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Agronomy and Horticulture Department

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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, April 27, 2012

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UNL Spring Graduation is May 4th and 5th

Congratulations to all our graduate and undergraduate students who will receive their degrees next weekend! The University of Nebraska–Lincoln will hold its graduate commencement on



Friday, May 4, 2012, 3 p.m., in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The UNL undergraduate commencement is Saturday, May 5, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The department is planning a reception for graduating seniors on Friday, May 4 at 2:45 p.m. in the Keim Hall lounge area on the second floor. This reception will be followed by the CASNR Salute to Graduates at 4 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union.

Please Welcome New Faculty Hires

All details have been finalized and we will be having two faculty members join us this summer.

Dr. Haishun Yang will start in July. Dr. Yang will be the Crop Simulation Modeler for the Water for Food Institute. He is currently working for Monsanto in St. Louis, MO. As many of you know, he was with our department in Dr. Ken Cassman's program. We look forward to having him back in the department.

Dr. Amit Jhala will be joining us on August 1 as the Extension Weed Specialist in Lincoln. His field work will be primarily focused at the South Central Agricultural Laboratory. He is currently working at the Citrus Research Center in Florida.

Please help me welcome our new faculty when they arrive on campus.

– Roch Gaussoin, Interim Department Head

Mark the Date!

April 27: Dept. Seminar

“Sclerotinia Resistance in Soybean: The Impossible Dream?” George Graef, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim. Refreshments precede the seminar.

April 27–28: Spring Affair, April 28, and Spring Affair Preview Party, April 27, both at the Lancaster Event Center. For details, see:

<http://springaffair.unl.edu>.

May 4: Department Graduation Reception, 2:45–3:30 p.m., 2nd floor Keim Hall Lounge.

May 4: UNL Graduate Commencement, 3 p.m., Bob Devaney Sports Center.

May 4: CASNR Salute to Graduates, 4 p.m., NEU.

May 5: UNL Undergraduate Commencement, 9:30 a.m., Bob Devaney Sports Center.

May 8: Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Teaching Retreat, 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., 262 Keim Hall. Please RSVP for at <http://agronomy.unl.edu/teachingretreat>.

May 9: Graduate student applications due for the David H. and Annie E. Larrick Student Support Fund, and the William G. Whitmore Memorial Fund.

May 15: The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association will host a spring Baseball Field Workshop at Werner Park in Papillion, Neb. (home of the Omaha Storm Chasers). See details at <http://www.iowaturfgrass.org/events.htm>.

May 30–June 1: 2012 Global Water for Food Conference.

June 5: UNL First Five Weeks Summer Session begins.

– Continued to page 2

Department Professors are Promoted

Three Department of Agronomy and Horticulture professors were recognized at the 2011-2012 Promotion & Tenure reception on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at the International Quit Study Center and Museum. Stacy Adams and David Lambe were both promoted to Associate Professor of Practice, and Gary Varvel (USDA) was promoted to Adjunct Full Professor. Congratulations to these newly promoted faculty members!

Lambe Recognized for NACTA Award

Congratulations to David Lambe who was recently awarded the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Teaching Award of Merit! Professor Lambe was recognized at the CASNR banquet on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at the Nebraska East Union.

Golf League Seeks Members for 2012 Season



The East Campus Golf League is looking for new members and teams for the 2012 golf season. If interested, please contact [Steve Swanson](#), 113 Keim Hall, for more information about the league. Steve may also be contacted by phone at 402-472-9210 or 402-450-2600.

"Grow Eat Learn" Video Competition Announced

All UNL students, faculty, staff, and alumni are invited to participate in the "Grow Eat Learn" video competition, according to CASNR Dean Steve Waller. The goal is to create engaging videos that educate the public on the food they eat and the importance of agriculture and natural stewardship in feeding the world. Approved videos will be added to the GrowEatLearn.unl.edu website after June 25. The three videos that get the most views on YouTube by August 1, 2012, at noon will receive \$500. The contest is sponsored by the "Transforming Food and Natural Resources, IANR to 2025" team.

Scholarships Available for 2012 NAIPSC

Organizers of the 2012 North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC)



have announced that 20 scholarships are available from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The short course will be held June 26–28 at the UNL West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte. For more information on the scholarships, please contact Linda Lehmann at 308-696-6712 or linda.lehmann@unl.edu. To register, or for more details about the NAIPSC, see: <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>.

– Continued from page 1

June 18–22: 2012 Nebraska Range Short Course, Chadron State College, Chadron. To register, visit the website at:

<http://agronomy.unl.edu/nebraskarangeshortcourse>.

June 22: Retirement celebration for Elbert Dickey and Beth Birnstihl, 2–4 p.m., Hardin Hall. A 30-minute program begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Hardin Hall Auditorium. Please send contribution letters to [Carla Werner](#), 211 Ag. Hall, 0703.

June 26–28: 2012 NAIPSC short course, WCREC, North Platte, Neb. Please register at: <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>. Scholarships are available.

July 4: Independence Day, Offices closed and no classes.

July 9: UNL Second Five Weeks Summer Session begins.

July 31–Aug. 3: Registration is now open for the American Society for Horticultural Science Conference at the InterContinental Hotel in Miami, Fla. Details are at: <http://www.regonline.com/build/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1030015>.

Aug. 20: UNL Fall Semester begins.

Oct. 21–25: ASA, CSSA, SSSA Annual Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration runs June 19 – Sept. 12. Details are at: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>.

Register for Range Short Course Today



Individuals with a background in range management, natural resources, or agriculture are invited to register for the Nebraska Range Short Course June 18–22, 2012, at Chadron State College. This week-long course provides an opportunity to increase knowledge about range management. Applications are due May 18, 2012 and the registration fee includes educational materials, transportation on field trips during the week, and breaks. Food and lodging may be arranged with Chadron State College.

The short course is sponsored by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Chadron State College, and the Nebraska Section Society for Range Management. Contact [Walt Schacht](mailto:Walt.Schacht@unl.edu), 402-472-0205, for questions, or visit the website at <http://agronomy.unl.edu/nebraskarangeshortcourse>.

News from the HAPPI Business Center *Make Necessary Expenditures by May 31*

The university's fiscal year-end is fast approaching. Please review your state allocation and make necessary expenditures by May 31. As a reminder, state funds are allocated to assist your program and should be utilized throughout the year for that purpose.

Individual notices will be sent requesting information to clear any deficits. Our expectation is that your state allocation be used prior to May 31; only recurring payments will post in the month of June, such as telephone and data charges. Remaining balances will be retained by the department.

To carry forward a balance related to salary savings, submit a written justification to the department head for approval. Balances pertaining to start-up packages will automatically be carried forward. June financial reports will only contain grants, revolving and 27 accounts.

Thanks for your help with this year-end process. Please contact [Susan Thomas](mailto:Susan.Thomas@unl.edu) at 402-472-8617 for questions.

Form Available for Non-Monetary Donations

The form for reporting donations of goods (non-monetary) is at <http://research.unl.edu/sp1/unlforms.shtml> or at the bottom of this newsletter. Please complete the form, sign it, and return it to the HAPPI Business Center whenever you receive a donation of goods to be used in your teaching, research or Extension efforts. When completing the valuation portion, the amount should be designated from the donor. They are more than likely using the amount as a tax write-off. Please attach any documentation explaining valuation to the non-monetary gift donation form before sending it to the Business Center.



Office Pros Information

Get Ready for Meetings!

There are several upcoming annual meetings this summer and fall. Two specific meetings are:

- The ASA/CSSA/SSSA annual meeting is in Cincinnati, Ohio, from Oct. 21–25, 2012. See the website at: <https://www.acsmeetings.org>
- The American Society for Horticultural Science Conference, Miami, Fla. See: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1030015>.

Each department employee or graduate student must complete and submit a pre-trip travel authorization prior to the annual meeting. For assistance with your pre-trip form and your travel arrangements (registration, airlines, hotel), please contact [Kathy Schindler](mailto:Kathy.Schindler@unl.edu), 402-472-1508, or [Karen Kreider](mailto:Karen.Kreider@unl.edu), 402-472-5138.

Renew Parking Permits

UNL parking permits may now be ordered online for the 2012-2013 school year. Visit: <http://parking.unl.edu/permits/purchase.shtml>. Permits may be renewed in person at the Parking and Transit Services Office after June 1, 2012. Annual permits will be mailed beginning May 2. Employees are asked to safely store the permit until the July 1, 2012, effective date.

Information For and About Grad. Students *McAfee Wins Travel Fund Award*

Congratulations to Blythe McAfee, advised by Dr. Charles Wortmann, for receiving the 2012 Daniel T. Walters Graduate Student Travel Fund Award. This award was established to honor Dr. Dan Walters and his passion for graduate students. Blythe will be presenting her poster in October at the ASA/CSSA/SSSA Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Plan Department Exit Interview Prior to Graduation

Graduate students are asked to meet with Dr. Roch Gaussoin, Interim Head of the department, for an exit interview prior to graduation. Contact Dr. Gaussoin's assistant, [Charlene Wendt](#), 402-472-1555 to make an appointment. Please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and submit it to Charlene Wendt. Also, please bring a bound and electronic copy of your thesis or dissertation with you to the exit interview.

Summer Courses for Graduate Assistants

Graduate assistants should register for four credits this summer if students wish to waive FICA (Social Security) and Medicare taxes. Graduate assistants employed in the summer but not registered for summer courses are subject to FICA and Medicare taxes and fees for the UNL recreation center and the health center. International students should check with the Office of International Affairs about summer class requirements.

Graduate Connections Offers Valuable Information

Graduate students will find valuable information about being a graduate student at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in the Graduate Connections electronic newsletter. This newsletter is distributed to UNL graduate students via email and is available on the Graduate Studies website at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/dev/newsletter>.

Coffee – a Bargain for a quarter a cup!

Where can you get a cup of coffee for only 25 cents? In the kitchen area of 202 Keim Hall. Your quarter donation is designated for memorials to faculty and staff in remembrance of the death of a family member, or for flowers for a hospital stay of two days or longer. Thank you for supporting our coffee fund!



Information Technology Updates

By Warren Werner

Do not try self-activating your Outlook email, as was suggested in the April 26 "Today@UNL" article. We will be migrating the department as a whole very soon, and still need to prepare everyone's accounts for the switch. Also, self-activation is NOT the same as migration. Migration will work better for everyone if we can manage the migration at the same time as the activation, making sure everyone has all the required software installed and up-to-date.

As always, please feel free to contact me at wwerner2@unl.edu or 402-890-5648 if you have any questions.

Department Newsletter Info.

The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture newsletter is published twice a month. To submit news, events, or announcements, please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 402-472-1508.

University Nebraska-Lincoln

Form for Reporting Non-Monetary Donation/Gift

Return the completed form to the Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, 312 N 14th Street, (0430). Please submit this form within 30 days of the receipt of a donation. A copy will be provided to Business and Finance.

1. Project Director
2. UNL College _____ Department _____
3. Donor
4. Description of Donation/Gift
5. Date donation was received
6. Estimated Value of Donation/Gift _____ (attach any/all documentation supporting the value)
7. Cost object for recording the donation 27-

(Donations are recorded in a specific donation account. It is necessary to record the revenue and a corresponding expense for the donation. The net effect to the account will be zero. If your department does not have an established donations/gift account, please contact your grant coordinator in Sponsored Programs.)

8. Type of Project: Instruction Training Research Fellowship
 Student Aid Extension/Public Service
9. Field: Biological Social Physical Medical/Dental Arts
 Humanities Agricultural Education Engineering
10. Is this item required cost share for a grant or award? If YES, provide the WBS number of the award:

Project Director: _____ Date: _____

Chairman of Department: _____ Date: _____

Dean of College: _____ Date: _____

**Agronomy & Horticulture
Graduate Student Exit Interview**

NAME: M.S. Ph.D.

Email:

ADVISOR(S)

Date of Graduation:

PLANS FOLLOWING GRADUATION:

EMPLOYER ADDRESS:

Job Title/Position:

Employer:

Address:

Salary Range:

ATTENDING GRADUATE SCHOOL:

Where?

Please answer the following questions:

Why did you pick UNL for graduate school?

Was your program of study (courses taken, thesis research, seminar) what you expected? Please explain.

Did you take written Comprehensive Exams? Oral Written

Were there courses you wanted to take but were not offered? If so, please list:

Were the computers and research facilities adequate for your research program?

How long did it take to analyze and write your thesis/dissertation?

Did you receive adequate faculty guidance with research and thesis preparation?
Was statistical consulting adequate?

Participation in national meetings and presentations of research findings:

Please list national meetings that you attended and indicate which society, the year and if you presented a research poster or paper. Was financial assistance available to attend professional meeting?

Were you an active member of the Agronomy and Horticulture Graduate Student Association? If not, why?

Please list other comments to help us maintain a strong graduate program.