

Global Connections

Quarterly Newsletter from the Office of Global Engagement
July 2022



A message from the Office of Global Engagement



I hope you are enjoying your summer and can take off some time to enjoy your family and friends.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our international students in July and August for the start of the 2022 fall semester. Pre-arrival Zoom presentations have been arranged to help incoming students transition smoothly. Our staff is planning an in-person, two-day International Student Orientation on August 12-13 to help the

students acclimate to UNMC and Omaha and answer any questions they may have.

In May, UNMC co-sponsored a conference in Gaziantep, Turkey. The conference, “COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region: Lessons Learned in Research, Policy, Public Health, and Clinical Practices,” was attended by people in 23 countries. Scroll down for more information on the conference.

We are pleased to congratulate the International Student Association (ISA) for being the recipient of the Diversity and Inclusion Program Award. This award recognizes successful and organized planning and implementation of a program that promoted cross-cultural learning and interaction, appealed to a broad audience and provided a meaningful exchange of ideas and made a significant impact on the UNMC community. See the article below for more information.

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

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

UNMC expands global partnerships in the Middle East, north Africa



Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement, speaks at the opening ceremony.

A group from UNMC was among the 175 leading health care researchers, clinicians, and policymakers from 23 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, to present state-of-the-art research in various areas related to the pandemic. The focus was on the development of partnerships through which international institutions can work together to better prepare for future pandemics in the region and around the globe.

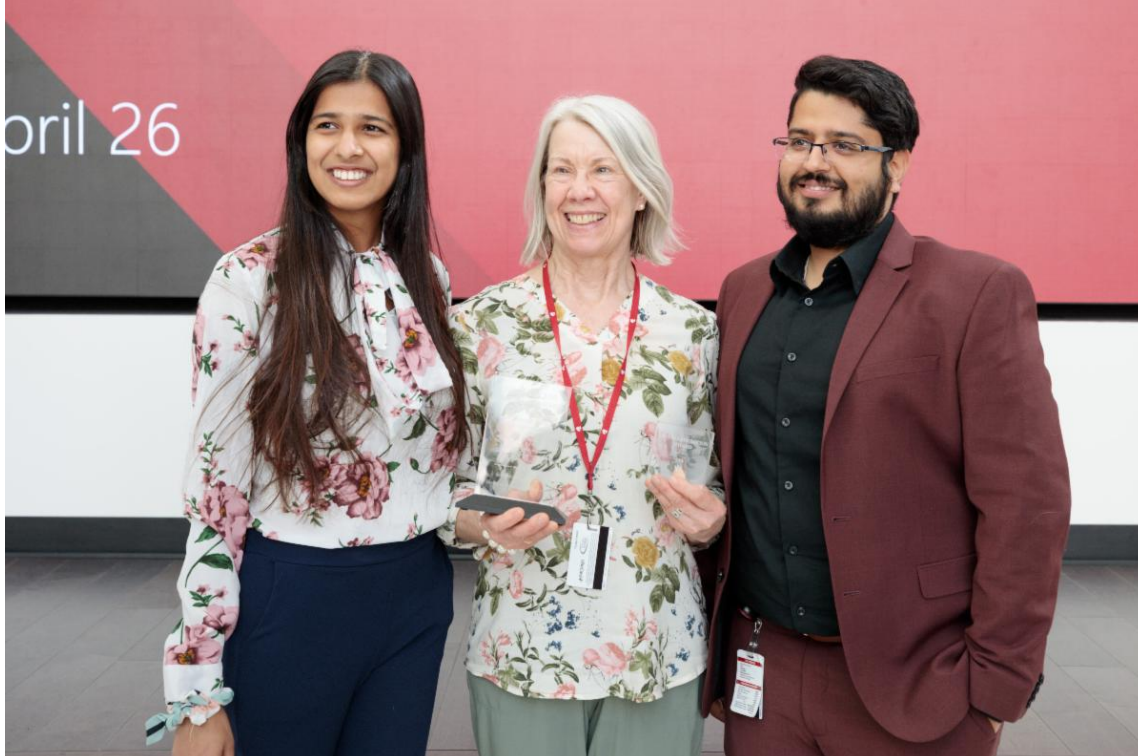
UNMC was one of the co-organizers of the international conference “COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa Region: Lessons Learned in Research, Policy, Public Health, and Clinical Practices,” held May 30-31, in Gaziantep, Turkey.

UNMC's participation included leadership from the College of Medicine, College of Public Health, Global Center for Health Security, iEXCEL, and the Office of Global Engagement.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)



International Student Association (ISA) receives student award



Pictured left to right: Nidhi Dwivedi, vice president, ISA; Sara Pirtle, program manager, Office of Global Engagement; and Sahil Sethi, president, ISA.

The Office of Community Engagement (OCE), the Student Life Inclusion and Diversity Office (SLIDO), and the UNMC Student Senate hosted the inaugural Student Awards Ceremony celebrating student accomplishments in 2021-2022.

The ISA was awarded the Diversity & Inclusion Program Award. This award recognizes the successful and organized planning and implementation of a program that promoted cross-cultural learning and interaction, appealed to a broad audience and provided a meaningful exchange of ideas, and made a significant impact on the UNMC community.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

UNMC SEED program begins virtually this month



The UNMC Global Health Opportunity Program (GHOP) for Summer Experiential Education (SEED) in Physical Therapy is a three-week online summer program. It is designed for international physical therapy and rehabilitation students who are interested in developing a global perspective on rehabilitation, to learn physical therapy education, research, and practice in the United States. This program is led by Ka-Chun "Joseph" Siu, PhD, director of GHOP and associate professor, physical therapy education.

The SEED virtual program will take place July 11-29, 2022, and will include self-study sessions, online lectures, live discussions, virtual student roundtables, and campus and program presentations. UNMC will welcome 32 physical therapy students from seven universities later this month.

ISA hosts two major cultural events

UNMC's International Student Association (ISA) hosted cultural events featuring two holidays/customs well-known to many from UNMC's international population: Holi and Ramadan Iftar.



Holi, a famous Hindu festival celebrated in every part of India, is observed at the end of March after the full moon. ISA observed Holi on April 9 on the student plaza with a DJ, Indian food, and plenty of colors to toss. More than 100 students, staff, faculty, and family members participated in the festivities.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)



Iftar is the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast. The fast is broken at the time of the call to evening prayer, which is around sunset. ISA hosted an Iftar potluck on April 30 in the DRC Commons. This was the first time that ISA has sponsored an Iftar meal at UNMC.

Office of Global Engagement announces photo contest winners



Grand Prize Winner "Mungu Awabariki", Tanzania, taken by Benjamin McIntire, fourth year College of Medicine student.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's international photo contest. Please [visit our website](#) to view the winning photos, along with all of the entries.

Recent achievements by UNMC faculty & staff

Neurodegeneration conference coming to Omaha

The [Global Association for the Study of Neurodegenerative Diseases](#) will host its second annual International Research Conference on Neurodegenerative Diseases in Omaha at the Scott Conference Center July 17-20. The deadline for abstract submissions is Friday, June 24. Accepted postdoctoral fellows and students will be eligible for young investigator awards based on scientific merit and the quality of their abstract and presentation.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

UNMC doctor, artist paints to capture sentiments in Ukraine

Organizations all over the world are trying to help the people of Ukraine in many ways as war continues in that country. UNMC Department of Neurological Sciences epilepsy fellow Spriha Pavuluri, MD, has created several pieces of art on canvas with mixed media, and on acidic paper with watercolors. Some of these paintings reflect Ukraine's culture and their sentiments.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

Global conference addresses pediatric cardiology issues

UNMC, Children's Hospital & Medical Center and the Pediatric Society of Ghana sponsored the pediatric global health conference, "Cardiology and Critical Care in Resource-Constrained Settings" which took place on May 6-7, 2022.

[Read UNMC Today article here](#)

UNMC revitalizing global connections with Jordan

UNMC is now a member of the U.S.-Jordan University Cooperation Network, as the network relaunches its activities through the support of a U.S. Department of State grant. The goals of this network include: Reviving partnerships between the University of Nebraska System, UNMC and Jordanian universities; substantially expanding the collaborative research opportunities between the UNMC and all Jordanian universities; creating new opportunities for faculty and students; and increasing UNMC presence and exposure in the Middle East and North Africa region.

[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 with your ideas and suggestions/comments.

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