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Distinguished Fellowship Awards Luncheon

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

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CLIFFORD HARDIN
MARTHA —

Distinguished Fellowship Awards Luncheon
East Campus Union
Friday, September 15, 2006
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

It seems to me the best way to start off any congratulatory remarks is to say, quite simply – congratulations.

Congratulations to the Widaman Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award recipients, and the Hardin Trust Distinguished Graduate Assistant Award recipients, the Shear-Miles Agricultural Scholarship and Fellowship recipients, and the Milton E. Mohr Fellowship recipients.

To those receiving the Farmers National Company Fellowship in Agriculture, a John and Louise Skala Fellowship, and the Al Moseman International Studies Fund awards – congratulations.

We are so very pleased for you. And we are especially pleased that you are learning and working with us in your chosen departments here in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural

Resources. You have the opportunity here to work with some truly outstanding faculty and staff, and I hope you will make the most of every opportunity that comes your way while with us. In fact, I hope you will seek opportunities out, and hold on to them with both hands!

I want to say congratulations, too, to the recipient of the Darrell W. Nelson Excellence in Graduate Student Advising award. This is only the second time we have given this award, which is named for the former Dean of our Agricultural Research Division. That award honors outstanding contributions to graduate student mentoring, and emphasizes the importance of graduate education to the well-being of Nebraska and, I would say, our world. Animal Science Professor Rodger Johnson received the award last year, the first time it was given.

I mentioned earlier that all of you who are studying here with us as graduate students have the opportunity to work with some truly outstanding faculty and staff. I hope you know that view of our faculty's excellence is not only my own – it is the opinion of others around the world, as well.

We know this to be true because the ISI Essential Science Indicators Report, 1994-2004, which indexes nearly 9,000 journals and tracks how often articles are cited by other authors, reviewed agricultural sciences articles published by 298 institutions worldwide and found our agricultural scientists rank 16th in the world.

Sixteenth.

In the world.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture tops the list. Wageningen University in the Netherlands is the number one university.

We rank 10th among universities worldwide, and eighth among U.S. universities.

The University of California-Davis is the top U.S. university cited. We are working – and you are studying and researching – in some very good company here!

I urge you, while with us, to take every opportunity to explore your science, and to question the very fine minds here on all scientific issues of concern to you. Explore the ethics of

science with people who have explored those issues ahead of you, and who are eager to discuss what they have learned. Learn all you can about why we do the work we do at this great land-grant university, and why the national land-grant universities have made such tremendous contributions to science over the years.

Land-grant universities are universities of and for the people – they came into being because of people's educational needs, and they remain vital today because of their mission to take the resources of the university to various states, through classroom teaching, through research, and through extension education.

As we celebrate your awards today, indeed as we celebrate you and all that you will add to the world's body of knowledge, we remember with gratitude the people who have made your awards available through their generous gifts to the university.

These are people who believed in the promise of the future, which is you, and all the good you have the opportunity to accomplish in your lifetime; people who keenly understood and appreciated the importance of research and study in agriculture

and natural resources. Those people backed that understanding and appreciation with their dedication to supporting such work down through the years.

Each recipient in this room today already has accomplished much, or you simply would not be here for these ceremonies. We believe in you, and we look forward with real anticipation to your future successes as you build your careers and advance your fields. We are tremendously pleased to be able to contribute to all that.

Again, congratulations. I also want to extend best wishes for your future endeavors. I expect to hear great things of you.

Let's give all those being recognized a hand.

(Lead applause)

Thank you.