



The SOWER

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

FALL 2011

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association

Food Science Alumni Creates Tempting New Tastes

CASNR Alumni Steven Kaiser first got a taste of his future career when he was an undergraduate student in the Department of Food Science and Technology.

While in college Kaiser worked on projects through the Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences (UCARE) Program, served as a student representative on the CASNR Alumni Board, and was an active member of UNL's Food Science Club. In May 2010 Kaiser received his Bachelor of Science degree in food science and technology, and a minor in chemistry.

Work with the Food Science Club helped shape his love for food development and technology. Kaiser said it enabled him to work with students and build his sense of professionalism in the food science industry. Based on this experience, he pursued an internship at ConAgra Foods in Omaha where he worked the summer after his graduation, developing professional relationships and initiating projects he continues to work on today.

Kaiser started his internship working

on ConAgra Foods' sodium reduction project, "20 by 15." The project focuses on reducing sodium in foods by 20 percent by the year 2015. When the summer came to an end, Kaiser was hired as a full-time associate food scientist.

He still plays a large role in this project, as well as working on other projects in ConAgra Foods' Spicetec Flavors and Seasonings Division. Kaiser has already seen his projects launch in the market, including the new Classic Recipe flavor of Orville Redenbacher's popcorn, which has 25 percent less sodium than the competition.

Kaiser said that his undergraduate experience in CASNR helped him become the professional he is today.

"I learned something new every day," Kaiser said. "CASNR helped me to become a professional through classes with great professors and classmates."

In addition, his work as a student representative on the CASNR Alumni Board opened the door to him wanting to serve now. As an alumni member on the board, he meets regularly with other



Cynthia M. Kaiser

Steven Kaiser, a May 2010 Food Science and Technology graduate, now is a ConAgra Foods associate food scientist.

alumni, helps plan and carry out alumni events throughout the year, and sometimes gets to talk with students about how their student experiences can lead to fulfilling careers.

— Emilee Dorn

Club Encourages Entrepreneurship

The UNL Food Science Club is a thriving organization that strives to create a close relationship between students and faculty in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The club encourages

leadership and educates students on the wide range of opportunities in the industry of food science and technology.

The Food Science Club has 40 members and while most are in the Food Science and Technology degree program, all students are welcome to join.

Throughout the year the club provides opportunities for students to learn about the food science and technology industry. A typical meeting involves an informal dinner, a discussion of upcoming events, and a guest speaker from local industry who shares insight, advice and

experience, said club president Taylor Stelk, a senior from Lincoln.

Stelk said that because of these close contacts with representatives of the local industry, Food Science Club members have been alerted to internship and career opportunities that might have otherwise gone unnoticed.

Club

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It's a Record-setter

- This fall CASNR set an all-time high in enrollment with 1,938 students.
- That's the 7th straight year for CASNR enrollment growth.





Become Part of the CASNR Family

Borrowed from a poem: "Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed? Or are you just content that your name is on the list?"

Most of us are members of one thing or another, be it our church, a community group or just part of the Husker nation. We are also graduates and alumni of the UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. Being a graduate puts you in a database of people with something in common; however, it does NOT make you a member of the UNL CASNR Alumni Association (CASNR) unless you have joined or were brought in as an honorary member in 2004 by virtue of life member status in the Nebraska Alumni Association. Of the 21,003 CASNR alumni, only a mere 85 are actually contributing affiliates of this great organization.

There seems to be confusion with the restructuring of the alumni program that took place in 2003 between the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Alumni Association (NAA) and the associations of individual colleges within the University. It was then that the NAA decided to become a separate entity from each of the college associations; therefore, a new College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association was born. Even if you were a member of the old group, you are NOT necessarily providing financial support to our new group.

Why should you write that check and contribute to the CASNR Alumni Association? Membership does have its privileges. The biggest one is financial. CASNR started giving scholarships to incoming freshmen in 2006 and to date has given out \$22,500 in scholarships to 23 students. Last year the board voted to award an extra \$500 to a scholarship winner who was the son or daughter of a CASNR Alumni Association member. These students will be tomorrow's leaders — they will be the torch-bearers for the values we hold dear.



Kelli Loos, President

In addition to its scholarships, CASNR provides great opportunities for you to hook up with friends and faculty who shared your days on campus.

Each fall CASNR hosts the annual Football Reunion and Benefit Auction. This year items ranging from autographed balls to feed to wine and jewelry brought in over \$11,000 to fund scholarships for next year. Our college association has organized two other gatherings for alumni and friends throughout the year. The first happens in Kearney during the Cattleman's Classic in February, and we rendezvous again during the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island. We passed out granola bars with a UNL CASNR Alumni Association sticker on them to 4-H and FFA students and their families at the state fair.

Enrollment at the College is growing by leaps and bounds. New programs are being added to meet the growing needs of the ever-changing world of food production and stewardship of our natural resources. As a land-grant university, UNL is challenged to help farmers and ranchers feed a growing, hungry world as well as assess the best utilization of our natural resources. We do that through the efforts of our faculty and administration, our students and a strong alumni to support our endeavors. The work they do will shape the world to come.

Won't you join us and become a part of an exciting future in the world of agriculture and natural resources? You will find a CASNR application on the back cover of this newsletter.

Kelli Loos, President

Your CASNR Alumni Association

The CASNR alumni board of directors represents a wide range of degree programs and professions in agriculture, natural resources and beyond. 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 and request the alumni development director.

CASNR Board of Directors

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Kelli Loos, '88, *Litchfield*

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Standing Committees and Chairs

Awards – Adam Smith (chair), Kelli Loos, Dan Meier, Justin Osborne

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Events – Lance LaRue (chair), Cindy Vossler, Kelli Loos, Bart Brinkman

Nominating Committee – Kelli Loos (chair), Travis Edeal, Justin Osborne, Brent Plugge

Scholarship Committee – Kelli Loos (chair), Dan Meier, Brent Plugge, Steven Kaiser

The Sower is produced by students in the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, a CASNR student organization.
Ellen Hoffschneider, *Coordinator*



CASNRAA Fall Auction Tops the Chart

CASNR alumni raised a record-breaking \$11,176 for student scholarships at this year's Football Reunion and Auction Sept. 10 in the Nebraska Union.

Approximately 120 people gathered to renew old friendships and make new ones before many attended the Fresno State/Nebraska home game.

CASNR Dean Steve Waller opened the event, speaking briefly about the College's enrollment — highest in its history, current activities in the College and developments on East Campus.

In describing this year's reunion, Paul Horton, CASNR alumni development director, said he likes seeing "alumni come together and enjoy the social interaction between each other. It is always nice to see people support scholarships the way they do through the silent auction. We are seeing an increase in support each year."

Since the College Football Reunion began in 2005, CASNR alumni have generated almost \$40,000 for scholarships.

This year the Alumni Association is awarding more scholarships than ever to CASNR students. There are four \$1,000 scholarships and one new \$1,500 scholarship for a student whose parent is a member of the CASNR Alumni Association. Each student scholarship is named in honor of a previous CASNRAA award recipient.

Horton said the most memorable parts of this year's reunion were when the UNL Cornhusker Pep Band played and when the CASNRAA Board of Directors recorded how much money the auction raised. The band "comes in there, it's not a huge room, but they kind of knock your socks off when they start to play. They get everyone fired up before the game which is always a hit." CASNRAA members bought 80 football tickets through the event.

It was a spectacular reunion, Horton reported, and with good-natured bidding throughout the auction, it was also CASNRAA's most successful in raising money for student scholarships.

— *Jasmine Rogers*

2011 Spring CASNR Alumni Awards

The CASNR Alumni Association announced four awards at the spring 2011 CASNR Week Banquet April 17. Recipients are as follows:



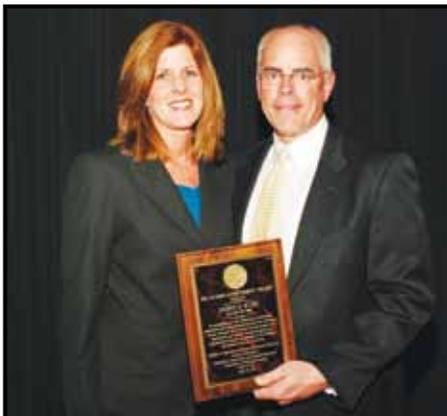
Ted and Alice Doane

The Legacy Award was presented to Ted and Alice Doane of Waverly, who established the Doane Undergraduate Scholarship.



Patricia and John Miller

The CASNR Service Award was presented to John Miller of Murdock, 1971 graduate in agricultural engineering.



Connie and James Kube

The CASNRAA Alumni Achievement Award was presented to the Honorable James Kube of Norfolk, 1982 graduate in wildlife management and range management.



Dean Steve Waller, Don Wilhite and Tala Awada

The CASNR Department Award for Engaging Emeriti was presented to the School of Natural Resources. Accepting the award were Don Wilhite, SNR director, and Tala Awada, SNR associate director.



2011 CASNRAA Scholarship Recipients

The five College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources students receiving scholarships from the CASNR Alumni Association for the 2011-2012 school year are:

— Lauren Ibach, Sumner, agricultural education, \$1,000 scholarship awarded in honor of 2010 Achievement Award recipient Mike Jacobson.

— Evan Nemas, Nebraska City, fisheries and wildlife, \$1,000 scholarship awarded in honor of 2010 Legacy Award recipient Allen Blezek.

— Garrett Reese, Pleasanton, mechanized systems management, \$1,000 scholarship awarded in honor of 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Leroy Thom.

— Levi Schlick, Fairfield, mechanized systems management, \$1,500 scholarship, awarded in honor of 2010 Legacy Award recipients Ted and Alice Doane.

— Catherine Ripp, Ravenna, agricultural education, \$1,000 scholarship, awarded for the late Thad B. Ita, a former member of the CASNRAA Board of Directors.

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Affiliation is open to alumni and friends of the college.

Payment

Send this form along with your check payable to the NU Foundation to:

CASNRAA

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You may use a credit card to join online by visiting <http://casnr.unl.edu/>

AlumniFriendsDonorsExtension



Lauren Ibach



Evan Nemas



Garrett Reese



Levi Schlick



Catherine Ripp

Club

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Other club activities include fundraising and community service. Its philanthropic efforts include holding canned food drives and participating in various East Campus events.

Members also participate in national competitions sponsored by the Institute of Food Technologists Student Association (IFTSA). These competitions include the:

- College Bowl, which tests the knowledge of students across the country in various areas related to

Take CASNR with You

A free mobile app will help you keep up to date with CASNR and Husker sports, network with college friends, and get timely tips. Search for "UNL CASNR Crib Sheet" on your mobile app platform or visit <http://www.mycrisbsheet.com/unlcasnr>.

food science and technology;

- Product Development, which gives students the opportunity to apply their academic instruction to real-world situations; and
- Student Research, which is a competition for students conducting independent research projects.

In spring 2011 the Food Science Club received a grant from the Kimmel Educational Foundation to buy what is currently its pride and joy, a new, custom ice cream trailer. With this trailer, members have been quickly learning the ins and outs of owning and operating a concessions trailer.

Stelk reported that in mid-September the club tasted success when they took the trailer to the Nebraska City Apple Jack Festival. Despite unfortunate weather, the club turned a great profit, making the event a huge success for members. Now, as temperatures have cooled off, the club is working with the UNL Dairy Store to develop a plan so both may benefit from use of the trailer.

— Samone Behrendt



CASNRAA

Website: <http://casnr.unl.edu/alumni>

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