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Alum awards to three

The University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association presented its annual awards at the Fall 1992 Reunion.

Robert D. Osler of Houston, Texas, received the association's Award of Merit. Osler, an Elsie, Nebraska, native, attended Ag College from 1941-43 before spending three years in the U.S. Army, including six months as a POW in Germany. He returned to UNL, where he served as president of the Agronomy Club and was elected to Alpha Zeta, and graduated in 1947. He received his MS in 1949 from Colorado A&M, and his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1951. He served as a soybean breeder at Urbana, Illinois for the USDA from 1952-55, before joining the Rockefeller Foundation as a geneticist in the maize program in Mexico. In 1960 he was transferred to the New York office of the Foundation and returned to Mexico in 1966 when the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) was established. In 1967 he was appointed deputy director general of the Center, where he served until retirement in 1989.

Among the letters of support for the award were the following statements:

"Bob was a critical element in the staff (CIMMYT). Beyond the duties of his job description, he was regarded by virtually everyone as an 'uncle.' In that role he was critically important in adding stability and a sense of caring to the relationship between the institution and its staff."

"The so-called 'green revolution' can be attributed greatly to the collaborative"

(Continued on page 4)

FROM THE DEAN’S DESK

Today’s vision — tomorrow’s reality

As winter was approaching, I was preparing our roses for the long, cold time ahead. I was reminded of the writing by Satchel Paige, baseball great and philosopher, “Don’t always hurry, but stop to smell the roses along the way.” Yes, on occasion each of us needs to “stop and smell the roses along the way.”

Roses, you say — why roses — what are you trying to say? What connection is there between roses and a vision for tomorrow? The rose, especially a hybrid tea rose, is a thing of splendor and beauty. It can be thought of to reflect the many things for which we should be thankful. You, as alumni of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, have helped bring Nebraska and the nation to the highest standard of living ever known. As we are smelling the rose, the fragrance of that beautiful flower should remind each of us what we personally have to reflect upon — a great and wonderful state and nation, full of hope, full of opportunity.

Today’s Vision — Tomorrow’s Reality! During the past several months, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) has developed strategic and action plans. These are available upon request. These plans provide us with the guideposts to help lead Nebraska into the future. To set the stage for these plans a vision statement was developed:

IANR will be the premier provider of educational, research and outreach programs essential for shaping Nebraska's future as a leader in the 21st Century in the areas of food, agricultural systems, natural resources and human resources. IANR is dedicated to providing the highest quality programs that are ecologically sound, economically viable, socially responsible, and scientifically appropriate.

As noted, IANR will be a teamplayer with all of you in shaping Nebraska’s future as a leader in the areas of food, agricultural and agribusiness systems, natural resources and human resources.

The vision, like the rose, represents hope and opportunity. But, be cautious. Although a rose casts a picture of elegance, if you are not careful when you cut the rose stem, you may draw pain and a drop of blood from your finger. So is the way of life in the enterprises of food, agricultural, and agribusiness systems, natural resources and human resources. With the beauty there may also be suffering, waste and violence. Many times in our haste to do well we create undesirable conditions. So “don’t always hurry, but stop” to see what we have done, to see what tracks we have left behind ourselves and where we should be going — the Vision.

A beautiful hybrid rose, if not properly cared for, will wither. If the condition becomes too severe, the plant will die below the crown. The crown is the life line and personality of the rose. When it again begins to grow, it may not return to its original beauty but may be scarred and ugly.

The rose is constantly being attacked by insects, disease, and harsh elements of the weather. The caretaker must patiently, personally and professionally care for the plant and in return it will reward the caretaker and all others with a beautiful plant and flowers.

Each of us, you and me, are also caretakers of the state, nation and IANR. How will we take care of our “rose”? Yes, we must “stop to smell the roses along the way.”

Dean Edwards
The Prez sez

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and blessed holiday season. We all should be thankful for the blessings of 1992 and look forward to 1993.

Your College of Agriculture held its annual football reunion on November 7 with the Home Ec College at the Wick Alumni Center. Even with the time change secondary to a night football game, we had a good turnout of approximately 200 people. Dr. Jack Shinhostock gave us an update of the latest happenings in the Agricultural College. Our speaker for the evening was Dr. Wesley Peterson whose presentation gave the group insight into the North American Free Trade Agreement and the potential trade problems arising with our European neighbors.

I would like again to congratulate the three College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association award recipients: Marvin Kruse, Robert Osler and Merilyn Carlson. These are three very deserving individuals and I want to thank them for their contributions to the Agricultural College and to Nebraska’s agricultural industry.

The reunion ended with a dominating Nebraska victory over visiting Kansas at Memorial Stadium.

Last spring, we hosted our first Graduation breakfast together with the Senior Membership Award presentations for the Ag College graduates. It was held at the Beef Barbecue Pit on the State Fairgrounds prior to the graduation ceremony. This was so successful compared to previous on-campus receptions we decided to continue the Graduation breakfast for those individuals graduating in December. Over 200 students, along with their parents, were invited to attend the event. It provides the graduates, their parents and family, faculty and alumni of the CASNR a chance to meet and share experiences and memories. We plan to continue this event at the May 1993 Graduation, All College alumni are invited to attend the May 1993 Graduation Celebration event. Our annual basketball event will be held January 30 for the Missouri game.

We are trying a new format and will hold this event together with five other college alumni groups on the State Fairgrounds prior to game-time. This will provide us with the opportunity to meet fellow Alumni from the University of Nebraska who graduated from a different college.

In my last article in the Fall ’92 issue of The SOWER, I discussed that as an Alumni Association member, you provide the needed support for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association for the College. We do need your help again and it is in the area of student enrollment. Your Board of Directors has been told there are jobs in the agricultural areas which do not get filled because of a lack of available CASNR graduates. We are asking you to help with student recruitment and student enrollment. Please call me or drop me a note or call Alice Kadavy at 402-472-2841 if you know of students who are interested in attending college and would like to pursue an agricultural sciences and natural resources degree. We will forward these names to the Dean’s office so they can actively recruit these individuals. Your help is greatly appreciated.

As always, feel free to contact us with any comments or suggestions you may have.

Mark Freese
President

Dear Sirs:

I read the “Real Scoop” in The SOWER, Fall 1992 and will try to respond. I was not a regular employee in the Dairy Store salesroom but I had a part-time job as a student mostly making cottage cheese and putting it in cartons. Sometimes I worked in the sales room dipping ice cream and putting it in paper cups which we called Sundaeas. Walter Cording was in charge of the sales room. He now lives in Chicago close to the Cubs ball park.

We also sold eggs that we brought in from the poultry department. Eggs were not packaged as good then as now so many times we had some cracked eggs which were given to some customers. On a couple of occasions when we had no cracked eggs, Walt would crack a few for some customers.

I worked in the “creamery” as we called it in the school year 1928-29. I worked Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7 a.m. until I had a class at 10:00, then all day Saturdays and Sundays. The pay was 25 cents per hour.

There was an old dairy barn about 150 feet east of the dairy building and we fed skim milk to the calves housed in that barn. It was removed the next year.

Yours truly,

Russell Hughes
Fremont, Nebraska

Editorial Goof Noted

E.C. Klostermeyer: ’40, ’42, called attention to not one, but two, errors in the ALUM NOTES item about him in the last issue. His name is Klostermeyer, not Klosterman, and his business is called Hangups, not Hangerups. He added, “I am glad to get The SOWER and look forward to future error-free editions.”

(Ed. note: Sorry, E.C. As for error-free issues, we try, we try,....)

Brevity Not Always Desirable

I note your request for brevity — at 82 years give me the formula....

Campus antics — Initiation into the campus livestock club...moving through the campus shrubbery, wet from recent rains or watering, on hands and knees propelled by paddles delicately (?) applied to strategic portions of the anatomy.

Shirt-tail parade — surprise at the apparent passivity of Lincoln police who seemed to be on every corner and the immensity of the theater curtain as we went through the theater the reality of which was brought home at our next registration on which appeared this item, “Replacement of Damaged Theater Curtain.”

The subdued spirits of a group of us, gathering materials for the annual Farmers Fair at the State Fair grounds at the rebuke of a man whom we jocularly accosted for fishing in Salt Creek as he was searching for his boy drowned by a flood engendered by recent torrential rains....

Arnold Gadeken, ’35
Bushnell, Nebraska

Recollections about

Wayne Nielsen (see ALUM NOTES, 1950) writes, “Some of my recollections of campus life are the meals at Baldwin Hall, walking to a.m. classes in the dark during the war years, some of the students washing windows for 25-cents an hour, R.O.T.C. in the field artillery unit with 105 howitzers on the mall east of Ag Engineering, the military balls, winning the Tri-K judging contest, the grain judging team competing at Kansas City and Chicago, Farmhouse fraternity, and T.A. for Dr. Goodding and Dave Sanders in agronomy.

“In addition to the fond memories, one of the most important aspects of college life is the opportunity of meeting and having life-long acquaintances with so many fellow students and instructors.”

APB...APB... To All Wildlifers

Charles Wertz (see Alum Notes ’83) has issued an all-points-bulletin to all former Wildlife Club members to gather at next fall’s Ag Alumni Reunion.

“Just got back from a two week swing through Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and California. Met up with fellow alumni including Andi (Mann) Lower (’83) to watch NU take on Washington.

“I would really like to get together with old UNL Wildlife Club chums at next fall’s Ag Alumni reunion. Interested Wildlifers should GIVE ME A CALL at 717-272-0590.

“I am very proud to be a NU Ag Alum. There is a bond among Nebraska graduates and supporters that other schools can’t hold a candle to. I state the benefits of an NU education to all those who ask... Penn State... get real! Send me some promotional material and I will get it to our local high schools.” Wertz lives in Lebanon, PA.

Letters
In memoriam

(Ed. note: occasionally, The SOWER does not hear of an alumn’s passing until well after the fact. We will continue to mention the deaths of alumni in these pages as soon as possible.)

Dale E. Welbel (*42, MS ’47, PhD Iowa State ’47) died last September. He retired in 1986 as head of the sorghum breeding program at Oklahoma State University. In addition to his teaching/research duties at OSU, he served as a consultant to US AID. Ralph Phelps (*48) of Hastings died in October 1991.


Edward Rousek (*51) of Compo, California, died in November 1991.

35 Arnold Gadeken has been farming near Bushnell since 1955. Prior to that, he worked two years with the Cooperative Extension Service in Banner County, served five years in the Army, was involved in the movement of migrant workers in the late ’40s, and spent eight years as foreman of the Bull Canyon Ranch in Wyoming. He and his wife of 54 years have one son who now farms with him.

40 Glen Thacker worked in the NU and Iowa State poultry departments before serving 20 years at Cornell University, where he retired in 1977. He is now active in volunteer work and travels from his home in Lees Summit, Missouri. His wife of 40 years, Ruth (Sheldon, NU ’42) died in 1982.

Alvin Rippen has been associated with the dairy industry since graduation, including work with a machinery manufacturer, a milk processing plant and with the Cooperative Extension Service at Michigan State U. Retirement is dedicated to volunteer work, travel and fishing. He lives in Okemos, Michigan.

47 A symposium honoring Willard Visek was held last fall at the University of Illinois, where he is a professor in the College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine and professor of food science and nutritional science in the College of Agriculture. He received his M.D. from the University of Chicago and served there in the Department of Pharmacology from 1957-64. He and wife, Priscilla, have three children and four grandchildren. Priscilla is a 1948 College of Ag grad in dietetics. She was Nebraska May Queen in 1948. Before retirement, she was a registered dietician and has been on the faculty at Illinois in the Office of Instructional Resources.

Wayne Kelm (*54) retired last summer after a 40-year career in agronomy and genetics at Iowa State, Purdue, and Colorado State University. He and wife, Joyce, live in Ft. Collins, Colorado, and have three children and five grandchildren.

ALUMNI NOTES

49 Leroy Nittler received his PhD from Cornell in 1953 and was there on the faculty for 31 years before retirement in 1981. He has two sons and one granddaughter and lives in Middlesex, N.Y.

50 Wayne Nielsen writes, “Fifty years have elapsed since my enrollment at the College of Agriculture in the fall of 1942. After some time in the service, I received my BS degree in 1950.

While at school, I met my wife, Wanda (Pearson, ’51). We have three daughters and one son. Three are graduates of the College of Agriculture or Home Economics and one from Curtis. We have three grandchildren. Our farming operation, of which our son is a part, is located near Lincoln. Like most of my colleagues, I have served on numerous boards and committees.

“Last February and March I was part of a trade team that visited Russia, the Baltic States, Egypt and England....”

52 Clayton Yeutter has been elected a director of Texas Instruments. He formerly served as US Trade Representative, US Secretary of Agriculture and president of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

67 Ronald Prior completed his PhD program in nutrition at Cornell U. and served in a research position at U.S.M.A.R.C., Clay Center, before entering private business in 1985. In 1987, he returned to the research environment as Scientific Program Officer for a USDA human nutrition program at Tufts University in Boston. He and wife, Ann, have one son and live in Bedford, Mass.

70 Vernon Melnich (MS ’71) is a founding partner of Agribusiness Consultants, Inc., a crop consulting firm in Michigan. He received his PhD in agronomy from the University of Illinois in 1975 and was on the staff at Montana State U. from 1975-77. He served as extension soils specialist at Michigan State University from 1977-83. He has three daughters and lives in Okemos, Michigan.

74 Richard Fruckler is currently an agricultural telecommunications consultant for USWest in Arvada, Colorado. He and wife, Carrie, have two children.

76 Gary Markle served as Grand Marshall of the 57th annual American Royal Parade in November. His wife, Darlene, and their two children rode the parade route in a Belgian draft Horse-pulled wagon. They live in Liberty, Missouri.

81 Nick Billtoft is employed by the Soil Conservation Service as the District Conservationist in the Riverton, Wyo. Field Office. He reports a surprising number of U.NL grads working for SCS in Wyoming, and fondly recalls memories of instructors Jim Stubbendieck and Steve Waller. He and wife Cindy are parents to two girls.

Charles Shafer went on to the UN College of Medicine and is now Medical Director of the Sioux River Valley Community Health Center in Siox Falls, S.D. He only spent six months at a mission hospital in Zimbabwe, Africa. He and wife, Janice, have two sons.

82 Mark Verbeck has been promoted and relocated from Lincoln to Fort Meyers, Florida, where he is working a new sales territory for Miles, Inc.

83 Jeffrey D. Meyer writes, “I am a Policy Analyst with Rain and Hail Insurance Service, Inc. in West Des Moines, Iowa. My wife’s name is Madeline and we have two children, a son and a daughter. Some of my fondest college memories were as a member of the Agromony Club. We had regional meetings in Manhattan, Kan. and Brookings, S.D. and national meetings in Anaheim, Calif. and Washington, D.C. What a great learning experience it was!”

Charles Wertz works with the Lebanon (Pennsylvania) County Conservation District where he oversees the work of seven staff members in improving water quality, reducing erosion, educating the public on environmental topics and providing comprehensive planning as it relates to natural resources. He also is a partner with his two brothers and sister in the family candy business begun by his grandfather in 1931. (See “Letters” page 2.)

85 Don Pfeiffer was recently promoted to station manager/assistant breeder of the Illinois Foundation Seeds, Inc. Seward, Nebraska location.

86 Scott Miles worked in the Lincoln area after graduation before he and wife, Gwenna (Teachers College, ’88), moved to Texas where he is now Assistant Supervisor/Keeper of the Texas Exhibit for the Fort Worth Zoo. “Some highlights of the job have included putting a bison calf; fundraising a bison calf; training the Reserve Champion steer of the 1992 Fort Worth Livestock Show to ride; and in the future, working on a conservation program involving the ocelot, a native Texas cat which resembles the jaguar.”

87 Rod May was recently designated a Certified Independent Crop Consultant by the Registry of Environmental and Agricultural Professionals. He and wife, Heidi, have two children and live in Brookings, S.D.

Henry Vogt is working for the family farm, feedlot and trucking company at Gothenburg, Nebraska. He is taking courses towards a Real Estate Broker’s License. He writes, “I enjoyed campus life very much while I was in school and enjoy coming back to see the changes that have been made to the campus.”

Glen Slater (MS ’89) is a research technician at UNL’s South Central Research and Extension Center at Clay Center, working with a soil fertility and groundwater quality project. He also farms with his brother. He and wife, Anne, are expecting their first child in March. They live near Harvard.

88 Jerry Roemer has been attending law school evenings at George Mason University in Arlington, Va., and plans to take the Virginia Bar Exam in February. He has accepted a position as attorney-advisor with the U.S. Department of Justice Office of information and privacy.

89 Mark Fableson is a 1992 graduate of the UNL College of Law and is currently serving as a judicial clerk for a Nebraska Supreme Court judge. In July, he will become an associate with an Omaha law firm that represents many agribusinesses throughout the country.

90 Cellan Pallian an agronomy/crop production major, is Polk County (Nebraska) Extension Assistant in agriculture and 4-H. She also works with extension agents-agriculture in Seward and York counties.

Put your name in the NEWS!!

Tell us what’s happening! Send news about yourself or fellow alumni to the Editor, The Sower, Wick Alumni Center, 1520 R Street, P.O. Box 880216, Lincoln, NE 68588-0216.

Name_ Class yr_ Address_ City/State/Zip_ Your news_

Please clip and return this form to: The Sower, Wick Alumni Center, 1520 R Street, P.O. Box 880216, Lincoln, NE 68588-0216.

Wayne Kelm

WINTER 1993
New college majors provide opportunities

By David Roberts
IANR News Assistant

The first group of students to major in water science at UNL will graduate this school year. Planning to be one of them is Bob Jurgens, a 26-year-old student from Adams. "There's a strong job market out there for water resources people," said Jurgens, who wants to be an environmental scientist.

Bryant Knoerzer, 22, of Elwood, is also a senior in another relatively new major, mechanized systems management, and plans to work in the more traditional employment of farming. "I've always wanted to return home to farm," he said.

Fulfilling the diverse educational needs of students whose interests range widely in the sciences is one of the missions of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. That's why new majors were added two years ago.

Knoerzer said he chose the major because it best fits his interests. "I've gotten some ideas from my major that we're applying at home" on the diversified family farm south of Lexington, he said.

While Knoerzer pursues a career in farming, most of the 1,300 students in CASNR are working toward employment goals in other areas related to agriculture and natural resources. Only about 20 percent of CASNR graduates return to traditional farming and ranching jobs, while 40 percent go into business and industry, said Cindy Cammack, CASNR recruitment and placement coordinator.

"Possibly up to 10 percent of the students are moving into banking and finance," she said, adding that it would be a big misconception to think that CASNR only produces farmers and ranchers.

In targeting the diverse job market, the college has traditionally offered curricula for students majoring in general agriculture, agribusiness, agronomy, crop protection, entomology, food science, horticulture, nutrition, plant science and other areas.

The addition of "natural resources" to the title of the college and relatively new majors, including biochemistry, environmental studies, fisheries and wildlife, water science and veterinary science, indicates the wide range of career opportunities for students.

CASNR Alumni Association 1992-93 Board of Directors

Maureen E. Freeman, '90
Lincoln
Term Expires: 1993 (1st)

Dwaine Greeneway, '70
Blair
Term Expires: 1995 (1st)

Michael R. Hana, '77
Waverly
Term Expires: 1995 (1st)

Bryan Henderson, '80
Lincoln
Term Expires: 1995 (1st)

Paul Kenney, '83
Lancaster
Term Expires: 1995 (1st)

Mark Moran, '83
Goodland
Term Expires: 1993 (2nd)

F. M. "Bill" Romeo, Jr., '61
Valentine
Term Expires: 1994 (1st)

Alwyn M. Edwards
Lincoln
Ex Officio

Charles E. Pearson
Lincoln
Ex Officio

Merilyn Carlson
Lincoln
Ex Officio

Alumnus of the Year 1992

AWARDS
(Continued from page 1)

program of CIMMYT in wheat and maize improvement and to that of the International Rice Research Institute...

...The direct, hands-on efforts of Dr. Osler in the pioneering work of the Rockefeller Foundation in attempting to improve grain yields in poor countries and his role as an administrator... certainly make him a worthy recipient of the Ag Alumni Award of Merit.

The ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD was presented to Marvin L. Kruse, '41, of Springfield, Missouri. Kruse served as a Nebraska Extension Service county agent before and after WWII Army service. He worked in Buffalo, Brown, Rock and Keya Paha counties, and in Dodge County.

In 1951, he began a 30-year career with the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeder's Association of America as National Fieldman, editor of the Brown Swiss Bulletin, secretary-treasurer (CEO) and as Executive Vice President.

He is now "semi-retired" and is Executive Secretary of the Missouri Dairy Association. He also breeds and raises Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorn cattle and is the U.S. representative for the Danish Red Dairy breed.

Kruse and wife, Ople (Hedlund), deceased in 1988, have three children. The list of honors and community activity recognitions fills a type-written page. He says the most exciting project of his career was the planning and filming of a movie, "The Big Brown Cow."

Merilyn Carlson of Lodgepole received the 1992 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the CASNR Alumni Association.

Carlson, operator of Carlson Ranch and Carlson Feedlot, attended the College of Agriculture for one year before going on to Colorado State University to complete his degree.

He has been selected to membership in the Nebraska Hall of Agriculture Achievement and is a recipient of the AK-SAR-BEN Agricultural Achievement Award. He has been active in state and national livestock associations and has served as vice president and president of the National Cattlemen's Association and president of the Nebraska Stock Grower's Association.

Carlson and wife, Janice, have three children.