

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Fall 2009 Academic Notes

Enrollment Update and Student Demographics

Although we prefer to focus on our success in terms of increasing student learning and accomplishments, we do need to focus on the numbers and statistics at this time of the academic year. UNL undergraduate enrollment increased 2.3% (429:18,526 to 18,955). Total enrollment (undergraduate, graduate and professional) at UNL is 24,100, a 2.2% increase from the previous fall.

For Fall 2009, CASNR undergraduate enrollment increased 7.1% (116 students) to 1758 [1746 at UNL and 12 at UNO (1 pre-agricultural sciences, 5 pre-horticulture, 3 pre-food science and technology, 3 pre-natural resources)]. This is the highest undergraduate enrollment since 1982. The graduate student enrollment in units and programs within CASNR increased 55 to 559. Our total growth in undergraduate enrollment alone is 35% of UNL's total undergraduate increase. This is the fifth consecutive year that the College has had an increase in enrollment. The degree programs with the largest class of new freshmen were Animal Science (53), Agribusiness (33), Biochemistry (26), Forensic Science (26), PGA Golf Management (25) and Fisheries and Wildlife (18). The UNL degree programs with the largest class of new transfer students were Agronomy (12), Animal Science (11), Agribusiness (11), Fisheries and Wildlife (10), Agricultural Economics (8).

The average CASNR ACT score [UNL, UNO (pre-horticulture, pre-food science and technology, pre-natural resources and pre-agricultural sciences), COE (Agricultural Engineering and Biological Systems Engineering), and CAS (Biochemistry)] for new freshmen is 25.86 compared to 25.4 for UNL and 24.98 for all CASNR students.

The CASNR student population is 60.6% male and 39.4% female; 95.28% White (includes 5.18% Not Reported), 1.53% Asian, 0.74% Black/Non-hispanic, 1.76% Hispanic and 0.68% American Indian/Alaska Native. The minority student population increased 9%, while the minority student population as a percent of the total undergraduate College enrollment increased slightly from 4.6% to 4.7%. Part-time students comprise 4.7%, and international students comprise 1.0% of the total enrollment. Transfer students represent 23.4% of first-time students, whereas 13.2% of our undergraduates are non-resident students. The College has 40 states represented in addition to Nebraska. Our largest feeder states are Iowa (41), Minnesota (28), Illinois (23), Kansas (23), Colorado (17), Missouri (16), South Dakota (16), and Texas (15).

The top five degree programs based on CASNR enrollment are: Animal Science (270), Fisheries and Wildlife (162), Agribusiness (160), PGA Golf Management (159) and Biochemistry (110). Areas of growth (degree programs/pre-program with at least 25 students) include Agricultural Economics (51%), Forensic Science (43%), Agricultural Education (16%), and Environmental Studies (11%).

ACE General Studies Update

The new Achievement Centered Education (ACE) general education system was initiated this semester. A key element in the new system is having instructors of ACE-certified courses archive examples of student assessments and providing them to the Unit ACE Coordinator so they can be compiled into annual and five-year reports to the College for renewal of ACE-certification. The Unit ACE Coordinators are Lloyd Bell (ALEC), Don Lee (Agro & Hort), Bryan Reiling (Ani Sci), David Jones (Bio Sys Eng), Curt Weller (Bio Sys Eng), Gary Brewer (Ento), Randy Wehling (Food Sci Tech), Erin Blankenship (Stat), Steve Kachman (Stat), Betty Walter-Shea (Sch Nat Res), Alan Baquet (Grassland Studies), Margaret Denning (Plant Path), John Maxwell (Biochem) and Lilo Johnson (Vet Bio Sci).

Enrollment—Focus on Retention

It has become clear that if we are going to continue producing increases in the number of CASNR students each year, we will have to improve our retention rates. You will also be hearing about new university-wide efforts in this area during the next academic year. The following is a list of some of the activities and events we have used so far to impact retention. Please try to recommend new students participate in these events in future years. If you have questions, please contact Sue Voss.

- All new admits are entered into Blackboard and receive seven emails in spring and summer about the process of starting at UNL, and then five emails about events during the first half of the semester and what to do about the stress of adapting to college life.
- A Facebook site for CASNR has been used for postings of information/events/activities relating to CASNR.
- The CASNR Luau on August 21 provided free food and games to over a hundred CASNR students – a great way for new students to meet other CASNR students.
- Big Red Welcome—The college and most units participated in the semester starting spectacular event on Sunday, August 23 just East of the Stadium.
- The Amazing CASNR Race at the State Fair provided information about CASNR CARES
- Campus Guides-- on Monday and Tuesday mornings during the start of classes, volunteers welcomed students at the first bus stop, helped them find buildings for their classes and handed out granola bars.
- Welcome Back Club Fair on August 27 provided all new freshmen and transfer students with information about CASNR clubs. A picnic was held outside of the Nebraska East Union for anyone with a meal plan or anyone helping at the Club fair.
- Personal Safety Presentation on August 27 by the UNL Police Department was given to help students understand how to improve their personal safety on campus.
- Prairie Stomp was a free outdoor dance on Friday, September 11 from 8 pm to midnight. Sandy Creek played at the dance which was preceded by the Block and Bridle Steak Fry.
- Mid-Semester Check at the Nebraska Union provided a reality check and information for new students about making the transition to college.
- A successful CASNR Blood Drive was held on September 21 and 22 in connection with the Homecoming/300th Consecutive Sellout Week celebration. Many faculty and students took part in this exercise in civic activity.
- Homecoming Concert—CASNR partnered with ASUN and University Program Council to host a Homecoming Concert on Thursday, September 24. Playing at this hugely popular concert were Aaron Watson and the Eli Young Band.

Credit Hours for Graduation

For the 2010-11 academic year, CASNR will modify the credit hour requirement for graduation. The college core will reflect a minimum of 125 credit hours for graduation. Departments can determine if graduation requirements for their degree programs will be 125 credits or higher. If units elect to lower their degree requirements, the hours must be removed from unit requirements or electives. The general education core of 18 credit hours in the college will remain the same.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bulletin Goes On-line

The UNL Undergraduate Bulletin will no longer be available in a paper format. The bulletin will go completely on-line starting in the 2010-11 academic year. As the university moves to this format, please pay close attention to the information being transmitted in the electronic form. Bulletin changes this fall within degree programs in CASNR will be critical so we can effectively and efficiently advise our undergraduate students. Please look closely at the bulletin drafts as they are circulated through the departments.

Units are requested to submit any curriculum changes for insertion in the Fall 2010 Undergraduate Bulletin to Carol Wusk in November so that they can be approved by the Curriculum Committee.

Policy on Minimum Class Enrollments

The CASNR policy on class size is that undergraduate classes with less than ten students, or graduate classes with less than five students, require permission to be offered. Instructors of such classes should contact their unit administrator requesting that an email be sent to the CASNR Dean seeking permission to offer the class. If permission is not received, the class will not be used for CASNR teaching load calculations. In a survey completed last year, it appears that a significant number of classes in CASNR are being offered in spite of low enrollments. Units should consider whether it is possible to offer such classes on a less frequent basis, or move a class with multiple sections to a larger room; such action may help increase curricular flexibility and help with staffing shortfalls.

Update on PEARL Assessments—Consider Combining with ACE

CASNR and the Colleges of Education and Human Sciences, and Journalism and Mass Communication continue to pioneer the use of the PEARL system for student assessment. With the introduction of the ACE general education requirements, every degree program is now required to carry out assessment in a capstone course. We suggest that units consider whether one of the three assessment questions being addressed in the PEARL program can be combined with the capstone assessment for the ACE program to streamline and simplify your assessment activities. If you would like to talk about this option, contact John Markwell (jmarkwell2@unl.edu).

If your department has approved or has submitted ACE 10 courses in your degree programs, thank you for your prompt response. If you have yet to submit any courses in your degree program for ACE 10 certification, please do this as soon as possible.

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. You only need to administer the CIEQ instrument if you were an instructor for five or more weeks of a course. If you have questions about interpretation of the CIEQ results, contact John Markwell.

Reminder on Implementing Program Evaluation for Instructional Improvement

A Program for Instructional Improvement is currently being piloted by every unit within CASNR. Please take the time this academic year to see if your proposed plan makes sense, is workable and has adequate input from faculty. We expect that a number of units will modify their plans this year, but that all will have workable plans that will be implemented for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Scholarship Update

During the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009, 943 academic scholarships were awarded to 830 students (50.5% of CASNR students). A total of over \$943,173 was awarded for an average award of over \$1000 per student. For current students in CASNR, encourage your advisees to make application for Upperclass Scholarships by visiting the Scholarship and Financial Aid website at:

http://www.unl.edu/scholfa/upper_class.shtml

Students who complete the Upperclass Scholarship Application (beginning November 1) will be considered for future scholarships in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. As always, persuade your advisees to complete the latest Free Application for Free Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Federal, state, and university grant assistance programs, along with federal work-study and federal student loans are based on this application. The Dean's Office also uses this information as an aid in awarded scholarships from CASNR.

Scholarships for the 2010-11 Academic Year

As you probably already know, the estimates for next year's scholarship funds have been greatly reduced due to the downturn in our economy. The University of Nebraska Foundation has communicated that colleges should plan for a 30% decrease of spendable fund amounts for the scholarships for undergraduate students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the 2010-11 academic year.

As a planning measure, we are asking departments to factor in a 30% reduction in the scholarship amounts they award to undergraduate students for the 2010-11 academic year. From a college perspective, CASNR has decided to adjust the scholarship awards for funds that are flexible from \$1000 scholarships to \$700 scholarships. For scholarship funds that have minimum amounts associated with their fund agreements, the number of scholarships will be reduced depending on the amount of funds within the accounts. In other words, we still may award \$1000 (or more) scholarships, but there will be fewer scholarships awarded.

CASNR units will need to determine how their scholarship funds will be awarded for the 2010-11 academic year. You will need to pay close attention to the fund agreements and be prepared to meet the criteria within each scholarship fund you award to your undergraduate students. Some cases may be very similar to what we are doing in the Dean's Office concerning

CASNR scholarships. If you need to secure or update your fund agreements, please contact Melissa at the Dean's Office and she will provide you with the latest information we have from the University of Nebraska Foundation.

As we move into the 2010-11 scholarship cycle, please be aware of how units offer scholarships to prospective students. While the 30% is an estimate based on our current knowledge, the environment can change rapidly. We will keep close contact with the University of Nebraska Foundation and if changes are needed to increase or decrease our projections, you will be the first to be contacted. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Dann Husmann at dhusmann2@unl.edu or 472-7908.

R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund

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).

CASNR Graduate Assistant

The CASNR Dean's Office is pleased to welcome Anita Ferrell to our office. She joined our office this fall as a graduate assistant. Anita, who previously served as the Animal Science department recruiter, is working on her master's degree in counseling psychology. Her Dean's Office role includes assisting with recruitment and retention activities as well as evaluating and characterizing academic motivation and success amongst our students.

Career Fair Update

The 2009 CASNR Career Fair was held on Thursday, October 8, 2009 in the Nebraska East Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The CASNR Career Fair was held in conjunction with UNL Career Fair Week, which featured three days with over 300 participating employers. There were 507 students and alumni from the University and local community attending the CASNR Fair to visit with 57 employing organizations and graduate institutions. Representatives from local, state, and national organizations were able to connect with students as they sought full-time and internship opportunities. New employers that came to the career fair included: AgriGold Hybrids, Farm Bureau Financial Services, Lone Creek Cattle Company, St. Matthew's University, UNL Doctor of Plant Health, and Water Street Solutions. In addition to the career fair, we hosted the fifth annual "CASNR Dean's Employer Appreciation Banquet". It was held the evening before the career fair with 45 employers and department representatives in attendance. The annual Faculty/Employer Brunch was held the morning of the career fair with 132 employers and faculty in attendance. The day after the career fair 142 interviews were conducted.

Justin Morrill Scholars Update

In August, seven Morrill Scholar students and two leaders journeyed to Strafford, Vermont to visit the Justin Morrill Homestead. While there, the group toured the town of Strafford and the Homestead, and participated in a service-learning project to excavate a collapsed irrigation canal system on the Morrill property. The students also toured the Rock of Ages Quarry in Barre where the granite was quarried to construct the Morrill mausoleum, visited the Hope Cemetery which is known for its marvelous headstone sculptures crafted by the stone cutters who worked at the Barre quarries, and traveled across the famed "floating bridge." During their time in Strafford, the students stayed with local residents and participated in a community dinner in order to meet new friends and to experience New England culture first hand. The students also had the opportunity to meet Ms. Monica Morrill, a distant relative of Senator Morrill. Plans are currently underway for the Scholars annual awards luncheon in January, several community service projects and social events, and the upcoming officer elections in December. We are also nearing completion of the Scholars educational video "The Morrill of Our Story" which was filmed during last year's Vermont trip by student interns from Nebraska Educational Television.

A New Program to Train Plant Health Practitioners

Individuals with broadly integrated knowledge and management skills are needed to deal with the complex and frequently interacting challenges in managing plant systems. These individuals must be able to incorporate new research and technological developments into integrated pest and plant management systems to maintain economic, environmental and social sustainability. Individuals with these talents and training are needed worldwide in today's agriculture.

To meet these challenges a new professional program, the Doctor of Plant Health (DPH) program, has been created. The DPH Program is a rigorous doctoral-level degree program that trains practitioners across all plant-related disciplines (entomology, plant pathology, plant science, soil science and weed science).

The program was established to address needs from the seed, chemical and consulting industry, along with those of extension and regulatory agencies. All of these groups have expressed strong interest in hiring graduates from this program. Our first students will be starting in the program in January 2010. We encourage undergraduate advisors to recommend this program as a consideration for bright students who may have career interests in the practical aspects of plant health and managing plant systems of all types. For more information on the DPH program, visit the website www.dph.unl.edu or contact Dr. Gary Hein, Program Director at 402-472-3345 or ghein1@unl.edu.

Update on Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine

The Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine is beginning its third year. The students who transferred to Iowa State University seem to have adjusted to the larger class size and new surroundings. This year, incoming students traveled to ISU and participated in orientation, which provided an opportunity for interaction among students in all classes and from each location. Students appreciated the opportunity to meet their ISU peers and faculty.

Two of the UNL students, Jordan Nickerson (2011) and Lindsey Wallman (2012) participated in the Veterinary Leadership Experience in Spokane, Washington, and Post Falls, Idaho during June. This experience gives students the opportunity to develop their own leadership skills through an interactive curriculum that is designed to encourage, challenge and drive personal growth and transformation.

Jeremi Wurtz (2012) is one of three recipients of the Fort Dodge Animal Health Legacy Scholarship given to veterinary students with an interest in beef production. The scholarship is provided by the National Cattlemen's Foundation and Fort Dodge Animal Health.

Several of the PPVM students received scholarships or stipends to support summer activities; a few of these are listed below. Sarah Vitosh interned at Intervet/Schering Plough in Elkhorn NE and is also the recipient of the AKC/CAR veterinary scholarship. The following students from the class of 2012--Melissa Heberer, Laurel Wegener, Ryan Koopmans-- and students from the class of 2011-- Jeff Faimon, Richard Christen, Melissa Thompson and Jennafer Glaesemann-- received a stipend from Pfizer Animal Health that was used to support the student during an externship with food animal or mixed animal veterinarians. Kristina Hubbard (2012) attended Aquavet Marine Animal Training in Massachusetts, while Jackie Snyder (2012) participated in an externship at Haygard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington KY and Molly Willet (2012) participated in an African Safari focused on veterinary medical techniques.

Alumni News

The CASNR Alumni Association presented awards at the annual CASNR Week Banquet held in April:

- Dr. James Pillen of Columbus, a 1979 UNL Animal Science graduate, received the 2009 Alumni Achievement Award for his exemplary career dedicated to serving Nebraska agriculture with an entrepreneurial spirit and high standards of personal and professional excellence. Dr. Pillen is founder and president of Progressive Swine Technologies.
- Dr. Martin Massengale received the 2009 Alumni Service Award for his passion for education, service to the College, Institute and University and legacy of leaving every organization he has served better for it. He has been very supportive of the CASNR Alumni Association since coming to UNL in 1976. His career is marked by continual accomplishments throughout the University.
- A new, annual departmental award initiated by Dean Steve Waller, the 2009 Award for Engagement of Emeriti Faculty, was presented to the Animal Science Department recognizing that department's effective and innovative ability to engage their emeriti faculty. All departments are encouraged to participate in a brief self-nomination process by listing the methods they use to retain and engage emeriti faculty. To further recognize the rich resource emeriti can be in the College, the CASNR Alumni Association has included emeriti faculty as honorary life members.

Salute to Graduates

Salute to Graduates is a tradition established by Vice Chancellor John Owens and developed by Dean Steve Waller and his staff which started with the December 2005 graduating class. Some 3,000 parents and guests of graduates have visited East Campus to attend the ceremony and attend departmental receptions to visit with faculty and staff. These folks are informed ambassadors for the College as they interact with neighbors, work associates and friends.

The May 2009 'Salute' was by far the largest since the program began. A large graduating cohort of 190 plus the first two-year class of 24 Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine students resulted in 130 students participating. Parents, relatives, friends, faculty and staff brought the total number of people on hand for the ceremony to approximately 750. Closed-circuit TV was provided by Communications, Information and Technology staff so that graduates, departmental representatives and some guests could watch from overflow seating in the Terrace Dining area. The total number of graduating students in the 2009 academic year was up thirty students from the previous year.

Fall 2009 Alumni Reunion

The annual CASNR Alumni Association Football Reunion and Silent Auction took place on September 12 prior to the Arkansas State game. Eighty tickets were made available for the game. Reunion attendance was up this year to 125 and the number of silent auction items was the best yet at 44 thanks to many generous contributors. The auction raised \$5198 for student scholarships and participants had a great time.

Two awards were presented in conjunction with the alumni reunion.

- The Henry Beachell Distinguished Alumni Award is named after a Nebraskan born in 1906 who earned a degree in agronomy at UNL and was recognized with the World Food Prize for developing a rice variety that changed the nutrition and lives of millions around the world. The recipient of the award was Paul Engler, a 1951 animal science graduate from UNL has done much to further agriculture and the beef production industry. Engler lives in Amarillo, Texas and owns Cactus Feeders.
- The Alumni Association's Legacy Award was presented to Eric Brown and the Brown family. Eric and the Brown family developed the Nebraska Rural Radio Association and have partnered with the College and the Institute to advance agriculture, the wise use of natural resources and the progress of Nebraska people and the state through effective broadcast communication.

The CASNR Alumni Association Board of Directors last met July 11 at the Buffalo County Extension Office in Kearney, and on October 8 following the CASNR Career Fair in the Nebraska East Union.

Study Abroad Opportunities

CASNR-led study abroad for 2010 will include:

December (2009) - January (2010) Winter Break

Group study: in New Zealand (led by Dr. Jones, 472-5566)

Spring 2010

Group study: Spring Break in Puerto Rico (led by Dr. Ferraro, 472-8248)
in Argentina (led by Dr. Mason, 472-1523) and
in Ireland (led by Dr. Zeece, 472-2827)

Summer 2010

Individual study: full semester in Mexico (check with Dr. Keown, 472-6453)
Group study: in France for two weeks in May (led by Rosalee Swartz, 472-5234)
in England for two weeks in May (led by Dr. Ellis, 472-9782)
in Costa Rica for two weeks in May (check with Dr. Etling, 472-7018)
in Germany for two weeks in August (led by Dr. Schulte, 472-3930)
in Mexico for two weeks in August (led by Dr. Keown, 472-6453).

Fall 2010

Individual study: full semester in Mexico (check with Dr. Keown, 472-6453).
Group study: in Australia Dec. 2010 - Jan. 2011 (led by Dr. Read, 472-5136).

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE for STUDY ABROAD

In 2009 there were 83 CASNR students who visited 17 countries on study abroad. Nebraska Foundation funds allowed CASNR to provide over \$78,000 for study abroad scholarships. We are also working on future study abroad programs for 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).

Beyond Borders

CASNR International Studies Interns Azureen Erdman and Nora Spath organized a new student organization whose full name is Students Involved in Global Agriculture and Natural Resources Connecting Beyond Borders. The focus of the club is to connect CASNR students with international students, faculty and issues important to CASNR and to help students with fund raising for study abroad. So far the group has held a Holiday kickoff party, business meetings with speakers on different study abroad programs, a pizza and movie night, a bowling party and a welcome picnic for international students. Average attendance for each of the events has been almost 30.