May 24, 2013

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Calendar of Events

May 24—June 14: Plant Sale, Friday, 12 noon—5 p.m., Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, East Campus greenhouses, near 38th & Leighton.

May 27: Memorial Day, UNL closed.

June 10: First 5-week Session of summer classes begins.

June 14: Assistant Vice Chancellor Alan Moeller Retirement Celebration, 2-4 p.m., Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union (NEU.)

June 20: SAC Meeting, 9 a.m., 279M PLSH.

June 25–27: 2013 NAIPSC Field Course, University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research & Extension Center, North Platte.


July 15: Second 5-week Session of summer classes begins.

Baenziger visits nurseries in Peru highlands

Baenziger visits nurseries in Peru highlands

Left: A quinoa field, grown in Peru. Top right: View of Manchu Picchu. Below right: Dr. Stephen Baenziger poses for a picture with some children from a village near Huancayo, Peru.

Dr. Stephen Baenziger recently took a trip to Peru, sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to review the main quinoa and amaranthus mutation breeding programs in that country.

He visited the highlands in Huancayo—12,000 feet above sea level—to see the nurseries and see first-hand this amazing program. Both crops are native to Peru and mutation breeding is used to improve them.

Dr. Baenziger also had the opportunity to visit a major Inca ruin in Cusco, Peru.

“This was the most surprising part of my trip—a really neat city with a ton of good things to do and see,” said Baenziger. “And Machu Picchu was truly amazing.”

Machu Picchu is in a cloud forest, about 7,500 feet above sea level—low for the mountains of Peru—and the start of the Amazon Rain Forest.
Calendar of Events


July 24: Turfgrass Research Field Day, John Seaton Anderson Turf Research Center near Mead, Neb.

Aug. 1–10: Lancaster County 4-H Super Fair, Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln.

Aug. 16: Summer Graduate Commencement and Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.

Aug. 17: Summer Undergraduate Commencement.

Aug. 26: Fall semester classes begin.

Aug. 21: Flame Weeding Workshop, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., UNL Haskell Ag Lab, Concord, Neb. Lunch provided. Register by contacting Wendy Winstead, at 402-584-3837 or wawinstead2@unl.edu.

Aug. 28: UNL Extension Program—Late Season Crop Management Diagnostic Clinic, August N. Christenson Research and Education Building, Agricultural Research & Development Center, Mead, Neb.


Nov. 3–6: ASA-CSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, Tampa Convention Center and the Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel, Tampa, Fla.

Nov. 28–Dec. 1: Thanksgiving vacation, UNL closed.

The Milton E. Mohr Award recipients announced

Five Department of Agronomy & Horticulture undergraduate and graduate students were recipients of The Milton E. Mohr 2013–2014 Awards from the Center of Biotechnology.

Milton E. Mohr (1915-2000) was described in his lifetime as “—engineer, inventor, entrepreneur, corporate leader” and was instrumental in providing key leadership to young adults.

The Milton E. Mohr Scholarship and Fellowship Awards Program was established in 1989 for students in the College of Engineering or Biotechnology degree programs. Students are selected on their academic performance and potential for accomplishments in their specific field.

Undergraduate students Sarah Blecha and Erin Kinley, both advised by Ellen Paparozzi; and Scott Speck, advised by John Lindquist, received scholarships. Ken McFarland, a Department of Animal Science student who works in the lab with Harkamal Walia, was also a recipient.

Department of Agronomy & Horticulture graduate student Collin Lamkey, advised by Aaron Lorenz; and Kyla Ronhovde, advised by David Holding, were awarded fellowships.

The scholarships and fellowships are made possible through an endowment to the University Foundation.

Congratulations to all the students!

Seventh annual photo contest winners chosen

The department is pleased to announce the winners of the Seventh Annual Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Photo Contest. Congratulations to this year’s winners:

• **First Place**: “Blakely Place,” by Laura Stevens, graduate student
• **Second Place**: “Answering the Rain Cry” by Nes Comez-Vance, office professional
• **Third Place (tie)**: “A Break During Rice Harvest in Tanzania” by Patricio Grassini, research assistant professor
• **Third Place (tie)**: “In the Greenhouse” by Fran Benne, office professional

To see the winning entries, please visit the photo contest web page at [http://agronomy.unl.edu/photocontest](http://agronomy.unl.edu/photocontest). The photos will be printed, framed, and displayed in the Student Services Center in 279 Plant Sciences Hall.

Thank you to everyone who entered or voted in the contest. There were many great entries. If you didn’t win this year, keep taking those photos—there will always be another chance next year.

Moeller set to retire June 30

After 36 years of remarkable contribution to UNL and IANR, Assistant Vice Chancellor Alan Moeller will be retiring effective June 30.

Alan has led business, finance, and legislative affairs for essentially the entire history of today’s UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and will be leaving behind an unparalleled legacy of accomplishments.

An appreciation celebration for Alan and his family will take place Friday, June 14 in the Great Plains Room of the NEU from 2–4 p.m.
In the news

Dr. Sally Mackenzie was recently quoted in the Lincoln Journal Star about her work to improve crop genetics to make them more productive in hostile environments at the fifth annual global Water for Food Conference held May 6 and hosted by the UNL Water for Food Institute. See http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/turning-science-into-action-focus-is-of-conference/article_9ce3e615-1700-5da7-8b09-5f993a7e1a55.html.

Department of Agronomy & Horticulture soil scientist Dr. Humberto Blanco and agronomist Alan J. Schlegel of the Southwest Research-Extension Center, Kansas State University, were mentioned in an article in the Southwest Farm Press, http://southwestfarmpress.com/management/fertilizers-bump-crop-yields-may-not-be-good-soil-long-run, about the release of their study in the May-June issue of the Journal of Environmental Quality. The study indicates that while the extended use of fertilizers may be good for the crops, it may adversely affect soil stability and lead to problems like soil instability and erosion. See https://www.agronomy.org/publications/jeq/articles/42/3/861.

Summer Golf League

Do you play golf? The East Campus Golf League 2013 season began May 9 and there are still openings.

The league plays nine holes weekly at Holmes Park Golf Club, with tee times from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

All competition levels are welcome, with the average score each week around 50 for nine holes. Teams are two persons and play is handicapped match-play scoring.

Individuals or twosomes are welcome. There are weekly pin prizes, and end of season prizes for the top scorers. There are weekly pin prizes, and end of season prizes for the top scorers. Individuals or twosomes are welcome.

Reserving conference rooms

When making a conference room reservation, please give an Office Pro all the information necessary for an upcoming meeting. Nicole Kobus, 2-2811; Kathy Schindler, 2-1508; Nes Gomez-Vance, 2-5138; or Kat Cockrill, 2-1503 can help you reserve a room.

Please specify if the Polycom is needed as the Polycom system may not work, so a remote control is available in order to operate the Polycom. If there are questions, please talk to an Office Pro or Warren Werner at 402-802-5648.

Office Pros welcomes new administrative associate

Please welcome Ashley Hartman as the new Distance Education Administrative Support Associate in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture. Ashley began working in 279 Plant Science Hall on April 15.

Prior to working for the university, Ashley was a public relations writer for Swanson Russell in Lincoln; she has also worked for the UNL Education Abroad Office as a study abroad assistant; a web manager and city reporter for the Junction City Daily Union Newspaper in Junction City, Kansas; and a staff reporter for the First Infantry Division Post Newspaper in Fort Riley, Kansas.

Ashley is originally from Columbus, Neb. and graduated from Columbus High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Media Production-Print Journalism from Hastings College, Hastings, Neb.

In her spare time Ashley enjoys reading, writing, playing with her new dog Bailey, and hanging out with friends. She currently lives in Lincoln with her husband Jeff, a graduate student in the School of Natural Resources at UNL.

Welcome new summer student worker

Please welcome student worker Alex Hall to the department as he will be joining the Office Pros this summer working part-time and attending classes. Alex began working May 22 in 279 PSLH.

Prior to working for UNL, Alex worked at HOME Real Estate and Home Services of Nebraska as an assistant and receptionist.

Originally from Sioux Falls, S.D., Alex is currently a UNL senior Journalism–News Editorial major, minoring in theatre and anthropology.

Alex’s mother, Kay Hall, is a producer and director at NET and his father is the manager of the south Lincoln Walmart. He has three brothers and enjoys spending time with his brother Lee, surfing, rock climbing, and attending local events in Los Angeles, Calif.

In his spare time, Alex likes to work on cars and motorcycles, work out, travel, and rock climb.

279 Plant Sciences Hall is Designated Shipping office

The 279 Plant Sciences Hall (PSLH) office is the designated shipping point for all packages to Agronomy & Horticulture labs and offices in Plant Sciences and Keim Halls. Please do not address boxes to 202 Keim, as there is no space to house boxes and packages there. The 279 PSLH office has the space and a logging system to handle and track shipments.

The exact shipping address is UNL Agronomy & Horticulture, 279 PSLH, 1875 N. 38th St., Lincoln, NE 68583-0915. Be sure to include a contact name on the packages so departmental staff know who to contact when shipments arrive.
Farm Beginnings Program starts May 25

UNL Extension will begin its first Farm Beginnings® Program at the Lincoln-Logan-McPherson Extension Office meeting room in North Platte on May 25.

As part of a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmer and Rancher Grant, the UNL Extension is facilitating the Farm Beginnings® Program.

The program is an educational training and support program designed to help people who want to evaluate and plan their farm enterprise.

Farm Beginnings® participants engage in a mentorship experience and network with a variety of successful, innovative farmers and attend practical, high quality seminars, field days and conferences.

The program consists of a series of 10 sessions from May to Oct. that covers a variety of topics including: building networks, goal setting, whole farm planning, building your business plan, marketing, business and farm management and financial management. While the class participants will learn first-hand from the farmers, they will also work on developing their own business plan as they progress through the course.

There also is a tour of a greenhouse and hoop house in May and the group tours several farms in the summer to see how the farmers are operating. If interested, participants also have the opportunity to have a farmer mentor.

Cost of the total program is $500 and scholarships are available. For more information contact Randy Saner, UNL Extension Educator, at rsaner2@unl.edu, 308-532-2683 or 1-800-200-1381. A brochure and application are available for download at lincolnmcpherson.unl.edu or go to http://go.unl.edu/nyi.

News for and about graduate students

Four earn degrees

Four Department of Agronomy & Horticulture graduate students earned degrees May 4. Aaron Andersen, advised by Aaron Lorenz, and Tom O’Brien, advised by George Graef, each received their master’s degree specializing in Plant Breeding and Genetics. Jessie Fernandez Garcia, advised by Richard Wilson, earned her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology; and Elizabeth Jeske, advised by Rhae Drijber, earned her Ph.D. in Soil & Water. Congratulations to these graduates!

Crespo awarded travel fund

Congratulations to Roberto Javier Crespo, advised by Dr. Rhae Drijber, for receiving the 2013 Daniel T. Walters Graduate Student Travel Fund Award. This award was established to honor Dr. Walters and his passion for graduate students.

Javier will be presenting his poster in October at the ASA/CSSA/SSSA Annual Meetings in Tampa, Fla.

First Doctor of Plant Health, graduates

Tara Wood, the first graduate of the Doctor of Plant Health program was “hooded” by Dr. Gary Hein on May 3. Tara was a Syngenta-FEAE Industry and USDA-NIFA National Needs Fellowship Recipient.

Originally from Peoria, Ill., Tara graduated from Eureka College in Eureka, Ill. with a degree in environmental science, and minors in biology, philosophy and religion. Tara went on to receive her master’s in entomology from the University of Arkansas in 2009, and soon after began working with outreach and extension at the University of Arkansas.

A strong passion to obtain a holistic understanding of the biotic and abiotic interactions occurring within agroecosystems led Tara to the DPH Program at UNL in January 2010, where she became the first DPH student.

The mission of the Doctor of Plant Health Program at UNL is to produce plant practitioners with broad expertise and experience across the various disciplines that impact plant health and plant management.

A DPH graduate (plant doctor) possesses a broad core of interdisciplinary knowledge from all major plant-related disciplines.

A DPH graduate (plant doctor) possesses a broad core of interdisciplinary knowledge from all major plant-related disciplines—agronomy, entomology, horticulture, plant pathology, soil science and weed science.

Tara’s 2012 internship in Ghana has solidified her professional goals of taking her DPH education and training to developing countries to educate extension agents and farmers on good agronomic practices. Congrats to Tara and Dr. Hein!
Systems Agronomist Candidate Interviews to be held in June

The department will be interviewing four candidates for the Systems Agronomist, 70 percent research and 30 percent extension, position. This is a key contributing position in the development of the Daugherty Water for Food Institute, by providing leadership as the agronomic center for a cluster of faculty members to define and address compelling issues in the use of water in Nebraska’s agriculture, while maintaining a focus on efficiency of water use and decreasing the yield gap of major crops and cropping systems in variable and changing climates.

Candidats for this position and interview dates are listed below. Detailed interview schedules are currently being developed.

**June 3:** Dr. David Nielsen, Research Agronomist, USDA-ARS, Akron, Colo.

**June 24:** Dr. Patricio Grassini, Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agronomy & Horticulture, UNL.

**June 25:** Dr. David Clay, Dir., South Dakota Drought Tolerance Center at South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D.

**June 27:** Dr. Roger Elmore, Professor and Extension Corn Agronomist, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Turfgrass Research Field Day set for July 24

The 2013 Turfgrass Research Field Day will take place July 24 at the John Seaton Anderson Turf Research Center near Mead, Neb.

Morning tours will cover graduate student, staff and faculty research projects. A gourmet hotdog lunch will be served followed by afternoon research tours which will include a turfgrass ID walking tour, a weed/turf management tour, and a Buffalo grass update. A tradeshow and equipment demonstrations will be offered in the morning and afternoon.


CASNR offering workshops in August

CASNR will be hosting workshops in early August for faculty/staff who work with students. Two workshops are available, and each workshop will be offered two different times. Please see the description and registration instructions for each workshop below. Space is limited in all workshops, so please pre-register for your choices.

**Morning Session:** 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
**Afternoon Session:** 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Aug. 6**
- *Introductory Training*—Keim Hall, Rm. 214
- *Advanced Training*—Keim Hall, Rm. 214

**Tuesday, Aug. 13**
- *Introductory Training*—Keim Hall, Rm. 214
- *Advanced Training*—Keim Hall, Rm. 214

Introductory training is for new hires who are undergraduate advisers and is designed to help faculty prepare for their advising role in relation to the electronic tools used within UNL.

Advanced training is designed to assist existing faculty who are familiar and use the electronic tools at UNL. Emphasis will center on U.Achieve and MyPlan within Blackboard. MyPlan is UNL’s early warning system and used by advisers and instructors to assist students in their programs. There may be updates related to WebNow/MyRed if participants so desire.

All sessions will be held in the computer lab in Keim Hall. Seating is limited. You may bring your own internet-ready laptop to the session or use one of the computers in the lab.

Hands-on experience will be provided to learn how to navigate tools such as MyRed, MyPlan, WebNow, and U.Achieve used to assist in advising undergraduate students.

RSVPs are required to Karen Jackson, k.jackson2@unl.edu, by Friday, July 26. It is important to pre-register so that each participant can have access to a computer and other materials. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please let Karen know whether you plan to bring your own wireless-laptop to the session.