

## Spring 2015 Academic Notes UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

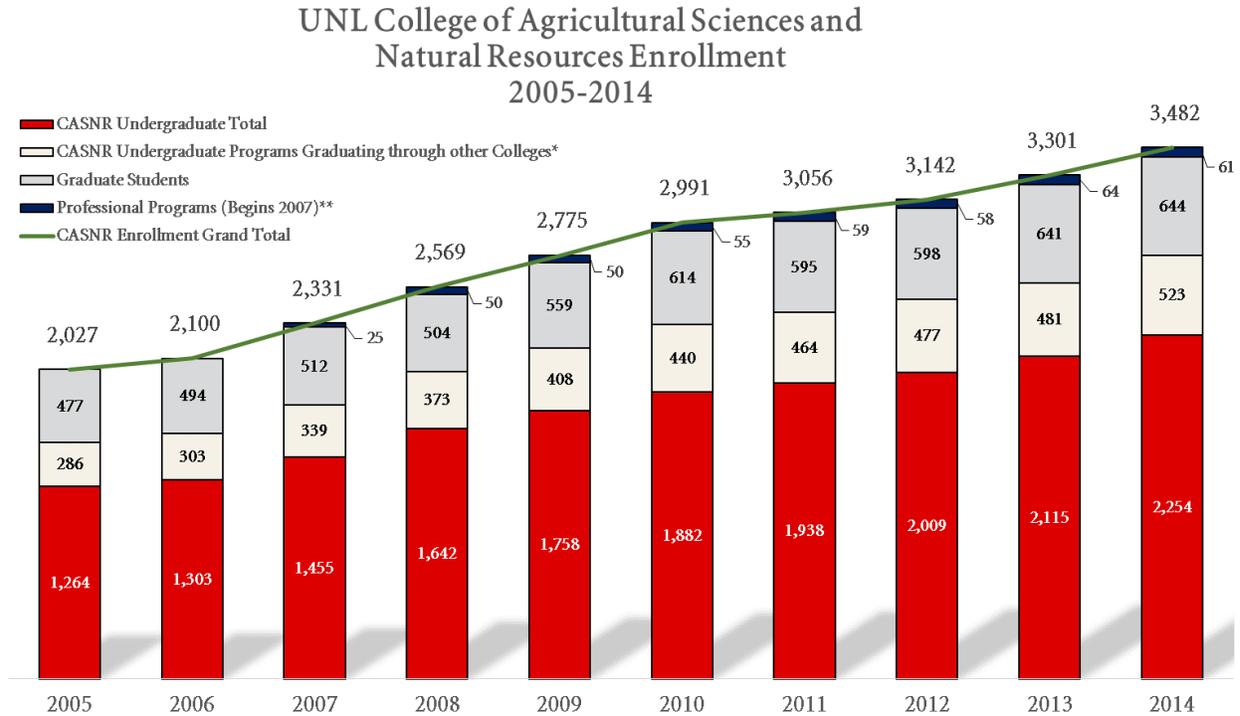
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**Enrollment:**

**Spring- 2015 Enrollment**

Congratulations and thank you! The College increased 7.7% in undergraduate enrollment from Spring-2014 to Spring-2015 (1959 to 2110, respectively). The UNL campus also experienced an increase (2.8%) in undergraduate spring enrollment. Our non-resident student enrollment increased 33.3% from Spring 2014 to Spring 2015 (19% of total enrollment). Our 10-year increase is 77.3% (1190 to 2110) from Spring 2006 to Spring 2015. The second largest 10-year increase was 31.3% in the College of Business Administration.



\*Biochemistry graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences  
Agricultural Engineering graduating from the College of Engineering  
Biological Systems Engineering graduating from the College of Engineering

\*\*Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine (Begins 2007)  
Doctor of Plant Health (Begins 2010)

The college's sustained growth is a tribute to all of you who assist in our recruiting efforts and to those of you that make our students feel welcome and contribute to their success. Our student retention programs are equally important and their impact is very apparent in these numbers.

Our graduate student enrollment increased 2.7% (Spring 2014: 628 to Spring 2015: 645) while UNL decreased -2.9%.

### **Fall-2014 Graduates**

The College graduated 161 students in December 2014. These students attempted on average 145.13 credit hours and earned 140.13.

### **Fall-2015 Class - Challenges Ahead**

The early data for our Fall-2015 reflect the University which is down in admits and enrollment deposits. This is the first time in many years that our early fall data on applications, admits and enrollment deposits hasn't been positive. The drop in admit numbers that we are experiencing is likely a reflection of the challenges with the inaugural year of the new freshman admissions application.

As of February 26, CASNR Freshman applications are down 4.8% year to date (854 compared to 897 last year), admits are down 10.6% (655 compared to 733 last year) and enrollment deposits are down 15.1% (259 compared to 305 last year). Transfer student applications are down 19.5% (124 compared to 154 last year), transfer admits are down 14.3% (54 compared to 63 last year) and early enrollment deposits are down 20% (20 compared to 25 last year).

Admittedly, it is still early, but the data only serves to reinforce the importance of continuing to stay in contact with prospective students. Since not all of the admitted students have paid enrollment deposits (deadline May 1), they are likely still deciding. Our student ambassadors are calling all admitted students who have not yet paid their enrollment deposits to encourage them to attend UNL along with answering any questions that they may have. At this point our focus needs to be on enrollment deposits. So our enrollment yield enhancement activities this spring are critical.

### **College Updates:**

#### **AGRI 103 Transition**

In the Fall 2014 semester, the AGRI/NRES 103 Introduction to Agriculture and Natural Resources was revised under the direction of a new lead instructor, Jenny Dauer, along with Cory Forbes and Dennis Ferraro who each instructed a lecture section of the course. The overall course objective was for students to be able to evaluate socio-scientific issues that are relevant to food, fuel, land and water issues in Nebraska.

Throughout the semester, students practiced applying a decision-making framework to issues like agricultural practices, wildlife conservation, energy and water resources. The framework asks the students to examine scientific claims and evidence that support two different sides of an issue, state a personal value (ethical, social, political, cultural), and use both science and values to elaborate an opinion about what should be done about the issue. The students' final project was to work with a group to apply this framework to an issue of their choice and develop a poster that displays their research and reasoning. Poster sessions displaying all 98 posters occurred on December 11<sup>th</sup>. A number of CASNR faculty kindly volunteered to help evaluate the student posters.

The course was arranged in a unique format that involved active learning in each lecture with 4-5 graduate students serving as learning assistants. The learning assistants attended lecture where they engaged the students in learning activities and discussion, evaluated student work and led recitation meetings where students worked on a final project. Graduate students who are interested in serving as a Learning Assistant in the Fall of 2015 should contact Jenny Dauer ([jenny.dauer@unl.edu](mailto:jenny.dauer@unl.edu)). An extensive evaluation of the pilot course's format, content and student learning is underway. Findings from this evaluation will be communicated through the CASNR Curriculum Committee this spring. Departmental representatives on the committee will share these findings with their departmental colleagues. A final report will be provided to all faculty for guidance, direction and faculty input.

### **CASNR Computational Biology Efforts in the LIFE Courses**

Joe Dauer (School of Natural Resources) and Tom Helikar (Biochemistry) received a grant from NSF Division of Undergraduate Education to conduct research on how introductory biology students improve their systems thinking using computation biology. The long-term goal is to transform the way biology students learn about complex living systems by developing, implementing, and evaluating computational modeling as a unique and user-friendly pedagogical aid. This project enables first steps towards this goal by developing, providing, and assessing a fresh method to teaching and learning for students in LIFE 120 and 121 laboratories. Specifically, the funding permits developing computational biology learning modules that utilize simulation software and dynamical network models in which students learn about complex biological systems. For example, instead of memorizing the components of cellular respiration, students can use software to build, modify, and simulate a computational model with the objective that students will be able to learn about the biological process more effectively, and from a systems perspective. To measure the success of this approach, Joe and Tom are also developing new methods to assess student learning and their ability to think about biology as dynamic systems.

### **Master of Applied Science (MAS)**

The Master of Applied Science degree program continues to be a popular degree program serving distance students. It's an innovative program designed for students whose educational objective is to pursue a career in agricultural, rural and natural resource systems or science education. Each student may address his or her individual educational objective(s). A unique feature is the degree project, which replaces the traditional thesis requirement and is specifically intended to be of immediate value in a student's workplace for career advancement. It's considered a practitioner degree intended for industry professionals and science educators needing advanced education. For more information about the degree program please visit <http://appliedscience.unl.edu/master-applied-science-degree>.

Following are a few current statistics you may find interesting.

- From 2011-2015, 158 individuals submitted an application, 138 were US citizens with 52% from Nebraska residents.
- Applications also received from prospective students in Australia, China, Grenada, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Sudan and Zimbabwe.
- Eighty-five applications were submitted by females, 73 by males
- Currently, 77 students are enrolled with 10 being full-time students
  - Program areas include:
    - 32 Science for Educators
    - 14 Community Development
    - 31 in other areas of concentration
  - The majority of students are between 25 to 35 years of age
  - 61% of students carry a 3.5 or higher GPA

### **Travel and Support Funds for Master of Applied Science (MAS) Advisors**

Faculty who serve as advisors for graduate students pursuing the Master of Applied Science (MAS) non-thesis (Options II and III) degree program may request up to \$400 per advisee upon graduation to fund travel to a professional meeting or support other educational activities. It is expected that the advisor has been actively engaged with the student each semester to plan which courses to enroll in for advancement toward completion of the program, that the advisor will have worked with the student to file the Memorandum of Courses before the student completes 18 credits in the program, and that the advisor will supervise the students Degree Project for the Master of Applied Science. For situations in which the MAS student is co-advised, each co-advisor may request up to \$250 per advisee. The award of funds is contingent on the availability of funds within the College.

Advisors are eligible to apply for the funds once their advisee graduates from the MAS program. The request must be submitted within 6 months of the student's graduation. To apply, the application form may be completed and submitted through NUgrant - [nugrant.unl.edu](http://nugrant.unl.edu).

- Select *Internal Competitions*
- Select *Create New Application*
- Under *Select a Competition* identify and select *Travel and Support Funds for Master of Applied Science Advisors*
- Select *Start Application*

Contact Dan Cotton, Coordinator, CASNR Online Education at 2-8841 if you have questions about completing an application.

### **CASNR Online & Distance Education Advisory Team – Planning for 2025**

This past fall, CASNR charged a team of faculty and staff to develop a 2025 plan charting the course and strategies needed to achieve excellent in the development and support of online and distance education programs to serve our future students. We understand that in the digital age students are not bound by time and place, and they expect higher education opportunities to be available at their fingertips. The question is how will we remain a leader in this educational marketplace?

Key attributes of the conversation include:

- Addressing/anticipating student needs and access
- Affordable education
- Academic quality, rigor and assessment
- Availability of eCourses
- Effective business plan and policies
- Online revenue model
- Faculty support, i.e., financial, technology, recognition
- Communications and marketing
- Partnerships, i.e., University (Extension, Colleges, Office of Online & Distance Education, Online Worldwide, etc.), Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (IDEA) and Ag\*IDEA, community colleges, other land-grant institutions, etc.

The team has been at work since October 2014 discussing these and related issues. Input has been collected from Online Worldwide, the UNL Office of Online & Distance Education, Nebraska Extension, and others with a vested interest in CASNR online and distance education programs. The team is identifying key data and market trends, identifying key success factors and working on developing action plans to guide future directions and efforts. The Advisory Team includes the following members: Tom Weissling, Entomology; Gina Matkin, Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication; Fabio De Mattos, Agricultural Economics; Lisa Karr-Lilienthal, Animal Science; John Kammerman, School of

Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences; Mark Burbach, School of Natural Resources; Dave Gosselin, School of Natural Resources; Deborah Weitzenkamp, Nebraska Extension; Walter Schacht, Agronomy & Horticulture; David Lambe, Agronomy & Horticulture; Andreia Bianchini, Food Science & Technology; John Markwell, Biochemistry and CASNR; Tiffany Heng-Moss, Entomology and CASNR; Dan Cotton, Coordinator, CASNR Online Education; and Diane Wasser, CASNR Online Education. The team is scheduled to complete its work and provide a roadmap before the start of the 2016 academic year.

### **Youth Safety Policy Update**

In September 2012, UNL implemented a Youth Activity Safety Policy in order to provide a safe, educational and enjoyable activity/program experience for all participants. This policy provides minimum specific guidelines for activities sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and for activities sponsored by other organizations, but held on UNL's campus.

Effective February 1, 2015, the policy has been modified to incorporate changes in federal guidelines and recommendations made by UNL Internal Audit department following a review of UNL's procedures. The updated policy can be found at <http://police.unl.edu/policies/youth-activity-safety-policy>. The revisions include a Registration Form that must be completed and approved prior to any Youth Activity. There is also an Incident Reporting Form in the unlikely event that an incident occurs during a Youth Activity. You are encouraged to read and familiarize yourself with the changes in the policy.

An online Training Module is available on the website to assist Activity Workers and Sponsors with understanding the content and specifics of the policy.

Questions regarding the new policy can be directed to:

Chief Owen Yardley, UNL Police Department (2-2222)

Bruce Currin, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Human Resources (2-3105)

Jennifer Lesoing-Lucs, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Business and Finance (2-3217)

### **Recruitment with Extension**

The CASNR Recruitment staff has increased their participation in 4-H and Extension events in the past year. Sue Ellen Pegg continues to be the CASNR point of contact for Extension Educators and 4-H families with questions about opportunities at UNL. Events attended include the following:

- Youth Science Field Days – CASNR presentation at six events in the West Central Extension District
- Big Red Summer Academic Camps – East Campus activities on Monday evening as well as general assistance with facilitation
- Nebraska State Fair - CASNR recruitment display and hands on activities on multiple days
- PASE/Life Challenge – expanding tours and recruitment opportunities on campus
- Connecting the Dots – events held in Ord and two days in Kearney
- Entrepreneurship Camp – CASNR presentation
- Northeast Nebraska Career Day at Wayne – careers in agriculture presentation
- Corral Your Future event at State 4-H Horse Show – assisted with organizing recruitment event and exhibited at event
- First Tech Challenge and First Lego League Robotic events - volunteer and CASNR booth

Sue Ellen has helped coordinate customized tours for 4-H and Extension groups when they are on campus. In addition to working with the Career Development/ College Readiness Signature Outcome

team in 4-H to assist with career/college preparation activities and assisting in developing new programming, she serves on the Extension Recruitment team who works to expand recruitment opportunities across Nebraska. We have also developed a new college readiness piece for upper elementary and middle school audiences.

### **Morrill Scholars Update**

The Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Program is a student organization and development program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) that draws upon the life experiences and accomplishments of Justin Smith Morrill, author of the Land-Grant College Acts. To honor his vision and his legacy, CASNR has developed a four-year program for undergraduate students who are interested in advancing the public good through social and civic responsibility while exploring ideas and solutions to solve critical issues related to food, fuel, water, landscapes, and human health. Students in the program will:

- Participate in a two-semester seminar series taught by Dr. Ronnie Green, Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- Organize and participate in colloquiums centered on the Heuermann Lectures and personally interact with the Heuermann Lecturers.
- Travel to the Justin Smith Morrill homestead in Vermont as sophomores for a service project, and travel to Washington, D.C. as juniors to meet with leaders in government.
- Develop and implement a capstone senior project working with local and/or global partners.

This spring, two additional students joined the Fall 2014 cohort of the Morrill Scholars Program for a total of 16 student participants. These students are currently participating in the seminar series and attending the Heuermann Lectures. The Fall 2014 cohort group spans eleven different degree programs in CASNR. The Fall 2013 cohort group is making plans to visit the Justin Smith Morrill homestead in Vermont during the Fall Semester of 2015.

The Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Program is open to all UNL students. For more information, please contact Deepak Keshwani at [dkeshwani2@unl.edu](mailto:dkeshwani2@unl.edu).

### **CASNR Spring Career Fair**

The 2015 CASNR Spring Career Fair was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2015 in the Nebraska East Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The CASNR Spring Career Fair was held in conjunction with Career Fair Week, which featured three days of Career Fairs with 234 employers participating in whole. Two hundred and thirty-one students and alumni from the University and local community attended the CASNR Career Fair to visit with 61 employing organizations and graduate institutions. Representatives from local, state, and national organizations attended to connect with students as they seek full-time and internship opportunities. New employers that came to the spring career fair included: Agrex Inc., AgriGold, Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., Beef Products Inc., Big Iron Online Auction Company, CoBank, Crop Production Services, CSS Farms, Express Employment Professionals, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, GeneSeek, Global Industries, Inc., Hormel Foods Corp, J.D.Heiskell Holdings, LLC., JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, Louis Dreyfus Commodities, Marine Corps Officer Program, Nebraska Army National Guard, Nebraska Department of Labor, Nestle Purina PetCare Co., Smithfield Farmland, Triumph Foods LLC, University of Nebraska Foundation, US Army Medical Command, USDA NASS, USGS, Nebraska Water Science Center, Waddell & Reed, Wells Enterprises Inc. In addition to the career fair, we hosted the second annual "CASNR Dean's Employer Appreciation Reception". It was held the evening before the career fair with 15 employers and department representatives in attendance. The annual Faculty/Employer Brunch was held the morning of the career fair with 102 employers, faculty, and CASNR Coffee Club members in attendance.

### **Second Annual Natural Resources & Life Sciences Career Information Day**

The second annual Natural Resources and Life Sciences Career Information Day was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 in Hardin Hall. Over 200 students attended the event along with approximately 30 organizations. Those organizations attending were: City of Lincoln – Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership, DeSoto and Boyer Chute NWR, EA Engineering, Science & Technology, JEO Consulting Group, KM Landscaping, Li-Cor, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, National Park Service – Homestead National Monument, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality – Water Quality Division, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission – Conservation Officers, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission – Environmental Educators, Nebraska Natural Resources District – Nemaha, Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association, Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, Inc., Olsson Associates, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, Omaha Organics, Pioneers Park Nature Center, Stock Seed Farms, Inc., Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, UNL Cedar Point Biological Station, UNL Environmental Health & Safety, USDA APHIS/Wildlife Services, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA Forest Service, Nebraska National Forest, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey – NE Water Science Center, YMCA Camp Kitaki.

### **Employment Class: Job Survival (AGRI 400)**

Job Survival was held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. for the first eight weeks of the spring semester. Topics included Advice from Recently Employed Students; Effective Communication; Advancement; 401(k)'s, Benefits, Investments; Credit; Entrepreneurship; and Relocation and Housing. The class is team taught by 21 employers from various industries. Thirty-four students participated.

### **High School Visits**

"CASNR Jeopardy", "CASNR Career Bingo", and "CASNR 'N' It to Win It" were presented at 36 Nebraska high schools and high school career events (2,110 students) during the 2014-2015 school year.

### **Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program**

The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program empowers the next generation of enterprise builders. Students with a desire to pursue entrepreneurship, innovation, and value creation are encouraged to visit [engler.unl.edu](http://engler.unl.edu) for details about the academic minor, entrepreneurial opportunities and experiences, as well as details about how to become an Engler Entrepreneur.

The Spring Engler lecture will feature John Miller and Dave Stock from Oxbow Animal Health and Stock Seed Farm, respectively on April 2 at 7:30 pm. The event will be held at the Champions Club and is open to the public.

The Engler Program will be hosting a Start-Up Weekend September 18 and 19. Interested students and faculty are invited to contact Michelle Bassford for more details ([mbassford7@unl.edu](mailto:mbassford7@unl.edu)).

### **Doctor of Plant Health**

The Doctor of Plant Health Program is working across the departments of Agronomy/Horticulture, Entomology, and Plant Pathology to provide an interdisciplinary professional program that deals with plant health and managing plant systems. Discussions with prospective employers continue to indicate high interest in the program, especially in offering internships and potential employment of future graduates. The value of the degree is documented by the fact that the first five graduates from the program all are fully employed, and most of them have received multiple job offers.

Because this program represents a dramatic shift from traditional graduate level education in these disciplines, many are still unfamiliar with this program. It is important that undergraduate advisors in biology and plant related majors let students know of this new program because the employment potential is very good across a broad range of opportunities. The DPH is a rigorous program and should be a consideration for graduating seniors and Master's students who have non-research centered career interests in practical aspects of plant health and managing plant systems of all types. For more information on the DPH program, visit the website [www.dph.unl.edu](http://www.dph.unl.edu) or contact Gary Hein, Program Director at 402-472-3345 or [ghein1@unl.edu](mailto:ghein1@unl.edu).

### 2014-2015 Scholarship Report

Total number of scholarships given by CASNR	1225
Total number of students receiving scholarships from CASNR	772
Total percent of students receiving awards from CASNR	34.2%
Average value of all CASNR Scholarships	\$1193
Maximum value of all CASNR Scholarships	\$10,000
Minimum value of all CASNR Scholarships	\$25
<u>College Level Awards</u>	
Total awarded through Dean's Office	\$788,082
Total number of scholarships awarded through Dean's Office	621
Total number of students receiving awards through Dean's Office	559
<u>Unit Level Awards</u>	
Total awarded through units	\$674,827
Total number of scholarships awarded through units	604
Total number of students receiving awards through units	454
<u>Total College and Unit Awards</u>	
Total awarded through CASNR and units	\$1,462,909
Total percent of students receiving awards from CASNR/units	54.3%

### CASNR Education Abroad 2015

Education abroad opportunities for students within CASNR continue to grow. Recently, a dozen students returned from Australia where they gained a more in depth understanding of fruit and vegetable cultivation and dairy farm and livestock operations throughout the country. In the coming year, a number of overseas faculty led programs will be bringing students to various countries and continents. On the list are Puerto Rico this coming Spring Break; Botswana, China, England & Scotland, France & Spain and Namibia throughout the summer; New Zealand and Ethiopia over Winter Break. The second annual CASNR Education Abroad Fair to promote opportunities for students was held in December 2014. If interested in creating a faculty led program, contact Jon Kerrigan at [jon.kerrigan@unl.edu](mailto:jon.kerrigan@unl.edu).

Within the last year students involved in the newly formed Global Agriculture Club traveled to Seattle, Washington and successfully lobbied to become a chapter member of the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS). IAAS is an internationally recognized student led club focusing on agriculture and natural sciences both domestically and internationally which was

holding its National Summit in Seattle. For more information regarding their activities, please send an email to [iaasunl14@gmail.com](mailto:iaasunl14@gmail.com).

To find out the most up-to-date information, a newly created webpage has gone live which is more user-friendly and brings increased focus to abroad opportunities, scholarships, and resources within the College. It can be found by going to [casnr.unl.edu/undergraduate-education-abroad](http://casnr.unl.edu/undergraduate-education-abroad).

### CASNR Week 2015

It is that time of year again and the CASNR Week Program Council is in full gear planning the events for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual CASNR Week celebration. Below is a list of the events, dates, times and locations for the week. We hope that you will be able to join us in the celebration!

#### 2014 CASNR Week Activities

Date	Event	Location	Time
Friday, April 10	Bull-a-Thon Bowling Tournament	Lanes 'N Games Nebraska East Union	7:00-11:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 11	Fun Run	East Campus	8:00 a.m.
	Burr/Fedde/Love Hall Bull Fry	Burr Hall East Campus	4:00-8:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 12	CASNR Week Banquet	Nebraska Union-City Campus	5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 13	Nebraska Community Blood Bank Blood Drive	Mobile Unit on East Campus Mall	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 14	Lunch on the Lawn	Great Plains Room Nebraska East Union	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
	Community Night	Great Plains Room Nebraska East Union	5:00-7:00 p.m.
	Scavenger Hunt (sponsored by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Christian Veterinary Fellowship)	Nebraska East Union Lawn	5:00-7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 15	Club Adviser Luncheon	Nebraska East Union	Noon-12:50 p.m.
Thursday, April 16	Undergraduate TA Luncheon	Nebraska East Union	Noon-12:5- p.m.
	Husker Food Connection	Nebraska Union-City Campus	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
	Alpha Gamma Rho/Sigma Alpha Barbecue	AGR House East Campus	5:00-8:00 p.m.
Friday, April 17	University of Nebraska Rodeo Association Rodeo	Lancaster Event Center	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 18	University of Nebraska Rodeo Association Rodeo	Lancaster Event Center	1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**Awards:****Teaching Council/Parents Association Recognition Ceremony**

UNL Faculty and Staff “Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to Students”, sponsored by UNL Teaching Council, UNL Parents Association, and UNL Student Affairs took place on January 30, 2015. The Parents Association solicits nominations through an annual mailing, asking parents to nominate a faculty or staff employee who has made a significant difference in their student’s life. Nominations include a short explanation of why this person was nominated. The number of times each awardee has been recognized is indicated.

**Agricultural Economics**

Ronald Hanson – 23 years

Rosalee Swartz – 17 years

**Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication**

Mark Balschweid – 1 year

Lindsay Hastings – 2 years

Gina Matkin – 3 years

**Agronomy and Horticulture**

Stacy Adams – 2 years

Roch Gaussoin – 1 year

David Lambe – 6 years

Zac Reicher – 2 years

Anne Streich – 1 year

Kim A. Todd – 9 years

**Animal Science**

Lena Cottle – 1 year

Lisa Karr-Lilienthal – 4 years

Merlyn Nielsen – 9 years

**Biochemistry**

Britta Osborne – 4 years

**Biological Systems Engineering**

Roger Hoy – 3 years

Deepak Keshwani – 3 years

Jennifer Melander – 1 year

Francisco Munoz Arriola – 1 year

**Dean's Office**

Sue Ellen Pegg – 4 years

Nicole Smith – 2 years

**Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program**

Thomas Field – 2 years

**Entomology**

Tiffany Heng-Moss – 9 years  
 Stephen Spomer – 1 year

**Forensic Science**

Larry Barksdale – 2 years  
 Benjamin Heinisch – 1 year

**Natural Resources**

Amanda Bergeron-Bauer – 1 year  
 Sara Cooper – 4 years  
 Leon G. Higley – 5 years  
 Mark Pegg – 1 year  
 Larkin Powell – 4 years  
 David Wedin – 4 years

**PGA Golf Management**

Alan Baquet – 3 years

**Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences**

Michael Carlson – 3 years  
 Lila Tooker – 3 years

**2015 Holling Family Awards**

The Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence was made possible by a gift from the Holling family to honor their pioneer parents. John Holling was a 1912 electrical engineering graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and his brother, Gustave Holling, attended the College of Agriculture before farming the family's land in the Wood River area. The 2015 Award recipients are:

**Senior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award**

Dann Husmann, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication  
 Brad Lubben, Department of Agricultural Economics  
 David Wedin, School of Natural Resources

**Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award**

Amy Burgin, School of Natural Resources  
 Joe Luck, Department of Biological Systems Engineering

**Teaching Assistant Teaching Excellence Award**

Jeff Hartman, School of Natural Resources  
 Katherine Lawry, School of Natural Resources

**Academic Information:****ACE Reporting Requirements**

Please note that **all** ACE courses MUST archive all assessment materials defined in the original ACE proposal **every** semester the course is offered. Archiving is required to maintain certification and we are

particularly concerned with archiving and feedback for ACE 10 courses. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell.

### **PEARL Assessments—Consider Combining with ACE**

The Fall 2014 PEARL Reporting Cycle was very successful. All programs had submitted reports and there continues to be a movement toward assessments that are faculty-driven and directly measure student learning outcomes. The PEARL Reports will play a major role in the reporting of student learning outcomes for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaccreditation process to take place during 2016 and 2017. For programs that have not yet incorporated the ACE 10 assessments into the PEARL process, this may be something for your faculty to consider to simplify the assessment process and decrease the number of separate student assessments that are needed to be archived on an annual basis. For questions about PEARL assessments, contact John Markwell.

### **Activity Insight**

The Activity Insight program is used to update your teaching information so that we can correctly determine your Academic Appointment Calculation. To avoid having to take the time in January to complete the academic portion of your Activity Insight report, you might consider updating it every semester. Please contact Dann Husmann at [dhusman2@unl.edu](mailto:dhusman2@unl.edu) if you have questions about Activity Insight.

### **Scheduled New Student Enrollment Dates**

- **Spring 2015 NSE Dates**
  - Thursday, March 19, 2015
  - Monday, April 20, 2015
  - Thursday, May 14, 2015
  
- **Summer 2015 NSE Dates**
  - Wednesday, June 3, 2015
  - Friday, June 5, 2015
  - Tuesday, June 9, 2015 (Honors Day)
  - Monday, June 15, 2015
  - Wednesday, June 17, 2015 (Transfer Day)
  - Thursday, June 18, 2015
  - Tuesday, June 23, 2015 (Hidden Day not expected to be used)
  - Wednesday, June 24, 2015
  - Friday, June 26, 2015
  - Saturday, June 27, 2015
  - Tuesday, June 30, 2015
  - Wednesday, July 1, 2015
  - Tuesday, July 7, 2015 (Transfer Day)
  - Wednesday, July 8, 2015
  
- **Late NSE Date**
  - Thursday, August 13, 2015

### **Teacher Connect**

As a CASNR instructor, you play a critical role in supporting students' success. The UNL Academic Affairs office has created an online newsletter for instructors called "Teacher Connect". Teacher Connect

features programs and services that your students can use to be more successful in your courses. You may find this information useful for advising and mentoring students, making referrals, and learning about all that UNL offers to help your students succeed. Teacher Connect can be found at the following <http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/teacherconnection/archive>.

### **MyPlan**

MyPLAN has the capacity to capture advising notes within its database. If you are using the advising notes function in MyPLAN, great job! If you are not using this unique feature yet, please do so this spring as we approach priority registration in March. It is imperative that you maintain a complete and comprehensive advising record of your work with undergraduate students. Capturing advising notes in MyPLAN, through email or hard copy advising folders documents the adviser/student interaction as to what transpires during these advising sessions. Please make every effort to record your advising sessions through MyPLAN from this point forward. You may have been asked to serve as an academic recovery coach (ARC) this spring to work with your students who found themselves on academic probation from the Fall 2014 term. If you have completed some academic recovery plans (ARP) with your students, please be aware that before a student can register for summer classes (beginning March 9) and/or fall classes (beginning on March 30), you must lift the holds for your students. Lifting an academic hold takes place in MyRED and not MyPLAN. To lift a registration hold, do the following:

- 1) Find the student in the "Student Lookup" screen (by name or by student ID).
- 2) Once you find the student, look to the area called "Adv. Hold" over on the right-hand side of the student's name. If there is a hold, it will be listed as "Yes" and you can click on it.
- 3) Once you click on the "Yes", you will go to another screen for this student.
- 4) At this screen, you will see a boxed area called "Service Indicator Summary" and the first item in the column is the "Code" area for the student. Click on the "PRO" item and it will take you to another screen.
- 5) Once you arrive at the next screen called "Edit Service Indicator", you will see an icon box called "Release" in the upper right-hand side of the screen.
- 6) Click on the icon "Release" and follow the steps to lift the registration hold.

### **MyPlan as an Early Alert System**

MyPlan is also designed to serve as an early alert system within Blackboard allowing instructors, advisers, and staff to monitor the performance of students in our undergraduate programs. The goal of the early alert system is to identify students early in the semester that need help or assistance, and communicate the needs of students to the appropriate people within the university to better serve our students, which will increase our overall retention rate. This early alert system uses "flags" to raise a concern about a student's class performance, attendance, and/or missing assignments. If you teach courses this spring, please utilize "flags" in the MyPLAN system to hopefully identify students early in the semester instead of at the end of the semester when they go on academic probation. There is also a feature in MyPLAN to send individual students "kudos" for exceptional work in their classes at UNL. To learn more about MyPLAN, please go to the following website: <https://myplan.unl.edu/resources>

### **Substitution Waiver Deadlines**

Requests for substitutions and waivers involving courses that fall within the basic four-year curriculum must be filed before the start of the fall semester for December graduates, before the start of the spring semester for May graduates and prior to the last day of classes of the spring semester for August graduates. Forms are available in 103 Agricultural Hall, from the student advisor, or on the CASNR website. **NOTE:** If a course and/or a requirement within the degree program is waived, the credit hours in the degree program are still required.

**Student Email Address Changes**

We have found that advising students to update their email addresses in Blackboard so that they receive all the emails sent by their instructors has an unexpected complication. If a student updates their email in Blackboard, it will be reset to the former email address overnight. Students should update their email address in MyRed rather than Blackboard. Once the change is made in MyRed, the student's email address in Blackboard will automatically be updated.

**CDMA Forms**

In the past year, we have found a number of instances in which the College-Degree-Major-Advisor Change Form (CDMA) was sent down to the Administration Building without being routed through the CASNR Dean's Office for a signature. It is important that this form be processed in the Dean's Office so that the changes can be updated in our system and WebNow (UNL's paperless undergraduate advising system).

**CASNR Alumni News:****Salute to Graduates**

The December 2014 Salute to Graduates ceremony was attended by 64 of 161 graduates and an audience of 345 family members, faculty, staff and guests.

The May 2015 Salute to Graduates ceremony will be held on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union.

**Senior Send-Off**

The December 2014 Senior Send-Off was held in the Club Lounge of the Pinnacle Bank Arena with over 250 people in attendance including graduates and their families.

The May Senior Send-Off will be held in the Club Lounge of the Pinnacle Bank Arena on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. followed by the UNL Commencement Ceremony at 9:30 a.m.

**Legacy Courtyard**

The second annual brick installation ceremony will be held in the Legacy Courtyard on Saturday, September 26, 2015 prior to the CASNR Alumni Football Reunion and Silent Auction. We currently have orders for 148 engraved bricks to be installed in the Legacy Courtyard this fall. To date, the CASNR Alumni Association has sold a total of 275 bricks and has raised over \$85,000 for scholarships since the campaign began in May of 2014.

**CASNR Website**

The College launched a new website at the beginning of the 2014-2015 academic year. The new site offers resources for future students; current undergraduate and graduate students; faculty and staff; and CASNR alumni. The site can be accessed at: [casnr.unl.edu](http://casnr.unl.edu).

The Faculty & Staff page (<http://casnr.unl.edu/faculty-staff>) includes the following information:

- Teaching resources
- Promotion, Tenure, and Annual Evaluation of Teaching resources
- Curriculum resources
- Resources for undergraduate students (forms, student organizations, and general resources)
- CIEQ Assessment Instrument