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## CASNR Salute to Graduates

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~~Madam M. Aschbacher~~  
Pres. Owens

**CASNR SALUTE TO GRADUATES**

**May 5, 2006**

**John C. Owens**

**NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor**

We appreciate your being with us as we "celebrate" the accomplishments of tomorrow's graduates from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Thank you for attending. This ceremony is rapidly becoming both a fixture and a tradition in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. *CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW ALUMNI*

The roots of the institution which surround us here on East Campus grow especially deep. Nearly 134 years ago, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents established the College of Agriculture. *What then was*

One of their reasons for establishing the College was to bring to Nebraska the benefits of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act passed by Congress in the midst of the Civil War and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862. The Morrill

Act established a land-grant college in each state, where the leading object would be instruction in agriculture and the mechanical arts. These colleges grew into today's comprehensive land-grant universities *in every state and territory.*

Today, the leading object of the University of Nebraska is carried forward by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Research Division, and the Extension Division which "teaches" research-based findings to constituents all across Nebraska, including 118,000 Nebraska 4-Hers. And the "hub" of all these activities remains today as it was over a hundred years ago, the East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

This special campus, situated within a city of a quarter million people, has a unique atmosphere which most people <sup>"</sup>sense <sup>"</sup> as they first enter the campus and its environs. There are open spaces, abundant trees and shrubs, pedestrian-friendly malls,

and very friendly people, people who are more likely than not to say hello to strangers. Maybe it's common interests, common backgrounds, common concerns, or common pursuits that give us the sense of community that is so strong here. Many folks use the term "family" about East Campus. That's probably why so many former students stay closely connected to this College after they leave.

But I'll stop myself here and let you join me, our faculty and staff, as well as the graduating students in viewing, for the very first time, a video which will vividly demonstrate the interesting, colorful, and "inspirational-evolution" of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. We'll be seeing this video in high definition format, produced by the highly-talented, Joel Geyer, who is the Executive Producer of NET Television located right here on East Campus. Let's take a look at

**AG COLLEGE DREAMS – THE REAL CORNHUSKERS.**

**Following the video:**

**At this point the first group of graduates will begin moving toward the Garden Room – they need a minute to get into place**

*George Beadle → President - Univ of Chicago*  
*Ruth Lewiston → Ph.D - Univ of Chicago*

"Ag College Dreams" reminds us that studies in agriculture ADD

related areas grew from especially modest beginnings into the

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources which, today, is a

national and international "powerhouse" in teaching, research, and

extension education. We want to "thank" Joel Geyer for creating

and directing this wonderful production. Joel, your work provides

us an even stronger sense of pride in the institution which

surrounds us this afternoon. *Mrs. Lee Hankin*

*ANN - Bruntz - IAN R  
Newport Office*

**Recognize faculty**

Those of you who attended receptions "prior" to this ceremony

"likely met" some of the faculty and staff in your student's

department. Our faculty members bring "excellence" in teaching,

research, and extension-education to the university, and they take very seriously their mission to inspire their students and to encourage a desire to learn within them all. At this time I would like to ask all faculty and staff members present here this afternoon to please stand so that we may recognize you.

### **Begin Salute Ceremony**

We'll now move into the recognition of our tomorrow's graduates. Joining us today is the President of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association, Kerry Glandt, 1985 CASNR graduate who also earned his UNL MBA in 1994. Kerry will be presenting each graduate with a one-year membership in the CASNR Alumni Association to help them maintain ties with their College family. This is the last "free" thing you will receive from the University! Kerry, would you please come to the platform?

To keep our ceremonies moving smoothly, we ask that you please hold your applause until all graduates in each academic department have been recognized.

**Begin first group**

Our first honorees are those with degrees from the Department of Agricultural Economics. Leading those graduates is the academic Head of that department, Dr. Alan Baquet.

(See graduate list on separate sheet)

(At end of list) We extend our congratulations to these graduates. Applause.

Dr. Jim King will now present graduates from the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication.

(See list)

Congratulations to you. Applause

Dr. Mark Lagrimini is the academic Head of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture and will lead his graduates to the platform.

(See list)

We applaud your achievements. Applause.

### **Battery Break**

We'll stop for just a moment to let our folks who are taking photographs change their batteries. The individual photos being taken of our graduates will be "shared with you" on the College web site, to download to your own computer, to share with family and friends via e-mail if you like, and to print as you might wish.

I'd like to call your attention to the note at the bottom of page 10 of your program. You will see the College web address there.

These photographs will be available to you "after" May 31 on the CASNR web site.



The information you're hearing about these CASNR students is self-reported by them. They are sharing some things about their perception of their college experience as they talk about their most significant achievements. And it lets us all know about their future plans as they begin a new adventure with their University of Nebraska degree in hand.

### **Begin second group**

Dr. Donald Beermann is the academic Head of the Animal Science Department and leads his graduates to the platform.

(See list)

We salute the achievement of these graduates. Applause.

The Department of Biochemistry is headed by Dr. Donald Weeks.

Dr. Weeks will present his graduates.

(See list)

Congratulations to you. Applause

Dr. Steve Danielson will now bring his graduate (only one) in Diversified Agricultural Studies to the platform.

(See list)

Congratulations, Michael. Applause.

Dr. Mark Kuzila is Director of the School of Natural Resources and will be presenting graduates in Environmental Studies, as well as Fisheries and Wildlife.

(See list)

We applaud your success. "Applause".

### **Battery Break**

While we again pause a moment for our photographers to refresh battery packs, I'll share with you a couple of facts about the institution from which tomorrow's graduates will <sup>be</sup> receiving their degrees. IANR has a "rich-history" of developing accomplished graduates and producing cutting-edge research, and relevant

extension education programs. It ranks 16<sup>th</sup> among universities worldwide, and 8<sup>th</sup> nationally among United States universities, in having its agricultural-sciences research "cited" in professional journals over the last ten years. And, forty-six percent of "all" UNL research grant-and-contract funding is awarded to Agricultural Research Division faculty. These are facts which speak "so highly" of the quality of the faculty with whom your students have been studying. So along with you, we take "great-pride" in seeing our graduates "achieve" their educational goals and find challenging endeavors in which to apply their knowledge and experiences. Their education will be of benefit in every aspect of their lives and to the society in which they will live and work.

### **Begin third group**

The Department of Food Science and Technology is headed by Dr. Rolando Flores, who will lead his graduates to the platform.

(See list)

Congratulations to you. Applause.

Dr. Ronald Yoder is the academic Head of Biological Systems Engineering and will bring his graduates to the platform.

(See list)

Congratulations on your success. Applause.

Dr. Douglas Rogers heads the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and will lead his graduates to the platform.

(See list)

Congratulations to you all. Applause.

**Conclusion** *Tomorrow all these graduates will look THE SAME!*

On behalf of the IANR faculty and staff "statewide", not only on the East Campus "but also" in 83 UNL Extension Offices serving all 93 counties, I want to extend our "congratulations" and best wishes

for every future success to each of tomorrow's graduates who have been recognized this afternoon.

And, we want to thank you, as parents, families, and friends who are significant in the lives of each of these students, for your support in helping them achieve this important educational milestone.

I will now turn the podium back to Dr. Waller.