

CASNR ACADEMIC NOTES

Fall 2008

CASNR Mission Statement

The following revised CASNR Mission Statement was adopted in September 2008.

Since the establishment of the University of Nebraska in 1869 and its commitment to the terms of the Land-Grant College Act calling for instruction in agriculture and applied sciences, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) has provided opportunities for students to develop intellectually and meet the challenges of their era. CASNR fosters a student-centered learning environment where diverse basic and applied natural, life, earth and social sciences are integrated into the context of a global society and environmental stewardship. Our goal is to prepare students as leaders for a future in which demands on resources and food systems will challenge sustainability. The areas of study are broad and span animal, plant and human health and well-being, earth systems analysis, agricultural production and processing, global climate change, agricultural market structures, water resources, and land-use change. The College also has the responsibility for the coordination of all agricultural sciences and natural resources programs in higher education within the State of Nebraska.

Recent Developments

The new Doctor of Plant Health program was approved by the State Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education on Tuesday, October 14. The proposal to change the name of the Bachelor of Diversified Agricultural Studies to Bachelor of Applied Science is now waiting for approval from President Milliken. The proposal to change the name of the Master of Agriculture to Master of Applied Science has been approved by the UNL Academic Planning Committee.

eARFA is Due

Faculty should understand that there are actually two due dates for the eARFA. All CASNR-related information was due in August. This included teaching, committee assignments like Curriculum Committee, Teaching and Learning Improvement Council, Faculty Advisory Council, etc. All education grants should also be input at this time. Faculty should also list students receiving UCARE grants in their eARFA. Such information is important in generating a full picture of the educational efforts of CASNR units. The second date is in November when the entire eARFA including research and extension activities must be submitted. Please check with your unit administrator for the exact date. Failure to submit an eARFA or include teaching or grants has a negative impact on Unit Planning statistics for the unit and may negatively impact allocation of resources.

Enrollments Up Again

For the fall 2008 semester, CASNR led all colleges at UNL in enrollment growth. CASNR had 12.9% more students than in fall 2007. The increase means that CASNR is responsible for 47% of the growth in undergraduate enrollment for the entire university. As a result of the successive increases in enrollments, student credit hour production

increased 11.2% in the past year. Additionally, our first-year students have the highest ACT average score ever; 25.47 versus the UNL average of 25.03. However, we should not rest on our laurels as the number of graduating high school students is about to enter a period of declining numbers.

Retention Results

Retention (first semester students who enroll for a second year) last year for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources was 90.1%; it was the highest 1st-Year Retention for UNL. The overall retention rate last year for UNL was 82.9%.

CASNR CARES Isn't Just for Students

Students and their parents are taking advantage of our CASNR CARES Program (Caring Attitudes and Respect for Every Student) but did you know that faculty and staff can also initiate a referral? Any concerned faculty or staff member can contact Sue Voss, explain their concerns about a student; Sue will contact the student, visit with them and inform the student of resources available if warranted. Sue was also involved in getting faculty members informed when our students were called to active duty on September 12 for Hurricane Ike, and coordinated activities with Vice Chancellor Juan Franco's Office. If you think that a student needs help, they probably do. Contact Sue Voss at 2-0609 (svoss1@unl.edu).

CASNR Distance Education

CASNR distance education continues to grow. For Fall 2008 relative to a year earlier, the number of course sections offered are up 6% (from 74 to 79), the number of enrollments is up 29% (from 349 to 494), and the number of credit hours is up 31% (from 998 to 1443). Enrollment in the Master of Entomology is over 75 students and the Master of Agriculture is over 40 students. We are in the process of adopting the name "Applied Science" to better represent the diversity of programs offered in CASNR. The Master of Agriculture is in the process of being changed to Master of Applied Science. The B.S. in Diversified Agricultural Sciences is being changed to Bachelor of Applied Science. The latter program will have a newly added cadre of distance courses so that it can serve as an on-line degree completion program for the 10.5% of the Nebraska adult population with an Associate Degree.

Policy on Minimum Class Enrollments

In a survey of the 2007 academic year, only 45.6% of CASNR classes had ten or more students enrolled. There is some concern that routinely offering low-enrollment classes may be reducing our curricular flexibility and units may want to consider less frequent offerings. The policy is that undergraduate classes should contain at least ten students, and graduate courses should contain at least five students. If these enrollment limits are not met, instructors should request the unit administrator to email the Dean requesting a waiver in order to offer the course. Failure to request a waiver will result in the course not being included in the CASNR teaching load calculation.

Professors of Practice

The Board of Regents adopted the classification of Professor of Practice in November, 2006 and it was added to the IANR bylaws in Spring 2007. During 2008, the following

faculty have been added to this track: Madhavan Soundararajan in Biochemistry, Professor of Practice; Tom Weissling in Entomology, Associate Professor of Practice; and Deborah Bathke, Mike Carlson, Laura Hardin, Tim Kettler, Thomas Kraft, David Lambe and Kelly Phipps as Assistant Professors of Practice. Congratulations on this recognition for your accomplishments and contributions to our programs!

Special Fees for Classes

If you have recently requested approval for a special fee for a laboratory or other class for the 09-10 academic year, be sure that this fee is added to the Fall 09 and Spring 10 drafts of the Schedule of Classes, even though it may not yet be approved. Failure to add this information, especially for the Fall semester, makes it difficult to collect the fee.

Salute to Graduates Grows

The CASNR Salute to Graduates ceremony in the Great Plains Room of the East Campus Union personally honors graduates in the presence of family, friends, faculty and staff by sharing their stated accomplishments while in the College and their future plans. Each graduate is individually recognized by the College and the sponsoring CASNR Alumni Association. The Friday afternoon ceremony makes it convenient for families to attend 'Salute' and then be on hand for the Senior Send-Off and general commencement exercises the following morning. Many departments host receptions preceding the ceremony to allow faculty to meet parents. To date over 1800 family members and guests have visited this campus to attend receptions, visit with faculty and honor their graduate at 'Salute'.

New Minor Available

The Energy Science minor is now available for students. The first course in the new Energy Sciences minor at UNL is being offered this semester. Energy in Perspective, ENSC 110, is being team taught by Drs. Jerry Hudgins and Adam Liska. This university-wide minor is structured to offer an educational component to University of Nebraska students that, when completed, will prepare them with the knowledge, expertise, and background to critically analyze energy issues for applications in business, industry, journalism, government, and education. The minor is available to all University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, though students in the colleges of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, and Engineering are targeted. Requirements for the eighteen credit hour minor include three required 3 cr core courses, with an additional nine hours selected from one, or more, of four elective thematic areas: Natural Resources; Plant and Animal Bioenergy Systems; Engineering; and Economics, Policy, and Human Dimensions. The second and third core courses, (ENSC 220, Introduction to Energy Systems and ENSC 230, Energy and the Environment: Economics and Policy) will be offered for the first time during the Spring 2009 semester. Additional information is available at <http://energysciences.unl.edu>.

Progress Update for Veterinary Medicine

The Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine (PPVM) offered by UNL and Iowa State continues to grow with the addition of twenty-five new first-year students in August. Jennafer Glaesemann and Jeffry Faimon, members of the inaugural PPVM class,

were selected to present a student case report presentation at the 41st Annual Convention of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) in Charlotte NC. The case report entitled "Investigation of Reproductive Failure in Holstein Replacement Heifers" detailed an investigation the student chapter of the AABP at UNL performed during their first year in veterinary school. Eleven of 44 abstracts submitted in March 2008 were selected to be presented as part of the student case report competition. The UNL PPVM second year students competed with third and fourth year students selected from other schools in North America. Jennafer and Jeff placed first overall in the prestigious competition and then presented their case report to the membership of the parent organization during the final general session of the convention.

Progress Update for Forensic Science

The forensic science degree program continues to experience steady growth, as it is currently home to 63 students. This represents an increase of 50 students from Fall 2007. To effectively manage the continued growth within this program and CASNR, the Departments of Biochemistry and Entomology hired Britta Osborne as an Academic Adviser. Britta will advise FORS and BIOC undergraduates. In addition, three new forensic science courses are being offered during the 2008-2009 academic year. Dr. Karl Reinhard (SNR) is currently offering NRES 445 Human Remains in Forensic Science and NRES 446 Pollen Analysis in Biological, Behavioral, and Forensic Science. Dr. David Carter (Entomology) will offer FORS 485 Current Issues in Forensic Science as the capstone course in Spring 2009. FORS 485 has been approved to meet Achievement Centered Education Outcome 10.

CASNR Career Fair

The 2008 CASNR Career Fair was held on Thursday, October 9, 2008 in the East Campus Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The CASNR Career Fair was held in conjunction with Career Fair Week, which featured three days of Career Fairs with over 300 employers participating in whole. 517 students and alumni from the University and local community attended the CASNR Career Fair to visit with 67 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. New employers that came to the career fair included: Alltech South Dakota, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Frito Lay, Gavilon, LLC, Louis Dreyfus Corp, Nebraska Machinery Company, Reinke Manufacturing, Remington Seeds, US Marine Corps, Wells' Dairy, Inc., and Wyffels Hybrids. In addition to the career fair, we hosted the fourth annual "CASNR Dean's Employer Appreciation Banquet". It was held the evening before the career fair with 62 employers and department representatives in attendance. The annual Faculty/Employer Brunch was held the morning of the career fair with 102 employers and faculty in attendance. The day after the career fair 186 interviews were conducted.

Second Annual Natural Resources Career Information Night

The second annual Natural Resources Career Information Night was held on October 9, 2008 in Hardin Hall. The event was well received by the seventeen organizations and the 75 students and faculty in attendance. Those organizations attending were: Flatwater

Chapter of U.S. Green Building Council, Homestead National Monument of America, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Bureau, JEO Consulting, Lincoln Police Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - Fisheries Division, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - Wildlife Division, Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership, Terracon, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, and WasteCap Nebraska

New Adviser for CASNR Honors Students

After many years of yeoman service as the CASNR Honors Adviser and Assistant Director of the UNL Honors Program, Dr. Jim Partridge of the Department of Plant Pathology has stepped aside in preparation for retirement. He has been replaced by Dr. Madhavan Soundararajan in the Department of Biochemistry. Any questions about the Honors Program or the Honors Thesis should now be directed to Dr. Soundararajan.

Brace for ACE

In December, UNL adopted a new system for undergraduate general education requirements. The new system is called Achievement Centered Education (ACE). The new system will go into effect in fall 2009. During the next year, the interim ACE Committee will review courses submitted for ACE status. The new system will involve major changes in advising undergraduate students. More information on the ACE program may be found at <http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/gened/>. For a list of courses currently certified for ACE, go to <http://www.unl.edu/ous/ace/certifiedcourses.shtml>. The CASNR representative on the ACE Committee for this next year is Tiffany Heng-Moss, and the CASNR ACE course facilitator is Lloyd Bell.

Scholarships Available for Study Abroad

CASNR-led study abroad for 2009 will include:

December (2008) - January (2009) Winter Break

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

Spring 2009

Group study: Spring Break in Puerto Rico (led by Dr. Schacht, 472-0205) and in Ireland (led by Dr. Mike Zeece, 472-2827)

Summer 2009

Individual study: full semester in Mexico (check with Dr. Jeff Keown, 472-6453)

Group study: in France for two weeks in May (led by Rosalee Swartz, 472-5234)
in Namibia for two weeks in May (led by Dr. Mark Pegg, 472-6824)

Fall 2009

Individual study full semester in Mexico (check with Dr. Jeff Keown, 472-6453).

In 2008 there were 74 CASNR students who visited 24 countries on study abroad. Nebraska Foundation funds allowed CASNR to provide over \$80,000 for study abroad scholarships. We are also working on future study abroad programs for Germany, Spain, Croatia, Brazil and Morocco. 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).

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 to 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).

Update on PEARL Assessments

The Program Excellence through Assessment, Research and Learning (PEARL) program continues to progress. As of Fall 2008

- 100% of the undergraduate programs in CASNR and CEHS are participating in PEARL
- Four CASNR graduate programs are participating in PEARL
- 29% of UNL undergraduates are enrolled in academic programs that are using PEARL assessments
- 75% of the assessments described by CASNR and CEHS programs in the 2005-2006 cycle were direct assessments
- 32% of the undergraduate CASNR and CEHS programs involved in PEARL in 2005-2006 reported making a change in their program in response to participation in PEARL

Special thanks are in order for the following faculty who have volunteered to serve as Peer Reviewers for the PEARL system: Laura Hardin, Dann Husmann, David Jackson, Madhavan Soundararajan, Betty Walter-Shea, Randy Wehling, and Mike Zeece

Reminder on Implementing CIEQ

It is time to start thinking about administering the CIEQ evaluation for the fall semester. For the most meaningful results, the instrument may be administered anytime during the last five weeks of the semester. Do not administer the instrument on the day before an exam, the day of an exam, or the day following an exam. Make sure that students have adequate time to provide feedback on the back of the instrument. Please make sure that the information bubble sheet has the instructor’s correct name. If you have questions about interpretation of the CIEQ results, contact John Markwell.

CASNR Alumni Association

The annual CASNR Alumni Football Reunion and silent auction were held on Saturday, September 13 before the New Mexico State game. Eighty tickets were sold for the game and 100 alumni, guests and faculty attended the reunion. The silent auction generated nearly \$6000, most of which will be used for new student scholarships. The 2008 Henry Beachell Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Warren “Buck” Gabelman, 1942 CASNR graduate.

Scholarship Update

To date in this academic year, CASNR has awarded \$539,053 in scholarships to 516 students. Students seeking information about scholarships should contact Dann Husmann.

R.B. Plummer Student Loan Fund

Back in 1943, Ralph Ballard Plummer established the R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund. It was Mr. Plummer's desire to assist students in CASNR 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 Husmann. 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 (103 Agricultural Hall) for more information.

Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Update

Over the Labor Day weekend, ten UNL Justin Morrill Scholars, along with two undergraduate intern journalism/film students journeyed to the little hamlet of Strafford, Vermont - childhood home of Senator Justin Morrill, principle author of the Land Grant College act of 1862. While in Strafford, Scholars toured the historic town including the Morrill Homestead National Historic Landmark where they conducted a work/service project. A highlight of the trip was that the Scholars were permitted by the local townspeople to hold their first club meeting of the semester in the Town House which exists today in essentially the same configuration and with the same furnishings as it did in the 1800s. The Scholars also visited Morrill's Mausoleum in the Strafford cemetery, and toured the Homestead grounds acquired and developed by Morrill upon his retirement. During their visit, students stayed with several host families and learned a great deal about Vermonters as well as teaching their hosts a great deal about Nebraskans. They also met with a number of very interesting people including Edna Reeder Emerson, the 91 year old granddaughter of S.W. "Dad" Perin who now lives in nearby Newbury, Vermont. Her grandfather served as the Superintendent of the University of Nebraska Farm from 1889 until 1930. Finally, the two film students who traveled with the Scholars will produce a documentary film connecting our trip to the Homestead with Justin Smith Morrill and his contributions and accomplishments including the land grant college system formed by the 1862 act. This film will likely air on NET sometime next year and will be used for recruiting and to promote the UNL Morrill Scholars Program, CASNR, and IANR.

Reminder about the UNL Syllabus Policy

All courses must have a syllabus and all syllabi must include specific information about the instructor, course requirements, grading policy and schedule for examinations. This policy may be found at <http://www.unl.edu/asenate/syllabuspolicy.pdf>. In addition, the syllabus must include the following language: "*Students with disabilities are encouraged*

to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3737 voice or TTY.”

Update on the Dairy Store Visitor Center

Those of you who have not ventured to the East Campus Visitor Center recently should plan a noon visit. The Center is located within the East Campus Dairy Store, which has started serving special luncheon entrees to the delight of many East Campus denizens. The array of savory soups, salads and sandwiches represents a quantum leap from the traditional Dairy Store lunch fare. Please come for lunch and say hello to Karen Francis in the Visitor Center.