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Biochemistry Accreditation

Congratulations to the Biochemistry Undergraduate Program. They have received national accreditation from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. UNL is only the thirty-ninth institution to have its undergraduate biochemistry program so recognized, and only the second in the Big Ten.

The aspects of the application that were considered particularly noteworthy included:
- A large group of faculty with excellent scholarship and effective research programs
- A strong curriculum that includes biological sciences (genetics and microbiology requirements) in addition to extensive chemistry.
- Multiple programs supporting undergraduate research (e.g. Beckman Scholars, UCARE) and the high rate of student participation in independent research.

LEAD21

We are happy to announce that Dr. Deepak Keshwani has been selected to participate in the LEAD21 program. This program provides leadership and professional development preparation for faculty within the land-grant system. As part of the LEAD21 program, Deepak Keshwani will be working with the CASNR Dean’s Office on Student Success Programs with a focus on co-curricular student outcomes.

Next Generation Delegation

Maci Lienemann, a senior pursuing a degree in Animal Science, has been named a Next Generation Delegate by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Maci was one of 19 students selected to participate in The Global Food Security Symposium on April 26 in Washington, DC. As a lifelong beef producer, Maci’s future goals and aspirations are greatly influenced by her desire to improve practice, products, and policies surrounding the livestock industry in order to meet the increased protein needs of an ever-growing global population. In the fall, she will begin her graduate program in animal genetics at the University of California-Davis.

CIEQ Assessment Instrument

We are excited to announce that starting this spring semester the CIEQ Assessment Instrument will now be administered through Blackboard for all online CASNR courses. The CIEQ will be available to students from April 18, 2016 to May 8, 2016. The Blackboard system has been programmed to send an email message to students enrolled in your online course to let them know the CIEQ evaluation is available through Blackboard. To encourage students to complete the online evaluation, weekly reminders will be sent to students who have not filled out the CIEQ. If you are teaching an online course this semester, you should have received the following email message:

Course evaluations for departments using the CrsEval Course Evaluation System will be opening soon. The following course has been configured for you: AGRI 1XX Section 700

This list is based on your assigned courses in MyRED and the survey rules we have for your department(s). You may log in to the crseval website for more details: https://crseval.unl.edu/

If you notice any problems or have questions about the course evaluations, please reply to this email or contact:

crsval@unl.edu

OR

Roger Feese
UNL Online Course Evaluations
crsval@unl.edu
402-472-4997

Following the filing of grades, instructors will receive the raw data and student comments from Roger Feese (Coordinator for Online Course Evaluations). As in the past, the Department of Statistics will provide the designated unit CIEQ Coordinator with the instructor/course summary report that includes the composite CIEQ percentiles that adjusts for class level and department/unit. It is the responsibility of the CIEQ Coordinator to forward the instructor/course summary report to the instructor. The instructor has the option to share the written comments from students with their unit administrators or include as part of their annual evaluation materials or promotion and tenure packet. The Department of Statistics also will provide the unit administrator and Dean’s Office with a copy of the unit summary report.

The College’s goal is to have all face-to-face courses administer the CIEQ though Blackboard starting Fall 2016. If you have questions, please contact Erin Blankenship (erin.blankenship@unl.edu) or Tiffany Heng-Moss (thengmoss2@unl.edu).
New Degree Programs and Minors

A new minor, Society and the Environment, was approved by the CASNR Curriculum Committee. Stewardship and the efficient and sustainable use of environmental, financial, and human resources will be the foundational concepts for this minor. More specifically, the educational component of this minor will provide students with explicit opportunities to engage in the community and develop skill sets to employ a systems approach to managing the growth of our habitats, and at the same time achieve a balance of economic development with conservation of the earth’s natural system.

CASNR Education Abroad

Thus far in academic year 2015-2016, CASNR has seen four successful programs abroad to New Zealand and Ethiopia over Winter Break as well as Argentina and Puerto Rico over Spring Break. Although too early for final student numbers, projections look as though CASNR will see a record number of students going abroad this academic year. Other faculty led offerings this coming summer will see students studying in Italy, China, Botswana, Benin, Greece, Spain and France where students will focus on everything from wildlife conservation, agricultural development, to environmental sustainability.

An additional opportunity has also been made available to CASNR students. The College of Agriculture at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil is looking for students across the United States to participate in a two week program focused on Tropical Bio-based Production Systems. Two students will be chosen following a competitive application process.

The third annual CASNR Education Abroad Fair was held on October 6 which gave students the chance to ask faculty and staff about upcoming overseas opportunities and scholarships available. Information on all upcoming CASNR education abroad programs can be found at the following link: http://casnr.unl.edu/programs-abroad which is continually updated with information regarding new faculty led program offerings and abroad scholarships for students. CASNR is updating its policies to require two faculty leaders and clarify the participation of unaffiliated travelers.

In addition to the CASNR Education Abroad Scholarship, a new scholarship that has come into existence is the Global Access Travel Grant which provides $150 for students to help in offsetting the price of purchasing a passport. A link to both scholarships can be found at the following link: http://casnr.unl.edu/undergraduate-education-abroad.
Global Agriculture Club: International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS)

The Global Agriculture Club, a chapter of the international student focused club International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS) is in the planning stages for the IAAS National Summit which is hosted annually by a U.S. chapter. This year it’s UNL’s turn as the Global Agriculture Club here in CASNR holds the title of presidency. Harvesting the Heartland is the chosen title of the summit which will be held from April 14 – 17 and include conference speakers, tours of agricultural sights around Lincoln, and a trade fair highlighting agricultural products from the states represented by IAAS members in attendance. The Global Agriculture Club can be contacted at iaasunl14@gmail.com. The Facebook link for the conference can be found at https://www.facebook.com/Nationalsummit2016/.

CASNR Salute to Graduates & Senior Send-Off

Seventy-five seniors participated in the December 2015 Salute to Graduates and the ceremony was attended by 350 family members, faculty, staff and guests. The Senior Send-Off was attended by over 200 people including graduates and their families.

The May 2016 Salute to Graduates will take place on Friday, May 6th at 4:00 pm in the Nebraska East Union and the Senior Send-Off will be at Pinnacle Bank Arena on Saturday, May 7th at 7:30 am.

2016 AWARDS

Holling Family Awards for Teaching Excellence

The Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence was made possible by a gift from the Holling family to honor their pioneer parents. John Holling was a 1912 electrical engineering graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his brother, Gustave Holling, attended the College of Agriculture before farming the family’s land in the Wood River area. Awards recognize teaching in CASNR, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and Nebraska Extension.

Senior Faculty Award Winners

- Lisa Karr-Lilienthal – Animal Science
- Martha Mamo – Agronomy and Horticulture
- Bradford Ramsdale – Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
- Brandy VanDeWalle – Southeast Research and Extension Center

Junior Faculty Award Winners

- Jennifer Keshwani – Biological Systems Engineering
- L.J. McElravy – Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication

Teaching Assistant Award Winners

- Katherine I. Domenech-Perez – Animal Science
- Nancy Qwynne Lackey – School of Natural Resources
Activity Insight

Activity Insight is used to capture your teaching and advising information so that we can correctly determine your Academic Appointment Load Calculation. Activity Insight populates the teaching data (the Scheduled Teaching screen in Activity Insight) from the NeSIS database, which contains the “instructors of record” that are entered by your department office. The data pull occurs after the census each semester (typically the second week of classes) and again after the semester is over.

Please check that the data for your courses are correct sometime during the semester. If they are not, please work with your department office to ensure that all instructors of record are entered into the NeSIS database.

Upgrade to Degree Audit

In February, a significant upgrade was completed on the Degree Audit system. This upgrade includes 2 new features: (1) Interactive Degree Audit, which provides a visual representation of the progress toward degree through graphical displays and (2) Program Matcher, which provides an estimate of how earned hours (completed and in-progress) would most likely apply to a new degree program/major. Documentation on using the system may be found at: http://registrar.unl.edu/resources/DegreeAuditAdvisors2016.pdf

ACE Reporting Requirements

Please note that all ACE courses MUST archive all assessment materials defined in the original ACE proposal every semester the course is offered. Archiving is required to maintain certification and we are particularly concerned with archiving and feedback for ACE 10 courses. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell (jmarkwell@unl.edu).

MyPLAN

MyPLAN (My Personal Learning and Advising Network) provides a convenient way for students to communicate with faculty and staff. Students can schedule with instructors and advising support staff as well as search through available campus resources.

Faculty and advising staff can follow students through their UNL careers, recording notes, scheduling appointments, accessing basic student information, and communicating with those on campus who are involved with their students. You can get to MyPLAN directly from MyUNL/Blackboard. Just log into MyUNL/Blackboard and click the MyPLAN link. The MyPLAN Team is listed on the following page.

Substitution Waiver Deadlines

Requests for substitutions and waivers involving courses that fall within the basic four-year curriculum must be filed before the start of the fall semester for December graduates, before the start of the spring semester for May graduates and prior to the last day of classes of the spring semester for August graduates. We can’t guarantee that forms received after the specified deadlines will be processed in time to meet graduation deadlines. Forms are available in 103 Agricultural Hall, from the student advisor, or on the CASNR website.

NOTE: If a course and/or a requirement within the degree program is waived, the credit hours in the degree program are still required.

Degree Rosters

Degree rosters are completed prior to the final grade rosters and include the names of students that are expected to graduate at the end of the semester. The grade given to a student on the degree roster may not be the final grade, but the Office of the University Registrar needs to know if the student will receive a passing grade (depends upon specific degree requirements) so they can be cleared for graduation.

Please contact the Office of the University Registrar prior to 4 PM on the Friday before graduation:

1. If the grade that was reported on the degree roster is a passing grade and the final grade is an F or no pass.
2. If the grade that was reported on the degree roster is not a passing grade, but the final grade is a passing grade.
NSE Dates

The following are the 2016 Summer New Student Enrollment Dates:

- Thursday, June 2 – Honors Day
- Friday, June 3
- Tuesday, June 7
- Wednesday, June 8
- Friday, June 10
- Monday, June 13
- Thursday, June 16
- Saturday, June 18
- Tuesday, June 21 – Transfer Day
- Thursday, June 23
- Friday, June 24
- Tuesday, 28
- Thursday, June 30
- Wednesday, July 6
- Friday, July 8 – Transfer Day
- Wednesday, August 10 – Late NSE

Learning Communities

Learning communities are an excellent way for incoming students to make the most of their first year at UNL. They will live with other students who share their academic or co-curricular interests, take some shared courses, be mentored by upper-class students and work with faculty sponsors.

Burr Hall will feature the Ag Futures Learning Community this coming year. The focus of Ag Futures Learning Community is entrepreneurship, leadership, and service, and how they intersect to help build strong communities. The faculty sponsor is Dr. Deepak Keshwani.

Other learning communities involving CASNR faculty and staff include Ecoleaders (sponsored by Dr. David Gosselin), and Pre-Vet (sponsored by Dr. Mike Carlson and Lila Tooker). For more information about learning communities, visit http://learncom.unl.edu/