

ACADEMIC NOTES  
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources  
October 2007

**New UNL Syllabus Policy**

A new syllabus policy was approved in Spring 2007. All courses must have a syllabus and all syllabi must include specific information about the instructor, course requirements, grading policy and schedule for examinations. This policy may be found at <http://www.unl.edu/asenate/syllabuspolicy.pdf>. In addition, the syllabus must include the following language: *“Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3737 voice or TTY.”*

**Undergraduate Recruitment**

This Fall, CASNR had the largest enrollment increase in the last three decades. With an 11.7% increase in undergraduate enrollment, CASNR also had the largest increase (152 students) of any college at UNL. This increase contributed to an overall UNL undergraduate enrollment increase of 3.9 % (18,053 students). This is also the third consecutive year CASNR has had an increase in enrollment. Key enrollment highlights include:

- First-time student enrollment increased from 239 to 289 (21%).
- The degree programs with the largest class of new freshman were: Animal Science (57), Professional Golf Management (33), Agribusiness (30), Biochemistry (25) and Fisheries & Wildlife (20).
- New transfer students increased 20% from 65 to 78.
- The top five degree programs based on CASNR enrollment are: Animal Science (231), Agribusiness (134), Professional Golf Management (134), Fisheries and Wildlife (127) and Biochemistry (122).

Congratulations and thank you to all students, staff, and faculty who are involved in undergraduate recruitment in the college. Your efforts and commitment to our future students are greatly appreciated.

**CASNR Adopts Bachelor Candidacy Status**

The CASNR Curriculum Committee along with the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) established the Bachelor Candidacy Status for students entering our college for the Fall of 2007. This endeavor provides students with a road map of academic success, ensures students move through their academic experiences on logical, developmental paths that allow them to maximize the educational impact of the curricula, and to decrease the number of graduating seniors that must complete core requirements during their final semesters at UNL. A comprehensive review of the Bachelor Candidacy Status can be found on page 38 of the 2007-08 Undergraduate Bulletin. The candidacy status will be the first item listed in the DARS report for students who are under the 2007-08 bulletin.

### **Professor of Practice**

The Professor of Practice track for non-tenured faculty was approved by the Board of Regents in November 2006 and added to the IANR bylaws in Spring 2007. It is expected that Senior Lecturers may apply for transfer to these positions (at either Asst., Assoc. or Full levels). For Departments anticipating such a transfer, they should request the College to apply for a waiver to permit the 'hire'. Departments will be required to provide the normal documentation about how the hiring decision was made.

### **eARFA is Due**

Faculty should understand that there are actually two due dates for the eARFA. All CASNR-related information is due in September. This includes teaching, committee assignments like Curriculum Committee, Teaching and Learning Improvement Council, Faculty Advisory Council, etc. All education grants should also be input at this time. Faculty should also list students receiving UCARE grants in their eARFA. Such information is important in generating a full picture of the educational efforts of CASNR units. The second date is **November 1** when the entire eARFA must be submitted. Failure to submit an eARFA or include teaching or grants has a negative impact on Unit Planning statistics for the unit and may negatively impact allocation of resources.

### **Distance Education**

CASNR distance education continues to grow. There are currently 33 students in the Master of Agriculture and 73 in the Master of Entomology on-line degree programs. Drs. Dave Gosselin (CASNR) and Ron Bonstetter (CEHS) were recently successful in obtaining a large grant from the Toyota USA Foundation to develop science and math courses for K-12 teachers; courses will be developed and added to the curriculum over the next several years. Additionally, UNL is interested in initiating an on-line B.S. completion degree for students with an Associate Degree or the equivalent of two years of undergraduate study. CASNR is currently working on initiating a B.S. in Public Science to support this on-line degree completion program. This would give students broad training in science and its applications, rather than in-depth training in a single discipline. Faculty interested in converting a 300- or 400-level course to distance format to support a Public Science degree should contact John Markwell.

CASNR has started national marketing of its on-line programs. At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, revenue from tuition is only returned to the College and Department for credits taken by out-of-state students. For every three-credit course taken by an out-of-state student in the M. of Ag. Program, \$547.50 is returned to CASNR; 25% is used for marketing and 75% of the total is returned to the Department to support distance programs and new course development.

### **CASNR Reclaims Retention Title**

This fall, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources reclaimed the retention percentage top spot among all colleges at UNL. The students who were in CASNR in the fall of 2006 were still registered in the fall of 2007. In fact, 90.1 % of the students were retained from the fall of 2006 to the fall of 2007-- the highest retention rate

at UNL. Not only have recruitment efforts paid huge dividends for our college, but we are retaining our students as well. Faculty advising, coupled with the innovative CASNR Cares Program, have pushed us to the top retention rate at UNL. Congratulations to every person who interacts with CASNR students while they explore the science of life and pursue careers in the exciting world of agriculture and natural resources!

### **Special Fees for Classes**

If you have recently requested approval for a special fee for a laboratory or other class for the 08-09 academic year, be sure that this fee is added to the Fall 08 and Spring 09 drafts of the Schedule of Classes, even though it may not yet be approved. Failure to add this information, especially for the Fall semester, makes it difficult to collect the fee.

### **Justin Morrill Scholars Fall 2007 Update:**

On November 10-13, Ed Harvey, Dean Waller, and four undergraduate student representatives of the Justin Smith Morrill (JSM) Scholars Program, along with representatives from the Justin Smith Morrill Homestead in Strafford, Vermont will staff an information/education booth at the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. The purpose of the booth and our attendance at the meeting is to promote the UNL JSM Scholars program and to encourage the creation of similar programs on other land-grant campuses. We also hope to assist the Morrill Homestead with their new fund-raising program which seeks to encourage university memberships designed to encourage greater use of the Homestead by land-grant universities as a student/faculty resource. The four students attending are Tami Cullen, Kat Farris, Amy Kastanek and Alicia Rogers.

The Justin Morrill Scholars spring awards banquet will be held on Saturday, January 26 in the East Campus Union. There will be a reception at 11:30 am, followed by lunch at noon and a presentation around 12:45 pm by invited guest speaker Mr. Coy F. Cross II, author of the book entitled "Justin Smith Morrill - Father of the Land-Grant Colleges". Mr. Cross will be speaking on the life of Justin Morrill, and the process of researching the Morrill biography.

### **New Degree Programs**

Two new degree programs were approved in May of this year. They are Food Technology for Companion Animals and Forensic Science. Unfortunately, the program approval was too late for students to apply for admission to UNL and enroll in these programs. In spite of this, Forensic Science shows signs of being a very popular degree program, with twenty-five students already transferring into the program. For more information about these programs contact David Carter (Forensic Science), or Randy Wehling and Lisa Karr-Lilienthal (Food Technology for Companion Animals).

### ***On-Campus Interviews – Too Convenient to Pass Up!***

Recruiting season is upon us and on-campus interviewing is an important and easy way for CASNR students to obtain internships and full-time job opportunities. Most employers make all of their hiring decisions for the year between October and December,

so students really need to take advantage of the convenience of on-campus interviewing this fall.

As CASNR faculty and staff, it would be greatly appreciated if you would inform your students about on-campus interviews and encourage them to sign up. In order to be eligible for on-campus interviews, students must be subscribed to Husker Hire Link. Students can sign up at no cost by going online to [www.unl.edu/careers/hhl](http://www.unl.edu/careers/hhl).

This web-based system is the link between employers and students. Through Husker Hire Link, students not only participate in campus interviews but may also post their resume on line and access many jobs and internship opportunities. We have already conducted well over 100 on-campus interviews this fall, and several companies will be coming soon. Weekly emails will be sent when deadlines are approaching. Communication is the key to informing students of the advantages of using Husker Hire Link. As faculty and staff in CASNR, please spread the word to make students aware of the benefits of using Career Services. If you have further questions, please contact Jill at the Career Services Office on East Campus at 472-8273 or [jbrown14@unl.edu](mailto:jbrown14@unl.edu)

#### ***CASNR Career Fair Continues to Draw New Employers***

The CASNR Career Fair was held on Thursday, October 4, 2007 in the East Campus Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Representatives from 57 organizations were available to talk with the over 400 students in attendance about internships and full-time positions. New employers that came to the career fair included: AgCareers.com, AgReliant Genetics LLC, Cabela's, DTN, Gallup Organization, and Stock Realty & Auction Company.

#### ***First Annual Natural Resources Career Information Night***

The first annual Natural Resources Career Information Night was held on October 10, 2007 in Hardin Hall. The event was well received by the six organizations and the 52 students and faculty in attendance. Those organizations attending were: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Association of Resource Districts, UNL Peace Corp, WasteCap, National Parks, and Natural Resource Conservation Districts.

#### **Study Abroad**

Please let CASNR students know that there are many opportunities for Study Abroad and that scholarships are available. The web site with much of the information can be found at (<http://casnr.unl.edu/CurrentStudents/StudyAbroad/Opportunities>). Plans include:

- Winter break 07-08 Group Study in Tasmania (15 days) or New Zealand (18 days)
- Spring semester 08 study in Mexico, Canada or Russia
- Spring break 08 Puerto Rico (12 days) or Argentina
- Summer semester 08 in Mexico or Canada
- Summer 08 Group Study in France (2 weeks)
- Fall 08 study in Norway, Mexico or Canada

Faculty or students with an interest in participating in the Study Abroad program should contact Dr. Arlen Etling.

### **Report on Joint Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine**

The inaugural class of the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine began their studies in August 2007. The Class of 2011 is made up of 25 Nebraska residents, 17 female and 8 male. The students come to UNL from all over Nebraska including Chadron, Crawford, Lexington, Papillion and everywhere in-between. Over the past several months the class has been working hard at keeping communication open with their counterparts at Iowa State University. Not only do they utilize video teleconferencing for seminars and meetings, but the students also coordinate trips to visit ISU and have ISU students visit UNL. Maintaining the cohesiveness and unity of the extended class is a high priority for the students and the program. Mid-terms have gone well and the students are learning to deal with the stress of Veterinary School. Seven new faculty members have been hired for the program; they include – John Kammermann (Anatomy), Douglas Hostetler (Coordinator for Student Affairs), Todd Georgi (Histology), Gustavo Delhon (Histology), Jim Keen (Epidemiology), Gary Pickard (Neurobiology), and Patty Sollars (Neurobiology). We have also hired Ms. Andi Hallberg to provide administrative support to the program and we currently have a national search underway for a Parasitology/Entomology position. Thus far the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine has been an enormous success and the admission process is already under way for the Class of 2012.

### **Salute to Graduates**

The reception for graduates and their families continues to grow in popularity. Each graduate has the opportunity to appear on-stage while their personal comments about the CASNR experience are read. The graduates then receive formal congratulations and a membership in the CASNR Alumni Foundation. The Salute for Fall Graduates will be on December 21 at 4 p.m. All faculty and staff are welcome.

### **Update on PEARL Assessment**

The PEARL assessment system continues to become more widely accepted in CASNR programs. Of the fifteen CASNR units in the 06-07 cycle, Ag Educ Teaching, Ag Journ, Agro & Hort, BioChem, Diversified Ag, Prof Golf Mgmt, VetSci and Insect Sci completed assessment and provided reports. The Entomology and School of Natural Resources M.S. and Ph.D. programs have begun assessment using PEARL and we expect that more graduate programs will be added next year. Two new Peer Reviewers are being added from CASNR, Mike Zeece and Madhavan Soundararajan. **Program leaders are to input their 07-08 assessment plans by November 2.** A major project for the PEARL team this year will be to have the PEARL software system rewritten in a different computer language to provide better ability to generate automatic reporting. CASNR is grateful for the faculty serving as Program Leaders and Peer Reviewers for their contributions toward improving assessment of student learning.

### **Scholarships Update**

During the Spring of 2007, 895 academic scholarships were awarded to 611 students (48% of CASNR students) for the 2007-08 academic year. A total of over \$876,000 was

awarded for an average award of around \$1000 per student. For current students in CASNR, encourage your advisees to make application for Upperclass Scholarships by visiting the Scholarship and Financial Aid website at:

[http://www.unl.edu/scholf/upper\\_class.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/scholf/upper_class.shtml)

Students who complete the Upperclass Scholarship Application (beginning November 1) will be considered for future scholarships in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. As always, persuade your advisees to complete the latest Free Application for Free Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Federal, state, and university grant assistance programs, along with federal work-study and federal student loans, are based on this application. The Dean's Office also uses this information as an aid in awarded scholarships from CASNR.

### **R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund**

Back in 1943, Ralph Ballard Plummer established through his Last Will and Testament the R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund. It was Mr. Plummer's desire to assist students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources with financial support to continue and complete their baccalaureate program. As a result, CASNR is able to meet the needs of students who encounter financial hardships by providing low interest loans from the R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund. Students apply for an R B. Plummer Student Loan by completing an application (available in the CASNR Dean's Office) and making an appointment with Associate Dean Husmann. Once a student graduates, arrangements are made through the University of Nebraska Foundation to construct a repayment plan to complete the requirement of the student loan. Please make your students aware of the R. B. Plummer Student Loan Fund and have them visit the CASNR Dean's Office (103 Agricultural Hall) for more information.

### **East Campus Choir**

The dulcant tones of choral music are being heard on the East Campus for the first time since Dwight Eisenhower was president. The East Campus Choir is an assortment of students, faculty, staff and community members who meet in the Hardin Hall auditorium on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Some students register for credit, but most just come for the fun and fellowship. For more information, contact James Wilson (472-4470 or jameswils@gmail.com)

### **Classical Music on East Campus**

The College of Education and Human Sciences and CASNR are pleased to co-host a free evening of classical music and desserts at the East Campus Union on Wednesday, November 14 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Music will be provided by students in the UNL School of Music and will include performances by the Graduate Woodwind Quintet and the Junge Saxophone Quartet. Following the performances, the Culinology and Hospitality Club will present an assortment of desserts, coffee and punch. Whether you want to experience live classical music, poached pears with chocolate ganache, or just a cheap date, please plan on attending and getting the word out to East Campus students. All students, staff and faculty are welcome.

### **East Campus Visitors Center**

The UNL East Campus Visitors Center (ECVC), which opened in November of 2006, serves a variety of purposes. The facility is housed in the same area as the UNL Dairy Store (Food Industry Complex), and is the starting point for prospective students and their families who are visiting East Campus. The Visitors Center is also available for any campus visitor who needs directions or information about UNL or Lincoln. Additionally, the Visitors Center is working with a variety of departments to attract more people to East Campus. The ECVC is a stop on the new “Own Time, Any Time Tour” developed by the Agronomy & Horticulture department. This self-guided tour enables visitors to use their cell phones to access a series of recordings containing information about several East Campus points of interest: the Dairy Store, Maxwell Arboretum, Yeutter Garden, Fleming Slope, Flack Lilac Collection, and general East Campus information. The recordings, utilizing the UNL voicemail system, can be updated at any time, and can be customized for a specific target audience. The ECVC will also be a destination point for the soon-to-be-initiated “Healthy Families Play Outside” project, which is a nature “safari” activity designed to promote the importance of outdoor physical activity.