Spring 2013 Academic Notes
UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

**Gamma Sigma Delta Excellence in Teaching Award**
The Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture, held its annual New Member Initiation and Awards banquet in Lincoln on January 27. Among the awards were the following:

- Outstanding Undergraduate Students: first place, Rachel Coburn of Papillion; second place, Josiah Dallman of Boone, N.C.
- Outstanding Graduate Student: Aruna Gangaplara, India, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
- Excellence in Teaching: Madhavan Soundararajan, Department of Biochemistry
- Excellence in Extension: Jenny Rees, UNL Extension, Clay Center
- Excellence in Research: Galen Erickson, Department of Animal Science

The society’s most prestigious award, the Award of Merit for Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture, was awarded to Elizabeth Birnstihl, UNL Extension.

**Teaching Council/Parents Association Recognition Ceremony**
The UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association honored faculty and staff at an annual recognition ceremony on February 8. Certificates of recognition for contributions to students were given during the ceremony to nineteen CASNR faculty and staff. Of particular note were Dr. Ron Hanson and Don Lee who have received this honor twenty-one times! Congratulations to all recipients and thank you for your efforts to assist and encourage our students.

- **Agricultural Economics**: Ronald Hanson (21), Rosalee Swartz (15)
- **Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication**: Donald Lee (21)
- **Animal Science**: Dennis Brink (10), Lisa Karr-Lilienthal (2), Merlyn Nielsen (7), Bryan Reiling (8), Jennifer Wood (1)
- **Biochemistry**: Britta Osborne (2)
- **Biological Systems Engineering**: Roger Hoy (2), Deepak Keshwani (1)
- **Dean’s Office**: Sue Ellen Pegg (3), Susan Voss (11), Steven Waller (6)
- **Food Science and Technology**: John H. Rupnow (6)
- **PGA Golf Management**: Alan Baquet (2)
- **School of Natural Resources**: J. Clark Archer (1), Sara Winn (1), David Wishart (7)
- **School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences**: Douglas Rogers (1)
Enhanced Recruiting with Extension

Sue Ellen Pegg was hired in August 2012 to assist with recruiting events for UNL and CASNR and to serve as the CASNR point of contact for all Extension Educators and staff with recruitment related questions or student inquiries. She attended the Extension Fall Conference to interact with Extension Educators and provide CASNR recruitment materials and resources to enhance their efforts. More recently, Sue Ellen has been working with the Extension Career Development/College Readiness Signature Outcome team to assist with activities and develop new programming. Sue Ellen has also helped organize the Extension Sponsored Counselor Updates in four locations held around Nebraska in January and February of 2013. She has also participated in the monthly conference calls with district recruitment representatives to review recruitment opportunities in each area and is working with Brian Bosshamer in Extension and Micaela Rahe in UNL Admissions to organize an on-campus workshop for district recruitment personnel for May 2013. Other activities for 2013 will include assisting with the 4-H Big Red Academic Summer Camps, the Nebraska State Fair and Husker Harvest Days.

Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program

The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program offers three academic opportunities to complete a minor: i) a 12 credit option; ii) an 18 credit program (both of which are focused solely on developing entrepreneurial capacity and in partnership with ALEC); and iii), a joint minor in Agribusiness Entrepreneurship and Leadership. Checksheets can be accessed at engler.unl.edu. All majors in CASNR with appropriate professional interests are eligible to participate in these courses of study. Participation in the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Club, invited lectureships and competitions are available to all enrolled CASNR students.

In cooperation with ALEC, a new learning community will be offered in Burr Hall for Fall/Spring of the 2013-14 academic sessions. The learning community will focus on developing leadership and entrepreneurial solutions to the challenges confronting agriculture and rural communities. Freshman students in CASNR are eligible to apply for this unique program – deadline is April 1, 2013. For more information, please contact Tom Field at tfield2@unl.edu.

Holling Family Awards

The Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence was made possible by a gift from the Holling family to honor their pioneer parents. John Holling was a 1912 electrical engineering graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his brother, Gustave Holling, attended the College of Agriculture before farming the family’s land in the Wood River Area. The 2013 Award recipients are:

Senior Faculty Award
Joseph Barycki, Department of Biochemistry
Patricia Freeman, School of Natural Resources
Tim Lemmons, Northeast Research and Extension Center
Sheila Purdum, Department of Animal Science
Junior Faculty Award
Jennifer Green, Department of Statistics
Tom Weissling, Department of Entomology

Teaching Assistant
Helen Abdali Soosan Fagan, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Shannon Moncure, School of Natural Resources

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. Archiving is required to maintain certification and we are particularly in archiving and feedback for ACE 10 courses. 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 six 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, credit to the faculty member is reduced (1 to 6 students = 1 credit; 7 to 9 students = 2 credits; 10 or more students = 3 credits) for a 3-credit undergraduate course. At the graduate level if enrollment is below six students, credit to the faculty member is reduced (1 to 3 students = 1 credit; 4 to 5 students = 2 credits; 6 or more students = 3 credits) for a 3-credit graduate course. 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
The following is from Dr. Nancy Mitchell, UNL Director of General Education.

In a national conversation about the value of higher education, critics note high costs and lack of accountability among other perceived faults. Systemic assessment offers institutions the opportunity to reclaim the reason for our existence – to provide a quality education to our students and keep student learning at the heart of what we do.

On the UNL campus, faculty members are working toward creating a culture of assessment where it can have the most impact on improving student learning – at the course/department/program level. CASNR has been on the forefront of assessment. The PEARL software has enabled CASNR to create and implement a process of reporting assessment efforts and their effects on learning with feedback from peers. This type of assessment has great potential because faculty and departments – not administrators – are determining what and how they need to assess related to the learning outcome.

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It is critical that units continue to archive and assess student work to provide evidence that we keep student learning at the center of what we do to provide a quality education. As the culture of assessment evolves, UNL administrators will find ways to improve technology related to assessment and align efforts required for various purposes (HLC, ACE, program) so that they maximize the efficiency of the process and minimize frustration of those who need to use multiple software systems and write reports. We appreciate you help with this important activity.

CASNR Online Programs

CASNR’s Master of Applied Science (MAS) program – an interdisciplinary degree that can be completed online – increased its enrollment by 27% over the last 12 months. The MAS is an ideal program for professionals desiring to enhance their skills beyond the undergraduate level. Thanks to faculty across CASNR for helping make the MAS program a workable graduate study opportunity for students across Nebraska and beyond!

The new website for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science online degree completion program should be ready in the next month. This flexible degree program offers students the option of completing the last two years of undergraduate study online. There are four areas of concentration available in the Applied Science undergraduate program: Food, Animal and Plant Science; Food Genetics, Biotechnology, and Food Processing; Ecology; Entrepreneurship, Economics, and Policy.

CASNR currently offers two undergraduate certificates online: Meat Culinology (Department of Animal Science) and Legal Studies (Department of Agricultural Economics). In addition to the undergraduate certificates, CASNR also offers online graduate certificates in Food Safety & Defense (Department of Food Science & Technology) and Insect Biology for Educators (Department of Entomology). This year CASNR added 4 new online graduate certificate programs: Grasslands Management, Advanced Horticulture Floriculture & Nursery Production Management, Ornamentals, Landscape, & Turf (Department of Agronomy & Horticulture). The certificate programs are a nice complement to the highly successful online Master’s programs in Entomology and Agronomy.

For additional information about CASNR’s online programs, please contact Amy Boren Alpizar at 472-5366 or Diane Wasser at 472-6251.

Update on Life Science Curriculum Development

The Course Development Teams for the LIFE courses have been hard at work developing the new life courses and accompanying laboratories. The first offering of these courses will be Fall 2013. We are scheduled to offer two sections (500 student capacity) of LIFE 120 and one section (250 student capacity) of LIFE 121 for Fall 2013. For the Spring 2014, one section of LIFE 120 (possibly two – 500 student capacity) and two sections (500 student capacity) of LIFE 121 will be offered.

- **Course Descriptions:**
  - LIFE 120: First in a series of life sciences courses. A systems approach to the study of life at the cellular level, investigating cellular structures, chemical processes, cell metabolism, cell division, gene expression and introducing patterns of inheritance. Parallel registration in LIFE 120L is required.
• LIFE 121: Second in a series of life sciences courses. A systems-based phylogenetic approach to the study of organisms considering their morphology, life histories, physiology and ecology. The nature and evolution of biological diversity and how that diversity is studied. Parallel registration in LIFE 121L is required.

• Blanket Substitutions:
  o The CASNR Dean’s Office has worked with Gail Meyer to arrange for blanket substitutions for LIFE 120, LIFE 121 and their accompanying laboratories for all academic degree programs offered through CASNR.
  o Substitutions:
    ▪ LIFE 120 and 120L for BIOS 102
    ▪ LIFE 121 and 121L for BIOS 103 and BIOS 103L
    ▪ These substitutions will be made retroactive to Fall 2009.

• Duplicate Credit:
  o BIOS 102 and LIFE 120/120L are duplicate credit
  o BIOS 103 and LIFE 121/121L are duplicate credit

If you have any questions about the new LIFE courses or integrating these courses into your degree programs, please do not hesitate to contact Tiffany Heng-Moss (thengmoss2@unl.edu).

Update on Development of Summer Curriculum

Last year we distributed approximately $35,000 in grants to stimulate an increase in summer student credit hour production over the summer of 2011. This effort focused on offering online courses that could be taken by students not resident in Lincoln during the summer. This effort was very successful, with Summer 2012 student credit hours for CASNR being increased 64% over the Summer 2011.

The following courses received grants for Summer 2012 offering:
  Legal Aspects in Agriculture (AECN 256)
  Natural Resource and Environmental Law (AECN 357)
  Leadership Development in Small Groups and Teams (ALEC 202)
  Environmental Leadership (ALEC 410)
  Plant Science (AGRO/HORT 131)
  Elements of Biochemistry (BIOC 321)
  The Science of Food (FDST 131)
  Computational Tools and Modeling for Agricultural and Biological Systems Engineering: MATLAB (BSEN 212A)

This year the following courses received grants for Summer 2013/2014 offering:
  Plant Pathology Principles and Applications (8XX - new course)
  Experiential Learning in Farming Systems (NRES 496/896)
  Psychology of Environmental Sustainability (PSYC 498)
  Equine Reproduction (ASCI 342)
  Forensic Comparative Analysis (FORS 311)
Classroom Emergency Preparedness and Response Information

We are currently in the process of updating the Classroom Emergency Preparedness Information and discussing to what extent this sort of information should be included in the syllabus of every course and reviewed with students at the start of the course. The following is the current essential information:

- **Fire Alarm (or other evacuation):** In the event of a fire alarm: Gather belongings (Purse, keys, cellphone, N-Card, etc.) and use the nearest exit to leave the building. Do not use the elevators. After exiting notify emergency personnel of the location of persons unable to exit the building. Do not return to building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.

- **Tornado Warning:** When sirens sound, move to the lowest interior area of building or designated shelter. Stay away from windows and stay near an inside wall when possible.

- **Active Shooter**
  - **Evacuate:** if there is a safe escape path, leave belongings behind, keep hands visible and follow police officer instructions.
  - **Hide out:** If evacuation is impossible secure yourself in your space by turning out lights, closing blinds and barricading doors if possible.
  - **Take action:** As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.

- **UNL Alert:** Notifications about serious incidents on campus are sent via text message, email, unl.edu website, and social media. For more information go to: [http://unlalert.unl.edu](http://unlalert.unl.edu).

- Additional Emergency Procedures can be found here:
  - [http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf](http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf)

Students Updating their eMail Addresses

We have recently found that advising students to update their email addresses in Blackboard so that they receive all the emails sent by the instructor has an unexpected complication. If a student updates their email in Blackboard, it will be reset to the former email address overnight. The email address in MyRed is the one that the other university computer systems heed. To change the email address in Blackboard, students must change the address in MyRed.

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.
Changes in “X” courses
Several modifications have been made recently that streamline the set up and offering of online “X” courses. These changes will regularize the way different delivery formats are presented in the class schedule and bulletin. In addition, these changes will ensure that students and advisors will see all sections of a course when searching for a class in MyRed as the default.

- **X Course Policy Changes:**
  - X courses may now be offered during the summer sessions.
  - Students may now take more than multiple X course per semester beginning with Summer 2013.
- **On-Campus Testing and Class Notes:** Remember X courses require on-campus testing in one of the on-campus testing centers. You should include in the class notes for all X courses a statement that this type of online class requires on-campus testing in one of the testing centers. “S” Online Distance Classes do not require on-campus testing.
- **Removal of Suffix:** Because of these policy changes, the “X” suffix is unnecessary. The CREQ curriculum approval system has already been updated to remove the X alpha suffix from the course numbers, and the 2013-2014 system will be updated with the corrected course numbers. The X alpha suffix will be removed from the course numbers in the class schedules effective for Summer 2013 registrations.
- **Instructional Mode:** For department schedulers completing cycle sheets or working with Registration and Records to set up an “X” course, please note that the Instruction Mode remains EX.

**Reminder on Implementing Instructional Improvement Plans**
A Program for Instructional Improvement is currently being piloted by every unit within CASNR. The purpose of this activity is to improve educational outcomes for our students and provide professional development for our faculty, especially new faculty. The reports for the 2012-2013 Academic Year are due at the end of the spring semester. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell.

**Reminder on Activity Insight**
The new Activity Insight program is used to update your teaching information so that we can correctly determine your Teaching Load Calculation. To avoid having to take the time in January to complete the academic portion of your Activity Insight report, you might consider updating it every semester. We remind you that if you do not complete the Activity Insight, your teaching load calculation and the unit’s FTE calculation will be done without your information. Please contact Dann Husmann if you have questions about Activity Insight.

**Reminder on CDMA Forms**
In the past year, we have found a number of instances in which the College-Degree-Major-Advisor Change Form (CDMA) sent down to the Administration Building without being routed through the CASNR Dean’s Office for a signature. It is important that this form be processed in the Dean’s Office so that the changes can be entered into the student’s folder.
### 2012-2013 Scholarship Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Scholarships given by CASNR</td>
<td>1001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Students receiving Scholarships from CASNR</td>
<td>892</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total percent of students receiving awards from CASNR</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Amount Awarded through CASNR</td>
<td>$1,178,739</td>
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**Average Value of all CASNR Scholarships**

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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>$1,179</td>
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**College Level Awards**

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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Total Awarded through Dean’s Office</td>
<td>$703,280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Dean’s Office</td>
<td>601</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Students receiving Awards through Dean’s Office</td>
<td>553</td>
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**Departmental Level Awards**

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Total Awarded through Departments</td>
<td>$475,459</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Departments</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Students receiving awards through Departments</td>
<td>339</td>
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</table>

### CASNR Week for 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 10</td>
<td>Love Hall Chili Feed</td>
<td>5:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 13</td>
<td>Fun Run</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Burr Hall Bull Fry</td>
<td>4-8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, April 14</td>
<td>Alpha Zeta Initiation</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Study Abroad/Student Involvement Reception</td>
<td>Reception at 4:00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CASNR Week Banquet</td>
<td>Banquet at 5:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 15</td>
<td>Nebraska Community Blood Bank Drive</td>
<td>9 am to 3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 16</td>
<td>Lunch on the Lawn</td>
<td>11 am to 1 pm</td>
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<td>Community Night</td>
<td>5 to 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 17</td>
<td>Club Adviser Luncheon</td>
<td>Noon to 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>Quick Pitch Competition/Tom Field/Engler</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 18</td>
<td>TA Luncheon</td>
<td>Noon to 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>Alpha Gamma Rho/Sigma Alpha Barbecue</td>
<td>5 to 8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday/Saturday 19-20</td>
<td>Rodeo at Lancaster Event Center</td>
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Advising Updates

My Degree Audit replaces DARS
UNL moved to a new system to audit degree programs for undergraduate students in their respective colleges. Most of you are familiar and comfortable with DARS, and My Degree Audit will operate in a similar fashion. With the new system comes the ability for students to run their own “what ifs” on any degree program at UNL. CASNR will offer training on the new system during their summer workshops in August. For more information about My Degree Audit, please go to the following website: http://www.unl.edu/regrec/MyDegreeAudit-SelfServiceDocumentation4.pdf

My Plan is Fully Operational
UNL has integrated an early alert system within Blackboard and the new email system to allow instructors, advisers, and staff to monitor the performance of students in our undergraduate programs. The system, called My Plan, has been fully implemented this spring for instructors, students, and advisers for tracking academic progress. My Plan hopes to identify students earlier who need help or assistance, and communicate the needs of students to the appropriate people within the university to increase our overall retention rate. There is also a feature in My Plan to send individual students “kudos” for exceptional work in their classes at UNL. CASNR will include My Plan training in their summer workshops in August. To learn more about My Plan, please go to the following website: http://myplan.unl.edu/resources

Justin Morrill Scholars Update
The Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Program was developed by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln as a four-year program for undergraduate students who are interested in interdisciplinary learning and activities to advance the public good through civic responsibility, engagement, and leadership. This program is a leadership development and service program that draws upon the life, experiences and accomplishments of Justin Smith Morrill, author of the Land-Grant College Acts of 1862 and 1890. Scholars participate in regular outreach activities and host an annual banquet to recognize the new scholars entering the program. This year’s banquet speaker was the out-going Program Director, Ed Harvey.

Doctor of Plant Health
The Doctor of Plant Health Program is operating 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. We currently have 14 students enrolled in the program and are working with additional students interested in the program for a potential start in August. Discussions with prospective employers continue to indicate high interest in the program, especially in offering internships and potential employment of future graduates.

Because this program represents a dramatic change in graduate level education in these disciplines, many are still unfamiliar with this program. It is important that undergraduate advisors in biology and plant related majors let students know of this new program where employment potential is very good across a broad range of opportunities. 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.

Alumni News

Jill Brown has assumed the CASNR Alumni Development Director responsibilities within her position as Director of External Relations for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. We want to send a huge thank you to Paul Horton for his eight years of service as the CASNR Alumni Development Director. We are extremely grateful for his years of service to the association and we wish him well in his retirement.

The CASNR alumni group was recently a part of a Big 10 Ag Alumni gathering in Washington, D.C. Over 200 alumni were in attendance for the event.

New this year, the alumni group will be hosting informal CASNR Supporter/Alumni gatherings throughout Nebraska. These 7:30 – 9:30 am networking sessions provide an opportunity to visit with CASNR Dean Steve Waller and other CASNR alums.

The next two events are:

March 26, 7:30 – 9:30 am
West Central Research & Extension Center
402 West State Farm Road, North Platte
To RSVP, please go to: http://go.unl.edu/northplatte

March 27, 7:30 – 9:30 am
College Park meeting room
3180 W US Highway 34
Grand Island, Nebraska
To RSVP, please go to: http://go.unl.edu/grandisland

Planning is underway for the 2013 CASNR Alumni Football Reunion and Benefit Silent Auction. Auction proceeds fund student scholarships. The event day and time is not yet confirmed. The alumni group is also in the initial phases of creating a mentorship program for the CASNR undergraduate students. Alumni who are interested in serving as a mentor for a student, should email Jill at jbrown14@unl.edu.

Salute to Graduates

The December 14, 2012 Salute to Graduates honored 56 graduating seniors and was attended by over 300 family members, friends, faculty, staff and guests. Vice Chancellor Ronnie Green and Dean Steve Waller moderated the ceremony. Each participating graduate is featured briefly on the stage with the Vice Chancellor, Dean, Department Head and CASNR Alumni Association President while their greatest college accomplishments and future plans are narrated to the audience. This ceremony lasted less than an hour while giving individual attention to each graduate. Families appreciate the personalized ceremony and often express this afterwards.