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Nebraska Chapter GAMMA SIGMA DELTA Newsletter

Issue #46, Spring 2013

President's Message

The 2013 Initiation and Awards Banquet was January 27. We initiated 20 new members into our chapter. I challenge all members to help grow our Nebraska Chapter by identifying high quality individuals that we need to recognize and initiate into our chapter. At the banquet we recognized some very deserving undergraduate students, a graduate student, and faculty. Listening to the list of their accomplishments you can only imagine their potential impact as they contribute to the understanding and furthering of agriculture and natural resources, human sciences, and biological engineering.

We have been able to supplement the graduate and undergraduate awardees with a cash award. The recipients appreciate this. I mention this because income into the chapter has diminished substantially over the last three years and expenses have basically remained about the same. Income for the chapter is through membership dues and fewer members are paying annual dues. There are two simple solutions, more members pay dues or increase the amount of our annual dues. We, collectively, need to get this turned around.

We have two open positions on the officer team, secretary and treasurer. Tamra and I have agreed to remain in our current positions for 2013. We will not remain in the same position for 2014. In 2014, I will move to past-president and Tamra to president. Our officer nomination committee has not successfully been able to recruit two members to join the officer team in the secretary and treasurer positions. I know everyone is busy. Let me know if you can join the officer team.

Our Fall Seminar and Annual Meeting is set for October 10, 2013. For the seminar we will have Dr. Ken Cassman discuss feeding 9 billion people with less land and water. The 2014 Initiation and Awards Banquet date is set for January 26, 2014. Plan to attend both these Chapter functions.

Rick Rasby

GSD Nebraska Chapter President

**We hope you can attend
these upcoming
Gamma Sigma Delta
events**

**Thursday, October 10, 2013
116 Chase Hall**

***Fall Seminar* – 3:00 p.m.**

Dr. Ken Cassman – Speaker
Refreshments will be available

***Annual Business Meeting* –
4:00 p.m.**

Awards Banquet

**Sunday, January 26, 2014
Beacon Hills
6:00 p.m.**



Welcome New Members

We want to welcome the following new members who were initiated at our Awards Banquet on January 27.

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Rachel Coburn	Biochemistry
Jana Cool	Agribusiness
Samantha Davis	Forensic Science
Brooke Grossenbacher	Food Science & Technology
Jesy Hansen	Water Science
Tessa Harms	Ag Education
Ivy Hoppes	Horticulture
Melissa Matulka	Agribusiness/Animal Science
Karla Pick	Agronomy
Lacey Schardt	Agribusiness
Chanda Scheuring	Agribusiness/Animal Science
Stephanie Smolek	Ag Journalism/Animal Science
Peter Alexander Sojka	Animal Science/ Veterinary Medicine
Eric Thalken	Ag Economics

College of Education and Human Sciences

Audrey Marie Swanson	Hospitality, Restaurant and Tourism Management
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Graduate Students

Jeremy Howard	Animal Science
Maria Elisa Perez-Munoz	Food Science & Technology

Faculty/Staff

Kayla Hinrichs	Extension
Amy Timmerman	Extension

Alumni

Douglas Golick	Entomology
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Recipients of 2012 Gamma Sigma Delta Awards

The Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta Award Committee announced the 2012 award recipients at the annual Initiation and Awards Banquet on January 27, 2013. These awards were presented to individuals exhibiting outstanding service in the areas of research, extension, teaching, administration, and leadership in the fields of agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences.

Award of Merit for Service Recipient: Elizabeth Birnstihl

Dr. Beth Birnstihl served as Associate Dean, Associate Director and 4-H Program Administrator, UNL Extension from 2002-2012. Prior to 2002 she served as UNL Extension Associate Dean, Assistant Dean, Staff Development Leader, Associate Director of the Southeast Research and Extension Center, District Supervisor of the Southeast Research and Extension Center, and Extension Educator, Seward-Saline-Jefferson counties. Dr. Birnstihl retired from UNL in 2012 and is currently serving as the Director of the National 4-H Council's Mission to Market program. Beth established and strengthened programs that youth and adults in Nebraska have benefited from. She is recognized nationally as a person with a practical solution to complex problems. Beth chaired the Program Leadership Committee for Extension Committee on Organization and Policy.

During her tenure at the University of Nebraska, her work and educational programs attracted millions of dollars in grants. Other honors that Dr. Birnstihl has received include: Senior Faculty Recipient of the University of Nebraska Holling Family Excellence Teaching Award; elected into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement; Exemplary Award for Extension Leadership; the Annie Casey Outstanding UNL Outreach programs.



Dr. Birnstihl being congratulated by Ronnie Green, Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR and Chuck Hibberd, Extension Dean and Director

Excellence in Research Award Recipient: Galen Erickson



Dr. Galen Erickson receives the Excellence in Research Award from Archie Clutter, Dean of the Agricultural Research Division

Dr. Galen Erickson is one of the leading feedlot nutrition researchers in the U.S. His recent research showing that calcium oxide-treated corn stover can replace corn in distillers grains-based finishing diets has generated a great deal of interest. Feedlot consultants say that this is the most innovative technology to be developed in the last ten years. Companies like ADM are using this research as the basis to make multi-million dollar investments in facilities to develop a corn replacement product for cattle.

Original, creative, and user friendly are descriptors used to characterize Galen's research program. His research emphasizes the utilization of grain milling byproducts, decreasing the environmental challenge of nitrogen and phosphorus excretion, improving starch utilization by cattle and using growth performance technologies to improve efficiency of production. Galen is currently advising or co-advising 13 Masters and 6 Ph.D. students and has graduated 17 M.S. and 16 Ph.D. students. As of 2011, he has authored 75 peer-reviewed publications, 411 experiment station reports, and 226 abstracts. Galen has received over 5 million dollars in grants.

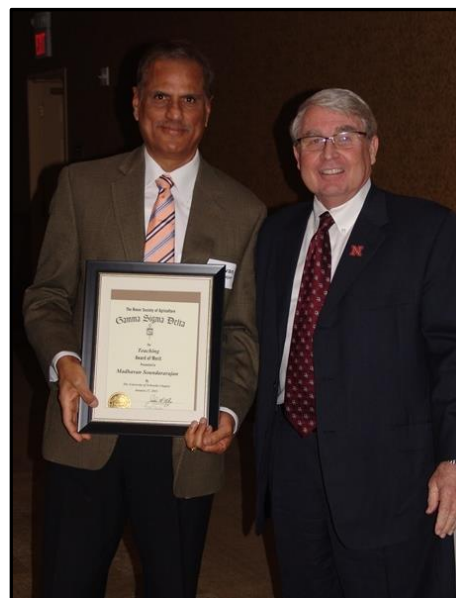
Excellence in Teaching Award
Recipient: **Madhavan Soundararajan**

Dr. Madhavan Soundararajan's long and distinguished career as a teacher and advisor of students in biochemistry makes him a particularly appropriate recipient of this award. Dr. Soundararajan is considered by his peers to be an outstanding educator. His professional accomplishments and contributions through his roles in instruction, advising, scholarly activity, and outreach/service define the land-grant mission.

Dr. Soundararajan has been instrumental in the growth and development of the Biochemistry program in conjunction with the College of Arts and Sciences almost 20 years ago. The program has grown from an idea to the largest major in the College. Its growth and success can be largely attributed to the vision, energy, and efforts of Dr. Soundararajan. His accomplishments as an instructor and advisor have been recognized and rewarded by the National Association Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

An outstanding advising style gives him the distinction as the most requested academic advisor in his department. He currently advises 127 undergraduates. Dr. Soundararajan also serves as a co-director of the University Honors program.

Dr. Soundararajan views his classroom as a laboratory on teaching methodologies. He remains innovative, relevant, and enthusiastic with a constantly changing student demographic.



CASNR Dean Steve Waller presents the Excellence in Teaching Award to Dr. Madhavan Soundararajan

Excellence in Extension Award
Recipient: **Jennifer Rees**



Jennifer Rees receives the Excellence in Extension Award from Chuck Hibberd, Extension Dean and Director

Jenny's agronomic expertise is highly valued in Clay County and throughout Nebraska. Her colleagues in higher education and private industry recognize her as one of Nebraska's leading experts in plant pathology. Jenny's educational programs span generations from 4-H youth to experienced agricultural professionals. Her positive, "can do" approach to the Extension mission invites clientele to work collaboratively with her to find solutions to their personal, professional, and community challenges. Jenny champions on-farm research and the critical role Extension plays in the translational research role for agricultural producers. This past year she has focused on disseminating crop production, plant disease, and natural resources information through the *CropWatch* website. Her concerted effort has helped the *CropWatch* team grow website traffic to 165,155 visitors, representing 176 countries, and 472,480 page views in 2012. Jenny goes the extra mile (and helps her colleagues) to share the latest research discoveries and extension education with a global audience via her extensive social medial network of blogs, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. It's not uncommon for Clay County growers to track Jenny's crop scouting ventures by simply watching her tweets and crop advice that she offers while visiting fields and consulting with clientele. Her last 21 tweets alone reached 3,792 people with an exposure of 8,942 impressions. This is just one example demonstrating how Jenny Rees is truly a "Next Generation" Extension Educator and well deserving of this honor.

Outstanding Undergraduate Students



Rachel Coburn is presented an Outstanding Undergraduate Student award by CASNR Dean Steve Waller



Josiah Dallmann is the 2nd recipient of an Outstanding Undergraduate Student award presented by CASNR Dean Steve Waller

**Outstanding Graduate Student
Recipient: Aruna Gangaplara**



In Memoriam

Oliver Davies Grace, 97, passed away May 9, 2012 at Eastmont Towers. Oliver was born December 21, 1914 in Washington, D.C., the son of Oliver J. and Gladys Grace. His childhood years were spent in various cities in Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado. He graduated from Washington County High School in 1934. He continued his education at Colorado State University and received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1940. While working for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, he was assigned to the University of Illinois where he met Vera Hanawalt. They wed in 1948. In 1951 he received his Master of Science degree in animal pathology and hygiene.

In 1955, the family moved to Lincoln when Oliver accepted a position at the University of Nebraska. His primary responsibilities at UNL were in the diagnostic laboratory as a research veterinarian and teaching and advising pre-veterinary students. Among his most interesting experiences was performing over 100 necropsies on animals during the mutilation scare in the early 70s. Farmers were concerned that cattle were being killed by some sort of cult. As recognition of his assistance, he received the Our Man Friday Award from local law enforcement. In 1982 he accompanied 462 pigs to China. These pigs had been purchased by the Chinese government. Over the years Oliver received many awards in recognition of his service to other veterinarians and farmers throughout the state. He also was elected to numerous honorary societies.

Oliver was involved in a variety of other activities. He was an active member of Warren Methodist Church for many years. As a member of the Northeast Lincoln Kiwanis Club, he was named Kiwanian of the Year in 1982-83. In recognition of his Welsh heritage, he belonged to the St David's Welsh Society and served as treasurer for several years. In recognition of Vera's Swedish heritage, he also belonged to the Norden Club. As an avid Big Red sports fan, he and Vera were football season ticket holders for over 50 years and followed other Nebraska teams.

He is survived by his two children, Edward (Elizabeth) Grace of Overland Park, Kansas, and Kerstin Lanser of Brookfield, Wisconsin, and his four grandchildren, Matthew and Benjamin Grace of Overland Park and Eric (Amanda) Lanser of Minneapolis, and Jennifer Lanser of Chicago.

A memorial service was held on May 14, 2012 at The Gallery at The Seasons-Eastmont Tower Community. Memorials may be made in Oliver's name to the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association's Centennial Scholarship Foundation for Nebraska students studying veterinary medicine, NVMA Centennial Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 296, Alliance, NE 69301. Condolences www.lincolnfh.com



C. Dean Yonts passed peacefully away on Friday, July 6, 2012 surrounded by family after an extended illness. He was 61 years old. Dean was born on January 11, 1951 to Harold and Eva Yonts. They were homesteaders in the Whistle Creek area 15 miles southeast of Powell, Wyoming.

Dean attended school in Byron, Wyoming and graduated in 1969. He then attended and graduated from Northwest College in Powell in 1971. From there he went to the University of Wyoming where he obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agricultural Engineering.

On September 7, 1975 Dean married Kathryn "Kathy" Ann Books in Kemmerer, Wyoming. They moved to Nebraska and have been residing in Scottsbluff ever since. They are parents to two children, Travis and Marissa. Most of Dean's career has been spent working in irrigation water management as an Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Dean enjoyed his work and especially liked working with producers in the Wyobraska area.

Dean was also very involved in many youth activities. He coached soccer, softball and baseball, helped with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and taught Sunday school at the First Presbyterian Church in Scottsbluff.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Eva Yonts. He is survived by his wife, Kathy and daughter, Marissa, both of Scottsbluff, and his son, Travis of Omaha. He is also survived by his brother, Robert and wife, Barb of Casper, Wyoming, brother, Delmer and wife, Peggy of Grant-Valkaria, Florida, brother, Larry of Powell, Wyoming, sister, Linda and husband, Gary Pangburn of Greybull, Wyoming, and numerous nieces and nephews. He will be sadly missed by all.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, July 12, 2012 at the First Presbyterian Church in Scottsbluff, Nebraska with Pastor Ted Thode officiating. A memorial fund has been established to Brent's Place, an organization that provides patient assistance in Denver, in care of the family or to a charity of your choice. Tributes of sympathy may be left at www.dugankramer.com. Dugan-Kramer Funeral Chapel and Cremation Services in Scottsbluff is in charge of the arrangements.

Gamma Sigma Delta Committees 2013

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Rick Rasby
President-Elect: Tamra Jackson-Ziems
Secretary: TBA
Treasurer: TBA
Membership Coordinator: Bob Wright
Historian: Z B Mayo
Past-President: Julie Albrecht

AWARD OF MERIT COMMITTEE

Keith Glewen (2013)*
Susan Fritz (2014)
Beth Birnstihl (2015)

EXTENSION AWARD COMMITTEE

Harshavardhan Thippareddi (2013)*
David Varner (2014)
Jennifer Rees (2015)

RESEARCH AWARD COMMITTEE

Curtis Weller (2013)*
Yiqi Yang (2014)
Galen Erickson (2015)

TEACHING AWARD COMMITTEE

Martha Mamo (2013)*
Lisa Karr-Lilienthal (2014)
Madhavan Soundararajan (2015)

INITIATION AND AWARDS BANQUET

Rick Rasby
Tamra Jackson-Ziems
Bob Wright
Z B Mayo

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

TBA

SEMINAR COMMITTEE

Rick Rasby
Tamra Jackson-Ziems

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Wright (Coordinator)

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rick Rasby (2013)*
Tamra Jackson-Ziems (2014)

SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

Z B Mayo (2013)*
TBA (2014)

AUDITING COMMITTEE

TBA (2013)*

* Chairperson

Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund

Your Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta has established a new fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation to allow us to expand our recognition of high standards of scholarship to the graduate student ranks. The **Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund** was initiated with a \$750 grant from the international Gamma Sigma Delta organization. The fund is an expendable fund at this time, however, our goal is to raise \$25,000 to endow it permanently. Your contributions will assist us in reaching this goal.

A Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Selection Committee will organize the application and selection process. Graduate students in Human Sciences, Agriculture, and related sciences who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment in their teaching, research, or extension endeavors, and great promise for future academic contributions in their field of expertise are eligible.

Please send your donations to the University of Nebraska Foundation at 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68508 with the attached pledge sheet. Questions? Contact Kevin Meyer at kmeyer@nufoundation.org.

**See page 8 for Pledge information.

Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund #10996

- Enclosed is my check for \$_____ payable to the **University of Nebraska Foundation**.
 Please charge \$_____ to my: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number *Exp. Date*
 I/we pledge \$_____ payable over _____ years, beginning _____ (month/year).

Signature (for credit card payment or to establish a pledge) *Date*
 Give online at www.nufoundation.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____

- My matching gift form is enclosed. If your employer or your spouse's employer has a matching gift program, your gift could be increased! Contact your employer's personnel office for information.
- I have already included the Foundation in my estate plans through my will, trust or life insurance.
- Please send information about making a planned gift. You may call 1-800-432-3216 to speak with a planned giving professional.

Campaign: 1L09 • GSD

If making a gift, please print and mail to:
University of Nebraska Foundation
P.O. Box 82555
Lincoln, NE 68501-2555

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Scottsbluff, NE 69361

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GAMMA SIGMA DELTA

2013 ANNUAL DUES NOTICE FOR NEBRASKA CHAPTER
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR, 103 ENTO
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68583-0816

April 29, 2013

TO: Gamma Sigma Delta Members

FROM: Robert J Wright, (402) 472-2123

SUBJECT: Renewal of Active Membership / Dues for 2013

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership in Gamma Sigma Delta. Please recall that GSD membership is based on the calendar year and runs from January 1 – December 31. In keeping with tradition, I am sending just this single notification for paying your 2013 dues. We are counting on your continuing support of our honorary society. Please be sure to print off and complete the appropriate form and respond today.

Dues are \$20 per year. Please make your check (\$20 for 2013, or \$20 per year for multiple years) payable to **Gamma Sigma Delta** (please don't mail cash) and send it, along with your completed membership form to me at one of the addresses indicated.

If you wish to be placed on the GSD inactive list, do not send dues but check the appropriate box on the form and return it to me. If I do not hear from you by July 1, 2013, I will remove your name from our mailing list. You can always return to active membership just by sending me your annual dues. Also, if you know of GSD members who have moved to Nebraska, please send me their name(s) and address(es) or have them contact me so they can become active here. We wish to welcome all of you who have recently transferred into our Nebraska Chapter.

Those of you who have **Retired** (refer to list next page) or received the Distinguished Service of Agriculture **Award of Merit** (refer to list below) are not required to pay dues and should have previously received a **Permanent** membership card. Retired persons who do not return the completed form to me by July 1, 2013 will be removed from the mailing list due to the cost of mailing our newsletters.

Those of you who have paid dues in advance are so noted on the **Prepaid** list. Please check to see if my extension date is correct for your prepaid dues. For those of you who have a campus email address, please use that address to help reduce our postage expenses.

The following members have received our Chapter Distinguished Service to Agriculture **Award of Merit** and are not required to pay dues. Your membership card should indicate **Permanent** and have the space checked for Award of Merit and year of the award. D.C. Adams, A. Baquet, B. Birnstihl, K.E. Craig, E.C. Dickey, R.D. Earl, R.D. Fritschen, S. Fritz, G.W. Froning, W.W. Furrer, K. Glewen, H.J. Gorz, R.J. Hanson, D.G. Hanway, F.A. Haskins, G.A. Helmers, R.K. Johnson, R.C. Kean, D.L. Keith, R.M. Koch, J.M. Laughlin, R.W. Mandigo, M.A. Massengale, Z B Mayo, M.R. Morris, L.E. Moser, M. Nielsen, I.T. Omtvedt, R.L. Raun, S.E. Salzman, R.C. Shearman, W.E. Splinter, L.E. Stetson, T.W. Sullivan, M.J. Twiehaus, L.D. Van Vleck, A.K. Vidaver, G.J. Vollmar, R. Wehrbein, J. H. Williams, Jr., J.F. Witkowski.

The following Gamma Sigma Delta members have **Prepaid** their dues through the calendar year listed after their names. If you were an active member in 2012 and your name is not on this list, your membership has expired. The following memberships are prepaid through December 31 of the year indicated: J.D. Aiken – 2013; D.W. Boden – 2013; K. Boone – 2013; D. Brink – 2014; N. Brockmann – 2015; M.C. Brumm – 2013; C.A. Burkhart-Kriesel – 2015; T.P. Carr – 2013; R.A. Coburn – 2013; K. Colgrove – 2013; J. Cool – 2013; S.J. Davis – 2013; G. Erickson – 2016; R.C. French – 2014; J.E. Gilley – 2015; D. Golick – 2013; R. Griess – 2014; B.R. Grossenbacher – 2013; F.L. Hamouz – 2014; J. Hansen – 2013; T. Harms – 2013; P.C. Hay – 2014; K.M. Hinrichs – 2013; I.M. Hoppes – 2013; J.T. Howard – 2013; J.J. Jacobson – 2015; M.B. Jacobson – 2015; J. Jurzenski – 2013; S.T. Kamble – 2013; W.M. Koszewski – 2013; B. Lubben – 2017; M. Matulka – 2013; J.S. Nixon – 2014; S. Paula-Moraes – 2014; M. Perez-Munoz – 2013; K. Pick – 2013; R.J. Rasby – 2014; A. Saxena – 2013; L.N. Schardt – 2013; C.M. Scheuring – 2013; S.D. Smolek – 2013; P.A. Sojka – 2013; J.E. Specht – 2013; A.M. Swanson – 2013; E.A. Thalken – 2013; A. Timmerman – 2013; R.J. Wright – 2015; O. Youm – 2014; J. Zempleni – 2014; G.L. Zoubek – 2013

NOTE: New members inducted in 2013 are also *Prepaid* through December 31, 2013!!

The following members have **Retired** and are on our active mailing list and are **Not** required to pay dues. Your current card should indicate **Permanent**. M.E. Baker, A.G. Blezek, M.C. Brumm, L.E. Davis, R.D. Earl, F.E. Eldridge, D.G. Hanway, D. Hay, D.W. Kellogg, D.L. Keith, R.M. Koch, R. Kuzelka, L.E. Lucas, Z B Mayo, M.R. Morris, G.A. Newkirk, H.W. Ottoson, L. Schulze, D.E. Stenberg, B.A. Weichenthal, R.G. White, D.R. Wolverton, L.L. Young.

If you have retired and wish to stay on our mailing list, you must complete the attached form and mail to the appropriate address below by July 1, 2013. If you wish, you may call the information in to me at (402) 472-2123. Please ask for our secretary, Ms. Marilyn Weidner.

Best regards,

Robert J Wright

Robert J Wright
Membership Coordinator



GAMMA SIGMA DELTA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

_____ I am enclosing \$20 as I wish to remain an active member for 2013.

_____ Payment in ADVANCE. I am enclosing \$ _____ to extend my active membership
_____ years at \$20 per year.

_____ I am NOT enclosing a dues payment as I wish to become inactive.

_____ I have RETIRED and wish to remain ON the mailing list

_____ I have RETIRED and wish to be taken OFF the active mailing list.

To save mailing costs, please provide your email address below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please return the completed form to:

For On-Campus Mail

Robert J. Wright
GSD Membership Coordinator
Entomology Department
ENTO 103 - 0816
Lincoln NE 68583-0816

For U.S. Mail

Robert J. Wright
GSD Membership Coordinator
Entomology Department
University of Nebraska