



## Saddle Up!

Our very own, Eric Reed, is the news editor of *Saddle Up!* As the general education professor, he has to find ways to make things interesting. With his connection to *Saddle Up!*, he publishes top student articles to spot light. Go to the website below to check it out!

<http://livestockroundup.net/saddleupnebraska/>

## Upcoming Events

### • Annual Banquet and Reunion Information.

Saturday, March 13, 2010. Holiday Inn Convention Center

Greetings Fellow Alumni:

Yet another year has simply flown by! Where does the time go? I hope that this letter finds everyone having a great start to the New Year. It is time once again to start thinking about this year's NCTA/UNSTA/NSA alumni banquet. This year's banquet is shaping up to be one of the best yet, and I urge each and every one of you to attend.

If you are like me, NCTA has had a huge impact on your life. As I travel this great state of ours as a field underwriter for New York Life, I am continually amazed at the number of people I meet who have attended the college at Curtis - whether it was NCTA, UNSTA, or even NSA. These people are some of the most successful, nicest people on earth. It is obvious that Curtis has done well in developing very successful graduates.

The annual alumni banquet can only be a success if we receive a large turnout. Simply sending out the invitations is not enough. I am asking each one of you to make an effort to attend. Why not call up that classmate that you haven't talked to in awhile and meet them at this year's banquet? The alumni banquets are a great place to reminisce with old friends. Attend this year's banquet and you won't regret it!

See you then!

Sincerely,

Tony R. Larsen

Ag Bus 2003

NCTA/UNSTA/NSA Alumni President



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# NCTA News for Alumni of NSA, UNSTA, & NCTA

## NCTA in the news

**Technical Ag College Sees Huge Jump in Enrollment**  
*ABC's Nebraska.TV*  
9/14/09

(Curtis, NE) The number of students enrolled at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is up dramatically this fall. A record 425 students started classes in August, representing an increase of 49.1 percent from the previous year.

The number also represents a twenty-four percent increase in full-time first-year students and a substantial increase in students taking concurrent enrollment courses. Concurrent enrollment courses-courses that allow students in high school to enroll in selected classes for college credit through distance education-account for 127 students at NCTA this fall, up from 42 students in fall 2008.

Each of the University of Nebraska's four other campuses also saw a rise in enrollment-numbers are up 2.2 percent at UNL, 1.3 percent at UNMC, 2.9 percent at UNO, and 1.6 percent at UNK-but the near doubling of student enrollment at NCTA evokes specific changes taking place at the college. Aggie West, the new co-ed housing complex in Curtis, offers private bathrooms and additional space for students that wish to live off campus. The new "ownership" programs at NCTA also continue to attract more students. The 100 Beef Cow, 100 Acre Farm, and Business Builder programs help students who graduate with a degree to develop actual business plans and resources required to eventually own their own operation or business.

A number of additional programs are also underway. NCTA Dean Weldon Sleight is working to spur enrollment further and says he is very excited about the future of NCTA. Sleight points to the college's physical growth as evidence of the college's progress. "We are now planning the new Education Center that, along with a new residence hall, will come online fall 2011," he says. With the new residence hall, NCTA will have the capacity to house 300 students on campus. "These new buildings and several remodeling projects are making the NCTA campus a wonderful living-learning environment, says Sleight. "I appreciate the faculty and staff for all their hard work and for making the new enrollment a reality."



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## Putting Rural America in Their Hands.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Last year the front page article of the Alumni News carried the title "Preserving the NCTA Way of Life - It's Up to You." This title had reference to the new building initiative. The plan would bring a new education center and residence hall to NCTA and also remodel the gymnasium into a student union. However, NCTA had to come up with \$1 million in private funds by December 31, 2008. That goal was met; therefore, today I can report that the student union has been transformed into a wonderful student union. The Aggies now play their intercollegiate sports at the Curtis Community Center, built in part by a large and generous donation from George Garlick. Mr. Garlick is a 1954 NSA graduate and also funding the new residence hall to be constructed and put into operation for Fall 2011.

A team of architects were on the NCTA campus planning the Education Center throughout the fall semester of 2009. During this planning process, it became very evident that the animal laboratory portion of the facility needed to be separate from the major structure. At that time, the structure consisted of plant and computer laboratories, classrooms, and an auditorium. A most wonderful proposal was then made, "Why not put the animal laboratories and services as an extension to the current Veterinary Hospital? Also, rather than tear down the Old Dairy Barn, can it be made into a student experience veterinary clinic?" What a marvelous idea since the Old Dairy Barn is so important to the history of NSA, UNSTA, and NCTA! As a result, the Education Center will contribute substantially to increasing the quality teaching and laboratory space. The east wing of the

Veterinary Hospital and the Old Dairy Barn will be completely remodeled for small animals, equine, and laboratory space used by the Veterinary Technology program.

Another important bit of news is that the NCTA's enrollment for Fall Semester 2009 increased by 49%! This is due to new programs that emphasize ownership, preparing our students to return to their rural communities as partners/employees, and an emerging concurrent enrollment program. Concurrent enrollment allows high school students to take some college courses and earn college credits. The program decreases the time students have to spend on a college campus and saves them and their parents a great deal on the cost of education.

The miraculous events of this past year will become one of the brightest chapters in the history of this institution. Again, we thank each of you who have made contributions to this building program. If there are others that would like to make donations, please think about doing so. We still have many equipment and scholarship needs that will make NCTA even stronger.

Following graduation, there will be a ground breaking for the new buildings at 3:00 p.m. on May 6, 2010. Please plan to attend and we will show you what your contributions have accomplished. With your help, the future has never been brighter for NCTA.



Dr. Weldon Sleight

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www.ncta.unl.edu

NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF  
TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

## CASNR Offers Distance Programs to Students around the World.

Many students are not able to come to UNL's East Campus to take courses and work with professors. For those students the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) offers online courses and credit degree programs and certificates. CASNR student enrollment in distance course offerings increased almost 30% from Fall 07 to Fall 08.

The latest effort to reach out to students at the undergraduate level is UNL's first online degree completion option. Entitled the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science, the degree focuses on the practical application of scientific knowledge in the workplace. The degree is designed for working adults and associate degree holders who want to obtain their bachelor's degree without having to take time away from their current careers. Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss, an Associate Professor of Entomology, stated, "I'm excited about UNL taking the initiative to launch a degree completion program at the bachelor's level." States Dr. Heng-Moss, "It is a wonderful addition to what the University has to offer and will be a valuable option for people both inside and outside Nebraska."

The degree is unique in that it allows its students flexibility in their course selection. This flexibility then leads to students customizing their learning experience in four areas: Food/Animal/Plant Science Systems; Genetics/Biotechnology/Biosecurity; Natural Science and Energy Systems; and Leadership/Entrepreneurship/Economics. UNL is currently accepting applications for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science. For more information about the online degree completion option, visit us online. ■

The student activity center, or "The Barn" on campus, was newly remodeled and now features two big screen TVs, pool tables, and ping pong.



## New Faces @ NCTA

We have added many new, friendly faces on campus in the past year.

### New faculty include:

Rick Mestas  
Associate Dean

Drew Anderson  
Assistant Professor - Horticulture

Paul Clark  
Assistant Professor & Division Chair of  
Agriculture Business

Eric Reed  
Assistant Professor & Division Chair of  
General Education

### Other staff include:

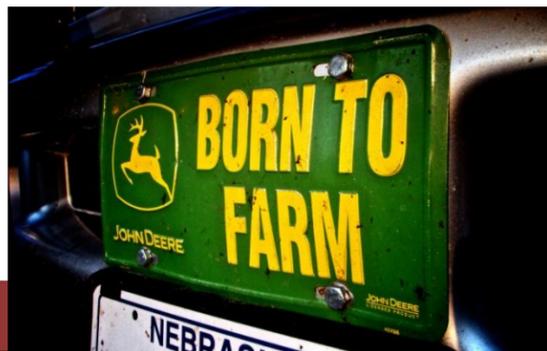
Stephanie Nichols  
Assistant Admissions Coordinator

Tammy Fiechtner  
Assistant Admissions Coordinator

Britni Freiboth  
Student Life Coordinator

Cindy Fritsche  
Food Services Manager

Marci Pike  
Dean's Office (temp)



## Reaching out to Class of 1975

Greetings UNSTA Alumni! My name is Steve Hanson, better known as 'Tanker' at UNSTA. I have decided to start a large project for next year's Alumni Banquet and I need your assistance to complete this project.

The other evening it occurred to me that in 2010 it will be our 35<sup>th</sup> year reunion and I was wondering where my fellow classmates are and what has happened to them since graduation. I, for one, know I haven't changed a bit. Therefore I have decided to contact each graduate of the 1975 class requesting they respond to my request for information as to where they are now located, information on their family, their employment, their continued education, and other

exciting information on themselves. I will gather this information into a booklet and have it available for the 35<sup>th</sup> reunion at the March 2010 banquet. It should be exciting to read what each of us has accomplished in our lives and hopefully be in attendance to verify what we report.

See you in March! ■

Don't forget about the silent auction at the Alumni Banquet!! If you have items, bring them. If not, bring some cash to purchase!!

## Annual Banquet & Reunion Information

### Annual Banquet and Reunion Information

**Saturday, March 13, 2010**  
Holiday Inn Convention Center—Kearney, Nebraska  
3:00 p.m. NSA/UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association Board/Business Meeting  
5:30 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 14, 2010**  
9:00 a.m. Group Breakfast (Order off the Menu)

**Registration & Reservation Information**  
Banquet Registration Fee/Membership Fee \$15.00  
The registration fee is the same as a membership. This fee when paid will be considered your membership dues for the 2010 year. Each person will be paying this to attend.

**Advance Registration Only!!**  
Register now! Return registration form below and your check by March 5, 2010. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after March 8, 2010. Alumni Banquet Contact Information: Call Larry Cooper at 402-340-5173 or email at ljcooper26@hotmail.com

**Lodging**  
A block of rooms are reserved at a special rate of \$89.95 + tax for NSA/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 NSA/UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association. Reservations need to be made as soon as possible to insure a room.

**Honored Alumni**  
We will be honoring the classes of 1970, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 00 and 2005. You will be honored at the Annual Banquet. Gather up your classmates and plan on getting together on March 14th in Kearney. If you need addresses let us know!

**Banquet Highlights**  
Entertainment: Cowboy Poet, R.P. Smith from Broken Bow, NE

### Registration Form NSA/UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Banquet and Reunion

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$22.00 per person. \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet/Membership Fee \$15.00 per person. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Grad Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form and check payable to:  
**NSA/UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association**  
by **March 5, 2010** to:

Larry Cooper  
PO Box 531  
Curtis, NE 69025

## ALUMNI...Have news to share?

### We'd love to hear from you!

Career Accomplishments? Rural community involvement? Making a difference?

The quickest way to share is to email your great information to rместas2@unl.edu or mail to:

NCTA  
Attn: News for Alumni  
404 East 7th Street  
Curtis, NE 69025



Dr. Garlick is also in the process of building NCTA a 144-bed residence hall to be located behind the women's residence hall. The doors will open August 2011.

## Aggie West

### New Housing from an Old Friend

Aggie West is a NCTA-sanctioned residence hall, but is managed by one of Curtis-native's, Dr. George F. Garlick, companies. Newly remodeled and spacious enough to bring their own couch, freshmen and upperclassmen are welcome! They can live where they study and play. Accommodating the quiet studying students, there are closed rooms as well as a quiet computer lab. For those who study better in groups, open rooms are available for any study size. We also have multiple activity rooms, with big screen TVs, Wii gaming, blue ray DVD players and two full kitchens, as well as a pool table and future theater room. These students are living large with free laundry too!

Come check it out!