Agronomy Club takes advantage of new opportunities

The UNL Agronomy Club poses for a group photo in College Station, Texas where they attended the SASES Regional meeting. Back Row (left to right:) Eric Maple, Danny Friedrichsen, David Cottrell, Seth Gurley, and Aaron Blase. Middle Row (left to right:) Jason Hambidge, Brent Jaenisch, Don Treptow, Tyler Stastny, Ethann Barnes, Jeremy Houdek, Bryce Construck, Benjamin Trampe, Tyler Reischman, Jared Aden, Justin Loeffelholz, Ryan Clausen, club advisor Professor Tim Kettler, Cody Cunningham, Chris McDonald, and Simon Walker. Front Row (left to right:) Marissa Grooms, Joelle Pilien, Molly Hoffbauer, and Allison Siekman.

The Agronomy Club, advised by Professor Tim Kettler, has added many new opportunities for members and doubled it’s membership this year with a total of 40 active members.

Beginning this last fall, the club participated in intramural sports with a flag football team. They may not have had the best record, but they had a lot of fun!

Five students attended the Tri Societies National meetings in Cincinnati, Ohio for the first time in over five years. Allison Siekman was awarded a Golden Opportunity Scholar award, and Jared Aden, Ethann Barnes, Seth Gurley, and Benjamin Trampe competed in the Quiz Bowl.

This spring, 25 members attended the SASES Regional meeting in College Station, Texas.

New to the club this year was the addition of a Crops Judging Team, initiated by transfer student Justin Loeffelholz. Justin acted as the team captain and coach—organizing practices, creating study guides, and writing practice tests. In April, the team attended the NACTA Crops Judging competition in Lubbock, Texas and brought home a third place trophy. The Huskers lost to second-place Kansas State by 100 points, as Iowa State took first. Jared Aden also placed seventh individually.

The club recently elected the 2013–2014 officers which include Allison Siekman,
Calendar of Events

**April 25 & 26:** Horticulture Club Spring Plant Sale, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Teaching Greenhouse West, near PLSH.

**April 25:** First Aid Seminar, First aid: what to do when help is 20 minutes away. Dr. Robert Maben M.D., 9–10:30 a.m., 150 Keim. Contact Mike Livingston, 2-5190 or mlivingston1@unl.edu with questions.

**April 26:** Turf Club Benefit, 25 percent of sales will benefit the Turf Club, Noodles & Company, 4–5 p.m., 14th & P Street.

**April 26:** Department Seminar, Tommy Carter, NCsu, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

**April 27:** Spring Affair, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Lancaster Event Center.

**April 27:** Last day of classes.

**April 29–May 3:** Finals Week.

**May 3:** UNL Graduate College Commencement, 4 p.m., Memorial Stadium.

**May 3:** Department of Agronomy and Horticulture Graduation Reception, 2:30–3:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Student Commons Area, Keim Hall.

**May 4:** UNL Undergraduate Commencement, 9:30 a.m., Memorial Stadium.

**May 5-8:** Water for Food Conference, hosted by the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Conference, May 5-8: Memorial Stadium. Register at waterforfood.nebraska.edu/wff2013/.

**May 10:** Department Teaching Retreat, 8:30–4 p.m., East Campus Union.

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


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**Rodriguez begins research in popcorn breeding at UNL**

Oscar R. Rodriguez, began the position of Research Professor/Popcorn Breeding in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture on March 1.

Before starting at UNL Oscar was the Principal Development Scientist/Popcorn Breeder for Conagra Foods in Brookston, Indiana.

Oscar is a native of Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico and earned a Plant Pathology/Plant Breeding Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He earned his master’s degree in Plant Breeding and a bachelor of science degree in Plant Breeding/Agronomy from “Antonio Narro” Autonomous Agrarian University in Buenavista, Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico.

Oscar has one year of MBA education and would like to finish that degree. He has worked for 25+ years in commercial plant breeding programs, breeding grasses for semi-arid lands, small grain cereals, dent corn, sweet corn, popcorn, and sugarbeets—with major emphasis working for high yield potential, drought tolerance, and disease resistance.

Oscar is married to Adriana Carvajal-Rodriguez who is an accountant. They have a son, Oscar, who is a Freshman at Purdue University and a daughter, Adriana, who graduated from Florida State University in Anthropology and is currently waiting for admittance into graduate school at UC Davis.

In his spare time Oscar enjoys long range precision shooting, hunting, fishing, camping, and barbecuing.

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**Schiltmeyer wins CASNR quick-pitch contest**

Allie Schiltmeyer, a horticulture major with an option in landscape design, was recently the winner of the CASNR quick-pitch competition sponsored by the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program.

Allie is a senior, graduating in May and was recently inducted into Pi Alpha Xi, the National Honor Society for Horticulture.

Allie’s business idea was “Stem Sisters”—a floral firm in Norfolk, Nebraska partnering with her sister.

Allie competed with 14 other students in the junior/senior division where she had two minutes to pitch her idea to three judges and a room full of students, in the East Campus Union.

There were 69 applications for those 14 spots and the judges for the competition consisted of an attorney, a banker, and a business owner.

Allie was awarded $1000 for her efforts. Congratulations!
NAIPSC Webinar Series Schedule

All webinars begin at noon (CST) and require membership in the NAIPSC Online Community. Join at http://passel.unl.edu/communities/naipsc.

April 23: “Models: What are they really telling us about invasive plants?” Dr. Bethany Bradley, University of Massachusetts.

May 9: “Is there a complimentary native replacement for every invasive or non-native plant species?” Charlotte Adelman, Author of Midwestern Native Garden.

Congratulations

Roch Gaussoin has been selected as president-elect of the Crop Science Society of America. Roch will serve as president of the society in 2015. Roch joins current and former members of our department including David Baltensperger, Stephen Baenziger, Lowell Moser, Martin Massengale, Ken Moore, Charlie Gardner, Bob Shearman, and Virgil Johnson who have served as president of CSSA. Congratulations!

The American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) has announced that Sally Mackenzie has been awarded a Fellow of ASPB Award. The 2013 awards will be presented during the Plant Biology 2013 Awards Ceremony, which will be held on Saturday, July 20, at 1:00 p.m. in Providence, RI. Nice work Sally!

Seventy-five UNL faculty members received promotion and/or tenure in 2013. They were honored at a reception April 23 at the International Quilt Study Center Museum. Two Department of Agronomy & Horticulture faculty were honored. They included Gilles Basset who was promoted to Associate Professor and Granted Tenure; and Anne Streich who was promoted to Associate Professor of Practice. Congratulations to you both!

Paparozzi to be honored as Fellow by ASHS

This July at the national American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) conference, Ellen Paparozzi will be honored as a Fellow of ASHS. Election as a Fellow of the Society is the highest honor that the ASHS can bestow on its members, in recognition of truly outstanding contributions to horticulture and the society.

The number of living and “active” Fellows (those who have not retired) of ASHS cannot exceed 10 percent of the eligible membership. There are currently more than 2,500 members from all over the world involved in ASHS.

This year, 2013, will be the 50th class of Fellows. In the first 49 years, there have been more than 475 individuals selected for this honor. From the University of Nebraska, Ellen will be the sixth fellow and the first since 1988 when Paul Read was elected. Congratulations!

LiveWell Challenge participants Lighten Up

Congratulations to our Agronomy/Horticulture Lighten Up team for their participation in the LiveWell Challenge. This winter wellness program charged individuals and teams to live healthier lifestyles through daily activity and exercise.

In this program, participants recorded types and amount of activity they did every day. These included everything from running to Wii Sports to housework! The program also offered incentives such as prizes, T-shirts, food coupons, free health magazine subscriptions, and friendly competition with other teams. The challenge ended with a photo shoot and a celebration lunch at Valentino’s.

Seventh annual faculty/staff photo contest to be held

Whether you’re a photography enthusiast with all the latest gear or just take the occasional snapshot, consider participating in the Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty/Staff Photo Contest showcasing department-related photos.

Winning images will be printed, framed and displayed in either Plant Sciences Hall or Keim Hall.

Include your name, office address, phone number and title(s) of photo(s) and submit to Aaron Franco, 362C Plant Sciences Hall or email afrazo02@unl.edu. Submissions are due by 5 pm, Monday, April 29.

Visit http://agronomy.unl.edu/photocontest for more information.

Ellen Paparozzi

Paparozzi to be honored as Fellow by ASHS

LiveWell Challenge participants Lighten Up

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Condolences

The department offers sincerest condolences to Nancy Shoemaker, whose mother-in-law, Arlene, passed away on March 27.

To Dave Lambe whose mother, Nadine, passed away on March 30 at the age of 91.

And to Kat Cockrill, whose mother, Doris, passed away on April 8.

Scholarship in the Modern Land-Grant University

Deans Archie Clutter, Chuck Hibberd, Margorie Kostelnik, and Steven Waller will present a brown-bag seminar entitled “Research, teaching and extension scholarship in the context of the modern land-grant university” in the East Campus Union Prairie Suite on Thursday, April 25 at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a lunch. Ice water and cookies will be provided.

ACSESS Digital Library available

The ACSESS Digital Library is available to all faculty, staff, and students here at UNL—providing e-access to all volumes of Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, Journal of Environmental Quality, Soil Science Society of America Journal, The Plant Genome, and Vadose Zone Journal. It is no longer necessary to request scans of older articles via Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad).

The digital library also provides e-access to more than 300 books published by ASA/CSSA/SSSA. Additional books will be added during 2013 and we will have access to these titles.

ACSESS is available at https://0-dl.sciencesocieties.org.library.unl.edu. Or, from libraries.unl.edu, select “E-Resources,” then “A” in the “A-Z” grid found on the page. Contact Leslie Delserone with assistance at 2-6297 or email ldelserone2@unl.edu.

Facilities news from T.J. McAndrew

Use common courtesy when returning department vehicles

Just a reminder to please practice common courtesy when using the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture cars. This includes filling the gas tank when it is below ¾ of a tank, cleaning out your trash after use, and returning the car to the state parking lot at 37th and East Campus Loop.

The department rents these two cars—#86 and #106—for short-term use by faculty, staff, and graduate students. The cars may be reserved on the paper reservation sheet in 279 PLSH. A Voyager fuel card is attached to the keys for purchasing gasoline.

Drivers must be authorized to drive a university vehicle, so please contact T.J. McAndrew to get authorized.

There is no charge to drive the department cars below 25 miles. After 25 miles, the charge is 21 cents a mile and that may be billed to a cost object.

For any concerns or problems, please contact T.J. McAndrew directly at 402-450-6360, 2-1486 or email tmcandrew2@unl.edu.

Department hosts Northeast Nebraska Educator Symposium

“Growing strawberries in a greenhouse during the winter” by Ellen Paparozzi; “Experiential learning research in agroecology” by Charles Francis; “Patch burning for warm-season grass pasture restoration” by John Guretzky; “An integrated functional genomics and metabolic profiling platform for dissecting maize seed composition and size” by David Holding; “Herbicide-resistant weeds in Nebraska” by Amit Jhala; “Yield, drought, and energy balance” by Mark Lagrimini; “Soil management and applied soil physics” by Humberto Blanco; “Natives on green roofs” by Richard Sutton; “Turf help at your fingertips: UNL Turf web page” by Zac Reicher; “Developing CornSoyWater: a web-based irrigation decision aid for corn and soybean in Nebraska” by HaiShun Yang; “Using NRD data to benchmark on-farm yields and input-use efficiency” by Patricio Grassini; “The agriculture biotechnology pipeline at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln” by Thomas Clemente; “A brief overview of the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program (UNVP) focus areas” by Paul Read; and “Sensing crop stress” by Richard Ferguson.

“As a proud partner with Extension Educators, we hope the symposium helped educators to get better acquainted with the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture and assist in providing a wealth of research-based information to Nebraska citizens,” said Department Head Roch Gaussoin.
Staff advisory committee news

SAC Meeting held April 3

The following minutes were taken at the April 3 Staff Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting. Nominations for the Special Contributions Award and applications for the Staff Development Award were reviewed and a decision was made to make awards. Mary Jo Havercamp was selected to receive the Special Contribution Award; and John Dillingham was selected to receive the Professional Development Award, to be used for Certification for Strategic Professionals in Human Resources. Both will receive $250. A press release will be sent to UNL publications including the Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, the Scarlet, and UNL Today. The next deadline for applications was set as Aug. 1, 2013.

Concerns were expressed about staff turnover and changes in job descriptions and offices. Ways to gain input about job satisfaction among staff were discussed.

The need for a break room for Plant Science Hall (PLSH) was discussed. The staff in PLSH currently has no place to go for break and lunch—especially a concern for Office Pros staff in their cubicles. Only a microwave and small refrigerator in the copy room are available in PLSH. Possible sites were discussed. Dr. Ferguson asked the committee to contact T.J. about locating space and establishing a break room.

The next meeting completes SAC’s first year. SAC will review the current officers. All members of SAC have another year or two to serve on the committee. Officers could remain in office another year, or changes could be made. Richard and Roch suggested Charlene make the faculty meeting minutes available, possibly with some editing for confidentiality.

The subject of updating the evaluation forms was brought back before the committee. SAC needs to find out if the IANR forms will be available soon—possibly for next review cycle. If the redesign is not available for the next cycle, the committee will reconsider a redesign of the department forms.

The next meeting has been set for June 20, 9 a.m. in 279M PLSH.

Awards presented

SAC announced the first winner of a $250 Special Contribution Award at the Spring BBQ April 19—Mary Jo Havercamp, Payroll Associate with the HAPPI Business Center. According to her co-workers, Mary Jo’s dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated by all in the department.

“She often comes in early and works late—even during the Holiday Close Down—to keep the department payroll moving effectively and efficiently,” as noted by her nominating co-worker. Mary Jo processed 440 new hires this year—an increase of over 90 from the average.

SAC also announced the first department Professional Development Award. SAC will be awarding a total of $500 in Professional Development funds each calendar year. The initial award of $250 was given to John Dillingham, Personnel Generalist with the HAPPI Business Center, to help defray his expenses for gaining certification as a Strategic Professional in Human Resources. This certification is preferred for his current position and may soon become an IANR requirement.

Congratulations to both Mary Jo and John!
Office pros news and updates

Office Pros welcomes new office associate

Please welcome Nicole Kobus as a new Office Associate in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture. Nicole began working at the front desk at 202 Keim Hall on March 11, 2013.

Prior to working for the university, Nicole was Assistant to the Chief of Staff in the Office of United States Senator Ben Nelson.

Nicole is originally from David City, Nebraska and graduated from David City Aquinas.

She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Professional Studies in Business with a Management Emphasis from Doane College, Crete.

In her spare time Nicole enjoys playing sand volleyball, camping, fishing, golfing and everything outdoors. She currently lives in Lincoln with her husband Adam and they are expecting their first child in August.

Telephone books available

Windstream has dropped off 100 telephone books in 279 PLSH for the department offices. If anyone would like a telephone book, please stop by 279 PLSH to pick one up. They are located under the mailbox counter.

Please sign your name on the notebook located on the counter to show that you’ve picked one up. That will assist in keeping track of how many are needed for next year.

Last year, there were many employees who did not need a telephone book and many who returned or recycled.

The recycling dumpsters will be in the usual places—by the dock on the east side of Plant Science Hall and on the southwest side of Keim Hall for recycling old phone books. Please ask an Office Pro to show you where other recycling dumpsters around east campus are located, if needed.

Trends in online education, technology Symposium

A university-wide symposium on the use of technology to teach and work will offer sessions on social media in the classroom, massive open online courses (MOOCs), best practices in instructional design and information technology, the future of Office 365, information security and analytics.

The Innovation in Pedagogy and Technology Symposium will be held May 10 at the Nebraska Union on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. Attendance is open to the entire University of Nebraska community and guests and is free of charge. Lunch will be provided.

Visit http://symposium.nebraska.edu for more information and to register.

USDA NIFA’s required RCR training


All program directors, faculty, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and any staff participating in research and research-related activities (i.e., research, education, and extension) supported by a NIFA award (grant, cooperative agreement, or special project) must participate in RCR training.

Exceptions include individuals supported by 1.) Formula Funded Programs; 2.) The 1890 Facilities Program; 3.) The Small Business Innovation Research Program; and 4.) Awards to individuals http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html.

In order to meet these RCR training requirements, UNL has created an online RCR course, GRDC 98, that is administered through Blackboard, https://my.unl.edu. There is no tuition associated with GRDC 98.

Anyone with a UNL Blackboard account may now self-enroll in GRDC 98 by signing-in to Blackboard, clicking the Courses tab and searching for “Responsible.”

Although any university person may register for the course, please note that all program directors, faculty, undergraduate researchers, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and staff receiving NIFA funding are required to complete GRDC 98. Training for those currently receiving NIFA funding should be completed by Friday, Aug. 2, 2013.
Course offered

Plant Pathology: Principles and Applications will be offered for the first time this summer as AGRO 896 Independent Studies section 791, class #11530. The 3 credit hour course runs from June 10–Aug. 15 (10 weeks.) All content—recorded lectures, reading, discussions and exams—is delivered through Blackboard. This course provides introductory level information regarding pathogen biology, pathogen-host interactions, environmental influences. It also examines cultural, resistance, and chemical strategies for plant disease management. It is designed to give graduate-level plant pathology training to students in distance degree and certificate program administered by Agronomy and Horticulture and in other plant science related programs. Students must have completed a minimum of 12 hours of plant science courses.

For more information, please contact the instructor Dr. Gary Yuen, Dept. of Plant Pathology at 2-3125 or gyuen1@unl.edu.

Libraries accepting course reserves for summer sessions

The UNL libraries offers faculty and graduate students the opportunity to put library books, journal articles, personal copies of books and other items on reserve for student use.

Reserve lists are processed in the order received and take one to four business days to be completed. Reserve lists turned in by May 10 will have items processed by the first day of UNL’s summer sessions. Reserve requests made after the deadline will be processed in the order received.

For more information about electronic reserves, go to http://libraries.unl.edu/reserve.

Spring BBQ held April 19

The Spring BBQ was a success this year as more than 115 faculty, staff, and students enjoyed grilled burgers, baked beans, pot luck dishes and conversation in Keim Hall.

Mary Jo Haverkamp was announced as the SAC Special Contribution award winner and a SAC Professional Development award was presented to John Dillingham.

The activities committee would like to thank Lowell Sandell for the use of his grill and to the grill masters—Zac Reicher and Ben Lennander for all their hard work. A special thanks to the activities committee including Erin Bauer, Terri James, John Guretzky, Humberto Blanco, Susan Thomas and Fran Benne for all the preparations, setup, and cleanup.

News from the HAPPI Business Center

Make expenditures for fiscal year-end by May 31

The university’s fiscal year end is fast approaching. The HAPPI Business Center is asking the department to review all state allocations and make necessary expenditures by May 31. As a reminder, state funds are allocated to assist programs and should be utilized throughout the year for that purpose.

Individual notices will be sent requesting information to clear any deficits. State allocations should be utilized prior to May 31. Only recurring payments will post in the month of June, such as telephone and data charges. Remaining balances will be retained by the department.

To carry forward a balance related to salary savings, submit a request with the amount to Sue Walker in the HAPPI Business Center, 202G Keim. This will help ensure inclusion in the carry forward request to the Dean’s Office. Balances pertaining to start up packages will automatically be carried forward.

The last financial report for state allocations will be sent May 15. June financial reports will only contain grants, revolving, and 27 cost objects.

The HAPPI Business Center would like to thank everyone with their assistance in this year-end process.