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CASNR Salute to Graduates

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CASNR SALUTE TO GRADUATES
May 9, 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. Thank you for attending and, congratulations to the class of 2008! This ceremony has become both a fixture and a tradition in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. As a matter of fact, it took the national "First Place Award" in a 2006 competition that was open to all universities in the United States.

TO TOMORROW'S GRADUATES:

We are so glad to have had each and every one of you study in this College and we are equally pleased that you have chosen to participate in Salute to Graduates so we all can recognize you.

The roots of the institution which surrounds us 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.

One of their reasons for establishing the College was to bring to the new state of 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. In Nebraska, this College has grown into the comprehensive land-grant university ^{with all the} agricultural, natural resources, and related academic programs represented here today. In fact, through the year 1974 this College also included UNL's studies in home economics and related areas.

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 UNL Extension Division which "teaches" research-based findings to constituents all across Nebraska, including 135,000 Nebraska 4-H'ers. 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 quickly sense 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 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" about East Campus, and the word "family" describes the unique and caring relationship that our faculty and staff extend to students. That's probably why["] so many former students stay closely-connected to this College after they leave.

But I'll stop myself here, and we'll view a ^(11-minutes) shortened version of a wonderful video which vividly portrays the interesting, colorful, and inspirational evolution 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. While not totally reflected in the video, eight new degree programs have been initiated since 2001. 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 'powerhouse' in teaching, research, and extension education. We hope you now have an even stronger sense of pride in 'the institution' which surrounds us this afternoon.

Each of our graduates today is being given a personal copy of the full 30-minute version of Ag College Dreams. I know you'll enjoy it and hope you ^{parents, family, and friends} get a chance to look at it with your graduate. Another of several gifts they'll receive is a small 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 take very seriously their mission to motivate their students and foster their desire to learn. At this time, I would like to ask all faculty members present, including the emeriti faculty, to please stand so that we may recognize you. ALSO:

Ann Buntz - Hill Foundation

MARTIN MASSENGALE - Presidential Emerita

KEITH OLSEN - Pres of Nebraska Fair Board + DOTS

LEE HAYLAN - Board Factor of ~~UNIVERSITY~~ + MY FRIEND

Grant →

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, Daryl Cisney. The Association is presenting each graduate with a one-year membership in the Alumni Association to help them maintain ties with their College family. Daryl, 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.

Begin first group -

Our first honorees are those students who will be receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics. ^{Ron} ~~Dr. Alan~~ **HANSEN, AWARD-WINNING PROFESSOR (HALLAN Distinguished Professor)** ~~Bequet,~~ 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. Jim King is associate professor in the **Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication** and will present students receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Education and Agricultural Journalism.

(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.*

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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. Robert Spreitzer, Interim Head of the **Biochemistry Department**, will lead the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry graduates to the platform.

(See list)

Congratulations to you. *Applause.*

MEMORY CARD BREAK

Battery Break = = = = =

We'll stop for just a moment to let today's photographers, Dr. Gerald Horst, whose real job is a professor in the Department of Agronomy ~~and Horticulture~~, and Brett Hampton, a professional photographer in IANR's department of Communications and Information Technology, change memory cards. The individual photos being taken of our graduates 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 May 20, 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, you may want to contact your local newspaper 'now' to ask them 'to include it' in an upcoming issue.

Like Professor Horst, many of the folks "associated" with this institute generously share their talents. Kaylene Harms, our pianist today, is a recent graduate of this College and now a first-year dental student right here on the ^{East} campus. _n

Begin second group –

Dr. Jack Schinstock, professor in the **Department of Biological Systems Engineering** and associate dean of the College, will present students receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanized Systems Management.

(See list)

Congratulations on your success. *Applause.*

Dr. Martin Massengale, director of the **Center for Grassland Studies**, will present students receiving a Bachelor of Science in Grazing Livestock Systems.

Our congratulations to you. *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 the student(s) receiving (her) Bachelor of Science degree in (Insect Science).

(See list)

Congratulations. *Applause*

Dr. Randy Wehling is a professor in the **Department of Food Science and Technology** and will lead his student 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 and in Fisheries and Wildlife.

(See list)

We applaud your success. *Applause.*

Dr. Dave Hardin is Associate Dean for Veterinary Medicine and Head of the **Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences** and will present his students receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in Veterinary Science and Veterinary Technology.

Conclusion:

On behalf of the IANR faculty and staff statewide, not only on the East Campus but also in the 83 UNL Extension offices serving all 93 ~~Nebraska~~ 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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