



UNSTAVNCTA ALUMNI NEWS

Spring 2008

Volume 3, Issue 1

A Message from NCTA Dean-Dr. Weldon Sleight

Dear Friends,

I expect that you are much like me in that you get very excited when you see growth in your various enterprises. This year I am delighted to report to you that there is growth on many fronts at NCTA. This year we grew for the fourth year in a row in enrollment. We appointed six new faculty members. Some of these positions are new or have been open for some time. We have added several new staff to the student services area that has strengthened our ability to serve our students better. Perhaps the most important thing we have done is we have re-committed NCTA to the Nebraska agricultural industry and Nebraska's rural communities. The service to rural Nebraska took flight this past year with the development of an entrepreneurship theme across the entire NCTA curriculum. The NCTA faculty teach entrepreneurship principles in every course because we want our rural students to come to NCTA, gain an outstanding education, and return home to rural Nebraska with a business plan in their pocket.

The new NCTA Entrepreneurship Center was developed and created its first private business partnership last August. George Garlick, a former Curtis resident and graduate of NSA, brought one of his companies, Frontier Technologies home from Richland, Wash-

ton. An open house over a two day period of time attracted over 400 community, state, and national leaders to view the new holographic imaging equipment that will be used in veterinary and meat processing applications. A highlight of the open house was Governor Heineman's encouragement for higher education/private business partnerships that will build the viability of rural Nebraska. Another rural entrepreneurship initiative is NCTA's 100 Beef Cow Ownership program. This program has as its core objective to return our livestock industry graduates to rural Nebraska and surrounding states with 100 beef cows which will make them owner partners rather than "hired hands."

NCTA administration, faculty, staff, and friends have also been hard at work to increase the quality of the living/learning environment at the Curtis campus. First, a new community center is being built west of the golf course. This center will include a wonderful new gymnasium that will be the home of NCTA intercollegiate athletic programs. Yes, the Aggies will have a new home for basketball and volleyball games and activities. Construction has also been started on a new motel next to the community center. This new development will make space available for our alumni as you return home for activities. The

program plan has just been completed for a new Education Center that, if funded by the legislature, will provide NCTA Veterinary Technology and Horticulture Systems much needed space. The facility will also include a 400 seat auditorium, a student commons area, and a deli for those late night snacks. In addition, some NCTA friends have indicated that they are willing to finance new student living space that will make student residence hall living at NCTA meet the needs of 21st century students.

We believe the new programs, facilities, and NCTA dedication to the agriculture industry will see the institution's enrollment double within five years. A large portion of that growth will be NCTA's Continuing Education program. This will be responsible for the delivery of NCTA programs to adult part-time students throughout Nebraska. We hope these continuing education courses will attract many of our alumni.

NCTA's future has never been brighter. Come, visit, and experience the excitement first hand.

Sincerely,
Dr. Weldon Sleight

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A Message from your President

Dear Fellow Alumni-

It's a little hard to believe that it's that time of year again already. It's time to write an article for the alumni newsletter, Christmas shop, and pray that the power doesn't go out again. My family has gotten lucky with these recent ice storms here in southeast Nebraska. We only lost power for about an hour one day. If you are one of the households that lost power, I hope it wasn't for too long and that you stayed warm and safe. The year has indeed flown by!

It seems like just yesterday when we were in Lexington for our last alumni banquet. If you were there, you know how much fun we had! I feel we have just as many great things planned for you coming up on March 8th, 2008 in Kearney at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center. I do hope you all can make it. This year, Dr. Sleight will share with us all the exciting news with the things happening around campus, and there are a lot! New programs, degrees, and a new entrepreneur center just to name a few. You will have to come hear all about it first hand. We will have some additional speakers and something brand new this year: our silent auction!

Mike and Connie Stewart from just south of Lincoln have been diligently working to organize everything for the auction. If you have something you would like to donate to the auction, please let us know. You can email me at srstedman@hotmail.com or call me at 402-297-6106 and I can get the infor-

mation to Mike or Connie. I know one of our alums from Kearney (LaNita Murr) is putting together a nice basket from the vet clinic she works at. I'm donating some things from around the farm from Neil's Hoegemeyer Seed Business and my Southern Living at Home Business. You won't want to miss it! I think we'll have many nice things to bid on.

It seems like Neil and I have been on the go ever since the last banquet. Shortly after we returned home from Lexington, it was planting season. Things were going great at first, but the rain kept us out of the field for some time; however everything got planted before June 15th so that was a relief. The next thing we knew it was harvest, which was quite long as well, but we were thankful for a decent crop when we finally got it all wrapped up the second week in November.

I've also been keeping busy working for Professional Veterinary Products Ltd, an animal health distributor in Omaha. At the end of October, I started working in a remote office in Syracuse, so now I just have a 10 minute drive instead of an hour drive, and I've been so grateful for all the extra time I have now and for all the gas savings. It's been really nice.

Another piece of exciting news for me is that I was accepted into the Nebraska LEAD program. I am part of LEAD group

XXVII. Attached is a photo of our group and I'm proud to say that two other members of my group are also NCTA grads: Ryan Walker from Scottsbluff and Troy Linn from Overton. Please refer to the picture below.

I know that there are many other UNSTA/NCTA Alumni that have participated in the LEAD program. It's really a great experience, and I would encourage you to apply if you are interested in being a leader in the Nebraska agriculture arena. Please ask me about more information at the banquet. I'd love to tell you all about it.

The purpose of the Nebraska LEAD program is to develop agriculture leaders. It provides participants an opportunity to participate in an two-year educational program designed to enhance leadership development essential for the long-term future of farming/ranching, agribusiness, Nebraska and the nation. The mission of the program is "to prepare and motivate men and women in agriculture for effective leadership."

I do hope to see many of you at the banquet this spring, so please join us and past classmates and faculty to reflect on the good old days that we spent in Curtis!

See you soon,

Stephanie (Vogt) Stedman

UNSTA/NCTA President



First Row: Terry Hejny, LEAD Director, Eagle; Diane Becker, Madison; Stephanie Stedman, Burr; Brandy VanDeWalle, Geneva; Julie Rau-Rhuter, Ainsworth; Jecca Ostander, Gordon; Alan Estes, Stuart; Glenn Beller, Lindsay;

Second Row: Byran Terrell, Hay Springs; Frank Beel, Johnstown; John Doerr, Osmond; Ryan Walker, Scottsbluff; Bruce Bostelman, Brainard; Missy Dearmont, Rose; Ken Rahjes, Lexington; Troy Linn, Overton;

Third Row: Eugene Goering, Platte Center; John Hay, Palmyra; Todd Reichardt, Aurora; Steve Nelson, Schuyler; Doug Ferguson, Blue Springs; Don Bristol, Fairmont; Joel Kuehn, Heartwell;

Fourth Row: Andy Bose, Wayne; Curt Friesen, Henderson; Mike Oswald, Aurora; Dave Nichols, Chambers; Travis Wenzel, Hyannis; Lynn Belitz, Fullerton; Wayne Bahler, Lamar; Adam Fischer, Valentine.

A Message from your President-Elect

Greetings Fellow Alumni,

Can it be possible that it's this time of year again? The time simply vanishes! I'm honored to be your President Elect of the Alumni Association. I look forward to working with Stephanie and the rest of the board members on alumni related issues. For those of you who don't know yet, there are some amazing things happening at the college. Dr. Sleight has brought some refreshing energy to the campus. He will be giving us an update at this year's annual banquet, and you certainly won't want to miss it! Stephanie has been working very hard getting this year's banquet lined up. I know it will be an excellent evening just as last year's was.

The secret to a good banquet is for each class to hold themselves accountable for

attending the banquet. I encourage you all to phone up your classmates and remind them of this year's banquet in Kearney and encourage them to attend. It's the perfect opportunity to get together with classmates that you haven't seen in a while and relive your old glory days! We need a large attendance at our annual banquets! You can make this happen. We are also open to suggestions from any of you as to the best time of year and place to hold the banquets.

My life is not nearly as exciting as Stephanie's, so my article will be brief!! After graduating from Curtis in 2003, I finished my Bachelors Degree at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where I majored in Agricultural Economics. I then returned home to Burwell, Nebraska, to take over my grandfather's book of busi-

ness as a licensed field underwriter for New York Life. This keeps me pretty busy. The job requires a lot of windshield time which I enjoy. I also feed cattle with my dad on the family ranch.

I cherish many fond memories of my time at Curtis, as do many of you. For this very reason I take my position as President Elect very serious. In my opinion, the future of the college lies greatly in the hands of the alumni. A good turnout at the annual banquet is a must. It is the perfect setting for the sharing of ideas and giving feedback to the current administration, not to mention it's simply a great time! Let's keep our alumni strong and have a great banquet! See you in Kearney!

Tony R. Larsen

-President Elect

March Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on March 10, 2007 by President Dana Hall at 3:30 P.M. at the Holiday Inn Express in Lexington, Nebraska. Present were Mike Stewart, Connie Stewart, Randy Brehm, Larry Cooper, Gene Heller, Tony Larsen, Gale Wellmann, Dave Bruntz, Ann Bruntz, Dan Stehlík, Clem Schweers, Stan Matzke, Joel Sis, Brad Forch, Steph Stedman, and Jerry Sundquist.

The minutes of the November 25, 2007, meetings were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance = \$2944.08 in the account with the NU alumni Association and \$2300 CD in the Farnam State Bank.

Old Business

Membership was discussed along with life dues. Life membership is available for \$150.

New Business

The banquet for next year was discussed. The date was discussed and decided to leave on the second weekend in March. We will get bids from North Platte and Lexington.

The board meeting will be in Curtis this summer. President Steph will pick the date.

It was decided to raffle off a tractor, hat, koozies, and license plate holder along with a buffalo statue that was donated by Gene and Ellen Heller. The tickets will be \$1.00.

(Note: \$109.00 in raffle tickets were sold at the banquet.)

Newsletter: It was suggested that we find help (student group) to put the newsletter together and pay them.

Ann Bruntz moved to pay a group on campus to fold and put on address labels and

have the newsletter out by Jan 1st each year. Randy Brehm seconded. Motion carried.

Steph Stedman moved to give Murnita a \$50 gift card for helping with the last newsletter. Randy Brehm seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Officers.

Nominations: Randy Brehm, Tony Larsen. (*Tony Larsen was elected President Elect at the banquet.*)

Jerry Sundquist was nominated for secretary. *It is assumed he would take office because no election was held.*

Newsletter editor was discussed. Dana volunteered to do it for another year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Jerry Sundquist Sec/Treas.

News Briefs From Alumni

From: Robert Woracek-Pueblo, CO

Production Ag-1987

I'm still rodeoing, that is doing the Wild Horse Horses Race. I've been all over the US. I belong to the Professional Wild Horse Racers, Inc. My teams have won or shared 7 PWHR finals titles and 2 season high points titles. Jon Christie, a past graduate, was a part of the team for 5 years.

From: Jason & Dana (Bailey) Hall, McCool Junction, NE

Agriculture Production Systems- 1999 & 2000

We're proud to announce the birth of our little girl Bailey Ellen Hall born on May 1, 2007. She weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz and was 21 inches long. I'm no longer the Assistant Admissions Coordinator at NCTA. It was a bitter sweet moment leaving Curtis, but I'm enjoying teaching Agriculture Education and being the FFA Advisor at McCool Junction Public Schools.

UNSTA Graduate Making a Mark in Agriculture Education

Dan Stehlik is currently one of two high school agricultural instructors at Republic County High School at Belleville, Kansas. Stehlik switched to RCHS in 2006 from Concordia High School in Concordia, Kansas where he taught for ten years.

At Republic County High School, Stehlik is primarily assigned to agricultural welding and mechanics courses. The welding program has gained multi-state and national attention as a model program for training students for entry-level certification to American Welding Society standards.

The business-education partnership was developed with Reinke Manufacturing, of Deshler, Nebraska. Stehlik's students built four double 5' by 4' welding booths in 2006 from materials provided by Reinke. Reinke also gave the school a metal shear for use. In 2007, the Miller Electric Company donated eight new 451 and 452 spray

and pulse welders for the program. The Linweld and Tillman companies provided welding accessories for students. Besides high school classes, two nights of adult classes are being held through Concordia's Cloud County Community College. Aluminum welding certification will be added in the spring 2008 semester. Plans are to update the welders and add robotic welder instruction in 2009.

During his ten years at Concordia, Stehlik coached a 25th place National FFA Floriculture team and an 8th place National FFA Dairy Judging team. His FFA operated a \$65,000, 6500 giftbox Marketing Cooperative to other FFA chapters throughout the state of Kansas each fall.

His agricultural classes developed a 27-theme garden Nature Trail on 7 acres of school property. Under his direction, students also designed and constructed a half-block landscape pro-

ject for UMB Bank right on the Highway 81 corridor as it passes through Concordia. This included plantings and construction of a gazebo, pergola, and fish pond.

His students built a 16' by 40' folding stage on the side of a semi trailer for the county fair and a smaller 8' by 20' trailer stage for the FFA Alumni. The FFA also conducted the Mutton Bustin and hosted the Children's Barnyard during the fair each year.

Other projects by FFA members included building three 6' by 14' portable chicken runs, building the concession building for the Saddle Club, landscaping several house yards, along with involvement with many community activities and parades.

Greetings from Veterinary Technology

Hope this alumni newsletter finds you all doing well and keeping warm in 2008. We are looking forward to visiting with many of you at the alumni banquet next month. It is a great opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones with fellow alumni.

Congratulations and a big pat on the back goes to the 2007 Veterinary Technology, Technician Option graduates. Every one of them that took the National Veterinary Technician Exam passed the test making 100% of them eligible for licensing in Nebraska!

To increase productivity within a practice, technicians are utilized in veterinary medicine much as nurses and physician assistants are in the medical profession. The amount of dental instruction received in veterinary technician and veterinary colleges is limited. To fill this gap, an equine dentistry short course series has been implemented. Nebraska Rules and Regulations governing Licensed Veterinary Technicians allow for technicians performing many dental procedures thus increasing technician utilization and increasing the productivity of the veterinary clinic by freeing the veterinarians from routine equine dental work.

The course was developed for veterinary technology students, licensed veterinary technicians and licensed veterinarians. The students learn through textbook assignments, lecture, and practical experience with a limited number of students per class. In January 2007 the concept was discussed with the Veterinary Technology Advisory board. In May 2007, the college faculty veterinarian attended equine dentistry school for dental certification. During the summer of 2007, equipment funding and donations were pursued. Individual classes were developed through fall of 2007, and the initial delivery of the first class will occur during the spring 2008 semester. Offering these classes has generated a great deal of enthusiasm with the students interested in equine practices and will provide the public with technicians and veterinarians who are trained in equine dentistry procedures.

The Feral Cat Spay/Neuter program was collaborated with a community representative to provide low cost neutering for a large feral cat population while providing students with real world surgical procedures and community service opportunities. The

project reduced the wild cat population in a small town community thus reducing disease transmission including diseases of public health concern such as rabies, ringworm, and tularemia, internal and external parasites. A practical hands on approach to learning was utilized with surgical suite set up, surgical instrument and pack preparation, wild cat restraint, patient assessment, vaccinations, ear cleaning, deworming, fluid administration, patient preparation procedures, anesthesiology, surgical assistance and recovery. This enhanced student learning of surgery skills greatly increasing their speed, efficiency, confidence and job satisfaction. The students experienced the dynamics of reproductive populations and disease control. Just as important, they fostered community relationships through service. This project spayed and neutered 26 cats and involved 42 students. Four additional faculty members assisted at various times with the surgical procedures. Spay/neuter days were held spring, summer and fall of 2007 with additional surgeries planned for spring 2008 semester.

- Barbara Berg LVT

News from Agriculture Production Systems or PA as you may know it

Another year has come and gone. They all seem to blend together for me, but I can tell you we have had some great additions to the program in APS.

We have added two new faculty this year. Dr. Brad Ramsdale is heading up our agronomy program and leading the All Points Scholarship program. Brad has some great ideas to incorporate students into the college land lab operations. Renee Minary also joined the faculty last fall and is teaching Livestock Evaluation, Meats, and Judging along with holding several other responsibilities.

We have several new initiatives going on within the APS major. Jo Bek is working on a feedlot employee safety

program for feedlots to help reduce the insurance rates due to the high accident rates especially when using horses.

Brad Ramsdale is working with All Points Cooperative which is providing scholarships and internships to students interested in the agronomy field. As a part of that program, we will be providing CDL training on campus. I'm working with the 100 Cow Ownership Advantage program to help students apply for low interest beginning farmer loans through the FSA.

We are currently raising money (donations welcome) to build a livestock wash rack next to the LTC. We hope to have it completed in time for

the livestock fitting camp this summer. Last fall, a new water line was installed to provide water to the calving barn "on the bottom."

The Rodeo Team continues to make a good showing under the leadership of Dallas Talkington, and the Equestrian team is doing well. Judy Bowmaster tells me they are hosting an equestrian show on campus again in February. The Livestock Judging team took 4th place at Ft. Hays this fall. The team is small and will be competing in fewer contests this year as we rebuild the numbers in that program.

-Dave Smith
APS Division Chair

News from Agribusiness Management Systems

August brought new students to NCTA as well as two new faces to the Agribusiness Management Systems faculty.

Jeremy Sievers has assumed a teaching appointment in AMS in addition to his Athletic/Activities Director duties at NCTA. Originally from Wayne, Jeremy received his B.S. and M.S. from Wayne State College and MBA from Eastern Illinois University.

Krystle Friesen has expanded her duties from part time lecturer last spring to full

time instructor and added administrative duties by serving as Interim Division Chair of AMS. Originally from Hamlet, Krystle received her A.S. from Eastern Wyoming College, B.S. from University of Wyoming and M.S. from University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

We have 12 1st year students and 24 2nd & 3rd year students, with 20 expected to graduate in May 2008. In January, AMS students will be attending the Nebraska Agribusiness Association Career Day. The Business Club has reconvened as an active

group on campus by hosting concessions for the home basketball games and is looking forward to attending College Conference on Cooperatives in February.

We held an Advisory Council meeting in early December with seven members present. The meeting was very informative and valuable to our program's future.

Krystle Friesen
Agribusiness Management
Division Chair

NCTA Enrollment Jumps for 2007

Enrollment at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) increased 20 percent from last year, as reported by Dean Weldon Sleight. Enrollment figures released in September 2007 show 327 students enrolled for the fall semester, up from last year's enrollment of 272. A number of factors have contributed to the increase, Sleight said.

"One of the primary reasons is directly related to the delivery of courses to students not resident on the NCTA Curtis campus," Sleight states. "We launched our concurrent enrollment program this fall, and a number of Nebraska high schools have added this to their repertoire."

The concurrent enrollment program allows high school students to take courses through

NCTA and receive both high school and college credit. NCTA currently has 23 students participating, Sleight shares.

This fall was the fourth fall in a row where enrollment increased, and Sleight expects more great things in the future.

"I have no doubt that numbers will continue to increase at NCTA since the institution is now moving programs throughout the state in keeping with its statewide mission," he adds. "Other new initiatives, such as the 100-Cow Herd and All Points Scholars programs, which focus on specific industry segments, should contribute as well."

The 100-Cow Herd Ownership Program helps NCTA graduates to return home with a 100-cow herd that will allow them to be a partner in an agricultural enterprise which

will build rural Nebraska capacity.

The All Points Scholars program was designed by NCTA in conjunction with All Points Cooperative. The cooperative needed a school calendar that allowed the students to be involved in an intensive internship between March 15 and October 15 of each year, which encompasses the heavy planting and harvesting seasons. The program provides NCTA students with full tuition and fee scholarship the first year, with the ability to earn approximately \$20,000 during the internship in years two and three. The past twelve months have seen lots of positive changes. Sleight shares, "Expect more of these initiatives in the future as part of NCTA's outreach to the agricultural industry across Nebraska." Continued on Page 6

The beginning of this article is on Pg 5

NCTA and Curtis do not have the capacity to house NCTA students in the current dorms and apartments and the gym cannot be used for activities because it is used extensively for athletic functions. These facility limitations have encouraged the NCTA faculty and student body to begin the process of a capital campaign to replace the gym and add new dormitories to house the growing

student body. For the past two years, NCTA has had the highest increase of students within the University of Nebraska system. We want that growth to continue but need desperately to provide the whole student body with better living space and greater access to wholesome activities. The estimated costs of the facilities together are approximately \$6 million. Because this cost is so high, we need many partners to help us

pursue these building projects. Together they will bring NCTA to a standard of excellence that it enjoyed early in its history as the University of Nebraska School of Agriculture. At that time it was state of the art and that is what we want it to be again. If you desire to preserve a part of your heritage, please return one or both of the pledge cards below and/or call Dean Sleight or a faculty member. We are passionate about the future of NCTA.

News from the NCTA Horticulture Department

In April of 2007, I assumed my new role as horticulture instructor and division chairperson at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. Prior to accepting this position, I was a turfgrass research technician at Kansas State University for ten years. Upon my arrival, I immediately recognized the tremendous potential of the horticulture program at NCTA.

There are currently 13 students enrolled in the horticulture division. Our immediate goal is to recruit and retain at least 35 students into the horticulture program. To provide a unique educational opportunity, we

are in the process of designing a horticulture business training program that will prepare our students to be business owners rather than skilled "hired hands" upon their graduation from NCTA. They will enter the workforce as skilled entrepreneurs after taking core horticulture and business management courses, receiving hands-on experience in the classroom and lab, work experience, and by managing an actual horticulture business which will be established at our new entrepreneurship training facility.

The horticulture division was the recent recipient of a \$13,600 grant from the Ne-

braska Department of Roads and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum to plant trees and shrubs along campus streets and parking lots. The landscape design students drew and submitted scaled plans to the NSA for 12 locations across campus. Not only will the new plants enhance the beauty of campus, they will also be used to teach plant identification. Once the plants are labeled, students and visitors will be able to take self-guided tree walks. NCTA is one of 26 accredited arboreta in the NSA system.

Best wishes— Alan Zuk, Ph. D.

Horticulture Systems, Chair

September Annual Business Meeting Minutes

President Stephanie Stedman called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 29, 2007. Members present included Connie Stewart, Dennis Leonard, Larae Koop, Keanna Leonard, Mike Stewart, Jim Stark, Tony Larsen, Dana Hall, Dr. Weldon Sleight, and Stephanie Stedman.

The **minutes** of the last meeting held March 10, 2007, were read. Dennis Leonard moved to approve, Connie Stewart seconded. Motion passed.

The **treasurer's report** was given. Jerry Sundquist was not present, some amounts were unclear. In the Maywood account, there is \$2000 in the tractor account. There is \$1745 in a CD at Farmers State Bank and \$2944 in the Alumni Account in Lincoln, NE.

Old Business

The first item addressed the newsletter. After discussion, Dana Hall and Dr. Sleight agreed to collect information and send out by January 1. It was suggested that they email a request for information from members for the newsletter.

The second item addressed was Life Membership. Currently, a Life Membership costs \$150. This amount was discussed. No action was taken.

Under **New Business**, the annual meeting and banquet were the first item of business. The date set at the last meeting was for March 8-9, 2008. Bids from Lexington and Kearney Holiday Inns were presented. These bids were not clear or complete. Dennis Leonard moved to select a banquet committee to solicit more complete bids. Dan Stehlik seconded. Motion passed. Volunteers for the committee include Tony Larsen, Jerry Sundquist, Stephanie Stedman, and Dan Stehlik.

Entertainment ideas were discussed. Dennis Leonard moved to pay up to \$300 with meal and room for entertainment. Tony Larsen seconded. Motion passed. Dave Schroeder, Dave Thorell, and R.P. Smith were among the names recommended to consider.

Consideration of better dates to hold the Annual Meeting and Banquet was brought up. Dan Stehlik moved to use the newsletter to conduct an online survey to solicit more available dates. Dennis Leonard seconded. Motion passed.

Gene Heller has indicated that he would like to donate a statue for a raffle prize at the banquet as he did last year. This led to discussion that others may wish to do a similar act. This led to discussion that a more effec-

tive fundraiser would be to hold a silent auction during the social hour. Members would be asked to contribute items through the newsletter.

Stephanie Stedman reported that Ann Bruntz has been working through the UNL Foundation to help raise funds for a new dormitory and student center. The goal will be to ask 1000 UNSTA and NCTA alumni to pledge \$1000 over a three year period.

Dan Stehlik moved to sponsor the annual NCTA graduate picnic. Dana Hall seconded. Motion passed.

Dennis Leonard moved to sponsor a \$100 table for LEAD. Mike Stewart seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Weldon Sleight, NCTA Dean provided an informative and interesting update on NCTA activities and developments.

Dennis Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Stewart seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Stehlik, Acting Secretary

Update: After more complete bid proposals, the annual meeting/banquet will be held in Kearney on March 8, 2008.

Annual Banquet and Reunion Information

Saturday, March 8, 2008

Holiday Inn –Kearney, Nebraska

3:30 p.m. UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association Board/Business Meeting

6:00 p.m. Social Hour (Cash bar) held in the Banquet Room

7:00 p.m. Dinner (\$22.00 per person) held in the Banquet Room

Sunday, March 9, 2008

9:00 a.m. Group Breakfast (Order off the Menu)

Registration & Reservation Information

Banquet Registration Fee/Membership Fee	\$15.00
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The registration fee is the same as a membership. This fee when paid will considered your membership dues for the 2008 year. Each person will be paying this to attend.

Advance Registration Only!!

Register now! Return registration form below and your check(s) by March 1, 2008. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after March 2, 2008. No registrations will be taken over the phone.

Lodging

A block of rooms are reserved at a special rate of \$89.95 + tax for UNSTA/NCTA Alumni. To reserve a room please contact the Holiday Inn – Kearney at 308 237-5971 or 1-800-248-4460 and tell them you are with the UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association. Reservations need to be made as soon as possible to insure getting a room.

Honored Alumni

We will be honoring the classes of 1968, 73, 78, 83, 88, 93, 98 and 2003. You will be honored at the Annual Banquet. Gather up your classmates and plan on getting together on March 8th in Kearney. If you need addresses let us know!

Banquet Highlights

Entertainment/Speakers:

Dr. Weldon Sleight, NCTA Dean will discuss his vision for the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Ken Rahjes, KRVN radio, LEAD XXVII

Let us know if you need addresses of your classmates prior to the banquet!

Also be sure to keep us updated if you have a new addresses, phone number or email addresses so we have accurate contact information for you in our database!

Registration Form

UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Banquet and Reunion

Please return this form and check(s) payable to UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association by March 1, 2008 to:

UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association
C/O Jerry Sundquist
RR 3 Box 23A
Curtis, NE 69025

Please reserve ____ dinners at \$18.00 per person plus \$4.00 per person Banquet Expenses and Tractor Raffle.

(The \$4.00 per person helps pay for banquet guests and additional expenses)

Membership Fee is not a life member. **\$15.00**

Enclosed is my check (s) for **Total _____**

Name _____

Department _____ Grad Year _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Email address _____

Let's hear from you!

Please take a few minutes to tell us about what is new in your life. We would like to hear what you are doing and also know that your classmates would like to know where you are and your successes.

Class and Family Reunions

If you are planning a class or family reunion, let NCTA help you do the programming. We are now able to offer housing, food service, and activities for NSA, UNSTA, NCTA class reunions, and family reunions during the summer months. Programs are developed based on individual class and family needs. The NCTA campus is beautiful during the summer months and has football and baseball fields, sand volleyball pit, and other facilities that will make your reunion one that will build lasting relationships. We can even arrange for pictures and video that will allow your class and family to remember this experience for a lifetime. So, come and visit and allow us to help you reconnect with your past. Your children and grandchildren will enjoy seeing through your eyes the special times you spent at NSA, UNSTA and NCTA.

In Memory of Chandra Castle-NCTA Alumni/Student

Chandra Rae Castle

January 11, 1987 - January 30, 2008

Chandra Rae Castle, age 21, of Olathe, CO, passed away Wednesday night in Curtis, Nebraska as the result of a motor vehicle accident. "Chandie" was born to Randy and Rhonda (Luttrell) on January 11, 1987, in Montrose, Colo. Chandie spent her childhood in and graduated from high school in Olathe, CO, in 2005.

Chandie set goals early in life and never gave up accomplishing what she meant to do. She started a hog business at the tender age of 11, which opened many new doors for her and created numerous opportunities. Over the years, Chandie entered the Olathe FFA Chapters where her hog operation became her SAE Program along with her small, side-cattle operation. Chandie said she always wanted an affordable show quality animal for the youth in 4-H. Her blooming business

won her top honors where she was an American FFA Degree recipient, a very prestigious award, allowing her to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana, to be recognized for it. Her honors landed her a place in the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, where she felt right at home, having traveled with her father many times through Curtis on their way to Iowa with the family cattle herd during the local drought. Chandie was a role model for her brother and sister. She set goals and good examples by following her dreams, no matter how many obstacles got in her way.

Following her high school graduation, Chandie moved to Curtis, Nebraska where she attended the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, receiving her degree in Agribusiness in December of 2007. Chandie was very proud because her earnings from her small hog business as an 11 year old allowed her to pay her own tuition.

Chandie will receive a posthumous Honorary degree in Animal Production in May of 2008, along with the rest of her graduating class.

Prior to attending college, Chandie was a member of the Olathe Future Farmers of America. She went to Nationals in 'Range Land Judging' in 2001 and was the recipient of the 'Green Hand' Award, the chapter FFA degree, the state FFA degree, the American FFA degree, as well as the Gunnison River Valley district star in Agribusiness. She was an executive committee member at the local and district level and won several proficiency awards, the Gold in Beef, Swine and Diversified Livestock. Chandie's close family was very important to her.

Survivors include her parents, Randy and Rhonda (Luttrell) Castle of Olathe, her brother and sister, Emmitt Zachary (Zach) Castle and Amanda A. Castle of the family home in Olathe, her paternal grandmother, Thedus Castle, her maternal grandparents, Mary Lou Luttrell, and Ron and Virginia Luttrell, all of Montrose. Chandie's family on both sides have been a part of the Montrose/Olathe Ranching and Agricultural community for three and four generations. Chandie is survived locally by many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Chandie was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, Emmitt M. Castle, a paternal aunt who died in infancy, Janet A. Castle, and her maternal great-grandparents, C.E. and Mary Mills, who were very close to Chandie.

Chandie and her father had a very special relationship that led them on many new adventures from the time she was an infant up to the time of her death, and will continue, when they see each other again. Words cannot express the sorrow felt by all who loved her. A visitation for family and friends will be held Tuesday, February 5, at Valley Lawn Funeral Home Chapel, 505 S. 2nd St., from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A Funeral service in honor and celebration of Chandie's life will be conducted by Pastor Steve Shaw Wednesday, February 6, at 11:00 am at Montrose Christian Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Montrose 4-H Foundation; 1001 North 2nd St. Montrose, CO 81401, and the Olathe F.F.A. Alumni at 8262 High Mesa Rd. Olathe, CO 81425.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Valley Lawn Funeral Home in Montrose. (970) 249-4400.



In Memory of Chandra Castle-NCTA Alumni/Student

On January 30, 2008, NCTA lost alumni/student Chandra Castle of Olathe, Colorado in an automobile accident near Curtis, Nebraska. With the news of Chandra's passing University of Nebraska, President J.B. Milliken gave the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture a gift of \$5,000 to start an endowed memorial scholarship in Chandra's name. Below is a contribution card if you would like to give to this scholarship in memory of Chandra Castle. Please keep Chandra's family, friends and NCTA in your prayers as we remember this fine young woman.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Sleight at (308) 367-5200 or Ann Bruntz at (402) 458-1176. Thank-you.



Contribution Card for Gifts to the University of Nebraska Foundation

In memory of Chandra Castle

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

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Address _____

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For more information contact Stephanie, Jerry or any board member.

