

THE SOWER ONLINE

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Alumni Association

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1. Football Reunion: Huskers, Alumni and Students Win

The CASNR Alumni Association's annual football reunion and silent auction took place on September 13 preceding the Nebraska – New Mexico State game in Lincoln. Eighty football tickets were sold to members and their guests who enjoyed a great win by the Huskers. Some of the 100 reunion attendees had their own tickets. Reunion participants had an enjoyable afternoon visiting with classmates, faculty of the College and staff, getting their Valentino's pizza fix with a wonderful buffet meal and finding treasures on the silent auction tables.

The silent auction, thanks to many generous donors and buyers, generated \$6000 for scholarships for students of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Since making the football reunion an annual event in 2005, the CASNR Alumni Association has raised over \$14,000 for scholarships.

A survey of participants indicated overwhelming support for another reunion next year. See <http://casnr.unl.edu/2008footballreunion> for more photos.



Garey Gary of Syracuse, honorary life charter member and past alumni president, and his wife Rose enjoy the 1932 Ag College Directory.



CASN dean Steve Waller updates alumni on their College.

2. Henry Beachell Distinguished Alumni Award to Warren Gabelman

Warren H. “Buck” Gabelman received the CASNR Alumni Association’s Henry Beachell Distinguished Alumni Award at a dinner held in his honor in September.

Gabelman is a Tilden, Nebraska native. He received a bachelor’s degree in agriculture from the University of Nebraska in 1942 and a Ph.D. in genetics from Yale in 1949.

Gabelman has been widely recognized for both his research resulting in contributions to improving food production with global impact and his student mentoring at the University of Wisconsin. During his UNL years Gabelman played varsity baseball and was a member of Farmhouse Fraternity.

Continuing his mission of mentoring students, Warren and his late wife Alberta established a first-ever endowment in 2004 supporting undergraduate research in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska. Their desire was to ensure that undergraduates would have opportunities to participate in important genetic and plant breeding research taking place at the University.



CASNR dean Steve Waller, honored guest Warren Gabelman, CASNR Alumni Association president Brian Bosshamer

3. Fleming Receives Public Service to Agriculture Award

Dr. Richard L. Fleming of Lincoln was honored by the Nebraska Agribusiness Club with the Public Service to Agriculture Award at a recent banquet.

Dick retired from the University in 1996 after serving 40 years in academic and administrative positions in agricultural communications. He developed and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in agricultural journalism, communications, marketing and continuing education, and conducted more than 100 communications and marketing workshops in Nebraska and at the national level. Since retiring he has been professor emeritus in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication and can be found in the office every day.

He is immersed in his work, and enjoys his involvement with students. He is dedicated to mentoring and those students who have worked with him go out into the workplace with practical knowledge and an exceptional work ethic. He continues to enjoy serving students, alumni and stakeholders.

Dick has received numerous awards and was the recipient of the Legacy Award from the

CASNR Alumni Association in 2007.



Dick Fleming

4. Order Nebraska Gifts Online from the East Campus Dairy Store

Gift-giving is simple and meaningful with online shopping for Nebraska products made by the UNL Dairy Store on East Campus. A wide variety of University-made cheeses, summer sausages, salami and honey selections are packed in gift boxes of varying sizes and can be shipped at your direction. You can also create your own gift box. From mild cheddar to Husker with Jalapeno, there are a dozen cheese varieties to choose from. Click the “varieties page” for descriptions of all the cheeses. Smoked sausage with dried, sweetened cranberries is a delicious Nebraska hors d’oeuvre. You can order online, download the gift box brochure or call 402-472-2951 for assistance with ordering. Visit the Dairy Store Web site for more information:

http://dairystore.unl.edu/dairy_store/cheese.shtml#cheeseboxes

5. Salute to Graduates December 19, Nebraska East Union

The next Salute to Graduates personalized graduation ceremony will be held Friday, December 19 at 4:00 pm in the Great Plains Room of the Nebraska East Union. Graduates, their families and friends as well as College faculty and staff have been invited to join in this unique celebration of personal achievement.

When registering for the ‘Salute’, graduates are asked to provide short answers to the questions “what were your two biggest accomplishments while at College” and “what are your future plans.” The answers to these questions are read aloud while each graduate is individually on the stage with the vice chancellor, the dean, the College Alumni Association president and the student’s department head. Several photos are taken and posted to the College Web page for families to download or share via e-mail.

Salute to Graduates, sponsored by the CASNR Alumni Association and the College, is a tradition which began in December, 2005. It is held the day before general

commencement each May and December.

6. UNL Extension – Your Information Resource

Your University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension has the resources to help you solve a multitude of problems and answer a host of questions. Find information on demand that ranges from storing garden vegetables to solving household pest problems or learning about natural resources, nutrition, finance or the heating values of firewood on the Extension Web site. There are also 83 County Extension Offices serving all 93 counties in Nebraska that are identified on the Web.

County office contact information and hundreds of Extension bulletins will be found at <http://www.extension.unl.edu>.

7. CASNR to Offer UNL's First Online Undergraduate Degree Completion Program

by Sam Larson, Extended Education and Outreach

Through a partnership between CASNR and The Office of Extended Education & Outreach (EE&O), UNL is now accepting applications for the spring 2009 semester of its first undergraduate degree completion program to be delivered entirely online.

Entitled the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science the program focuses on the practical application of scientific knowledge in the workplace. It is designed for working adults and associate degree holders who want to obtain their bachelor's degree without having to take time away from their current careers.

For a complete program overview, please visit us at <http://extended.unl.edu/bsas/>

8. CASNR Enrollment Up Again

Fall enrollment in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources again showed a substantial gain, this time a 12.9 percent increase or 187 students. The College had the highest percentage increase in new students of any college in UNL for the second year in a row. Also for the second year in a row, the CASNR incoming freshman class had an average ACT score higher than the university average.

9. Tom Osborne Presents Teamwork Awards to Biochemistry Students

What do Dr. Tom Osborne and Biochemistry have in common? Teamwork! Dr. Tom Osborne graciously volunteered to help recognize students in biochemistry for their excellence in teamwork in October, 2008. Biochemistry students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are working together to learn biochemistry and molecular biology through activities guided by Dr. Cheryl Bailey, an Assistant Professor specializing in innovative educational techniques in the Department of Biochemistry. Published studies have shown that when students are guided by a faculty member to work through material

as a team, they ask more questions and are more invested in learning than if they learn alone. An added benefit is that students learn important skills that will help them in the workplace. Although studying alone is still valuable, biochemistry students have been learning new concepts and information in groups, even in large lecture classes.



Katie Roberts (left) and Brady Smith (right) receive Excellence in Teamwork Awards from UNL Athletic Director, Dr. Tom Osborne for their outstanding performance in Biochemistry 321 taught by Dr. Cheryl Bailey.

When asked about her new approaches to student education, Dr. Bailey reported, “We all know how hard it is to stay focused for a full hour, especially when learning new and challenging material. A video tape of my class really highlighted the difference in student engagement when passively listening to a lecture as compared to actively learning. Students showed all the signs of boredom—yawning, stretching, looking at the clock, when I was lecturing, even though I make every effort to engage them while lecturing. Just a few minutes later the class is transformed into activity as they talk about biochemistry and work through activities that guide them to explore and think about biochemistry. Students actively ask me questions. In one recent session I counted students asking questions on average every 2.5 minutes. Student’s questions are music to

my ears because that means they care to make sure they understand something correctly”.

Bailey’s students have rolled up their sleeves and put Husker pride to work by creating new knowledge that is used by scientists all over the world. For example, they have a very exciting project in which they examine newly discovered DNA sequences using the latest in computer technologies and with their newly acquired scientific expertise, interpret complex genome information. With decoded DNA sequences pouring in from different animals, plants and microbes, there is a strong demand for people in the emerging field of bioinformatics who can examine the copious amounts of information and make meaningful interpretations of the data. Bailey adds, “Our students work together and also compete with students at other Universities across the nation to make the best interpretations – a situation they find both challenging and rewarding”.

In her short three years at UNL, Dr. Bailey has gained an enthusiastic cadre of students. “I am very proud,” states Bailey, “of the involvement and achievement of my students. We are fully invested in preparing them as best we can to enter professional school or professional careers upon graduation. The kind of skills and teamwork they learn at UNL, and which were recognized by awards presented by Tom Osborne, will serve them well for a lifetime”.

10. CASNR Career Fair Brings Employers, Students Together

by Jill Brown, Career Specialist

The 2008 CASNR Career Fair was held on Thursday, October 9 in the East Campus Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The CASNR Career Fair was held in conjunction with Career Fair Week, which featured three days of Career Fairs with over 300 employers participating in whole. Five hundred seventeen students and alumni from the University and local community attended the CASNR Career Fair to visit with 67 employing organizations and graduate institutions. Representatives from local, state, and national organizations attended to connect with students as they seek full-time and internship opportunities. New employers that came to the career fair included: Alltech South Dakota, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Frito Lay, Gavilon, LLC, Louis Dreyfus Corp, Nebraska Machinery Company, Reinke Manufacturing, Remington Seeds, US Marine Corps, Wells’ Dairy, Inc., and Wyffels Hybrids. The day after the career fair 186 interviews were conducted.

If you are interested in attending this or the following event in the future, please contact Jill Brown at jbrown14@unl.edu or 402-472-8273. More information about upcoming career fairs can be found at <http://www.unl.edu/careers/employer/empfairs.shtml>

11. Second Annual Natural Resources Career Information Night

by Jill Brown, Career Specialist

The second annual Natural Resources Career Information Night was held October 9 in

Hardin Hall. The event was well received by the 17 organizations and 75 students and faculty in attendance. Those organizations attending were: Flatwater Chapter of U.S. Green Building Council, Homestead National Monument of America, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Bureau, JEO Consulting, Lincoln Police Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - Fisheries Division, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - Wildlife Division, Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership, Terracon, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, and WasteCap Nebraska.

Web site: <http://casnr.unl.edu>

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