Three College of Nursing faculty have been named to professorships/chairs.

The new Florence Niedfelt Professors are Dr. Ann Berger and Dr. Lani Zimmerman. Their three-year appointments are effective April 1.

According to Virginia Tilden, CON dean, “Both of these individuals, with their exemplary research programs and national reputations in their fields, have earned the honor of this distinction. I realize it may surprise you to have two people named - just to reassure you, this is common at UNMC within the College of Medicine, where multiple people who meet the qualifications carry the same honorific chair or professor name.”

In the future, both women will be presenting their proposed plan for Niedfelt-related scholarship and for advancing the missions of the College of Nursing.

“I want to thank the Search Committee, Drs. Catherine Todero, chair, Cecelia Barron, Susan Barnason, Carol Ott and Susan Wilhelm, for their work and their recommendations,” Tilden said.

In addition, Dr. Tilden also announced the appointment of Dr. Susan Noble Walker to the Dorothy Hodges Olson Chair in Nursing, effective April 1.

“Dr. Walker’s distinguished career in nursing education and nursing science, and her nationally recognized program of research focused on women’s health, health promotion, and community health, amply qualify her for this honor,” Tilden said.

“As always, we are deeply grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Leland Olson for their generous endowment to the College of Nursing for this purpose.”
People in the News

- Carol Ott and MK Fulton are coauthors of an article in the Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, “Osteoporosis risk and interest in strength training in men receiving androgen ablation therapy for locally advanced prostate cancer.”

- Nicholas Sorrell, a Level 3 student in the UNMC College of Nursing - Lincoln Division, recently received a $1,500 scholarship from the Foundation of the National Student Nurses’ Association. Nick is involved in the Lincoln chapter of the Student Nurses’ Association and Kathleen Duncan is the chapter’s faculty advisor.

- Connie Visovsky of Case Western Reserve School of Nursing has been hired as a research-intensive faculty. She will start Sept. 1 in the AHI Department. She brings with her a funded program of research on cancer, aging and peripheral neuropathy. In addition, she is an oncology nurse practitioner and she will be establishing a practice through UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center.

- Judy Billings, assistant dean of the Kearney campus, has been awarded the Silver U Award for March. Dr. Billings has been with the Kearney program since it started more than 25 years ago.

- Karen Schumacher, is the recipient of the Randy Ferlic Award that was recently provided to the CON from the Chancellor. The title of her project is: The Development of Family Caregiving Skill During Treatment for Head and Neck Cancer: A Pilot Study.

Deadline April 4 for Lindsey Award

The deadline for the Ada M. Lindsey Professional Service Award is Monday, April 4. The committee is chaired by Kim Rodehorst and committee members are Susan Muhlbaier, Carol Ott, Agnes Natale, Cindy Seidl, Rita Van Fleet, Emily Reeder and LeAnn Saylor.

Each campus has been sent information and nomination forms for this award.

Performance Stipends Go to 60 Employees

A total of 60 College of Nursing employees have been name recipients of Performance Stipends. This includes 30 people on the Omaha campus, 14 in Kearney, eight in Lincoln campus and eight on the West Nebraska camps. Recipients include:

**Omaha**
- Ann Berger
- Catherine Bevil
- Dan Brick
- Patricia Carstens
- Julie Cherica
- Lori Cooley
- Donna Coopersmith
- Mary Cramer
- Debra Flearl
- Ann Gray
- Rhonda Harnish
- Larry Hewitt
- Cynthia Jones
- Brenda Kea
- Rebecca Keating-Lefler
- Ana Lara-Ramirez
- Peggy Tidikis Menck
- Cara Mouw
- Susan Muhlbaier
- Audrey Nelson
- Maureen Oberdorfer
- Cynthia Plate
- Carol Pullen
- Stephen Smith
- Jill Thewke
- Catherine Todero
- Janice Twiss
- LaDonna Tworek
- Alan Wass
- Bernice Yates

**Lincoln**
- Sherrie Ames
- Ryan Cole
- Margaret Ofle Flick
- Melody Hertzog
- Diane Brage Hudson
- Barbara McCabe
- Agnes Natale

**Kearney**
- Jeanne Bentz
- Judy Billings
- Pam Bjerke
- Hilary Christo
- Diane Feldman
- Linda Jensen
- Jo Miller
- Kate Nickel
- Carol Ott
- Jill Reed
- Sandy Sasse
- Cindy Taylor
- Pat Trausch
- Janna Wiederspan

**West Nebraska**
- Linda Dobson
- Bobbi Hartshorn
- Jan Judy
- Rebecca Kreman
- Catherine Steinbock
- Cathy Vasko
- Wendy Wells
- Susan Wilhelm

A total of 71 people were nominated for stipends. Members of the Performance Stipend Committee included: Bernice Yates and Gail Hille, cochairs, Pam Bjerke, Ryan Cole, Kathy Duncan, Larry Hewitt, Jan Judy, Marlene Lindeman, Jo Miller, Bob Mancuso, Maureen Oberdorfer and Kate Steinbock.

“It was rewarding to read about the many excellent contributions of various CON staff and faculty. We have many reasons to be proud or our colleagues,” Yates said.
Dear Faculty,

I want to use the CON Newsletter this month to continue a dialogue with you about the Faculty Role Differentiation Plan. By now, most of you have spent time completing your preferred faculty activity plan for 2005-06 and have had discussions with your Chairperson or Assistant Dean about your dreams and goals. I hope this has gone smoothly for you, although, as with any new process, there will be inevitable bumps and “edges” and time needed to work them out.

Let me talk a bit about why I think we need “role differentiation” and why the time is right to adopt this pathway.

Just a reminder, in my advisory group meetings with you in my first year as Dean, many people talked about two things: 1) having little way to modify their teaching assignment or grow into new areas of teaching that cross departments or levels; and 2) feeling the weight of expectation to achieve in all areas. You’ll recall that at last year’s retreat, I presented data from my advisory group meetings, and small groups worked on each of the issues. The small group who worked on these two issues recommended the development of processes that would give faculty more input into their preferred teaching assignment and would help faculty differentiate their roles to some degree. Following this, a faculty Role Differentiation Task Force worked for many months to develop a plan.

I want to emphasize that embracing a plan of role differentiation is not akin to flipping a switch between an old way of making faculty assignments and a new way. The plan is just a set of operations that express fundamental values about our activity – that is, our work as educators and scholars. Here are some of the values that underlie the plan.

First, faculty time and talent are precious resources and should focus effectively so as to maximally benefit the people of Nebraska, the University, and the College, as well as maximally satisfy the individual. Focusing effectively relates to the concept of “leading from strength.” It is simply not possible for a single individual to do everything at the highest level. As a collective, we combine our individual strengths so the College advances in all missions.

Second, as citizens of the University, we all share the responsibility to teach and do university and college service. Beyond those two activities, each individual has unique academic talents and interests, that, when nourished, can flourish. This is another aspect of “leading from strength.” I’m reminded of the title of a book from the 1980s: “Do what you love and the money will follow.” Adapted to our context, “channel your academic talents and productivity will result.”

Third, only about two-thirds of the College’s budget comes from state dollars. This means we must find alternative sources of revenue to pay for much that we do. It’s natural in academe for us to resist a business model; personally I don’t believe we need to become so businesslike that we run the clock on everything we do. But we have to be realists in understanding that the state budget primarily covers only our teaching mission – and, at that, does not fully cover even teaching. How do we cover new teaching innovations, new programs, and all of our other missions? This is a complex problem that requires multiple solutions. One of them is to align faculty talent with the various missions of the College and invest time and resources in faculty to help them achieve successful outcomes.

It takes time, typically several years, before a college sees the payoff of faculty role differentiation. On the other hand, faculty usually see the advantage in terms of their own satisfaction almost right away.

That doesn’t mean that everyone will be delighted with their activity plan. I expect there will be bumps along the way. This is a new process for Chairs and Assistant Deans – they will be bridging our need to cover all courses and helping each individual set goals that match their strengths. One sure thing is that we must cover our teaching needs.

We have talked about making this a pilot year. What that means to me is that we are a learning environment – we evaluate and refine everything we do. We don’t expect perfection, we tolerate a certain amount of ambiguity, and we’re patient in the face of change, especially when we agree on the fundamental goals, such as those in our Long Range Plan.

We need to evaluate the process and product of the Faculty Role Differentiation Plan. As I mentioned earlier, I believe it will take several years to see its full benefits to faculty and the College. Meanwhile, let’s watch the process and consider ways of improving it as we roll it out this year.

Thanks for all your hard work and good spirits. I feel very fortunate to be with you at this wonderful College and great University.
February Grant Submissions

- Rasmussen, Natalie (PI), Sangeeta Agrawal. *Circadian Nociception and Gene Expression in Mice*. NASA Nebraska Space Grant & EPSCoR Seed Grant.

March Grant Submissions


Funding Opportunities

The VHA Health Foundation
Creating Better Health Through Innovation Grant Program
Deadline: April 18 (Letter of Intent)
Through its Creating Better Health Through Innovation grant program, the VHA Health Foundation seeks to encourage creativity, innovation, and the adoption and/or adaptation of new ideas and practices in the health care industry. The foundation will award grants ranging from $100,000 to $250,000 to support promising initiatives at the local level that represent a novel and/or significantly better approach to solving a problem or need related to health and/or health care. Programs selected for funding represent innovations that are beyond the concept stage; ready to implement, expand, or further refine; and are candidates for replication in other markets.

For detailed information about the foundation and their grant requirements and the application process, visit the VHA Health Foundation Web site (http://www.vhahf.org/).

Translational Research For The Prevention And Control Of Diabetes
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
National Eye Institute (NEI)
National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Research (OBSSR)
Agency for Health care Research and Quality (AHRQ)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Division of Diabetes Translation (CDC)
American Diabetes Association (ADA)
Deadline: June 1 (Expires 10-1-05)
Mechanism: R18
This program announcement expands a diabetes prevention and control program established under PA 01-069, and seeks applications for clinical or behavioral studies to develop and test 1) improved methods of health care delivery to patients with or at risk of diabetes, 2) improved methods of diabetes self management, and 3) cost effective community-based strategies to promote healthy lifestyles that will reduce the risk of diabetes and obesity. Studies should focus on testing strategies for achieving objectives that have already been shown beneficial, such as 1) control of glycemia and other risk factors for diabetic complications, including hypertension and dyslipidemia and 2) altering life style to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes in at risk populations, including children and adolescents. Of
particular interest are interventions that focus on translating new advances into practice in underserved and minority populations.

**Lance Armstrong Foundation**

**Research Proposals on Cancer Survivorship and Testicular Cancer**

**Deadline: May 13 (Letters of Intent)**

The Lance Armstrong Foundation aims to fund research that is not readily fundable from traditional sources and encourages and supports the efforts of both established and young investigators in the early stages of their research careers. In 2005, proposals will be accepted in two areas: cancer survivorship and the basic and clinical science of testicular cancer.

The LAF offers funding for Young Investigator Research Awards of up to $50,000 per year, and Research Awards of up to $75,000 annually, in the areas of cancer survivorship and testicular cancer research. Young investigators are defined as within eight years of completing a terminal degree or within five years of initiating independent research within a mentored laboratory, while general research awards support new research projects initiated by established investigators.

All interested applicants must first submit a Letter of Intent. Instructions for completing an LOI will be available on the LAF Web site as of March 14, 2005. For complete program information and application instructions, visit the foundation’s Web site (http://www.laf.org/Research/).

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

**National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS)**

**NIDDK Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01)**

**PA Number: PAR-05-066**

**Deadline(s): June 1, October 1, February 1**

The purpose of the NIDDK Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) is to provide “protected time” for junior research scientists to facilitate their transition from the mentored to the independent stages of their careers in biomedical research. By providing support for the critical transition period between postdoctoral training and independent R01 funding for non-clinical investigators, the NIDDK hopes to foster the careers of these investigators who are vital for the future excellence of the NIDDK research endeavor. Awards in response to this program announcement will be for a total project period of three, four, or five years.

For detailed information go to the NIH website to view the complete PAR (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-05-066.html).

**NIH Roadmap: Accelerating Medical Discovery to Improve Health**

In May 2002, Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health, convened a series of meetings to chart a “roadmap” for medical research in the 21st century. The purpose was to identify major opportunities and gaps in biomedical research and to build collaboration among the NIH institutes to make the biggest impact on the progress of medical research. The resulting NIH Roadmap provides a framework of priorities for the NIH as a whole and establishes three themes: New Pathways to Discovery, Research Teams of the Future, and Re-engineering the Clinical Research Enterprise. Under the Roadmap, there are 24 current or planned Requests For Applications (RFA). These RFAs can be accessed on the NIH Roadmap website at http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/grants/index.asp.

By visiting the NIH Roadmap website (http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/), researchers can access specific information about this new initiative. Researchers can also subscribe to the NIH Roadmap E-mail List (listserv) and receive weekly email postings about ongoing and upcoming Roadmap news.

NIH Roadmap Institute and Center (IC) Liaisons are the primary points of contact in each IC about Roadmap-related activities. The liaison for the National Institute of Nursing Research is Lauren S. Aaronson, PhD, RN, FAAN, Senior Advisor (Aaronsonl@mail.nih.gov).

**Updated Instructions to the PHS 398 (DHHS Public Health Service Grant Applications) Now Available**

Instructions for the PHS 398 forms for applications to NIH grants have been revised (3-16-05). Please review these new instructions before continuing work on any NIH grant application.


**Communities of Science (COS) Funding Opportunities**

(Continued on next page)
Thank You

I would like to thank the CON for the beautiful tulip basket I received after my thyroid surgery. It was so nice to receive a sign of spring when it was still winter.

Cathy Binstock

UNMC College of Nursing:
Thank you so much for the memorial gift to the American Heart Association. At his memorial service, the family also wore the red bracelets signifying the American Heart Association. Thanks also for the kind words, cards and support.

Leslie Gleaves and the Lew Simons Family

The loss of a loved one is so difficult to manage and without the support of friends who cared it would be impossible. Thank you for caring.

Gwen Larsen

Thank you for the beautiful plant. It and your gracious words of condolence are much appreciated.

Eileen Bedell
for the family of Mary McNesh

National Institute of Nursing Research
2006 Areas of Research Opportunity

• Research in a Multicultural Society: Focus on Preventing and Intervening in HIV and AIDS
• Increasing Health Promotion through Studies on Parenting Capacities
• Biobehavioral Methods to Improve Outcomes Research
• Improving Cognitive Function in Quality of Life in CNS Disorders
• Providing End-of-Life and Palliative Care in Rural and Frontier Areas

To access the COS website go to http://www.cos.com/. To join, click on the “join” tab at the top of the page.
Spring is here and the MCNP is “laying the ground work” on its steady path toward fulfilling year one objectives. The interim director and business manager are filling up calendar schedules for meetings with Clinical Enterprise Directors on all campuses, individual faculty about practice opportunities, community leaders with ideas for collaborative activities, University Medical Associates (UMA) financial and credentialing staff, multiple UNMC interdisciplinary supporters, informatics specialists, and the CON administrative staff.

An internal advisory board is now established with the first meeting scheduled for Friday, April 1. Members of the board and their areas of representation include:
- Kathryn Fiantd, MCNP Interim Director
- Mary J Wendl, MCNP Business Manager
- Jeanne M Bentz, Kearney Campus
- Joyce Black, Adult Health and Illness
- Mary E Cramer, Evaluation
- Dani Eveloff, Marketing
- Kathy Kaiser, Community Health Enterprise
- Bob P Mancuso, CON Finance Director
- Susan Muhlbauer, Faculty Practice Committee
- Barbara Sand, Lincoln Campus
- Margaret Scharf, West Nebraska Campus
- Cheryl Bagley Thompson, Nursing Informatics
- Janice Twiss, Women’s Health
- Donna Westmoreland, Nursing Administration

The purpose of the MCNP Internal Advisory Board is to advise the MCNP staff on issues related to the College of Nursing and to provide expertise in implementing MCNP activities. The agenda for the first meeting includes reviewing the strategic business plan and advisory board processes.

Look for updates from the MCNP monthly in this column. As always, your comments and questions are welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact the MCNP.