



# The SOWER

UNIVERSITY OF  
Nebraska®  
Lincoln  
**SPRING 2010**

**College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association**

## CASNR Animal Science Graduate Finds Passion in Photography

In a time of fresh national championships and brave men of war, Jim Koch stood proudly among the-then College of Agriculture graduates of 1971. His heart for agriculture now was accompanied by a degree.

Koch graduated with a degree in animal science; however, it was a one-hour photography class during his last year of college that turned Koch toward his career as a professional photographer.

Koch's education in what now is the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources gave him a strong knowledge of the cattle business and agriculture in general. It helped prepare him for a job with the *Western Livestock Journal* shortly after graduating. Koch has more than three decades of experience in camera work including photojournalism, and commercial, portrait and animal photography.

His work goes beyond photography to include other aspects of agriculture. For example, Koch currently is working with a fuel additive that purportedly helps clean up air pollution and reduce fuel consumption for farmers and ranchers.

The clubs and teams Koch joined while at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) took him beyond his learning in the classroom and gave him practical experience in publicity and public relations. He has drawn on this knowledge in his work with Jim Koch Photography, seed stock marketing, managing auction sales, and while working with fuel and lubrication aspects of agricultural machinery and trucking.

On the day of Koch's graduation, his father and former animal science department head Bob Koch asked, "Well, Son, what did you learn during the past four

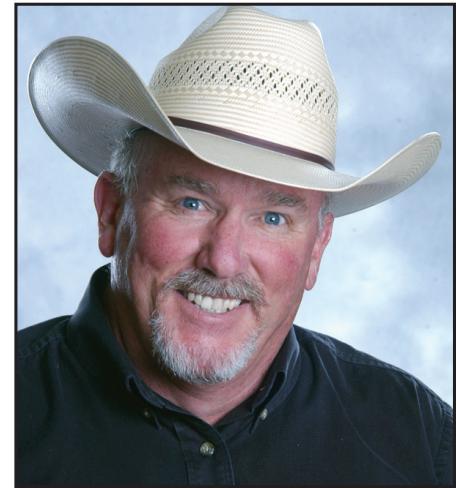


Photo courtesy of Jim Koch

years at the University of Nebraska?"

This question put him into deep thought. How could he sum up the entire experience in one answer? He started thinking, but could not find the words for

### Graduate

*continued page 4*

## Pre-Veterinary Club Provides New Options for Experience

Few — if any — University of Nebraska-Lincoln clubs can boast about dog washes, zoo trips, graduate school tours

and an annual card tournament.

But the UNL Pre-Veterinary Club (NUPVC) can.



Courtesy photo

Pre-Veterinary Club members interact with employees while visiting the Henry Doorly Zoo.

"Most people don't realize how much effort we put into running our club meetings and putting together some pretty extensive tours that we give students the opportunity to be a part of," said Heath Weichel, NUPVC president. "Our purpose is to maintain and increase the interest of college students pursuing the veterinary medicine

pre-professional course of study."

The club achieves and fulfills its purpose by inviting speakers from different fields of veterinary medicine to speak at NUPVC's monthly meetings, along with increasing interaction between its members and the faculty and staff of the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. The club also fosters a closer relationship among students pursuing a profession encompassing veterinary medicine.

### Pre-Vet

*continued page 4*





## **Gift from Alumnus Supports Entrepreneurship**

Many productive things happen when alumni rally around the cause of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Alumni support comes in many valuable forms, from Alumni Association affiliations to sustaining and life affiliations, and outright gifts. A recent gift from 1951 animal science graduate Paul Engler will make a lasting impact on the state, the Institute, the College and its students.

The Paul F. and Virginia J. Engler Foundation announced on March 1 a gift of \$20 million to support entrepreneurship programs at UNL, establishing a permanently endowed fund supporting the Paul F. Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program within IANR. The fund will support programs for students in the College as well as 4-H and FFA. It's a visionary gift, said NU President J.B. Milliken, stating that 70 percent of young Nebraskans interviewed in a Gallup Organization study said they want to start their own business.

I had the pleasure of enjoying Paul Engler's company last fall, at a dinner in his honor as recipient of the Henry Beachell Distinguished Alumnus Award presented by the CASNR Alumni Association. We honored Engler for his lifetime of professional achievement, leadership, vision, service and dedication to the beef production industry. He is personable, energetic and has a very interesting life history.

Engler was born in Stuart, Neb. Later his father moved the family to Bassett and ran a service station there. He wanted his children to know how to work and milk a cow so he bought an acre or two and several cows. Soon Paul and his sister were delivering milk in Bassett. His dad bought more land and more cows.

Engler was 13 years old and his dad was out of town on business. Engler went to the local auction barn, saw some cattle he liked and bought 100 head. He had no money. The auctioneer asked how he was going to pay for them and Paul said the auctioneer would have to loan him the money. The auctioneer knew him and did



Duane Kristensen

help, and Paul had an additional 100 cows on the place when his dad came home. He expected a reprimand, but instead his dad told him he was proud of him and helped him get a better loan at the bank.

As a result of this gift the new program may include:

- An Engler Entrepreneur in Residence, networking students with individuals in the private sector who have expertise and experience in entrepreneurship related to agriculture or agribusiness development.
- Living Laboratories and Applied Undergraduate Research, where students will research and develop agriculture-based businesses they can operate while in college.
- Engler Program Capstone Course, taken in the admitted students' senior year.
- Entrepreneur Camp, allows 4-H students to be introduced to agribusiness entrepreneurship and to the Program.
- Husker Horizons, in which high school-aged 4-H youth can earn college credit by working with a UNL faculty member on an agribusiness entrepreneurship research project.
- International Experience, to encourage and support students to take advantage of study-abroad opportunities related to agribusiness entrepreneurship.

Other elements of the program include the Engler Scholarship Fund, the Engler Venture Capital Fund, internship and field placement opportunities, the Paul Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Chair and the Paul Engler Lectureship Series on Agribusiness Entrepreneurship.

The Engler gift will have lasting impact on the College and the Institute and will provide opportunities for many students. It is an investment in the youth of Nebraska that undoubtedly will result in more of them staying in the state and producing new employment opportunities.

Duane Kristensen, President

## **Your CASNR Alumni Association**

The CASNR alumni board of directors represents a wide range of degree programs and professions in agriculture, natural resources and beyond. Remember that if you have comments, suggestions or ideas for your CASNRAA or its publication, call the CASNR Dean's Office at 1-800-742-8800, ext. 2541 and request the alumni development director.

### **CASNRAA Board of Directors**

#### **President**

Duane Kristensen, '78, Minden

#### **Past President**

Brian Bosshamer, '90, Amherst

#### **President Elect**

Adam Smith, '98, Lexington

#### **Recording Secretary**

Kelli Loos, '88, Loup City

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David Karnopp, '95, Oakland

Lance LaRue, '95, Lincoln

Dan Meier, '05, Lincoln

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#### **Standing Committees and Chairs**

*Awards* - Brian Bosshamer, Duane Kristensen, Adam Smith

*Communications* - Dan Meier, Dan Neil, Adam Smith

*Events* - Jeff Albers, Dave Dannehl, Lance LaRue, Mark Wilke

*Nominating* - Brian Bosshamer, Daryl Cisney, Duane Kristensen, Adam Smith

*Scholarship* - Dave Karnopp, Kelli Loos,

Dan Meier, Dan Neil

**The Sower** is produced by students in the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, a CASNR club.

Paige Bek, Coordinator

Assistant Professor Jason Ellis, Adviser



# New Student Organization Makes its Mark



*Photo by Laura Murray*

Pictured are SEECA members (blue shirts) with participants from one of the club-sponsored dog training classes.

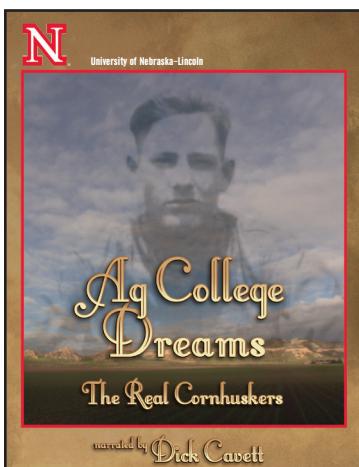
For a club that just formed in May 2008, Students for the Education of Exotic and Companion Animals (SEECA) surely has made its mark at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with 42 members registered.

Lisa Karr-Lilenthal, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources assistant professor and UNL Extension companion animal specialist, saw a need for a club on campus to provide students with an interest in companion, exotic or zoo animals an opportunity to improve their knowledge and understanding of these animals.

"There was a need for SEECA because there was a pre-vet club and a wildlife club on campus, but there wasn't a club that puts them together, especially the companion animals aspect," said Allison Leimer, SEECA vice president. "Our

**SEECA**

*continued page 4*



## CASNR Documentary to Run on NET

*Ag College Dreams*, a half-hour documentary about the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, will be shown 8:30 p.m. April 29 and 2:30 p.m. May 2 on Nebraska Educational Television's NET2. This showcase of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture history was created in 2006 by Joel Geyer of NET and features narration by UNL alumnus Dick Cavett.

The documentary demonstrates how

studies in agriculture and related areas at the University of Nebraska grew into the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Geyer uses the accomplishments of College of Agriculture alumni George Beadle and Ruth Leverton as examples of the impact UNL has made on contemporary science, technology and business.

Anyone interested in receiving a copy of *Ag College Dreams* should contact the CASNR Dean's Office at 402-472-2201.

## Big Changes for Communicating with CASNR Alumni

The College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources (CASNR) Alumni have a new means to stay in contact with faculty, staff, students and fellow graduates of the college. Jill Brown, CASNR placement and development coordinator, worked with Paul Horton, director of alumni development, to create a Facebook page for the CASNR Alumni Association.

"We're all friends in the CASNR Alumni Association," Brown commented. "We want to maintain contact with alumni who are launching their careers."

The association is using new communications technologies to help provide information to its members quickly and economically.

"The page has been fairly static, but we're looking for ways to ramp it up a bit," Horton said.

The site is updated to provide members with photos and CASNR Alumni Association event information. The group page is almost a year old and currently has 78 members. Interested alumni and friends can find the Facebook group page by searching "UNL, CASNR."

*- Stephanie Smolek*

**College of Agricultural Sciences and  
Natural Resources Alumni Association  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Constituent Contribution Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

CASNRA Class \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Class \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Constituent**  New  Renewal

\$20 Annual individual

\$25 Annual couple

Sustaining (more than basic fee)

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Life Affiliation**

\$300 Individual

\$360 Couple

\$65/year for 5 years—Individual installment

\$75/year for 5 years—Couple installment

\$180 Senior Individual (65 years or more)

\$220 Senior Couple

**Corporate Partnership**

\$1,000 Legacy

\$500 Traditions

\$250 Preservation

(For descriptions of each level, send e-mail to phorton2@unl.edu)

Affiliation is open to alumni and friends of the college.

**Payment**

Please make your check payable to "NU Foundation" and send this form to:

**CASNRAA**

P.O. Box 830702

103 Ag Hall

LINCOLN NE 68583-0702

**Alumni Can Renew Online**

Make an annual contribution, change affiliate status or make a contribution in the name of another with the Association online and pay by credit card. If you prefer this method, go to <http://casnr.unl.edu> and select "Alumni, Friends, Donors, Extension" for options to either pay by check or pay by credit card. The annual contribution is only \$20.

**SEECA**

*continued from page 3*

club is full of students with animal science majors who are interested in both areas and also non-animal science majors."

SEECA received student organization status in May 2008 and hosted its first monthly meeting in September 2008.

Club members listen to speakers with careers actively involved in fields related to exotic and companion animals at the monthly meetings. Meetings have included visits from local veterinarians, animal control personnel, policeman in the K-9 unit and Domesti-Pups, an organization that uses service dogs for therapy and education.

But now SEECA is really making a mark on campus through its dog training classes, open to UNL faculty and students, and Lincoln community members.

"Providing dog training classes is a service we want to offer students and the community so that there aren't dogs running around misbehaving," Leimer said.

This past year Dr. Bruce Brodersen, head of the UNL histology lab, spoke at the NUPVC February meeting. In addition, the club hosted its annual UNL Pre-Vet Club Card Tournament. NUPVC also had several member activities, including playing laser tag; attending a Lincoln Stars Hockey game; touring the UNL Great Plains Meat Animal Research Center; and attending the Iowa State University VEISHEA celebration.

Last year NUPVC received an award for outstanding club organization on campus for its hard work and awarded six scholarships to NUPVC members.

"We really do try to get all students involved, open their eyes to veterinary medicine and what all is out there," Wiechel said. "And most importantly we have a fun learning experience along with it."

— Amanda Bergstrom

# CASNRAA

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

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln does not discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

"We just want everyone to treat their dogs properly and have the dogs behave."

In the fall semester Jill Morstad of Prairie Skies dog training teaches a four-week beginner obedience dog class that meets once a week in the Animal Science building on the UNL East Campus. In the spring semester, Morstad teaches an advanced obedience dog class for eight weeks.

"SEECA members attend the classes and as we gain experience in dog training, we can help out more with the training itself," Leimer said. "We observe dog behaviors and get more hands-on experience through the training."

Not only are the classes helping participants train their dogs, they are helping club members train their dogs at home. Leimer and other club members have taken the training methods from class and have started to train man's best friend.

— Mallory Wittstruck

**Pre-Vet**

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**Graduate**

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it all and replied, "I don't know. A bunch of stuff."

His father gave a wise reply. "You have learned a great deal at UNL, I'm sure, but what you hopefully learned was, that when you don't know answers to problems that will present themselves, you will have learned how to find and to whom you can learn from to discover the answers you seek."

This has held true in Koch's life as he is constantly networking and finding information from others.

With Koch's business motto, "You have to love it, or I'm not done," he is still working hard and applying his skills from college to his career. His works have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *PM Magazine* and *Good Morning America*.

"When your heart is involved in agriculture you are mentally involved with all aspects of it," Koch said. His work in agriculture will continue and allow him to stand out among the proud graduates of 1971.

— Grace Farley

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