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July 2005

## The Leading Object: July 2005

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## Perspectives

July already, mid-point in a busy Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources summer.

By the end of next month our students will be back on campus, settling into their semester routines, and no matter what the calendar says, for most of us that's simply the end of summer.

I always look forward to the start of a new school year. Seeing new and returning students everywhere on our campus is a pleasure. So much promise, so many dreams and hopes are rolled into these intelligent, vibrant young people.

It's exciting. It's challenging. It's wonderful.

Of course, for those of us in IANR, education is our job year round. Many things we do don't follow the traditional school year. There's a whole lot of learning going on all across our state this summer, as fairs and field days, the 4-H Horse Exposition, PASE (Premier Animal Science Events), conferences, camps, and so much more appear on calendar after calendar across Nebraska.

For 4-H students, fairs are a great opportunity to proudly exhibit the results of year-round learning – and to enjoy doing so! The education 4-H provides blends science-based knowledge with fun, and fosters such life-enhancing skills as competence, responsibility, confidence, and the ability to work well with others toward a common goal.

That matters.

Youth camps make learning fun in several locations across the state. This summer 4-H and UNL's Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts teamed to present a series of Fine and Performing Arts Summer Camps in five Nebraska communities, providing middle school youth opportunities to participate in activities presented by Hixson-Lied

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**John C. Owens**  
NU Vice President and  
Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

# The Leading Object

*The Morrill Act of 1862  
established a Land Grant University  
in each state where  
The Leading Object  
would be instruction  
in agriculture and related fields.*

July 2005

## LeadershipPlenty Helps Build Community Leaders

Leaders abound. They just may not know it.

Helping community members become leaders is the goal of a leadership training initiative taught by six University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension educators.

The educators took the LeadershipPlenty curriculum offered by the Pew Partnership for Civic Change two years ago in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and are teaching it in their communities.

"There are plenty of leaders in our communities. We just need to train them," said Phyllis Schoenholz, Extension Educator with NU Rural Initiative based in York.

Participants learn skills in conflict resolution, holding effective meetings, building working relationships, problem solving, and more.

Schoenholz teaches the curriculum in Thayer County for half a day once a month for nine months. The first year 17 took the training while this year's class has 12.

"It gave me insight into group management," said Arnold Ehlers, Executive Director of economic development for Thayer County, who took the course last year. He said he learned better conflict management skills and has been bringing about more compromises among his staff members.

Many of the participants in the training are from businesses and agencies in the area, Schoenholz said.

"We're hoping they become active in an organization or a community," she said.

Dennis Kahl, Rural Initiative Extension



Phyllis Schoenholz

**Lathan McLaughlin and Alexis Rickers, both of Hebron, participate in a LeadershipPlenty session in Thayer County. They try to build the highest tower in a project to determine leadership.**

Educator based in Lincoln, already is seeing results. One member of his 19-person class from Butler County has been putting the skills and tools she has learned into practice with several groups within her community and recently become director of the Butler County Economic Development Alliance. Others have become active with community projects, such as youth involvement, entrepreneurship, marketing Butler County, submitting grant requests for university interns and contacting churches to encourage development of after-school programs.

"One of the things I'm hearing is that this program has provided them with a lot of resources they didn't know existed," Kahl said.

Anita Hall, Extension Educator based in Neligh, teaches the LeadershipPlenty curriculum as well as a separate leadership program. She works with Dan Wheeler and Leverage Barrett, Professors

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undergraduate and graduate students. When we say we are partners with Nebraska, we mean it. Such partnerships benefit both Nebraska and those of us at Nebraska's land-grant university.

At the High Plains Ag Lab Field Day near Sidney, we celebrated the High Plains Ag Lab's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thirty-five years of work benefiting Nebraska and Nebraskans. What a good reason to celebrate.

Throughout Nebraska, our field days provide tremendous educational opportunities for producers to come and see and learn. The research-based knowledge we provide is excellent – and appreciated.

Summer, also, is an intensive research time, as projects draw our researchers to fields, pastures, rivers, wetlands, and laboratories to explore questions and discover answers important to both Nebraska producers and the world body of knowledge.

Many people associate vacation with summer. Time with family and friends, time to rejuvenate, is important for us all, and I hope each of you has some of that time built into your yearlong plans.

Before we know it, the Nebraska State Fair, this year scheduled August 27-September 5, will be here. Our college students will be back by then; classes start August 22.

We hope to see more students with us on East Campus this year – and more the


year after that, and still more the year after that. That hope must become reality. We must turn our student numbers around, see them climb to reflect the tremendous quality education available here.

We do offer a tremendous education. The subjects we teach and the experiences we provide are vital to economic development and quality of life in Nebraska and beyond.

UNL has capacity for additional students, and it is to their benefit and ours to help fill that capacity. We are a springboard to a wide, wide variety of careers. CASNR is especially strong in traditional agricultural and natural resources offerings, and we build on those strong traditional programs to offer new ones that help meet today's new interests and needs. Both traditional and new programs draw new students, and that helps us all. Teaching, research, and extension education are so closely entwined in IANR that what strengthens one strengthens all. What diminishes one, diminishes all.

And yes – while I have focused on CASNR first here, I want to be very clear that IANR certainly supports increased enrollments in the College of Education and Human Sciences, and highly values the research, teaching, and extension work done there, as well. The bottom line is that enrollment at UNL must increase in order to help provide the financial support necessary to continue to move our university and our state forward. IANR faculty, staff, students, and friends will play key roles in helping this university meet its capacity enrollment for both East Campus and City Campus.

I hope your summer is going well. It's a busy season for us all – just like, winter, spring, and fall!



## Faculty Award to Honor Nelson

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources plans a new faculty award to honor the recently-retired Dean of the Agricultural Research Division.

The Darrell W. Nelson Excellence in Graduate Student Advising will be awarded for the first time this fall to a faculty adviser, CASNR Dean Steve Waller said. Criteria for the award are still being determined.

Waller said the award will be a way to honor Nelson, who retired June 30.

"This way he's always part of the college," Waller said.

## Frickel Receives OEA

Glen Frickel, a Research Technologist at the High Plains Ag Lab in Sidney, has received the Outstanding Employee Award for Managerial/Professional Staff for July/August.



Frickel

Comments in support of Frickel's selection include, "Glen has developed the responsibilities of his position and the quality of his program far beyond expectations." Another said, "Glen is ambitious, extraordinarily talented, and an exemplary colleague who puts forth a great deal of effort to accomplish the goals of the program."

## LeadershipPlenty helps build community leaders

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of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications, on a similar program called Leadership Academy.

Hall said the academy curriculum differs in that it is three days of intense training and teaches participants to look inward to learn how they can develop themselves as leaders.

"The real goal is to help those budding leaders or those who didn't think they had leadership skills," she said.

—Lorin McGinnis

### Need to meet with the

#### Vice President/Vice Chancellor?

Drop-ins each Friday from 3-5 p.m.\*

### John C. Owens

NU Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Harlan Vice Chancellor of IANR

202 Ag Hall • (402) 472-2871

\*Occasionally Dr. Owens will be called away on University business.

Editor - Lori McGinnis • Layout - Anne Moore

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## New Campus Courtyard Reflects History

A patch of grass north of Agricultural Hall has been turned into a courtyard designed to bring attention to the history of East Campus.

The Legacy Courtyard, as named by College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Dean Steve Waller, will be home to class gifts and memorial trees.

"It's one of the best ways to let our current students know they're part of something that's a lot bigger," Waller said. The courtyard will reflect "who walked before them" so students know the campus has a history, he said.

The courtyard contains walkways and newly-planted shrubs and trees. Picnic tables are planned as well. The

courtyard is expected to be completed before students return for fall classes.



Brett Hampton

**Legacy Courtyard north of Agricultural Hall is designed to reflect the history of East Campus.**

Waller said he hopes the courtyard will allow students and campus visitors the chance to appreciate the legacy and tradition of the college. The courtyard already contains Fount Davisson, a wishing well donated by the class of 1911 in honor of Albert Davisson, the first principal of the School of Agriculture.

In addition, a historical sundial and two benches, gifts from classes from the early part of the 1900s, will be moved to the courtyard, Waller said.

Memorial bricks also are planned for the courtyard.

—Lori McGinnis

## Life Challenge Brings 4-H'ers Together

A group of 4-H'ers were presented with a challenge: convince the rest of their club to eat healthier and exercise.

The three girls in the group from Butler County answered the challenge with a humorous western skit before a panel of judges. Then the girls walked away with the top prize at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension 4-H Life Challenge event held for two days in late June at the Nebraska East Union. They won \$450 for an educational trip related to family and consumer sciences.

"It was fun for them," said Sandy Bongers, the group leader and a family and consumer science teacher at East Butler High School, where the winning teens are enrolled. "They enjoyed being creative."

The girls were among 110 4-H Life Challenge participants from across Nebraska with an interest in family and consumer sciences.

The educational program, now in its third year, teaches 4-H'ers to apply the skills they have learned in their club projects in real-life situations, said Kathleen Lodl, 4-H Youth Development Specialist.

The 4-H'ers apply the skills in solving challenges presented to them by program leaders. The challenges are in five areas: health and wellness, food, wardrobe, child development, and consumer issues. They are judged on application of knowledge and presentation delivery.

In the wardrobe challenge, for example, teams of up to four 4-H'ers show how they can economically add to their wardrobe by creating as many outfits as possible with the clothing items they have been given. The teams have up to 30 minutes to work up five- to seven-minute presentations that answer their challenges.

After presentations in the five challenges are completed, a championship challenge is held to determine the top teams.

Bongers said participants learn to think on their feet and to speak publicly.



Sara Witte

**Mary Ketchman, a Dawson County 4-H'er, works on a project during the Life Challenge event.**

Other activities during the program include workshops led by UNL faculty, a computer contest, a picnic, and bowling. The 4-H'ers have an opportunity to stay in the East Campus dorms, which gives them a campus feel, Lodl said.

—Lori McGinnis

## Former Extension Administrator Dies

William "Bill" Cords, longtime administrator with University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension, died on July 15.

Cords, 73, joined extension in 1970 and worked as Human Resource Officer until his retirement in 1993.



## Ibach Fulfilling His Goal of Serving Agriculture

**G**reg Ibach knew while growing up on his family farm at Sumner he would like to eventually serve the agricultural industry at another level.

Now he is doing just that, having been appointed recently as Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director.

"I've always had an interest in serving the industry outside the farm," Ibach said. "I am fortunate that my career path has given me that chance."

Ibach was appointed to the top agricultural job by Governor Dave Heineman following the departure of Merlyn Carlson to Washington, D.C. Ibach had worked as Assistant Director under Carlson.

Ibach's interest in agriculture stems from his childhood growing up on the family farm and involvement in 4-H. Enrolling in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Agriculture was a natural first step, and he double majored in animal science and agricultural economics.

"They fit my interests and my background pretty well," he said of his majors. He also was a member of Farmhouse Fraternity.

When he graduated in 1984, Ibach knew he wanted to eventually return to the family farm, but thought it important to get some other industry work under his belt. He started with Farm Credit Services in Indianola, Iowa, then was

transferred nine months later to FCS in Kearney.

He spent the next five years or so with FCS in Kearney and Grand Island, an experience that gave him a good grasp of the financial aspects involved in running a farm operation. When his grandparents decided to slow down, he was able to return to the family farm full time.

"The right opportunities were available to go back," Ibach said. Returning home also allowed him and his wife, Teresa, the opportunity to raise a family in the same setting in which they grew up.

"Teresa and I both were raised around Sumner. We love the area and the people. We wanted our children to experience that same rural lifestyle," he said. The Ibachs have 13-year-old triplets.

Soon after returning to the farm, Ibach got involved with the Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Beef Council, of which he was elected Chairman. He later joined the National Cattleman's Beef Association and was elected Chairman of its check-off division.

Ibach said his volunteer cattlemen's work gave him a larger insight into the beef industry and national experience



Ibach

promoting beef beyond state borders.

In 1999, then-Governor Mike Johanns asked Ibach to serve as Deputy Director under Carlson.

Throughout these career moves, Ibach has retained his roots at the farm in Sumner, running a cow-calf operation with irrigated corn and soybeans. He still maintains the farm while Director, with the help of family and dedicated employees.

He said his own farm experiences, including suffering through drought, help him understand what Nebraska farmers are going through as he works to represent them at the state level.

As Agriculture Director, Ibach said he has several priorities, including positioning Nebraska as a national leader in animal identification. Unlike other nations, the United States has no universal method of identifying animals to aid in traceability and disease prevention.

He also wants to continue building Nebraska's standing as a leading livestock state, recognizing that livestock serves as a market for grain production.

"There are opportunities for us to grow and build our livestock industry, which will serve to enhance rural economic development throughout Nebraska," Ibach said.

— Lori McGinnis

## Fritz, Wheeler Receive New Appointments

**S**usan Fritz has been appointed to serve a special two-year term as half-time IANR Associate Vice Chancellor for Planning and Academic Development.

Fritz has been splitting her time as Head of the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication (AgLEC) and Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR).

She will continue to serve one-half time as Associate Dean of CASNR but will no longer serve as Head of AgLEC for the next two years.

Fritz will assist with IANR strategic planning implementation.

"I am pleased that my professional skills have the potential of benefiting



Fritz



Wheeler

IANR and UNL," she said.

With the recent administrative move of Alan Baquet as Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Fritz's presence will assist IANR in remaining responsive and visible across campus and beyond, John Owens, Vice President and

Harlan Vice Chancellor of IANR, said in a statement announcing the changes.

Dan Wheeler, who has been serving as a full-time Professor in AgLEC, will serve a two-year term as Head of the department.

UNL's new emphasis on strategic planning and the upcoming reaccreditation process for UNL by the North Central Association makes it important that IANR has an Associate Vice Chancellor with expertise in the two areas, which Fritz has, Owens said.

In addition, Wheeler brings the right skills to AgLEC that will help it grow in enrollment and impact, Owens said.

After the two-year appointments, IANR will determine how to fill both positions permanently.