Omaha LRC Ready to Open After Remodeling

The Learning Resource Center in Omaha has undergone a complete renovation this summer. As workmen scurry to finish before the students come charging down the hall, the LRC staff have donned their blue jeans to get moved in and setup.

The remodeled LRC will have a classroom devoted to seven computers for University Hospital’s patient information database, a 15 computer main lab area, and a conference room/faculty development room which includes a spray hood for mounted posters. The LRC has also added a 42-inch plotter. This machine will allow the LRC to produce “all-in-one” posters, up to 42 by 56 inches, (which is the maximum setting in PowerPoint). Like all the LRCs on the four campuses, the Omaha LRC will have space dedicated for the Sim-Cath computer, the IV simulation computer.

The Clinical Skills area has also been remodeled. Accompanying the six hospital beds, the LRC has added areas for computers for Computer Aided Instruction (CAI), an attached but separate clinical class area. Each hospital bed has a Hill-Rom mocked up headboard (with all the bells and whistles like most hospitals) with actual air. In addition, we have added a single clinical area with one hospital bed so students can practice skills while the larger lab is scheduled.

A new area for video storage and front desk add to the finishing touches of the remodel. In addition, Alan Wass, computer information specialist, will move his operation and location to a new room designed for his needs (Room 3021) in the LRC area. His phone number will not change.

Also located on the third floor in Omaha will be the College of Nursing Historical room funded by donors who contribute to the College of Nursing Foundation Fund. News on this will be provided in future newsletters. This room and a history storage room has been boxed in but will not be finished until funding is available.

The Omaha LRC staff can’t wait to have all the moving completed and things return to “normal”. They are looking forward to a great year, according to Patti Carstens, LRC director.
People in the News

• Cheryl Thompson has been awarded a $20,000 grant from Sigma Theta Tau to coordinate database design and data management for the Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library. She also had three articles accepted for publication (with additional authors): The evolution of definitions for nursing informatics: A critical analysis and revised definition, Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association; Minimum data set development: Air Transport time-related terms, International Journal of Medical Informatics; Aggregate Data for Measuring Practice Improvement, Nursing Management.

• Jean Bartek and Judith Heermann were among UNMC faculty members who received 30-year service awards during the Annual Faculty meeting last April. Dr. Bartek is an associate professor in the College of Nursing’s adult health and illness department and the department of pharmacology in the College of Medicine. Dr. Heermann is an associate professor in the College of Nursing and has taught in the graduate and undergraduate programs.

• Forty-six UNMC faculty members were promoted July 1. The faculty included Carol Ott, who was promoted to associate professor in the CON Kearney Division.

• Natalie Rasmussen received a Nebraska Bankers Association Award of $7,940.00 for a Genesys Gamma Counter and accessories.

• Alan Wass and Lori Cooley attended a luncheon hosted by Chancellor Maurer for Team Captains of The American Heart Walk. The final fund raising results were announced: The CON received the first place award for number of walkers - 26; the CON received the first place award for amount of money collected - $3,194; Lori Cooley received second place for highest individual amount collected - $928; and Alan Wass received third place for highest individual amount collected - $923. UNMC/NHS received the trophy for the most money raised in companies that have 1,000 or more employees. The UNMC/NHS community raised $32,788.

• Susan Wilhelm’s clinical research poster, “Exploring the Relationship of Attitudes, Knowledge, Support and Self-Efficacy on Intent to Adhere to Hormonal Replacement Therapy for Menopause,” won the $400 Outstanding Clinical Research Poster Award from AWHONN. The award was presented June 23 at the AWHONN Convention.

• Mary McNamee received the Robah Kellogg Alumni Award from the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Nursing, Peoria Regional Program, at the annual honors dinner Aug. 19.

• Ann Berger attended the NIH-sponsored “Symptom Management in Cancer- Pain, Depression and Fatigue” conference in July in Bethesda, Md. She also served as a panel review member for the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Training Grants.

• Bobbi Hartshorn, secretary in the College of Nursing - West Nebraska Division, was awarded the Silver U in May.

Kathleen Duncan, right, receives the Rosalee Yeaworth teaching award from Ada Lindsey, Dean of the College of Nursing, during the annual faculty-staff retreat in May. The award acknowledges a faculty member for teaching excellence. Kathleen received an engraved plaque and a monetary award of $500.
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers.

Pennie Z. Davis Family

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement. It made me feel very special.

Rocio, Eleaza and Jonathan Gonzalez

I want to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards and prayers after the death of my father-in-law last May. The plant sent from the College of Nursing was very nice and provides Bryan and I a daily reminder of your thoughtfulness. Your kindness will always be remembered.

Louise LaFramboise

Dear Ada,

Many thanks to you and all the nursing faculty for the sculpture and the send off. I enjoyed working with you and the others in the College of Nursing - especially in the graduate arena. As you know, Bonnie and I are not leaving the area, so we will be in touch.

Bill Berndt

Thank you for the beautiful cut flower arrangement. I received it shortly after my stay in the hospital and it was so beautiful to see and reflect upon. See you soon.

Nancy Farris

Mike and I want to thank you for the peace lily, the sympathy cards and prayers, food, and memorials for Mike’s mother, Daphne Flynn. Losing her so suddenly was a shock to us, but your thoughtfulness and caring is very helpful and greatly appreciated.

Judy Heermann

Thanks to all of you who have sent cards and e-mails, for the beautiful flowers, and for your many words of comfort at the death of my grandmother. I am reminded of Wordsworth’s words:

“That best portion of a good man’s life;
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love.”

Your acts of kindness are certainly evidence of your goodness. I am very thankful for working with such a caring group of people.

Carly Crim

I just wanted to say thank you for the lovely flowers the College of Nursing sent after the birth of my babies.

Jim and Lynne Rosser

Thank you so much for the beautiful plant. It’s comforting to have the support of colleagues during this difficult time.

Barb Friesth

Evans to Speak at UNMC As Visiting Scholar Oct. 14-15

Dr. Lois Evans from the University of Pennsylvania will be the next visiting scholar, Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 14-15.

On Oct. 14, there will be a reception for Dr. Evans at the W. H. Thompson Alumni Center in Omaha. The reception, which begins at 5 p.m., will be followed by a presentation by Dr. Evans. Exact topic will be forthcoming but it will be based on Dr. Evans’ research on restraint reduction. Formal invitations will be sent to faculty and community health care representatives for this event.

On Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., there will be a televised presentation to all campus sites. Faculty are asked to participate in these special events and to consider making arrangements for students to be able to attend the televised presentation on Tuesday.

On both that Monday and Tuesday, Dr. Evans will be available to consultation with faculty about research and clinical practice issues. Faculty who would like to set up an appointment should contact Lori Cooley at 402-559-6382.

Fourth Class of RN to BSN Students Begins Program

The fourth class of students in the RN to BSN program has started their course of study. The students recently completed a two-day orientation on the Kearney Division campus of the College of Nursing.

The students are: Wendy Denman, Alda; Lois Franzen, Leigh; Barbara Heinauer, Gretna; Vicky Hinz, Kingsley, Iowa; Shawn Hobbs, Sterling; Gloria Hoesing, O’Neill; Nancy Johnson, Lincoln; Pat Kirkpatrick, North Platte; Dorrie LaPlant, Auburn, Jane Leverington, North Platte; Kristin Miller, Nebraska City; Jennifer Misajet, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Lori Munter, Wausa; Melissa Stacy, North Platte; Hilary Stoner, Kearney; and Lea Wamberg, Magnet.

The rural RN to BSN program is funded by a five-year grant of $900,000. The grant features innovative web-based courses, distance learning methods and furnishes laptop computers for students to use during their course of study.

The program uses an electronic syllabus with on-line activities and discussion groups which allows the students flexibility in course assignments without having to meet for class at a specific time.
News from the Niedfelt Nursing Research Center

MAY GRANT SUBMISSIONS

JUNE GRANT SUBMISSIONS
- Natalie Rasmussen (PI). Measurement of Bet-endorphin in Mouse Brain Tissue. CON, NNRC Mini-grant.
- Kim Rodehorst (PI), Melody Hertzog. Obtaining Better Outcomes in Rural Asthmatic Children: A Comparison of Two Educational Programs. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

JULY GRANT SUBMISSIONS
- Christie Campbell-Grossman (PI), Diane Brage Hudson, Rebecca Keating-Lefler, Margaret Ofe Fleck, Joan Westfall. A Description of the Needs and Concerns of Single Low-income Mothers. CON, NNRC Mini-grant.
- Louise LaFramboise (PI), Bernice Yates, Bunny Pozehl, Susan Barnason, Melody Hertzog. Outcomes of Social Support Intervention for Spousal Caregivers of Heart Failure Patients. American Heart Association - National and Heartland Affiliate.
- Susan Wilhelm (PI), Sangeeta Agrawal. Motivational Interviewing to Promote Sustained Breastfeeding in Non-smoking and Smoking Mothers. Regional West Foundation.

Grant Deadline Calendar

September
1 Arthritis Foundation New Investigator
1 Arthritis Foundation Clinical Sciences
9 NIH AIDS-related Grants
15 UNMC College of Nursing Dean's Grant
15 Cancer Research Foundation of America
25 AHRQ Dissertation Small Grant

October
1 AACN Clinical Practice Grant
1 AACN - Sigma Theta Tau Critical Care Academic Investigator Award - Nursing
1 American Cancer Society - Junior Faculty Training Grant
1 American Lung Association - Career Investigator
1 Clinical Investigator Award - Nursing
1 NIH New Research Project Grant
1 NIH/NINR Academic Investigator Award
15 Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
15 American Cancer Society - Research Project Grant

November
1 American Association for Cancer Research Young Investigator
1 AACR - Gertrude Elion Cancer Research Award
1 American Lung Association Research Grants
1 NIH - Revised Grants
1 Oncology Nursing Society and Oncology Nursing Foundation
12 Alzheimer's Association
24 AHRQ Small Grants

Please contact the NNRC for these research grant guidelines

CON RECEIVES FUNDING
- Christie Campbell-Grossman (PI), Diane Brage Hudson, Rebecca Keating-Lefler, (Continued on next page)
(Continued from previous page)

Margaret Ofe Fleck, Joan Westfall. A Description of the Needs and Concerns of Single Low-income Mothers. CON, NNRC Mini-grant. $500.

• Lynne Farr (PI). NASA Nebraska Space Grant Consortium. University of Nebraska - Omaha. $5,500.

• Barbara Head (P.I.), Kathleen Barr, Cheryl Thompson. Mobile Nursing Center Database Analysis and Planning. CON Dean’s Grant. $2,000.

• Ronda Kinsey (PI), Jan Atwood (Faculty Advisor). Doctoral Degree Scholarship in Cancer Nursing; American Cancer Society. $30,000.

• Carol Pullen, (PI). The 500 Mile Campus. DHHS/HRSA. $290,000.

• Natalie Rasmussen (PI). Genessys Genii Multi-well Gamma Counter. UN Foundation. $7,940.

• Natalie Rasmussen (PI). Measurement of Bet-endorphin in Mouse Brain Tissue. CON, NNRC Mini-grant. $478.

• Janet Nieveen (PI). Home Communication Recovery Management Intervention in Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Patients. UNMC Seed Grant; $25,000.

• Barb Piper (PI), Nancy Waltman, Stephen Smith, Julia Houfek, Gwen Reiser. Advanced Practice in Cancer Nursing: Augmentations to an Existing Online, Web-based Course of Instruction (NRSG 815). UNMC Educational Technology Small Grant Program. $10,000.

• Kimberly Wielgus (PI), Lynne Farr (Faculty Advisor), Barb Piper. Doctoral Degree Scholarship in Cancer Nursing. American Cancer Society. $15,000.

In addition, all consent forms for on-going studies involving the use of PHI must include the HIPAA authorization at the time of submission of the IRB Application for Continuing Review or a Request for Change. IRB approval will be contingent upon appropriate revision of the consent document(s).

All investigators are strongly encouraged to revise their on-going study consent forms with an accompanying Request for Change form to include the HIPAA authorization as soon as possible.

For more information, contact the Office of Regulatory Affairs at (402) 559-6463, or Carly Crim in the NNRC.

NINR 2001 CONFERENCE VIDEOTAPES

Videotapes of the NINR 2002 Conference are now available to check out in the Omaha LRC. For assistance, contact Patti Carstens. The topics of the sessions taped include:
- Tape 1 - Developing a Program of Research, Pt. 1
- Tape 2 - Developing a Program of Research, Pt. 2
- Tape 3 - Grantsmanship
- Tape 4 - Research Career Development
- Tape 5 - Research Dissemination

RESOURCES ON THE WEB

UNMC - CON - NNRC (http://info.unmc.edu/conintranet/research/rsch_home.htm)
The Research button on the CON Intranet site will provide you will numerous resources for your grant and IRB preparation.

UNMC Research Resources - Links to resources such as Institutional Review Board (IRB), Scientific Review Board (SRC), Clinical Research Center (CRC), Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), etc. Campus-wide resources to facilitate research.

NNRC Library - Allows you to search for books and journals housed in the NNRC. Search can be done by author, title, and subject.

List of Questionnaires on File - Lists the tools that are available for use in the NNRC.

Peer Review Process for IRB Applications - Outlines the process for peer review of all IRB applications and identifies the criteria by which the applications are reviewed by the Nursing Research Center.

Guidelines for Mini-Grants - Outlines the process and guidelines for the submission and review of mini-grant applications.

IRB COMPLIES WITH NEW FEDERAL POLICY

In a letter dated June 26, the IRB announced its plan for compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Due to the fact that NHS/UNMC is involved in hundreds of active studies which involve the use of protected health information (PHI), the IRB has set Sept. 1 as the HIPAA transition and implementation date. As of Sept. 1, 2002, all adult, parental, and proxy consent forms for new studies must include the HIPAA authorization (CON faculty can access this at J:\NNRC\IRB_HIPAA compliant ACF template(7-30-02).wpd) if PHI will be obtained and used.
The University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing has received more than $2.9 million to evaluate a new approach to prevent osteoporosis in breast cancer survivors after meno- pause. The five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research, may provide an alternative treatment for breast cancer survivors, most of whom cannot take hormone replacement therapy, the most frequently used preventive treatment.

Researchers are recruiting 273 women, ages 35 to 70, in a 100-mile radius of Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney and Scottsbluff.

In 2002, about 205,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. Osteoporosis is a significant problem in women after menopause, especially breast cancer survivors. More than 50 percent of women under the age of 50 who are treated with adjuvant chemotherapy experience ovarian failure and early menopause, resulting in a long period of estrogen deprivation.

“The good news is that more women are surviving breast cancer than ever before, unfortunately, they have another concern - they may be at greater risk for osteoporosis than healthy women, and the onset of osteoporosis may occur at an earlier age,” said Nancy Waltman, associate professor of nursing and principal investigator of the study.

Researchers will study whether a progressive strength and weight training exercise program can boost the effectiveness of risedronate, calcium, and vitamin D in improving bone mineral density in these post menopausal breast cancer survivors. Researchers were encouraged with results from a recently concluded one-year pilot study.

“We want to know just how important exercise is. We know the medication and supplements work, but it’s not enough,” Dr. Waltman said.

Researchers also expect to find breast cancer survivors in the new, larger study who aren’t aware they have bone loss. In the pilot study, Dr. Waltman said 80 percent of the women had bone loss, but many of the women were unaware because they’d never been tested.

“Many of our pilot study participants didn’t even realize osteoporosis was something they should be concerned about. Less than half of the women had bone mineral density screenings before the study,” Dr. Waltman said. “Our findings suggest the need for health care providers to educate breast cancer survivors not on hormone replacement therapy that they are at risk for osteoporosis and they should be screened.”

Dr. Waltman said the new study will evaluate just how important exercise may be in minimizing bone loss or reestablishing bone strength. Researchers said after one year in the pilot study, some participants showed an increase in muscle strength – an increase of 34 percent in knee flexion and 20 percent in hip flexion – which may ultimately improve bone strength.

Researchers are recruiting women with a history of stage 0, stage I or stage II breast cancer, who are not candidates for hormone replacement therapy. Eligible study participants will receive free evaluations, treatment and follow up during the study.

The new study will be a randomized clinical trial comparison of two treatment groups. For two years, both groups will follow the same protocol of taking risendronate, a drug shown to rebuild bone mass, and calcium with vitamin D supplements. However, one group also will participate in an upper and lower body strength weight training program to strengthen muscle and bone mass in the hip, spine and wrist.

The group receiving exercise therapy will meet with an exercise trainer to learn home-based strength-training exercises, and in the second year will progress to using weight machines at a fitness facility. Evaluation of participants compliance with the exercise regimen is another important part of the study.

“We’ve recognized that participants’ compliance to following the strength-weight training exercises and even taking medications can be a problem over time, so we’ve included strategies to address this,” Dr. Waltman said.

Prevention and treatment of osteoporosis by increasing bone mineral density and muscle strength may decrease the chronic disabilities associated with osteoporosis and improve quality and quantity of life, say researchers.

“Osteoporotic bone becomes very thin and fragile,” said Janice Twiss, UNMC associate professor of nursing and co-investigator of the study. “Women get fractures in their spine simply by reaching up to get something, sneezing or walking down steps. Most often, hip fractures usually occur with a fall.

Other co-investigators participating in the study are: Carol Ott, Gloria Gross, Ada Lindsey, Timothy Moore and Kris Berg.