

2009

The Leading Object: September 2009

John C. Owens

NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

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Owens, John C., "The Leading Object: September 2009" (2009). *The Leading Object*. 48.
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Perspectives

Isn't it wonderful to have our students back on campus?

It's exciting. It's invigorating. It's more crowded — and don't we enjoy that feeling?!



John C. Owens
NU Vice President and
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

Total enrollment throughout

UNL — undergraduate, graduate, and professional — is up 2.2 percent over last fall, to 24,100 students.

With 1,758 undergraduates, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources enrollment is up 7.1 percent. That's the highest undergraduate enrollment CASNR has seen since 1982.

CASNR graduate student enrollment is 559, up 11 percent.

That calls for applause. Certainly the much deserved credit goes to Dean Steve Waller for his leadership, and to the dedication and hard work of our faculty, staff, students, and supporters.

We've talked a lot about enrollment numbers since I arrived here in IANR. We set a priority of increasing our student numbers, because we needed to do that. That priority always has been based on the rock-solid reality that this institution always is about our students. Always.

CASNR offers a tremendous education delivered by people who care about the students sitting in the seats — about the work they'll do, the people they'll be, the opportunities that await them, and the ways they'll contribute to tomorrow.

In a powerhouse agricultural state such as ours, the quality and number of students speak also to the importance and vitality of agriculture and related areas in Nebraska. Agriculture is this state's leading industry, and people who understand and value it are important.

I've said before and I'll say again — when this agriculture and natural resources program was built, it was built right. We've built on our strengths to

continued on page 2

The Leading Object

*The Morrill Act of 1862
established a Land Grant University
in each state where
The Leading Object
would be instruction
in agriculture and related fields.*



September 2009

Awareness and demand for local foods keep growing

Awareness of food origins and eating healthier foods have gotten more attention during September, governor-proclaimed Nebraska Local Foods Month.

"As more restaurants, grocers, schools, hospitals, care facilities, and other institutions incorporate locally grown foods, the demand for local foods will increase, creating value-added opportunities for Nebraska farmers," said Mark Gustafson, University of Nebraska Rural Initiative (RI) coordinator for economic development.

The RI helped coordinate local foods promotions in September at the Nebraska State Fair, by hosting a chef cook-off, and sponsoring public service announcements during September Husker broadcasts.

It's part of a growing momentum of which the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, working with about 70 Nebraska producers to supply local foods in the dining halls, is a part.

Pam Edwards, assistant director of University Dining Services and its Good Fresh Local program, said monthly meals with Nebraska products began four years ago at Cather-Pound-Neihardt dining hall. The meals attract about 300 more people than usual. They feature Nebraska-grown meats, vegetables, and locally processed jams, jellies, honey, cheeses, and more.

Local foods are featured daily at the dining hall, and monthly local meals also



Brett Hampton

University of Nebraska Rural Initiative's Kayla Churchill, left, and Kim Peterson promote the Nebraska Local Foods Network and activities during September. Increased interest in food origins and eating healthier are creating value-added opportunities for many Nebraskans.

are available at dining services' cafeteria in the Nebraska East Union.

Kim Peterson, RI outreach program specialist, said RI is helping promote local foods in several ways, including through:

— The Nebraska Local Foods Network, a collaboration of Nebraskans working together to encourage and facilitate increased production and consumption of local foods.

— MarketMaker, an online listing of more than 850 Nebraska product contacts, from herbs to goats to vegetables.

continued on page 2

Perspectives *(continued from page 1)*

offer new programs that attract a broader range of students. That is good for all our students, and good for Nebraska.

Here are a few more interesting CASNR numbers: UNL increased 527 students this fall — undergraduate, graduate, and professional. CASNR accounted for 32 percent of UNL's total increase. In total growth in undergraduate enrollment alone, CASNR accounts for 27 percent of UNL's total increase.

The average ACT score for all new freshmen in CASNR programs is 25.86, compared to 25.4 for UNL. The average ACT for all CASNR students is 24.98.

Top five degree programs based on CASNR enrollment are: Animal Science (270); Fisheries and Wildlife (162); Agribusiness (160); PGA Golf Management (159); and Biochemistry (110). IANR's Biochemistry

Department has a total enrollment of 317, with 207 in the College of Arts and Sciences.

We celebrate, also, the terrific 6.3 percent increase in undergraduate enrollments enjoyed by the College of Education and Human Sciences. CEHS has 2,900 undergrads this fall and 1,039 graduate students, a slight increase from last fall.

Did you know CEHS enrolls approximately one-fourth of all graduate students at UNL? That's really significant, and something of which Dean Marjorie Kostelnik and everyone associated with CEHS can be very, very proud.

There's good news from Curtis, as well, where the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture has its highest enrollment ever, with 425 students. That's a 49 percent increase in student numbers over last year!

Congratulations to Dean Weldon Sleight, and all the faculty, staff, and friends who have worked to help NCTA grow. Conversion of a former nursing home in Curtis to private residence hall space, plus current design and construction of an education center, and a privately-funded 144 residence hall will keep NCTA on the grow.

What a really great way for all of us to start a new school year. Educating tomorrow's leaders is certainly how we're at work for Nebraska.



CASNR alumni enjoy reunion, auction

Guests at the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association's football reunion and student scholarship benefit auction look over items for auction. The Sept. 12 event raised more than \$5,000 for CASNR scholarships. CASNR alumni and guests enjoyed an awards ceremony, a pizza buffet, and a silent auction. They completed the day at the Nebraska-Arkansas State football game.



Kurtis Harms

Need to meet with the

Vice President/Vice Chancellor?

Drop-ins each Friday from 3-5 p.m.*

John C. Owens

NU Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Harlan Vice Chancellor of IANR

202 Ag Hall • (402) 472-2871

*Occasionally Dr. Owens will be called away on University business.

Editorial - Cheryl Alberts and Lori McGinnis • Layout - Anne Moore

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The Leading Object is published monthly for all IANR staff members by Communications & Information Technology. Questions or story ideas may be directed to the editor at

103 ACB, 0918; via e-mail (calberts1@unl.edu) or via fax (402-472-0025).

Awareness and demand for local foods keep growing

(continued from page 1)

— Funding and developing resources such as cost analysis budgets and producer curriculum that can help educate people about growing, marketing, and distributing local foods, in cooperation with UNL Extension.

— Helping Nebraska high school vocational agriculture programs obtain funding to develop curriculum about growing fresh foods for the school cafeteria lunch program.

Farmers markets, present in more than 60 Nebraska communities, provide a ready-made local foods connection. Billene Nemec, coordinator of Nebraska's Buy Fresh Buy Local program within the UNL Department of Agricultural Economics, helps promote farmers markets. She said the Buy Fresh program is having its local foods Harvest Celebration in October, and that locally grown foods appeal to many consumers who are conscientious about the environment and health.

Added Gustafson: "People want to know more where and how their food is grown. It's a good time to take advantage of and build on that. It provides a great opportunity for young people to come back to the farm and keeps more dollars in the local economy."

— Cheryl Alberts

Bosshamer's interest in beef started at an early age

Ann Marie Bosshamer has been involved in the beef industry for as long as she can remember.

She grew up on her family's farm and feedlot near David City and began working in the industry after graduating from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She and her husband Brian, a UNL extension educator based in Kearney, are part of his family's cow/calf operation near Amherst.

Bosshamer's beef interests started as a young girl. Instead of playing softball she got involved with 4-H and worked with her family on the farm, where her 84-year-old father still feeds cattle.

"I remember going as a little girl to the Omaha stockyards," said Bosshamer, a 1987 diversified agriculture graduate and now executive director of the Nebraska Beef Council.

At UNL, Bosshamer decided she wanted to be involved some way in the beef industry. Her decision was reinforced after she saw other students had a lack of understanding about agriculture.

"It has always been my goal to help people understand and appreciate where their food comes from," she said.

After graduating she spent 3 ½ years as a 4-H extension educator in Lancaster County. She then moved to the beef council as the director of consumer information and later director of marketing. As executive director she oversees all programs and staff members. She has been with the council for 13 years.

The council, which is funded through Nebraska's Beef Check-

off program, is involved in beef promotion, research, and education.

"It is the very best fit that I could have been blessed with," Bosshamer said. "I get to work with the entire chain of the beef industry. That is very energizing for me. I get to touch all different segments of our industry."

An education in the College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources was Bosshamer's stepping stone into the industry, and promises to be the same for today's students, she said.

CASNRR has done a "fantastic job" of keeping up with technology and has some of the best faculty and researchers in the world, she said.

"By being able to learn from them you are a step ahead," Bosshamer said. "I still work with some of those professors and I am continually impressed by the vision and foresight they have."

There are tremendous opportunities in the beef industry for students today, Bosshamer said, adding the beef council employs graduates of various agricultural majors.

"I would not have traded my education at CASNR for the world," she said. "It was a wonderful experience."

– Lori McGinnis



Ann Marie Bosshamer

Construction progress, new opportunities greet returning students

What's new on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's East Campus this fall? Plenty.

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources students returning to campus found a new social opportunity, new scholarship opportunities, and improvements in the works to campus buildings.

Ongoing and unprecedented construction and renovations are occurring in several buildings across campus. It's the most construction undertaken at one time ever on campus, said Barry Shull, IANR facilities director.

Keim and Forestry halls are undergoing complete renovation. Keim Hall is "well on its way" and is expected to be completed next summer. Forestry Hall should be completed in the spring.

Entomology Hall improvements include

new chemistry labs on the third floor and a new roof, and the floor is expected to open in about a month.

The most dramatic changes will be seen in Keim, Shull said.

"You won't be able to recognize it as the same building," he said. "Only the outside walls will be the same."

The courtyard between Keim and Plant Sciences Hall will become more of a focal point with new landscaping, he added.

Significant work also is being done at the Animal Science Complex. For the next two years the building will undergo physical improvements as well as updates to the electrical and ventilation systems, said Roger Mandigo, animal science professor.

Ruth Leverton Hall will close during the semester break and remain closed for one year for installation of a new heating, air conditioning, and ventilation system, Shull said.

On the social side, students were treated to a free Homecoming concert on Sept. 24 when two nationally known country music acts came to campus. Students were very excited to see performances by the Eli Young Band and opening act Aaron Watson, said Sue Voss, coordinator of student development and events for CASNR.

"They were the first big act to campus in a long time," Voss said.

Academically, CASNR students have opportunities for about 12 to 15 new scholarships, said CASNR associate dean Dann Husmann. The University of Nebraska Foundation provided funds, most of which are departmental scholarships in the \$1,000 range for CASNR students in specific academic programs, Husmann said.

FPC holding food workshops for audiences around the world

The Food Processing Center at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln is extending its reach around the world.

Two risk analysis workshops taught by Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources personnel were delivered to audiences in 11 countries and another is planned for February, said Rolando A. Flores, FPC director and head of the Department of Food Science and Technology.

IANR signed an agreement last year with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to collaborate in different areas addressing analysis of food safety from microbial and chemical contamination.

FPC staff and faculty from the Departments of Food Science and Technology, Biological Systems Engineering, and Agricultural Leadership, Education

and Communication recorded lectures that were then provided electronically to food industry representatives.

The primary lecturers were David Jones, BSE professor; Steve Stephens, FPC research engineer; Jeyam Subbiah, BSE and FST assistant professor; and Jason Ellis, AgLEC assistant professor. Other lecturers included FST's Steve Taylor, John Rupnow, and Flores.

The lecturers spent one week of each workshop teaching participants how to assess, quantify, and reduce the risk of contamination in microbial or pathogen contamination. The second week was spent addressing the risk and reduction of food contamination through environmental factors.

Two, two-week workshops were held in July for South American countries. The first workshop was delivered to six

countries and the second to five. FST graduate students translated the lectures into Spanish.

The material will be delivered in February to food industry specialists in the Caribbean and Central America, Flores said.

The workshops help spread IANR's expertise in food safety around the globe, Flores said. They were delivered in Colombia, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, and Costa Rica.

"In 11 countries now everyone knows about UNL, IANR, and the Food Processing Center," he said. "It's a big, big exposure."

In August Flores spent a week in Ecuador serving as a mentor for executives attending the Executive Leadership in Food Safety Program of the IICA.

– Lori McGinnis

Dvorak named interim Water Center director

Bruce Dvorak, civil engineering professor, this month began a yearlong appointment as interim director of the Water Center.

Dvorak succeeds Kyle Hoagland, who left the directorship to pursue other water and related program areas at UNL.

Dvorak has taught environmental engineering topics in civil engineering since 1994, with his research and extension education activities focusing on water quality and other environmental issues. Dvorak also has a Biological Systems Engineering appointment as an environmental infrastructure engineer.



Bruce Dvorak

CASNR grad gets ACT award

Ryan Hassebrook, a 2009 College of Agricultural and Natural Resources graduate, has received an award from the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.

Hassebrook, an agricultural journalism graduate from Bellwood, received the award of excellence for writing in the ACT Critique and Contest.

Each year ACT has the Critique and Contest in which students submit work they have completed in the past year for review and competition. The top entries in six categories are reviewed to determine the overall best writing entry, which receives the award of excellence.

Hassebrook's winning entry was a long feature personal profile story. Hassebrook now is a freshman English teacher in Forrest City, Ark.

Sutton named Fellow of Society of Landscape Architects

Richard Sutton, professor of agronomy and horticulture and landscape architecture, has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sutton was inducted into the Council of Fellows during the society's meeting in September in Chicago.

Sutton spearheaded the start of UNL's bachelor of landscape architecture degree program, which is offered jointly through the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the College of Architecture.

Cunningham receives KUDO

Jeri Cunningham, office associate in the Department of Entomology, is selected to receive the University of Nebraska Board of Regents October Kudo award.

Supporters of Cunningham's nomination cite her professional competencies and contributions to morale in the department, as well as her pride and interest in all students and dedication to the faculty.

The award will be presented at the Oct. 23 regents meeting.



Jeri Cunningham