

Dean's Newsletter 2015

A word from new University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds

On April 13, I was honored to begin my tenure as the seventh president of the University of Nebraska. My initial months have been a whirlwind of travels across the state my family and I now call home; visits to all the university's campuses, including NCTA; and meetings with as many Nebraskans as possible.

I've had the opportunity to visit NCTA twice already – once during a statewide tour on my first week on the job, and again at commencement – and both times, I was impressed by what I saw. First of all, being at NCTA is like walking down memory lane. I grew up on my family's farm in Mississippi and graduated from a small agricultural high school there – where, incidentally, we were called the Aggies! So I feel very at home here.

More importantly, the energy and talents of the students, the passion of the faculty, and the sense of momentum are impossible to describe. You have to be in Curtis to experience it for yourself. Dean Rosati and his team should be congratulated. I look forward to returning to campus soon.

Many people have asked me to describe my vision for the University of Nebraska. My answer is that I want us to be a giant in higher education – doing even more to serve our students and people in Nebraska and around the world. The University of Nebraska is strong already. But I think we have an opportunity to become one of America's great universities.

NCTA plays an important role in that vision. The programs offered here are meeting key needs for Nebraska agriculture – evidenced by the success of NCTA graduates in finding relevant jobs in our state. And the campus is finding new and innovative ways to extend its reach. I'm excited about NCTA's potential to continue to train the next generation of agricultural workers and contribute to university-wide initiatives related to water and sustainable food production, rural development and revitalization, and other areas important to our state and the world.

We have a jewel here in Curtis, Nebraska. I'm excited to help tell NCTA's story.

~ President Hank Bounds

Save the date: June 11, 2016 - Alumni reunion!

Mark your calendar for June 11, 2016 for the next Alumni Association reunion at Curtis. Alumni President Kim Mortensen says tentative activities will include a Friday night social, and Saturday activities of golf, horseback or trail rides at AggieLand, trap shooting at the Curtis Gun Club,



NCTA student Kaylyn Long of Bayard, and Jo Bek, animal science professor shared equine foot care tips with University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds, Vice President and IANR Vice Chancellor Ronnie Green, and NCTA Dean Ron Rosati during a campus visit on April 14. (Photo by Mary Crawford, NCTA)

another bench branding (so bring your branding irons), and other fun concluding with the annual banquet and awards. Watch for more details in early 2016. Send your e-mail address for updates to chauptman4@unl.edu.

Salute to 2015 Alumni Honorees

Four well-deserved awards were presented by the UNSTA-NCTA Alumni Association at the 2015 annual meeting and awards banquet in York.

Association President Dan Stehlík (UNSTA '75) of Concordia, Kansas (relocating to Curtis) was joined by board members in presenting the awards to:

Distinguished Service/Legacy Award - Jerry Sundquist of Curtis, UNSTA graduate of 1968, and faculty member and administrator from 1969-2009 was the longtime association secretary. He also served as president in 1973-76. Jerry has continued active involvement with the group, and has attended each alumni reunion held (for about 40 years)!

Alumni Achievement Awards – For the first time since the award program was created in 2010, the Alumni Achievement recognition was presented to Ann K. Bruntz and David D. Bruntz, Friend, both 1971 graduates of UNSTA. David studied production agriculture, is an alumni association past president (2012-2013), serves on the Nebraska Corn Board, and is on the NCTA Statewide Advisory. Ann Ramm Bruntz is an NCTA veterinary technician graduate, has been active in many Nebraska agriculture groups, and is Senior Development Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska Foundation.

Honorary Life Member – Dr. Martin Massengale of Lincoln, University of Nebraska president emeritus, and Director of the UNL Center for Grassland Studies, was joined by his wife, Ruth. Dr. Massengale has been an advocate for NCTA and continues to provide scholarly articles and periodicals for student and faculty use at the NCTA Library.

Dean Rosati gave a slide show featuring a “Report from Campus” and the new officers were selected. President Stehlík passed the gavel to Kim Bowers Mortensen of Curtis, who will lead the organization for two years.



Dave May congratulates Jerry Sundquist



David and Ann Bruntz with Kim Mortensen



Catherine Hauptman, Martin Massengale and Dan Stehlík

Alumni Board

President: Kim Bowers Mortensen, Curtis

President-Elect: Dave Mehaffey, Bellwood

Past-President: Dan Stehlík, Curtis

Secretary: Catherine Potter Hauptman, Curtis

Treasurer: Taylor Rossenbach, Curtis

Board Members: Boni Perks Edwards, North Platte; Jerry Sundquist, Curtis; Dave May, Bennett; Gene Heller, David City; Gale Wellmann, Waco; Stephanie Stedman, Burr; David Bruntz and Ann Bruntz, Friend.

Dean's Notes

Hello, Aggie Alumni and Friends,

We've had an amazing year at NCTA, and are prepared for another as classes resumed August 24. There are new and familiar faces in our teaching ranks. Paul Clark retired after six years as Agribusiness Management Systems chairman. Thank you, Paul, and congratulations!



Mary Rittenhouse started June 15th as AMS chair. She comes to us from the University of Nebraska at Kearney where she was senior lecturer and Director of the Center for Economic Education. Previously, Mary worked with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Welcome back to Dan Stehlík, UNSTA alumni of '75, hired as lecturer of agricultural mechanics. Dan's strong background in ag education and FFA programs in Kansas will benefit our students and campus. Thank you to former instructor Dusty Zitek, for getting the ag mechanics and welding shops up and running these past two years. Although taking another career opportunity, I am glad Dusty and his family is still a big part of NCTA (spouse Jo Hergenreder is equine instructor/ranch horse team coach).

Faculty members Brad Ramsdale and Eric Reed have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. They are the first NCTA faculty to be promoted in 10 years.

Congratulations Brad and Eric on your promotions!

We have forged wonderful partnerships in 2014-15 with the Heifer Link and Reinke Irrigation Technician programs, dual credit initiatives in high schools, new gateway and website for international students, launching the Urban Agriculture program with Nebraska Extension and the Omaha Home for Boys, and more recently moving the NCTA beef cattle herd to a summer grazing program and outdoor classroom experience in Garden County through an initiative of the Nature Conservancy plus pasture access and facility use from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A lot of firsts!

Another first for NCTA will be Oct. 21-22 as we co-host the 2015 Rural Futures Conference, "Hope Inspires Vision." Join us in Curtis or at Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln as we applaud and build vibrant rural futures. See details at <http://rfc.nebraska.edu/>.

And, finally, a HUGE thank you to the alumni, donors, and supporters who stood behind the college's increased appropriation request to the Nebraska Legislature last spring. The college is now on track for more improvements to technology, faculty pay equity, veterinarian faculty support, and other campus needs. Donors also are supporting various student scholarships to keep students enrolled and engaged.

I appreciate your interest and the vitality you give the college. Please let me know when you can visit us on campus and see all the exciting things you are providing for Aggie students!

~ Dean Ron Rosati

Alumni Scholarship

The alumni association's 2015 scholarship goes to Whitney Brown, a vet tech student active on the NCTA Ranch Horse Team. She received \$250 and a certificate in July from Alumni Association President Kim Mortensen and Secretary Catherine Hauptman.

Whitney is the daughter of Lyle and Jackie (Hulse) Brown of Stratton. In addition to fulltime studies, she works for the NCTA Dean's Office and Agribusiness Management division, and Arrowhead Meadows Golf Course.

Whitney competes in the Nebraska State Rodeo Association and open division rodeos, and plans a career with large animal livestock. She holds a 3.5 GPA, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

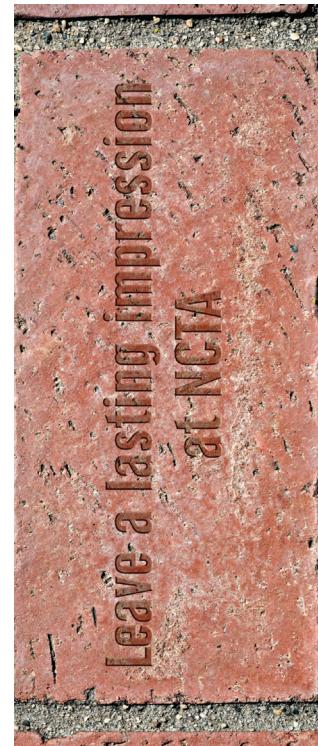


Brick It

The first order of 130 paving bricks for the new courtyard on the east side of Ag Hall has arrived and will be installed this year (if all goes as planned).

Customize a brick for \$100 in Phase II. Request your order form from Ann Bruntz at 402-458-1176 or ann.bruntz@nufoundation.org or Catherine Hauptman at 308-367-5200 or chaupertman4@unl.edu.

THANK you to all who have purchased a brick in honor of the school's Centennial, 1913-2013. Ag Hall has shade trees and benches -- now it just needs a patio!



Alumni Updates

First Stedman baby

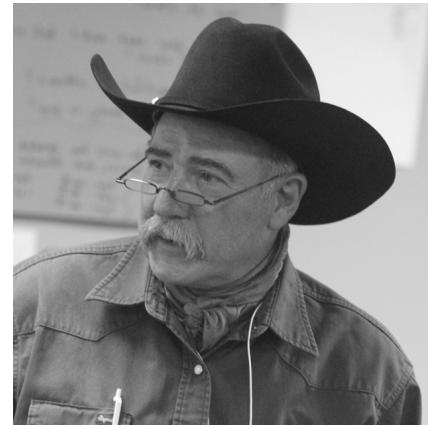


Mardy Saige, daughter of Stephanie and Neil Stedman, is a Husker fan!

Past UNSTA-NCTA Alumni Association president Stephanie Stedman ('01, VT) and husband, Neil, welcomed their first child, Mardy Saige, on Sept. 2, 2014. The couple and their baby girl live on their Otoe County farm near Burr. Contact them at srstedman@hotmail.com.

UNSTA grad is NCTA lecturer

Dan Stehlík, '75, joins the NCTA faculty this Fall as the new instructor of agricultural mechanics. He leaves a very successful ag education and FFA program in Kansas, where he had developed a welding certification program and NCTA is hopeful he will do the same here. Stehlík also completed presidency of the Kansas Sheep Association and a second term as president of the UNSTA-NCTA Alumni Association. Welcome back to campus, Dan!



Dan Stehlík joins NTCA faculty

Alumnae restore IFYE in Nebraska

The year before she graduated from UNSTA in 1979 in Ag Land & Water, Boni Perks Edwards of North Platte was an exchange student to the United Kingdom. International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) has been re-activated in Nebraska. IFYE is seeking participants ages 19 and older for travel abroad programs in agriculture, as well as host families here in the U.S. The National IFYE Association offers scholarships for up to 75% of the cost, with additional sponsorship by Nebraska IFYE Alumni. For details, contact Boni at Edwards@nque.com or NCTA alumna Mari Roseberry at mariroseberry@hotmail.com. Mari was an exchange student in 1992 to Switzerland, and in 2000 to Australia. She lives at Dunning.

Return to ranch, banking

Former Alumni Association Treasurer Larry Cooper ('73 PA, AgBusiness) is the newest ag lender at Farmers & Merchants State Bank.

After spending 15 years in the North Platte area in admissions for NCTA and most recently vice president of the Bank of Stapleton, Larry and his family returned to northeast Nebraska. He is also part owner of Cooper Land & Cattle near Orchard.

"It is great being back closer to my family, friends, and my cows. I want agriculture to have a stronger influence on my daughter's childhood, and now our time spent on the family farm and ranch will provide that."

Larry is based at Crofton and has customers at Bloomfield, Hartington, Center, Niobrara, and South Yankton. Contact him at O: 402-373-4321, C: 402-340-5173, or larrycooper@fandmstatebank.com.



Larry Cooper presents an honorary life membership to Dave Smith, adjunct instructor and former division chairman of APS. Dave and his wife, Sharon, attended the 2014 Alumni Banquet in Curtis. Cooper moved to Orchard, Neb., and the Smiths live in Rapid City. (Mary Crawford photo)

Aggie Alumni



UNSTA Class of '75 at the York reunion, from left, Dan Stehlík, Curtis; Barbara and Tom Myers, Broken Bow; Rhonda Jedlicka, Schuyler; Dave Patterson, Broken Bow; Kathy Jennings, Aurora, and Dave May, Bennett. (Mary Crawford photo)



Decade of '60s alumni visiting NCTA on August 1, from left: Richard Goodwin, '65, Arkansas; Ramona Province Montgomery, '68, Las Vegas; Cheryl Schnell Wheeler, '69, Ventura, Calif.; Anne Votaw Fintel, '69, Omaha; and Kim Gardner, '64, Loveland, Colo. (Jennifer McConville photo)

Input for NCTA Reaccreditation

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will host a visit March 28-29, 2016, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. NCTA has been accredited by the Commission since 2003. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments to:

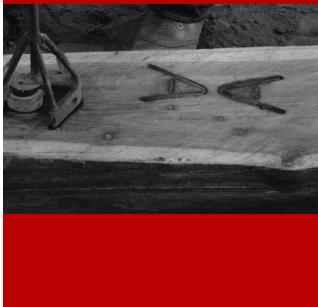
Public Comment on Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web site at www.ncahlc.org. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and must be signed. All comments must be received by February 29, 2016.

Seventh year in 2016 for Alumni Awards

Bench Branding 2014-2016

When the smoke cleared from the LTC Arena in August, 2014, a few livestock brands had been emblazoned atop two wooden benches. "Bring your branding irons on June 11, 2016 to finish the project," says Dan Stehlík, alumni association past president. One bench will be sold during the scholarship auction that Saturday night; a second will be gifted to the LTC or another appropriate campus spot. Get your brand on this duo of prized seats!



Alumni association awards are based on nominations to the board of directors. Consider making a nomination for 2016.

Alumni Achievement – Recognizes exemplary service to NSA, UNSA, UNSTA, or NCTA or to Nebraska agriculture and natural resources, in general. The honoree must have completed a degree here.

Alumni Service – For outstanding service to NSA, UNSA, UNSTA, or NCTA. The recipient need not be a graduate.

Honorary Life Membership – For outstanding service to Nebraska's agriculture or natural resources; recipient is not an alumnus.

Distinguished/Legacy Award – Recognizes personal or professional excellence in advancing the legacy of NSA, UNSA, UNSTA or NCTA, or for demonstrating exemplary commitment, leadership, and participation bringing distinction to themselves, their profession, the technical college, or to the NU system.

All areas do not have to be awarded each year. Nominations can be made by anyone, by providing a description of the nominee's achievements and short summary of service to:

NCTA Alumni President

Mrs. Kim Mortensen

39458 Road 750

Curtis NE 69025

kimmortensen1961@gmail.com

Award recipients:

2010 – Elaine Siminoe, Alumni Service Award; and Dr. Weldon Sleight, Honorary Life

2011 – Richard and Marilyn Shinn, Alumni Service Award; and Dr. George Garlick, Distinguished/Legacy Award

2012 – Community of Curtis, Alumni Service Award

2013 – R.P. Smith, Distinguished/Legacy Award

2014 – Dave Smith, Honorary Life Membership; and posthumously to Mike Stewart, Alumni Achievement, and Dr. Walter Long, Distinguished/Legacy Award

2015 – Jerry Sundquist, Distinguished/Legacy Award; David and Ann Bruntz, Alumni Achievement; and Dr. Martin Massengale, Honorary Life Membership

"Discover Your Way at NCTA"



facebook.com/UniversityOfNebraskaNcta



twitter.com/NCTACurtis



ncta.unl.edu

2015 NCTA Aggie of the Year



UNSTA alumni Dan and Teri Choat, flank their daughter, Evey who was named NCTA Aggie of the Year at awards night in May. The St. Edward family included niece Aidan (front) and sister Delilah (far right). (Photo by Kortney Monheiser, NCTA).

NCTA fever apparently runs in the bloodline of the Dan and Teri Choat family from St. Edward, Nebraska.

Evey, the fifth of six children for the NCTA alumni couple, earned top honors in 2015 being selected as Aggie of the Year, as well as graduating magna

cum laude and was class salutatorian.

Parents Dan ('81 AP and '83 Ag-Mech) and Teri ('83 VT) operate their diversified crops and livestock family farm in Boone County.

Evey was an animal science major who excelled in ag education, Heifer

Link, livestock judging, horticulture team, Safari Club, Women in Agriculture and was a residence advisor. She enters UNL this fall to study agricultural education.

Congratulations, Evey!

Win Husker football tickets

Calling all alumni and association members with e-mail addresses! Help us improve our electronic communications (and more frequent updates) by sending an e-mail to:

NSA-UNSA-UNSTA-NCTA Alumni Association

Secretary Catherine Hauptman
chaupertman4@unl.edu

Your e-mail address will be verified and entered in a drawing for a pair of Husker football tickets to the Oct. 24 home game with Northwestern, courtesy of Ann Bruntz and the University Foundation.

Second prize in the drawing is a customized, engraved brick for the campus courtyard project, to be installed by 2017. The bricks are valued at \$100 and will be assembled on the east side of Ag Hall, our oldest building on campus.

The Alumni board would like to communicate with you more often. However, newsletter printing and mailing gets expensive. Currently, we mail you a newsletter once per

year. Even that is costly for the association's small budget. An improved e-mail membership database will enable the alumni association and Dean's Office to provide you with quarterly updates to all alumni with current memberships. Plus, we want to stay in touch about campus events and alumni activities such as the next reunion on June 11, 2016.

E-mail Catherine Hauptman by September 14 to be eligible for the drawing. Winners will be notified -- by e-mail, of course!

For those without e-mail and who want to ensure they receive the mailings, please send us any update of your mailing address as well. Or, if you have not paid your annual alumni association dues, those are \$15 per year and should be sent to:

NCTA Alumni Treasurer
Taylor Rossenbach
39629 Road 746
Curtis, NE 69025



2015 Dean's Newsletter

Editor: Mary Crawford
Design: Eric Reed
Send address changes,
story tips and photos to:
mcrawford@unl.edu
(308) 367-5231
~ Thank you! ~

The University of Nebraska is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.

Parents Association Honors Four Staff

Four NCTA staff members were recognized in January for the positive impact they have had on the lives of NCTA students.

Catherine Hauptman of the NCTA Dean's Office, Glenn Jackson, DVM, PhD, of the Veterinary Technology Systems division; Kevin Martin, student services, and Douglas Smith, PhD, animal science and agricultural education division chair, each received the UNL Parents Recognition Award. Hauptman is a 2003 Vet Tech graduate.

NCTA Dean Ron Rosati said the UNL Parents Association annually asks parents of students to nominate members of the University who have "made a significant difference" in their son's or daughter's life.



Dr. Glenn Jackson, Kevin Martin, Catherine Hauptman ('03 Vet Tech), and Dr. Doug Smith.

"We pride ourselves in outstanding student/faculty relationships amid the academic endeavors here at NCTA," noted Rosati, "so it is especially nice for our staff's contributions to be noted by the parents group."