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CASNR Salute to Graduates

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Pres Emeritus

2) BOB KLEISS – Dean Emeritus IANR, Prof emeritus Ag Engineering

3) ANN BRUNTZ – NU Foundation Director of Development IANR

4) DIANNE MENDENHALL
Exec Director UNL Alumni Association

CASNR SALUTE TO GRADUATES
December 19, 2008
John C. Owens
NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

We appreciate your being with us this afternoon as "we celebrate" the accomplishments of tomorrow's graduates from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. These students "truly are" a reason for celebration. Thank you for attending and "congratulations" to the class of 2008! This Salute to the Graduates ceremony has become a wonderful tradition in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

Soon-to-be-graduates, we are "so glad" to have had each and every one of you "study" in this College, and we are tremendously pleased that you have chosen to participate in today's Salute to Graduates. Not only are we pleased to recognize you, we also are delighted to have this opportunity to recognize the family and friends who have supported you to this place and time in your life. To these family and friends we say "thank you." We know the importance of this support.

We may admit to some prejudice, but we really do think the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources is a very special place. And we know those who work here, and the dedication they bring, and those who come to study with us, certainly are very special people. The roots here on East Campus grow especially deep. Nearly 140 years ago, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents established what then was the College of Agriculture. Success in agricultural education and its related areas was recognized as vital then, and it remains vital today.

The University was established as a land-grant university under 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.

Today in Nebraska the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources carries out its land-grant university mission of teaching, research, and extension education through the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, or CASNR; the Agricultural Research Division, and UNL Extension. Teaching, research, and extension education closely entwine in the Institute.

IANR really does have a statewide campus, with four MAJOR research and extension centers located throughout Nebraska, and 83 extension county offices serving all 93 Nebraska counties, and including 135,000 4-H'ers, one-in-three of age-eligible Nebraska youth. 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 campus, situated within a city of a quarter million people, is, in my eyes – and, I'm told the eyes of others on campus and visitors to it – a gem, with an open, friendly atmosphere enjoyed by many. There are open spaces, abundant trees and shrubs, pedestrian-friendly walkways, and friendly people who say hello to strangers. Maybe its common interests, common backgrounds, common concerns, and common pursuits that give us the sense of community that is so strong here. Many folks use the term "family" in describing East Campus, and I think the word "family" certainly describes the caring relationship we see between our faculty and staff and our students. That's probably why so many former students stay closely connected to this College after they leave, both sending information on their successes, so we can celebrate those successes with them, and coming back to visit sometimes bringing their growing families.

Today we're going to share a shortened version of a wonderful video which vividly portrays the interesting, colorful, and inspirational "evolution" of CASNR from basic teaching in agriculture and mechanical arts "to teaching" the science, technology, and business of agriculture, natural resources, and the many related disciplines which today include wildlife management, plant science, insect science, mechanized systems management, biochemistry, professional golf management, and more. I'm pleased to tell you that eight new degree programs have been initiated in CASNR since 2001, "all" aimed at meeting "the needs" of our students and our state, all expanding the wonderful career opportunities available to meet our students. This video was produced by Joel Geyer of Nebraska Educational Television, "headquartered" right here on East Campus, and is narrated by native Nebraskan, Dick Cavett. 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)

"Ag College Dreams" reminds us that studies in agriculture and related areas grew from especially modest beginnings into the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources which, today, is a national and international leader in teaching, research, and extension-education. Our agricultural scientists are among those with the highest number of journal citations in agricultural sciences in our nation and, indeed, the world, and these are the SAME people our students study with and from whom our students learn. Future versions of this video will reflect the more recent evolution of the College. In addition to guiding the studies of agricultural science and the mechanic arts into the 21st century, this College has responded to the need for new and related academic programs. Graduates go from programs in biochemistry to study medicine and pharmacy, and we are developing environmental chemists, wildlife biologists, forensic scientists, greenhouse managers, landscape designers, golf course managers, hydrologists, tourism managers and food research ~~and~~ development scientists.

Every person who graduates here – in fact, every Nebraskan – has every right to take pride in the great work done in CASNR and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL, your land-grant university. We hope you now have an even stronger sense of pride in the institution which surrounds us this afternoon.

Each of our graduates today will receive a personal copy of the full 30-minute version of Ag College Dreams. Please enjoy it and share it with others. Another of several gifts each graduate will receive is the book, *Life After School Explained: the definitive reference guide*. This book offers valuable information on matters such as money and investing, taxes, etiquette, mortgages, and credit cards.

Recognize Faculty:

Those of you guests, friends, and family members who attended departmental receptions prior to this ceremony probably met some of the faculty who taught your soon-to-be CASNR graduate.

Our faculty members bring teaching, research, and extension education "excellence" to the College and they take very-seriously their mission to motivate students and foster the desire to learn. At this time, I would like to ask all faculty members present, including our emeriti faculty, to please stand so we may recognize you. PLEASE STAND ~~IF ABLE~~

Photographs will be taken of your graduates today by Dr. Garald Horst, whose real job is a professor in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, and Brett Hampton, the professional photographer in IANR's department of Communications and Information Technology. The individual photos are to share with you on the College Web site, to download to your computer, to share with family and friends via e-mail if you like and to print as you wish. I'd like to call your attention to "the note" in the box on the back cover of your program. You will see the College Web address there. These photographs will be available to you at that address by January 6th if not before.

Also, watch your local paper for news of your student's participation in this event. Most of our graduates gave permission for us to provide their newspaper of choice with a link to the graduate's information and photo. You may want to contact your newspaper if you don't see it published or contact them now to ask them to publish it in an upcoming issue.

Begin Salute Ceremony:

We'll now move into this afternoon's recognition of tomorrow's CASNR graduates. Here with us today is the President of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association, Brian Bosshamer. The Association is presenting each graduate with a one-year membership in the Alumni Association to help them maintain ties with their College family. Brian, would you please come forward? (He will make remarks later in the program).

To keep this ceremony moving smoothly, we'll ask that you hold your applause until all the students from each academic department have been recognized.

Our first honorees are those students who will be receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics. **Dr. Alan Baquet**, Head of the **Department of Agricultural Economics**, is leading these graduates.

(See graduate list on separate sheet)

(At end of list - or when the next person in line behind the curtain is a unit administrator): We extend our congratulations to these graduates. *Applause*.

Dr. Mark Balschweid, Department Head of the **Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication** will present students receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Education.

(See list)

Congratulations to you. *Applause*.

Dr. Mark Lagrimini, Head of the **Department of Agronomy and Horticulture,** will lead students who are receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Agronomy and in Horticulture to the platform.

(See list)

We applaud your achievements. *Applause*.

Dr. Sheila Scheideler is the Interim Head of the **Animal Science Department.** She is leading to the platform students receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Animal Science.

(See list)

We salute the achievement of these graduates. *Applause*.

Dr. Rick Stowell, professor in the **Department of Biological Systems Engineering**, will present students receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanized Systems Management.

(See list)

Congratulations on your success. *Applause*.

Dr. Steve Danielson will lead the **Diversified Agricultural Studies** graduate(s) to the platform.

(See list)

We salute your achievement. **Dr. Gary Brewer**, Head of the **Department of Entomology**, will now bring to the platform his student receiving her Bachelor of Science degrees in Insect Science and in Horticulture.

(See list)

Congratulations. *Applause*

Dr. Randy Wehling is a professor in the **Department of Food Science and Technology** and will lead his students receiving a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology to the platform.

(See list)

Congratulations to you. *Applause*

Dr. Don Wilhite is Director of the **School of Natural Resources** will be presenting students receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Environmental Studies, Environmental Restoration Science, Fisheries and Wildlife and Water Science.

(See list)

We applaud your success. *Applause*.

Conclusion:

On behalf of the IANR faculty and staff, not only on the East Campus but also in the 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.

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