

Spring 2010 Academic Notes

UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program

March 1, 2010 was a wonderful day in the life of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and UNL Extension. Thanks to the very generous gift from the Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation, the largest single gift ever given to the Institute, we established the **Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program**. This program will provide a seamless continuum between 4-H and FFA and any degree program in the College for students that have demonstrated an interest in entrepreneurship. Our College and UNL Extension are fortunate to have a benefactor like the Engler family that shares our commitment and vision for the future. Our students of today will be the professionals, citizens and leaders of tomorrow and it is imperative that we share with them our passion, excitement and optimism for their future. A testimony to this vision is the investment that Paul Engler has made.

Not only does this generous endowment make it possible for our students to attend the University, but this support and encouragement define the profession and the world in which these young people will work. It provides the opportunity and *where-with-all* for those young people who want to work for themselves and provides for Nebraska new jobs by growing them from within. We all know that these kinds of investments are not without alternatives and the fact that the Englers have chosen to invest in the youth of Nebraska is a wonderful statement for our young professionals and a lasting legacy for the Engler family that will be reflected in the new businesses and community revitalization that will blossom across Nebraska, maintaining the state's economic roots in agriculture.

Holling Family Awards

The Holling Family Awards for Teaching were presented on March 10. We congratulate the following awardees.

Senior Faculty Award: Susan Cuppett and Ron Hanson (the first to receive this recognition twice).

Junior Faculty Award: David O. Carter, Jason Ellis, Dennis Ferraro and Lisa Karr-Lilienthal.

Teaching Assistant Award: Heath Harding and John Quinn.

Congratulations to the recipients who were recognized for the high level of instruction that characterizes our College.

ACE General Studies Update

The ACE General Studies program is underway at UNL. You may want to revisit the CASNR Core Curriculum in the Undergraduate Bulletin to determine how students can most efficiently meet the ACE requirements while completing courses required by CASNR and the individual degree program. Almost all CASNR degree programs now have ACE-Certified capstone courses, which are required for students to graduate under the new system. Please remember that all teachers of ACE courses must archive the examples of student work and instructor reflection through the Blackboard system at the end of the course. Also, the Unit ACE Coordinators should be aware that the five-year unit ACE-reports on courses in ACE areas 1, 2 and 3 will be due in Fall 2011, so the process of faculty discussion of these results and potential iterative changes should be initiated soon.

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. Our retention rates are currently over 90%, significantly higher than the UNL average. 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.

- Natural Resources Career Fair hosted by the School of Natural Resources and Career Services
- International Holiday Party hosted by CASNR's Beyond Borders Club
- CASNR Advisory Board Survey on Blackboard for all CASNR students. Feedback about various issues is analyzed by CASNR.
- February Forum hosted by Center for Science, Mathematics & Computer Education, recognizing successful women in the areas of math and science
- TeamMates mentoring program dinner meeting. Currently we have 8 students who are mentees for TeamMates
- CASNR Calling Campaign – students who have paid their enrollment deposit were contacted by the CASNR Ambassadors. The ambassadors encouraged students to attend our admitted student event, help answer any questions that they might have.
- Admitted Student Event – all students who were admitted to CASNR were invited to come to campus on February 26. The students met with departmental contacts and enjoyed a short program hosted by the CASNR Ambassadors. The program concluded with dinner.
- Weekly emails have included information about MyRed, the new program used for priority registration
- University Program Council survey administered to CASNR students to provide insight on the type of music students would like for the Homecoming Concert held on East Campus
- CASNR Week Activities begin April 16 and run through April 24

Credit Hours for Graduation

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources changed the degree hour requirement from 128 credit hours to 125 credit hours. As a result, many degree programs in the college reduced their credit hour requirement from 128 to 126/125. Faculty advisers need to be aware of the degree hour changes especially when students may want to move up to the new bulletin to reduce their graduation requirements. Remember also when a student moves up to the new bulletin, ACE will be implemented which demands that undergraduate students must meet ACE requirements rather than the ES/IS requirements from previous bulletins. So when advising undergraduate students, make sure you run a “what if” in DARS to show how degree requirements might change if an advisee moves to the 2010-11 bulletin.

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 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. We have recently had a series of workshops for PEARL Program Leaders about this possibility. 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 spring 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 the Instructional Improvement Plans

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. You may want to start preparation of the 2009-2010 reports that will be due in May.

Reminder on eARFA

To avoid having to take the time in August to complete the academic portion of your eARFA report (due August 15), you might consider working on it this semester. We remind you that if you do not complete the eARFA, your teaching load calculation and the unit's FTE calculation will be done without your information. Please contact Melissa Sailors if you have questions about the eARFA.

Scholarship Update

Information regarding scholarship fund amounts for the 2010-11 academic year have yet to be communicated to the Dean's Office. Once we receive the official information, we will be forwarding it to the departmental representatives for use in awarding scholarships to freshmen and upper-class students. Here is the breakdown for scholarships award for the 2009-10 academic year:

2009-2010 Scholarship Report

Total number of Scholarships given by CASNR	921
Total number of Students receiving Scholarships from CASNR	822
Total percent of students receiving awards from CASNR	46.8%
Total Amount Awarded through CASNR	\$899,846
Average Value of all CASNR Scholarships	\$984
Maximum Value of all CASNR Scholarships	\$6,000
Minimum Value of all CASNR Scholarships	\$95

College Level Awards

Total Awarded through Dean's Office	\$616,897
Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Dean's Office	641
Total Number of Students receiving Awards through Dean's Office	571

Departmental Level Awards

Total Awarded through Departments	\$282,949
Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Departments	280
Total Number of Students receiving awards through Departments	251

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bulletin Goes On-line

The university's undergraduate bulletin will go completely on-line for the 2010-11 academic year. There will not be hard copies of the bulletin printed this year, so please plan accordingly. We are also correcting bulletin copies of departmental degree programs to ensure when we go on-line, all information is correct and accurate. Between now and June 1 (date the bulletin will go live on-line), we will be working with departments in making corrections and modifications to your degree information to ensure information is correct, consistent, and ready for the upcoming academic year. If you are called to work on making corrections and modifications, please be ready to assist the college in producing an accurate bulletin. If you have questions, please contact Dann Husmann (dhusmann2@unl.edu).

CASNR Week Activities

Friday, April 16, 2010

UNL Rodeo and Rodeo Dance - Lancaster Event Center-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 17

UNL Rodeo – Lancaster Event Center

1:30 – Kid's Day Performance

7:30 p.m. – Tough Enough to Wear Pink Performance

UNL Wildlife Club Banquet – Celebrating 50 Years 6:00 pm in the City Campus Union

Sunday, April 18, 2010

***Student Involvement Reception**-5:00 p.m.

***CASNR Week International Studies Reception**-5:15 pm

***CASNR Week Recognition Banquet**-6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 19, 2010

***Club Adviser Luncheon**-12:00-12:50 pm

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

* **Lunch on the Lawn**-11:00-1:00 pm

* **Community Night**-5:00-7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

* **Undergraduate TA Luncheon**-12:00-12:50 pm

***Career Opportunities in Life Science**-5:30-7:00 pm Panel of experts hosted by Biochemistry Club

Love Hall Chili Feed 5-7 pm

Thursday, April 22, 2010

***Blood Drive**-9:00-3:00 pm - Sponsor: Community Blood Bank

Alpha Gamma Rho BBQ 5-8 pm

Friday, April 23, 2010

***Block and Bridle Banquet**

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Fun Run – 5K run around the East Campus Loop - Registration 9:30 & Race at 10:00 am

Burr Hall Bull Fry – 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Events at the Nebraska East Union*

Justin Morrill Scholars Update

In January, the Morrill Scholars held their Annual Awards Luncheon featuring guest speaker, Erin Halligan Trummer (of Congressman Jeff Fortenberry's office) who spoke on the importance of "taking advantages of leadership opportunities and internships". Five freshmen scholars were given certificates for completing the required fall seminar course and were awarded their official Scholars pins. The new educational video "The Morrill of Our Story" which documents the inaugural service-learning trip to the Morrill Homestead also premiered at the luncheon. Also, the Scholars held their annual officer elections, cosponsored the Snow Stomp dance along with CASNR Advisory Board, and this years Education Symposium along with Alpha Zeta and Sigma Alpha. Currently the Scholars are making preliminary plans for their annual August trip to the Morrill Homestead in Strafford, Vermont. Finally, the Director, Ed Harvey made several

trips to Rock Tavern, New York to work on a very special project which will be announced later this semester (shhh....it's a surprise).

Update on Doctor of Plant Health

Individuals with broadly integrated knowledge and management skills are needed to deal with the complex and frequently interacting challenges in managing plant systems. The Doctor of Plant Health Program is working across the departments of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Agronomy/Horticulture to produce such a program. The first students in this program started January 2010 and additional students will be coming on board in the fall of 2010.

We are currently selecting USDA National Needs Fellowships recipients for fall semester. Additional fellowship opportunities are available for students entering the program. The program is being very well received by prospective employers and further financial support for students is being lined up. We continue to need advisors to recommend this program as a consideration for graduating seniors and Master's 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 the Dr. Gary Hein, Program Director at 402-472-3345 or ghein1@unl.edu.

Scholarships are Available for Study Abroad

CASNR-led study abroad for 2011 will include:

December (2010) - January (2011) Winter Break

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

Spring 2011

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

Summer 2011

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, two weeks in May (check with Dr. Schinstock, 472-1629)

In Croatia, two weeks in May (check with Dr. Balschweid, 472-8738)

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 2011

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

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

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 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 faculty funding 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

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 September, 2010, we plan to host the second annual CASNR international welcome picnic. The kickoff of that event in 2009 was very successful with over 70 faculty and students participating. Then in January, 2011, we will host 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. For more information, contact the Beyond Borders club advisor, Arlen Etling.

Alumni News

The College Alumni Association held its spring board meeting and an Alumni Roundup in Kearney on February 19 in conjunction with the annual Nebraska Cattlemen’s Classic beef cow, working dog and ranch horse show. The show is held at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds which is also home to the Buffalo County Extension Office.

The late afternoon Alumni Roundup was a new event which followed a meeting of the alumni association board. Postcards and e-mail invitations to the Roundup had been sent to alumni and friends in the Kearney area. Board members and ex officio members from the Dean’s Office had a good opportunity to visit with alumni members and others in attendance.

The CASNR Banquet on April 18 will recognize outstanding students and faculty and provide the College Alumni Association the opportunity to present Achievement and Service awards and to take part in the 2010 Award for Engagement of Emeriti Faculty, presented to an academic department. This is a new recognition initiated last year by Dean Waller. Past recipients of alumni awards can be seen at

<http://casnr.unl.edu/AlumniFriendsDonorsExtension/NewsAwards/CASNRAAAwards>.

Salute to Graduates

The December 2009 Salute to Graduates was attended by 45 of the CASNR graduating seniors. As always, these graduates and their families and friends had a very enjoyable time and appreciated getting to know a bit about each graduate participating. Parents especially often seek out Dean Waller after the event to express their appreciation for such a personalized ceremony and for the photos of graduates which they are invited to download from the CASNR Web site.

The spring Salute to Graduates will be on Friday, May 7 at 4:00 PM in the Great Plains Room of the Nebraska East Union. May 2009 brought the largest number of graduate participants and guests of any Salute up to that time. There are 30 more graduating seniors this May than last, so the first 2010 Salute will likely be the largest yet. Both the Great Plains Room and Terrace Dining will be used for this event, linked by closed-circuit television.

Emeriti Faculty

CASNR Emeriti Faculty were brought into the CASNR Alumni Association last summer as Honorary Emeriti Life Members. We are pleased to have these emeriti in the Association and welcome their participation in all events.

Faculty of the Life Sciences

Chancellor Perlman has established the Faculty of the Life Sciences and requested that all faculty associated with the Life Sciences consider joining this organization. We encourage those faculty who carry out scholarship or teach within the diverse disciplines encompassed by the Life Sciences consider joining this group. The instructions are as follows: *Go to Blackboard and select the community tab. On the left hand side there is an "organization" search box. Type in "life" and click "go". The organization is called "FLSDiscussion", the third from the top. Click the double arrow to the right of the name, and select "enroll". Enter "fls2010" into the Access Code box, and click "submit". Now you are enrolled!*