

2004

IANR Recognition Luncheon

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Owens, John, "IANR Recognition Luncheon" (2004). *John Owens: Speeches & Appearances*. 104.
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**IANR RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARDS,
DINSDALE FAMILY FACULTY AWARDS, AND
IANR TEAM AWARD PRESENTATIONS
APRIL 19, 2004
JOHN C. OWENS
NU VICE PRESIDENT AND IANR HARLAN VICE CHANCELLOR**

What a pleasure it is to come together here to recognize and celebrate outstanding work of members of our IANR community.

It is even more of a treat to have three reasons to celebrate today as we recognize excellence with two IANR Exemplary Service Awards, two Dinsdale-Family Faculty Awards, and the IANR Team Award.

We'll begin today with the "two" 2004 Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Exemplary Service Awards. This is the third year we have presented this award, the result of an IANR KUDO Committee "proposal" that the Institute implement an award that "recognizes" sustained exemplary service. Only those who have received both "an Outstanding Employee Award and a KUDO award can be nominated for IANR's Exemplary Service Awards, so the standards are very high."

Our honorees this year are Charlene ^(Went)Wendt and ^(Jeanne)Jeanne Andelt. Will you please come forward?

Charlene's title is Secretarial Specialist for the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. Her duties include scheduling meetings, annual faculty evaluations, itineraries of visiting scientists, and holding primary responsibility for preparing departmental reports for IANR and UNL administration. Compliments about Charlene's work abound. Among those compliments:

Charlene is "respected by all with whom she comes into contact. She always projects a very positive outlook and seeks to help in any way possible."

"Her work is of the highest quality."

"Her unwavering commitment to excellence is the glue that holds the department together."

"She anticipates challenges and uses her sound-judgment to solve them before they have a chance to become serious problems."

"She is completely discreet, professional, and exudes

decorum. She helps all those who ask her help, while never betraying a confidence. As such, she is universally-admired and a joy to work with and around."

"She is the heart and soul of the Agronomy-and-Horticulture Department and a credit to the University."

One person said that people who know Charlene and "her considerable skills will fully understand that while the award will honor her, her receiving the award will add prestige to the award. She sets the "standard."

Please join me in congratulating Charlene.

Our second 2004 IANR Exemplary Service Award

recipient is ^(Jeany) Jeanne Andelt. ^(Jeany) Jeanne is Administrative Fiscal Coordinator for the Nebraska Forest Service. Her responsibilities include keeping the financial matters of the Nebraska Forest Service in order. To maintain that order, she must know and comply with complex federal regulations that govern the funds received from the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies.

Allow me now to read some of the compliments contained in letters recommending ^(Jeany) Jeanne for this award:

(Jeany)
"Jeanne exemplifies all those qualities UNL hopes for in its

employees -- dedication to service, honesty, integrity,

commitment, helpfulness, courtesy, and respect ... her skills are

so critical to the fiscal management of the Nebraska Forest

Service that we would be lost without her."

One letter described financial-support for the Nebraska Forest Service as a "dizzying array" of federal, state, and other sources, each with its own legal requirements, calendars, reporting schedules, and partnership nuances. Jeanne has a comprehensive-and-thorough understanding of this complex funding matrix, and maintains complete-and-detailed records ... and has the "amazing-ability" to remember the "minutest" financial detail."

(Jeany)
Jeanne's long hours of helping develop multiple financial scenarios during very difficult "fiscal-times" drew this comment:
"Without her critical input and mastery of NFS financial operations, I doubt the NFS would have been able to weather the crisis... because she works in such a key role, her exemplary service is multiplied "many-times" over because of all the people the NFS has been able to continue to serve."

Please join me in congratulating Jeanne.
(Jeany)

Now I'd like to say a few words about the IANR

Dinsdale Family Faculty Award recipients who are

recognized here today. The Dinsdale Family Faculty Award is specially focused on untenured faculty who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to academic excellence. It recognizes outstanding teaching, research, and outreach in the Institute.

Roy Dinsdale, who provided the funds for this award, graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Business

Administration in 1948 and immediately went to work in the

family business. At that time Dinsdale Brothers, Inc., was a

farming and cattle operation at Palmer. The family also owned

the State Bank at Palmer.

Over the years the farming operation has grown in Nebraska and expanded into Colorado. The cattle operation and the banking business, the latter having grown to assets of \$2.8 billion, both now are found in Nebraska, Colorado, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and California.

In 1997, Roy Dinsdale made a gift to the University of Nebraska Foundation to create the "Dinsdale Family Faculty Award" in support of his alma mater and his family's interest in agriculture.

Dr. Rosie Nold and Dr. Geoff Henebry are our Dinsdale Family Faculty Award recipients. Would you please come forward?

Rosie joined us in 1998 as "youth specialist" in the Department of Animal Science. She develops "innovative" animal science educational programs for youth, and "develops" and "implements" the 4-H animal-science curriculum. She provides "leadership" to maintain high ethical standards and improve the educational value of livestock ~~events~~ and exhibitions for Nebraska youth at the state fair and Ak-sar-ben Livestock Exposition.

Rosie "developed" the Livestock Quality Assurance program which has had national impacts, because three states now use or intend to use the ~~Nebraska-materials~~ as they implement quality assurance training in their own state 4-H programs. This program "also" was reported in the national "4-H Youth Development Points of Excellence."

She developed the Premier Animal Science Events, or PASE, a two-day activity for state 4-H judging in dairy, meats, poultry,

and general livestock, plus the new general livestock quiz bowl contest and numerous workshops. One of her nominators noted, "PASE allows youth to have greater-contact with animal science faculty, more opportunity to learn through workshops, and provides a social-atmosphere for friendly competition." These opportunities also encourage youth to come to our campus and grow to know us and what is available to them here.

Noted one supporter, "An on-going project of Rosie's is the 4-H animal science curriculum and supporting-programs. She has been involved at the national level in rewriting three levels of sheep project manuals and an accompanying leader-guide for the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum Service and is currently on the committee writing the veterinary-science youth booklets and leader guide." Another said, "It is great 4-H is educating youth ... -- this is what 4-H is all about."

In Rosie's teaching appointment, she is recruitment coordinator and, with another faculty member, has revised the Introductory Animal Science course.

Please help me give a warm congratulations to Rosie.

Geoff Henebry is a research associate professor in the School of Natural Resources. He joined the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT) here in August 1999. As research-coordinator for the Nebraska Gap Analysis Project, Geoff provides leadership for Gap statewide land-cover-mapping, vertebrate database-development, and habitat-modeling efforts.

Since he joined IANR in 1999, Geoff has published nine peer-reviewed manuscripts, with five more currently in review or revision. He also has given some "60" oral and poster presentations.

He is co-investigator on a major NASA project focusing on land-cover change in Kazakhstan, and is a PI on two, new large, interdisciplinary grants: the Sandhills Biocomplexity Project and USDA Risk Assessment.

Noted supporters, "*Geoff's research achievements are exceptional, but it should also be noted that he is a most-accomplished instructor. Although he does not hold a teaching*

appointment, he has developed and offered an outstanding course in "Landscape-Ecology" as a service to SNR. In addition, he mentors a number of graduate students, chairs three Ph.D. committees, and serves as a member of another Ph.D. committee."

Supporters also said: "Geoff possesses a unique and very strong background in remote sensing, ecology, landscape ecology, modeling, and quantitative methods."

And that Geoff "is among the most productive top 20 percent of ecologists currently engaged in remote sensing."

"Dr. Henebry is an outstanding citizen in his field," wrote one supporter. "He is an editorial board member for the top ecology journal..., subject editor for Conservation Ecology, panel reviewer for NASA, and program chair for the regional chapter for the International Association of Landscape Ecology."

Also noted is that Geoff is "widely respected by colleagues not only for his scholarly achievements, but also for his professional demeanor. He is a pleasure to work with, dependable, personable, and one possessing a good sense-of-

humor. He is an outstanding scientist."

Please join me in congratulating Geoff.

And now we present the IANR Team Award, which recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary team efforts in achieving the Institute's goals. Criteria include: 1) problem identification, team strategy, grant success; 2) productivity and impact and the output of the team in relation to inputs; 3) the team effort; and 4) the quality of the nomination.

Today we are very pleased to honor the Carbon Sequestration Program Team. This 62-member team demonstrates an exemplary effort of research, extension education, and graduate education, and is a model for approaching complex problems. Co-Principal Investigators on the team are Professors Shashi Verma of the School of Natural Resources and Kenneth Cassman, head of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. They are part of the 17 faculty and 45 post-doctoral research associates, research technologists/technicians/specialists, and graduate and.

undergraduate students who comprise the team. Will the team members who are here please come forward?

The Carbon Sequestration Program team focuses on determining the potential for carbon-storage in dryland and irrigated cropping-systems in the north-central United States, and on the factors that govern carbon sequestration. Scientific outputs from this program will provide critical information needed to improve the ability to predict the amount of carbon that can be stored in the major-cropping-systems in the north-central U.S., and to better manage crop production systems for improved efficiency, profitability, and environmental quality. In the past 3 1/2 years, the team has obtained grant-funds of about \$4 million to support this project.

Allow me to read to you some-excerpts from the very complimentary letters of support for what one supporter called the team's *"unprecedented and timely effort:"* *"This effort has documented the potential for the agriculture industry to achieve a net positive energy surplus and a net overall decrease in greenhouse gases in these cropping systems when the grain is*

used for ethanol and biodiesel fuel production," wrote one supporter.

Another said, "This interdisciplinary [^]research-effort [^]plays a critical role in making progress on complex scientific issues that challenge our agricultural systems and will likely impact people from all corners of the world."

A third wrote that results from this team effort will figure prominently into reports that will likely "drive research agendas and U.S. policy in the years to come."

Please join me in congratulating the Carbon Sequestration Program team on receiving the 2004 IANR Team Award. (names attached w/phonetic pronunciation)

What a pleasure it is to make these presentations today!