Spring 2014 Academic Notes

Dr. Jack Schinstock Retires
On June 30, 2013, Dr. Jack Schinstock officially retired from UNL after 36 years of service. Jack has been a faculty member in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering throughout his tenure and joint with the CASNR Dean’s office since April of 1991, first as an Assistant Dean. As Assistant Dean, his responsibilities included coordinating and managing fellowships, financial aid and scholarships for CASNR students, college appeals, undergraduate advising, transfer programs, retention and curriculum. In June of 2000 the position changed to half-time Associate Dean. Although his responsibilities did not change, his primary responsibility was New Student Enrollment for CASNR. Jack retained his responsibility for New Student Enrollment even after his administrative appointment changed to 10% in 2006. Even though Jack has officially retired, he has continued to work in the CASNR Dean’s office with New Student Enrollment and as editor for the Undergraduate Bulletin.

What will Jack do now that he has retired? He looks forward to more domestic and international travel, volunteering and spending time with his family. Thank you Dr. Schinstock for your devotion and service to UNL and to CASNR. You have been a wonderful colleague, mentor, advisor and friend to all who have worked with you. You have touched the lives of many students and coworkers throughout the years and for this we are grateful.

Success of Our Graduates
The UNL Office of Career Services has just released a Report of Graduates for the 2012-2013 Academic Year. For bachelor’s graduates reporting employment, the UNL average was 52.99% and the two highest Colleges were CASNR (69.53%) and Engineering (60.75%). When the students going to graduate/professional school were factored in the UNL average was 76.2% and the two highest colleges were CASNR (84.52%) and Architecture (84.49%). These numbers are a tribute to the quality of CASNR students, but also to the efforts of our faculty and staff to provide our students with an education that is both high quality and relevant.

Spring-2014 Enrollment
The College increased 3.2% in undergraduate enrollment from spring-2013 to spring-2014 (1,899 to 1,959, respectively). The UNL campus also experienced an increase (1.2%) in undergraduate spring enrollment. Our non-resident student enrollment increased 13.6% from spring 2013 to spring 2014 (15.4% of total enrollment). Our 10-year increase is 77.1% (1,106 to 1,959) from spring 2005 to spring 2014. Many thanks to the staff and faculty who have expended their time and energy in helping these highly qualified students decide that CASNR is the appropriate place to begin their careers.

Teaching Council/Parents Association Recognition Ceremony
UNL Faculty and Staff “Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to Students”, sponsored by UNL Parents Association, UNL Teaching Council and UNL Student Affairs, took place on Friday, February 7. The UNL Parents Association solicits nominations through a special mailing requesting UNL parents to nominate a member of the University “who has made a significant difference” in their son’s or daughter’s life. Nominations include a short explanation of why this person is nominated.

Agricultural Economics Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Dennis Conley – 4 years Helen Fagan – 2 years
Ronald Hanson – 22 years Gina Matkin – 2 years
Gary Lynne – 2 years Carol Ott Schacht – 1 year
Rosalee Swartz – 16 years

Agronomy and Horticulture Animal Science
David Lambe – 5 years Lisa Karr-Lilienthal – 3 years
Zac Reicher – 1 year Merlyn Nielsen – 8 years
Richard Sutton – 4 years
Recruitment with Extension
We have recently increased our efforts to collaborate with UNL Extension to recruit Nebraska’s youth into our academic programs. Sue Ellen Pegg assists with recruiting events for UNL and CASNR and serves as the CASNR point of contact for all Extension Educators and staff with recruitment related questions or student inquiries. She helps with individual visits including meeting with students/parents and discussing CASNR degree programs and other involvement opportunities and services. She has helped coordinate customized tours for 4-H and Extension groups when they are on campus, and she has attended youth science field days in Kearney, Hastings, North Platte, Holdrege, and Lexington. Sue Ellen works with the Career Development/College Readiness Signature Outcome team to assist with career/college preparation activities and assists in developing new programming. She attended the Extension Fall Conference to interact with Extension Educators and provide CASNR recruitment materials and resources to enhance their efforts, and she serves on the Extension Recruitment team who work to expand recruitment opportunities across Nebraska. Sue Ellen has helped with the Big Red Summer Academic Camps, the ESI Entrepreneurship Camp in Ord, the Mane Event at the State 4-H Horse Show, the State First Lego League Championship, and the Northeast Nebraska Career Day among others.

Survey on Classroom Limitations
With anticipated growth in UNL enrollment, it is critical that CASNR understands the physical limitations for teaching. Therefore the CASNR Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) has created a survey to initiate this process. The CASNR FAC asks that each Department identify the top 10% or so of the classes (including traditional lectures, recitations, labs, etc.) that are currently most susceptible to space limitations, and then the instructors should complete this brief survey for each of those classes. The survey should take no more than five minutes and please complete by April 1. The survey is available at surveymonkey.com/s/CASNR_Classroom_Needs_Assessment. We appreciate your help with this undertaking.

Morrill Scholars Update
The Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Program, started in 2005, is a student organization and development program at UNL that draws upon the life experiences and accomplishments of Justin Smith Morrill, author of the Land-Grant College Acts. To honor his vision and his legacy, CASNR has developed a four-year program for undergraduate students who are interested in advancing the public good through social and civic responsibility while exploring ideas and solutions to solve critical issues related to food, fuel, water, landscapes, and human health. Students in the program will:
• Participate in a seminar series taught by the Dr. Ronnie Green, IANR Vice Chancellor.
• Organize and participate in colloquiums centered on the Heuermann Lectures and personally interact
with the Heuermann Lecturers.

- Travel to the Justin Smith Morrill homestead in Vermont as sophomores for a service project, and travel to Washington, D.C. as juniors to meet with leaders in government.
- Develop and implement a capstone senior project working with local and/or global partners.

This spring, 13 students participated in the revamped Justin Smith Morrill Scholars program. In addition to participating in the seminar class taught by Dr. Ronnie Green, the scholars organized colloquiums centered on the Heuermann Lectures and hosted dinners with Heuermann speakers after the lecture sessions. In addition, the group plans to travel to North Platte this spring to explore the Land-Grant mission in action. Morrill Scholars, Ryan Hanousek and Maci Lienemann were selected to attend the Farm Foundation Round Table in Houston, where they interacted with agriculture industry leaders. The Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Program is open to all UNL students. For more information, please contact Deepak Keshwani at dkeshwani2@unl.edu

**Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program**

Incoming freshmen are invited to apply to the Ag Futures: Entrepreneurship and Leadership Learning Community for 2014-15. More information can be accessed at http://www.unl.edu/learncom/fylc/. The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program offers both a 12 and an 18 credit minor to CASNR students. In addition, a joint minor in Entrepreneurship and Leadership is offered in partnership with the ALEC department. For more information or to schedule a meeting with Tom Field, Program Director, please contact Michelle Bassford at mbassford7@unl.edu. Please visit engler.unl.edu to learn more about the Engler Program. If you would like to receive Engler Program Updates on a monthly basis, please contact Michelle Bassford.

**2014 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 2014 Award recipients are:

**Senior Faculty Award**
- Sarah Browning, Southeast Research and Extension Center
- Deana Namuth Covert, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture
- Mark Pegg, School of Natural Resources
- Rick Rasby, Department of Animal Science

**Junior Faculty Award**
- Ashley Hall, Departments of Entomology, Biochemistry and Forensic Science
- Deepak Keshwani, Department of Biological Systems Engineering

**Teaching Assistant**
- Elizabeth Claassen, Department of Statistics
- L. J. McElravy, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication

**2013-2014 Scholarship Report**

**Total number of Scholarships given by CASNR** 991
**Total number of Students receiving Scholarships from CASNR** 822
**Total percent of students receiving awards from CASNR** 39.1%
**Total Amount Awarded through CASNR** $1,095,724

**Average Value of all CASNR Scholarships** $1,003

**College Level Awards**
- Total Awarded through Dean’s Office $785,456
- Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Dean’s Office 668
- Total Number of Students receiving Awards through Dean’s Office 578

**Departmental Level Awards**
Total Awarded through Departments $310,268  
Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Departments 323  
Total Number of Students receiving awards through Departments 244  

**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 concerned with archiving and feedback for ACE 10 courses. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell at jmarkwell2@unl.edu  

**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.  

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**  
The CASNR Faculty Advisory Committee has approved a College-level statement on dealing with accusations of student academic dishonesty and these will be posted on the web before the start of the fall semester. In coordination with this, the faculty of each academic program have approved a policy for student appeals involving courses in that program. Additionally, each academic program has approved a statement for course syllabi that states how students may acquire 5 the program's policy for appeal of academic dishonesty accusations. Faculty should make sure, starting with the fall 2014 semester, that they have this updated statement included in their syllabus.  

**Update on PEARL Assessments—Consider Combining with ACE**  
The Fall 2013 PEARL Reporting Cycle was very successful. All programs had submitted reports and there continues to be a movement toward assessments that are faculty-driven and directly measure student learning outcomes. For programs that have not yet incorporated the ACE 10 assessments into the PEARL process, this may be something for your faculty to consider to simplify the assessment process and decrease the number of separate student assessments that are needed to be archived on an annual basis. For questions about PEARL assessments, contact John Markwell at jmarkwell2@unl.edu  

**CASNR Online Education Update**  
*A message from Dan Cotton:* I’m very pleased to again be working for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources as coordinator of online education for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and as director of integrated technologies for the University of Nebraska Extension. In my online education role, I will be providing overall coordination for the College’s online education programs; this includes recruitment and management of the Master of Applied Science, Undergraduate Degree Completion in Applied Science, Great Plains IDEA and Ag IDEA. I am working with the UNL Office of Online and Distance Education, University of Nebraska Online WorldWide, and other extended education consortia.  
I continue to meet with CASNR faculty involved in extended education programming to learn as much as I can about their efforts and to identify common areas of interest and need. There is great potential in the development and delivery of extended education programming, and I look forward to helping the College reach related goals and objectives.  
With regard to the Master of Applied Science, interest in the program continues to grow and CASNR is now offering up to $400 of travel funds annually to faculty who serve as advisors for these students. If
you have questions or want to discuss how to improve CASNR extended education programming, please contact me at dcotton1@unl.edu or 2-8841. Thank you.

**Update on Life Science Curriculum Development**
The Life Sciences curriculum consists of a two semester series of courses and associated laboratories covering the fundamentals of biology. It is intended to serve those students who will be taking more advanced life sciences courses. Enrollments for this academic year exceeded our expectations with 679 students enrolled in the LIFE 120 and 255 students in the LIFE 121 during fall 2013, and 521 students enrolled in LIFE 120 and 390 students in LIFE 121 for spring 2014.
The Life Sciences Instructional Team is working to implement the following new instructional strategies this academic year: 1) inquiry-driven laboratories to accompany the LIFE 120 and 121 courses, 2) Learning Assistant model, 3) active learning strategies, and 4) authentic assessment of life science skills. The overall goal is to create a classroom environment where the instructors are able to improve student learning by using tools and techniques supported by research on how students best learn in large lecture halls and laboratory settings.
We are scheduled to offer 3 sections (700 student capacity) of LIFE 120 and 2 sections (500 student capacity) of LIFE 121 for Fall 2014 along with one section of the LIFE 120 and 121 courses this summer. If you have any questions about the new LIFE courses or integrating these foundational courses into the curriculum of your degree programs, please do not hesitate to contact Tiffany Heng-Moss at thengmoss2@unl.edu

**Update on Development of Summer Curriculum**
Last year we distributed over $50,000 in grants to stimulate a 17% increase in summer 2013 student credit hour production over the summer of 2012. This effort focused on the development and offering of 10 additional online courses. The College’s summer student credit hour production has increased by over 26% since 2009. Summer student credit hour production for all colleges combined increased by 3.5% between 2012-2013, but decreased by 4.4% between 2009-2013.
Priority registration for summer session starts March 17. If you are scheduled to offer a course this summer, please make sure that your courses have been entered into the summer 2014 Schedule of Classes.

**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. We are also discussing how to disseminate the building-specific instructions to all instructors at the beginning of every semester. The following is the current essential information:

- **Fire Alarm (or other evacuation):** In the event of a fire alarm: Gather belongings (bag, 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: unlalert.unl.edu

Additional Emergency Procedures can be found here: emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf

Advising Updates

MyPLAN has the capacity to capture advising notes within its database. If you are using the advising notes function in MyPLAN, great job! If you are not using this unique feature yet, please do so this spring as we approach priority registration in March. It is imperative that you maintain a complete and comprehensive advising record of your work with undergraduate students. Capturing advising notes in MyPLAN or through email or hard copy advising folders documents the adviser/student interaction as to what transpires during these advising sessions. In a situation this fall, it was the adviser’s notes in MyPLAN that solved a disagreement between the student and the adviser on what courses to enroll in this spring. Please make every effort to record your advising sessions through MyPLAN from this point forward.

You may have been asked to serve as an academic recovery coach (ARC) this spring to work with your students who found themselves on academic probation from the fall 2013 term. If you’ve completed some academic recovery plans (ARP) with your students, please be aware that before a student can register for summer classes (beginning March 17) and/or fall classes (beginning on March 31), you must lift the holds for your students. Lifting the academic holds takes place in MyRED and not MyPLAN. The following sequence was developed by Dennis McCallister (Department of Agronomy/Horticulture) can be used as you begin to lift the holds of your students:

1. Open MyRED.
2. Click on the “Advisor” button at the top of your opening screen.
3. Either search for an advisee on probation using the search box at the far right of the Advisor screen or click on the “My Advisees” button on that page to display the list of all of your advisees.
4. Click on the arrow next to the student’s ID number to display a drop-down list.
5. Click on “Manage Student Holds” from that list to open up a new screen labeled “Manage Service Indicators.”
6. Locate the hold labelled “PRO” and click on it to open up another window labelled “Edit Service Indicators.”
7. Click on the button labelled “Release” followed by “OK.”
8. The hold should disappear on the initial student display.

*Send a thank you note to Dennis McCallister for “blazing the trail” to lift holds.

MyPlan as an Early Alert System

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 MyPLAN, has been fully implemented this spring for instructors, students, and advisers for tracking academic progress. MyPLAN 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. This early alert system uses “flags” to raise a concern about a student’s class performance, attendance, or both. If you teach courses this spring, please utilize “flags” in the MyPLAN system to hopefully capture students early in the semester instead of at the end of the semester when they go on academic probation. There is also a feature in MyPLAN to send individual students “kudos” for exceptional work in their classes at UNL. CASNR will include MyPLAN training in their summer workshops in August. To learn more about MyPLAN, please go to the following website: myplan.unl.edu/resources
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 at jmarkwell2@unl.edu

Reminder on Implementing Instructional Improvement Plans
A Program for Instructional Improvement is currently in place for 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 2013-2014 Academic Year are due at the end of the spring semester. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell.

Reminder on Activity Insight
The Activity Insight program is used to update your teaching information so that we can correctly determine your Academic Appointment 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 academic appointment calculation and the unit’s FTE calculation will be done without your information. Please contact Dann Husmann at dhusmann2@unl.edu 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.

2014 CASNR Week Activities
Saturday, April 12
CASNR 5K Fun Run
Sunday, April 13
CASNR Week Banquet
Monday, April 14
CASNR Week Blood Drive
Tuesday, April 15
Lunch on the Lawn
Community Night
Wednesday, April 16
Club Adviser Luncheon
Thursday, April 17
Undergraduate TA Luncheon
Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19
UNL Rodeo

Doctor of Plant Health
During the last year, the Doctor of Plant Health (DPH) Program graduated its first students, and two more
are scheduled to graduate in May. Employer interest has been high for our students as both graduates were able to find jobs in the areas they were targeting. The two who will graduate this spring semester have seen significant employer interest, with one having accepted a job offer last fall and the other currently interviewing for positions. There are currently 12 students enrolled in the program. Discussions with prospective employers continue to indicate high interest in the program, especially in offering internships and potential employment of future graduates. Because the DPH is a novel professional program and represents a dramatic change in graduate level education, many potential students are still unfamiliar with this program. It is important that undergraduate advisors in biology- and plant-related majors make students aware of this new program in which employment and career potential is very good. The DPH is a scientifically 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 dph.unl.edu or contact Gary Hein, Program Director at 402-472-3345 or ghein1@unl.edu.

**CASNR Education Abroad Policies and Guidelines**

**Education Abroad** is here to help colleges and faculty develop, design, and deliver exciting and impactful programs for our students. CASNR has created a website that will guide faculty to create study abroad programs that support the curricular goals of their academic departments. Please go to the following website to review and utilize the systematic procedure to move your idea of a study abroad program to an international experience available to your students: casnr.unl.edu/CurrentStudents/StudyAbroad and look for Education Abroad Guidelines.

**CASNR Education Abroad 2014**

Education abroad opportunities within CASNR continue to attract students and provide unique experiences overseas in fields focusing on agriculture and natural resources. Once again a large group of students recently returned from another successful trip to from New Zealand over the holiday break. Soon to be going over Spring Break will be another recurring experience from the School of Natural Resources to the island of Puerto Rico. Also, much anticipated over the summer break are abroad experiences to Benin, Greece, China, Botswana, and Ethiopia, which all look to be successful with increased student interest. When the weather gets cold, Australia will be a destination for many 9 students looking to study agriculture sectors down-under. CASNR is also looking to become a chapter of the International Association of Students in Ag and Ag Related Sciences (IAAS) which is an internationally recognized student led club focusing on agriculture both nationally and globally.

**Alumni News**

The CANSR Alumni Football Tailgate & Silent Auction is scheduled to take place on Homecoming weekend, September 27, 2014 at the NEU.

**Salute to Graduates**

Sixty-nine graduating seniors and over 360 guests participated in the Salute to Graduates held December 20, 2013. The spring Salute will be held May 9, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the NEU.

**Senior Send-Off**

The December Senior Send-Off was held in the Haymarket Room of the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Over 100 CASNR graduates, family members and friends attend this event. The spring Senior Send-Off will be held May 10, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. in the Club Lounge at the Pinnacle Bank Arena.

**December Commencement**

158 CASNR undergraduates received their degrees in December at the Pinnacle Bank Arena.