SAHP Presents Its Top Awards

The School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) has honored two individuals for their contributions to education and service in the school. This year’s honorees are:

- Robert H. Fuchs, PT, MA, CSCS, ATP, Physical Therapy Education, award for Outstanding Teacher of the Year. *(Top photo)*
- Dr. James R. Newland, MD, award for Outstanding Service to the Allied Health Professions. *(Bottom photo)*

The two awards were presented May 4, 2005 at the 29th annual student and faculty awards ceremony held in conjunction with the Student Research Forum. Each year we celebrate our accomplishments in the SAHP with this ceremony, and recognize those individuals who have gone above and beyond.

See page 2 for individual stories.

From the Associate Dean

The School of Allied Health Professions has just completed another great academic year. Our students continue to be outstanding and the faculty and I are proud of them. As you look through this issue of the Allied Health News you will see why!

The faculty has been very busy developing learning experiences for all of our students. Our outreach to other student populations through distance learning continues to grow. Radiography, Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS)/Medical Technology, and the Cytotechnology Programs have developed innovative partnerships during the past year. Radiography, in partnership with Central Community College and St. Francis Medical Center, will be offering the radiography program via distance to Grand Island. The CLS Program is collaborating with the University of Missouri to offer the CLS program to University of Missouri students who will remain in Columbia, MO, for both didactic and clinical education instruction. They will complete 11 weeks of student laboratory on the UNMC campus. The nation’s first distance learning program in Cytotechnology begins this fall when our program is offered to students in the Carle Clinic in Urbana, IL. In addition our degree completion programs, also offered via distance, are further examples of success. Seventy-one recent Masters in Physical Therapy graduates completed the two year Provisional DPT curriculum to earn their DPT degree. Over 20 radiation science practitioners have enrolled in the RT to BSRT degree completion program, 20 clinical perfusionists are enrolled in the certificate to Masters in Perfusion Studies and the newest MLT/CLS to BSCLS program is enrolling MLT practitioners. The Distance Learning Option of the PA program continues to be our most successful degree completion program with hundreds of practicing physician assistants receiving their Masters in Physician Assistant Studies.

I want to thank all of the people who have made this year so successful. Thanks to all the SAHP fantastic faculty and staff, a special thank you to all those students who make our lives fulfilling.

— Mary Haven, Associate Dean
Robert H. Fuchs, PT, MA, CSCS, ATP
Outstanding Teacher of the Year

The Teacher of the Year award honors an SAHP faculty member who demonstrated excellence in one of the following areas: influencing students toward professional achievement; development of innovative methods and materials; or excellence in classroom or clinical instruction. The recipient must have primary teaching responsibilities in one or more of the programs of the school, and receives a check for $500 and a plaque commemorating the award.

The 2005 Award for the Teacher of the Year went to Robert Fuchs of the Physical Therapy division. According to his nominators, Bob is truly an “unsung hero” within the Physical Therapy program as he gives incredible efforts towards making a difference in student learning, yet he is more apt to give credit to others rather than seeking the recognition he deserves. Bob has provided instruction to students and practitioners from many disciplines in the classroom, laboratory and clinical settings. These include physical therapy students and practicing physical therapists, occupational therapy students, psychology students, medical students, social worker students, and members of the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Bob was the first PT faculty member to fully implement online courses using discussion boards and case studies in the Prosthetitics and Orthotics course. He developed a full-day event whereby expert clinicians and volunteer amputees provide a unique learning experience for students, and Bob was also among the first PT faculty in the United States to implement an innovative approach to teaching Public Health to physical therapists by having them develop and implement a Public Health project in their communities. This work received national recognition as Bob presented this concept at the national Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Bob’s incredible knowledge, professionalism, commitment to learning, patience and humor make him an exceptional teacher and a remarkable person. His dedication and devotion to students, along with his natural, easy-going sense of humor keep students engaged and interested in class. He consistently receives positive feedback from students regarding his ability to make the classroom materials clear, and he still has time for his students.

It is not uncommon to see Bob riding his recumbent bicycle to and from school or between the Durham Research Center and the Student Life Center (with a helmet of course).

Dr. James R. Newland, MD
Outstanding Service to the Allied Health Professions

The Outstanding Service to the Allied Health Professions award is intended to honor an individual whose contributions to the advancement of allied health professions have been significant. The winner receives a plaque. In addition, for 5 years, a $500 scholarship in the recipient’s name will be awarded to a student in one of the educational programs within the School of Allied Health Professions. A plaque is maintained in the library, and each year a plate bearing the name of the new award recipient is added.

This year’s recipient, Dr. James Newland, is an Emeritus Professor and the past Medical Director of the Division of Medical Technology.

Jim Newland has been an outstanding teacher, mentor and friend of the School of Allied Health Professions programs, faculty and students since he first began teaching in our programs in 1974. This began a continuous line of activities in support of the goals and needs of allied health programs. His lectures to physician assistant, clinical perfusion, cytotechnology, medical technology and radiologic science students in a variety of courses have always been excellent with a touch of humor that lightened the day. In fact, since his retirement in 2001, he has continued to serve on the faculty for presentations and training of others in problem based learning.

As Medical Director of the Medical Technology Program, Dr. Newland was actively involved in support of the whole educational process. On several occasions, he provided counseling support and mentoring for a student who needed ad-
service or help to get through a difficult situation. He could always be counted on to speak in support of allied health programs in whatever role in which he was involved in the University of Nebraska system.

At the national level, he served on the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science’s review board. At UNMC, he served tirelessly as Chairman on the Student and Faculty Appeals Committee in 1990, and the Search Committee for the Director of the Division of Physical Therapy from 1989-1990. During 1992, he also served as the Chairman of the Committee for Review of the Physician Assistant program, which is now rated in the top 15 best PA school programs in the nation.

Dr. Newland’s wife, Dr. Myrna Newland, was in the audience as her husband was honored for his commitment and love of teaching and his willingness to share his gifts with all of us in the School of Allied Health Professions.

71 UNMC PTs Awarded Post-Professional DPT

Seventy-one physical therapists were awarded the post-professional DPT degree on May 13, 2005. These were graduates of the UNMC MPT program from 2000-2003 who were afforded the opportunity to participate in a two-year curriculum to complete the post-professional DPT degree. The curriculum began in the fall of 2003, and was delivered primarily via distance education, although it also incorporated 3-day long campus visits each of the four semesters. The curriculum included instruction in evidenced-based practice, including finding, evaluating and implementing evidence, prevention and wellness of public health issues, imaging for physical therapists, integumentary physical therapy and the application of evidence in the areas of cardiopulmonary, neuromuscular, and musculoskeletal physical therapy.

During the on-campus visits, UNMC Physical Therapy Education hosted several nationally recognized speakers, including David A Scalzitti, MS, PT, OCS Associate Director of Research Services for APTA, Angela Phillips, PT, President and CEO of Images and Associates, Carolee Weinstein, PT, PhD, FAPTA, University of Southern California, and Gail D Deyle, PT, DPT, MPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, Program Director for Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions Transitional DPT Program.

Forty of the transitional DPT participants, along with approximately 300 friends and family members, attended a formal hooding ceremony and reception at the Durham Research Center held at the conclusion of the final campus visit on April 2, 2005.

UNMC was one of the first five public institutions in the country to offer the entry-level DPT degree and since 2001 UNMC has awarded entry-level or transitional DPT degrees to 150 graduates.

151 to Graduate From SAHP This Year

A total of 151 students are scheduled to graduate from the School of Allied Health Professions from May to December 2005.

The May 2005 graduates included 39 physical therapy students receiving the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree; 34 medical technology students receiving the Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology; 1 physician assistant student receiving the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (the majority of PAs will graduate in August); and receiving a Bachelor of Science in Radiation Science Technology— 4 students from radiography, 2 from nuclear medicine, 1 from CT/MRI, and 2 from our distance education RT to BSRT program.

Six medical nutrition students are scheduled to graduate in August and will earn a Post-Baccalaureate certificate in Medical Nutrition. They will also earn their “Verification Statement” for completing the UNMC Dietetic Internship Program, which makes them eligible to take the national Registration Examination to become Registered Dietitians. Also in August, 4 cytotechnology students are scheduled to receive a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Cytotechnology; and earning a Bachelor of Science in Radiation Science Technology— 4 from CT/MRI, 7 from diagnostic medical sonography, 1 from nuclear medicine, and 7 from radiation therapy, and 3 from our distance education RT to BSRT program. Ten radiography graduates will be going on to one of the other radiation science modalities. In December, 39 physician assistant students and 3 distance education RT to BSRT students are scheduled to graduate.
On August 19, 2004, the SAHP welcomed a group of 171 new students, 141 of whom were Nebraskans. With returning students that brought our enrollment to a total of 345 students in the school. We have the third largest group of full time students in the UNMC system.

We are very proud of our outcomes in the School of Allied Health Professions. Again, our students passed their board, certification and licensure exams at a much higher rate than the national average, as shown in the graph to the right. This graph shows the UNMC pass rate in blue and the national pass rate in yellow.

In Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Clinical Perfusion, 100% of UNMC students passed with only 68% of students passing nationally. The data shown on this graph for the PA program are for the 2003 graduating class. Since PA graduates in December, we do not yet have the data for the 2004 graduating class.

The second graph shows that in every one of our allied health programs, our students’ mean score was above the national mean on these national exams. If we had scored at the mean the blue bars would be at zero, but each of our programs scored above the mean, some programs as high as 10-26%. Our students and faculty who accomplished these outstanding results should be commended for their performance.

Two of our programs made the *U.S. News and World Report* on Best Graduate Schools. Our PA program was ranked 14th out of 40 and our PT program 31st out of 141. Both programs are in the nation’s top 20%.

*U.S. News and World Report* unfortunately does not rate the other programs in our school, or we would certainly have more to report.

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A special thank-you to all students and faculty who volunteered their time and services in the community this year! Measure wealth not by the things you have, but by the things you have for which you would not take money.
SAHP Receives Two Memorial Scholarships

The Frances Marie Young Brinkman Memorial Scholarship was given by Diane Landon of the PA program to honor her mother, Mrs. Brinkman, whom Diane describes as an energetic, friendly and giving woman whose life was shortened by cancer. This scholarship goes to a PA student. We thank Diane for her generosity, and her mother will be honored each year with this scholarship.

The Laurie M. Schaefer Memorial Scholarship honors Laurie, a nuclear medicine technology student, who was killed in a car accident on January 3, 2004. Laurie would have been part of this year’s graduating class had the tragic accident not occurred. Her family has honored her with this scholarship which is to be awarded to a Pius X High School graduate who is enrolled in the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program or to another Pius X student enrolled in UNMC. We thank Laurie’s family for remembering her in such a loving and giving way.

Students Receive National Scholarships & Awards

SAHP students in several programs have received scholarships from national professional organizations. The scholarship winners are listed below.

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography**—Amanda Hadenfeldt won a scholarship from the Society of DMS.

**Medical Technology**—Autum Moshell and Tara Ondrak won Alpha Mu Tau scholarships from ASCLS; and Michael Flood and Tara Ondrak won the Dade Behring-Emil Von Behring Scholarship from ASCP. Suzan Keller and Carolyn Oborny also won scholarships from ASCP.

**Radiation Therapy**—Kim Clements won the Varian Radiation Therapy Student Scholarship.

**Nuclear Medicine Technology**—Melissa Hasemann won a scholarship from the Nebraska Hospital Association.

Other national awards for SAHP students include the ASCP National Student Honor Award: Aimee Hunting, Suzan Keller, Betsey Lindstrom, Carolyn Oborny, Laura Cerone, Tracey Noyd, Tara Ondrak, Lori Swanson, and Michele Koch; First Place CART essay competition: Krista Carpenter; Second Place CART essay competition: Kim Clements.

Alpha Eta Honor Society Inducts 11 Students

The Nebraska chapter of Alpha Eta honor society inducted eleven SAHP students this spring. The students were chosen on the basis of their academic records and demonstration of leadership and achievement in academic and clinical studies.

Students honored were:

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography**—Tori Castagna

**Radiation Therapy Education**—Zachary VanDiest

**Physician Assistant Education**—Christa Heckman, Steven Janssen

**Medical Technology**—Laura Cerone

**Nuclear Medicine**—Matthew McDonald

**Physical Therapy**—Brad Bangs, Rachel Jackson, Christina McCollough, Matthew Wesch

**Radiography**—Melissa Templar

Faculty Service Awards

The following allied health faculty members were honored for their length of service to UNMC:

**James B. Temme, MPA**—30 years

**Patricia A. Hageman, PhD**—20 years

**Wayne A. Stuberg, PhD**—20 years

**Martin Cano, BS**—10 years

**Linda L. Fell, MS**—10 years

2004-2005 SAHP Silver ‘U’ Awards

Allied health recipients of the Silver ‘U’ award:

**Amber Donnelly**—April 2004

**Gail Hackendahl**—August 2004

**Marcia Hess Smith**—November 2004

**Fran Higgins**—April 2005

Faculty & Staff National Leadership

Allied health faculty are national leaders in their professional organizations:

**Linda Fell**, Board of Directors, ASCP

**Karen Honeycutt**, Examination Committee, Board of Registry, ASCP

**Amber Donnelly**, ASC committees

**Ellen Davis-Hall**, Coalition for AH Leadership

**Darwin Brown**, Chair, Conference Ed Planning Committee, AAPA

**Diane Landon**, CASPA Advisory Committee

**Mark Christiansen**, NCCPA Board of Directors

**Adam Stevens**, Education Com., Society of Magnetic Resonance Technology

**Connie Mitchell**, Vice-President, ASRT

**Pat Hageman**, Advisory Panel, APTA


**Kyle Meyer**, Advisory Panel, APTA

**James Somers**, ARC-PA Reviewer

**Anthony Sambol**, Assoc. Public Health Laboratory Committees

Two of our faculty received the state’s highest awards for their profession:

**Mark Christiansen**, Nebraska Academy of PA’s – PA of the Year (pictured with his wife when he received the award).

**Carol Larson**, Filter Award, the state’s highest award for clinical laboratory scientists.
Distance Students Travel to Omaha to Attend UNMC Graduation at Qwest

Sonja Belville drove to Omaha for graduation from her home in Boynton Beach, Florida with her parents and daughter. Sonja is an associate professor at Palm Beach Community College, in Lake Worth. She instructs students in radiography and magnetic resonance imaging. Sonja was one of the first students to enroll in the online degree completion option offered by the SAHP. She started taking online courses from UNMC in January 2003 to complete the BS degree in radiation science technology.

Maria Manske, a Fremont, Nebraska native, came “home” for graduation at UNMC. Maria also completed the BS degree in radiation science technology, while working as a locum certified medical dosimetrist in radiation oncology. During her enrollment, Maria moved four times; Texas, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and now Kansas City, Missouri - proof that distance education provides access and opportunity “anywhere, anyplace, anytime.” Maria never missed a beat with her coursework during the four semesters she was enrolled. She employed Sylvan Learning Centers to proctor her exams throughout her coursework. Maria is a huge fan of online education, and Blackboard specifically, because of the access and opportunity it has provided her.

The School of Allied Health Professions is providing opportunity and access for allied health professionals to earn their professional science degree from UNMC through distance education technology. The SAHP offers upper level interdisciplinary and discipline specific allied health science courses online providing career advancement opportunities for practicing health professionals. Thirty-five allied health practitioners across the United States are currently enrolled in SAHP online courses to complete degree requirements for the Masters in perfusion science, and the Bachelors in radiation science and clinical laboratory science. Enrolled students are able to work as members of the healthcare workforce team in their communities, while completing their professional degree requirements. These online educational initiatives are being supported in part by an Allied Health Project Grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, “Career Advancement through Distance Education Technology – The CADET Project”. The Principal Investigator, Karen F. Nichols, is an assistant professor in the School of Allied Health Professions and the SAHP Distance Education Coordinator.

These online educational initiatives are being supported in part by an Allied Health Project Grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, “Career Advancement through Distance Education Technology – The CADET Project”. The Principal Investigator, Karen F. Nichols, is an assistant professor in the School of Allied Health Professions and the SAHP Distance Education Coordinator.

Sonja Belville and Maria Manske with their diplomas.
School of Allied Health Professions Student Research Forum

The 18th annual SAHP Student Research Forum was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2005. One hundred-three students presented their work with 77 posters.

This multidisciplinary forum is intended as an opportunity for students in all ten SAHP programs to share scholarly activity that supports evidence-based clinical practice. The primary goal of the students’ scholarly activity that is presented in the forum is to promote the understanding of the research process in allied health. The ultimate goal is the continuous updating of best practices in clinical settings.

Participating students are listed below.

**Clinical Perfusion**
Angela Ask

**CT/MRI**
Holly Sack, Brenda Whitaker, Karla Fagot, Cheri Pribyl, & Jessica Smith

**Cytotechnology**
Geriann Davis-Therkildsen, Michele Koch, Linda Pelletier, & Jianhong Sun

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography**
Karen Baumann, Elizabeth Grummert, Amanda Hadenfeldt, DeAnne Hass, Rebecca Kastanek, Jessica Mueller, & Laura Rosenthal

**Medical Nutrition**
Andrea Cloudt, Katie Oakes, Christine Pfeifer, Miranda Roesler, Erin Sorenson, & Brandy Wood

**Nuclear Medicine Technology**
Julie Gaebel, Melissa Hasemann, Matthew McDonald, & Tracy Wagaman

**Physical Therapy**

**Physician Assistant**
Kari Alexander, Kelly Bagniewski, Angela Bedlan, Stefanie Breitkreutz, Melissa Fagen, Michelle Gibbons, Carrie Kildahl, Jennifer Linhart, Jessica Holmes, Amy Miriovsky, Lisa Stenvers, Denise Taggart, & Katie von Oldenburg

**Radiation Therapy**
Lonnia Bakken, Craig Boro, Krista Carpenter, Kim Clements, Sara Digilio, Lacey Garaas, & Sarah Leer

**Radiography**
Shelly Albert, Hannah Anderson, Christina Araujo, Shari Berg, Andrea Dahl, Jessica Fehringer, Jill Guenther, Autumn Hanson, Holly Hoehne, Claire Kersenbrock, Ben Mueller, Melissa Templar, Ashley Wegner, & Todd Wells

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**2005 Student Research Forum Committee:**
Chair, Barbara Robertson, Medical Nutrition Program
Jana Koth, Radiation Therapy Program
Dr. Ellen Davis-Hall, Physician Assistant Program
Mary Haven, Associate Dean, SAHP
Ricki Otten, Medical Technology Program
Dr. Rui-Ping Xia, Physical Therapy Program
James Temme, Radiation Sciences Technology Education
Connie Mitchell, Radiography Program
Dr. Sam Sanderson, Clinical Perfusion Education
Adam Stevens, CT/MRI Program

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Tracy Wagaman, 2005 graduate in Nuclear Medicine, earned third-place at the ‘05 NE Society of Radiologic Technologists student exhibit freestanding competition.

Christina Araujo, 2005 Radiography graduate with her poster on Crohn’s Disease.
Program Highlights

**Clinical Perfusion Education**
*Est. 8/1990*

UNMC has the only Clinical Perfusion Education (CPE) program in the state of Nebraska and is one of only four programs west of the Mississippi. We were one of the first programs in the nation to go to a Masters Degree for Perfusion and remain one of five out of the 19 perfusion education programs. We are the only program which offers an opportunity for practicing Clinical Perfusionists to upgrade their education to a Master's level with our Graduate Degree Completion Program (GDCP) entirely by distance education.

UNMC CPE students continue it's tradition of a 100% students pass rate of the national board examinations at the first sitting and consistently score above the national average on the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) Basic Sciences Examination and Clinical Applications Examination portion of the National Board Certification Examinations. Our students mean averaged 18.3% above the national mean in the last 5 years.

Our students captured 5 of 7 scholarships from the American Society of Extracorporeal Technology (AmSECT) presented in Hollywood, FL in March of 2004. All of our graduates have been employed at or within one month of graduation.

**Cytotechnology Education**
*Est. 8/1994*

The Cytotechnology Program is part of the Division of Laboratory Science in the School of Allied Health Professions at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The Program has successfully prepared students for the national certifying exam with results far above the national average.

UNMC's Cytotechnology Program is the first accredited program in the United States to offer the entire didactic portion via distance. The first class of distant students will begin in August 2005 at the Carle Clinic in Urbana, Illinois. UNMC and the Carle Clinic are paving the way for other programs who wish to pursue distance education. UNMC is accredited for 6 on-site students and 4 distant students at the Carle Clinic.

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography Education**
*Est. 1988*

In the last five years, UNMC’s Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program has maintained a 100% pass rate for National Registry exams. The national pass rate is much lower at 66%. Our students’ mean score averaged 10.3% above the national mean. We have had a zero percent attrition rate and a 100% employment rate for graduates.


At the Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Meeting in May 2005, Jessica Mueller and Rebecca Kastanek placed 1st in the RT/Student Exhibit competition and Beth Grummert, Amanda Hadenfeldt, and Laura Rosenthal placed second.

**Medical Nutrition Education**
*Est. 1977*

The UNMC Medical Nutrition Education (MNE) Division administers the post-baccalaureate UNMC Dietetic Internship Program. It has a competency based curriculum consisting of 75% supervised practice and 25% coursework. The program emphasizes nutrition therapy competencies and includes clinical rotations in general medicine and specialty service areas such as cardiology, diabetes, oncology, pediatric specialties, organ transplantation, renal disease, rehabilitation, critical care medicine and nutrition support. Students also complete supervised practice experiences in foodservice systems management and community nutrition. Class size is limited to 4-6 students per year.

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the national registration examination and practice nutrition therapy or manage foodservice/nutrition programs in hospitals, clinics, long term care, community service programs, schools, and other public or private institutions. During 2000-2004, graduates achieved an overall first-time pass rate of 96% on the national registration examination.

**Clinical Laboratory Science Education**
*Est. 7/1937*

UNMC provides the only baccalaureate level professional education for clinical laboratory science students in Nebraska with an ongoing successful consortium with the Methodist Hospital program and The Nebraska Medical Center. We have expanded our distance learning program to include Casper, Wyoming and Sioux Falls, South Dakota in addition to our Nebraska sites in North Platte, Kearney, Hastings, Grand Island, Norfolk, and Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha. As a result of a contract agreement with the University
of Missouri at Columbia and Boyce & Bynum Pathology Laboratories, we are providing clinical laboratory science education for three Missouri students in our 2005-2006 class of 35 senior students.

In addition, the clinical laboratory science program provides education in basic lab methods, microbiology, molecular diagnostics for medical, pharmacy, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, radiation sciences students and other health practitioners.

### Nuclear Medicine Technology Education

Est. 1972

UNMC has the only Nuclear Medicine Technology Education program in the state of Nebraska and it is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology, receiving 7 year continued accreditation in 2004. We have a continuing 100% pass rate on national boards and the average GPA of our incoming students in 2005 is 3.82. We have a collaboration with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for providing nuclear medicine distance course work and have clinical affiliations with Alegent Health, Creighton University, Cardinal Health Nuclear Pharmacy, Veterans Administration Medical Center and Bergan Cardiology Specialists.

### Physical Therapy Education

Est. 1969

UNMC was one of the first 3 public institutions, and one of the first 20 of all physical therapy education programs in the U.S. to offer the entry-level DPT degree. Of the 209 accredited physical therapy education programs in the U.S., 75 currently offer the entry-level DPT degree. For the five year period from 2000-2004, the mean first time pass rate on the National Licensure Exam for all accredited schools was 80%, while graduates of UNMC for the same five year period had a mean first time pass rate of over 95%.

The UNMC PT Education Program has graduated 15 Mary McMillan Scholarship Award recipients (the highest student honor awarded by the American Physical Therapy Association) over the past 31 years, including 7 from 1994-2004.

Historically, approximately 50% of UNMC graduates enter practice in Nebraska. Nearly 40% of all physical therapists practicing in Nebraska are UNMC graduates, and 20-30% of all graduates practice in rural areas of the state.

### Physician Assistant Education

Est. 1971

UNMC has a well established PA program with a nationally recognized reputation, experienced PA faculty, quality instruction from medical school faculty in basic sciences and clinical medicine, and an extensive and experienced preceptor network. Our faculty members are involved in state and national organizations and we have an active and involved student society.

We have an affiliation with the Interservice (military) PA Program and in addition, offer a distance learning program for practicing PAs with a bachelor’s degree to complete their Master’s degree. Our students have maintained a high pass rate on the National Board Examination—greater than 98% over the last five years, and 100% for the 2004 graduates.

### Radiation Therapy Education

Est. 8/1973

The UNMC Radiation Therapy Program is among a small percentage of radiation therapy programs receiving the full 8 year accreditation offered by the JRCERT accrediting body. Distance education is a critical success factor for our program and expansion to other sites is a goal for our program’s future.

We have received state and national recognition for student academic excellence with a 100% pass rate on the ARRT National Certification Examination over the past 5 years. Other national recognition includes our student Kim Clements receiving the Varian Radiation Therapy Student Scholarship for $5000.00 and Krista Carpenter being awarded first place for her scientific essay on Tentorial Meningiomas at the regional Chicago Area Radiation Therapists Symposium this spring.

UNMC students continue to be highly recruited by Cancer Centers throughout the region and employer satisfaction surveys time and time again rate our graduates as well prepared radiation therapists.

### Radiography Education

Est. 1/1951

UNMC’s Radiography program has a long history of national accreditation for the maximum years. We are currently constructing a self-study, which will be used in preparation for the 2006 JRCERT site visit. We have maintained a 100% pass rate on National Certification Exams over the past five years. The radiography program has accepted its first class of students to receive an education through the use of distance education technology. The distance learning option is a collaborative effort with Saint Francis Medical Center in Grand Island, Nebraska. Courses will be delivered online, via IP video, and in class instruction.

At the Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Meeting in April 2005, students were recognized in all of the competition categories they participated in. Additionally, our students maintained their title as “Student Quiz Bowl Champions.” In faculty competition, Adam Stevens & James Temme took first place in the RT Exhibit category, and Tammy Jones took second. Connie Mitchell was also voted in as the next Vice President for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists.
Just What is the “NU Foundation”?

You may have wondered, “Just what is the University of Nebraska Foundation, and why do they handle donor gifts to the University of Nebraska Medical Center School of Allied Health Professions?”

**What?**
The University of Nebraska Foundation is the primary fundraiser and manager of gifts to the programs and units of the University of Nebraska from alumni, friends, corporations and other foundations. The Foundation, which helps to further excellence in education and research on all campuses across the University system, is a private non-profit corporation.

**Why?**
Existing solely for the benefit of the University of Nebraska, the NU Foundation endeavors to maximize private support to enable the University in fulfilling its mission of excellence in teaching, research and service. The separate structure ensures that gifts from donors benefit the specific Colleges, programs and areas designated by the donors. Gifts are protected from reallocation by the state, and information regarding gifts remains confidential.

**Why not?**
If you are a grad reflecting back on your days as a student at the University of Nebraska in one of the allied health programs, I hope you feel that your experiences resulted in many life-altering benefits: an outstanding education that prepared you for a fulfilling career, the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others, and friendships that have weathered the years.

If you are a friend, you recognize the immeasurable impact upon our community and state made by the School of Allied Health Professions in the areas of education, clinical practice, community service, and research.

You might have looked for ways to give back to the profession, your alma mater, and the students who are following in your footsteps. If you are currently supporting your program, thank you so much for helping to ensure a dependable source of flexible dollars for innovations in education and research, enabling the School to achieve its strategic goals of excellence.

If you have not donated to the School of Allied Health Professions (or your specific program), consider some of the following ways in which you can have an impact:

- establish a scholarship fund, a professorship or endowed chair
- support existing funds in an area of your interest
- support for research or for equipment purchases
- make an annual contribution of any size (all gifts are greatly appreciated!)

I would be glad to help you explore the many possibilities for customizing gifts to align with your interests and situation. Whether you are affiliated with Clinical Perfusion, Cytotechnology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Medical Nutrition, Medical Technology, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Radiation Therapy, or Radiography---as a member or friend of the allied health professions, you know how vital these roles are in our society’s growing need for healthcare.

I’m always available to answer any questions or to gain your input. I am proud to be able to work with an educational institution of the caliber of our University of Nebraska Medical Center School of Allied Health Professions. Please give me a call---I’d love to talk with you!

Patty Sherman
Director of Development
402/595-2302
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Community Service Award

This year the first Community Service Award went to the Physician Assistant class. The entire class received the $1000 award and are using it to attend their state and national meetings. The PA students did health screenings, educated the public about their professions; participated in the Sharing Clinic Walk/Bike/Run; the Reverse Trick or Treating for the UNMC Hospital Pediatric Floor; assisted students from King Science Middle School with science fair projects; collected canned food for the Sienna Francis House; donated a portion of fundraising proceeds to a national charity; spoke with current applicants about PA; assisted in pediatric care at UNMC pediatric clinic; assisted in patient care at Douglas County Health Dept STD Clinic; assisted in patient care at One World Clinic; and educated 7th graders about sex, puberty, pregnancy, STDs and access to healthcare at Marrs Middle School.

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Allied Health Professions Week

National Allied Health Professions Week
November 6-12, 2005

Let’s have a luau in the Fall!

Wear your Hawaiian shirt and bring a dish—we’ll supply the tableware, drinks, a little music, and a lei. Place TBA.
Dean Haven, Retiring, Gets a Surprise

Earlier this year Mary C. Haven announced her retirement, so this will be her last time hosting the annual awards ceremony for the School of Allied Health Professions. She has been associate dean of SAHP for 10 years, and her staff felt it was time to recognize her for her outstanding leadership. “Mary is so quick to give recognition to everyone else, we wanted her to know how much she means to us and to the school,” said Sue Miyeno, Administrator in SAHP. The staff surprised Dean Haven with a bouquet of her favorite roses. Along with the flowers, she was given a framed copy of a tribute poem, “The Strength of Allied Health Professions at UNMC,” written by Fran Higgins, her staff assistant. Each line starts with a letter to Haven’s name and every other line ends with one of her Gallup strengths.

Mary Clare Haven is a an awesome Achiever, Always smiling, she makes you a believer Regarding the greatness of allied health. A Learner? Yes! Books are her passion, but even a page-turner Can’t keep her from graphing our stats. Her invaluable Input Has saved programs from folding. We never know when, but “Ach tu lieber” always announces her Futuristic Vision sensing trouble afoot...intuitive as a mystic! Even outsiders don’t miss her Significance, and No one in allied health doubts Mary’s magnificence!

SAHP staff, left to right: Fran Higgins, Mary Haven, Sue Miyeno, and Sue Prusia.

Muellenberg to Retire from the Clinical Laboratory Science Program

Phyllis Muellenberg has directed medical technology programs for 37 years, and has been director of our program at UNMC for 24 years. She has seen many changes in the field—most recently the name has gone from medical technology to clinical laboratory science.

At the annual SAHP awards ceremony, Muellenberg was recognized for having brought in over 2.5 million dollars for the School of Allied Health Professions in grant funding. When associate dean Mary Haven asked Phyllis to “stand and accept our good wishes,” the crowd gave her a standing ovation. Retirement will allow Phyllis to devote more time to Husker games and fishing.
Everything you want to know about careers in the allied health professions.