

Fall 2006 Academic Notes

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New Student ID Numbers

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is actively involved in the social security number reduction project. For CASNR, this translates into the elimination of using and/or collecting social security numbers of students, staff, faculty, and constituents. A specific statement regarding the social security number usage policy can be found at: <http://www.unl.edu/is/ssn.shtml> and will be effective beginning January 1, 2007.

R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund

Back in 1943, Ralph Ballard Plummer established through his last will and testament the R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund. It was Mr. Plummer's desire to assist students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources with financial support to continue and complete their baccalaureate program. As a result, CASNR is able to meet the needs of students who encounter financial hardships by providing low interest loans from the R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund. Students apply for an R. B. Plummer Student Loan by completing an application (available in the CASNR Dean's Office) and making an appointment with the Associate Dean in the college. Once a student graduates, arrangements are made through the University of Nebraska Foundation to construct a repayment plan to complete the requirement of the student loan. Please make your students aware of the R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund and have them visit the CASNR Dean's Office for more information (103 Agricultural Hall).

North Central Accreditation

Our visiting review team from the North Central Association will be on campus November 6, 7, and 8. Please review the self study document <http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/accreditation>.

Third Annual CASNR Advising Forum and Awards Luncheon

The date for the fall advising forum and awards luncheon is scheduled for October 24. The arrangements for the forum are currently being finalized and when completed, a formal invitation will be circulated to the CASNR faculty. Look for more information to follow.

2007 Winter Interim Workshop

Please mark your calendars for the January 5, 2007 (9-2:30PM, ECU), Winter Interim Workshop organized by the CASNR Teaching and Learning Improvement Council and sponsored by the Dean's Office. This year's keynote will be delivered by Dr. Lawrence Aleamoni, University of Arizona. Dr. Aleamoni is an international expert in course assessment and developed the CIEQ (CASNR's course evaluation). This year marks the 20th year of CIEQ's use in CASNR, and Dr. David Marx and Dr. Jeff Royer will present findings on their research into the CASNR CIEQ data set which spans this period. Their presentation will be followed by a series of breakout sessions. Watch for a detailed workshop agenda and registration information.

Faculty Fulbright Fellowships

Fulbright Fellowships provide funding for faculty for teaching, research or outreach, at a university in virtually any country in the world. The generous stipends are awarded through the U. S. State Department and bring honor on the individual faculty member, the departments and the universities involved. UNL hosts visiting Fulbrighters and sends Fulbright Fellows abroad every year. A new "senior specialist" program allows faculty to consult on a short-term basis (two to six weeks). For questions about Fulbright opportunities and procedures, call Arlen Etling at 2-7018 (aetling1@unl.edu).

Scholarships Are Available for Study Abroad

CASNR-led study abroad for 2007 include the following opportunities:

December (2006) – January Winter Break

Group study: in Australia (contact Dr. Read, 472-5136)

Spring 2007

Individual study: full semester in Mexico and Canada (Dr. Keown, 472-6453)
full semester in Russia (Christa Joy, 472-5890)

Group study: Spring Break in Puerto Rico (Dr. Schacht, 472-0205)

Summer 2007

Individual study: full semester in Mexico and Canada (Dr. Keown, 472-6453)

Group study: in France for two weeks in May (Rosalee Swartz, 472-5234)
in Mexico for two weeks in August (Dr. Keown, 472-6453)

Fall 2007

Individual study in Norway (check with Dr. Francis, 472-1581)
in Mexico and Canada (Dr. Keown, 472-6453)

We are also working on future study abroad programs for Germany, and Argentina-Brazil. Other individual internships, semester study or short-term travel can be arranged with time and patience. For questions about those programs, call Arlen Etling at 2-7018 (aetling1@unl.edu).

Plant Biology Program Approved

A new major in plant biology will be officially launched in the spring 2007 semester. The plant biology major is jointly offered by the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, the School of Natural Resources and the School of Biological Sciences. The goal of this new major is to provide flexible entry for undergraduate students that have an interest in the plant sciences. Once enrolled in this intercollegiate program, students will take a core of classes that will allow them to continue in the plant biology major (either in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources or the College of Arts and Sciences) or would also allow them to easily transfer to other Life Sciences programs. Students will have the opportunity to interact with the faculty of the Plant Science Initiative as well as the above department/school for advising and research opportunities. Graduates of the plant biology program will be awarded either a BS in Plant Biology from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources or a BA or BS from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Cooperative Program in Veterinary Medicine

On June 1, 2006, the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education approved the creation of a Cooperative Program in Veterinary Medicine between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Iowa State University. The new program combines the resources of two universities to address the growing demand for veterinarians in private and public practice. Combining the resources of two land-grant universities the new program will provide students with the opportunity to obtain the latest information and develop cutting edge skills to serve clients so they have a competitive advantage in the global market place. The program will address the need for public service veterinarians who will develop and implement new strategies that will secure the national food supply. The program will provide highly specialized training in the many sub-specialties within veterinary medicine to better serve the companion animal owning public.

This unique program begins fall semester 2007, when 25 Nebraska students commence the first two years of veterinary medical studies at UNL. Once they have completed the first two years they will transfer to Iowa State to complete their third and fourth years. Nebraska students will benefit by paying the same resident tuition rate paid by Iowa students.

Faculty interaction between UNL and ISU has begun with ISU faculty visiting the UNL campus and GPVEC. Implementation teams designed to address the many aspects of the program such as student learning & assessment, instructional delivery & resources, admissions, preceptorships, student affairs and public relations are being developed to facilitate interaction between the two faculties.

Student recruitment for the profession is always important and especially during this time of transition. To insure a smooth transition for those Nebraska students who wish to apply to Veterinary College this fall we have developed an information piece and website. To learn more about the new Cooperative Program in Veterinary Medicine please visit the new website at <http://vetmed.unl.edu> or call David Hardin 402-472-8539.

Update on PEARL Pilot

Several members of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources have been diligently working on program assessment and implementing PEARL, the Program Excellence through Assessment, Research, and Learning. The current effort involves several programs within CASNR and CEHS. Several undergraduate programs have been involved in the implementation of PEARL, and this year, undergraduate as well as graduate programs will be added. This project is currently beginning the second year of a two-year pilot period to determine if PEARL will be fully implemented throughout UNL. As well as providing a theoretical framework and web-based structure to publish and edit content, the full implementation of PEARL will provide a mechanism to document, review and summarize college-wide assessment activities.

CASNR Recruitment Activities

CASNR has been very busy with a variety of fall recruitment activities. Below is a summary of the recruitment events we have participated in, as well as the upcoming recruitment events: Nebraska State Fair -- Had four booths on display at various locations, provided more than 1,000 candy bars to 4-H and FFA exhibitors during registration, and participated in a variety of other activities.

- 4-H Speech Contest Luncheon -- Hosted an East Campus luncheon for the speech contest finalists.
- Lincoln Honors Reception --Event honoring local senior honor students.
- Husker Harvest Days--had booth on display in the IANR Building.
- Omaha Honors Reception --Event honoring local senior honor students.
- Southeast Community College-Lincoln Transfer Day--held at the SCC campus.
- Women in Ag Conference, Kearney--had a booth on display.
- Ak-Sar-Ben — Provided more than 1,000 candy bars to exhibitors during registration.
- Red Letter Day (Sept. 29, Oct. 2, 7, 9, 13; Nov. 3, 6, 10; Dec. 1, Jan. 19, Feb. 19, March 23)--UNL visit day for high school seniors
- Oct. 7 — Experience the Power of Red--annual CASNR open house for high school and transfer students.
- Oct. 25-27 —National FFA Convention, Indianapolis--a CASNR booth will be on display.
- Nov. 19 — Omaha Achievement Banquet--Event honoring Omaha-area students.
- Jan. 3 —How to Transfer Day--On-campus recruitment day for transfer students.
- Feb. 7 — Southeast Community College-Lincoln Transfer Day--held at the SCC campus.
- Feb 23 — How to Transfer Day--on-campus recruitment day for transfer students.
- Feb. 25 — National Hispanic Scholar Day
- March 4 — Big Red Road Show (Omaha)--Event featuring displays from all UNL Colleges, departments, etc.
- March 24 — Science Olympiad--CASNR hosts more than 500 middle and high school students who participate in this annual science competition.
- March 31 — Big Red Road Show (South Sioux City)--Event featuring displays from all UNL Colleges, departments, etc.

In addition to the above events, we also host a variety of high school and transfer students on-campus for personalized campus visits.

CASNR Career Fair Held

The 2006 CASNR Career Fair took place on October 5, 2006, at the Nebraska East Union on the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s East Campus. The CASNR Career Fair was held in conjunction with Career Fair Week, which featured three days of Career Fairs with over 200 employers participating in whole. Over 400 students and alumni from the University and local community attended the CASNR Career Fair to visit with 54 employing organizations and graduate institutions. Representatives from local, state, and national organizations attended to connect with students as they seek full-time and internship opportunities. This year there were 10 new organizations/companies who attended. These included CareerBuilder.com, CSS Farms, Inc, EMP SERV, LLC/Pipestone System, Farmland Foods, Helena Chemical Company, Nebraska Pork Partners, New Horizon FS, Inc, Tier One Bank, USDA – National Ag Statistics Service, and the USDA/Risk Management Agency. In addition to the career fair, we hosted the second annual “CASNR Dean’s Employer Appreciation Banquet”. It was held the evening before the career fair with over 45 employers and department heads in attendance. The annual Faculty/Employer Brunch was held the morning of the career fair with over 75 employers and faculty in attendance.

Morrill Scholars Update

Fifteen new Justin Smith Morrill (JSM) Scholars were accepted for fall semester 2007. They are meeting once a week with Dr. Ed Harvey for a special seminar course to study the life and accomplishments of Justin Smith Morrill, the Morrill Acts of 1862, and 1890, and the Land Grant University system. The JSM Scholars Burr Hall Learning Community kicked off the semester with a bonfire on Thursday, September 28th and under the direction of Resident Director Ethan Rowley and his assistants Annie Doerr and Dana Christensen the scholars are planning other activities for the fall semester. The second year JSM scholars are working to create a JSM organization on campus and exploring the possibility of bringing a speaker to campus.

CASNR Week 2007 Schedule Announced

Sunday, April 15	CASNR Week Awards Banquet - 6:00 pm
Monday, April 16	Club Adviser Luncheon - noon to 1:00
Tuesday, April 17	Lunch on the Lawn - 11 to 1:00 pm
Tuesday, April 17	Community Night - 5-7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 18	Undergraduate TA Luncheon
Thursday, April 19	Blood Drive for the Community Blood Bank of Lancaster County
Friday, April 20	UNL Rodeo
Saturday, April 21	UNL Rodeo

Fall 06 Enrollment Update and Student Demographics

The College undergraduate enrollment increased 3.1% (39 students) to **1303** [1290 at UNL and 13 at UNO (6: pre-agricultural sciences, 2: pre-natural resources, 4: pre-horticulture, 1: pre-food science and technology)]. This is the second consecutive year that the College has had an increase in enrollment. UNL undergraduate enrollment **increased 2.0%** (17,037 to 17,371). Total enrollment (undergraduate, graduate and professional) at UNL is 22,106; a 2.0% increase from the previous fall.

First-time student (new UNL freshman) enrollment was the same as last fall (NF: 239) (UNL increased 8.1%). The degree programs with the largest class of new freshmen (UNL) were **Animal Science (50), Agribusiness (33), Professional Golf Management (26), Fisheries and Wildlife (18) and Biochemistry (17)**. New transfer students declined **16.7%**. **Transfer students represent 21.3%** of first-time students. The first-time transfer student enrollment decreased from 78 to 65. The degree programs with the largest class of new transfer students were **Professional Golf Management (11), Agribusiness (8), Horticulture (8), Animal Science (8) and Fisheries and Wildlife (5)**. The Fall-2006 incoming UNL class (freshmen and transfer students) is slightly down from last fall (-4.1%) (317 to 304). Continuing students were up 5.0% compared to last fall (948 and 903, respectively).

Enrollment in degree programs in Natural Resources increased 3.6%; the percent of the total CASNR enrollment **was unchanged (13.3%)** from last fall. Enrollment in the degree programs in Agricultural Sciences **increased 2.9%**.

The student population (UNL/CASNR and UNO) is **62.5% male and 37.5% female; 94.6% Caucasian (include 'unknown')**, 2.38% Asian; 0.7% Black; 1.46% Hispanic; 0.92% American Indian; **4.83% Not Reported**; and **1.98% are international**. The minority student population (CASNR and UNO) increased **16%(61 to 71 students)**. The minority student population as a percent of the total undergraduate College enrollment (1303) **increased from 4.83% to 5.44%**. **International students** comprise **2.4%** (32 students) of the total CASNR and UNO enrollment. They represent 9 countries. Our largest delegation is from Japan (12 students).

The College had the **third largest** percent increase in **non-resident students** (+7.1%) (includes both CASNR and UNO). The College of Education and Human Sciences had the largest at +13.5% and the third largest gain in non resident students was in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications (+12.3%). Ten percent of CASNR is non-resident students (135). The College has 30 states represented. Our two largest feeder states are South Dakota (12) and Iowa (11).

The top five degree programs based on CASNR enrollment are: **Animal Science (192) Agribusiness (154), Horticulture (110), Fisheries and Wildlife (108) and Biochemistry and Professional Golf Management (97)**. **Biochemistry** has a total enrollment of **256** (97-CASNR, 159-CAS). Areas of growth (degree programs with at least 20 students) include **Professional Golf Management (+31.1%), Animal Science (17.8%), Mechanized Systems Management (7.4%), Fisheries and Wildlife (6.9%) and Food Science and Technology (5.6%)**.

The total College undergraduate enrollment is **1606 (+3.6%increase over last fall) (159 Biochemistry** in the College of Arts and Sciences (+1.9%), **34 (31 + 3 (UNO) Agricultural Engineers** (-8.1%) and **110 Biological Systems Engineers** (+18.3%) in the College of Engineering). Graduate student enrollment on the sixth-day census (Fall 2005; Fall 2006) **increased 3.6%** in CASNR departments (477 to 494 enrolled graduate students). Student credit hour production increased slightly (19,970 to 20,158).

The CASNR (including UNO) undergraduate student population based on class standing is: 286 freshmen, 262 Sophomores, 333 Juniors and 414 Seniors (8 students are unclassified or pursuing a second degree). Approximately 42% of our students are classified as underclassmen and 58% are upperclassmen.

'Nebraskans for Nebraska' Helping in Recruitment

Nebraskans for Nebraska is a consortium of CASNR stakeholder groups sponsored by the CASNR Alumni Association and the Agriculture Builders of Nebraska, Inc. to support the College and the Extension Division in marketing career opportunities and academic programs at the local level. The organization was formed during the summer. ***Nebraskans for Nebraska*** is coordinated by the CASNR Director of College Relations in collaboration with the Extension Recruitment Coordinator (Office of Admissions). Staffing is provided by those offices and stakeholder volunteers are *CASNR Affiliates*.

Affiliate Organizations (Confirmed and/or Expressed Interest*) include:

CASNR Alumni Association

Extension Division

Agricultural Builders of Nebraska, Inc.

Nebraska Cattlemen [There are approximately 15 regional chairs already identified. The regions of these chairs approximate the local Cattlemen's Association organizations and the Cooperative Extension regional core groups. They can act as one of the contacts for ***Nebraskans for Nebraska***.]

Nebraska Banker's Association*

Ag Relations Council*

Bachelor of Science Candidacy Proposal

Rationale: The purpose of establishing Bachelor of Science Candidacy Status within the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) is to:

- Provide students with a road map for academic success (if approved, CASNR Bachelor of Science Candidacy Status would be added to "Ensuring Your Future");
- Ensure that CASNR students move through their academic experiences on logical, developmental paths that allow them to maximize the educational impact of the curricula; and
- Decrease the number of graduating seniors that must complete core requirements (math and natural sciences) during their final semesters.

Criteria for CASNR Bachelor of Science Candidacy Status:

- Achieve senior status (89 credit hours or more);
- Have removed all core course deficiencies;
- Satisfy the math and natural science requirements;
- Complete a degree audit (DARS);
- Have met with student's academic advisor; and
- Have an up-to-date, online portfolio (this criterion would be "recommended" until fall 2009, at which time it would be "required").

Implementation: Bachelor of Science Candidacy status must be achieved in the semester prior to the semester in which the student intends to graduate (e.g., If the student anticipates a May graduation, he/she must be cleared before registration for fall courses the semester prior to graduation.). If candidacy has not been achieved prior to the semester in which the student intends to graduate, a hold will be placed on the student's registration. The hold will be removed by the CASNR Dean's Office once the student meets with his/her academic advisor.

This proposal has been presented to the CASNR Curriculum Committee, the Faculty Advisory Council and the August CASNR Faculty Meeting as an informational item for general comment. All responses have been favorable. The CASNR Curriculum Committee will formally consider the proposal on October 20.

Travel Policy for CASNR Student Organizations and Judging Teams

The Faculty Advisory Council is preparing travel policies for CASNR student organizations and judging teams (refer to drafts below) that will apply when organizations seek funds from the College. These policies will be finalized this fall. In cases where organizations and judging teams are not receiving additional support from the College, the FAC would recommend adherence to the policies.

DRAFT CASNR Travel Policy, Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), July 24, 2006

Rationale: The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) cares about student's academic experiences, development of professional skills and overall welfare. Therefore, the College encourages its student organizations and clubs to participate in off-campus activities and events designed for such purposes through offering financial support to offset the cost of travel. CASNR student organizations may request financial assistance from the College by submitting a proposal (Appendix 1) to the CASNR Dean's office.

The CASNR travel policy is intended to assist *undergraduate* students, faculty, advisors/sponsors, and administrators in having a common understanding of the travel logistics, as well as the performance expectations of students when they travel as representatives of the CASNR/UNL through their affiliations with CASNR student clubs or organizations.

Criteria: For CASNR student clubs and organizations to qualify for CASNR travel funds and represent the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, they (or their members intending to travel) must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Students must be in good academic standing (not on academic probation);
2. Students must be in good financial standing (no financial holds on registrations);
3. Students must be accompanied by a club or organization advisor/sponsor or designee (staff member, graduate student);
4. A roster of students (copy of completed UNL Student Field Trip Insurance form) participating in the trip must be submitted two days before the date of travel to the CASNR Dean's Office and the Department Head's office, if the club or organization is affiliated with an academic department;
5. Students must abide by the University of Nebraska Standards of Conduct approved by the Regents in 1990 (Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, Minutes, Vol. 50, p. 205, October 12, 1990) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Code of Conduct (2006-07 Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 409); and
6. A brief (no more than 200 words) summary on behalf of the club or organization reporting how the experience impacted student learning and the club or organization must be filed with the CASNR Dean's Office *within two weeks* of travel completion.

DRAFT, Judging Team Travel Policy, Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), July 25, 2006

Rationale: The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) cares about student's academic experiences, development of professional skills and overall welfare. Therefore, the College encourages departments to adopt and implement the judging team travel

policy below. The policy is designed to specifically address those students who participate in departmentally-based judging teams that travel to off-campus activities and events. The judging team travel policy is intended to assist *undergraduate* students, faculty, advisors/sponsors, and administrators in having a common understanding of the travel logistics, as well as the performance expectations of students when they travel as representatives of the department, and CASNR/UNL through their affiliation with a judging team.

Criteria: For members to travel and represent the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a member of a judging team, they must satisfy the following criteria:

Eligibility:

1. Students must be in good academic standing (not on academic probation);
2. Students must be in good financial standing (no financial holds on registrations);

Logistics:

1. Students must be accompanied by a club or organization advisor/sponsor or designee (staff member, graduate student);
2. A roster of students (copy of completed UNL Student Field Trip Insurance form) participating in the trip must be submitted two days before the date of travel to the Department Head's office and the CASNR Dean's office if the club or organization is affiliated with an academic department;

Appropriate Behavior:

- I. Students must abide by the University of Nebraska Standards of Conduct approved by the Regents in 1990 (Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, Minutes, Vol. 50, p. 205, October 12, 1990) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Code of Conduct (2006-07 Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 409);
- II. Always behave appropriately at all judging events;
- III. Enter each competition expecting fairness;
- IV. Have a proper attitude and behave respectfully and politely at all times;
- V. Do not worry about the other teams' performances;
- VI. Compete hard but play fair;
- VII. Treat your fellow team members equally and with respect;
- VIII. Emphasize the positive;
- IX. Respect officials; and
- X. Support team efforts by encouraging team work and mutual effort.

(source: University of Nebraska 2006-07 Student-Athlete Handbook)