University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

John Owens: Speeches & Appearances

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Institute of (IANR)

1-1-2005

IANR Recognition Luncheon, Dinsdale Family Faculty Awards, and IANR Team Award Presentations

John Owens
University of Nebraska - Lincoln, jowens2@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/owenspeech

Part of the Agriculture Commons

Owens, John, "IANR Recognition Luncheon, Dinsdale Family Faculty Awards, and IANR Team Award Presentations" (2005). *John Owens: Speeches & Appearances.* Paper 153.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/owenspeech/153

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture and Natural Resources, Institute of (IANR) at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Owens: Speeches & Appearances by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Brett Hampton
photographer
Dean Marjorie Kaplan
Lowell Moser
Ann Vidaver
Alan Moller
ALAN BAQ.

IANR RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
DINSDALE FAMILY FACULTY AWARDS AND
IANR TEAM AWARD PRESENTATIONS
APRIL 18, 2005
JOHN C. OWENS
NU VICE PRESIDENT AND IANR HARLAN VICE
CHANCELLOR

What a pleasure it is to come together to recognize and celebrate outstanding work of members of our IANR community. Today we celebrate excellence as we present two Dinsdale Family Faculty Awards, as well as our IANR Team Award.

Let me share with you a little bit about the Dinsdale Family Faculty Awards before I tell you about the two outstanding faculty members receiving them today.

The Dinsdale Family Faculty Award is specially focused on untenured faculty who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to academic excellence. It recognizes outstanding teaching, research, and outreach in the Institute. Roy Dinsdale, who provided the funds for this award, graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Business Administration in 1948 and immediately went to work in the family business. At that time Dinsdale Brothers, Inc., was a farming and cattle operation at Palmer. The family also owned and operated the State Bank

at Palmer.

Over the years the farming operation has grown in Nebraska and expanded into Colorado. The cattle operation and the banking business, the latter having grown to assets of $3 billion, both now are found in Nebraska, Colorado, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and California.

In 1997, Roy Dinsdale made a gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation to create the Dinsdale Family Faculty Award in support of his alma mater and his family's interest in agriculture. We are so deeply appreciative of this support from the Dinsdale family.

This year Dr. Martha Mamo and Dr. Loren Giesler are our Dinsdale Family Faculty Award recipients. Dr. Lowell Moser will accept the award on behalf of Dr. Mamo. Would you please come forward?

Dr. Martha Mamo joined us in 1999 as a soil chemist and biochemist in our Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

Her nominators cite her contributions in both teaching and research demonstrate how very able she is to balance accomplishments in teaching with those in research in a highly effective way.

Martha's teaching assignment focuses on two undergraduate –

courses: soil resources and soil nutrient relationships. In soil resources, she led in developing and implementing major technological enhancements for the course, including an on-line erosion-management module. In soil nutrient relationships, she developed participatory-activities that enrich students' learning-experiences.

Nominators also mentioned her involvement in The Peer Review of Teaching process, a year-long UNL-activity documenting teaching and student-learning in one of her classes.

On the research side, Dr. Mamo's primary research areas include understanding processes involved in management-induced soil-acidity and its effects on soil chemistry; liming-strategies and phosphorus dynamics; tillage-impacts on soil properties; and more. She has successfully pursued grants to support her research; her nominators note her five publications in this area since 1999 demonstrate that her work is highly-regarded professionally.

Involved in international collaborative-research in sorghum production improvement in the U.S. and Africa, she's part of an INTSORMIL-USAID-funded-research project to improve food security and farm income where sorghum-based cropping-systems are important in eastern and southern

Africa.

Martha also cooperates in a project evaluating the impact of soil management on soil and water quality. She evaluates the effects of long-term manure-application on soil phosphorus distribution and potential phosphorus-loss by runoff. She's also part of a team evaluating total management daily loads on two watersheds here in Lancaster County. The team hopes to develop a pollution and economic-decision support-tool with regional application.

Please join me in applauding the many accomplishments of Dr. Martha Mamo.

Dr. Loren Geese-ler is a plant pathologist in the Department of Plant Pathology, and also joined us in 1999. His nominators report that in just over three years he became a holistic faculty-member with nationally recognized extension-education and research programs on soybean pod-mottle-virus and other soybean diseases.

Loren has been successful in obtaining grant funding from the Soybean Board, industry, and other sources for his extension and applied research programs on soybean diseases. Involved in developing and implementing a surveillance system for soybean rust, his outreach program on soybean-rust created a keen awareness among Nebraska soybean producers of the importance and potential impact of this disease in the Midwest.

Loren has a leadership role in developing a regional field crop problem diagnostic-manual, in cooperation with specialists in weed science, crop production, and entomology. His outreach-programs include those on the pine wilt nematode, a significant problem in urban areas, and Phytophthora root rot in soybeans. Additionally, Dr. Geese-ler willingly assumed interim responsibility for extension programs on corn diseases when another specialist departed.

His nominators note Loren's outreach and applied research programs are highly respected by extension educators, specialists, agribusiness professionals, and growers in Nebraska. I understand his extension publications record, which includes circulars on diseases of alfalfa, corn and soybeans, is one of the best of any new specialist in the Institute.

His nominators also mention he brings statewide, regional and national recognition to his academic department and to Cooperative Extension through his soybean outreach and research. And if Loren looks familiar to Nebraskans when they see him, it's very likely because of his appearances as a panelist for our popular Backyard Farmer television program.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Loren Geese-ler.

Now it is my pleasure to present the IANR Team Award, which recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary team-efforts in achieving the Institute's goals. Criteria include: 1) problem-identification, team-strategy, grant-success; 2) productivity and impact, and the output of the team in relation to inputs; 3) the team effort; and 4) the quality of the nomination.

Today we are especially pleased to honor the Building Nebraska Families Team. Let me share their mission with you:

"Building Nebraska Families extension-educators, in cooperation/coordination with Nebraska Health and Human Services System, provide a research-based, educational program to Employment First (Nebraska's welfare to work) participants. The program helps participants strengthen family management/life skills in order to better manage family resources, maintain families while securing and sustaining employment, and effectively utilize a community network."

Beth Birnstihl, our Cooperative Extension Associate Dean, and Marilynn Schnepf, Chair of our Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences, co- authored the first grant application to the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, which plays important roles in coordinating and advising program efforts. Others on the 17-member Building

Nebraska Families team are specialists within extension, experts in the Nebraska Health and Human Services system, and our extension educators and support staff.

This program currently provides research-based education to low-resource families in 53 counties. Participants learn to enhance personal life skills and family management practices. Skills include improving money management, parenting, nutrition, communications, and goal-setting. Other topics include problem-solving and decision making.

From May 1999 through December 2004, Building Nebraska Families' extension educators worked with more than 600 families, teaching basic life skills. Of the participants, 135, nearly 22 percent, have graduated. These graduates say the program benefited them most in parenting, family, and money management. Many also say this program taught them about available resources and how to network.

Perhaps the best way to describe the benefits of Building Nebraska Families is found in the words of the program's participants.

One 43-year-old mother wrote that when her first child was born 20 years earlier, she was not equipped with parenting or financial skills. She struggled most of her life, and connected with Building Nebraska Families

through her caseworker. The woman, now a mother of three, said she felt "comfortable" in talking with the Building Nebraska Families extension educator, and they "worked" on many things, especially finances.

The educator "was always supportive and never judgmental," the woman wrote. She called Building Nebraska Families "... the one program that started to change my life."

Another mother wrote that Building Nebraska Families inspired and motivated her, and helped her develop a bigger picture for her daughter's and her own life. "Without this moment with BNF I would be lost!," she wrote.

Please join me in congratulating the Building Nebraska Families "team" on receiving the 2005 IANR Team Award. Team members who developed the program are:

Beth Birnstihl, Marilynn Schnepf who cannot be present today, Wanda Ka-chev-ski who cannot be present today, Dennis Ellis, Marilyn Fox, Carol Thayer, and Betty Tell.

Extension educators who deliver the program across the state are:

Nancy Frecks, Mike Harris, Debbie Cue-ning, Celeste Hev-i-len, Trish Bergman, Cheryl Fisher, Jennifer Mayfield,

Janet Clark, Sondra Jerm-er, and secretary, Becky Lam-fear.

What a pleasure it is to make these presentations today!