An accurate diagnosis involves much more than asking the patient a series of questions. The physician must be a detective and look at every possible detail that might provide a clue. On page 20, you’ll read about two prominent artists who show UNMC students how keen observation skills can help solve medical mysteries. One of those artists, Mark Gilbert, hones his observational skills by drawing patients.
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Accelerated nursing program addresses workforce shortage

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Emergency preparedness plans stand between order and chaos

Granting wishes for good health
New college to address public health challenges

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We value your opinion and welcome letters to the editor. Please send your letter to UNMC Connect Editor, UNMC, 985230 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-5230, or email ekumru@unmc.edu. Letters will be verified before they are printed.
Inaugural UNMC Delegates Dinner
Monday, Aug. 20, 5:15 p.m., Durham Research Center, UNMC

College of Pharmacy
White Coat Ceremony
Wednesday, Aug. 22, 5:30 p.m., Durham Research Center, UNMC

College of Medicine Family Day
Friday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m., Durham Research Center, UNMC

College of Medicine
White Coat Ceremony
Friday, Aug. 24, 2 p.m. Strauss Performing Arts Center, UNO

Campus-wide Welcome Party
Hosted by UNMC Alumni
Thursday, Aug. 30, 4-6 p.m., UNMC campus

UNMC Alumni Reunion Weekend
Friday and Saturday, Oct. 5-6, UNMC campus and Omaha Hilton

College of Nursing Induction Ceremony
Sunday, Oct. 14, Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha and Scottsbluff

College of Medicine Parents and Family Association Fall Reception
Friday, Nov. 9, 5-8 p.m., Alumni House, UNMC

UNMC Alumni
Holiday Open House
Thursday, Dec. 6, 4:30-7 p.m., Alumni House, UNMC
On the following pages, you'll see some of the truly great things taking place here at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. UNMC’s trajectory never has been at a higher angle, and we’re delighted to be able to share with you a few of our successes.

An area of the medical center that often is overlooked is our impact on the economy. An article on page 16 details the positive impact that one UNMC graduate – Jesse Neal, D.D.S. – has had on the economy of the community of Alma, in south central Nebraska. One study showed that a single dentist has an economic impact of $1.2 million annually on a community.

Our graduates are just one example of the impact that we have on the economy. A study conducted earlier this year examined our impact. The study found that UNMC and its hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center, have a $1.5 billion annual impact on the state’s economy. That’s an average of about $4.1 million per day, or over $875 for every man, woman and child in Nebraska.

I believe that of the report’s many findings, a couple are key. One is that we are good stewards of the money that is provided to us via the state Legislature. For every dollar invested by the state, the medical center returns $14. I’m very proud of that accomplishment.

I think it’s important to note, too, that only about 26 percent of UNMC’s budget – and only 10 percent when we include the hospital’s budget – comes from the state’s general fund appropriation.

The second finding that I’d like to highlight regards UNMC’s research enterprise, a true economic driver for the state. Last year, UNMC earned $80 million in research support. The U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that every $1 million of research funding creates 31 new jobs. As a result, UNMC’s research enterprise supports more than 2,400 jobs. That number will continue to grow in the coming years.

All told, I believe the study showed what we’ve said for some time. That is, the medical center is a primary player in the state’s economy, and we’re doing more than our share to grow the economy and to make our state flourish.

Thank you for reading this initial issue of “UNMC Connect,” a new publication at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This publication incorporates news about many of our major campus initiatives, as well as class notes and other information that traditionally have been sent via individual alumni newsletters. The editors of this publication and I are excited to hear and read your feedback.

HAROLD M. MAURER, M.D.
Chancellor
NURSING ON THE RUN

ACCELERATED PROGRAMS ATTRACT NURSES WISHING TO BOOST SKILLS AND PAY.

Seventy exams, fifteen 20-page papers, and 40 other various assignments and PowerPoint presentations.

Most students seeking a bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.N.) would have two-and-a-half years to get through all of the work required to earn the degree.

Elizabeth (Higgins) Hytrek, who graduated from UNMC at the end of 2006, only had 12 months.

“I wouldn’t do it any other way,” Hytrek said. “It was much tougher than I expected, but it really prepares you for the rigors of nursing.”

Today, Hytrek works in the fast-paced environment of the emergency room, in a fellowship program at The Nebraska Medical Center.

This kind of program is exactly what the state needs to quickly fill nursing positions, said Charlene Kelly, Ph.D., section administrator for nursing and nursing support in the Nebraska Department of Regulation and Licensure.

Nursing schools need faculty. Hospitals and doctors offices across the country need qualified nurses.

Finding enough nurses who can teach the next generation and tend to the sick has become one of the biggest challenges of this century, said Dr. Kelly ’71.

A 20 percent shortage of nurses is estimated by the year 2020.

“Increasing the number of nursing instructors is a big struggle,” said Judy McGee ’97, chairwoman of the Center for Nursing board. “We expect a shortage of instructors in the next five years.”
Who will teach the next generation?

In 2004, UNMC’s College of Nursing addressed this challenge by initiating two programs:

- The Accelerated B.S.N., aimed at helping professionals, like Hytrek, who already have a degree, but want to shift careers and obtain a B.S.N. in one year.
- The Fast Track Ph.D. program, aimed at helping nurses with a bachelor’s degree earn a doctorate within four years.

“In most academic disciplines, it takes up to nine years for students to complete the undergraduate program and then earn a Ph.D.,” said Ann Berger, Ph.D. ’84, director of the Fast Track program at UNMC.

That’s if the person focuses only on going to school full-time, Dr. Berger said. But in real life, often what happens is the student graduates with a B.S.N., gets a job, marries, has children, buys a house and then has too many financial responsibilities and not enough time to pursue a doctorate.

“The average age of a nurse entering the Ph.D. program is 42 and that’s usually on a part-time basis,” she said. “By the time they begin teaching they’re almost 50. That doesn’t leave much time for teaching and research before retirement.”

Dr. Berger said it is hoped that the Fast Track program will entice younger people to enter academics.

Currently there are five students enrolled in the program.

Doctoral student Heidi Keeler said the Fast Track program allows her to combine her desire to teach with her passion for evoking change in the nursing profession.

“I started my graduate career in law school to learn more about policy and legislation, but after a year switched to the Fast Track program at UNMC because I knew that I wanted to teach at the university level,” Keeler said.

“Now I am learning how to conduct research that will directly affect health-related legislation and I hope to use my legal experience to become not just an advocate for my patients but for my profession as well,” she said.

The Accelerated B.S.N. track has grown increasingly popular

“WE EXPECT A SHORTAGE OF INSTRUCTORS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. WHO WILL TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION?” – Judy McGee

since its inception two years ago, said Louise LaFramboise, Ph.D., director of the undergraduate program.

With only 16 openings in Omaha, eight in Lincoln and 10 in Scottsbluff, and up to four times the number of applications, competition to get in is tough.

The program has not only proven popular but successful as well, Dr. LaFramboise said.

“The accelerated program has graduated 40 students with an NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) first time pass rate of 97.5 percent,” she said.

Dr. LaFramboise said that once students are in the program,
they find it challenging to keep up with the course work and a social life.

“Students are strongly encouraged to minimize personal commitments prior to entering the program,” she said. “Sometimes the need to do that isn’t apparent until they find themselves challenged with the significant responsibilities of the program.”

So far, all of the students have succeeded with that challenge, she said.

Elizabeth Hytrek said the fast pace was ‘dizzying’ at times, but she credits excellent instructors and her classmates with providing the support she needed to get through the year.

“The instructors were amazing, the class size was perfect, and we relied on teamwork to help each other get through,” she said.

Hytrek’s classmate, and fellow graduate, Katie Seger agrees.

The oncology nurse moved from Seattle to Omaha to enroll in the program last year and by December already had a job lined up at the children’s hospital in her hometown.

“It was really intense, but in the end it made me grow as a person and as a team member, which is extremely important in what I do now,” Seger said.

Clinical rotations were another way the program prepared her for real life, she said.

“So, from the second day of class, we worked 12-hour rotations. That set the tone for the rest of our learning experience,” Seger said.

Fifth nursing division planned for Norfolk

A new division of nursing is being planned for the Norfolk area to further address the nursing shortage.

A letter of intent with Northeast Community College and Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk was signed in April to establish a UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division. Two requirements remain – a joint operating agreement and an academic affiliation agreement – both expected to be completed in 2008.

The proposed nursing division would offer bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees and could reduce the significant nursing workforce shortage in the region.

Advanced degrees boost average income 20 percent to 90 percent.

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A Special Camp for Special Kids

by Lisa Spellman

The charm is in the ordinary at UNMC’s Munroe-Meyer Institute camp.

Recreation technicians and volunteers create traditional day camp activities: sing-alongs, art projects, sports, cooking, swimming, gardening, music and community outings. But, this camp is extraordinary because of the children it serves.

These children have developmental disabilities.

Celebrating its 25th year, Camp Munroe serves more than 200 kids each summer between the ages of 3 and 21 who have mild to severe developmental disabilities.

The six-week program provides respite for families and learning experiences for volunteers, who are junior high students earning community service hours or are just gaining experience. Using a buddy system, each camper is placed in small groups based on their age and has a volunteer or staff member assigned to them for the day. Participants may attend camp for one or more weeks.

“Camp Munroe is unique because it is the only full service day camp in the Omaha metro area for special needs children,” said Director Michael Crawford, Ph.D.

The unique summer recreational program is part of the Munroe-Meyer Institute’s Recreational Therapy Program.
Hurricane Katrina.
The Virginia Tech shootings.
Each crisis exposed the vulnerability of organizations, and underscored the importance of planning for the unexpected. A flexible plan can guide an organization through chaos and uncertainty so that it can continue to function and respond to the needs of its constituents.

For nearly two years, faculty, staff and students at UNMC, The Nebraska Medical Center and UNMC Physicians have been planning for one of the biggest anticipated public health threats ever: pandemic flu.

A pandemic flu would pose a monumental challenge to the world’s health, economic and social infrastructure. Public health experts say millions of people worldwide could die. Officials estimate up to 1.9 million people could die in the United States alone.

In Nebraska, the death toll could reach 10,832. With a rapidly spreading disease, governmental and health care systems could quickly become overwhelmed. Although the medical center has 689 licensed beds and a 10-bed biocontainment unit – the largest of three such units in the country – off-site facilities would be needed.

Leading the charge for pandemic flu preparedness are Don Leuenberger, UNMC vice chancellor for business and finance, and Cindy Owen, vice president of corporate affairs, The Nebraska Medical Center.

They have charged eight committees to plan and coordinate clinical staffing, communication, employee health, supply, triage, mental health, support staffing, facilities and security. All contingencies are anticipated.

“We’re focused on pandemic events under the supposition that if we can respond to those adequately, we also can respond to tornadoes, floods and other natural events,” Leuenberger said. “Our goal is to ensure that as a campus, we have done the necessary preparation so that we can sustain medical services, identify essential personnel and assemble security to make an effective response.”
The team also is focused on making faculty and staff members aware of how to personally plan for a pandemic, including stockpiling basic necessities.

The team is working with the governor’s office, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, the Center for Biopreparedness Education, Douglas County Health Department, the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the military.

“Our mission and our expertise make us a focal point for any medical response in the community and in the state,” Leuenberger said.

A myriad of issues are being addressed during planning meetings including identifying essential employees, determining which academic, clinical and hospital services to suspend, and dealing with issues of compensation, quarantine, labor pools, and alternative accommodations for patients if hospital beds are filled.

The hospital’s planning efforts focus on preserving the life and safety of its staff members and students, Owen said, as well as sustaining its mission to provide health care for the community.

“Hospitals and health care professionals are part of the first responders that help keep our community safe in any natural or manmade disaster,” Owen said. “It’s our responsibility to be prepared for such events even though we’re hoping they never happen.

“We learned a lot of lessons from Katrina, which was on a regional scale. In planning for this, we’re trying to imagine a catastrophe of the same magnitude across the country. The federal and state government expects hospitals, communities and individuals to be able to self-sustain for seven to 10 days at the beginning of a disaster,” she said.

Along with the massive planning effort is education of employees and the public. The medical center so far has held 12 campus forums on the topic of pandemic flu. More education is planned.

Planning for such a large-scale disaster will serve the medical center and state well, regardless of the catastrophe.

“The question has always been ‘when’ a crisis will occur, not ‘if,’” Leuenberger said. “Planning makes the difference in an organization’s ability to respond effectively.”

Develop a Family Plan

Download a check list to help prepare your family for any large-scale emergency from any of these Web sites:

- www.pandemicflu.gov
- www.hhss.ne.gov/pandemic
- www.unmc.edu/avianflu
GRANTING WISHES FOR GOOD HEALTH

by Karen Burbach

“A PERSON WHO HAS HEALTH HAS A THOUSAND WISHES, THE PERSON WHO DOESN’T, HAS BUT ONE.”

ANONYMOUS

TOBACCO CONTROL AND CANCER PREVENTION
AG INJURIES AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURE
HEALTH DISPARITIES
BIOSECURITY
EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES
EPIDEMICS
OBESITY
HEALTH WORKFORCE ISSUE
OVERBURDENED HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS
HYPERTENSION
MALNUTRITION URBAN HEALTH
TB
It took science and medicine 900 years to raise the life expectancy of humans from 25 to nearly 50 years. By 1900, a person could expect to live less than 50 years. More than a century later, that expectation had risen to 78. Now, UNMC’s new College of Public Health is poised to help Nebraskans live even longer, healthier lives.

Not many people remember polio anymore.

Those who do recall how terrified parents in the 1940s and 50s were as the unpredictable and enigmatic disease killed, crippled or confined children to an iron lung.

Although no cure was found, a public health breakthrough occurred in 1955 when the Salk vaccine was shown to be effective in preventing the disease.

Today, polio is an all-but-forgotten disease and a poster child to boast 20th century triumphs in public health.

Health matters to us all. With it, thousands of wishes fill our heads. Without it, we have only one.

Public health – whether we realize it or not – is the genie that helps grant wishes for a longer, healthier life. Already, it has extended our life span, lowered infant and child mortality rates and eradicated such communicable diseases as smallpox.

Now, the creation of a new College of Public Health at UNMC is poised to grant even more wishes.

“The college has tremendous potential to truly make a difference for all the citizens of Nebraska,” said Jay Noren, M.D., dean of the College of Public Health. “It is a thrill to be on the ground floor of this landmark event.”

UNMC has the only public health college in Nebraska and the only one in a large north central section of the country, spanning 1,400 miles east and west and 800 miles north and south – from the University of Iowa to the University of Washington, and the University of Minnesota to the University of Oklahoma.

“The College of Public Health is the last jewel in UNMC’s crown to be a full academic health science center,” said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D. “A college of public health is different than almost every other college, in that, it’s not just faculty and students, but hospital administrators, chief medical officers, government and public health systems.”

Essentially, the public health team works to prevent disease in populations, as opposed to medicine that works to cure disease in individuals who already are ill.

Building a new college is no small feat.

Lyndon Johnson was president the last time UNMC opened a new college in 1968. That same year, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated and the cost of a first-class stamp rose to 6-cents. Dr. Noren, meanwhile, was in his second year at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Fast forward 39 years to Jan. 19 when – less than six months after the University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved its establishment – the College of Public Health became fully operational with Dr. Noren at the helm.
It was a landmark event for the state. Only 38 of the country’s 125 academic medical centers have accredited schools or colleges of public health. UNMC’s college will be the 39th when it is fully accredited in about three years.

“Opportunities like this hardly ever happen,” said Dr. Noren, who left a four-year post as executive vice president and provost at the University of Nebraska to become founding dean. “Support for the college has been extensive and impressive.”

All the pieces were in place.

UNMC had an accredited master’s degree of public health program with the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The Nebraska Public Health Laboratory at UNMC is one of the few state public health laboratories located on an academic medical center campus. In addition, UNMC’s mission is to improve the health of Nebraskans, particularly underserved populations.

During the past year, Dr. Noren’s roadmap has taken him to hundreds of one-on-one meetings with key public health players. “I lost track at 70 people,” he said.

In the end, those conversations focused UNMC’s College of Public Health on four areas:

- **Health promotion and disease prevention** – emphasizing major problems including childhood obesity prevention, smoking cessation, cardiovascular fitness and employee wellness programs.

- **Environmental health and safety** – with an emphasis on agricultural health, addressing prevention of problems such as lung disease from agricultural dust exposure, ag injuries related to repetitive motion and machinery and exposure to chemicals in the agricultural environment.

- **Economical and efficient health care delivery** – with an emphasis on health workforce, health disparities and improved delivery methods.

- **Biosecurity, biopreparedness and emerging infectious diseases** – addressing such major risks to the population as bioterrorism and potential epidemics such as avian flu.

While anchored at UNMC, the college will stretch 500-miles across the state and engage experts in fields from nursing, public administration and education to government, behavioral sciences, social work and law, said Dr. Noren, whose public health graduate education was at Harvard University School of Public Health.

“Collaboration and an interdisciplinary approach will be one of our hallmarks,” he said.

Already, the college brings together UNMC faculty, staff, programs, space and budgets of: the Department of Preventive and Societal Medicine, the Rural Health Education Network, the Health Professions Tracking Center, Center for Health Services Research (including Centers for Rural Health Research and Rural Health Policy Analysis), Center for Health Disparities, and the medical center’s components of the Center for Biosecurity and Center for Biopreparedness Education.

In addition to granting health wishes, UNMC’s public health genie will help rebuild the country’s workforce.

About 80 percent of more than 400,000 public health workers have no formal public health education and at least 50 percent of the federal, state and local public health workforce is eligible to retire in the next five years.

“We need lots of new people,” said Harrison Spencer, M.D., M.P.H., who works with 38 accredited public health institutions as president of The Association of Schools of Public Health in Washington, D.C. “UNMC’s College of Public Health has an almost immediate and real impact in meeting the workforce needs for the state.”

Joann Schaefer, M.D., chief medical officer for the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, agreed. “One of the most difficult challenges facing our state today is ensuring there are enough people to respond to public health threats,” she said. “The UNMC College of Public Health will bring much-needed people into our public health pipeline.”

There also is the potential for a substantial economic impact, Dr. Maurer said. Among the current 38 colleges of public health nationally, the average external grant funding is $38 million. As the new UNMC College of Public Health develops, its external grant funding will increase and could result in as much as $30 million in new funds resulting in a $67.5 million boon to the state’s economy, which equates to about 700 to 750 new jobs.

UNMC’s planned investment in establishing the College of Public Health is estimated at approximately $12 million in the first five years.

“It’s an exciting venture by the university,” said Dr. Spencer, noting there have been 10 new colleges or schools accredited since 2000, three more that will be vying for accreditation in the next three years and 15 others, including UNMC, who have
developed or expressed interest in developing colleges. “Making it a free-standing part of the university requires vision and dedication. A college of public health is very multidisciplinary and needs to collaborate to carry out its mission.”

Together with high research productivity, colleges work with communities to “translate research into action and policy,” Dr. Spencer said.

In partnership with the college, he said, Nebraskans can expect a “vigorous public health agenda,” in research, training and service.

For Myles Jones, a master’s level student in public health, the college allows him to remain in Nebraska, while teaching at Omaha Central High School.

He’s anxious to be part of the first class of doctoral students and help individuals on the Santee reservation, where he grew up, with their public health needs.

“Now, I won’t have to uproot my family and move to Iowa or Oklahoma to pursue my doctorate," Jones said. “I can stay home, continue my education and my children can stay in school here.”

While the college fulfills Jones’s wishes, Dr. Noren has his own:

- Launching three new doctoral programs by the fall of 2008: Health Services Research/Health Administration, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research, and Environmental Health.
- A new building for the college, which is the top priority on UNMC’s facilities expansion plan.
- Recruiting 10 new faculty members in the next two years and 20 in the next four years.

In addition, the College of Public Health plans to provide several expanded areas of specialization in the existing master of public health program with UNO. These expanded areas include biostatistics/epidemiology, health promotion/disease prevention, and environmental health, which will be additions to the existing specializations in community health education and public health administration.

“This new college will be paying ongoing dividends to our city, our state, the region and the nation,” said John Christensen, Ph.D., UNO chancellor. “Public health practice is important to us all. The work and research in the college will contribute to overall better health and to the potential reduction in costs for critical care.”

In 2001, a new era of public health was born in Nebraska with the passage of LB 692.

Over a relatively short period of time, the state went from 16 local health districts covering 22 counties, to 18 districts covering all 93 counties. UNMC’s new College of Public Health will result in a better trained workforce, said Richard Raymond, M.D., under secretary for food and safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and “therefore provide even better public health services to protect the health of Nebraskans and those visiting or passing through our great state.”

Rita Parris, executive director, Public Health Association of Nebraska, agrees. “The opening of the College of Public Health will be a critical factor as we address emerging public health threats.”

Whether that threat is avian flu, bioterrorism or obesity, UNMC’s College of Public Health undoubtedly will influence public health education, training, research and policy. For now, “it’s too early to be proud of anything,” Dr. Noren said. “There’s still a lot left to do to enhance the health of Nebraskans.”
Beth Denman remembers the game.

As children, she and her siblings would join their father on rounds, then sit in the doctor’s lounge exploring medical books and journals.

“Amy and I loved to pull the books off the shelves and have contests to find the most disgusting pictures,” she said.

Medicine has been a family affair for John J. Cannella Jr., M.D., who practices internal medicine in Grand Island, and his wife, Rose Ann. Of four children, the three oldest are physicians. Three sons-in-law also are physicians; a daughter-in-law is a physical therapist. Their youngest daughter, whom the family refers to as the “black sheep,” is a lawyer serving in a volunteer position for the Opportunity Fund for Developing Countries (OFDC), an organization dedicated to securing micro-credit loans for women in third world countries.

The three who chose their father’s profession – Beth Denman, Amy Cannella and J. (John J. Cannella III) – are all physicians who live and practice in Omaha (two are at UNMC).

“All of us have a profound respect for our father,” said
Amy, a rheumatologist at UNMC. “He loves science and truly loves helping people. Medicine was a natural fit.”

While the Cannella children’s passion for medicine is a legacy from their father, they credit much of their success to the unwavering support of their mother, who insisted they get an education and be self-reliant. “She is our rock, and the most selfless person I know,” Amy said.

“We talk to our parents or each other four or five times a day. We’re always into each other’s business, but that’s OK, because it makes us tow the line.”

They also credit the influence one UNMC professor had on their family. LeeRoy Meyer, M.D. ’61, who died in 2005 after teaching at UNMC for more than 30 years, meant so much to the Cannella family that their childhood Labrador retriever was named “LeeRoy Mooney” – after Dr. Meyer and their dad’s first plane.

On weekends, John, who learned to fly during his family practice rotation in Lynch, Neb., would fly Dr. Meyer to his parents’ home in Sidney. In flight, the two would discuss family, faith and the future of medicine, including the case-based method (now problem-based learning) pioneered by Dr. Meyer.

The Cannella family continues to honor the legacy of their friend and mentor with contributions to the LeeRoy Meyer Fund of Excellence in Internal Medicine.

Similar to Dr. Meyer’s commitment to education, academic expectations were high in the Cannella family. “Our parents told us, ‘your job is to get good grades and we’ll do the rest,’ ” Amy said, noting that, beyond scholarships, her parents covered each sibling’s college and medical school expenses.

No one was pressured to go into medicine. “We were told to pursue whatever we wanted in life and to do it to the best of our ability,” said J., a fellow in gastroenterology at UNMC.

Medicine connects the Cannella family, but it is faith, service and love that unite them. “We all live within a mile of each other, except for our parents,” J. said. “We talk to our parents or each other four or five times a day. We’re always into each other’s business, but that’s OK, because it makes us tow the line.”

Although the giggles and whispers from behind picture books in the doctor’s lounge have faded, the family contests live on.

Now, they’re simply played at the dinner table.

“We all talk medicine at home,” Beth said. “We get into one-upmanship to see who has the most interesting case or we try to stump each other about the diagnoses.”

Said John: “It makes for an interesting dinner table.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: For more information on the LeeRoy Meyer Fund of Excellence in Internal Medicine visit www.unmc.edu/leeroy. For more information on the OFDC, visit www.ofdc.org.
Jesse Neal, D.D.S., knew that opening a dental clinic in Alma, Neb., population 1,214, would mean a significant out-of-pocket investment.

What he didn’t realize was the payoff waiting for him and the community.

In Alma, an agricultural town with a tourist appeal on the northwest shore of Harlan Lake, the average person is 46 years of age and makes around $28,600 a year.

There are about 600 houses within the city limits, which covers less than a square mile. Unemployment is 3 percent and the cost of living is 28 percent below the national average.

The last dentist closed shop five years ago and until October 2006, Alma residents traveled at least 30 miles to Holdrege or Franklin for dental care. For people living in the town’s retirement center, a dental appointment meant a group bus trip.

Dr. Neal, a 2003 UNMC College of Dentistry graduate and North Platte native, changed that when he set his sights on Alma about a year ago.

“I heard, for a long time, that Alma needed a dentist and then I saw their information at the college’s practice fair in the spring of 2006. My wife and I visited the town, and we were impressed. We thought it would be a great place to raise our young family,” Dr. Neal said.

Negotiations began with the Alma Development Corporation, and a match was made.

Dr. Neal invested more than $300,000 to create a state-of-the-art, digital office. Paper charts do not exist. He is especially proud that his is the first private dental office in the state designated as a telehealth site, which means he can consult with UNMC experts in Lincoln and Omaha through a live feed.

Likewise, the town invested in its new dentist. As an incentive to move to Alma, the development corporation renovated the
old dental clinic, gave Dr. Neal a year holiday on his lease and an option to purchase the building.

As a further incentive, the town of Alma, with state matching funds, promised to help Dr. Neal repay his student loans to the tune of $20,000 a year for three years.

Together, the town and development corporation blanketed the entire area with grand opening announcements, and Dr. Neal’s practice was off to a solid start.

It’s not all about money and building a practice, as Dr. Neal discovered. It’s also about building a home.

For this one-time investment, the payback to the community is more than doubled every year, according to John Reinhardt, D.D.S., dean of UNMC’s College of Dentistry.

“Research has shown that, on average, the addition of a single dentist to a community has an economic impact of more than $1.2 million annually. This impact can be a tremendous boost to the local economy of a small town,” Dr. Reinhardt said, quoting an article from the Journal of the American Dental Association.

But, it’s not all about money and building a practice, as Dr. Neal discovered. It’s also about building a home.

When his wife was prescribed bed rest before their third child was born, the people of Alma helped with the children, cooked meals and cleaned their house.

“The people here not only opened their pocketbooks, they opened their hearts. They are generous of spirit,” he said.
When Katie Lazure first met the patient slouched in his chair, the third-year medical student put aside her stethoscope and reached for charcoal, pen and paper. She looked closely at how he lifted his head, shifted in his seat and closed his eyes. Then she began to draw.
Using tools for drawing and writing poetry, Lazuré was among a select group of medical students in an experimental class at UNMC to teach observational skills.

Her instructors were not medical professionals, but a Scottish artist and a U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner. The unique combination was a successful formula for teaching nearly 20 third-year medical students and resident physicians earlier this year how to enhance their observational skills.

Two UNMC faculty members – William Lydiatt, M.D. ’88, and Virginia Aita, Ph.D. ’95, – launched the idea by bringing together two diverse individuals, Scottish artist Mark Gilbert and Nebraska poet Ted Kooser. Each shares a special gift – a keen attention to detail. They also are linked by past experiences at UNMC.

Gilbert developed an art exhibit depicting head and neck cancer patients during the course of their treatment. The exhibit came to Omaha in 2006 with Gilbert participating in a five-part lecture series developed by UNMC to complement the exhibit.

Kooser, the 2005-06 United States poet laureate and professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, had been treated for tongue cancer at UNMC by Dr. Lydiatt eight years ago.

“Observational skills are probably the most difficult thing for medical students to learn, and yet, it’s probably the most important skill they can have,” said Dr. Lydiatt, a head and neck cancer surgeon in the department of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery.

Making a diagnosis involves much more than just asking the patient a series of questions, said Dr. Aita, a medical ethicist in the College of Public Health. “To really understand what’s happening with a patient, it’s vital that the physician be a detective and look for every possible detail that might provide a clue.”

During each class, students were asked to observe a simulated patient and share what they saw. Students also kept a journal over the course of the three-week project to record their sketches and thoughts on the patients they encountered.

“You have to empty your mind of any preconceptions before you start drawing. You need to react to what’s in front of you,” Gilbert said. “You need to get in a zone. If you ask soccer players how they scored a goal, they usually can’t recall. They were just in a zone.

“Drawing is one of the most profound ways of communicating. It is an amazing way to make students responsible for their work. Every mark you make is a direct and honest response to what you’re looking at.”

During the final class, Gilbert had the students draw a sketch of a simulated patient, who was obviously depressed. First, they sketched with their writing hand, then with their opposite hand, and then by making one continual line without looking at the paper.
Drawing is a skill that is foreign to most medical students whose brains are trained to memorize information rather than create things.

“Students can be so left-brained that drawing doesn’t come easily to them,” Dr. Aita said. “Students may come in with an agenda when they see patients. They look for things like placement and movement of the eyes, symmetry of the face, and pigmentation and texture of the skin and hair. When you have an agenda in mind, you miss things.

For his class, Kooser gave each of the students a green pepper and a plastic knife and asked them to take 20 minutes to observe the pepper, cut it open and then record their observations in minute detail.

“It’s all in the detail,” Kooser said. “You have to get into the detail to make things clear. If I write ‘there were three chickens on the road,’ you have a much better image of what I’ve said than if I just write ‘there were chickens.’”

The students were told to take their time when making a diagnosis. “It’s important you don’t zero in on the diagnosis right away,” Dr. Lydiatt said. “It’s easy to immediately go to a diagnosis and then try to support it. You need to be careful. You want to try to observe as blankly as possible.”

The class had a profound impact on the students. “The light bulb went on for me today (at the final class),” said Lazure of Sioux City, Iowa. “When you force someone to draw for 15 minutes, you notice things that you normally wouldn’t have.”

For Karel Capek, a third-year medical student from Milligan, Neb., it’s a lesson he’ll remember throughout his medical career. “Anyone can read an EKG once they’ve been trained,” he said. “Learning how to observe a patient is an entirely different thing. It’s probably the most important skill a physician can have.”
Take baking soda, mother’s home remedy for an upset stomach, and mix it with some other wonder drugs and out comes a new medicine for acid reflux.

It started as a medicine to stop critically-ill patients on ventilators from developing ulcers, but then UNMC researcher, Keith Olsen, Pharm.D., and a colleague at the University of Missouri-Columbia cooked up something different.

Dr. Olsen, professor and chairman of pharmacy practice, and a 1980 alumnus, was asked by Mizzou’s Jeff Phillips, Pharm.D., to collaborate in 1996 on a drug aimed at eliminating ulcers in surgical patients on ventilators.

“These are critically ill patients who haven’t been able to eat anything, so the acid just sits in the stomach and eats away at the lining,” Dr. Olsen said. “This leads to multiple ulcers forming in the stomach.”

To stop this, Drs. Phillips and Olsen modified the drug Omeprazole – a drug that stops the acid where it starts in the stomach's parietal cells.

Parietal cells contain proton pumps, which send acid into the stomach to break down food. Omeprazole is what is known as a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) because it shuts down the proton pumps.

The researchers combined Omeprazole with sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), which protects the drug as it goes through the stomach, but then allows it to rapidly enter the parietal cells. The result was Zegerid.

In tests at UNMC and Missouri, the modified drug proved effective in shutting down the proton pumps and preventing ulcers in critical patients, Dr. Olsen said.

The modified version has since proved to be effective in fighting more common ailments. The pharmaceutical company Santarus purchased the rights to patent Zegerid, and in 2004, the Food and Drug Administration approved its use in treating acid reflux.

Zegerid is superior to PPIs, such as Protonix or Prilosec, that are now on the market because it works faster and can be taken at anytime – including on an empty stomach, Dr. Olsen said.

Other PPI drugs are coated with a substance that protect them from the patient's stomach acid, and then dissolve before the drug becomes active.

“All PPIs work best when the proton pumps are activated,” Dr. Olsen said. “With other drugs, patients are advised to take them about a half-hour to an hour before eating so the proton pumps will activate about the same time the drug becomes active.”

This is where mother’s old remedy gives Zegerid a leg up. Baking soda effectively treats upset stomachs because sodium bicarbonate neutralizes the acid in the stomach. Drs. Phillips and Olsen decided to use this property to protect the Omeprazole as it moves through the stomach.

Sodium bicarbonate also serves another function for Zegerid.

“With Zegerid, the sodium bicarbonate actually stimulates proton pump activity so the pumps are already going when the drug is released in the stomach, providing better control and more immediate relief for acid reflux than other PPIs.”

With Zegerid, Drs. Philips and Olsen provide scientific proof for the old adage that mother does indeed know best.
UNMC faculty receive prestigious awards

Prestigious awards were presented this spring to seven UNMC faculty members who garnered top awards from the University of Nebraska and UNMC.

Out of five University of Nebraska awards presented, three went to UNMC faculty members:

- Alexander Kabanov, Ph.D., professor and Parke-Davis chair in pharmaceutics, won the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award (ORCA).
- Paul Larsen, M.D., professor of pediatrics and neurological sciences, won the Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA).
- Steven Hinrichs, M.D., senior associate dean for research development in the College of Medicine, won the Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship Award (IDEA).

UNMC presented two outstanding faculty awards, a community service award and mentor of the year. These awards were presented to:

- Outstanding faculty – William Lydiatt, M.D. ‘88, professor and division director, head and neck surgical oncology, otolaryngology, and Lynn Mack-Shipman, M.D. ‘88, associate professor, internal medicine.
- Spirit of Community Service Award – Mary Helms, associate director of the McGoogan Library of Medicine.

- Faculty Mentor of the Year – Angie Rizzino, Ph.D., professor and program director of UNMC’s Eppley Institute.

UNMC continues its climb in U.S. News rankings

UNMC’s push for quality academics is reflected in the latest U.S. News & World Report’s ranking of the country’s graduate schools. The rankings, released in March, rate six UNMC programs among the nation’s top graduate programs.

For the first time, the UNMC College of Medicine’s primary care program made the top 10 in the 2008 edition of “America’s Best Graduate School” guidebook. In addition, UNMC’s rural medicine program jumped several spots to tie for sixth place.

The following UNMC programs were recognized in this year’s rankings:

- College of Medicine’s primary care program (ranked 10th out of 145 schools surveyed, up from 11th place);
- College of Medicine’s rural health medicine program (tied for sixth out of 145 schools surveyed, up from ninth place);
- College of Nursing’s master’s degree program (ranked 32nd out of 396 programs surveyed, up from 39th); and
- School of Allied Health Professions’ physician assistant program (maintained its position, tying for 14th out of 106 programs surveyed).

In addition, these UNMC programs were included in the guidebook, although they were not freshly ranked for 2008:
College of Pharmacy (tied for 27th out of 88 schools surveyed);

School of Allied Health Professions’ physical therapy program (tied for 31st out of 194 programs surveyed).

Dental Day saves smiles

About 400 underserved children from numerous communities in the state of Nebraska received desperately needed dental care during two dental day events this year.

The first event, held in February at the UNMC College of Dentistry in Lincoln, featured costumed characters, a hot dog lunch and several carnival-like games. The second event was held in June in the state’s panhandle region.

Both events provided a total of more than $200,000 in services, including sealants, cleanings, extractions, root canals and crowns.

Dr. Ueda retires as COP dean

When Clarence Ueda, Pharm.D., Ph.D., stepped down as dean of the UNMC College of Pharmacy on July 31, it ended one of the longest running tenures of any UNMC dean.

Dr. Ueda, who joined the college as an assistant professor of pharmaceutics in 1974, will return to the classroom full-time as a tenured professor in the pharmaceutical sciences department.

Dr. Ueda was promoted to the rank of professor in 1985, and was appointed dean of the college in March 1987. He also has served as chairman of the department of pharmaceutics and the department of pharmaceutical sciences.

New buildings springing up on campus

A skyline of cranes anchors the UNMC campus as construction continues on new buildings for education and research. In addition, ground was broken this spring for a patient care facility on UNMC’s campus.

The Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education and the Research Center of Excellence II are on schedule and expected to open, respectively, in August 2008 and January 2009.

Construction began this summer on the $1.2 million Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation. The center will be the only non-profit provider of comprehensive visual rehabilitation services for children and adults in the region and is expected to open in February of 2008.

Check progress of the Sorrell Center and Research Tower at: www.unmc.edu

8th graders inspired at annual science meet

More than 60 students from around the state learned about science and health care at the 15th annual Eighth Grade Health Science Meet at UNMC in June.

The students were selected from among more than 350 students who competed in regional science meets in Ainsworth, Beatrice, Fremont, Grand Island, Norfolk, North Platte, Scottsbluff and Sidney. The top projects in each region qualified for the state meet.
Alum sees giving a lifetime reward

by Lisa Spellman

Carol Swarts, M.D., understands and lives by the concept that life comes full circle.

“The University of Nebraska gave me the chance to do what I’ve always wanted to do, be a doctor,” said the 1959 graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine.

“Nebraska let me in at a time when girls were discouraged from becoming doctors and because of that I have gotten to spend my life doing what I love,” said Dr. Swarts, who was one of three women in her graduating class.

As a result, the radiation oncologist continues to support her alma mater.

Her most recent show of support came in the form of a $500,000 commitment that will fund research in the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Neuroscience. The laboratory, which now bears her name, will support related research endeavors that stretch from San Juan, Puerto Rico to the Arctic Circle.

She also has given money to support the low vision clinic, which is now under construction, and the student-run Sharing Clinic, at which she also has given much of her time. At least once a month for the past three years, Dr. Swarts has volunteered to mentor students at the clinic which provides care for underserved people.

Dr. Swarts, who was honored earlier this year as the College of Medicine Volunteer Faculty of the Year for mentoring radiation oncology students, said she believes it is a privilege and a responsibility to give back to society.

From humble beginnings in the Sandhills of western Nebraska, Dr. Swarts was born to tenant farmers who

“Two old men on a long journey crossed a deep chasm on an old rickety bridge. Once safely across, one man stopped and began rebuilding the bridge. The other man, wanting to continue because it was growing dark, asked his companion for an explanation. The old man replied, “I am old and have already made many safe passages across the bridge, but the next person will be younger and inexperienced. I am rebuilding the bridge for him.”

Condensed from “The Bridge Builder” by Will Allen Dromgoole
were constantly on the move. Yet, they instilled in their children a desire to do well in school and a sense of responsibility to their community.

“Our parents believed that a good education would improve our lives,” Dr. Swarts said.

Active in their church, her parents lived the golden rule and helped their family and neighbors in altruistic ways.

That generosity was so ingrained that after Alzheimer’s disease claimed her father, several family members and her own husband, she searched for a cure.

Her search ended eight years ago when she met Howard Gendelman, M.D., chairman of pharmacology and experimental neuroscience at UNMC.

“Dr. Gendelman is pioneering the next frontier in medicine to find the cause, and hopefully a cure, for Alzheimer’s disease and other neurological disorders,” Dr. Swarts said.

“The money that Carol has given us establishes the Laboratory of Emerging Neuroscience Research and funds some of the most exciting yet high risk projects that, despite the potential of high payoffs, could not be supported by any other means,” Dr. Gendelman said.

“The unique thing about Howie and other scientists in his lab is that they work as a team,” Dr. Swarts said.

“Bright scientific minds and rich cultural backgrounds have merged with advanced technologies to create a fantastic research environment.

“We all feel the best is yet to come.”

New lab to kick-start promising research

The Laboratory of Emerging Neuroscience Research will conduct preliminary studies to provide data for projects that will be submitted for federal funding. Projects range from brain regeneration to novel treatments and diagnostics for different neurodegenerative disorders.

One such study underway is in collaboration with Kelly Drew, Ph.D., from the University of Alaska, whose work focuses on hibernating mammals.

“It has been observed that hibernating mammals have neuroprotective capabilities during periods of extreme metabolic depression,” said Pawel Ciborowski, Ph.D., director of the proteomics program at UNMC.

Another is to further the development of anti-retroviral drug delivery platforms for those who would benefit most. Yet another is to develop new ways to clear plaques in Alzheimer’s disease and affect immune responses that damage the brain as a consequence of injury, infection and degeneration.
Dr. O’Dell named first LeeRoy Meyer Professor of Medicine

David O’Dell, M.D., ’84, credits the late LeeRoy Meyer, M.D., ’61, for getting him into medical education.

“When I was finishing my residency here, LeeRoy came up and asked me what I was going to do with my life,” Dr. O’Dell said. “Then he said, ‘I’d kind of like you to stay here.’ I listened and all these years later, I’m still here.”

Dr. O’Dell recently was named the first LeeRoy Meyer Professor of Medicine. The news was announced at a ceremony to dedicate a new education center named after Dr. Meyer – a legendary UNMC educator who died in 2005 after teaching for more than three decades in the College of Medicine.

Dr. O’Dell said receiving a professorship named after someone he considered a mentor was extremely humbling.

“Those are really large shoes to fill,” he said of Dr. Meyer, who during his time at UNMC received scores of teaching awards, including more than 25 Golden Apples from the American Medical Student Association.

Dr. Meyer became a pioneer in medical education in the 1960s and 1970s by employing a small-group, case-based teaching technique that is now used by educators around the nation.

The new center, which is on the fifth floor of the Medical Sciences Building (formerly the UMA Building), will be used by professors, such as Dr. O’Dell, who employ the technique. Support from the professorship award, which lasts five years, will be used to promote Dr. Meyer’s teaching methods.

“I really think it’s the best way to teach medical students,” Dr. O’Dell said.

UNMC Reunion Weekend for all alumni

For the first time, the UNMC colleges and alumni associations are working together to host the UNMC Alumni Weekend, One Class - World Class.

Alumni Weekend, for alumni and friends of the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy and the School of Allied Health Professions, will be Oct. 5-6. College deans and the UNMC community are looking forward to welcoming alumni to campus and are ready to roll out the red carpet for a grand celebration.

Although all alumni are invited, special recognition will be given to honor classes ’42, ’47, ’52, ’57, ’62, ’67, ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92 and ’97 and ’02. The alumni associations will be kicking off the new Half Century Club (those graduating 50 or more years ago).

“We are looking forward to having all UNMC alumni back at the same time,” said Kim Cuda, director of UNMC Alumni Affairs. “October seemed to be the most convenient time and, with it being during the academic year, we can involve our faculty and students.”

Alumni will have the opportunity to participate in activities related to their specific college, in addition to alumni events offered throughout the weekend. Events include updates from the college deans, friends and faculty lunches, tours, college receptions, Nebraska Football Watch Party, and the Alumni Celebration Dinner, which will be held the night of Oct. 6 at the Omaha Hilton.

Plan to join your fellow UNMC alumni and friends for an exciting reunion weekend.

Visit www.unmc.edu/alumni for more information and details about Alumni Weekend. See who’s planning to attend from your class.
1940s

IRENE PICKEREL TRAPHAGAN N’43
McCook, Neb., teaches water therapy at the YMCA.

EDWARD HOLSCHER P’44
Savannah, Ga., volunteers at Hospice Savannah and reads the newspaper on a closed circuit radio for blind and visually impaired people.

MARLIN JOHNSON M’45
Bismarck, N.D., is retired and does social security disability evaluations 20 to 25 hours a week. He is the medical director for the Heartview Foundation for alcohol and drug addiction and leads a prison Bible study every week. He also is on the Cancer Research Oversight Board and on the Hospital Foundation Committee in Bismarck.

JOSEPHINE RUTT N’47
Broomfield, Colo., has retired and moved from San Diego to be closer to her son.

1950s

RACHEL BAYLESS N’50
Altus, Okla., retired as an OB/GYN nurse practitioner for the Oklahoma State Department of Public Health. Currently, she volunteers for the Southwest Youth and Family Services Adolescent Crisis Center.

A. B. ALBEE M’51
Mesa, Ariz., spends winters in Arizona and summers in Lewellen, Neb.

DACE B. MITCHELL M’53
San Francisco, Calif., is retired, but continues to teach physical diagnosis to first-year medical students.

JOAN HIATT DAY N’53
Lincoln, Neb., is retired and spends her time visiting children and grandchildren in Texas, Kentucky, California and Nebraska.

1960s

JOHN L. REED M’61
Lincoln, Neb., is semi-retired, and still sees 30 to 60 wound patients per week in various outpatient settings.

JOHN H. WORTHMAN M’61
Cozad, Neb., is practicing gynecology in Gothenburg, Neb.
1970s

KAYE CARSTENS M’71
Omaha, Neb., is a clinical associate professor in the family practice department at UNMC.

DAVID C. ANDERSON M’72
Mesa, Ariz., retired in December 2006.

MICHAEL J. THOENE M’72
El Cajon, Calif., practices dermatology with Doyle Hanson, M’74.

1980s

JOYCE A. GRASHOFF M’80
Overland Park, Kan., is an emergency room physician at Heartland Regional Hospital in St. Joseph, Mo.

SUSAN LOCKWOOD M’80 &
D. RICHARD MARTINI M’82
Park Ridge, Ill., have two daughters in college. Dr. Martini is a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago and an associate professor at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University.
RICHARD D. HILDEBRAND M’81
Dakota Dunes, S.D., is the medical director of the Center for Preventive Medicine at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa. He and wife, Ronda, have two daughters and one son.

ANN RICHARDS P’81
Floresville, Texas, was elected to the board of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists as a member-at-large.

CHRISTINE WEBSTER M’81
Omaha, Neb., has been with Physicians Laboratory, PC, for more than 25 years, where she works at the Omaha lab and also commutes to Fremont, Neb., to provide pathology coverage at the hospital.

WANDA SCHEER WILNES PT’81
Kearney, Neb., is employed at New West Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Rehab in Kearney and Holdrege.

SIMON CRONIN P’84
Commerce Township, Mich., passed his oncology boards in 2006.

MARILYN ERICKSON N’84
Omaha, Neb., works as a nurse practitioner at Project Harmony Child Advocacy Center and the Uta Halee Girls Village.

KAY MEREISH P’84
Leesburg, Va., is working for United Nations Monitoring and Verification Commission in New York.

MARK DUFF M’85
Manhattan, Kan., is in pediatric private practice.

HEIDI M. KOENIG M’85
Louisville, Ky., is an associate professor at the University of Louisville, the course director of the perioperative medicine clerkship and the director of neuroanesthesiology.

MICHAEL K. MATTHEWS M’85
Niles, Ohio, is the vice chair of the Department of Medical Services at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

KEVIN BORCHER P’86
Omaha, Neb., was elected chairman of the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy.

LYNNE E. WINKLE N’86
Liberty, Mo., earned a bachelor’s of science degree in nursing from the University of Missouri-Columbia’s on-line RN-BSN completion program in December. She is employed as a staff nurse at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

CYNTHIA R. KING N’87
Winston Salem, N.C., founded and runs the Center of Nursing Research at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

JAMES J. RYBACKI P’87
Easton, Md., is the author of several editions of the “Essential Guide to Prescription Drugs” and editor of www.medicineinfo.com. He also serves on the Professional and Patient Education Committee for the American Heart Association and worked with Mended Hearts, Inc. to create a book titled, “Medicines and Your Family, National Treatment Guidelines.”

MARIE KAISER DAHLHOFF PT’88
Vermillion, S.D., has five children and is a stay-at-home mom.

1990s

KAY ARBEGAST JOHNSTON M’91
San Angelo, Texas, is in her seventh year as a dermatologist in solo practice. She recently hired a physician’s assistant. Her husband, Randy, is the office manager. They enjoy camping, dancing, tennis, clay bird shooting and being with their daughter.

KATHLEEN MCDONALD M’91
Friendswood, Texas, is in private practice with the largest otolaryngology group in Houston.

KATHY A. SANDERS N’91
Versailles, Ky., is the founder and owner of Hopewell HealthCare Associates, a leader in healthcare staffing, providing supplemental staffing to hospitals throughout the United States.

NANCY BASHAM N’92
Lincoln, Neb., is the practical nursing coordinator at Hamilton College in Lincoln.

MATTHEW LUEDKE M’93
Hayward, Wis., is practicing in the north woods of Wisconsin. He continues to work for St. Mary’s/Duluth Clinic where he is section chair at the Haywood Clinic. He and wife, Holly, have two boys.
CRAIG MEIER M’93
Elkhorn, Neb., went to Uganda, Africa, in October on a medical mission sponsored by Christian Life Ministries. He, Larry O’Connell, M’93, and 18 others provided medical care to orphans and the internally displaced people of Uganda.

TERRY Y. MARSDEN N’94
Maylene, Ala., received a master’s of nurse anesthesia degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in December 2006. She is employed by Anesthesia Services of Birmingham as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

SHANNON GRYSKIEWICZ STAFFORD N’94, ’01
Council Bluffs, Iowa, and her husband, William, have two children. She works as a nurse practitioner for Planned Parenthood of Nebraska-Council Bluffs.

JIMMY D. HUEBERT M’95
Tualatin, Ore., has been in solo practice since 2004 at Huebert Sports & Spine Center.

MARI A LMA N’95 & ERIC JOHNSON M’96
Lincoln, Neb., led a week-long medical-dental mission in 2004 along the Nueva Vizcaya Mountains in the Philippines serving more than 2,100 people, mostly elderly farmers and children. The mission provided all the medicines, tooth extractions, wound cares, CPR classes, minor surgeries and nursing education.

PAMELA KOHLMEIER M’95 & STEPHEN THEW M’95
Spokane, Wash., have four children. Dr. Kohlmeier works part-time as an emergency physician at Sacred Heart Children’s Hospital and Dr. Thew is an interventional cardiologist at Sacred Heart Medical Center with Heart Clinics Northwest.

CYNTHIA J. LLOYD M’95
Long Beach, Calif., works from home as a nighthawk teleradiologist. She is credentialed at 60 hospitals in eight states and annually reads more than 19,000 exams. She and her husband, John Lloyd M.D., have four children.

JOSEPH M. MCCLEAN M’95
Midlothian, Va., is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and returned from serving nine months in Iraq in May 2006.

SCOTT J. KNOER P’96
Blaine, Minn., was elected to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Practice Managers Section Board of Directors.

CHELSEA CHERSEN M’97
Omaha, Neb., has joined the faculty at UNMC College of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry.

LYNN PELSTER PT’97
Norfolk, Neb., is working for Heartland Physical Therapy.

TRISHA L. SHEELEY M’97
Cedar Rapids, Iowa, started a new practice, Internist Associates of Iowa, in July with four of her colleagues. She and husband, Steven, have four children.

TIMOTHY M’97 & LAURIE ZIMMERMAN P’97
Hastings, Neb., both practice in Hastings. Tim is a family physician at Family Medical Center of Hastings and Laurie is a pharmacist at Bert’s Pharmacy. They have four children.

JAMES A. CHRISTENSEN PA’98
Phoenix, Ariz., was called up for Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2005 and spent one year at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. He just finished a two-year tour in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as the command surgeon of the Army’s Area Support Group at Camp Arifjan. He is the first physician’s assistant in the U.S. Army Specialist Corps to hold that position. He also earned a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals.

MARY REEG-DHINGRA P’98
East Wenatchee, Wash., co-authored an article to be published in the Journal of the American Pharmacist’s Association titled “Clinical and Cost Saving Interventions Performed by Pharmacists in a Community Health Clinic Pharmacy.”

MATTHEW PT’99 AND STACI BORNESCHLEG PT’01
Lincoln, Neb., opened Performance Physical Therapy and Sports Conditioning, PC, in October.
The Nebraska Medical Center has been awarded the Magnet Award for Excellence in Nursing Services from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Magnet designation is given to organizations that demonstrate successful nursing practices and strategies. Congratulations to our proud alumni employed by UNMC’s hospital partner.

2000s

DUSTY G. DUIS N’00
Odell, Neb., works in an outpatient dialysis clinic and once a month facilitates a support group through the Resolve Organization for individuals suffering from infertility. She also fundraises for The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation and the American Heart Association.

JEANNE K. GREISEN P’01
Andover, Minn., is the pharmacy manager at Walmart in Elk River, Minn.

TRICIA KACZOR BENDA N’02
Norfolk, Neb., works at Faith Regional Hospital on the medical/surgical floor. This past fall, she was nominated for the Nebraska March of Dimes Excellence in Nursing Award. She married Jason Benda in 2004.

KATRINA DANNEWITZ N’02
Lincoln, Neb., is enrolled in the family nurse practitioner program at UNMC.

PATRICIA GRAHAM N’02
Sioux City, Iowa, teaches second- and third-year nursing students adult medical/surgical I and II at Morningside College of Nursing.

SON Q. TRAN M’02
San Francisco, Calif., is in the second year of a nephrology fellowship at the University of California San Francisco.

MIKAYLA CARLOW P’03
Lincoln, Neb., is working for Walgreens in Lincoln.

MICHAEL N’04 & LESLEY LEACH N’04
Omaha, Neb., own their own fitness consulting and sports nutrition business, Fitness Fuel. Lesley is a group fitness trainer and registered nurse. She recently authored, “JUST MOVE: A Black Woman’s Guide To Getting Fit.”

AMANDA LUESHEN M’06
Gainesville, Fla., is a first-year pediatric resident at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

ANN PHILBRICK P’06
Iowa City, Iowa, is completing a two-year ambulatory care residency at the University of Iowa.

AMANDA ROHRIG PT’06
Omaha, Neb., is a physical therapist at Horizon Spine Rehabilitation.

Eugene Svec, MPT, ’96, of Kearney, Neb., and president of the Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter, helps Sarah Halsey, a first-year physical therapy student, with her white coat at the inaugural Physical Therapy White Coat Ceremony in January. The Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter sponsored the ceremony.

The Nebraska Medical Center

2000s

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Lincoln, Neb., is working for Walgreens in Lincoln.

MICHAEL N’04 & LESLEY LEACH N’04
Omaha, Neb., own their own fitness consulting and sports nutrition business, Fitness Fuel. Lesley is a group fitness trainer and registered nurse. She recently authored, “JUST MOVE: A Black Woman’s Guide To Getting Fit.”

AMANDA LUESHEN M’06
Gainesville, Fla., is a first-year pediatric resident at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

ANN PHILBRICK P’06
Iowa City, Iowa, is completing a two-year ambulatory care residency at the University of Iowa.

AMANDA ROHRIG PT’06
Omaha, Neb., is a physical therapist at Horizon Spine Rehabilitation.

Eugene Svec, MPT, ’96, of Kearney, Neb., and president of the Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter, helps Sarah Halsey, a first-year physical therapy student, with her white coat at the inaugural Physical Therapy White Coat Ceremony in January. The Physical Therapy Alumni Chapter sponsored the ceremony.

The Nebraska Medical Center has been awarded the Magnet Award for Excellence in Nursing Services from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Magnet designation is given to organizations that demonstrate successful nursing practices and strategies. Congratulations to our proud alumni employed by UNMC’s hospital partner.

2000s

DUSTY G. DUIS N’00
Odell, Neb., works in an outpatient dialysis clinic and once a month facilitates a support group through the Resolve Organization for individuals suffering from infertility. She also fundraises for The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation and the American Heart Association.

JEANNE K. GREISEN P’01
Andover, Minn., is the pharmacy manager at Walmart in Elk River, Minn.

TRICIA KACZOR BENDA N’02
Norfolk, Neb., works at Faith Regional Hospital on the medical/surgical floor. This past fall, she was nominated for the Nebraska March of Dimes Excellence in Nursing Award. She married Jason Benda in 2004.

KATRINA DANNEWITZ N’02
Lincoln, Neb., is enrolled in the family nurse practitioner program at UNMC.
In remembrance...

HARRIETT E. DRAPER N°30

PAULINE M. KEARNEY N°35

KATHLEEN A. ELFRINK N°36, ’37

JOE E. HOLOUBEK M°38

JACK E. MAXFIELD M°38

HERBERT C. MODLIN M°38

ROBERT H. SCHOCK M°39

NORMA M. NICHOLSON N°40

ALFRED H. SHAMBERG M°40

EDNA M. WEST P°40
Ogden, Utah, Jan. 8, 2006.

FRANK A. GOSS M°41
Houston, Texas, April 2007.

JULIUS L. WILLSON M°41

MARION P. BROLSDA M°43

R. HUGH DICKINSON M°43

WARREN C. LEWIS M°43

BEULAH J. PATTERSON N°44

PHILIP A. DEFFER M°45

ADRIAN A. FOLE M°45

ROBERT W. KEAST M°45

DONALD D. HAASE M°47

AUDREY R. HAYNES N°47

ROBERT W. HERPOLSHEIMER M°45

CARL D. KOUTSKY M°47

BYRON D. PETERSEN M°47

KENNETH PIERSON M°47

JOHN H. AGA M°48
Brainerd, Minn., March 10, 2006.

FREDERIC R. ALLEN M°48

LESTER L. HOAGLIN M°49
Spring, Texas, July 28, 2006.

JO ANNE B. PERKINS N°49

S. ALAN ROUSE P°49

VERNA L. PRICE N°51

RICHARD W. STIEGELMAR P°51
Rockwell, Texas, Sept. 6, 2006.

DORIS E. VOSE N°51
Omaha, Neb., April 20, 2006.

MARY MARSHALL KARLQUIST N°52

KEAY HACHIYA M°52
Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 4, 2006.

ROBERT O. RALSTON M°52

RUTH I. COOK M°53
Sutton, Neb., Nov. 6, 2006.

DAVID W. SJOREN P°53, G°54

HARLOW D. STANDAGE M°54

ROBALD E. WAGGENER M°54

NORMA J. BAXTER N°55
North Platte, Neb., March 27, 2006.

ROBERT W. DOERING M°57

DONALD A. HARVEY M°57

JOSEPH F. BERBERIAN M°58

CHARLES R. MYERS M°58

HOBART E. WILSTE M°58
Omaha, Neb., June 6, 2007.

NOE AUTHIER M°61

GEORGE D. COOPER M°61

DONALD J. LARSON M°62

FAYE TROY N°62

LOIS E. LARSON M°64

LEWIS A. MCCORMICK M°64

HARLAN C. SHRINER M°66
Lincoln, Neb., July 1, 2006.

SHIRLEY M. WILSON N°70

DEBRA S. DOBLER N°76, ’78

JAMES P. BALTERS M°78

BRADFORD K. PETER P°79

LUCINDA G. MILLER P°80

JOHN C. GROVE M°82

DARLENE M. BIGBEE N°86

RITA M. HRSUKA P°94

BRANDY A. HARTSE N°05

ANDREA L. LOVEJOY N°06

JOSEPH GILMORE PH.D., former faculty

PAUL K. MOORING M.D., former faculty

WARREN E. RICHARD M.D., former faculty

BRIG. GEN. C. THOMAS YARRINGTON JR M.D.

We love hearing from you! To join your alumni association or chapter, update your contact information or submit your professional and personal news for Class Notes, contact us at:

www.unmc.edu/alumni

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Omaha, NE 68198-5200
PHONE: (402)559-4385
TOLL FREE: (888)725-8664
EMAIL: Alumni@unmc.edu
“I have a friend who is using meth. She has a baby and she’s breastfeeding and using while she’s feeding the baby. I just want to know what affects it would have on the baby and what can I do to reach out?”

And so begins another Sunday Night Shrink Rap with Jim Sorrell, M.D. ’88, fielding phone calls and answering difficult questions with co-host Damien Montez.

The Omaha-based show, which airs Sundays from 8 to 9 p.m. on KQCH-FM (94.1), was launched two years ago to provide a forum for adolescents and young adults to anonymously discuss their problems.

“It’s a place to go with concerns and share them,” said Dr. Sorrell, assistant professor, UNMC Department of Psychiatry. Known as “Dr. Jim” on the show, he provides advice on emotional and social difficulties.

“The show helps by allowing callers and listeners with similar difficulties get a sense that they’re not alone,” Dr. Sorrell said. “Despite their concerns, fears and apprehensions, a person’s difficulties doesn’t mean there’s something intrinsically wrong with them. It’s a crazy, complex world and having difficulties is just part of it.”

Each show receives an average of six callers with topics ranging from unplanned pregnancy, eating disorders and stalking, to parent and step-parent issues, suicide, depression and jealousy.

The phone never stops ringing.

There’s a big void in mental health services, Dr. Sorrell said, especially for adolescents and young adults who may not be insured.

This particular Sunday, Dr. Jim offers advice to the young lady who is worried for her friend and the baby.

“I’m almost positive that the drug is in the breast milk,” Dr. Sorrell tells her. “This is a problem and something has to be done. Buy her some formula and talk to her about your concerns for her and the baby, and then tell her you will go with her to get some help. We’ll provide some numbers at the end of the show where you can call for help.”

Shrink Rap podcasts are available at www.unmc.edu/podcast/shrinkrap.htm.
Join your fellow UNMC alumni and friends for an exciting reunion weekend this fall!

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One Class – World Class
October 5 – 6

Medicine, nursing, pharmacy and allied health alumni are all invited to reunite, reminisce and celebrate with your classmates and friends!

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Registration information will be in the mail soon. Visit www.unmc.edu/alumni for more information or call (888)725-8664.