

Spring 2017 Academic Notes

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CASNR Week

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources celebrates CASNR Week April 8-15. The 17th annual event recognizes the successes of all CASNR students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Date	Event	Location	Time
Saturday, April 8	Fun Run	East Campus	9:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 9	CASNR Week Banquet	Nebraska Union, City Campus	5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 10	CASNR Education Abroad Leaders Luncheon	Nebraska East Union	Noon - 12:50 p.m.
	Nebraska Community Blood Bank Blood Drive	Mobile Unit East Campus Mall	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
	HRTM Cookie Bakeoff	Rec & Wellness Center	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11	Lunch on the Lawn	Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
	Community Night	Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 12	Club Advisor Luncheon	Nebraska East Union	Noon - 12:50 p.m.
Thursday, April 13	Ron & Marilyn Hanson TA Luncheon	Nebraska East Union	Noon - 12:50 p.m.
Friday, April 14	University of Nebraska Rodeo, University of Nebraska Rodeo Association	Lancaster Event Center	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 15	University of Nebraska Rodeo, University of Nebraska Rodeo Association	Lancaster Event Center	1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Holling Award Ceremony

The Holling Family Teaching Excellence Awards for Agriculture and Natural Resources were established to celebrate imaginative educational programming and innovations in IANR or NCTA educational programs. Please join us for the award ceremony on Tuesday, March 14 from 4 - 5 PM in the Nebraska East Union. The 2017 Holling Family Teaching Awards will be presented to:

Senior Faculty Award

Roger Hoy, Biological Systems Engineering
Larkin Powell, School of Natural Resources
Dennis Ferraro, School of Natural Resources

Junior Faculty Award

Jenny Dauer, School of Natural Resources
Leah Sandall, Agronomy and Horticulture

Teaching Assistant Award

Braymond Adams, School of Natural Resources

UPCOMING EVENTS

Burr/Fedde and Friends Reunion

Join us on Saturday, June 10, 2017 for the Burr/Fedde and Friends Reunion to experience Burr and Fedde Halls one last time, get a sneak peek of the East Campus Residence Hall and connect with friends!

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

- 8:00 AM Registration and breakfast begins, Nebraska East Union
- 9:00 AM UNL East Campus tours
- Noon Lunch featuring Valentino's, Nebraska East Union
- 2:00 PM UNL City Campus Experience
- 4:30 PM Social Hour, Cornhusker Hotel
- 6:00 PM Kickin' Back 50's Style dinner and celebration, Cornhusker Hotel

Husker attire is suitable for all activities/meals. To purchase a ticket, visit go.unl.edu/bffunl. Questions? Contact Meg Kester (meg.kester@unl.edu) or Jill Brown (jbrown14@unl.edu).

CASNR Highlights:

- We celebrated our 23,560th graduate in December 2016.
- Undergraduate student enrollment for Spring 2017 was up 2.0% from Spring 2016.
- Graduate student enrollment has steadily increased over the past 5 years with a five-year high of 692 students enrolled for Fall 2016. Enrollment for Spring 2017 was up 1.7% from Spring 2016.
- The College's average retention rate over the last 10 years is 85% (72% national average), the 10-year average graduation rate is 76% and our graduates have the highest entry placement among all UNL colleges.
- Donor-supported CASNR scholarships and grants totaled over \$2.0 million for the 2015-2016 academic year. CASNR graduates reported the lowest median debt (\$18,606) among all colleges for undergraduate students completing their degree program at UNL.
- Recruitment activities are going well. Total Applications are up 12.3%, Admitted Students are up 19.3% and Enrollment Deposits are up 6.3% compared to last year (February 23, 2017). Freshmen applications for Fall 2017 were at 989, which was an increase of 229 from 2016; the number of freshmen admitted was up 125 compared to 2016 and enrollment deposits were tracking similar to 2016. The number of transfer students admitted to the College is up 14 students from 2016 and enrollment deposits are at 27, which is an increase of 18 compared to 2016. Since not all of the admitted students have paid enrollment deposits, they are likely still deciding. Your support in engaging prospective students is important. Research shows that nothing can match the personal relationships between representatives from the degree programs and a prospective student.

FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

UNL's core values and beliefs states "Our commitment to diversity and inclusion requires each of us to continuously ensure our interactions be respectful, protect free speech and inspire academic freedom committed to diversity and inclusivity". In his first IANR all hands meeting, Vice Chancellor Boehm stressed the importance of bringing together our differences to positively impact the world. As faculty and staff in CASNR, we have a responsibility to encourage positive civic engagement, and help our students develop into effective citizens that treat each other with respect. The question is how? In a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education, the authors of a book entitled "Citizenship Across the Curriculum" identify traits that post-secondary educators can emphasize in their teaching in this regard. These include having a multidisciplinary knowledge-base, ability to empathize with others' situations and perspectives, and a willingness and ability to participate in political processes.

We have a responsibility and an opportunity to expand our course learning outcomes beyond our subject matter content. While the content may not always seem aligned, there are a number of pedagogical approaches that provide multiple pathways to learning and opportunities for our students to develop cross-cultural competence and prepare them to be global problem-solvers and innovators. The power of inclusion lies in how we as educators embrace diversity and incorporate inclusive pedagogical approaches to enrich the learning environment for all learners. The way we educate is as important as what we teach as we mentor our students to become what they will be.

As part of our on-going commitment to support faculty and staff who teach and mentor our students, the CASNR Dean's Office has provided each unit with the copy of "Citizenship Across the Curriculum" which provides examples from various disciplines.

Graduate Student Pathways

The growth of graduate programs plays an important part in Chancellor Green's enrollment goals. We encourage units to be creative in recruiting students by connecting the graduate degree to perhaps non-traditional career pathways in industry or other realms outside the academy. Some references for re-thinking career pathways for graduate students include:

- From the Council of Graduate Schools
<http://www.pathwaysreport.org/>
<http://www.fgereport.org/>
- From the National Institutes of Health
<https://acd.od.nih.gov/bwf.htm>

In addition, the Council of Graduate Schools has published a report entitled "Understanding PhD Career Pathways for Program Improvement." This report reviews what is currently known about career pathways outside the academy, as well as details the gaps in the knowledge about how well graduate programs are preparing students for these careers. If you would like a copy of this report, please contact Erin Blankenship (erin.blankenship@unl.edu).

FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

Ease into Canvas

Message from Terry Workman (tworkman2@unl.edu, 402-472-0977): The migration from Blackboard to Canvas is moving right along. Information Technology (IT) is the primary training team for the migration. My role as an Instructional Design Technology Specialist is to support the IT training and to offer additional help with pedagogy. If you would like additional information concerning online training and/or face-to-face training, go to the following URL: <https://my.unl.edu>. This link will give you the option to log into to Canvas or Blackboard. Under the Canvas option you will see a link "Learn More". Clicking on the link will take you to a page that contains the timeline and additional links for online training and face-to-face training. If a unit would like additional face-to-face training, please contact Leona Barret (lbarret1@unl.edu or 402-6163) to arrange a face-to-face training session. As always, I am also ready to assist with whatever help you need for both Blackboard and Canvas.

CASNR Student Advisory Board

The CASNR Student Advisory Board is the official Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) approved liaison among the students of the College, the Dean, and the Faculty. The current officers are:

- Cody Kuester, President - Agricultural Economics
- Morgan Zumpfe, Vice President - Agricultural Economics
- Emily Long, Treasurer - Agricultural Journalism (Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Communication)
- Jordan Busboom, Secretary - Agronomy

The Board consists of 20 undergraduate students in CASNR and both ASUN Senators from CASNR with 10 members elected each year with a two year term from the following divisions.

1. Division 1 (Two representatives per election)
Agricultural Economics
Agribusiness
Agricultural Education
2. Division 2 (Two representatives per election)
Agronomy
Applied Science
Grazing Livestock Systems
Horticulture
Professional Golf Management
Turfgrass and Landscape Management
3. Division 3 (Two representatives per election)
Animal Science
Pre-Veterinary Medicine
Veterinary Science
Veterinary Technology

ACADEMIC UPDATE

SCIL 101 Update for Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

The learning goals for SCIL 101 are focused on student skills and practices that would serve the thirty degree programs in the college. In the course, complex socioscientific issues relevant to Nebraska are the medium for students to practice science-informed decision-making, media literacy and systems-thinking.

Fall 2016

Instructors: Jenny Dauer, Brandi Sigmon, Elizabeth Van Wormer, Dennis Ferraro, Cory Forbes

Learning Assistants (graduate students, undergraduates, post-docs & research faculty): Alisha Grams, Rhaisa Crespo, Megan Pamperin, Salvador Ramirez, Mike Meier, Citlally Jimenez, Alivia Michalski, Melinda Yerka, Tasos Mazis, Daniel Carv, Raquel Rocha, Lisa Keys, Diane Lally, McKinzie Peterson, Nikita Gambler, Destini Pettit, Morgan Tranmer.

Enrollment: 478 across 4 lecture sections

Issues discussed during the semester:

- Should we conserve prairie dogs and prairie dog habitat?
- How do we eliminate food insecurity in the U.S.?
- How do we best fuel the transportation sector, and what role should biofuels play?
- How do we best conserve water use in Nebraska, should we further limit irrigation?

Final Poster Session

Final posters were shown on Thursday, December 8th, 2016 in the first and second floor lobbies of Hardin Hall. There were 25 individuals who volunteered to be poster judges. Poster judges frequently comment on how well-prepared students are to talk about their issue. Topics that the students' chose were wide-ranging. The best poster from each recitation section was chosen to hang in the C. Y. Thompson Library at the beginning of Spring 2017 semester and included topics such as: How should we manage or limit soil nutrient depletion and runoff? How can landowners most effectively manage eastern red cedar? Steak on steroids: Good or bad? How do we best manage house mice in individual households? What can NE do to utilize more of its wind power capabilities? How do we reduce the spread of HIV in heroin users? What is the best way to perform safety testing on pharmaceuticals and cosmetics? Should we require vaccinations for children?

Spring 2017

Instructor: Jenny Dauer

Learning Assistants (graduate students & undergraduates): Alisha Grams, Rhaisa Crespo, Megan Pamperin, Salvador Ramirez, Citlally Jimenez, Danielle Galvin, Christine Ruskamp, Alex Stocker.

Enrollment: 120 in 1 lecture section

Issues discussed during the semester:

- Should we conserve prairie dogs and prairie dog habitat?
- How do we best fuel the transportation sector, and what role should biofuels play?
- How do we best conserve water use in Nebraska, should we further limit irrigation?

ACADEMIC UPDATE

Poster session: We will hold a poster session on Thursday, April 27th from 8:00 am till 9:15 am. All are welcome to attend. If you'd like to volunteer to judge posters, please email jenny.dauer@unl.edu.

On-going data collection

Using student outcomes from SCIL 101, Dr. Dauer and her research team are examining how using decision-making structures affects student thinking about socio-scientific issues. The following qualitative and quantitative data are being collected and analyzed each semester:

- Qualitative data on students' decision-making processes about each issue
- Quantitative data on students' support for various options for solving each problem before and after the class
- Pre and post changes of students civic engagement attitudes and skills
- Pre and post changes of students' library use self-efficacy
- Pre and post changes of students' socioscientific reasoning skills (skepticism, inquiry, complexity and perspective-taking)

Responding to student feedback

Some students seem less interested in the prairie dog issue than the other issues. We initially picked the issue as a contentious wildlife issue in NE (see <http://bit.ly/2kRHME9>) and because it is a good case study where common conservation tensions among agriculture, biodiversity, economics, culture and ethics play out. However, we have always intended for all of the topics in the course to be "modular" and the instructor teams hope to develop more modules that can be substituted in and out each semester.

Get involved

Learning Assistants are needed for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. Additionally, we welcome volunteers to judge posters every semester. For more information, please visit: <http://casnr.unl.edu/science-literacy-101>

CIEQ

This past fall semester, all CIEQs were distributed electronically. The usual CIEQ "cover sheets" were recently returned to unit CIEQ administrators. If you haven't received yours, contact the CIEQ administrator in your unit. Raw data and comments may be accessed at crseval.unl.edu, and the login information is the my.unl.edu credentials. CIEQs will continue to be distributed online this spring semester. Course evaluations will be made available to students on Monday, April 17 and will remain open until the end of finals week. More information about the CIEQ, including tips on increasing response rate, may be found at: <http://casnr.unl.edu/>.

ACADEMIC UPDATE



AG*IDEA/GPIDEA Update

CASNR greatly appreciates your ongoing commitment to online education through GPIDEA/AG*IDEA. Through our membership in the AG*IDEA/GPIDEA consortium, we are able to offer students access to important educational programs we know are of great value and only possible through collaboration with other member institutions.

As the number of these programs grows, it's important to consider related course offerings and enrollment policies. To clarify CASNR's course-share policy, all of our agreements with GPIDEA/AG*IDEA have limited our 'course share' to courses approved as part of the original curriculum proposal. This precludes adding additional UNL courses that can be accessed through Online Worldwide for the broader GPIDEA/AG*IDEA course share. However, it does not restrict our students from taking these courses offered by other member institutions, as appropriate.

For complete information about our policies for course offering and enrollment for GPIDEA/AG*IDEA programming, please visit http://casnr.unl.edu/AGIDEA_GPIDEA%20ENROLLMENT%20AND%20COURSE%20OFFERING%20POLICY.pdf. If you have questions about the College's AG*IDEA/GPIDEA programming, please don't hesitate to contact Diane Wasser, GPIDEA/AG*IDEA Campus Coordinator and CASNR Online Student Services Specialist.

Classroom Preparedness

We encourage all faculty before the start of the semester to visit the room(s) that will be used for their classes. Even if you are using the same room as last year, it is a good idea to see if any of the physical aspects or technical equipment have changed. It is also suggested that you start up the computer and make sure that you can fully utilize the system in a manner compatible with your teaching style and access your instructional materials. If this is the first time you are teaching in this room, please contact the staff person in charge of Emergency Planning for the building and make sure you understand the emergency exit routes and where to shelter in case of tornado warnings.

First Day of Class: On the first day of class, you should make it clear to students how to access the course syllabus and schedule. You should then take the time to highlight or review instructor and TA contact information, Academic Honesty Statement and the program's appeal process, and the Emergency Procedures for the classroom.

