

THE SOWER ONLINE

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR)

Alumni Association

June 2009

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1. Spring Enrollment Increase

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) has seen a 14.9 percent increase in spring enrollment compared to the spring semester 2008. This increase of 206 students accounts for over one-third of the total University system-wide undergraduate growth. And in total enrollment growth at UNL (undergraduate, graduate and professional) the College accounts for 49 percent of total growth.

Do you have neighbors, friends, relatives or work associates with high school students undecided on their college career? Think about sharing your CASNR experiences with those high school students and their parents. To assist in this effort we have printed some business-card-sized wallet cards which show the diverse 28 programs of study in this College and provide Web, e-mail and toll-free phone referrals for more information. If you would like a few of these cards please send an e-mail to phorton2@unl.edu with your name, address and number of cards you would like.

2. Historical Documents on the CASNR Web Site

Several agricultural documents from turn of the 20th century have been scanned and made available on the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Web site. Some of these have been provided by alumni wishing to share their historical publications. There is a 1903 issue of *Agriculture*, a monthly publication by Agricultural students; a 1913 publication entitled *Agricultural Education*, with pictures of the “University Farm Campus” buildings and grounds; the 1914 publication “What an Agricultural Education Means to You;” and the “1932 Alumni Directory.” These publications can be found at <http://casnr.unl.edu/history>.

If you have College historical information that we could post, please let us know. If we do not have that information we will scan your document and post it to the Web site. In the process, we will return your document with a CD copy of it that you can keep with your personal or family history. Questions may be directed to Billie Lefholtz, Alumni Relations Director, at blefholtz1@unl.edu. Documents may be sent to Billie Lefholtz, 103 Agricultural Hall, P.O. Box 830702, Lincoln, NE 68583-0702.

3. CASNR Online Degree Completion Program

by Sam Larson, Extended Education and Outreach

CASNR Offers Distance Programs to Students around the World

Many students around the world are not able to come to UNL's East Campus to take courses and work with professors. For those students CASNR offers online courses and credit degree programs and certificates. CASNR student enrollment in distance course offerings increased almost 30% from Fall 07 to Fall 08.

The latest effort to reach out to students at the undergraduate level is an online degree completion program entitled the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science which 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.

Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss, an Associate Professor of Entomology, stated, "I'm excited about UNL taking the initiative to launch a degree completion program at the bachelor's level. It is a wonderful addition to what the University has to offer and will be a valuable option for people both inside and outside Nebraska."

The degree is unique in that it allows its students flexibility in their course selection. This flexibility then leads to students customizing their learning experience and pursuing one of four concentration areas. The concentration areas include Food/Animal/Plant Science Systems, Genetics/Biotechnology/Biosecurity, Natural Science and Energy Systems, and Leadership/Entrepreneurship/Economics.

The Bachelor of Science in Applied Science is offered through a partnership between The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) and The Office of Extended Education & Outreach (EE&O). UNL is now accepting applications for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science. For more information about the online degree completion option, visit us online at <http://onlineundergraduate.unl.edu/bsas/>

4. CASNR Alumni Association Annual Football Reunion and Silent Auction

We have received an allocation of tickets for the **Arkansas State game September 12** and will hold our annual CASNR Football Reunion and Silent Auction benefit on that date. Participation in the reunion last fall was good and your Board of Directors and other members and donors gathered a great variety of silent auction items which generated \$6000 for student scholarships. Each year raises the bar a little higher.

Current members of the CASNR Alumni Association **can register now** for the reunion by going to <http://casnr.unl.edu/2009footballreunion>. From there members can pay by credit card online or download the form and mail it with your check. Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis but registration for the reunion meal and program is unlimited. Not a member? Membership in the Association at \$20 is available at <http://casnr.unl.edu> under “Alumni, Friends, Donors.”

Members were contacted first by e-mail for those who have addresses on file. Registration forms have now been sent to members in the mail. If you need to update your e-mail or street address go to <http://casnr.unl.edu>, click “Alumni, Friends, Donors” then select “Address Update Form.”

If you or your employer have an item to donate for the auction please let us know as soon as possible. Last year we had 35 items ranging from gift baskets of snack food and a coach-signed football to 30 tons of Sweet Bran provided by Cargill and delivered within a 300-mile radius of Blair. There was something for everyone and the result was a good boost to scholarships in the name of our CASNR Alumni Association. Especially useful are items that can be carried to a car, can be represented by a certificate or shipped by the donor since most buyers go to the stadium from the auction. Please register auction items with Paul Horton at phorton2@unl.edu.

5. Mechanized Systems Management – Alumnus Profile



by Wayne Choat, from *Newsletter of Achievement*, Issue 4, Volume 1, Department of Biological Systems Engineering, August 2008

Since the time I graduated from college in 1993, I have recommended The Mechanized Systems Management major to several aspiring college students. This recommendation is based upon my experience going through the program, what I have accomplished since graduation, and seeing the different careers that my college friends are now pursuing. I have no doubt that Mechanized Systems Management develops a solid foundation to build many different career paths for a young person's future.

Admittedly, when I started college, I was undecided in what I wanted to pursue. Coming from the farm, I had a strong agricultural background, a keen interest in design, machinery, and "how things work." I also was interested in agronomics, animal husbandry, and finance. Given my interests, I knew that I wanted to remain agriculture-focused in my educational pursuit, but wasn't certain how I was going to package those interests into one major. Then I discovered Mechanized Systems Management.

Mechanized Systems Management offered me the technical classes, such as hydraulics, engines, electricity and machinery management, that fed my interests in the machine and design arenas.

In addition, I was also able to pursue opportunities and interests in animal science, agronomy and business classes that I felt would round out my needs to step into an agricultural career. The unexpected bonus from this major (albeit stressful at the time) was the heavy emphasis placed upon written and oral communication. All technical classes aside, communication skills have been, hands down, the most valuable asset gained from my college career. More at <http://bse.unl.edu/newsletters/August2008.pdf> Page 9.

Mechanized Systems Management – Alumni Updates

Dan Meier, 2005 B.S., MSYM, is a Production Supervisor with Cargill, Inc. in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dan has been accepted to serve a three-year term on the CASNR Alumni Association Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2009.

Mark Major, 2003 M.S., MSYM, moved his career to Montana State University Extension in Teton County in January, 2007. Now living in Choteau, he and his family are up against the Rocky Mountain front and they love the land. Mark reports that he still waves a large Nebraska flag in his office!

Steve Weier, 1998 B.S., 2003 M.S., MSYM, is the General Pilot Plant Manager for the UNL Food Processing Center. He and his wife Carissa recently added a second daughter to their family.

6. Salute to Graduates Grows

The May 8, 2009 Salute to Graduates was the largest since the personalized College graduation ceremony began in 2005. One hundred thirty graduates and students completing their first two years of the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine chose to participate in the Friday afternoon program. The result was some 750 people attending the event, with family, friends and faculty joining graduates in the East Campus Student Union.

The 'Salute' is sponsored by the CASNR Alumni Association and the College. Each student completes a brief form that asks them to state their greatest achievements in college and their future plans. This information is read to the audience while each student is on the stage with the vice chancellor, dean, department head and CASNR alumni association representative. Several photos are taken for posting on the CASNR Web site and for use by the student's home town newspaper. Individual photos of May 8 'Salute' participants can be seen at <http://casnr.unl.edu/spring2009salutephotos>. Following this eighth 'Salute', 576 graduates or 55 percent have participated in the ceremony, bringing an audience of nearly 3,000 people to attend.

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

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College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, 103 Agricultural Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0702. 402-472-3936. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.