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THE SOWER ONLINE

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR)

Alumni Association

April 2008

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1. School of Natural Resources Happenings

The School of Natural Resources is working with state, national and international partners to establish programs that will produce leaders for tomorrow's challenges. For example:

The School of Natural Resources Outreach Committee hosted meetings and a reception for Natural Resource District managers in February. It provided an opportunity to engage future employers on what they might be looking for in SNR graduates.

Rosina Bierbaum, Dean of the School of Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Michigan, and a former science-policy advisor to the White House, gave a talk on the impacts of climate change and what research needs to be done to be prepared for a changing world.

<http://watercenter.unl.edu/MultimediaFiles/RosinaBierbaum.asp>

The School of Natural Resources co-hosted visitors from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) in Costa Rica this spring. Under the leadership of Dr. Jim French, they discussed possible partnerships with various departments in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, including SNR. Topics of mutual interest included carbon sequestration, climate change, biodiversity, natural hazards risk assessment, agro-forestry, monitoring, and natural resources and environmental policy questions, especially those related to biofuels. More formal relationships are expected to develop in the near future.

And if it's a moment of tranquility that you're after, please come see the results of the Wildlife Club's photo contest, on the web or in the lobby of Hardin Hall:

<http://snr.unl.edu/newsarticles/WildlifeClubPhotoContest2008.asp>

Upcoming Events at the School of Natural Resources, Hardin Hall:

The Fifth Annual Water Law, Policy & Science Conference is coming up April 22-23, focusing on changing water quality in the Great Plains.

<http://watercenter.unl.edu/WaterConference/WConf.asp>

For more information about what's going on at the School of Natural Resources, please visit <http://snr.unl.edu>.

2. CASNR 2008 Football Reunion September 13, 2008

We have received an allocation of tickets for the **New Mexico State game September 13** and will hold our annual CASNR Football Reunion and Silent Auction on that date. We had good participation in the reunion last fall and your board of directors and other members gathered a great variety of silent auction items which generated \$4800 for student scholarships. Each year raises the bar a little higher.

Current members of the CASNR Alumni Association can register now for the reunion by going to <http://casnr.unl.edu> and clicking "Football Reunion" under "News." From there you can pay by credit card online or download the form and send it in with your check. Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis but registration for the reunion meal and program is unlimited. Membership in the Association is available from the casnr web site home page under "Alumni, Friends, Donors."

Members will be contacted first by e-mail for those who have addresses on file and then by letter. If you want to update your e-mail or street address go to <http://casnr.unl.edu>, click "Alumni, Friends, Donors" then select "Address Update Form."

If you or your employer have an item to donate for the auction please let us know as soon as possible. Last year we had items ranging from radio advertising time on KRVN to 20 tons of wet distillers grain. We had items that sold between \$12 and \$2100. There was something for everyone, and the result was a good boost to scholarships in the name of our CASNR Alumni Association. Register auction items with Paul Horton at phorton2@unl.edu.

3. UNL Rodeo 50th Anniversary in Lincoln

The 50th Anniversary of the annual UNL Rodeo will take place April 18 and 19 in Lincoln at the Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock Avenue. The Friday Performance starts at 7:00 pm followed by a dance featuring Jim Rice and the Final Round Band.

There is a Saturday Performance at 1 pm and another at 7:30 pm. Many alumni who were involved with the UNL Rodeo are expected to attend and there will be a display of trophies and rodeo memorabilia to commemorate the 50th Anniversary.

There will be a barbecue following the afternoon Performance on April 19 from 4:30–6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and can be purchased at the door.

For event times and costs please visit

<http://casnr.unl.edu/2008rodeo?doAsUserId=YQ8OJvXbkvM%25253D>

4. Biological Systems Engineering Department News

Quarter-scale Tractor Team

The Quarter-scale tractor competition that is sponsored by ASABE and the major agricultural equipment manufacturers is one of the premier engineering design competitions in the U.S. Last year thirty teams competed. Many of the organizers and judges for the competition are employed by the major equipment manufacturers. This is another excellent opportunity for students to make contacts that result in employment offers after graduation. Students from both Agricultural Engineering and Mechanized Systems Management are members of the team, and we also have a Mechanical Engineering student who has joined the team.

For more information and photos see <http://bse.unl.edu/qtrscale/>

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

BSE students have a close working relationship with Lincoln's Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital coordinated by Greg Bashford, Assistant Professor and Biomedical Engineer, and Mike Kocher, Associate Professor. Numerous student design teams are working on problems presented to them by the staff in Madonna's Movement Sciences Center.

See <http://bse.unl.edu/index.shtml> for more information on the Biological Systems Engineering Department.

5. 100 Years of Campus Architecture Online

Kay Logan-Peters, professor and chair of Access Branch Services for the University Libraries, has developed a Web site "An Architecture Tour of Historic UNL". The site is divided into City Campus and East Campus. UNL alumni will enjoy visiting the site at <http://historicbuildings.unl.edu>.

6. At Work For Nebraska

From the *At Work For Nebraska* report:

Agriculture remains the No. 1 industry in Nebraska. In 2006, the Nebraska Policy Institute reported that 31 percent of the state's total employment derives from agribusiness. That's up from 25 percent in 1990. That means that even as Nebraska's population, like that of much of the nation, is shifting to urban areas, agriculture is becoming *more important* to the state's economy, not less.

The University of Nebraska long has recognized agriculture's central role in the state. The Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is Nebraska's primary provider of agriculture and natural resources programs in support of Nebraska agriculture and a primary engine for economic and social sustainability and growth in Nebraska.

Read more of the two-page summary IANR prepared of the *At Work For Nebraska* report at http://atworkfornebraska.unl.edu/survey/Battelle_Sum1.pdf.pdf

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

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