

June 2006

## The Leading Object: June 2006

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What are the values of your life? Integrity? Justice? Honor? Kindness? Equality? Truth? Compassion? Courage? Creativity? What about wisdom? Temperance? Loyalty? Authenticity? Optimism? Gratitude? Tolerance? Courtesy?



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

Which of many possible values lie at the core of who you are and what you do? In what do you believe – and not believe?

Core values guide and govern our lives. Some days they seem most on our minds when we encounter situations in conflict with them. Other days we just live them as the bedrock for who we are.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln has core values, too. Values we collectively share as part of our university community.

We discuss these values publicly and distribute them widely, so those within and outside the university know what our values – and what we, collectively, as a university – are.

These are UNL's core values:

- Learning that prepares students for lifetime success and leadership;
- Excellence pursued without compromise;
- Achievement supported by a climate that celebrates each person's success;
- Diversity of ideas and people;
- Engagement with academic, business, and civic communities throughout Nebraska and the world;
- Research and creative activity that informs teaching, fosters discovery, and contributes to economic prosperity and our quality of life;
- Stewardship of the human, financial, and physical resources committed to our care.

Here in Nebraska's land-grant university, where undergraduate education is, by legislative and regent mandate, the first mission of the university, our focus is on learning, on helping students prepare to take their places in the world,

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## Colleges Team Up for Plant Biology Major

A science-rich undergraduate plant major unlike anything currently offered at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln or the region is being developed by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and the College of Arts and Sciences.

The plant biology major, expected to be approved by fall, is designed for students who want to study and work with plants at any level from the molecular to the managed or natural ecosystem.

"This has been a long time coming," said Ellen Paparozzi, Professor of Horticulture and Chair of the steering committee that will guide the program.

A faculty task force representing all of the life sciences began meeting about 10 years ago to begin discussions about creating joint programs. The hope was to create intercollegiate majors or interdisciplinary programs between City and East campuses, she said.

Initially the timing wasn't right, but work continued and the development of the plant biology major is an end result, Paparozzi said.

Plant biology merges plant sciences with biology to provide a science-rich major unlike current plant-related majors, she said. More science-based than a horticulture or agronomy major, it will be attractive to students whose interests lie

in biotechnology, plant physiology, and ecology. Two options are available within the major – biotechnology, and ecology and management.

Once students enroll, they will take a core of classes that will allow them to continue in the plant biology major in either college or easily transfer to other life sciences programs. The program permits a wide selection of courses that can be tailored to meet students' career goals.

"I call it a designer curriculum," Paparozzi said. "It's a chance for students who are talented in the basic sciences and may never have thought about plants as their field of study to give it a try. It's an opportunity for others to carve out their own plant-related degree program."

The plant biology major is one of the recent new majors in which CASNR is joining with another college. Landscape architecture is being offered in conjunction with the College of Architecture.

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**Candace Alexander of Omaha, who will be a UNL freshman this fall, and Blake Smith, a UNL fisheries and wildlife senior from Sutton, conduct research on plant species. Such research will be a part of UNL's new plant biology major.**

Photo by Vikas Shedge

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on growing skills for continual learning throughout life.

For us in the Institute, that occurs both in our formal classrooms and laboratories and across the state through extension education. We are leaders fostering leaders, and that is a tremendous responsibility. And privilege.

Our vigorous commitment to excellence is apparent in so many ways, ranging from grants and contracts won for both basic and applied science and the knowledge gained and taught because of such funding, to the truly outstanding programs and projects developed here. It's in the people we work with every day, and the students who populate our campus.

In IANR, where research, teaching, and extension education are so closely entwined, we recognize the importance of celebrating the achievements of others, as well as our own. Here the tide that raises one boat raises all, giving everyone cause to rejoice.

When it comes to diversity, how can a university be truly great if it does not welcome, encourage, and support a wide range of ideas and opinions and being? I think the duty of a university is to model embracing diversity for the enrichment of both culture and understanding.

Engagement is a given for us in IANR. Our land-grant university mission long has had us working with a variety of individuals and communities, respectfully listening to and drawing on the wisdom of each, weaving together the strengths of all

**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

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

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for the common good.

Our scientists, always pushing the envelope in research and creative activity, are among the world's most-cited in agricultural research in the last decade (16th in the world among government agencies and large universities, 10th among universities worldwide, eighth among United States universities).

As to stewardship – the very nature of what we do in agriculture, natural resources, human resources, and related areas provides us a long heritage of sensitivity and commitment to the importance of responsibly using what is provided us, of growing and sustaining it for future generations.

I am proud of the way we in IANR are in harmony with UNL's core values. I look forward to our leadership in these areas, fostering both a stronger university and a stronger Nebraska, nation, and world.



## Plant Biology continued from page 1

Hospitality, Restaurant, and Tourism Management is being offered with the College of Education and Human Sciences. Both majors are to start this fall.

"We're seeing more of that," Susan Fritz, Associate IANR Vice Chancellor, said of the intercollegiate majors. "Students get exposed to a broader perspective."

Landscape architecture and the hospitality majors are expected to reach projected enrollment figures and grow in the coming years, Fritz said. She also expects a demand for plant biology.

"It will be another academic path for that student who may be thinking of a science focus," Fritz said.

Plant biology is a unique offering, Pappozzi said.

"There are no competing programs around us," she said, indicating the program could become a premier one in the plains region.

– Lori McGinnis

## UNL-ISU Vet Program Gets Final Approval

The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education has given final approval to a joint veterinary program between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Iowa State University.

The next step, said the new Head of UNL's Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, is to recruit faculty. David Hardin said seven full-time faculty members will be hired for the program, one of whom will work at the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center in Clay Center. Hardin hopes interviews will be conducted this fall.

Facilities renovation in the Animal Science Complex will need to be done, he said. An animal-holding area for an anatomy lab will be built, a practicum lab will be retrofitted to a classroom/home room, and two other teaching labs will be renovated.

Also planned is the development of an implementation team of faculty to work with ISU faculty to ensure teaching curriculum is compatible, Hardin said.

The program calls for Nebraska veterinary students to study two years at UNL and then move to ISU for their final two years. The first class of Nebraska students will enroll in the cooperative program at UNL in fall 2007 and arrive at ISU in fall 2009.

The commission approved the program June 1.

## Technician Receives OEA for service staff



Struss

Richard Struss, Agricultural Research Technician with the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center,

has received the Outstanding Employee Award for office/service staff for June.

Letters supporting Struss read, "Because of Rick's guidance and education efforts, the Farm Operations crew is motivated to perform at a high standard." Another said he implemented changes that "not only resulted in improved seed placement, but also eliminated two tillage processes."

Struss received \$250, a certificate, and a lapel pin.

# Research Sways Lamberson's Field of Study

Bill Lamberson thought he wanted to be a large animal veterinarian, but a taste of research was all it took to change his mind.

Lamberson, who received his bachelor's degree and doctorate from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in animal science, is now a Professor of Animal Science at the University of Missouri.

While growing up on a farm near Palmer, Lamberson developed a love for animals.

"My original interest was to be a veterinarian," he said.

A Regent's Scholarship encouraged him to enroll in UNL, where he lived on East Campus but took classes on City Campus.

It wasn't until his junior year at UNL that his career plans changed. Doing research with his university professors fascinated him and broadened his frame of mind. He started considering a career in research or academics.

"A lot of it was the excitement of doing things, having questions you can go out and answer yourself," he said.

He went to Oregon State University for his master's degree and returned to UNL for his doctorate because "it is one of the strongest programs in animal breeding in the country."

"It's recognized as one of the best handful of programs in the industry," he said.

Lamberson enjoyed his time as a graduate student.

"You get paid to study and learn new things," he said. His research focused on swine reproduction.

MU has a large reproductive biology program, so his training in the genetics aspects of swine reproduction helped him prepare for his current position, he said.



Lamberson

His graduate research, he said, was a stepping stone in his career.

"The expertise

present at UNL, then and now, and the respect with which it is held by leaders in the livestock industry, demonstrated to us as graduate students that work we were doing had an impact on the livestock industry," he said. "We carry that responsibility with us as we develop our careers."

After receiving his Ph.D., Lamberson took the job at MU. He said it is the only job interview he has ever had.

Lamberson continues to interact regularly with the animal breeding personnel at UNL. An undergraduate from his breeding and genetics class is currently a graduate student with UNL and a recent UNL animal science graduate is working with Lamberson on her master's degree. Last winter he was invited to UNL to present a lecture in quantitative genetics and animal breeding.

"My own career as a professor working in livestock genetics could not have been reached without the knowledge and experience gained from graduate study at the University of Nebraska," he said.

– Lori McGinnis

## Food Scientist Works to Increase Exports

Increasing poultry exports in Russia is the goal of work being done by a University of Nebraska–Lincoln food scientist and others.

Harshavardhan Thippareddi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology, traveled to Moscow last month to participate in a food safety conference with scientists from the University of Maryland, Iowa State University, and the USDA.

The conference was the culmination of communications by the group with Russian scientists regarding food trade barriers.

The United States had been exporting poultry to Russia until about five years ago, when the Russian government halted it due to concerns over *Salmonella*, Thippareddi said. While the concerns were unfounded because *Salmonella* is a bacteria found in most poultry before cooking, it has taken effort to convince the Russians of that, he said.

"It was a financial hit for the U.S. poultry industry," said Thippareddi, who has

been working on the issue for six months. Former Food Science and Technology Head Steve Taylor previously worked with the group.

The purpose of the May conference was to promote food safety standards in all meat and poultry, he said. The underlying goal was to achieve an understanding between the Russian scientists and government officials to help ease the tensions relating to meat trade.

Attending the conference were 190 registrants representing research institutions, meat and poultry processors, universities, state institutions, and representatives of publications.

"I think we achieved what we set out to do," Thippareddi said.

While Thippareddi expects the barrier on U.S. poultry shipments to be lifted, it may take some time before the issue is settled by the Russian government. He has high hopes, however.

"They were very open to us and our recommendations," he said.

– Lori McGinnis

## Panel to Provide Guidance on Water Resources

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln has created a panel of 10 Nebraskans to provide further guidance on water research, education, and outreach programs.

The Water Resources Advisory Panel will meet regularly to share the thoughts and opinions of Nebraskans on water resources and offer advice, said IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor and NU Vice President John Owens.

Owens and Prem Paul, Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, invited the 10 to serve on the panel.

"Because pressing issues such as persistent drought, competing water needs in Nebraska and between states, legal actions, declines in the Ogallala Aquifer, and critical habitat needs, etc., the University recently has renewed and strengthened its engagement in water resources through the Water Resources Research Initiative ..."

Owens and Paul said in a letter to the 10.

A major goal of the Water Initiative is

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## Water Resources

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to enhance the university's connections with state and federal agencies responsible for water resources in Nebraska, as well as with Natural Resources Districts, irrigation districts, agricultural business organizations, and others with ties to Nebraska water issues.

The goal of the panel will be to guide UNL as it continues to invest in water research, education, and outreach efforts, the letter states.

"It's going to be a huge benefit," said Water Center Director and Water Initiative leader Kyle Hoagland, adding it will increase the ability of university research efforts to address state needs.

The panel will increase communication between UNL and water interests throughout the state, said Ron Yoder, Department Head of Biological Systems Engineering, who helped develop the panel.

"I think the panel will be very valuable to the university and the Institute," Yoder said.

The 10 panel members, who will serve one- to three-year terms, include:

- Ann Bleed, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Eugene Glock, Cedar Bell Farms
- Mary Harding, Nebraska Environmental Trust
- Glenn Johnson, Lower Platte South NRD
- Don Kraus, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District
- Kirk Nelson, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Lee Orton, Nebraska Well Drillers Association
- Jay Remppe, Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
- Ed Schrock, Nebraska State Senator
- Susan Seacrest, The Groundwater Foundation

– Lori McGinnis

## Clifford and Martha Hardin Help Cut Ribbon to Rededicate Hall

The newly-renovated Hardin Hall on the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's East Campus was unveiled to the public in a rededication ceremony attended by the man who inspired the building.

Dr. Clifford Hardin, his wife, Martha, and several family members sat front and center as Hardin Hall was formally rededicated on June 13.

Brief speeches were given by Regent Chairman Jim McClurg, University President James B. Milliken, UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman, and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor John Owens, who also served as emcee. They then joined the Hardins in cutting a big red ribbon.

Milliken praised Clifford Hardin as a man who "expanded the scope of the university" as well as opportunities for research.

Hardin served as Chancellor of the University of Nebraska between 1954 and 1968 and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1969 and 1971. During Hardin's tenure, enrollment went from 7,000 to 19,000 students.

In 1954, Hardin appointed a university committee to begin planning the building at 33rd and Holdrege streets, which



Photo by Brett Hampton

A red ribbon was cut to formally rededicate the renovated Hardin Hall. From left are Regent Chairman Jim McClurg, IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor John Owens, Martha Hardin, Clifford Hardin, NU President James B. Milliken, and UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman.

would become the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. A \$1.5 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and \$1 million in private contributions helped open the center in 1961.

The center was rededicated as the Clifford Hardin Nebraska Center for Continuing Education in 1994. In 2003, the NU Board of Regents approved the renovation of the 157,000-square-foot building to house the School of Natural Resources and the Department of Statistics. Faculty and staff are to move into the building this summer.

Perlman said there is "nothing that touches as many parts of the state as the School of Natural Resources."

After the ceremony, faculty and staff gave tours of the classrooms, laboratories, and office space.

– Lori McGinnis

## June KUDO Award goes to Eileen Curtis



Curtis

Eileen Curtis, Staff Secretary with Biological Systems Engineering, received the University of Nebraska Board of Regents June KUDO Award.

Curtis provides

advanced administrative and secretarial support for the department and serves as Office Manager. She also manages undergraduate records and graduate student files.

Comments written in support of Curtis say "she consistently is an outstanding representative of the department and the Institute" and she "brings honesty, integrity, and graciousness to work every day."