



The SOWER

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

SPRING 2011

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association

Alumnus: University More than Classes

As a College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources alumnus, Daryl Cisney of Ogallala is deeply passionate about the College and the potential of its programs.

Cisney graduated from CASNR in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture majoring in agronomy with a range and forage management option.

In addition to his classes and degree, Cisney credits much of his success to his college experiences with CASNR faculty and programs.

A CASNR alumnus at work for Nebraska, Cisney has worked for the Board of Educational Lands and Funds in Ogallala since January 1983. He served on the CASNR Alumni Association Board of Directors for six years and has served on the Center for Grassland Studies Citizens Advisory Council and the Advisory Board for the UNL Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory.

Cisney cited the University for fostering not only his education, but the realization that he could become an expert in his field.

"I credit the University for feeding that hunger for meeting my personal growth," Cisney said.

Cisney remembers the impact that one of his professors, Steve Waller, now CASNR dean, had on him. He described how Waller took an active interest in his students, making sure



IANR Photo

Daryl Cisney of Ogallala credits CASNR for helping create a fulfilling career.

they took advantage of professional opportunities such as internships to ensure success in their careers. He credits the dean's office and the CASNR Alumni Association for working hard to genuinely care about students.

He has been active in the Nebraska Range Youth Camp and has helped with high school range judging contests and the state range judging committee. He enjoys working with students and says witnessing 200-400 students all seriously participating in one

competition is a meaningful experience. It's rewarding to see that kind of commitment from students, he said.

Cisney believes in the value of education at CASNR because of the excitement and vitality that CASNR brings to its programs. He says that his UNL experience made the difference in his life and the paths that he has taken. Humble and committed, Cisney states "I'm very proud to say I'm a CASNR grad."

— Amanda Schutz





Alumni Associations Warrant Support

Those of us recruiting new members to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association frequently hear folks say, "I'm already a member of the Nebraska Alumni Association (NAA), so my membership supports the College." This statement had some truth prior to 2003. Today, however, the CASNR Alumni Association is the only association supporting the College. The two organizations are fiscally separate and distinct.

While both are valuable associations, each has different priorities and purposes. One focuses on UNL alumni membership in general; the other serves the College specifically. Both are effective in doing what they do. Only one directly funds CASNR programs.

While your CASNR Alumni Association has many affiliate categories, it's the financial contributors who allow the association to fund student scholarships and sponsor Salute to Graduates, Senior Send-Off, and other activities that support our College. Networking, building win-win relationships, and generating money to be used for good purposes are but a few of the priorities of an alumni association.

Please urge fellow NAA members and potential CASNR Alumni Association members to support both associations.

On another note, it was good to see undergraduate enrollment in the College increase 6.4 percent from spring 2010 to spring 2011. During the same period the UNL campus saw a 2.5 percent increase in undergraduate enrollment. Recruitment efforts and effective student retention programs have helped the College remain at or near the top of all colleges in the University in growth for the last six years.

Recruiting new students is something we all can do. Our relatives, neighbors and work associates may



Adam Smith

have children in high school who are still undecided about their college future. We know this College and are in a position to share information about it. CASNR professors and staff throughout the College nurture and work with new students to adjust to campus life and find their niche. With 28 programs of study from agribusiness to water science and preprofessional programs in forestry, veterinary medicine and integrated science, there are many opportunities. If, after hearing from you, people want more information, please have them call the College at 1-800-742-8800, Ext. 2541 and talk to Laura Frey, or email lfrey2@unl.edu. The College Web address is <http://casnr.unl.edu>.

As a final note, your CASNR Alumni Association hosted an Alumni Roundup after the Board of Directors meeting at the Cattlemen's Classic show in Kearney in February. Postcard notices were sent to alumni in the area and 70 people attended to visit with board members over appetizers and refreshments. This is the second year we have held the Roundup.

Watch for notice of our annual Football Reunion in your email soon. If you ever need to update your address, go to <http://casnr.unl.edu/>, click "Alumni, Friends, Donors and Extension" and "Address Update."

The next time you read this column, we will be an alumni association of a College in the Big 10. Go Big Red!

Adam Smith, 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. Remember that if you have comments, suggestions or ideas for your CASNRAA or its publication, call the CASNR Dean's Office at 1-800-742-8800, ext. 2541 and request the alumni development director.

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

Starting a business can be overwhelming, but a new program in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources may ease students' minds.

The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program (EAEP) started in June 2010. Among many things, it provides students with an opportunity to study and minor in entrepreneurship.

"We had 24 applicants to the program already this fall," program director Mark Gustafson said. "Out of this, 20 individuals from a variety of degree programs chose to be a part of the program."

The Engler program currently includes 18 classes that participants can choose from to fill their 12 or 18 credit hour requirements. Students can apply for a \$10,000 scholarship for up to four years to help cover education expenses, and another scholarship to help cover



EAEP students met with program donor Paul Engler to discuss entrepreneurship. Top Row, from left: Pat Heerten, Chase Holoubek, Alex Wach, Adam Kruger, Evan Ibach, Derek Dam. Middle Row: Program Director Mark Gustafson, Megan Wolfe, Calandria Jarboe, Elizabeth Neal, Katie Holoubek, Jordyn Lechtenberg. Front Row: Tyler Brummond, Jenny Freed, Ashley Nunnenkamp, Donor Paul Engler, Haylie Lechtenberg, Emily Ibach. Students unable to attend the event were Layla Bajelan, Ty Keller and Lauren Welch.

entrepreneurial study abroad experiences.

Students participate in internships and can research and develop agriculturally based businesses. Upon graduation projects can be presented to a designated board that decides whether the program will invest venture capital in the project.

The Engler program aims to bring leading agricultural entrepreneurs to campus to share their experiences and viewpoints. An entrepreneur camp is also being developed as part of the Big Red Summer Academic Camp series to introduce K-12 students to agribusiness entrepreneurship.

For information

about the EAEP, visit <http://casnr.unl.edu/engler> or contact Mark Gustafson at 402-472-7252 or by email at mgustafson2@unl.edu.

– **Stephanie Smolek**

Range Management Club is 'the Place to Be'

Ben Beckman is looking toward life after graduation. Beckman, a grassland ecology and management degree program senior, feels secure in his future endeavors thanks to his involvement in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Range Management Club.

The Range Management Club was founded in 1979, in part by its first adviser, Steve Waller, now CASNR dean. The club was formed to help students gain a better understanding of rangelands and how to create functional range management plans.

Today's Range Management Club boasts eight undergraduate members who represent a diverse group of degree programs — fisheries and wildlife, grassland ecology and management, water science and diversified agricultural studies.

Members are currently involved in managing Prairie Pines, a property east of Lincoln. The group helps conduct plant inventories and develop management plans, some of which they hope to see implemented this spring. The club also enjoys social activities such as bowling nights and fishing trips, and each fall co-hosts a barbeque with the Agronomy Club.

Each year the club participates in competitions at two conferences: the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management

and the International Society for Range Management. At these conferences members can showcase their skills in competitions against other students, hear lectures by experts in their fields, and be interviewed by potential employers.

"It is the place to be if you are in range management," said Beckman.

In February six members attended the annual meeting of the Society for Range Management in Billings, Mont., and competed in several contests, including the undergraduate range management exam, plant identification and speech contests, and the undergraduate research paper presentation. Beckman, the club's treasurer, placed 13th out of 186 contestants in the undergrad range management exam. These competitions are a great way for students to show off their knowledge of range management and to present their experience.

Throughout the year members also may work with graduate students on University of Nebraska–Lincoln research projects. These projects offer students real life experience that can give them an edge when they enter the job market.

– **Darcie Samuelson**



Finding the Boot That Fits

Nebraskans are known for their hard-working lifestyle, one that can take a toll on their footwear. College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources alumnus Kyle Rosfeld of Cody is no different, but he has one advantage — he can make new boots.

A 1994 CASNR graduate, Rosfeld started working as a ranch hand in western Nebraska but soon noticed the toll that ranch work was taking on his body and decided to change careers.

In 1999, Rosfeld retired from ranching, bought boot-making machinery from a friend, and attempted his first pair of boots.

Failure resulted. The boots didn't fit. A determined Rosfeld tried again. He used a 27-hour video on how to build boots as his guide. His second pair of boots was a success and he opened his shop, The Sandhills Boot Company, in 2000.

"I never really saw myself as an entrepreneur at first but as an artistic craftsman," Rosfeld said. "But, suddenly I became one and had my own business to run."

Rosfeld loves what he does because he can relate to the people who wear the boots, he said. His business is booming and he has many more years to satisfy his artistic interests, he said.

With only five boot makers in Nebraska, Rosfeld is in a small business field.



CASNR Alumnus Kyle Rosfeld stepped forward with an entrepreneurial career in 2000, opening The Sandhills Boot Company and making exclusive boots. "I try to keep things semihistorical," Rosfeld said. "So I use methods developed in the 1900s to make these boots."

"I couldn't have a mentor because there just aren't enough craftsmen around," he said.

But this was not a setback for Rosfeld. He took a rural affairs business class and has worked with Grow Nebraska to incorporate the Internet into his business. Still, it would have been nice to have taken more business classes in college, Rosfeld said.

"Entrepreneurship should be taught to all students," Rosfeld said. "These are skills that are in demand whether students start their own business or work for someone else."

— Stephanie Smolek

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CASNRAA

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