Fall 2011 Academic Notes
UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Notes from Dean Steven Waller
This is a very exciting time for the College and the University and many significant changes and initiatives have marked the time since the Spring Academic Notes. Many of these will be familiar to each of you, but the sum of the whole is truly empowering, particularly when you consider it has only been about 6 months since the spring Academic Notes.

- Officially in the Big Ten;
- IANR 2025 action plans initiated and many goals and objectives already accomplished;
- Summer Sessions is assigned to each College;
- Online Worldwide maturing as a multi-campus consortium;
- 120 credit hour degree requirement (reduced from 125) approved by College degree programs;
- Entomology celebrates its 100th graduate from the online MS degree program;
- CASNR will host the National Science Olympiad in 2015 after successful site visit;
- Significant progress in the development of a campus-wide life sciences curriculum;
- College recognized by the Nebraska Association of Science Teachers with its Catalyst Award;
- Fall enrollment up for the 7th consecutive year eclipsing the all-time high of 1981;
- College has the highest retention rate at UNL;
- College has the highest graduation rate at UNL;
- Academic and Student Affairs restructuring;
- Only College to submit 2012 online Undergraduate Bulletin materials with new degree requirements on time—Many thanks Jack Schinstock and Karen Jackson;
- Capital Campaign exceeding initial goals in dramatic fashion;
- Revised criteria for CASNR appointment and promotion approved;
- Robert B. Daughtery Water for Food Institute hires founding Director, Dr. Roberto Lenton;
- Food and Natural Resource Literacy initiative has several accomplishments including a course development grant program for the ACE program. We are funding development of 5 new courses on food, energy and water. These courses will support integration of food, energy, water and sustainability within the UNL undergraduate curriculum. There are also successful collaborations with LPS 4th grade science curriculum;
- Microbiology undergraduate degree program initiated.;
- Conversion to imaged advising files;
- Office of Undergraduate Studies programs administratively reconfigured;
- State supports Nebraska Innovation Campus ($25 million) which catalyzes planning and leverages additional funding;
- World’s 7 billionth person born;
- The Homecoming King, Skip Hecox, is a CASNR student;
- We have opened an East Campus Testing Center in Biochemistry Hall for students in on-line courses.
- The East Campus Activities Center will officially be replaced with a new building; and
- Great new faculty, staff and administrator hires with more to come.

Enjoy being part of the College and University community - it’s a special time in its history and you are part of it! There is no place like Nebraska
Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program

Forty-one new students applied to pursue the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program (EAEP) minor for the 2011-12 academic year, bringing the total in the program to sixty students. Ten CASNR departments as well as each in the College of Arts and Sciences and CBA are represented among the Engler students’ majors. Seventy thousand dollars in new scholarships were awarded to ten of the Engler students this year with four students being designated “Engler Scholars” and receiving four year scholarships and six students receiving one year scholarships. A minor in agribusiness entrepreneurship has been established along with the creation of two new EAEP funded entrepreneurial courses focused on entrepreneurial finance (EAEP 275) and identifying and assessing entrepreneurial opportunities (ENTR 321). In addition, students have started an ASUN sanctioned Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Club which received full recognition in October. Marilyn Schlake with the assistance of three Engler students conducted an entrepreneurship camp as part of the Big Red Camp recruiting program held last June. The EAEP continues to receive outstanding support from the CASNR family for which we are extremely thankful.

Advising Awards

The 2011 Lawrence K. Crowe Undergraduate Advising Award was given to Dr. Walter Schacht, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, who is presently in Namibia. Dr. Lowell Moser accepted the plaque in Dr. Schacht’s absence at the Undergraduate Advising Luncheon held on October 19, 2011, in the Nebraska East Union. Craig McGill, Forensic Science adviser, had a brief presentation on Academic Advising. The Crowe Family has provided a $1,000 stipend to accompany this award.

The 2011 Darrell W. Nelson Graduate Advising Award was presented to Sheila Purdum, Department of Animal Science, at the annual Fellowship Luncheon on October 5, 2011. A $1,000 stipend accompanies this award.

Nominations Due for Teaching Awards

UNL Distinguished Teaching Award. Each year, CASNR nominates an individual from our college for the UNL Distinguished Teaching Award. This award comes with a $1000 cash award through funds provided through the Nebraska Legislature. Last year, Jim Brandle with the School of Natural Resources, was the recipient of one of the Distinguished Teaching Awards (congratulations Jim!).

We know there are numerous individuals within your departments who are worthy of this recognition, and we are asking faculty to nominate a colleague for this year’s UNL Distinguished Teaching Award. The process has been streamlined which allows us to use information/data within an individual’s eARFA for nomination development. Once we receive the names, a committee comprised of past recipients and the CASNR Associate Deans will prepare the formal nomination and submit it to the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

To nominate a colleague for this teaching award, please send Dann Husmann her/his name. The deadline to submit names is January 6, 2012 (Friday). If you have questions, please contact Dann Husmann. Thank you, in advance, for submitting the name of a worthy candidate for the UNL Distinguished Teaching Award.

Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence in Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.
Nominations for the annual Holling Family Teaching Excellence Awards in Agriculture and Natural
Resources are due on **January 16, 2012**. Nominations may be made by peers and/or administrators who feel that a particular individual effort is deserving of special recognition. Make sure your nomination includes specific information on how an individual’s work matches with the criteria listed below since this is how each packet will be evaluated.

**The Categories**
1. Senior Faculty Teaching Awards, which are $5,000 per individual.
2. Junior Faculty Teaching Awards, which are $3,000 per individual.
3. Teaching Assistant Awards, which are $1,000 per individual.

**Criteria**

*For faculty nominations*, the selection committee will consider:
- Identification of innovation in an educational program.
- Description of goals of the project, target audience, estimated numbers involved, other colleagues involved, and time line.
- Outcomes of teaching activity on the learners, types of learner activities utilized (e.g., active learning; cooperative or collaborative learning; interactive learning using technology; and distance learning processes).
- Evidence of peer evaluation of the nominee’s work.

*For teaching assistant nominations*, the selection committee will consider:
- Successful performance in the classroom with preference given to those introducing imaginative and/or innovative instructional practices into the classroom or laboratory.
- Enthusiasm and commitment to teaching.
- Satisfactory progress towards a degree.
- Letter(s) of support from their graduate adviser/course instructor and students in the course.

Guidelines are available on the CASNR website, [http://casnr.unl.edu/LinksforFacultyandStaff/FacultyAwards](http://casnr.unl.edu/LinksforFacultyandStaff/FacultyAwards) (select “Hollings Family Awards Program for Teaching Excellence”). All nominations should be submitted through the appropriate IANR Head or Director to the cognizant Dean, or through the appropriate NCTA Program Director to the NCTA Dean. The deans will forward nominations to the Hollings Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence Selection Committee, 103 Agricultural Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0702. Recipients will be recognized at a 2011-2012 spring term reception, through the IANR news media and at appropriate CASNR, Extension and NCTA events/meetings. Questions may be directed to Dr. Dann Husmann, Chair of the Selection Committee, at 472-2201.

**Enrollment**

This fall, CASNR had an increase in enrollment for the seventh year in a row. 1,938 students enrolled in CASNR, which is a 2.97% increase over the previous year. This is the largest enrollment in CASNR ever. Thank you to everyone who helped recruit students to UNL and CASNR!

**A New Course Related to Retention**

We have initiated a new Spring semester seminar (AGRI 042) to focus on successfully making the transition from high school to college. This class invites students having difficulty with the transition, meets once a week, and involves a combination of outside speakers and personal sharing about the experience of being a first-semester, first-year college student. This seminar is for zero credit, so it will not involve extra tuition. The organizers of the seminar are Sue Voss who is the student counselor and
liaison in the CASNR Dean’s Office, Jennifer Nelson who is an adviser for General Studies, and John Markwell. We are open to participation by other faculty with an interest in this group of students. Please keep this course in mind when advising students toward the end of the semester if they are having difficulty in adapting to college.

Changes in Advising
With the development and implementation of WebNow (UNL’s paperless undergraduate advising system), students who enter and leave CASNR will be communicated to a student’s current and anticipated adviser via an email message. Since freshmen students do not have a paper advising folder, faculty/staff will be alerted via an email message when a student enters or leaves a degree program. The CASNR Dean’s Office will adhere to this process for all students who have paperless files.

CASNR Career Fair
The 2011 CASNR Career Fair was held on Thursday, October 6, 2011 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 in whole. Students and alumni (506) from the University and local community attended the CASNR Career Fair to visit with 70 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: 21st Century Equipment, LLC, Adams Land & Cattle Company, Careerlink.com/InternNE.com, Commodity Solutions, Cooperative Producers Inc., Crop Production Services, GSI Group LLC, Indiana Packers Corporations, Kroger, Lansing Trade Group, Mid Kansas Cooperative Association, Pfizer Animal Health, Riverview LLP, Robinson Meadowbrook, The Andersons, Inc., The Maschhoffs, Walt Disney World, and Walter Insurance. In addition to the career fair, we hosted the seventh annual “CASNR Dean’s Employer Appreciation Banquet”. It was held the evening before the career fair with 29 employers and department representatives in attendance. The annual Faculty/Employer Brunch was held the morning of the career fair with 114 employers and faculty in attendance. The day after the career fair 227 interviews were conducted and another 54 interviews occurred during the next week.

Employment Seminar (AGRI/NRES 388)
Employment Seminar was held on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. for the first eight weeks of the fall semester. Subjects covered included: resume and cover letter development; job search strategies on the Internet/Husker Hire Link; job search ethics and job offer evaluation; interviewing and professional etiquette; preparing for a career fair; industry mock interviews; and etiquette dinner and discussion. Thirty-seven students participated in the course.

ACE Reporting Requirements
Please note that all ACE courses MUST archive all assessment materials defined in the original ACE proposal every semester the course is offered. Failure to provide this archiving may result in decertification and loss of ACE status. This could be particularly interesting for ACE 10 courses which are required for completion of degree requirements. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell.

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 recent survey, it appeared 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 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.

**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.

**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.

**Reminder on Implementing the Instructional Improvement Plans**
A Program for Instructional Improvement has now been in place in every unit within CASNR for two years. Please take the time this academic year to see that your proposed plan is being implemented. Remember that the primary objective of this program is to provide faculty, especially newer faculty, with formative feedback that may result in improved instruction and learning. You may want to start preparation of the 2012 reports that will be due in May.

**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 that deals with plant health and managing plant systems. The first students in the program started January 2010, and there were nine full-time students in residence this fall semester. We will also add three or four more students in January. Discussions with prospective employers continue to indicate high interest in the program and especially in future graduates.

It is important that undergraduate advisors in biology and plant related majors let students know of this new program. The DPH is a rigorous program and should be a consideration for graduating seniors and Master’s students who have non-research centered 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 or contact Gary Hein, Program Director at 402-472-3345 or ghein1@unl.edu.

Update on the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program. (David)

Developments in the Campus Discussions on the Life Sciences.
The Life Sciences Curriculum Planning Team was charged with reviewing the undergraduate curriculum in the Life Sciences. Our first goal was to develop the Life Sciences Student Overarching Concepts and Competencies proposal, which identifies the foundational knowledge and skills for all students in the Life Sciences at the University. The Life Sciences Oversight Committee has approved the core biology concepts and competencies developed by the Life Sciences Curriculum Planning Team and vetted with the Life Sciences Advisory Council. The Planning Team has also developed and vetted with the Life Sciences Advisory Council supporting competencies in mathematics, chemistry, physics, and statistics.

The next step in this process is to engage the campus community at large on the Life Sciences Curriculum initiative. The Life Sciences Planning Team will be sponsoring two listening sessions for the Life Sciences academic units to provide feedback on the core biology concepts/competencies and supporting competencies. A listening session will be held on December 2 from 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the East Campus Union.

Scholarship Report
Information regarding scholarship fund amounts for the 2012-13 academic year are projected to be similar to the 2011-12 academic year, so the amounts you worked with last year will provide you an appropriate estimate of what you can award for the 2012-13 academic year. Here is the breakdown for scholarships award for the 2011-12 academic year:

2011-2012 Scholarship Report

| Total number of Scholarships given by CASNR | 987 |
| Total number of Students receiving Scholarships from CASNR | 872 |
| Total percent of students receiving awards from CASNR | 44.9% |
| Total Amount Awarded through CASNR | $972,126 |
| Average Value of all CASNR Scholarships | $992.41 |
| Maximum Value of all CASNR Scholarships | $10,000 |
| Minimum Value of all CASNR Scholarships | $22.00 |

**College Level Awards**
| Total Awarded through Dean’s Office | $624,388 |
| Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Dean’s Office | 645 |
| Total Number of Students receiving Awards through Dean’s Office | 584 |

**Departmental Level Awards**
| Total Awarded through Departments | $347,739 |
| Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Departments | 342 |
| Total Number of Students receiving awards through Departments | 288 |
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 2011 AY Bulletin. Almost all programs and options are further reducing hours needed to graduate to 120 for the 2012 AY Bulletin. Students are still required to meet the requirements of the Bulletin in effect when they enter UNL, or should contact their adviser to discuss a change. Jack Schinstock will be working to modify the current Bulletin descriptions to accurately reflect the new changes. Please contact Dr. Schinstock if you have questions.

CASNR Week Activities
Friday, April 13          Bowl-A-Thon sponsored by Student Involvement and EC Residence Halls
Saturday, April 14       CASNR Fun Run
                         Burr Hall Bull Fry
Sunday, April 15         CASNR Week Banquet
                         Reception hosted by Student Involvement before banquet
                         Study Abroad Recognition
Monday, April 16         CASNR Week Blood Drive
Tuesday, April 17        Lunch on the Lawn
                         Community Night
Wednesday, April 18      Club Adviser Luncheon
Thursday, April 19       Undergraduate TA Luncheon
                         Barbecue sponsored by Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Alpha

Scholarships are Available for Study Abroad
CASNRLed study abroad for 2012 will include:

*Group study:* in New Zealand Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012 (led by Dr. Jones, 472-5566)

**Spring 2012**
*Group study:* Spring Break in Puerto Rico (led by Dr. Ferraro, 472-8248)

**Summer 2012**
*Internships:* in Croatia for seniors and graduate students.

In 2010 there were 93 CASNR students who visited 10 countries on study abroad. Nebraska Foundation funds allowed CASNR to provide over $25,000 for study abroad scholarships. Other individual internships, semester study or short-term travel can be arranged with time and patience. For questions about those programs, call CASNR at 472-2201.

Faculty Fulbright Fellowships
Fulbright Fellowships provide funding to 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 Fulbright scholars 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). This Fall,
UNL has received a Fulbright scholar from Brazil, Dr Weber Amaral Neves. For more information about Fulbright opportunities and procedures, go to www.cies.org or call Darlene Esser at 472-3076.

**Beyond Borders**
In 2009 CASNR International Studies Interns Azureen Erdman and Nora Spath organized a 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. In 2011 we hosted the second annual CASNR Holiday Buffet and Mixer for those interested in international agriculture at UNL. The club continues to encourage more participation from undergraduate foreign students and School of Natural Resources students at these events. We also welcome assistance from faculty to help the Beyond Borders club to diversify its membership and carry out activities of interest to the CASNR international community. The Club is increasing its membership and also has two new Ambassadors in additions to its President.

**CASNR International Studies**
Two new ambassadors have been recruited and on board this fall. Several students have been provided advice on international study and for study abroad opportunities. CASNR International studies taskforce meeting was recently held and provided opportunity to review and discuss activities and opportunities.

**Salute to Graduates**
The May 6, 2011 Salute to Graduates was attended by 122 of 229 graduates and an audience of over 600 family members, faculty, staff and guests. The Salute to Graduates ceremony, moderated by Vice Chancellor Ronnie Green and CASNR Dean Steve Waller, continues to receive praise from attendees. Frequent comments tell us that those attending appreciate its personalized focus and individual recognition. Over 4,500 family members and friends have experienced the vibrant East Campus environment to attend Salute ceremonies each May and December in the Nebraska East Union. Over 900 graduates have now made Salute a great tradition since the ceremony was inaugurated in December, 2005.

**Emeriti Faculty**
Emeriti faculty are a rich resource in the College and their contributions are highly valued. In 2009 CASNR emeriti faculty were brought into the CASNR Alumni Association as Honorary Emeriti Life Members as a way to keep them informed of activities in the College. New emeriti are brought in each year. As a result they receive The Sower and Class Acts spring and fall, and those who have provided e-mail addresses receive the quarterly Sower Online newsletter. The Award for Engagement of Emeriti Faculty, recognizing the department that best nurtures and accepts the contributions of emeriti, was established in 2009. This award is presented annually at the CASNR Week Banquet in April.

**Fall 2011 Alumni Reunion.**
The annual CASNR Alumni Association football reunion and benefit silent auction was held September 10 prior to the Fresno State game. Some 110 alumni and friends were in attendance for the event which included a lunch before the game.

The silent auction benefits scholarships and this year set a record generating $11,176 for the cause. Many generous donors provided 68 great auction items ranging from fine wine to Madagascar hissing cockroaches (thanks, Entomology). An equally important part of the auction are the generous bidders who buy the items. We heard many positive comments and promises to return next year.