



College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association

Watermeier Attributes Better Livelihood To CASNR Degrees, Experience

Like many college students today, Gene Watermeier entered college with one declared major. But that didn't last. He not only changed his major, but also picked up another. Unthinkable for nearly all college students today, Watermeier still managed to graduate in three years.

A member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln class of 1960 graduating with degrees in Agricultural Education and Agronomy, Watermeier asserts that his years at the university benefited him as a farmer and more importantly, improved the quality of his life.

"I don't think I'd have been as fulfilled had I not gone to college," Watermeier said. "Everyone has their own priorities. Education is one of those that helps you move ahead."

A college education wasn't necessarily something Watermeier planned on

after high school, though. Watermeier was content to work on his family farm until 1954 when he volunteered for the military, knowing he was about to be drafted.

Thanks to the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI Bill, Watermeier could seek education after his service and the military would pay.

"The GI Bill had a lot to do with my going to college," Watermeier said. "I didn't have to work summers to pay for classes. It just made sense."

While anticipating graduation with two degrees, Watermeier had a host of opportunities. "I had several offers to teach ag and several offers to go to grad school, but I wanted to farm."

During his last semester at the University, Watermeier began farming

Watermeier

Continued page 3



Gene Watermeier

Evans Studio

Ag Ed Club Develops Collegiality Through Service, National Involvement

"To support and help prepare individuals who plan on entering a career related to agricultural leadership, education, and communications through professional development. We also strive to serve communities with whom we interact."

This is the mission statement of the Agricultural Education (Ag Ed) club at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The club members are students in both the teaching and non-teaching Agricultural Education programs who strive to get more out of their time at UNL.

attended the North Central Regional Agricultural Education Undergraduate Conference at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Attending the conference helped prepare undergraduate students to become teachers. They attended interactive personal and professional development workshops while enjoying the Mizzou campus and meeting colleagues from other universities.

The Ag Ed club is more than just a group of students who share a common interest and degree program, it is a group of friends. The club enjoys fun activities together, it helps introduce students

Ag Ed Club

Continued page 2



Front row (L - R): Lloyd Bell, Cody Dvorak, Brent Nollette, Kurt Heideman, Brigham Scott

Back row (L - R): Pam Pohlmann, Paige Bek, Sarah Knutson, Melinda Rathman, Annie Doerr

"Being a member of the Ag Ed club allows me to make networks with other students in the Ag Ed degree program," Annie Doerr, Ag Ed club president, said. "Some day when I am a teacher, I will be able to contact them for help and to swap ideas."

Members of the Ag Ed club recently



Exciting Time For CASNR Family

Fellow Alumni,

This is an exciting time to be a part of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) family! Enrollment at the college is up, new exciting and innovative degree programs and options are available to CASNR students and the retention percentage (freshman to sophomore) is higher than any other college at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. In short, CASNR is moving ahead.

I know that as CASNR graduates we are proud of the quality of education we received at UNL and we all feel that CASNR has been a leader in many fields in education and research. We do not want that to change. Recent challenges, including reduced enrollment and spiking energy costs, have created budgetary concerns. But, due to the efforts of the many people in the CASNR family, we continue to move ahead. Recent trends indicate that we are definitely on the right track.

Both CASNR and the CASNR Alumni Association are fortunate to have an enthusiastic and energetic team in place to keep up our forward momentum. Dean Steven Waller has worked very hard for our college and the alumni association and has assembled a team that is really a “Class Act”. Paul Horton and Billie Lefholtz have the primary alumni duties with Ann Bruntz being our NU Foundation Representative. Jason Ellis is active with the *Sower* and *The Sower* on-line. This group of people continue to go “above and beyond” to make our college and the alumni association (and yours truly) look good. We owe these people a great deal of thanks, especially since they choose to remain mostly in the background.

Two alumni programs have shown

continued success. The third annual CASNR Alumni Football Reunion recently took place before the Iowa State University game. Attendance has consistently been more than 120 alums with alumni from many states in attendance. The silent auction at this event has proven to be very successful, with more than \$4,800 raised this year for entry level scholarships.



Daryl Cisney

The alumni association also presented the Legacy Award to Professor Emeritus Richard Fleming and the Henry Beachell Distinguished Alumni Award to Dr. Bruce Maunder at the reunion. The Senior Salute Ceremony, taking place in conjunction with every UNL graduation, is also a very successful program that is greatly appreciated by graduates and families of graduates. Participation by graduates has increased with every event. The next event is scheduled for December 21, 2007, at the East Campus Union. There are also Alumni Achievement and Service Awards given each year at the CASNR Week Banquet in April. More information about all of these programs is available at www.casnr.unl.edu.

CASNR continues to need our support. As Larry the Cable Guy would say, as a team we can “Git-R-Done!”

Go Huskers!

Daryl Cisney
2007-2008 CASNRAA President

Ag Ed Club *Continued from page 1*

to others on campus and it helps build lifelong connections.

On Oct. 6 the Ag Ed club teamed up with the FFA Alumni Association for their annual fall trash pick-up service project. The members adopted a stretch of highway near Ceresco and pick up the trash in the ditches two times a year.

Club members have a friendly competition with a special trophy. The “traveling hubcap” trophy is presented to

the member who finds the most unique item during the trash pick-up, helping get members more motivated and to have a good time while helping out the community. The day ended with grilling hotdogs and hamburgers hosted by club advisers Lloyd Bell and Dann Husmann.

“My favorite thing about the club is that I meet many new people who later become good friends,” Doerr said.

—Amanda Bergstrom

Your CASNR Alumni Association

Members of the CASNR Alumni Association Board of Directors encompass 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 CASNR or its publication, call the CASNR Dean’s Office at 1(800)742-8800, ext. 2541.

CASNRAA Board of Directors

President

Daryl Cisney, ‘82, *Ogallala*

Past President

Sheila O’Connor, ‘87, *Lincoln*

President Elect

Brian Bosshamer, ‘90, *Amherst*

Recording Secretary

Adam Smith, ‘98, *Lexington*

Treasurer and NAA College Affiliate Group Representative

Lance LaRue, ‘95, *Lincoln*

Other Members

Jeff Albers, ‘88, *Wisner*

Dave Dannehl, ‘89, *Loomis*

Jana Hafer, ‘95, *Beatrice*

Sally Hircock, ‘88, *Kearney*

David Karnopp, ‘95, *Oakland*

Duane Kristensen, ‘78, *Minden*

Mark Wilke, ‘86, *Lincoln*

Ex Officio Members

Steve Waller, *Dean*

Paul Horton, *Director of Alumni Development*

Billie Lefholtz, *Director of Alumni Relations*

vacant, *Student Representative*

Ann Bruntz, *NU Foundation*

Representative

Jason Ellis, *The Sower*

Standing Committees and Chairs

Awards - Brian Bosshamer, Sally Hircock

Communications - Sheila O’Connor, Jana

Hafer, Duane Kristensen

Events - Jeff Albers, Dave Karnopp,

Mark Wilke

Nominating

Brian Bosshamer, Daryl Cisney,

Sheila O’Connor

Scholarship

Daryl Cisney, Brian Bosshamer

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

Mallory Wittstruck, *Coordinator*
Assistant Professor Jason Ellis, *Adviser*



Watermeier *continued from page 1*

with a family near Syracuse, Neb., that didn't have children. After graduation, he farmed there fulltime.

Slowly he and his wife, Lois, began building a family and a farm.

While growing and diversifying his farm to include livestock, corn, soybeans, alfalfa and wheat, Watermeier also cultivated a passion for service and education. He substitute taught for agriculture classes in Syracuse until he was elected to the school board.

"I guess I call myself a lifelong

learner," Watermeier said. Serving on the board provided him with the opportunity to learn and to help others learn. He presently serves on the Southeast Community College Governing Board.

Watermeier has actively served the community on many other levels. He worked part-time for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, served a two-year term with the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Board, and served on the Farm Credit Board.

While raising his family, Watermeier instilled a love for learning in his children. His son, Dan, and daughter, Amy, are both UNL graduates. His son now has his own farm near Syracuse and helps Watermeier in running his farm. His daughter is a certified public accountant.

Watermeier stays busy on his 800-acre farm and is thankful his son is a part of it. "I'm very fortunate I had the opportunity to go back to farm," he said. "Not everyone gets to."

—Ryan Hassebrook



John C. Owens, NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR, with wife Virginia, was awarded the CASNR Service Award at the 2007 CASNR Week Banquet. A dedicated supporter of the CASNR Alumni Association, Owens started the Salute to Graduates ceremony, supported the new CASNR Student Loan Fund and has assisted in the production and success of the Ag College Dreams video and the Sower Online electronic newsletter. His hard work and support made him a deserving recipient of this award.



Keith Heuermann of Phillips received the 2007 CASNR Achievement Award. Heuermann, a 1957 College of Agriculture graduate, retired from hybrid seed corn production to start BKH Popcorn Inc. Heuermann and wife Norma have been longtime contributors to the college through their talents and continued support of CASNR and East Campus. The award was presented at the 2007 CASNR Week Banquet.



The first ever Henry Beachell Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to A. Bruce Maunder of Lubbock, Texas, (center) at the CASNR Alumni Reunion by CASNR past president Sheila O'Connor and CASNR Dean Steve Waller. Maunder has dedicated more than 45 years to working in plant genetics, leading to the creation of some 150 forage and grain hybrids grown in more than 35 countries. He is recognized for a lifetime devoted to agriculture benefiting human populations throughout the world.



Dick Fleming of Lincoln is the 2007 recipient of the CASNR Alumni Association Legacy Award. Having retired in 1996 after 40 years of service to the University, Fleming continues to serve as professor emeritus in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication. The Legacy Award honors professional excellence, service to the College and significant contributions of lasting impact to the College or Association.

**College of Agricultural Sciences and
Natural Resources Alumni Association
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Membership Contribution Form**

Name _____
 Spouse's name _____
 (if applicable)
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 E-mail Address _____
 CASNR Class _____ Major _____
 Spouse Class _____ Major _____

Type of membership New Renewal
 \$20 Annual individual
 \$25 Annual couple
 Sustaining (more than basic fee)
 Amount: _____

Life Membership
 \$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 benefits of each level, send e-mail to
 phorton2@unl.edu.)

Membership 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

Now you can renew your membership,
 give a new membership to a friend or
 start a new membership online and
 pay by credit card. If you prefer this
 method, go to <http://casnr.unl.edu> and
 select “Alumni” for options to either
 pay by check or pay by credit card. The
 annual membership is only \$20.

Alumni Reunion Raises \$4,800 For Recruitment Scholarships



CASNR Alumni Association Reunion attendees enjoy fellowship and conversation. From left are Ron and Crystal Drey of Omaha and Jennifer and Richard Boruch of Osceola.

The 2007 CASNR Alumni Association Reunion continued to grow in participation and contributions to the silent auction.

“The Football Reunion went very well,” Paul Horton, CASNR Alumni Association Development Director, said. “We were pleased with the attendance.”

The CASNR Alumni Association Reunion took place in the City Campus Union Sept. 29 preceding the Nebraska-Iowa State University game.

“We had a silent auction that raised more than \$4,800 for scholarship money,” Horton said. “Largely board members, other alumni donors, and friends of the college all chipped in with auction items.”

CASNR is very appreciative of all

the alumni members and friends of the college for their tremendous support.

“At the reunion, we allowed people social time, we had some faculty members present, Dean Waller gave a college update, and we gave out our two alumni association awards,” Horton said.

There were about 95 people in attendance at the reunion. The CASNR Alumni Association also was able to have 84 tickets to the game available for purchase by association members.

“I think everyone enjoyed themselves,” Horton said. “We were pleased and had some good comments, and after we were done, just about everyone headed off to the game.”

—Lindsey Horner

Nebraskans for Nebraska Helps CASNR Recruiting

Nebraskans for Nebraska is a consortium of College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) stakeholder groups who support the College and UNL Extension in marketing career opportunities and academic programs at the local level. Members serve as local UNL contacts for local students and provide the college and UNL with names and contact

information of high school students who have expressed an interest in CASNR or UNL. To get involved in local or state-wide events, contact your zone leader or Laura Frey, College Relations Director, at (402)472-4445 or lfrey2@unl.edu.

CASNRAA

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