neb., was awarded the UNMC College of Pharmacy Alumni Association’s Early Career Achievement Award during Alumni Weekend in October.

2000s

Dusty G. (de Koing) Duis N’00
Beatrice, Neb., works for the Dialysis Center of Beatrice, is the school nurse for the Diller/Odell Public Schools and serves on the membership committee of the Nebraska School Nurse Association board of directors.

Moya M. Zimmerman N’00
Gering, Neb., has joined the staff at Morrill County Hospital and clinics in Bridgeport.

Kathryn M. Kenna M’02
Grand Island, Neb., recently joined the Grand Island Clinic staff. Her focus is on female health care.

Sussy L. King M’02
Norfolk, Neb., joined the Norfolk Medical Group on Sept. 1.

Marcus H. Snow M’02
Omaha, Neb., has joined the rheumatology care team at the Westroads Medical Group.
Rapid City, S.D., works in clinical pharmacy with Indian Health Service (IHS), which he finds gratifying. He has implemented an anti-coagulation clinic at one site. He also started work at Rapid City IHS Hospital in January.

Ben L. Fagot M’04
Stapleton, Neb., is an emergency room doctor at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte. He recently celebrated his one-year anniversary as a Stapleton EMT doctor.

Kelly M. Cameron PT’05
Omaha, Neb., has two children, Caleb, 3 and Connor, 1.

Robert Dyer PT’05
Cazad, Neb., and his wife, Ann are expecting their third child this spring. Their two children are Megan, 5 and Jason, 3.

Katherine A. Hanson M’05
Omaha, Neb., recently joined the internal medicine department at Methodist Hospital in Omaha.

Mylissa Tolle N’05
Kearney, Neb., was named branch manager for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society Home Care of Central Nebraska.

Jason K. Hesser M’06 & Kate E. Hesser M’06
Crete, Neb., joined the Crete Area Medical Center in August, with Jason returning full-time in January after his military service.

Amanda Luessen M’06
Lakeland, Fla., has completed her pediatrics residency at the University of Florida in Gainesville. She has accepted a position as a pediatric hospitalist with the Watson Clinic.

Medical Residents

Guy Giroux, M.D.
Has completed his pain management fellowship at UNMC and recently joined the St. Francis Health Center as a pain management physician.

Joseph P. Jeanette Jr., M.D.
Completed surgery residency at UNMC and is stationed at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Fort Hood, Texas where he was the first surgeon to start triaging the injured in the ER after the recent shooting there.

Michael D. Schmiesing, M.D.
Glenwood, Iowa, relocated to Glenwood from Platte, S.D., and is a family practice physician at the Glenwood Methodist Physician’s Clinic.

Marriages

Colleen M. (Cannon) Spieler M’91

Josh J. Gortemaker M’04

Carrie Lynn Dickes PA ’06
Omaha, Neb., married Derek Torczon on June 27, 2009, in Fordyce, Neb.

Lindsey Jo Novak PA’09

Births

Jeffrey S. Jeter PT’93
Appleton, Wis., and his wife, Sonja, welcomed their first child, Keegan Samuel, on Sept. 17, 2009.

Matthew E. Bornschlegl PT’99 & Staci Bornschlegl PT’01
Lincoln, Neb., welcomed their second child, Alii Marie, on March 4, 2009.

Elizabeth A. (Bures) Barkoudah M’04
Jamaica Plain, Mass., and her husband, Ebrahim, welcomed Isabelle Salwah on May 14, 2009.

Amber R. (Ketteler) McLaughlin PT’05

Nicholle R. Peralta M’07
Hayward, Calif., welcomed her son, Dante Douglas, on May 5, 2009.

In Remembrance...

James K. Shafer M’38
Bethesda, Md., July 30, 2009

Harold J. Grovert P’40
Fort Collins, Colo., March 26, 2007
Jerome H. Hirschmann M’41
Winnetka, Ill., Nov. 1, 2009

Eleanor M. Bennett M’42
Cambridge, Neb., Dec. 23, 2008

John G. Lavender M’43
Sioux Falls, S.D., July 13, 2009

Leslie Carl Meyer M’43
Greenville, S.C., Oct. 4, 2009

Richard C. Delfs M’44
Fremont, Calif., Dec. 23, 2007

Charles Truman Streeter M’45
Wilson, N.C., Dec. 10, 2009

Frank Dixon Conlin M’46
Hilton Head Plantation, S.C., July 31, 2009

Deane A. Petersen M’46
Omaha, Neb., Oct. 15, 2009

Lee D. Gartner M’49
Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 23, 2009

Bernard J. Moran D’49
Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 25, 2009

Albertus (Bud) F. Dodson M’50
Green Valley, Ariz., Oct. 31, 2009

Frank C. McClanahan M’50
Greensburg, N.C., Aug. 19, 2009

Willis F. Stanage M’51
Yankton, S.D., Aug. 4, 2009

Robert L. Bierbower M’52
Shelby, Neb., June 29, 2009

Marilene D. Hillmer N’52
West Haven, Conn., Dec. 17, 2009

Henry J. Kellogg M’52
Troutdale, Ore., Feb. 5, 2009

Warren R. Miller M’52
Omaha, Neb., Nov. 12, 2009

Margery A. (Pollman) Dolph N’53
Portland, Ore., Aug. 25, 2009

Coll Y. Kamprath M’53
Estes Park, Colo., June 25, 2009

Harold D. Dahlheim M’54
Nortol, Neb., Oct. 12, 2009

James Hazelrigg M’54
Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 18, 2009

George Andrew Harris M’56
Manchester, Neb., Dec. 23, 2009

Jack K. Wier P’56
Danbury, Conn., Dec. 21, 2008

Lorraine L. Hedman N’59
Omaha, Neb., Jan. 8, 2010

Carl R. Saunders D’59
Ogden, Utah, June 21, 2009

Robert W. Turner Jr. M’59
Omaha, Neb., Nov. 18, 2009

Mardell Buss M’64
Mill Valley, Calif., Nov. 5, 2009

Richard K. Green M’64
Council Bluffs, Iowa, Oct. 8, 2009

William Gust, M.D., M’67, Faculty
Omaha, Neb., Oct. 1, 2009

John J. Hoesing M’67
Omaha, Neb., Dec. 15, 2009

Mark A. Christensen M’73
Omaha, Neb., July 16, 2008

James T. Hartford M’73
Albion, Neb., June 21, 2009

We apologize for not being able to publish all class notes due to the overwhelming number received for this edition. Please visit your alumni chapter Website at http://unmc.edu/alumni/chapters.htm for a complete listing of class notes. Thank you for your notes.

We love hearing from you! Please send your professional and personal news for Class Notes to:

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Be sure to indicate if you are a UNMC alumn.
What is a colposcopy?
Should I take a multivitamin?
How do I slow the aging process?

When it comes to your health, you want to hear from the experts.

For the past year, more than 8.6 million viewers have received valuable information on a variety of health topics thanks to a partnership with Omaha’s KETV NewsWatch 7.

The “Health Watch Asks, UNMC Answers” segments answer questions viewers want to know: Should I use ice or heat on an injury? Should I use a manual or electric toothbrush? How can I control weight gain?

Shown five days a week, the one-minute long segments — now totaling more than 150 — also are available on UNMC’s YouTube channel (search: Ask UNMC).

Using a question and answer format, the national award-winning segments highlight the work and talent of UNMC faculty, said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D.

“In addition to training future health care professionals, our faculty continually look for ways to serve our community,” he said. “These segments allow us to share our expertise on a broad spectrum of health subjects such as dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy, nursing, research, public health and medicine.”

“This is an excellent opportunity for patients to become advocates for their health and well-being,” said Rodney Markin, M.D., Ph.D., ’83, president of UNMC’s physician practice group, UNMC Physicians. “This partnership empowers people with critical information that they can use in their daily lives.”

The Association of American Medical Colleges Group on Institutional Advancement has called the project “a great example of how an academic medical center can partner with local media to benefit public health.” So impressed, UNMC has won its national Award of Excellence.

Staff members in UNMC’s Public Relations Department tape five weekly segments, which then air on newscasts from Friday night through Monday morning. The segments are produced weekly which allows UNMC’s public relations staff to feature experts’ insights into breaking health news topics.

“Medical information is something everyone wants and needs,” said Rose Ann Shannon, KETV NewsWatch 7 news director. “The topics are simple and straightforward and each segment provides useful information for viewers.”

According to Nielsen ratings, KETV NewsWatch 7 has the highest rated newscasts in the Omaha television market. UNMC’s goal is to expand the segments to television and radio stations across Nebraska.

“This is a great opportunity for us to share our expertise, not only with Nebraskans, but globally,” said Renee Fry, UNMC public relations director.

What is a colposcopy? Learn the answer to this and other health-related questions at www.unmc.edu (click on the “Ask UNMC” link under the “Community” section).
A Financial Institution Created for Health Care Professionals

Over 50 years ago, a dedicated group of health care professionals got together to create a financial institution designed to serve their fellow co-workers.

The institution they created was Metro Health Services Federal Credit Union. Today, Metro Credit Union is still providing value-priced financial services to members of the health care profession.

Credit Unions are different from banks in that their not-for-profit philosophy provides members with better rates on savings, better rates on loans, lower fees and great service.

You Can Take Advantage . . .

. . . of the Metro Credit Union difference. The financial institution created by your predecessors is available to you today.

You’ll love our nine UNMC campus ATMs, our ultra-convenient UNeCard program and the convenience of our five Omaha-area branch locations!

Discover a Better Way of Banking with the financial institution designed for health care professionals . . . Metro Health Services Federal Credit Union!
UNMC Central Nebraska All Alumni Gathering
Saturday, March 20, 2010
5:30 p.m. Reception, 6:30 p.m. Dinner
Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Kearney

The Last Blast at the Blatt
Tuesday, May 18, 2010
Huskers vs. Creighton Bluejays
Rosenblatt Stadium, Omaha

RHOP Alumni Reunion
July 16-17, 2010
Celebration Dinner - Saturday, July 17
Embassy Suites Omaha - Old Market/Downtown

Alumni Reunion Weekend
October 8-9, 2010
Reserve your hotel room now!
Hilton Omaha
1001 Cass Street, Omaha
(402)998-3400
Mention the UNMC Reunion for a rate of $119.

Visit our Web site and watch your mail for details.

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