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2004

### VC Council

John Owens

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, jowens2@unl.edu

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Owens, John, "VC Council" (2004). *John Owens: Speeches & Appearances*. 94.  
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Good news items:

\*John DeFrain received the Early Career Achievement Award at the annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations in Vancouver, British Columbia. He was cited for collaborative efforts to develop a Nebraska Farm and Ranch Families in Distress Coalition. The Coalition focused on the serious challenges rural families face, ranging from severe weather conditions to shrinking rural infrastructure. His leadership in helping social service professionals move toward a "family strengths model" in family development also was noted.

\*Martin Massengale, director of the Center for Grassland Studies and president emeritus of the University of Nebraska, has been elected chairman of the secretary of agriculture's national advisory board that helps USDA set federal agriculture and natural resources policies and priorities."

\*John Allen received the Excellence in Extension/Public Service Rural Sociological Award from the Rural Sociological Society. A number of aspects of his work were cited in the award, including the Nebraska Rural Poll, the EDGE entrepreneurial training program, and John's international efforts on rural development strategy. He was acknowledged for his leadership in creating new and innovative organizations to serve rural citizens.

\*At the graduation ceremony in December we saw the nation's first culinology graduate. Donald Moss, O'Neill, was the graduate of this cooperative program that teams UNL with Metropolitan

Community College in Omaha to provide students a background that combines culinary artistry, nutrition, and science. MCC and UNL were the first two-year and four-year institutions in the nation to offer a program in culinology <sup>^</sup>approved <sup>^</sup>by the Research Chefs Association. Students earn an associate's degree in culinary arts and management with a culinology option at MCC. At UNL, students earn a bachelor's in nutrition and health sciences wiht a culinary science option after taking culinary classes at MCC or another approved culinary institute. Moss also received a bachelor's degree in animal sciences with a meat science specialization.

\*Glenn Hoffman, former head of BSE, received the Massey-Ferguson Educational Award from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. This award is given for advancing engineering knowledge and practice in agricultural soil.

\*Lisa Pfeiffer, one of our graduates now a graduate student at the University of California, Davis, had the award-winning paper in the Undergraduate Research Paper category at the American Association of Agricultural Economics annual meeting. Her paper was titled "Agricultural Productivity Growth in the Andean Community," and was done as part of the Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences, or UCARE program.

It's to be published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics.