CASNR Fall 2010 Academic Notes

Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program. The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program began in earnest on June 1 of this year with the selection of Mark Gustafson as the Program Director and a goal of having students on campus this fall. In addition to the wonderful gift from the Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation, the Program has received outstanding support from CASNR and UNL Extension administrators, faculty and staff, as well as from the Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration. With this great support the Engler Program has been able to move forward in the following areas:

- Created three new courses;
- Modified three existing courses to focus on agribusiness entrepreneurship;
- Funded a needed second section of an introduction to entrepreneurship course;
- Received approval for the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Minor from the CASNR curriculum committee;
- Welcomed 20 students into the Engler Program;
- Provided four-year scholarships to five “Engler Scholars” students;
- Provided three students with one year Engler scholarships; and
- Identified a study abroad trip with entrepreneurial elements for this coming spring.

Mark Gustafson and the CASNR Dean’s Office are very appreciative of the tremendous support this program has received. Thank you everyone.

Classroom Emergency Preparedness and Response Information: Each faculty member has been asked to attach the Emergency Procedures Quick List (A PDF document available at [http://police.unl.edu](http://police.unl.edu) or download directly at [http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf](http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf)) to their course syllabus and/or include it in their on-line course information. Additionally, faculty are encouraged to take a few minutes during their first lecture to discuss the handout and ensure that their students have ‘situational awareness’ in the classroom.

East and City Campus Recreation Center Referendum: On October 26th and 27th, a referendum will be brought forth to the student body by the ASUN Wellness Ad Hoc Committee regarding renovation projects at the East and City Campus Recreation Centers. Students will have an opportunity to vote on whether or not they approve an incremental increase in student fees to rebuild the East Campus Rec Center and renovate the City Campus Rec Center. This will provide students on East Campus a safe facility and City Campus students more space to exercise. Please encourage your students to participate in the referendum.

CASNR Welcomes a new General Education Coordinator. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Gary Bailey as the new General Education Coordinator for CASNR. Gary’s areas of academic study are Christianity, ethics, and philosophy of religion and culture. He has degrees from Emmanuel College (B.A), the Yale University Divinity School (M.Div.), and the University of Iowa (Ph. D.). He specialized in teaching large general education humanities courses at the University of Iowa for seven years, philosophy and religion at Midland Lutheran College for six years, and taught core critical thinking, ethics, and religion in the assessment intensive, active learning-focused interdisciplinary general education program (University Studies) at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University from 2006-2010. He will be working on incorporating components of critical thinking and assessment into foundational courses in the College.
2010 L.K. Crowe Advising Award to Dr. Steven Jones. The Lawrence K. Crowe Award recognizes a faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to undergraduate academic advising. Dr. Jones was recognized at the L.K. Crowe Undergraduate Student Advising Luncheon on Wednesday, October 13 in the Nebraska East Union. The nomination file prepared for Dr. Jones is exemplary and included the following comments from students under his advising:

- “Dr. Jones has been instrumental in her development as a student as well as outside the classroom.”
- “Dr. Jones makes it a priority to ensure students have a successful college experience, concerning academics, club involvement, and networking, while still taking an active role in teaching and innovative research development.”
- Another student wrote that he graduated knowing he had completed a successful college career with a perfect ending of landing a dream job. “All of which I greatly commend Dr. Jones for because without him there to guide me through, it would have been nearly impossible.”
- A transfer student attributes his success to Dr. Jones’ excellent advising, “Dr. Jones easily got all my questions cleared up, and helped me to the correct classes to take to clear up any deficiencies.”
- Another student said he walked into his first advising meeting with Dr. Jones with a lot of fears and questions. He left the meeting with answers and a new friend. Eventually, with Dr. Jones’ support, guidance and encouragement, his applications were accepted at every veterinary school where he applied.

Congratulations to Dr. Steven Jones...the recipient of the 2010 L.K. Crowe Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Advising.

ACE General Studies Update. The ACE system of general education has now been in place for one year. This year, the ACE Area 1, 2 and 3 courses will provide assessment reports that will start the recertification process. There has been some concern that not all ACE certified courses have been reporting data into the on-line system. If you are instructor of an ACE course and need help entering data into the Blackboard system, contact your unit ACE Coordinator.

Dealing with the On-Line Bulletin. The process of compiling the on-line bulletin for the first time last Spring was not as orderly as had been anticipated. This year, the Departments/Programs will send their bulletin descriptions to the College Bulletin Editor, Dr. Jack Schinstock, in October. The College section will be completed by November 15 and sent to the University Editor. We are scheduled to receive the first Bulletin draft for editing by the College and Departments on January 15.

Credit Hours for Graduation. The requirement for the hours needed to graduate from CASNR was reduced from 128 to 125 last year and is now stated as such in the 2010-2011 AY Bulletin. Students are still required to meet the requirements of the Bulletin in effect when they entered UNL, or should contact their adviser to discuss a change. Degree programs may still require more than the minimum number of hours specified by the College. We encourage degree programs to double check that Bulletin descriptions are accurate and consistent before the next cycle of Bulletin edits.

ACE and CASNR Degree Programs. CASNR advisers need to be aware that certain factors must be considered when advising undergraduate students who desire to move to a newer bulletin involving ACE. If students transfer into a degree program involving ACE, only courses approved by UNL as being ACE courses can be used to meet ACE requirements. Courses not on the approved ACE listing will need to be approved by the appropriate transfer evaluators in the various UNL colleges through a syllabus review. In most situations, this can be accomplished through the CASNR Dean’s Office. In unique
situations, a student may need to have a transfer evaluator from another college review the course syllabus of a course being transferred to determine if a specific ACE requirement has been met. If you have questions about ACE, please call the Dean’s Office at 472-2201.

**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 Communications 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 or have the PEARL Staff visit your unit, contact John Markwell (jmarkwell2@unl.edu).

**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 and course number. 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 has been implemented by every unit within CASNR. Please take the time this academic year to understand your unit’s plan and participate in it. The major goal of this process is to provide positive professional development for junior faculty and establish a system of mentoring in units. Contact John Markwell if you need to discuss modification of your Instructional Improvement Plan to make it more workable.

**Scholarship Update.** Information regarding scholarship fund amounts for the 2011-12 academic year are projected to be similar to the 2010-11 academic year. So the amounts you worked with last year will provide you an appropriate estimate of what you can award for the 2011-12 academic year. Here is the breakdown for scholarships award for the 2010-11 academic year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Scholarships given by CASNR</td>
<td>921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Students receiving Scholarships from CASNR</td>
<td>822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total percent of students receiving awards from CASNR</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
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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).

Career Fair Update. The 2010 CASNR Career Fair was held on Thursday, October 7, 2010 in the Nebraska East 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 200 employers participating. 509 students and alumni from the University and local community attended the CASNR Career Fair to visit with 63 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: AGCO Corp., Jackson Operations, Genex Cooperative Inc, Latham Seeds, South Dakota Wheat Growers, UNL Science Scholars Program, and US Environmental Protection Agency. In addition to the career fair, we hosted the sixth 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 131 employers and faculty in attendance. The day after the career fair 184 interviews were conducted.

Justin Morrill Scholars Update. In August, seven Morrill Scholar students and four 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 two service-learning projects - (1) to excavate a collapsed drainage canal system on the Morrill property and (2) to clear and prepare one corner of the backyard garden for the eventual planting in spring of 2011 of a UNL Morrill Scholars Nebraska Native Prairie Grass Garden. While in Vermont, the students also toured Calvin Coolidge's Birthplace, the Ben &
Jerry’s Ice Cream Factory, Shelburne Farms and they took an historic cruise on Lake Champlain during which they learned about the lake and regions role in the Revolutionary War, the pivotal naval battle on the lake, and about many historical figures such as Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold. During their time in Strafford, the students stayed with local residents and participated in a dinner at the Stone Soup Restaurant with The Friends of the Morrill Homestead. Plans are currently underway for the Scholars annual awards luncheon in January, several community service projects including the "Market-to-Market" relay race, and social events including an evening out at the theatre and their fall party at Dean Wallers’ home, and the upcoming officer elections in December.

**Update on Doctor of Plant Health.** The Doctor of Plant Health Program is working across the departments of Agronomy/Horticulture, Entomology, and Plant Pathology to provide an interdisciplinary professional program dealing with plant health and managing plant systems. The first students in the program started January 2010, and student interest is increasing. There are two full-time students in residence this semester, and we will have at least six full time students in the program by January. We continue to receive comments from prospective employers who are very interested in the program. Advisors are requested to make students aware of this program if they have career interests in 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](http://www.dph.unl.edu) or contact the Dr. Gary Hein, Program Director at 402-472-3345 or [ghein1@unl.edu](mailto:ghein1@unl.edu).

**Update on the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program.** A new scholarship was initiated in 2010 by friends of Dr Rupp, who retired this year. The Dr. Gary P. Rupp Beef Cattle Production Scholarship is in honor of Dr. Rupp’s accomplishments as director of the University of Nebraska’s Great Plains Veterinary Education Center, from its inception in 1988 until 2010. This scholarship will provide funds to students in the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine who demonstrate interest in beef animal production management.

The inaugural class of the PPVM (Class of 2011) is participating in their final year at Iowa State University and we look forward to their graduation in May. The Class of 2012 has transitioned well to Iowa State and we continue to have positive feedback. The students at UNL (Classes of 2013 and 2014) continue to study hard and make progress as we begin to review the applications for the Class of 2015.

**Scholarships Available for Study Abroad.** In 2009-2010 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 ([etling1@unl.edu](mailto:etling1@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 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.

**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).

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

- Steve Kilpatrick of Jackson, WY, a 1978 Fisheries and Wildlife graduate, received the 2010
  Alumni Achievement Award for his exemplary career dedicated to serving wildlife, agricultural
  and public interests alike with spirit, leadership, teaching, teambuilding, mentoring, fairness and
  high standards of personal and professional excellence. Steve is a terrestrial habitat biologist
  with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.
  - Leone “Lee” Harlan received the 2010 Alumni Service Award to honor her exceptional personal
    interest in the betterment of the College, her legacy of support for higher education and her
    service of lasting impact to the College, the Institute and the University.
  - The Department of Biological Systems Engineering received the 2010 Award for Engagement of
    Emeriti Faculty recognizing that department’s effective and innovative engagement of emeriti
    faculty.

Fall 2010 Alumni Reunion. The annual CASNR Alumni Association Football Reunion and Silent Auction
benefit was held on September 11 prior to the NU - Idaho game. Eighty game tickets were made
available and sold to members. Reunion attendance was 130 and the 80 auction items were nearly
double those of last year, bringing in $6200 to be used primarily for scholarships. Still to be sold are two
vintage motorcycles in mint condition donated by Lee Harlan, CASNR Alumni Association Life Member
and active CASNR advocate. These will be sold on eBay yet this fall. Reunion participants always enjoy
the reunion and meal and have a great time.

Three alumni awards were presented in conjunction with the 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 this year was LeRoy Thom who received a degree in agricultural engineering from UNL
  in 1949. His interest in irrigation led to T-L Irrigation in Hastings, NE which sells pivot systems
  worldwide. The award recognized his entrepreneurial spirit based on integrity, commitment
  and professional ethics.
  - The Alumni Association’s Achievement Award was presented to Mike Jacobson of North Platte.
    Jacobson is a CASNR graduate in Ag Econ and Ag Education. He began his career as a Vocational
    Ag instructor and then moved into banking as an agricultural loan officer. He is now President
    and CEO of the NebraskaLand National Bank in North Platte. Jacobson was recognized for his
    leadership, contributions and service of lasting impact and support and advocacy for the
    University, the Institute and the College.
  - The Alumni Association’s Legacy Award is given to recognize personal or professional excellence
    advancing the legacy of CASNR and making a lasting impact on the College. It was presented to
    Allen Blezek for nurturing and growing the Nebraska LEAD Program and other far-reaching
    leadership and agricultural education programs for youth and adults and enriching lives through
    teaching, scholarship and outreach. Blezek headed Nebraska’s LEAD Program for 25 years and is
Emeritus Professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication.

Salute to Graduates. The Salute to Graduates ceremony is a CASNR tradition established in 2005. The May, 2010 Salute was the tenth and largest ceremony held by the College and its alumni association. Nearly 4,000 parents, families and guests of graduates have now visited East Campus to attend the ceremonies and attend departmental receptions to visit with faculty and staff. These folks are informed ambassadors for the College as they interact with their neighbors, work associates and friends.

The May Salute this year brought over 800 parents, family members, graduates and PPVM students to the Nebraska East Union’s Great Plains Room. The largest graduating cohort in recent years of 209 plus 24 PPVM students resulted in 235 Salute participants. Closed-circuit TV was provided by CASNR communications staff so that graduates, departmental representatives and some guests could watch from overflow seating in the Terrace Dining area. During the ceremony each graduate is on stage with the vice chancellor, dean, alumni association president and their department head while a brief narrative written by the graduate is read to the audience. All in attendance then know a bit about each graduate when the program concludes.

January Winter Interim Workshop. “Systems” are a unifying theme among science disciplines and therefore should be an essential focus of science instruction. Furthermore, we live in a world comprised of systems that are trans-disciplinary in nature. Many important problems that our society faces today are complex and require a systems approach for developing solutions. Unfortunately, most science instruction fails to develop a systematic and integrated understanding of science systems among our students. Thus, there is a need for systems science education where the focus is on the system level and the dynamic interactions among the system’s components and functions. To help address this need, the 2011 Winter Interim Teaching and Learning Workshop will focus on systems-level thinking and the development of systems-level thinking skills among our students. The workshop will take place on Friday, January 7, 2011.

Developments in the Campus Discussions on the Life Sciences. A campus-wide initiative is underway to develop a core curriculum for the Life Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Expected outcomes and attributes of the Undergraduate Life Sciences Curriculum Initiative include:

- Overarching objectives based on student learning outcomes;
- A curriculum that prepares students well for a diverse array of academic and professional careers;
- A curriculum that builds on the ACE program and is flexible, providing a portal to multiple majors; and
- A curriculum that is responsive to the changing environment of life sciences research and practice.

The Life Sciences Undergraduate Curriculum Planning Team includes: John Osterman, School of Biological Sciences (co-chair), Tiffany Heng-Moss, Entomology (co-chair), Audrey Atkin, School of Biological Sciences, Gwen Bachman, School of Biological Sciences, Patrick Dussault, Chemistry, Cheryl Bailey, Biochemistry, Tim Carr, Nutrition and Health Sciences, Martha Mamo, Agronomy and Horticulture, and Rodney Moxley, School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The Life Sciences Undergraduate Curriculum Advisory Council includes: Eileen Hebets, School of Biological Science;, Don Lee, Agronomy and Horticulture; Andrea Cupp, Animal Science; Clayton Kelling,
School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Mark Griep, Chemistry; Ravi Saraf, Chemical and Biological Engineering; Madhavan Soundararajan, Biochemistry; Angie Pannier, Biological Systems Engineering; Michael Zeece, Food Science and Technology; Ed Harvey, School of Natural Resources; Steve Harris, Plant Pathology; Blair Siegfried, Entomology; Rick Bevins, Psychology; Dan Osborne, Anthropology; Concetta DiRusso, Nutrition and Health Sciences; Glenn Ledder, Mathematics; Stephen Scott, Computer Science and Engineering; Erin Blankenship, Statistics; and Brett White, Animal Science.