

Spring 2007 ACADEMIC NOTES

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Bachelor of Science Candidacy Status

Starting in Fall 2007, CASNR students enrolled in undergraduate programs within our departments will be provided a "road map" for academic success while on campus. The "road map" is called "Bachelor of Science Candidacy Status." The rationale behind this process (approved by CASNR Curriculum Committee on 10/20/06) is to ensure that CASNR students move through their academic experiences on logical, developmental paths that allow them to maximize the educational impact of the curricula, and to decrease the number of graduating seniors that must complete core requirements during their final semesters in our college. There will be a specific section within the DARS report which will provide the adviser and advisee with a report on candidacy status. A complete description of the "Bachelor of Science Candidacy Status" can be found in the 2007-08 Undergraduate Bulletin.

Salute to Graduates Grows

The College's fourth Salute to Graduates ceremony is May 4, 2007 and includes both May and August graduates for the first time. The new tradition has been well-received by families, graduates and friends. The first 'Salute' in December of 2005 attracted 41 percent of graduating seniors, the second in May of 2006 attracted 50 percent and the third in December of 2006 attracted 53 percent.

Each graduate is recognized while they stand with the vice chancellor, the dean, their department head and the CASNR alumni association president. The graduate's written responses to "What are your future plans?" and "What were your greatest achievements in college?" are read aloud by a narrator. Each graduate has had on average five or six family in the audience, which numbered over 400 in May of 2006. Ag College Dreams, a video produced by NET at the request of Vice Chancellor Owens showcasing the rich and colorful history of the College, is shown during the ceremony. A complimentary one-year membership in the CASNR Alumni Association is presented.

The ceremony is held Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. to allow travel time for families, time that evening to get together for dinner if they want 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 900 family members have visited campus to attend receptions and the ‘Salute’. The intent is for ‘Salute’ to cap a very positive educational experience provided by faculty and staff with a final goodbye that cements great memories and a lasting relationship.

Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine offered by Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

On January 10-12, 2007 there were 46 Nebraska residents interviewed for admission to the program. The interviews followed a rigorous evaluation of their applications which was led by Dr. Bruce Brodersen at UNL. Of the 46 applicants, 25 were selected for admission and 10 were selected as alternates. The applicants were contacted the week of February 22nd and notified of their status. Applicants who were selected or who are alternates have until April 15th to respond.

To support students, the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association has provided a scholarship in the amount of \$500 to be paid toward tuition, for each of the 25 UNL students for the 2007-2008 school year. In addition, each student will receive \$1,000 to be applied to tuition from the J.J. and Eleanor S. Ogle Fellowship, which has been identified via the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Faculty positions associated with the program are being filled with highly qualified, enthusiastic professionals. Dr. John Kamermann, who will be teaching anatomy, has arrived to begin preparing facilities and specimens for the incoming students. Several faculty who are currently members of the Departments of Animal Science and of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences are also teaching in the new curriculum.

Some of the facilities dedicated to the program are undergoing remodeling and refurbishing. This work is progressing on schedule and is scheduled for completion by mid-June. Students will begin study in a refurbished classroom and a new anatomy laboratory as well as other state-of-the-art facilities.

To learn more about the new Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine please visit the website at <http://vetmed.unl.edu> or call Dr. David Hardin 402-472-8539.

Recruitment Progress

The Spring semester continues to be a busy time for recruitment. On March 2 we hosted our admitted student event. Despite a blizzard, 32 high school seniors attended the event, which provided students an opportunity to meet with faculty/staff, tour campus, as well as learn more about our academic departments. On March 4, UNL hosted the Big Red Road Show in Omaha, with more than 2,000 people attending. UNL will host another

Big Red Road Show on March 31 at South Sioux City. East Campus will also host the Science Olympiad on March 24. This annual event brings more than 500 high school and middle school students to our campus to participate in various science events.

Admit numbers continue to look strong for the fall. As of March 12, CASNR has an increase of 74 admitted students (freshman and transfer), compared to last year and an increase of 46 freshman enrollment deposits paid (this is a good indication students will attend in the fall). While these numbers are positive, we are anticipating a large graduating class this spring.

CASNR Week Schedule

- Sunday, April 15 CASNR Week Awards Banquet – 5-9 pm
- Monday, April 16 Club Advisor Luncheon – 12- 1 pm
- Tuesday, April 17 Lunch on the Lawn – 11-1 pm/ Community Night 5-7 pm
- Wednesday, April 18 Undergraduate TA Luncheon/ Love Hall Chili Feed
- Thursday, April 19 Blood Drive for the Community Blood Bank
- Friday, April 20 UNL Rodeo/ Visitor Center Opening/ Dairy Store Celebration/ NCTA Day
- Saturday, April 21 UNL Rodeo/ Burr Hall Bull Fry/ Backyard BBQ
- Sunday, April 22 UNL Rodeo

Senior Thesis Title May Appear on the Undergraduate Transcript

Undergraduate students work long hours to carry out research and prepare a Senior Thesis. To help acknowledge the magnitude of this accomplishment, the title of the Senior Thesis may be added to the Undergraduate Transcript. The procedure is the same for students whether or not they are preparing a Senior Thesis as part of the UNL Honors program. Students enroll in for credit in a research class, generally numbered 498 or 499. The student should fill out Honors thesis form (HP 3; available on the Honors Program web site). This form is signed by the Thesis advisor when the defense is completed and the grade assigned in the research course. A copy of the completed form should be sent to the CASNR office with a request to put the Thesis title on the student's transcript.

Student Travel Policy

The potential liability of faculty or staff serving as advisers or chaperones on trips by students in registered student organizations had been discussed by the CASNR Faculty Advisor Council for the past year. After consultation with the NU legal staff and UNL risk manager, they have developed a Travel Policy for trips involving CASNR Registered Student Organizations, or non-RSO student travel subsidized with CASNR funds. This Travel Policy was approved on March 9 and will soon be distributed to all CASNR Departments and RSO advisors. If there are questions about these policies, contact John Markwell or Dann Husmann.

Teaching Buy-out Policy

The CASNR Faculty Advisory Council has recently approved guidelines for cases in which faculty desire to "buy-out" a portion of their teaching on a temporary basis to

refocus their efforts on other university-related activities. These guidelines will soon be distributed to CASNR faculty and unit administrators.

CASNR-Led Study Abroad

The following group study abroad programs led by CASNR faculty are scheduled as follows:

- Namibia -- May 7-23, 2007, led by Dr. Mark Pegg (472-6824);
- France -- May 7-22, 2007, led by Rosalee Swartz (472-5234);
- Mexico -- August 9-21, 2007, led by Dr. Jeff Keown (472-6453);
- New Zealand -- Dec. 26, 2007, through January 8, 2008, led by Dr. Steve Jones (472-5566);
- Australia -- Dec. 26, 2007, through January 8, 2008, led by Dr. Paul Read (472-5136).

For further information contact the group leader listed with each trip above, or Arlen Etling (aetling1@unl.edu; 472-7018).

Update on PEARL Assessment

All CASNR undergraduate programs are now participating in PEARL, Program Excellence through Assessment, Research and Learning. The first cycle (05-06 AY) was something of a shake-down cruise for program leaders and peer reviewers. We are now well into the second cycle and it appears that we are much closer to developing a robust mechanism for assembling faculty-led assessment and facilitating its compilation into college- and institutional-level reports to improve student outcomes. One graduate program (School of Natural Resources) is already participating in PEARL graduate program assessment, and the remainder of the CASNR graduate programs will join next Fall. This project was originally partnered with the College of Education and Human Sciences, and we are being joined by the Hixon-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts and the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Two New Degree Programs Anticipated

A new degree program in Forensic Science has been approved by the Board of Regents on March 9. It is anticipated that the new undergraduate major in Forensic Science will be formally approved this Summer by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education and students may declare Forensic Science as their degree program. Questions about the program should be addressed to Dr. David O. Carter in the Department of Entomology. The program will take approximately twenty students per year and involve several newly approved Forensic Science courses (AGRI 120, 120L and 485) which will be offered starting in Fall 2007.

On March 9 the Board of Regents also approved a new degree program in Companion Animal Food Technology. This is the first such program in the country to focus on the food component of animal health. Producing food for animals is a large world-wide business and there is a shortage of trained workers for this industry. Once approved this Summer by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, students will be able to enroll in this degree option. For more information about the program, contact Dr. Randy Wehling in the Department of Food Science and Technology.

Scholarships Update

During the 2006/2007 academic year, 720 or 41% of CASNR students received one or more academic scholarships. A total of over \$770,000 was awarded for an average award of around \$1100 per student. Advisers should direct students who are experiencing financial difficulties to Associate Dean Dann Husmann. He has available a variety of low and no interest loans and other resources for qualified needy students.

Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Update:

In January, the Justin Smith Morrill Scholars were recognized by ASUN as a campus organization adding to the programs existing structure which includes the academic program and the learning community. Officers, have been elected and they, along with the entire Scholars group, are actively planning service activities, on-campus outreach programs, and club social events. They are also designing their new logo. The Morrill Scholars have volunteered to sponsor a section of the MoPac Trail near campus, and they are planning their Washington, DC trip for next year. On April 15, the Scholars will hold their annual awards luncheon. Guest speaker Ann Thorp, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's Friends of the Morrill Homestead, will present a talk on Justin Morrill's life and his Strafford, Vermont home. This event will celebrate the Scholars accomplishments this past year, and will provide an opportunity for Morrill Scholar parents to learn about the program, the history and value of the land-grant university system, and the engagement and leadership activities of their students.

Dairy Store Does More

When you stop at the Dairy Store to celebrate the return of Spring, you will notice some changes. Most dramatically, the Dairy Store now houses the East Campus Visitors' Center. This will provide a location in which the public can get information about CASNR majors and activities as well as enjoy a scoop of butter-brickle. You will also note the large blue sign on Holdredge St. indicating that entrance to East Campus is now "Dairy Store Drive". Please stop in and enjoy an ice cream to help us celebrate these improvements to a venerable East Campus tradition.