SAHP Presents Its Top Awards

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

- Amber D. Donnelly, MPH, SCT(ASCP) from the Cytotechnology program, award for Outstanding Teacher of the Year.
- Laura Bilek, PT, PhD from the Physical Therapy program, award for Outstanding Researcher of the Year.
- Phyllis Muellenberg, MA, MT(ASCP) and Jean Deupree, PhD, awards for Outstanding Service to the Allied Health Professions.

The awards were presented May 3, 2006 at the 30th annual student and faculty awards ceremony held in conjunction with the Student Research Forum. Each year we celebrate our accomplishments in SAHP with this ceremony, and recognize those individuals who have gone above and beyond.

See page 2 for individual stories.

New Associate Dean Announced

Kyle Meyer, PT, MS, MPA, was named the new Associate Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, effective August 1, 2006. Meyer has served as assistant professor and director of clinical education in the Division of Physical Therapy Education since 1991, and has held academic appointments at UNMC for more than 25 years. He was a member of the UNMC Faculty Senate for seven years, serving as president in 2000-2001.

Meyer's service on campus and college committees has distinguished him as a leader, said John Gollan, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Medicine. "Kyle's dedication to allied health, this campus and his own personal development is commendable," Dr. Gollan said. "We are pleased to welcome him to the ranks of administration in the College of Medicine/UNMC."

Clinical education, management, and behavioral science are the areas of Meyer’s interests and the focus of his teaching and administrative responsibilities. Meyer is a 1979 graduate of the UNMC physical therapy program. He obtained his master of science degree in anatomy in 1985 from UNMC and his master of public administration degree in 1994 from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). He is currently a doctoral candidate in public administration at UNO. Before joining the division in 1991, Meyer's work experience included 12 years of practice in pediatric physical therapy at Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute (1979-1983) and Children's Hospital (1983-1991) in Omaha.

Meyer and his wife, Deb, a research coordinator in physical therapy education at UNMC, have four sons.
SAHP Presents Its Top Awards

Amber D. Donnelly, MPH, SCT (ASCP)
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 2006 Award for the Teacher of the Year went to Amber Donnelly, Program Director, lead instructor and the primary faculty member of the Cytotechnology Program. Some of Amber’s nominators said she possesses phenomenal educational strategies, organizes the lectures, manages to synchronize video-conferencing with information technology, gathers interesting and challenging cases for students review, uses online classroom tools including syllabi, assignments, case studies and lectures and coordinates all student clinical rotation schedules. She has also developed games and other interactive learning tools. She has added training in the new automated slide reader technologies to the curriculum. The students are always aware of what is expected of them, not only each day but well into the future because of her constant and consistent communication.

In the past year, Amber has developed the first cytotechnology distance learning program in the nation with the Carle Clinic in Urbana, Illinois. She is also participating in an innovative Virtual Cervical Cytology project supported by the National Library of Medicine to prepare, evaluate and test the effectiveness of using digitized slides on the Internet for teaching, continuing education and competency testing in Cytotechnology.

Amber is a strong role model as a professional Cytotechnologist and encourages her students to take pride in their chosen professions.

Laura Bilek, PT, PhD
Outstanding Researcher of the Year

The Researcher of the Year award honors an SAHP faculty member whose research contributions add to the knowledge of the clinical, scientific, and/or educational community. The recipient of this award receives a check for $500 and a plaque commemorating the award.

Dr. Laura Bilek was this year’s recipient. She began her journey toward a productive research career as soon as she became a physical therapist. She was interested in academic physical therapy immediately. She joined Dr. Pat Leuschen’s lab and worked with her and Dr. Terry Zach on a successful doctoral dissertation project. This set the stage for her current interest in the interaction between the immune system, inflammation and therapy. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to research in the area of exercise intervention in the management of chronic diseases.

She has obtained $105,000 in funding from the Arthritis Foundation to address the immune response to exercise in individuals with rheumatoid arthritis with an additional $172,000 in support from the UNMC Research Support Fund to carry out this line of inquiry. Dr. Bilek has published her work in the prestigious journal, Arthritis Care and Research and reported her findings at the National Arthritis Meeting last November.

Dr. Bilek successfully obtained a grant from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to further the understanding of the impact exercise has on developing diabetes, particularly in the population who smoke.

She also obtained over a Minority Health and Education Research Grant to study the impact of exercise on insulin resistance and subsequent immune responses in a minority, medically underserved population in South Omaha.

Dr. Bilek has been successful in securing research funding, setting up collaborative arrangements for clinical trials, and in publishing. All of this has been done during a period in which she has continued her role in both the teaching and clinical care missions within physical therapy education. Dr. Bilek exceeds all of the requirements necessary for this distinction.

Phyllis Meullenberg, MA, MT (ASCP) & Jean Deupree, PhD
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 the school had two recipients, Phyllis Muellenberg, past Program Director of the Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and Dr. Jean Deupree, professor, Pharmacology and Experiential Neuroscience.

Phyllis has been involved in medical technology/clinical laboratory science education for 36 years – 22 of those years she was Program Director of the Division of Medical Technology now Clinical Laboratory Science at UNMC. Although this was her official title, Phyllis worked tirelessly for the entire School of Allied Health Professions during her tenure. Effective January 1, 2006, she began her “semi-retirement” and continues in the role of Principal Investigator for a bioterrorism preparedness grant.
In addition, Phyllis became a national model for grants administration beginning with the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) grant that was awarded to the SAHP in 1990.

She has accounted for 3.5 million dollars in federal funding support for projects benefiting the UNMC SAHP. Through these projects, UNMC became nationally known for distance education in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, add-a-competency training, recruitment into the allied health professions, cultural competency, expansion of allied health programs, degree completion options and bioterrorism preparedness education.

Phyllis is a visionary and has continually supported distance learning. She has contributed to the SAHP and to the university community through her service on educational development, curriculum, promotion and other countless committees. She has always been willing to “step to the plate”.

Phyllis embodies the values and intent of the award as she has dedicated countless hours toward a better future for all of us and is highly deserving of this award.

Dr. Jean Deupree began her service to the School of Allied Health Professions in 1979 as a member of the search committee for the Director of the Physical Therapy Program. She has served on the search committee for the Associate Dean of SAHP in 1994 and is currently serving on the committee for Associate Dean Haven’s replacement. She also participated in two site visits for national accreditation for both the Physician Assistant and Clinical Perfusion Programs.

In 1993 she assumed the position of primary instructor and course coordinator for the pharmacology course for physician assistant and clinical perfusion students. Dr. Deupree set up a pharmacology website with links to helpful information, Powerpoint presentations of all lectures and past exams for practice purposes. She was always accessible to students and set up tutoring for any students who requested it to ensure their success. The students have consistently ranked this as one of their outstanding courses.

Dr. Deupree is an exceptional educator, a builder and a good researcher. As a team player, the great things she does every day enhance our educational and research pursuits. She was out of town during the awards ceremony, so Dr. Deupree received her plaque and a silk corsage upon her return. ■

Retiring Dean’s Farewell

After 11 years as your Associate Dean, this is my last message. I have enjoyed this position enormously. It has been gratifying to work with young, bright and energetic students who keep us mentally alert at all times. I thank the outstanding, talented faculty of the school for their inspiring dedication to preparing the best educated allied health students in the country. I thank the program directors for providing the leadership for each of their programs to excel. I also thank the competent staff of our programs for performing beyond expectations to meet the needs of faculty and students. I thank all of you for your hard work which has resulted in such excellent outcomes. Our articles in this issue demonstrate these outcomes. I especially want to thank Sue Miyeno, Sue Prusia, and Fran Higgins for designing systems that keep the Associate Dean’s office running smoothly and for their creative problem solving skills. In addition, they really know how to throw a party! The retirement celebration was great fun.

The partnership with the Native American communities of Winnebago and Macy has provided faculty and students with learning experiences and the opportunity to help the tribes with diabetes prevention and management of the disease. Many changes have occurred and it is obvious the communities are healthier than 10 years ago when the partnership began. I thank both tribes for the chance to collaborate with them in developing interventions for decreasing the incidence of diabetes in the Native American communities.

Through the leadership of Chancellor Maurer, UNMC and the School have additional resource space and will soon be housed in the same building as Bennett Hall becomes remodeled. I thank the Chancellor for hiring me when he was Dean of the College of Medicine. It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve the people of Nebraska.

I thank the other Deans of the College of Medicine with whom I have worked and especially thank Dr. Gollan for his patience with the search process.

Finally, I welcome Kyle Meyer as the new Associate Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, and I promise to have my desk cleared by the time he starts on August 1. I know he has the skills to lead the school forward and I anticipate the reading of future newsletters to find out about the School’s additional successes. I know you will support him as you have supported me.

I will never forget our years of working together and our wonderful collaborations. Good luck in the future.

Phyllis Muellenberg (holding plaque and corsage) and her friend Dawn Grayson.

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I will never forget our years of working together and our wonderful collaborations. Good luck in the future.
On August 18, 2005, the SAHP welcomed a group of 172 new students, 151 of whom were Nebraskans. With returning students that brought our enrollment to a total of 354 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, 100% of UNMC students passed with only 68% of students passing nationally. Clinical Perfusion did not have a graduating class in 2005 because we were in transition with program directors and did not take students that year.

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 8-12%. 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.

The latest issue of Money magazine had a feature on the top 50 jobs in America. Rated #2 was college professor which should make our faculty feel good about their chosen profession. Also among the top 50 were PA (at #5), PT at #12, Dietician/Nutritionist at #40 and laboratory technologists at #46. The growth rate for these professions ranged from 18 to 50%.
Students Receive National Scholarships & Awards

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

Clinical Laboratory Science—
Sara Cimanece, Jessicka Martinez, Julie Lancaster, Sara Meyer, Taylor Noyes, Joseph Sandmeier, & Valerie Stenzel received an ASCLS scholarship. Sara Cimanece, Donald Gilpin, Taylor Noyes, and Valerie Stenzel received the Dade Behring/Roche Scholarship. Emily Hansen, Jodie Javorsky, Jessica Martinez, Tara Perkins, & Joseph Sandmeier received a scholarship from ASCP.

Clinical Perfusion—
Melissa Osentowski won the Marjorie Merwin Simons Memorial Scholarship and the PEO International Sisterhood Educational Learning Grant.

Cytotechnology—
Michelle Holtkamp and Hilary Kruse won the CYTYC Scholarship.

Medical Nutrition—
Amanda Jochum won the Marie Knickrehm Scholarship from the ADA.

Physical Therapy—
Jason Moore won the Mary McMillan Scholarship.

Nuclear Medicine Technology—
Christina Araujo won the PDEF Mickey Williams Scholarship.

Other national awards for SAHP students include the ASCP National Student Honor Award: Bret Brokaw, Donald Gilpin, Emily Hansen, Cassy Holman, Jodie Javorsky, Maryann Markes, Jessica Martinez, Taylor Noyes, Tara Perkins, Joseph Sandmeier, & Valerie Stenzel; 2nd Place W. Frederick Sample Award: Elizabeth Grummert; 1st Place Chicago Area Radiation Therapy Seminar Essay Contest: Scott Stoehr

Alpha Eta Honor Society Inducts Students

The Nebraska chapter of Alpha Eta honor society inducted nine 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.

Clinical Laboratory Science—
Jodie Javorsky, Maryann Markes, Joseph Sandmeier

Nuclear Medicine—
Katie Grosshans

Physical Therapy—
Amber Bialus, Erin Crapo, Rebeca Kusek, Shannon Mcgee, Tess Wells

Inductees from August & December 2005:

Diagnostic Medical Sonography —
Karen Baumann

Radiation Therapy —
Craig Boro

Physician Assistant —
Amy Miriovsky, Jill Probst

Faculty Service Awards

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

Grace Johnson — 5 years
Connie Mitchell — 5 years

2005-2006 SAHP Silver ‘U’ Awards

Allied health recipients of the Silver ‘U’ award:

Diane Landon — August 2005
Cindy Skarda — November 2005
Virgie Powers — April 2006

Faculty National Awards

Golden Synapse Award (APTA neurology) —
Greg Karst, Tammy Roehrs, Dawn Venema, & Amy Tyler

Jeanne Fischer Mentoring Award (APTA Pediatrics) —
Reggie Harbourne

Outstanding Abstract & Presentation by a New Investigator (APHA) —
Jan Tompkins

Faculty & Staff National Leadership

Allied health faculty are national leaders in their professional organizations:

Linda Fell, Board of Directors, ASCP
Karen Honeycutt, Board of Registry, ASCP
Amber Donnelly, ASC committees
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, President-Elect, ASRT
Kim Michael, Education Committee, SDMS
Pat Hageman, Chair, APTA Panel on Education
Greg Karst, Editorial Board, Physical Therapy
Kyle Meyer, APTA Task Force on Advanced Clinical Teaching
James Somers, ARC-PA Accreditation Site Visitor, Grad Ed Committee of the PA Education Association

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

Dr. Pat Hageman, Achievement in Education Award from NE PT Association.

Phyllis Muellenberg, Filter Award (the state’s highest award for clinical laboratory scientists), and Outstanding Clinical Laboratory Scientist Award (NSCLS).

Mary Haven, received the Friend of Physical Therapy Award from the Nebraska PT Association in addition to a Fellowship in ASAHP.
Physical Therapy Honored with the University-Wide Departmental Teaching Award

We congratulate the Division of Physical Therapy Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center for being chosen out of all the departments in the four-campus University of Nebraska system to win the 2006 University-wide Departmental Teaching Award. One such award is presented each year in honor and recognition of a unit within the University of Nebraska that has made a unique and significant contribution to the teaching efforts of the University and which has outstanding esprit de corps in its dedication to the education of students at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional levels. The award carries a cash stipend of $25,000 to be used to further enhance the teaching mission of the honored department.

Faculty, staff, and students of the Division were honored at the Annual Luncheon for recipients of the University of Nebraska Teaching, Research and Creative Activity awards, where University of Nebraska President J.B. Milliken presented the award to Program Director Pat Hageman, PT, PhD. Also in attendance at the ceremony were UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer and members of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. The presentation of the award was accompanied by a brief video featuring Division faculty and students. The video is available on their website at http://www.unmc.edu/physicaltherapy.

Five years ago, our Medical Technology Department (now called Clinical Laboratory Science) won this award. Our faculty in the Allied Health Professions do not rest on their laurels!

Linda Fell Named Program Director for CLS

Linda Fell, MS, MT(ASCP)SH was named the new program director for Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) in January 2006, replacing Phyllis Muellenberg, MA, MT(ASCP). Linda has been a faculty member in the UNMC CLS program since 1992. Among her many responsibilities, Linda has been actively involved in the development, coordination and delivery of distance education for CLS students in rural Nebraska and the surrounding states. Linda has been a principal participant on several grant supported education programs that have contributed to significantly increasing the number of clinical laboratory scientists working in Nebraska. In addition to these activities, Linda has a long history of involvement in the American Society for Clinical Pathology, serving most recently as the Chair of the ASCP Associate Council and member of the Board of Directors.

Linda leads the only baccalaureate CLS program in Nebraska, with a faculty of 12 and a student body of 36. The program provides instruction in Omaha, but also at clinical affiliation sites in Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Norfolk, and North Platte, NE, as well as in Casper, WY, Sioux Falls, SD, and through the University of Missouri at Columbia.
School of Allied Health Professions Student Research Forum

The 19th annual SAHP Student Research Forum was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2006. Ninety-two students presented their work with 73 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 Laboratory Science
Nicole Luebbert Meier & Joseph Sandmeier

Clinical Perfusion
Melissa Osentowski

CT/MRI
Reed Fricke, Christine Hinz, Holly Hoehn, Chad Hovseth, & Ashley Wegner

Cytotechnology
Lori Bermel, Travis Blunier, Michelle Holtkamp, Matthew Krewer, Hilary Kruse, & Jessica Orsulak

Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Shelly Albert, Shari Berg, Claire Beckmann, Lori Campbell, Jill Guenther, & Autumn Hanson

Medical Nutrition
Megan Choquette, Amanda Jochum, Adrienne Soileau, & John Yenny

Nuclear Medicine Technology
Christina Araujo, Andrea Danielson, Katie Grosshans, Kelli Kosch, Dan Matthes, Andrew Sack, & Megan Spangler

Physical Therapy
Kendra Boehm, Adam Brockmeier, Ashley Brown, Sarah Cockle, Brad Corr, Jake Costello, Danielle Dykstra, Karlene Ernste, Kirk Everson, Erica Fleck, Kristin Fox, Sara Griffiths, Erin Haberman, Melissa Hagemann, Amie Hanson, Amber Herrington, Heidi Hodapp, Diana Holthaus, Jennifer Janata, Chad Kershner, Marcus Kohout, Christopher Mallam, Kelly McBrien, Erin McMullen, Tami Meehan, Karlie Murphy, Jessica Nelson, Kellie Obermeier, Dara Oglesby, Brandon Penas, Kilee Portenier, Carrie Pudenz, Adam Roeser, Angela Semerad, Stephen Station, Jeanne Waller, Amanda Weiner, Rachel Windhorst, & Joshua Yao

Physician Assistant
Janet Oberhauser

Radiation Therapy
Chad DeJong, Jayme Hawk, Mashala Hosking, Ben Mueller, Amy Nichols, Angela Richardson, Jason Stanford, Scott Stoehr, & Kassia Ulffers

Radiography
Jeffrey Blair, James Borer, Misty Helsinger, Jillian Kindig, Ryan Krueger, Stephanie Lough, Barbara Miller, Trisha Neumeister, Regina Preister, Michaela Thompson, Brooke Weinrich, & Angela Zitek

Andrea Danielson’s poster won first place at the 2006 Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists competition.

Scott Stoehr, Jason Stanford & Ben Mueller of the Radiation Therapy program prepare to display their poster.

2006 Student Research Forum Committee:
Chair, Barbara Robertson, Medical Nutrition Program
Jana Koth, Radiation Therapy Program
Dr. Clare Kennedy, Physician Assistant Program
Mary Haven, Associate Dean, SAHP
Ricki Otten, Clinical Laboratory Science 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
Program Highlights

Clinical Perfusion Education

University of Nebraska Medical Center's Clinical Perfusion Education (CPE) program continues to flourish. CPE is a leader in the nation in demonstrating Perfusion excellence. Our school has offered for several semesters an on-line degree completion program for practicing clinicians, the Master's Degree in Clinical Perfusion (MDCP), to complement the traditional CPE students. The class activities for both traditional CPE and MCDP students overlap in several courses which have proven to augment the educational process for both groups.

Our program continues to implement an aggressive laboratory curriculum to help teach the students the mechanisms and interactions of biophysics as it relates to Clinical Perfusion. Student surveys continue to reflect the value and worth of the hands-on process as "key" in developing a practical understanding of Clinical Perfusion. It is also heard from our numerous clinical sites that the students arrive for clinical training better prepared year after year!

Clinical Perfusion is in the early phase of development of a proteomics curriculum to compliment the current clinical practice of applications of platelet concentrates. The CPE Curriculum committee is artfully guiding the development of the change and with careful planning, elements of proteomics are being implemented into the CPE program.

Cytotechnology Education

This year UNMC’s cytotechnology program is graduating the first class of distance students in the United States. Our distance students spend the entire length of the program at the Carle Clinic in Urbana, Illinois. We are currently accredited for 6 students on site and 4 students at the Carle Clinic. We are hoping to expand to another site within the next year. It has been stated that our program is a model for other programs in the United States and we have been asked to share our experiences in a number of national arenas.

The cytology program recently went through its re-accreditation process. We were the first program to go through this process with a new set of standards and guidelines which are based more on outcomes. To date, we have not heard about the length of re-accreditation, but got positive feedback from the site visitors who found no deficiencies with our program. They also commended us for our innovative approaches to education. Therefore, we are hopeful in receiving the maximum of 7 years.

Clinical Laboratory Science Education

The UNMC Clinical Laboratory Science Program is nationally known for distance education. With 37 students and affiliate sites at 10 locations in Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota and Missouri, the CLS Program provides education of laboratory professionals throughout the region. This is the second year for students enrolled at the University of Missouri to complete their CLS education through UNMC. The entire curriculum is online which also enables the Program to offer the Degree Completion Option (DCO) for associate degree MLTs to earn a BSCLS. This option enrolls students throughout the country and in Trinidad and Germany. The CLS faculty presents at national, regional and state meetings and is often invited to consult on issues related to distance education.

This year, Phyllis Muellenberg stepped down as Program Director after many years in the position both at UNMC and at the Nebraska Methodist Hospital. Linda Fell was named Program Director in January, 2006. The Program also earned the maximum number of years for accreditation through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS).

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Education

This past year has been busy for the DMS program. On August 12, 2005, seven students graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Radiation Science Technology. The class had a 100% pass rate on their registry exams and is employed throughout the country. Beth Grummert’s paper, Pediatric Hip Pain: Transient Synovitis Versus Septic Arthritis, placed second in the W. Fredrick Sample Writing Competition. She presented her paper at the SDMS National Conference in Dallas, Texas. The class also won 1st place in the student poster exhibit at this meeting.

Our current class matriculated on August 18, 2005 and will complete their education on August 11, 2006. These students participated in the poster exhibit competition at the Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Conference in April. Shelly Albert and Autumn Hanson received 1st place with their poster, HELLP Syndrome. Claire Beckmann and Jill Guenther received 3rd place with their Aortic Dissection poster. This summer all six students submitted papers to our national writing competition. Winners will be announced in August. The class will also participate in the SDMS poster competition in Denver, Colorado in October.
Medical Nutrition Education  
Est. 1976

The UNMC Medical Nutrition Education (MNE) Division administers the post-baccalaureate UNMC Dietetic Internship Program, which is currently granted accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education of the American Dietetic Association. It is an 11-month post-baccalaureate program that prepares students to take the national registration examination to become Registered Dietitians.

Our curriculum is competency based with a nutrition therapy emphasis. Supervised practice rotations include general medicine and specialty service areas such as cardiology, diabetes, oncology, pediatric specialties, organ transplantation, renal disease, rehabilitation, and critical care medicine. 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.

Our class of 2005, consisting of 5 graduates, achieved a 100% first time pass rate on the national registration examination, compared to a national pass rate of 82%. Four students graduated from our program in June 2006. Six students will start in August, comprising the class of 2007.

Physical Therapy Education  
Est. 1970

It has been a banner year for the program! This newsletter showcases the wonderful accomplishments of faculty, staff, students and alumni during the 2005-06 academic year. There has not been more recognition for Physical Therapy Education during my 22-year tenure at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

I am delighted that the recognition and honors received encompasses all aspects of the program – commitment to quality education, research, and service. Even more exciting is that two of the awards received acknowledge a pervasive spirit of collaboration. The University Wide Departmental Teaching Award recognizes the entire faculty and staff for their esprit de corps in providing innovative teaching, while the School of Allied Health Community Service Award recognizes the entire student body for their collaborative efforts at providing service, including participation in a pro-bono clinic.

Of special mention is the continued dedication and commitment to Physical Therapy Education by the Physical Therapy Alumni Association. I applaud the inaugural Board of Directors for its unwavering support for this newly created Alumni Association.

Nuclear Medicine Technology Education  
Est. 1972

UNMC has the only Nuclear Medicine Technology Education program in the state of Nebraska. It is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology. Our students maintain a 100% pass rate on national board exams with the 2005 class scores ranking at the 98 percentile compared to the national average. Our incoming student GPA for 2006 is 3.8. We have affiliation with seven clinical sites in the Omaha area, providing a wide array of learning opportunities for our students through diverse clinical settings.

Our educational curriculum provides a broad range of learning activities including poster presentations to the NSRT in which our students have consistently earned awards for their presentations over the past 3 years.

In 2005-2006 we had students from Lexington, St. Paul, Humphrey, Sioux City, Plattsmouth, Lincoln, Osceola, Seward, Omaha, Central City and Leigh, Nebraska. A great mix of Nebraska students.

Physician Assistant Education  
Est. 1973

Effective October 7, 2005, the offices of the Physician Assistant Program have moved from Annex 1 to our new home on the 4th floor, Bennett Hall. Telephone numbers for all faculty and staff remain unchanged. All alumni are invited to stop by and see our new facilities.

Dr. Ellen Davis Hall recently left our program at UNMC to join the faculty at the University of Colorado Child Health Associate PA Program. We are keeping regular correspondence with Dr. Ellen Davis Hall. She reports that she is enjoying her new job and the climate. We miss her at the Program and wish her well in her new position.

The PA Program welcomed two new faculty members this past fall, Clare Kennedy PA-C and Stephane VanderMeulen, PA-C. Both are former graduates of our PA Program. Both were previously practicing in Nebraska, Clare in Family Practice and Stephane in Orthopedics. This expands our core faculty to six members.

Involvement with professional activities on the national and state levels continues to be a priority with our faculty members; Darwin Brown with AAPA, Mark Christiansen with NCCPA, Dr. Somers with ARCPA & PAEA & Tom Grothe with NPAF.
The UNMC Radiation Therapy program is currently undergoing the continuing accreditation process with the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. The self-study report has been submitted and the site visit will be scheduled for later this year. The program feels confident that it will once again obtain the maximum 8-year accreditation. The UNMC Therapy program is one of 25 baccalaureate programs in the United States and the only one in the state of Nebraska.

Although the students maintain a full course load, they still find time to contribute to the community. Events such as decorating the Ronald McDonald House for Christmas, and fundraising and participating in Relay for Life are a couple of annual events the students feel strongly about. Academic accomplishments this year include Scott Stoehr being awarded first place by the Chicago Area Radiation Therapists for his essay on proton beam therapy.

The Radiation Therapy program is very fortunate to have clinical affiliations with all the cancer centers in Omaha, including: The Nebraska Medical Center, Alegent Health-Bergan Mercy and Immanuel Medical Centers, Methodist Hospital and Creighton Medical Center. Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln is a new clinical site this year. The students are fortunate to experience the latest in technical advances at each of these facilities.

The faculty in the Program is committed to life-long learning in their profession. Lisa Bartenhagen, the Program Director has just completed her master’s degree and Jana Koth, the Clinical Education Coordinator is currently pursuing her master’s degree in health education.

The alumni of the Radiation Therapy program have established a scholarship named the Michele Werts Memorial Radiation Therapy Scholarship. This fund will assist students with financial need studying for the UNMC Radiation Therapy Program and will also remember Michele for her friendship, love for hunting and fishing and for her dream of helping other cancer patients, as she was, by becoming a radiation therapist.

The Radiography program moved to Bennett Hall this year where we now have a dedicated distance education room—3006 Bennett Hall. We are excited to have our first complete distant education program with the Saint Francis Medical Center affiliate site.

This year has seen an increase in applications and we have added the SAHP Critical Thinking course to the curriculum. In addition, we have strengthened clinical education in trauma due to our dedicated Radiography department in the new emergency room. We completed our self-study for programmatic accreditation in preparation for a site visit.

At the state meeting, two of our students won awards: 2nd place essay and 2nd place student quiz bowl. Three students participated at the national level exhibit competition.

Connie Mitchell, program director, was installed President-Elect of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists at the ISRRT Word Congress Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

Jim Temme and Adam Stevens won 2nd place in the RT exhibit competition at the Word Congress Annual Meeting and Jim Temme presented the Association of Educators in Radiologic Sciences (AERS) Honors lecture at the World Congress Annual Meeting.

A total of 166 students are scheduled to graduate from the School of Allied Health Professions from May to December 2006.

The May 2006 graduates included 41 physical therapy students receiving the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree; six clinical perfusion students (5 of whom were distance education) receiving the Master in Perfusion Science Education; 30 clinical laboratory science students receiving the Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science; 2 physician assistant students 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—3 students from radiography, 5 from nuclear medicine, 2 from CT/MRI, and 1 from our distance education RT to BSRT program.

Four 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, 6 cytotechnology students (2 of whom are distance education students) are scheduled to receive a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Cytotechnology; and earning a Bachelor of Science in Radiation Science Technology—3 from CT/MRI, 6 from diagnostic medical sonography, 3 from nuclear medicine, and 9 from radiation therapy, and 4 from our distance education RT to BSRT program. Nine radiography graduates will be going on to one of the other radiation science modalities. In December, 39 physician assistant students and 2 distance education RT to BSRT students are scheduled to graduate.
Community Service Award

We would like to say a special thank you to our students and faculty who volunteer to serve those less fortunate. The Medical Nutrition students volunteered at the Sharing Clinic and the Good Life Clinic.

The Clinical Laboratory Science students cared for the underserved at the Sharing Clinic; did diabetes monitoring and treatment at the Goodlife Clinic; treated STDs at the Respect Clinic; and conducted health screening at school wellness fairs and health fairs in North Platte, Hastings, and Casper, WY.

The RSTE students helped paint for the Habitat for Humanity; decorated the Ronald McDonald House; and participating in health fair screening.

The PA students did health screenings, educated the public about their professions; assisted in patient care at Douglas County Health Dept STD Clinic; at One World Tuberculosis Clinic; and in Pediatric care at UNMC pediatric clinic.

This year we gave the second Community Service Award to the Physical Therapy students. The entire class received the $1000 award and is using it to attend their state and national meetings. The Physical Therapy students did physical fitness screening for the Special Olympics athletes; organized and ran a volleyball tournament to benefit the Arthritis Foundation, provided physical therapy services at the UNMC sharing clinic, assisted with equine therapy for special needs children, volunteered at the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament and helped with the cystic fibrosis tour de trace. There were also several other volunteer efforts not mentioned.

Retirement Celebration Honoring Associate Dean Haven

On June 28, 2006 hundreds of well-wishers gathered in the private dining rooms of UNMC to honor Mary Haven for her 11 years of service as Associate Dean and 38 years at UNMC in the Pathology and Microbiology and Clinical Laboratory Science Departments, as she is officially retiring July 31, 2006.

Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, Dr. John Gollan, and Dr. Sam Cohen all had words of high praise for Mary and the School of Allied Health Professions under her leadership. “Mary is a very strong leader and highly respected,” said Chancellor Maurer. “She has done a superb job in everything she undertook, and we congratulate her on an outstanding job as Associate Dean.” He went on to say that SAHP always comes out on top in all the surveys, most recently in employee satisfaction, which speaks highly for the School and for the Associate Dean.

As a special surprise, Sherriann Moore and Jim Snow, representing the Winnebago Tribe, presented Mary with a traditional handmade quilt (pictured bottom right) and several other symbolic gifts for her strong commitment to serving the needs of the Native American people of Nebraska. Allied Health has a continuing relationship with Winnebago and Macy for education in the treatment and prevention of diabetes.

Mary first announced her retirement over a year and a half ago. At that time, faculty and staff in Allied Health took up a collection. In order to be sure the gift we bought would arrive on time, we quickly put in an order with a guarantee that it would be delivered by the time she retired. This last year it has been moved all around campus to keep it hidden!

The School of Allied Health Professions gave Dean Haven a prestigious Boston Rocker and Heritage Lamp from Standard Chair of Gardner engraved with her name and the UNMC logo. The School also presented her with a bouquet of pink roses, a VISA gift card to start her on her travels, and a cross-stitched blanket made by Sue Prussia from the SAHP office. Fran Higgins, also in the SAHP office, composed a parody of The Beatles’ “Eleanor Rigby” especially for Mary, and put the song to a PowerPoint presentation for the finale of the reception.
Everything you want to know about careers in the allied health professions.