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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, April 10, 2012

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Spring Affair Celebrates 26th Year

“All Hands on Plants” is the theme for 26th annual Spring Affair 2012. The event is Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Lancaster Event Center. For details about the Spring Affair or the Preview Party, visit the website at <http://springaffair.unl.edu>, or call 402-472-2971.

Staff Appreciation BBQ Set for April 27

Everyone is invited to the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture Staff Appreciation Barbeque on April 27, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., 150 Keim Hall. The Activities Committee is providing hamburgers, baked beans, tea and lemonade. Please bring a dessert if your last name begins with A–L or a side dish/salad if your last name begins with M–Z. RSVP to Brenda Gibson, bgibson2@unl.edu. Come and enjoy good fun and good food!



Please Attend Staff Meeting on April 18

A department staff meeting has been set for April 18th from 2:30–3:30 in 150 Keim Hall. The primary agenda item for the meeting is re-formation of the staff advisory committee, to be facilitated by Richard Ferguson. This will be an open discussion to determine staff interest in starting an advisory committee to bring departmental suggestions and issues forward to the Department Head or the Faculty Advisory Committee. If you are unable to attend and would like to provide input, please email Roch Gaussoin, rgaussoin1@unl.edu, your suggestions to be brought forward at the meeting.

Mark the Date!

April 11: Student Workers are invited to stop by 279 PLSH to pick up chips and a soda in recognition of Student Worker Appreciation Week, April 9–13.

April 13: Dept. Seminar: “Bush Encroachment in Namibia, Southern Africa” with Dr. Walt Schacht, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

April 15: CASNR Week Banquet, Nebraska East Union, 5 p.m. The theme is “Dream Big” with keynote speaker Aaron Davis. A reception precedes the dinner from 4–5 p.m. RSVP at <http://www.unl.edu/casnweek/rsvp.shtml>.

April 16: Plant Pathology seminars “Engineering for broad spectrum virus resistance (BSVR)” by Leny Galvez, 4 p.m., 264 Keim.

April 17: CASNR Week Lunch on the Lawn, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., NEU.

April 18: Department Staff meeting, 2:30–3:30 p.m., 150 Keim. The primary agenda item for the meeting is re-formation of the staff advisory committee.

April 18: EHS Safety Colloquium “Safe Handling: Unstable, Reactive & Energetic Chemicals,” 12:30 p.m., Nebraska East Union.

April 20: Dept. Seminar: “Food, Farm and Fitness: Agricultural Productivity, Nutrition and Health in Ethiopia” with Dr. Martha Mamo, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

April 20: Agronomy and Horticulture Awards Banquet and Silent Auction, Nebraska Club at the top of the US Bank Building, 6 p.m.

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Department Wins Emeriti Engagement Award

The Department of Agronomy and Horticulture received the 2012 "Award for Engagement of Emeriti Faculty" which will be presented at the CASNR Week Banquet on April 15th. This award, co-sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and its Alumni Association, recognizes effective and innovative ways to engage emeriti faculty.

We are pleased that many of our emeriti faculty remain active in the department and assist and participate in numerous ways, such as: The Department's Centennial Celebration in 2010, attending seminars, providing city tours to candidates, mentoring junior faculty, teaching courses, and joining coffee and social gatherings throughout the year. I am pleased to extend my personal thanks to our emeriti faculty.

– Roch Gaussoin, Interim Head

Francis Recognized with UNL Award

Dr. Charles Francis, professor in Agronomy and Horticulture, is one of 19 UNL faculty members who will be recognized for distinguished teaching, service and research by the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The faculty members will be recognized at an Honors Convocation on Sunday, April 22. Congratulations Dr. Francis!

Specht Recognized as New Member of Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement

Congratulations to Dr. Jim Specht who was recognized as a new member of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement! The purpose of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement is to gather and compile the history of achievements in agriculture in the territory and State of Nebraska, and to preserve the records of these achievements. Only persons who are actively engaged in agriculture, and who are residents of the State of Nebraska, are eligible for membership. New members are nominated by the Board of Trustees and elected by ballot of the existing membership. Dr. Specht received this recognition at the annual banquet which was held on March 23, 2012.

Thanks to our Department's Student Workers!

Student Worker Appreciation Week is April 9–13, 2012. To say "Thank You!" to our student workers, the department is providing chips and a soda which are available for students to pick up in 279 PLSH on Wed., April 11.

In addition, the department received lapel stickers to wear during the week. A sticker will be placed in your mailbox at the beginning of the week. Please take this opportunity to recognize your student workers!

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April 23: Plant Pathology Seminar, "Overview of Switchgrass as a Biofuel and Associated Pathogens" Catherine Stewart, M.S. student, and "An Introduction to using *Lysobacter enzymogenes* as a biological control agent with Ya Li, M.S. Student, 264 Keim, 4 p.m.

April 27–28: Spring Affair, April 28, and Spring Affair Preview Party, April 27, both at the Lancaster Event Center. For details, see:

<http://springaffair.unl.edu>.

April 27: Dept. Spring BBQ, 11:30–1 p.m., 150 Keim Hall

April 27: Dept. Seminar "Sclerotinia Resistance in Soybean: The Impossible Dream?" George Graef, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

May 4: CASNR Salute to Graduates, 4 p.m., NEU.

May 30–June 1: 2012 Global Water for Food Conference.

June 18–22: 2012 Nebraska Range Short Course, Chadron. To register, visit the website at: <http://agronomy.unl.edu/nebraskarangeshortcourse>.

June 26–28: 2012 NAIPSC short course, WCREC, North Platte, Neb. Please register at: <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>. For scholarships, please see the information on page 3.

June 5: UNL First Five Weeks Summer Session begins.

July 4: Independence Day, Offices closed and no classes.

July 9: UNL Second Five Weeks Summer Session begins.

Aug. 20: UNL Fall Semester begins.

Oct. 21–25: ASA, CSSA, SSSA Annual Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio. For details, see: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>.

Scholarships Available for 2012 NAIPSC

Organizers of the 2012 North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) have announced that 20 scholarships are available from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The short course will be held June 26–28 at the UNL West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte. For more information on the scholarships, please contact Linda Lehmann at 308-696-6712 or linda.lehmann@unl.edu. To register, or for more details about the NAIPSC, see: <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>.



Information For and About Grad. Students Apply for Travel Grants by May 9, 2012

Two travel grants are available from the department: the David H. and Annie E. Larrick Student Support Fund, and the William G. Whitmore Memorial Fund. Applications for these grants should be submitted to Marlene Busse, graduate secretary, by May 9, 2012.

The Larrick Fund is devoted to supporting graduate student travel to professional and scientific meetings. Larrick Funds support travel in those fields not specified in the Whitmore Fund. The Whitmore Fund is geared to travel for graduate students in the fields of Animal Science, Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication (AGLEC), and Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. More information and forms may be found at <http://ard.unl.edu/awards>.

Information from the Office Pros New IANR Travel Forms Developed

All full-time IANR faculty and extension educator and specialists are eligible for IANR Travel Funds. To apply for these funds, please use the new forms at <http://ard.unl.edu/faculty-awards-and-travel>. The form and guidelines have also been downloaded to the Shared Drive under the FORMS and then Travel Forms folders.

Office Professionals Plan a new Website

The Office Professionals have been busy planning a new webpage to help faculty, staff and students learn about our office associates and their respective skills. We also plan to have a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section so people can find answers to questions about travel, purchasing, and many other office and department-related subjects. Watch for more details to follow!



– Brenda, Karen, Kat, Kathy, Marlene and Tiffany

Information Technology News

By Warren Werner

As you know, email migration is approaching, but before that can happen, log-in accounts must be changed to UNL-AD. Typically this should be your Blackboard account ID. If you haven't claimed your ID for Active Directory, you will need to go to <https://id.unl.edu> and follow the link to claim your ID. I will be making the change within the next week to allow for acclimation. "haa" log-ins will no longer work after this is done. This new log-in is necessary for the new email system to operate. As always, please feel free to contact me at wwerner2@unl.edu or 402-890-5648 if you have any questions.

In the News

Backyard Farmer was featured in the *Lincoln Journal Star* on April 1, 2012. See the article at http://journalstar.com/lifestyles/home-and-garden/backyard-farmer-marks-its-th-season/article_3d12737a-baae-5a97-ac67-561e8a9896a2.html.

Department Newsletter Info.

The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture newsletter is published twice a month. To submit news, events, or announcements, please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 472-1508.

Dear faculty, staff, and students:

The student organizations of the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cordially invite you to attend the Seventh Annual Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Student Awards Banquet. The event will honor and highlight the activities and achievements of students over the past year. This year's banquet will be held on the evening of **Friday, April 20th** at the Nebraska Club atop the US Bank building located in downtown Lincoln. A silent auction and social time will start at 6:00 p.m. with the program and meal beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Nebraska Club is located at 233 South 13th Street Suite 2000, Lincoln, NE 68508 (corner of 13th Street and M Street).

RSVPs are needed by **Monday, April 16th**. Please enclose \$15 per person attending and make checks out *AHGSA Banquet Fund*. **An RSVP IS REQUIRED to attend this banquet.** Questions can be directed to Brian Krienke via email at unl.ahgsa@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Brian Krienke
Agronomy & Horticulture Graduate Student Association President

Please return bottom portion with payment to the AHGSA mailbox in 279 Plant Science Hall or mail to:

Agronomy & Horticulture Graduate Student Association
Attn: Brian Krienke
361 Keim Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0915

(detach and submit this portion)

**Department of Agronomy & Horticulture
Student Awards Banquet
Friday, April 20th, 2012**

Number Attending: _____

Names of Attendees: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (payable to *AHGSA Banquet Fund*)