

# Global Connections

Quarterly Newsletter from the Office of Global Engagement  
July 2024



## A message from the Office of Global Engagement



The Office of Global Engagement team is busy preparing for the incoming international students who will arrive on campus in July and August. Several pre-sessions have been scheduled prior to the two-day international student orientation August 15-16. Both will help the students acclimate to UNMC and Omaha. We look forward to greeting the new international students.

There have been three delegations on campus since our April newsletter. A delegation from EducationUSA visited UNMC in May. In June, representatives from the Omani Embassy and the Ambassador of Burkina Faso visited UNMC.

This issue of Global Connections also features two major events that were held at UNMC in April and May.

Please follow our [website](#) and [X](#) to stay in touch with us. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about our programs.

Jane L. Meza  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/Global Engagement/Strategic Planning

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**Office of Global Engagement welcomes Emily Brandt, coordinator**



In February, Emily Brandt started in the UNMC Office of Global Engagement where she came from the UNMC Office of Graduate Studies and Office of Accreditation and Assessment. Brandt holds a bachelor of arts degree from Doane College, Crete in (German, Spanish and Speech Communication) and a master of arts degree from Albert-Ludwigs-University, Freiburg, Germany in European Linguistics.

[Read more here](#)

## More than 200 people attend colorful Holi event



More than 200 UNMC students, employees and friends attended UNMC's Holi event on March 30. Holi is a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as the festival of colors, love and spring. Attendees enjoyed food, music and throwing colors on their friends.

The event was coordinated by the International Student Association and the Office of Global Engagement and was open to all UNMC students, staff and faculty.

## Oman Cultural Attaché and Ambassador to Burkina Faso Embassy visit UNMC

A delegation from the Omani Embassy visited UNMC in May. The purpose of the visit was to discuss potential collaborations. The delegation met with the colleges of allied health professions, pharmacy and public health, along with meeting with Dele Davies, MD, senior associate vice chancellor and touring iEXCEL.



In June, Honorable Mr. Hermann Y. Toe, Ambassador at the Embassy of Burkina Faso in Washington, D.C., his delegation and members from Midlands African Chamber of Commerce visited iEXCEL, the Center for Global Health Security and the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center.



## International student graduates are recognized during reception



The office of global engagement held a graduation reception for those international students graduating in May. More than 48 people enjoyed refreshments. Twelve graduating students received small congratulatory gifts from Jane Meza, PhD, associate

## UNMC students participate in education abroad and service trip experiences



UNMC and Universidad Anahuac Veracruz (UAV) nursing students spent the day watching c-sections at a hospital in Mexico. Front row: Haley Bassett, UNMC; Fernanda, UAV; and Alexa, UAV. Back row: Paulina, UAV; Isa Almanza, UNMC; and Mitsy Das, UNMC.

UNMC students participated in many international travel and global health electives this year. Thus far in 2024, 28 students have traveled to seven countries spread over four continents. Countries visited included Canada, Costa Rica, India, Japan, Mexico, Peru and Rwanda. An additional nine students have global health electives scheduled for fall 2024 (Canada and Kenya). Students represent the disciplines of medicine, nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy, pharmacy and public health.

[Read more here](#)

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## International Student Association (ISA) wins two awards



Suchita Vishwakarma, 2023-24 vice president, International Student Association; Sara Pirtle, program manager, office of global engagement; and Pratima Raut, 2023-24 vice president, International Student Association; are pictured with the two awards presented to the International Student Association.

The UNMC Office of Community Engagement, the Student Life Inclusion and Diversity Office and the UNMC Student Senate hosted the iTEACH Student Awards Ceremony to celebrate student accomplishments in 2023-2024.

The International Student Association (ISA) was recently presented with two awards including the Collaboration Award Silver Recipient and the Diversity and Inclusion Award Gold Recipient.

The Collaboration Award recognizes a group of organizations (two or more) that have successfully worked together to sponsor or host an event, program or act of service that has benefited the UNMC campus community. The Diversity and Inclusion Award recognizes a group that promoted and fostered a cross-cultural learning environment by creating an initiative or program that significantly impacted the campus community. These awards were given by Student Life, Inclusion and Diversity Office.

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### Recent achievements by UNMC faculty & staff

#### Delegation from Republic of Togo tours UNMC

UNMC hosted a delegation representing the Republic of Togo in May, including the African nation's ambassador to the United States.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### UNMC's World Health Day empowers global health research

UNMC recently hosted its second annual World Health Day event, highlighting the vital interplay between global and local health and the significance of collective efforts in addressing worldwide health challenges.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### Global engagement announces photo contest winners

The UNMC Office of Global Engagement has announced the winners of its fourth annual International Photo Contest, which drew submissions from 17 faculty and staff and 12 students or residents, for a total of 83 photos submitted.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

### From Angola to Atlanta, Ewing to UNMC – and beyond

Edson DeOliveira still remembers walking out of the house on his first day of third grade. He caught the faint scent of manure and spotted a cattle trailer on a neighboring lot. "We're not in Atlanta anymore," he thought.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)



## Request for ideas

Have an idea for a story or want to discuss an international program or event?

Have a suggestion for our newsletter?

Please contact us at [global@unmc.edu](mailto:global@unmc.edu) with your ideas and suggestions/comments.

**Office of Global Engagement**  
985700 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198-5700

[Website](#)



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UNMC – Office of Global Engagement | 985700 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-5700

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