

National Competitions

Continued from page 3

leges across the country, NCTA students are well prepared in their disciplines,” said Dr. Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean. “Congratulations go to our students for the skills and knowledge demonstrated in this contest – knowledge resulting from much studying, hard work, and a passion for agriculture. I would also congratulate NCTA faculty for the outstanding job they do in the classroom and in the laboratory, preparing students for careers and for competitions such as the North American Colleges and Teachers in Agriculture contest.”

NCTA’s agronomy team placed third overall among seven teams which included an agronomic exam of 75 questions, math practical, lab practical of 75 specimens, and plant and seed identification (75 specimens of crop and weed plants, and seeds from 150 possible species).

The team topped the contest score in the agronomic knowledge exam, with Wilgenburg placing 11th individually. Team members along with Wilgenburg were Catlett, Vana, Mitchell Poss of Kimball and Kate Ostermeier of Grand Island.

Students and coaches will be recognized at NCTA Honors Night on Wednesday, May 7.

8 Students to be Inducted into PTK Honor Society

The following students will be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society May 7 at 5:00 p.m. in the Agriculture Industry Education Center:

McKenzie Beals
Evey Choat
Amanda Hill
Ashley Lawton
Jaslyn Livingston
Shelby Overturf
Wade Overturf
Lizabeth Reimers

PTK is the largest honor society in the U.S. and is recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges as the official honor society of two-year colleges.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 3 Spring Plant Sale at 9:00 a.m.
- 3 Spring Rodeo Bash at 12:00 p.m.
- 4 Study Night Snacks at 6:00 p.m.
- 7 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Induction at 5:00 p.m.
- 7 Graduation practice at 5:30 p.m.
- 7 Graduation Picnic at 6:00 p.m.
- 7 2013-2014 Awards Program at 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Spring Plant Sale at 9:00 a.m.
- 8 Graduation at 1:30 p.m.
- 8 Residence Halls close at 5:00 p.m.
- 9 Riding Practice for the Frontier Riders at 6:00 p.m.
- 12 4-H Sheep and Swine Tagging at 5:30 p.m.
- 15 NCTA Community Garden Project
- 16 Riding Practice for the Frontier Riders

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. Sincere congratulations to those graduating. Job well done.
2. When you can't afford tickets to a fundraiser, do you have a fundraiser for yourself?
3. Listening to classic hip-hop. Diggin it.
4. Opportunity is knocking for me. But how loud does it have to be to open the door?
5. Why can't I find an awesome pillow?
6. I seriously believe a loved dog has to be the happiest creature on earth.
7. I don't want to start mowing grass. I guess mowing is ok, it's the weed whacker that stinks.
8. 75 degrees, lawn chair, headphones, cold beverage, phone off. Please.
9. Be in control.
10. Options. It's all about options.

“In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.”
-Bill Cosby



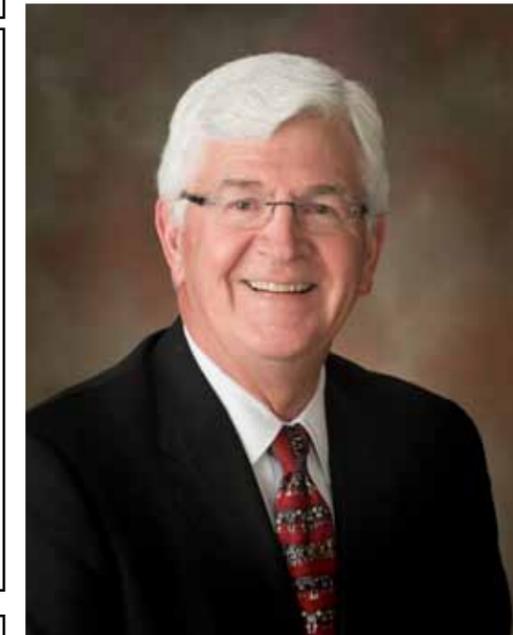
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!



Schroeder Named Graduation Speaker

By Mary Crawford



Palisade native Chuck Schroeder will deliver the keynote commencement address for the University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture on Thursday, May 8 at the Curtis Memorial Community Center.

Schroeder has served as executive director of the Rural Futures Institute of the University of Nebraska since December 1, and resides in Lincoln.

He also has been director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef

Association, executive vice president of the University of Nebraska Foundation, and most recently was president and executive director of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

The two-year technical agriculture college will confer 84 degrees and certificates to students from agribusiness management, agricultural production, horticulture, and veterinary technology. Graduates hail from Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, South Dakota and Washington.

Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean, will preside at the 1:30 p.m. graduation exercise. He will be assisted by Associate Dean Scott Mickelsen and joined by NU Regents Bob Phares of North Platte and Tim Clare of Lincoln, and Ronnie Green, NU Vice President and Harlan Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Students also will be honored Wednesday, May 7, at the annual NCTA Awards Night beginning at 7 p.m. at the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center.

In addition, faculty and staff awards will be announced that evening. The public is invited to attend both events.



Available Online

- ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up
- facebook.com/aggieup

Inside this Issue

- Community Garden
- Editorials
- Aggie of the Month
- Steak and Shake Photos
- Aggies Speak Out
- Things I Think
- And more!

Aggie Up! Staff

- Jessie Connelly
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- Mary Crawford,
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- Eric Reed,
Faculty Advisor

Steak and Shake

The "Steak and Shake," a dinner, auction, and dance fundraiser for NCTA's Rodeo, Livestock Judging, and Ranch Horse traveling teams, was held May 1, at 6:30 p.m. in Stockville, Neb.



State and American Degree Recipients

The NCTA chapter of Collegiate FFA would like to congratulate the following State and American Degree recipients:

- State Degree**
 Sierra Castens
 Trevor Oxford
 Kara Reimers
 Lizabeth Reimers
 Blake Hodson
 Dillon Brown
 Jacob Wilgenburg
 Bailey Keyes
 Tori Preisendorf
 Jenna Schilke

- State Degree**
 Josi Arnold
 Colton Baltazar
 Wade Overturf
 Shelby Overturf
 Cory Johnson
 Mollie Bose
 Lynde Frew
 Kellie Sholes
 Evey Choat

- American Degree**
 Trevor Oxford
 Kara Reimers
 Lizabeth Reimers
 Blake Hodson
 Wade Overturf
 Shelby Overturf
 Cory Johnson
 Doug Smith

Aggie of the Month



Second-year Veterinary Technology major Allison Baehr of Firth, Neb., was named the NCTA "Aggie of the Month" for April 2014. She was nominated for her academics, service to the campus and others, and exemplary character in the classroom.

Baehr will graduate May 8 and leave May 13 for an internship and short-term mission trip with Christian Veterinary Missions in Mongolia; she will spend much of her time in the capital, Ulanbaatar, performing veterinary work and teaching the Gospel.

College Tip:
Remove the past from your future.

Zip Line



Over 40 students, faculty, and staff came out and enjoyed the 50ft zipline on campus April 14.

Horticulture Competition

Chris Lutz of Scottsbluff, Melanie Cadwallader of Dunning, Kylee Knott of North Platte, and Evey Choat of St. Edward tested brainpower on written quizzes and hands-on contests, met landscape professionals from 80 companies across the U.S., and competed among 700 students and 65 colleges and universities at the 38th annual PLANET Student Career Days, said Tee Bush, NCTA assistant professor of horticulture.

Not all competitors are landscaping experts, Bush said. While Lutz and Cadwallader are horticulture majors, Knott is studying veterinary technology, and Choat is majoring in animal science.

NCTA's team ranked 56th of 65 teams from two-year and four-year schools. NCTA's high scoring individual was Kylee Knott who was 97th of 743 students. Lutz won NCTA a powerful Stihl leaf blower by placing in the top 10 of 43 students in small engine repair. He placed 8th overall.

NCTA Garden Opening as Campus-Community Project

By Mary Crawford

Curtis residents can join together this summer and get green thumbs all at once.

Plots of 10 x 20 feet, or 10 x 8 feet, are available in a community garden on the southwest edge of the NCTA campus between 6th and 7th Streets.

College horticulture students are launching the NCTA Community Garden project as a way to grow fresh vegetables, share in Farmers' Market activities throughout the summer and strengthen ties with students and community residents.

Garden Manager Tee Bush, NCTA assistant professor of horticulture, says the project is not just about Master Gardeners or long-time gardeners but will include 4-H clubs and youth members.

Fees are \$30 for the large plot, or \$15 for the smaller size. Plots are available on first come, first serve basis. Gardeners sign a contract and pay the fee to the NCTA Horticulture Club.

"We have a local sponsor who will underwrite the \$30 contract fee for youth so 4-H members will have an affordable way to become involved," Bush said. The project is in conjunction with Frontier County Extension. Also, 4-H'ers likely can get seed donated, and are welcome to start the plants at the NCTA greenhouse.

Garden plots are for families, community groups or individuals. "The garden is designed to help boost



the NCTA Farmers Market by increasing diversity of produce and creating a healthy, competitive market," Bush said.

Participants will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 24 for a pre-season planning meeting, and the garden opens on Thursday, May 15. Additionally, the NCTA Horticulture Club will be hosting Community Garden kick-off sales for plant buyers on Saturday, May 3, and Thursday, May 8, both from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meetings and sales will be at the NCTA greenhouse.

The 2014 Saturday Farmers Market schedule has been announced as well, beginning Saturday, July 12 and ending October 11.

Plot contracts or information is available from Tee Bush at tbush@unl.edu or 308-367-5226.

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Wins	Losses
Bandana Bandits Faith Stroup (Captain)	W	W	W	3	0
Ball Snatchers Macy Novotne (Captain)	L	W	W	2	1
The Vipers Sara Alber (Captain)	W	L	L	1	2
Destroyers Anthony Gardner (Captain)	L	L	L	0	3

Intramural Softball

Four teams competed for the season title in intramural softball. The tournament was canceled due to weather. Over 50 students, faculty, and staff participated.

NCTA Teams Compete at Nationals, Agribusiness Team Repeats Title

By Mary Crawford



Champion AgriBusiness competitors from NCTA recently competed in a national contest held at Maryville, Missouri. Students representing NCTA were (left to right) Chelsea Nealon of Farwell; Logan Lueck of Overton; Jacob Wilgenburg of Fort Morgan, Colo.; and Jeff Hanhardt of Otis, Kan. The team also competed well in the Agribusiness Computer competition, earning second place overall. The team's instructors and coaches are NCTA faculty Paul Clark, Jennifer McConville and Jeremy Sievers. (Courtesy photo)

Agriculture business students and faculty are humming "We are the Champions" this week as Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture students upheld their top rank at a national contest.

NCTA won first among 10 teams in the agriculture business category of competitions held by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) 2014 Judging Conference at Northwest Missouri State in Maryville.

Students from 2- and 4-year colleges competed, with NCTA teams ranking high in all of their respective contests with two firsts (AgriBusiness and Knowledge Bowl), a second in AgriBusiness Computers, and third in Agronomy.

Team members and individual rank in the Agribusiness contest were: Jacob Wilgenburg of Fort Morgan, Colo., 2nd; Jeff Hanhardt of Otis, Kan., 3rd; Chelsea Nealon of Farwell, 10th; and Logan Lueck of Overton tied for 16th. They competed among 34 students in the two-year colleges contest. An NCTA team had won the Agribusiness event last year, in Texas.



NCTA agronomy students comprising the third-place team at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Crops Contest were (left to right) Desarae Catlett of Broken Bow, Mitchell Poss of Kimball, Kate Ostermeier of Grand Island, Jacob Wilgenburg of Fort Morgan, Colo., and Cody Vana of Wilber. The team's coach, not shown, is Dr. Brad Ramsdale. (Courtesy photo)

The 2014 foursome also competed as an Agribusiness Computer team and placed second overall in a field of eight teams and 28 individuals. In the top ten individuals, Wilgenburg placed 5th and Hanhardt 6th.

Knowledge or "quiz" bowl champions who competed in the comprehensive six-subject contest were: Wilgenburg, Lueck, Cody Vana of Wilber, Desarae Catlett of Broken Bow, and Dillon Brown of Hayes Center. They answered questions on agribusiness/farm management, agriculture mechanics, animal sciences, crops/soils, current agricultural events, and horticulture.

"Earning the victory in the two-night, double-elimination tournament is a reflection of the abilities of NCTA students and the well-rounded education they receive," said Dr. Brad Ramsdale, chair of NCTA's Agronomy/Horticulture Division.

Agribusiness students are coached by Paul Clark, division chairman of NCTA's Agribusiness Management Systems (AMS) and faculty members Jennifer McConville and Jeremy Sievers who both attended the student competition.

"These outstanding results demonstrate that, when going head-to-head against students from other col-

Jessie's Jumbled Thoughts

By Jessie Connelly, Co-Editor



Well guys, we've finally made it! The end of the school year. All over campus, everyone's hustling around to get those last minute things done. Projects that have been

put off for weeks are now getting the full attention of those of us who stay up till midnight to finish. Tests are being studied for, and all those old papers we no longer need are being thrown out. And for a bunch of us, we have an added thing to our list. Preparations for graduation! Caps and gowns are ordered, our gold tassel waits for the day we've been waiting for forever.

These last two years have been really amazing, and I've learned so much. I leave behind me great teachers, wonderful friends, and many, many memories, both good and bad. I can honestly say I can't wait to graduate and move on to the next chapter in my life, but I will miss this place. I can also honestly say I wouldn't change a thing about these last two years, and I will never regret choosing NCTA as my Alma Mater. I just want to say congratulations to those students who will be with me as we walk down the aisle to receive that diploma this Thursday, and I want to wish you all the very best of luck on your journey.

“All life demands struggle. Those who have everything given to them become lazy, selfish, and insensitive to the real values of life. The very striving and hard work that we so constantly try to avoid is the major building block in the person we are today.”

-Pope Paul VI

Aggies Speak Out

What is the biggest opportunity or challenge of your generation?



Tana Almand, Vinita, Okla.
Putting the phone, iPad, or TV remote down and doing something other than social media.



Daisy Lopez
The pressure of fitting in. We try so hard to change how we are to please others instead of being ourselves. Stand out in your own unique way.



Darci Samuelson
Technology. We always want to be on our phones. We have a hard time putting them down/shutting them off when our attention needs to be somewhere else.



Darby Bartlett, Watford City, ND
I believe our generation was raised in a time period of struggle economically; perhaps this is why most are here in college: to have a feeling of security and a degree to fall back on.

College Tip:
Going to the cafeteria alone is not weird; it means you're okay with yourself.
-thoughtcatalog.com

My If-I-Had-Been-Valedictorian Speech

By Reiley Wieland, Co-Editor



Welcome everybody today to another commencement ceremony. Sorry for making you take the day off work to join us on a Thursday. I know valedictorian speeches are supposed to be full of “thank you’s,” and sports analogies that only half the crowd understands, but I thought I’d do it a bit different. I’m sure all the students sitting before you have made a few mistakes in our lives, so, on behalf of the graduating class, let me extend my apologies.

To the teachers: for at least two years you have stood in the front of the room watching us doodle in our notebooks or do the head-bob that is a sure sign we are about to take a nap. We are sorry for not paying as much attention as we should have. I know it’s gonna come back to bite us one day in our careers when we realize that we had a lecture or handout on that subject, but chose to draw instead. And about the cell phones: we really didn’t think you could see the glow from under that table. We apologize for being so naïve to think that you thought we were just having one long prayer during the entire class. Oops.

To our friends: sorry for all those times we bailed on each other on Friday night because that boy or girl we’ve had our eye on finally talked to us. But even more, I’m sorry in advance if we lose touch as we scatter about the state or country. Every year, everybody’s friends swear they will stay in touch and chat all the time and see each other on our vacations, but we all know life will get in the way. I’m sorry that we may not talk much, but we will always be friends.

And to that boy or girl that never called us on Friday night--we all wished it could have worked out.

To our parents: Where do we begin? During these years of college, we know we have made difficult choices about whom to spend our time with. Sometimes that included our friends and their families, not our own. We are sorry that we didn’t make it home for all the family gatherings. I guess we took for granted the fact that just because we are young and think we are invincible, it doesn’t mean that everyone else is the same. We regret all the family moments we missed and will try to do better in the future.

But there is one thing we won’t apologize for: growing up. Teachers, we have grown into the trained professionals that you would be proud to admit you taught at NCTA. Friends, I don’t apologize for cruising with you on a Saturday night when I should have been studying, and I have never been sorry for us meeting and becoming friends. Parents, we won’t apologize for going out into the world as the responsible, mature adults you have raised us to be. We won’t apologize for moving far away from home to chase the dreams that you helped foster in us from the time we were toddlers. Nor will we apologize if we choose to come back to our home towns after graduation: that is the place where we feel welcomed and like we belong. We won’t apologize for all the bad choices we have made, because the lessons you taught us from those bad decisions are what help make us who we are. So, my one thank you to everyone here is for being in our lives at all, and helping shape us into the fine graduates you see sitting before you.

Fun Facts

- The peregrine falcon is the fastest bird in the world, reaching speeds in excess of 200 mph.
- An electric eel can produce a shock with enough volts to knock a horse off its feet.
- The most common letters in English are R S T L N E
- A word spelled the same way backwards and forwards is called a palindrome: racecar.
- The Amazon rainforest supplies one-fifth of the world’s oxygen. (funology.com)

College Tip:
Create a list of long-term goals and look at it often.