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Perspectives

"In today's environment, no one university can marshal all the expertise, nor can it acquire all the resources necessary to solve problems faced by the multifaceted agricultural industry.



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

Collaborations and partnerships hold the potential for Land Grant universities to meet their mission in new and exciting ways that enhance their resources and their value to agriculture and the citizens of this nation."

That quote, from the Farm Foundation's *Benefits Without Boundaries: Multi-State Collaboration Among Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture* report, seems particularly fitting as we move forward on our collaborative veterinary medicine program partnership with Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Farm Foundation report notes there are three overarching elements of successful multistate collaboration: It addresses complex problems; it provides efficiency and effective program structure; it capitalizes on shared excellence.

"Shared excellence allows Land Grant universities to provide richer experiences and benefits to farmers, students, businesses and other clients," the report states.

It lists these common elements of successful projects: *"Need-based, outcome driven; Mutual benefits; Adequate allocations of people, facilities and funds; Involved stakeholders; Advance agreement on policies; Effective evaluation of people and programs; Interdisciplinary approach; Collegiality among collaborators and clientele; Innovative delivery method."*

I think all are part of our agreement with Iowa State.

Last month, ISU College of Veterinary Medicine faculty voted in favor of entering into a cooperative veterinary medicine education agreement with us. Our program will allow UNL students

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

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IANR

March 2006

Joint Veterinary Program Progressing

A cooperative program in veterinary medical education between the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and Iowa State University has reached another step toward implementation.

The program was approved by ISU faculty members in February on a 58-50 vote with three abstentions. It now is being reviewed by ISU President Gregory Geoffroy, and a long-term agreement will go before the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for approval. The Nebraska Veterinary Medicine Association has pledged its support to the program.

Under the agreement, Nebraska veterinary students will study for two years at UNL, then move to ISU for their final two years. Students initially will receive a degree in veterinary medicine from ISU with the long-term goal of receiving a dual degree from both universities. The first class of Nebraska students will enroll at UNL in the cooperative program in fall 2007 and arrive at ISU in fall 2009.

The students will pay ISU resident tuition all four years, with UNL receiving the tuition income while the students are in Lincoln. UNL will pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition while the students are at Ames.

Steve Waller, Dean of UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, said it is a one-of-a-kind agreement that benefits Nebraska students, UNL, the livestock industry, and the state.



Dee Griffin

Students at the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center perform surgery on a cow. Studying at the GPVEC will be part of cooperative program in veterinary medical education between UNL and ISU.

"This is a premier program for students," he said. "It's an intensive commitment to the livestock industry while providing Nebraska students opportunities to prepare for small and mixed animal practices."

UNL solicited proposals from veterinary schools around the country after appropriated funding for UNL's agreement with Kansas State University was deemed insufficient. Under that agreement, Nebraska veterinary students paid in-state tuition to study at KSU. UNL then paid KSU a negotiated contract rate per student, guaranteed at 100 students.

Of 11 proposals UNL received from other veterinary schools, ISU was the only one to propose a true cooperative educational partnership, Waller said.

ISU will continue its traditional four-year veterinary medicine curriculum but each year would allow 25 Nebraska students to transfer after two years of study at UNL.

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to complete the first two years of their four-year professional veterinary medicine curriculum here, and their last two years in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State.

In Iowa, the agreement now goes to ISU's President Geoffroy to sign. Here in Nebraska, Chancellor Perlman and I plan to take it to President Milliken and the Board of Regents for approval in April, and from there to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, which meets in June.

With Nebraska the nation's largest cattle-producing state and first in red meat production, and Iowa the country's largest swine-producing state, and second in red meat production, working together provides exciting opportunities for all areas of veterinary medicine education and research, as well as extension education.

Our goal as collaborating land-grant universities is to provide the country's premier program in food supply and companion animals. I see this regional program as an extremely positive step in educating our students and serving our clients through research and extension education. This also signals a new emphasis in providing food supply veterinarians, a real need in both states.

With ISU we will have a cooperative partnership that leverages faculty and facilities on our campus and at the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center

near Clay Center. This financially sound agreement offers exciting opportunities and benefits to our students, our states, both universities, and the clientele we all serve.

At the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association annual meeting this year, incoming President Jay Stewart called on the NVMA to make the successful implementation of the proposed program with ISU a reality. That stakeholder support means so much to us.

We are living the Multi-State Collaboration Vision outlined in the Farm Foundation's report – *"Expanded opportunities ... built on a foundation of mutual objectives and shared benefits... unbound by disciplinary or political borders."*



Animal Science Faculty Receive Association Awards

Two faculty members in the Department of Animal Science have been recognized by the Midwest Sections of the American Society of Animal Science and the American Dairy Science Association.

Andrea Cupp, Assistant Professor, received the Outstanding Young Researcher Award, given for outstanding contribution in research in animal/dairy science. Bryan Reiling, Associate Professor, received the Outstanding Young Teacher Award for his work in the field.

The awards were presented this month in Des Moines, Iowa.

In addition, Cupp has been selected to receive the 2006 SSR (Society for the Study of Reproduction) New Investigator Award, to be presented in July.

Banerjee Receives Award for Outstanding Research

Ruma Banerjee, Willa Cather Professor of Biochemistry and the Director of the Center for Redox Biology, has received a prestigious award for research.



University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken this month announced that Banerjee was one of two recipients of the Outstanding Research and Creativity Award. The award recognizes faculty members for research and creative activity of international or national significance.

The Center for Redox Biology is an internationally known research center established with a \$10 million National Institutes of Health grant. She and her team are conducting enzyme chemistry research that holds promise in the study of heart disease, cancer and metabolic disorders.

Joint Veterinary Program Progressing (continued from page 1)

"They really want Nebraska students," Waller said. "They get a lot of benefits that make it worthwhile."

Nebraska students in the joint educational program, as well as traditional ISU students studying to be food animal veterinarians, will have access to the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center in Clay Center. ISU expects to graduate about 40 food animal veterinarians per year, Waller said.

UNL will net approximately \$1.4 million from a combination of about \$1.5 million in state funding, plus UNL's share of the ISU resident tuition, less the differential between in-state and out-state tuition paid to ISU, Waller said.

UNL will use the net revenue generated from the program for faculty, staff, operating, and facility renovations. UNL plans to hire at least six new faculty and renovate space in the Animal Science and Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences buildings for the new program.

"We have a great partner in ISU," Waller said.

— Lori 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.

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Major Construction on Hardin Hall Near Completion

Major construction on the Hardin Hall renovation was nearing completion in March, and small detail work is all that is needed before the School of Natural Resources occupies the building.

"Substantial completion" is how Dale Vanderholm, recently-retired IANR Facilities Director, described the building. What remains is a thorough inspection by UNL facilities management before faculty and staff can move in, projected to be in June, he said.

"Since we're currently in eight different buildings, it will be great to be in one building where we can interact," said SNR Director Mark Kuzila.

Lueder Construction began renovation work about two years ago to transform the Clifford Hardin Nebraska Center for Continuing Education into Hardin Hall. Work was expected to be done last summer, but unexpected complications slowed the work, Vanderholm said.

For example, demolition revealed that some internal pipes were going the wrong direction, and that had to be corrected, he said.

"It was a combination of little things that added up," he said. "We've had some little problems and coordinating all those on a project like this is a tough job."

When fully completed, the third through the ninth floors will be office space for SNR faculty and staff. The first and second floor will be laboratories and classrooms. The north wing of the third floor has been occupied for the last 10 months by the Department of Statistics.

Most of the building was gutted and renovated, new energy-efficient windows have been installed, and an additional 12,000 square feet for lab space has been added. The \$16.5 million project was paid for by a \$9.6 million USDA grant and state funds.

"It's going to be a great facility," said current IANR Facilities Director Barry Shull. Bringing SNR faculty and staff from buildings on both campuses to under one roof "will give them some cohesion and a sense of belonging," he said.

The prominent location of the building at 33rd and Holdrege streets will make it easily identifiable and accessible to the public, Shull said.

The final inspection of the building will



Construction at Hardin Hall has been ongoing for about two years and the major work was nearing completion this month.

include going down a "punch list," Shull said. Every detail, including small things like a ding in the wall, will be inspected and corrected before SNR moves in, he said.

Kuzila said SNR faculty and staff members are looking forward to working in a brand new building.

"This brand new facility will make our efforts even better," he said.

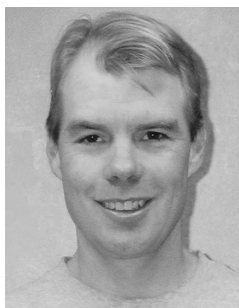
— Lori McGinnis

Golus, Shaw Receive OEA Awards

Jeff Golus, research technologist with the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, and Richard Shaw, agricultural research technician with the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, have received Outstanding Employee Awards.

Golus won the OEA for managerial/professional staff for March and April. Shaw won the OEA for office/service staff for March.

Supporters of Golus praised him for his management of a large inventory of sophisticated research equipment. They



Golus

said he organizes corn and wheat plots so they can be planted and harvested in the most productive manner and developed a map for skip row corn that is complex but highly efficient and organized.

Supporters of Shaw say his activities are key to most of the sheep research that is being conducted and call him a leader among sheep technicians. They say he will offer suggestions concerning research proposals that improve the likelihood of success.

Golus and Shaw each receive a cash award of \$250, a certificate and a lapel pin.



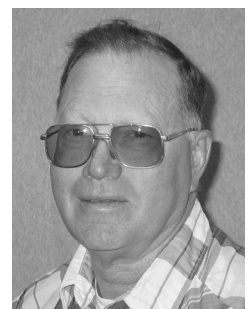
Shaw

Gatch Receives Regents' March KUDO Award

Richard Gatch, research engineer with the Panhandle Research and Extension Center, has received the University of Nebraska Board of Regents' March KUDO award.

A supporter said that Gatch is sought to lead project efforts that require expertise in adjustment and operation of farm equipment. Another cited Gatch's development of a water hauling and delivery system to water the non-paved roads for tours so tour riders experience a less dusty ride.

The award was presented at the March 3 Regents meeting.



Gatch

Wehrbein Used Degree to Help Him When Returning to Family Farm

Roger Wehrbein defines the word homebody – he still lives in the same farm-house where he lived as a boy.

One of the few times he had any extended time away from his farm home in Plattsmouth was when he attended the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's agriculture college between 1956 and 1960. And that was to learn more about how to work effectively on his farm.

Wehrbein currently is occupied as a member of the Nebraska Legislature. But when he's not in Lincoln, he's back home.

"I spend most of my time there when I'm not here," Wehrbein said from his Capitol office. Working on the farm and in the Legislature is the best of both worlds, he said.

"I love both worlds I live in," he said. "The combination is as good as it gets."

Wehrbein runs his family farm, Breeze Valley Farms and Wehrbein Farms Inc., with two of his brothers, a son and a nephew, who live nearby. Wehrbein knew

while a boy that he wanted to farm, and went to UNL to gain more book knowledge on how to do it more effectively.

"It was always the place I wanted to go because I wanted to study agriculture," he said. "I had no other goal but to return to the farm. I had a hunger for agriculture."

Wehrbein majored in general agriculture and animal husbandry. He was president of Block & Bridle and had memberships on the livestock judging team, the Agriculture Executive Board and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He also was in ROTC, which took him to Fort Riley, Kansas for a year and a half.

"I enjoyed very much being on East Campus," he said. "One of the best things about the campus is you meet people you run into for the rest of your life. They are more than acquaintances. They're lifelong friends you can go to when you have issues to talk about."

Wehrbein returned to the farm after

college, working with his family in a diversified operation. They had dairy cattle, hogs, beef cattle and crops. The dairy operation has since been sold, and Wehrbein's focus is on livestock.

He had interest in public service as well. He was a county commissioner for eight years and then decided to run for Legislature. He has been serving for 20 years – 10 of which were as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

His role as a state senator brings him back occasionally to East Campus and stirs up positive memories of his own days as a student.

"It's like going home," he said. "It's my anchor."



Wehrbein

Companion Animal Option to Begin in Fall

Animal Science majors will have a new option starting next fall.

A companion animal option will offer a series of courses relating to pet animals – everything from dogs and cats to tropical fish and potbellied pigs, said Mary Beck, Professor of Animal Science.

One 300-level companion animal course that focused strictly on cats and dogs had been taught in the department for several years. When the instructor retired, Beck took it over and changed it to a 200-level introductory course.

Now a new lecturer has been hired and will start teaching in the fall 2006 semester, Beck said. Although the exact

details haven't been finalized, the initial new courses likely will address companion animal nutrition. A more in-depth higher level management course may be the second new course developed by Lisa Karr-Lilienthal, the new faculty member who for the past year and a half was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois.

"The major is still Animal Science and all of the Animal Science courses will be required, but there will be some hours dedicated to this field," Beck said. Other courses and course modifications that have been considered for this option are a revision to ASCI 370, Animal Welfare, to

include a stronger emphasis on animal behavior, and a new course in companion animal genetics.

Karr-Lilienthal said she thinks the option will attract students interested in veterinary science, animal rescue and animal behavior.

Beck said she believes the option will appeal to more urban students.



PGM Students Score a First

Nineteen students in the Professional Golf Management major in March passed a PGA checkpoint test at a testing center in Florida – the first time for any university-based program to have a 100 percent passing rate.

"This is unprecedented," said program Director Terrance Riordan. "We knew our students had the potential, but to accomplish this really shows how hard our students work."

Normally, 20 percent to 50 percent of students fail at least one or more of the series of eight tests and must retake the checkpoint. The PGA projects a 50 percent failure rate among students.

"The PGA staff was very impressed with the performance and the professionalism of our students," Riordan said.

Wilson Receives Society's Outstanding Extension Award

Robert Wilson, Extension Weed Specialist at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center, received the Outstanding Extension Award from the Weed Science Society of America.

Wilson develops integrated weed control systems in irrigated crops and rangelands in western Nebraska. He also helped develop the "Sugarbeet Production Guide" and wrote several chapters in the "Dry Bean Production Guide" with assistance from scientists in Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming.

The award was presented at the annual WSSA conference in New York City.