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The Sower (CASNR Alumni newsletter)

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Spring 2007

The Sower, Spring 2007

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The SOWER

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

SPRING 2007

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association

Environmental Studies Degree Leads to Ideal Job for Alumna

Imagine a world today, free from pollution and the harmful use and disposal of hazardous materials and with safe conditions for all workers. This is the vision that all environmentalists hope to see. Across the nation, they work together to ensure a healthier world. Tara Gilbert also hopes for the same.

Tara Gilbert of Lincoln, Neb., graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in December 1998. She has worked hard throughout her life to achieve her dream of a career working with the environment.

Gilbert became involved in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural

Resources (CASNR) where she majored in Environmental Studies. With that, she hoped to find a job that dealt with both the government and the environment.

"I prepared myself by getting involved with clubs on campus and working at a job that was in my field while in college," Gilbert said.

Gilbert was an active member of the UNL Wildlife Club and served as both secretary and vice president. The club's focus was on environmental issues in and around Lincoln. She also was a volunteer in the Environmental Resource Center where she assisted anyone who sought environmental information.

Gilbert

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Tara Gilbert, environmental assistant coordinator for the Nebraska Army National Guard, utilizes her environmental studies degree to protect natural resources through hazardous waste management.

Rodeo Association Promotes Sport, Moves Annual Event to Lincoln

If it doesn't involve roping, riding, or saddles, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Rodeo Association (UNRA) doesn't want anything to do with it. Their sport is different from the everyday football game with endless pads to protect the players. Their sport is downright tough.

"We spend a lot of time together—both inside and outside of the arena," Jessica Bauman, UNRA president, said. "Although many events are individual competitions, it is important that we bond as a team. This past year, the association traveled to Wyoming for a week-long ski trip."



Photo by JJJ Photo

This year, the UNL Rodeo Association's 30 members have been working hard to host the 49th Annual UNL Rodeo in Lincoln. Their efforts include organizing the event and fundraising.

"UNRA members and team members have been working exceptionally hard to make arrangements for the rodeo," Sue Voss, club adviser, said. "We are very excited about the change in venue to Lincoln and hope we will draw a large crowd from Lincoln, the university, and surrounding communities."

Traditionally the UNRA annual rodeo has been at the Saunders County 4-H Grounds in Wahoo, Neb. To accommodate the large crowds, the association has decided to move its event to the Lancaster Event Center on the east side of Lincoln.

The 49th Annual UNL Rodeo Club rodeo will be April 20-22, 2007. Each night features special events.

• Friday, April 20, 7 p.m. – Recognition of UNL alumni, rodeo dance following.

- Saturday, April 21, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. – "Tough Enough to Wear Pink": is the Saturday night event to promote breast cancer research and awareness. \$2 from each ticket will be donated to the program.

- Sunday, April 22, 2 p.m.

The UNL Rodeo Association is a member of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), which was founded in 1948. The NIRA has grown to include more than 3,500 students and 137 schools and universities. The NIRA has 11 divisions that host more than 100 rodeos each year. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln men's team is ranked sixth in overall standings in the Great Plains region and the women's team is not far behind with a ninth place standing.

—Cassandra Thomas





CASNRAA Members More than just Numbers

“Connectedness:” more than just a number. My memory has lots of numbers; social security number, bank pin numbers, driver’s license number, birthdays and anniversaries, voice mail access, a slew of passwords and more. Do I know my College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association, (CASNRAA) membership number? Nope. I don’t need to remember it.

My questions about anything “alumni” are answered by one of two quick resources: website and telephone. Stay connected to your college in whatever manner works best for you. Here are some updates on CASNRAA Board of Director activities.

Membership: Currently at 1,759 members, including one-year complimentary memberships to recent graduates. Your alumni association feels this important gift connects graduates as they move forward in their lives. Parents and families: Consider a membership for your graduate! Dues stay in our association for future programming.

Events: Our football reunions are great ways your alumni association consistently provides opportunities to connect with other alumni, faculty and staff. Our Salute to Graduates, the day before commencement, provides a personalized ceremony where families can connect prior to commencement. Booths at Career Fairs, Husker Harvest Days and other sites provide opportunities for alums to connect.

Awards: Given annually to alumni and those having made significant contributions to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in general. The Achievement Award recognizes exemplary service to CASNR, CASNRAA or Nebraska agriculture and natural resources by a CASNR graduate. The Service Award is conferred on an individual for outstanding service to CASNR or CASNRAA. Recipients need not be alumni. The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to those who demonstrate exemplary commitment and leadership.

Scholarships: The Association awarded three scholarships funded by the last two football reunion silent auctions; a testament to our members paying it forward.



Sheila O'Connor

These scholarships emphasize that this alumni association is committed to the growth and success of our college.

Emergency Student Loan Fund: Developed this year, the fund helps students in urgent need of short-term loans and who are un-

able to secure other funding. Thanks to Ross Knott, Petersburg State Bank, for setting up this account.

Mentoring Opportunities: A great opportunity to get to know our students! The fall 2006 Sower highlighted Dallas Keim and his passion for mentoring. Many alumni have participated in mentoring programs arranged through faculty, the college or alumni association. I currently have four students **interning in my office. It keeps me on my toes and keeps me young!** Do you mentor a CASNR student?

For additional information, contact Paul Horton, Director of Alumni Development, (402) 472-3936 or phorton2@unl.edu. Special thanks to the IANR Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College for their continued support of our association.

Are you just a number? Not in this association. Your level of connectedness is up to you – whatever feels right. We invite you to be connected.

Thank you for the privilege to serve you – it is an honor. I look forward to visiting with you at upcoming events soon! If I can be of service, please feel free to contact me at oconnor@mlc.edu or (402) 941-6524.

Sheila O'Connor
2006-07 CASNRAA President

Your CASNR Alumni Association

Members of the CASNR alumni board of directors encompass a wide range of majors and professions in agriculture, natural resources and beyond. Remember that if you have comments, suggestions or ideas for your CASNRAA or its publication, call the CASNR Dean’s Office at 1-800-742-8800, ext. 2541.

CASNRAA Board of Directors

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Sheila O’Connor, ‘87, Lincoln

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Communications - Sheila O’Connor, Jana Hafer, Duane Kristensen
Events - Jeff Albers, Dave Karnopp, Mark Wilke

Nominating

Daryl Cisney, Kerry Glandt, Sheila O’Connor

Scholarship

Daryl Cisney, Brian Bosshamer

The Sower is produced by students in the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, a CASNR club.

Mallory Wittstruck, Coordinator
Assistant Professor Jason Ellis, Adviser

CASNRAA Football Reunion Builds Friendships, Funds Scholarships

Football, a well-made meal and a silent auction brought College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) alumni together for fundraising and enjoyment. After years of being dormant, the CASNR Alumni Board resurrected the CASNR Football Reunion in fall 2005, making it an annual event in 2006.

“Football is a common interest among the members,” said Paul Horton, CASNR Director of Alumni Development. “It’s a good event to get people together.”

Before the Nebraska versus Kansas game, 125 CASNR alumni members met at the City Union for a meal and benefit auction. With items such as gift certificates

Football

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Gilbert

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Her first job after graduation was at NatureWorks, LLC, a company based in Blair, Neb. NatureWorks, LLC, is owned by Cargill and primarily functions to develop plastics from corn. Gilbert's job as a lab assistant helped ensure proper handling of hazardous materials and waste.

Gilbert recently accepted a position with the Nebraska Army National Guard (NEARNG) in Lincoln, Neb., that more fully utilizes her Environmental Studies degree. The Army National Guard Environmental Program controls resources in agreement with federal, state, and local laws, as well as maintaining environmental control.

Gilbert's job as an Environmental Assistant Coordinator primarily focuses on hazardous waste management. Along with these management responsibilities, Gilbert also gains perspective in anything and everything pertaining to environmental compliance. She has worked on activities such as storage tank programs, storm water programs, and hazardous

material programs.

Working for the Nebraska Army National Guard on environmental issues certainly puts a different perspective on her career.

"What's interesting about working for the Nebraska Army National Guard is getting the opportunity to work with the military and the people," Gilbert added. "While we are maintaining the Guard as being mission-ready, we are also sustaining the environment."

NEARNG is a perfect link between Gilbert's career goals of working for both the government and the environment. She also is delighted to assist in training opportunities on the job and take advantage of many traveling opportunities that have taken her to places such as Orlando, San Diego, and even the Virgin Islands.

Although Gilbert always has known the type of career she wanted to pursue in life, she was never truly certain of what direction she was headed.

"I always thought I would move

out of state at the time of graduation and explore something else besides Nebraska," she said. "But that didn't happen."

Gilbert believes sometimes the best things find you when you are not looking for them. There are jobs out there that nobody would think were available. She did not know the Nebraska Army National Guard job existed until a few years ago. She also believes that putting your resume on the internet and networking are crucial for job opportunities.

According to Gilbert, staying involved, even after you graduate from college, is important. Her experiences at the university not only gave her educational insight, but also experiences that she can use in her everyday life. These experiences gained while working with the environment take the world one step closer to the dreams of an environmentalist.

"Working with the environment is simply knowing that you are 'helping' to protect the environment on a daily basis," Gilbert said. —Lindsey Horner

Alumni Awards Presented at Football Reunion



Joel Geyer, a senior producer with Nebraska Educational Television (NET), was the recipient of the 2006 CASNR Legacy Award. Geyer has been producing, directing and writing national award-winning PBS documentaries for more than 25 years. Geyer also has taught documentary production at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. He was presented the Legacy Award for his work in producing the Ag College Dreams video for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



The 2006 CASNR Alumni Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Gerald Schuman. Schuman has lived a life of professional achievement and service. He has worked as a soil scientist for the United States Department of Agriculture for more than 40 years. The CASNR Alumni Achievement Award was presented to Schuman for his professional contributions to range management with work in reclaiming mined and degraded rangeland domestically and internationally.



Receiving the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award was Dr. Thomas Hoegemeyer (left). Hoegemeyer is a third-generation farmer and the chief technology officer of Hoegemeyer Hybrids, a family-owned seed company in Nebraska. He is a 1970 graduate of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln's College of Agriculture. Hoegemeyer received the Distinguished Alumni Award for a lifetime of professional achievement, service and dedication to Nebraska agriculture and its producers.

**College of Agricultural Sciences and
Natural Resources Alumni Association
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Membership Contribution Form**

Name _____
 Spouse's name _____ (if applicable)
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 E-mail Address _____
 CASNR Class _____ Major _____
 Spouse Class _____ Major _____

Type of membership New Renewal
 \$20 Annual individual
 \$25 Annual couple
 Sustaining (more than basic fee)
 Amount: _____

Life Membership
 \$300 Individual
 \$360 Couple
 \$65/year for 5 years-Individual installment
 \$75/year for 5 years-Couple installment
 \$180 Senior Individual (65 years or more)
 \$220 Senior Couple

Corporate Partnership
 \$1,000 Legacy
 \$500 Traditions
 \$250 Preservation

(For benefits of each level, send e-mail to
 phorton2@unl.edu)

Membership is open to alumni and friends of
 the college.

Payment
 Please make your check payable to "UN
 Foundation" and send this form to:

CASNRAA
P.O. Box 830702
103 Ag Hall
LINCOLN NE 68583-0702

Alumni Can Renew Online

Now you can renew your membership,
 gift a new membership to a friend or
 start a new membership online and
 pay by credit card. If you prefer this
 method, go to <http://casnr.unl.edu> and
 select "Alumni" for options to either
 pay by check or pay by credit card. The
 annual membership is only \$20.

Burr-Fedde Reunion a Success, Might Become a Regular Event

Smiles, hand shakes and old stories were part of the Burr-Fedde Reunion this past June. The reunion, from June 23 to June 25, was for Burr-Fedde residents and College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) faculty from the mid 70s to early 80s.

The reunion, organized by Greg Sparks, grew from an idea after Sparks attended a 50th wedding anniversary near Lincoln the preceding summer. Also helping organize the reunion were Tim Creger and Cindy Harris, both of Lincoln, Neb.

"A quick 30-minute stroll through the ag campus turned into a flood of memories that I thought I had forgotten and spending a couple of hours thanking God for having the privilege of growing up on the ag campus with so many good people and fine professors," Sparks said.

The reunion started Friday night

with a reception and dinner at the Wick Alumni Center. Those in attendance caught up with friends and exchanged addresses. Saturday's participants enjoyed a picnic, hosted in the Animal Science atrium, that featured Nebraska-made products and meat donated by the Nebraska Pork Producers Council.

A campus tour was facilitated through a scavenger hunt with clues leading participants to the different buildings on East Campus. The tour allowed graduates to walk and reminisce about their time on East Campus.

Willow Holoubek of David City, Neb., an Animal Science major and former resident, attended the reunion and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

"It was fun to see people I hadn't seen since college," Holoubek said. "It gave my three girlfriends and me a good excuse to get together." *-Laura Maricle*

Salute to Graduates Recognizes CASNR Students' Achievements

With a time for parents, students, advisers and CASNR Alumni Association members to gather, the Salute to Graduates ceremony recognizes the achievements of graduating students. The ceremony has taken place in the Great Plains room of the East Campus Union the past two years and allows graduates to share their achievements and future plans with parents and Alumni members.

This year's Salute to Graduates ceremony will be May 4, 2007, and is expected to include more than half of the CASNR graduates. Graduating students receive a free, one-year membership to the CASNR Alumni Association and a copy of "Ag College Dreams," a documentary featuring the Land-Grant College mission and the rich history of the University of Nebraska's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

-Kate Wheeldon

CASNRAA

Web site: <http://casnr.unl.edu/alumni>

Football

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CASNRAA Football Reunion attendees enjoy fellowship and catching up prior to the Nebraska versus Kansas football game.

to Cabela's, golf outings and signed baseballs, the silent auction raised \$2,600 to support two, \$1,000 CASNR scholarships.

"In 2005, the auction raised enough money for one scholarship," said Horton. "We are excited to be able to support more students and hope to continue this in the future."

With one goal of supporting students through scholarships, CASNR alumni look forward to the next reunion planned for September 2007.

"The CASNR Alumni Association wants to keep giving back to the students," Horton said. "We hope the alumni will grow the fundraiser to support this goal."

-Mallory Wittstruck