

THE SOWER ONLINE

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR)

Alumni Association

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1. Football Reunion Honors Maunder, Fleming, Provides Scholarships

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association held its annual football reunion on September 29 prior to the Iowa State game. The reunion brought 100 alumni and friends together in the Regency Suite of the Nebraska Union on City Campus for socializing, awards, food, a silent auction and football game.



Football Reunion attendees Ron Drey, Crystal Drey, Jennifer Boruch, Richard Boruch

The Association's new Henry Beachell Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Dr. Bruce Maunder of Lubbock, Texas. Born in Holdrege, Bruce received a bachelor's

degree in agriculture from UNL in 1956 and a master's and doctorate from Purdue. He dedicated 45 years to working in plant genetics and developed sorghum varieties that benefited food production and nutrition worldwide. He was honored for his professional achievement, service and research benefiting populations throughout the world.



Sheila O'Connor, CASNR Alumni Assn., Bruce Maunder, Steve Waller, CASNR Dean

The Association's Legacy Award was presented to Dr. Dick Fleming, professor emeritus in the department of Ag Leadership, Education and Communication. Dick retired from the university in 1996 after serving 40 years in UNL academic and administrative positions. He has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses. Dick was recognized for continuing the CASNR legacy with his passion for education, care and respect for every student and service to alumni, stakeholders and his profession.



Dick Fleming

The reunion's silent auction produced 30 items that raised over \$4800 for CASNR scholarships. The Association is grateful to the many generous donors and buyers that made this funding possible.

2. CASNR Tops List of Enrollment Increases

The fall semester of 2007 saw 152 new students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. This is an 11.7 percent increase in students over a year ago, the largest increase in the last three decades according to Dean Steve Waller. It's also the highest increase for any college at UNL. Waller and Laura Frey, College Relations Director, credit much of the recruiting success to the efforts of Nebraskans for Nebraska, an organization coordinated by Frey that brings together a number of agricultural and natural resources stakeholders to make citizens aware of the many diverse degree programs and exceptional educational opportunities of this college.

Refer a prospective student through Nebraskans for Nebraska at <http://casnr.unl.edu/AlumniFriendsDonorsExtension/NebraskansforNebraska>

3. Grazing Livestock Systems (GLS) Interns Make Symposium Presentations

by Pam Murray, Coordinator, Center for Grassland Studies

Each fall, students who conducted their GLS internship during the past year give a presentation at the GLS Internship Symposium. In the audience are GLS faculty, students, advisory board members, administrators – and sometimes, parents and even grandparents, as was the case this year when eight students described their varied experiences including:

- Assisting with the management of yearling cattle on irrigated pasture in western Wyoming;
- Invasive plant control on Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado;
- Touring and surveying beef cattle seed stock operations throughout the central and northern Great Plains;
- Revising and improving UNL's livestock budget worksheets;
- Assisting with the management of a cow-calf operation on introduced grass pasture in Florida;
- Being involved in the operations and management of a large, diverse Wyoming ranch (including irrigated cropland, irrigated pasture, private and public rangeland, and hay meadow);
- Conducting daily operations of a feedyard and planning the conversion of irrigated cropland to irrigated pasture (including partial budgeting);
- Conducting daily operations of a feedyard and touring several Nebraska feedyards focusing on ration development and environmental concerns.



Tony Klein, Tekamah, NE makes presentation at GLS Internship Symposium.

4. Professional Golf Management Program Celebrates More Firsts by Pam Murray, Coordinator, Center for Grassland Studies

On November 11, 16 UNL Professional Golf Management (PGM) program students along with family members, program personnel and national Professional Golfers Association Members gathered for a banquet at Wilderness Ridge Golf Club to celebrate the students' accomplishment of passing the Level 3 Checkpoint. This is a rigorous two-day testing procedure conducted by the PGA on the East Campus. Level 3 is the final step in the progression through the PGA's educational program, and one of the graduation requirements for PGA-accredited university PGM programs. In March 2006 these students were part of the first group in any PGA/PGM program in the U.S. to have 100 percent of those who attempted a Checkpoint (Level 1 that time) pass it. Most of the 16 students still have some requirements to fulfill including completion of 16 months of full-time internships. The first PGM students will receive their B.S. in Professional Golf Management from UNL next month.



Nick Muller, the very first student to inquire about becoming a PGM student, gets a handshake from PGM Director Dr. Terry Riordan at the banquet celebrating completion of the third and final level of the PGA's educational program.



These 16 PGM students are exhausted but smiling - Just hours before they had passed the final PGA testing procedure that allows them to move toward UNL graduation.

5. MEET an ENTOMOLOGY DISTANCE STUDENT



Jackson Green Mosley - recent graduate of Entomology's Distance MS program. I'm a native of East Stroudsburg, PA. Our family with six children moved to the rural community of Hardee County, FL, where the term entomology still requires some explanation for most people. I have always enjoyed nature and would find ways to explore the natural world around me. This began as a child living in the Pocono's and progressed throughout my teen years in Florida. As a high school and college football player, I was easily distracted by the gathering hordes of insects at the stadium lights. I do know this much; trying to keep an insect in your football tights during a game is not a recommended method of collecting insects. It seemed the most interesting specimen would fly just out of reach in the field of play and never close to me when I was sitting on the sidelines.

Presently, I'm employed with the Florida Park Service of the Department of Environmental Protection. I want to use my M.S. degree to continue monitoring insect populations in the parks. I will also continue to interpret insects in schools and the community. I have a wonderful family. My wife Sheryl is an educator with an M.S. degree, and I have two tremendous children, Katrice and Jackson Jr. They both are smarter kids and better athletes than I could have ever been. It would take a few more paragraphs to discuss each of my six siblings and parents. They all are important to me too.

My experiences in UNL's distance education program proved to be challenging and rewarding. I really valued the diversity in course selection in the distance program. I appreciate the hard work of everyone in the Entomology Department that helped make the program what it is today.

<http://entomology.unl.edu/hexapod/archives/sept07.pdf>

6. Chicago Itch Mite Outbreak Prompts National Media Attention for UNL Entomology

In mid-August, sudden, widespread outbreaks of mysterious, itchy, red bites affecting residents in the Chicago area prompted alarm, and action by local and state public health officials to investigate the cause. Local news media closely followed and reported the

developing story, which ultimately lead to national attention for the University of Nebraska through a health report on ABC's "Good Morning America" program.



Jim Kalisch examining traps from Chicago

Thanks to accessibility of information from University of Nebraska websites and press releases, suspicions were directed to a microscopic "itch mite", and Jim Kalisch, Extension Technologist at the UNL Department of Entomology, was promptly contacted. Jim had recent experience in researching the itch mite, *Pyemotes herfsi*, which produced similar outbreaks in southeast Nebraska and in Kansas in 2004-5. In Lincoln, he discovered that they were mainly sourcing from insect galls in mature pin oak trees. These mites are predators of small insects, but they have a nasty habit of biting people when they are abundant, deprived of food and hungry!

Jim Kalisch was inundated for days with calls from public health officials, different media sources, physicians and Chicago-area residents asking him about the mite. Samples from several communities in the Chicago area were immediately shipped to Jim, and his lab confirmed that *Pyemotes* itch mites were present. The ABC broadcast about the bites used five images from the Entomology Department with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln being credited on each of the pictures. By the end of August, Illinois entomologist, Ed Zaborski, discovered that the itch mites were in fact, *Pyemotes herfsi*, and had developed on periodical cicada eggs embedded in twigs of various trees during a massive cicada emergence last June.

What great publicity for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and opportunity to serve neighboring states!!

<http://entomology.unl.edu/hexapod/archives/sept07.pdf>

7. Entomology Linnaean Team to Defend National Title

The Entomology Linnaean Team has the answers when it comes to our 6-and 8-legged friends. Entomology graduate students playing in the Entomological Society of America Linnaean Games have been a regional and national powerhouse for the last two years.

Named after Carolus Linnaeus, the founder of the binomial system of nomenclature and the originator of the modern system of scientific classification of plants and animals, the Linnaean Games are a college bowl-style competition on entomological facts played between university-sponsored student teams. Toss-up questions cover knowledge about Apiculture, Biological Control, Ecology, Economic Entomology, Medical and Veterinary Entomology, Physiology and Biochemistry, Taxonomy and Toxicology. Bonus questions can come from any area of entomology including history and people.

In 2006, the UNL team was regional runner-up and earned a spot at the national games where they took first place playing against teams from Virginia Tech University, North Carolina State University, and Oklahoma State University to win the National Championship of the Linnaean Games at the annual Entomological Society of America meeting. The winning team members are Nick Aliano, Matt Brust, Andre Crespo, Mike Fisher, and Tim Husen. Coaches are Drs. Ken Pruess and Bob Wright.

In March of 2007, the UNL Linnaean Team repeated as runner-up in the regional competition and earned the chance to defend their title as Linnaean Games Champions at the next Entomological Society of America Meeting in December at San Diego, CA.



<http://entomology.unl.edu/announce/linnaean.shtml>

8. Salute to Graduates to be held in East Campus Union December 21

Two years ago Dr. John Owens, NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Dr. Steve Waller, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, brought a new tradition to the College. The very first *Salute to Graduates* ceremony was held in December of 2005 with just over 40 percent of graduating seniors participating. Since then, ‘Salutes’ have been held for each December and May graduating class, with participation last May at 65 percent of CASNR graduating seniors.

Salute to Graduates is a very personal graduation ceremony to which parents, relatives, friends, faculty and staff of the College are invited. Graduates have completed a registration form that asks them to report their greatest achievements in college and their future plans. This information is read to the audience while each graduate is recognized on stage with the head of their department, the college dean, the college alumni association president and the vice chancellor. They are presented a certificate granting a one-year membership in the CASNR Alumni Association, a university pin and a copy of *Ag College Dreams*, a 30-minute video showcasing the rich history of their college.

The next ‘Salute’ will be on December 21 at 4:00 pm in the East Campus Union. The following morning, prior to general commencement, the CASNR Alumni Association will host Senior SendOff at 7:30 am in the Devaney Sports Center. This event provides a casual place for graduates and their families to gather, visit with faculty, enjoy coffee and rolls and hear a few farewell remarks.

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

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