

# Dean's Newsletter 2016

## Dean's Note from Ron Rosati

Spring greetings from campus! Students have been enjoying the excellent weather in late March. Students in agricultural mechanics have prepared the planter and tractor for planting season. Irrigation technicians have been busy building a center pivot irrigation system inside one of the bays of the ag mechanics building. Thanks to Reinke for this teaching tool. Our animal science students have been taking their turns at shift rotation on calf watch. Joanna Hergenreder and equine students left the indoor arena and are enjoying riding outside in Aggieland. At Veterinary Technology, Dr. Ricky Barnes and students are busy with surgeries each Tuesday and Thursday morning.

As I look out my office window at Ag Hall on these nice, spring days I see games of football or students exercising their stock dogs. Across the street, on the front porch of the "rodeo house", I see groups of students practicing their roping skills or just visiting with friends. Occasionally, three or four riders on horseback ride down 7th Street. I imagine many alumni have experienced these same scenes when living in Curtis.



These are a few of the many new college developments this past year:

- New certificate programs were offered in Agricultural Chemical Applications, Agricultural Welding, Laboratory Animal Care, and Equine Training Management.
- The Aspen Institute recognized NCTA among the top 15% of two-year colleges in the United States.
- Our annual state appropriation was increased by 19%!
- Enrollment of full-time, on-campus students increased 4.8%.
- We prepared for reaffirmation of accreditation by The Higher Learning Commission after the team visit in March.
- In November, we celebrated 50 years as a technical agriculture college.

All of these wonderful things have been happening because of the skill and dedication of our faculty, staff and students. You have much to be proud of from your alma mater! Let us know if there's anything we can do to help you in your business endeavors. I look forward to seeing you at alumni events in June!

## Delegation from Panama visits NCTA

NCTA hosted a Panamanian study group March 10-12 to the NCTA campus, for a tour of the John and Barb Scharf farm near Curtis, and to research facilities of the West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte.

Presidential advisors for agriculture, education and industry competitiveness represented President Juan Carlos Varela in exploring NCTA's teaching programs and curriculum for technical agriculture.

Leading the delegation was Dr. Miguel Angel Esbri, executive secretary for competitiveness and logistics in the President's cabinet.

NCTA is communicating further with Dr. Esbri and Dr. Dario Solis, Office of the Vice President for Research at Texas Tech University, who is providing consulting input to his native Panama. Within the next few years, Panama intends to design, build and fully implement educational programs for a new technical college for agriculture and ranching.

Dean Rosati and NCTA faculty and staff detailed information on livestock and crops production, animal health, and ag mechanics, the three primary areas of interest for Panamanian technical

training and workforce development. We look forward to building a partnership with our new Panamanian friends.



Guests from Panama viewed Friday evening activities by the Aggie Rodeo Team at the Livestock Teaching Center. NCTA Assistant Dean Jennifer McConville (front, left), Rodeo Coach Bridger Chykta (wearing hat, back row), and Dean Ron Rosati (second to right, back row) welcomed the visitors during a session on roping. (T. Smith/NCTA photo)

# 50th Anniversary and Alumni Updates



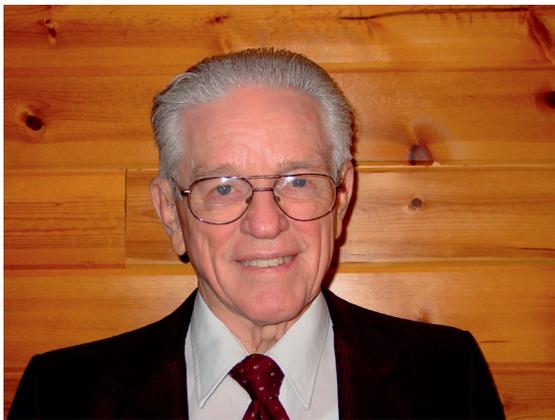
David and Ann Bruntz visit with Jan Price and Dean Rosati

**Joan and Steve Ruskamp** of Dodge sent us their smiles for the 50th anniversary. Joan Wieczorek graduated VT '80 and Steve was PA '76.

**Imogene Vicki Olsen** and **Bud Phelps** have organized Class of '49 for a Friday evening gathering. They last met in Curtis in 2009 for the Class 60th reunion.

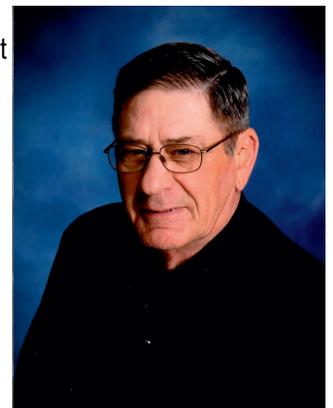


**Ann Ramm Bruntz** (VT, '71) retired April 1 from the University of Nebraska Foundation where she was senior development director for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), including NCTA. She and David attended the 50th anniversary celebration of UNSTA-NCTA in November where Ann was recognized with a bouquet, gift and special cake at the reception.



**Dean Burton**, UNSA 1947, sent an e-mail for the history booklet. He lives in Branson, Missouri and sends greetings to his classmates!

Retiring from the Nebraska Department of Roads and residing in Lawrence is **Lyle Kohmetscher** (Survey '68).



**Buzz and Mary Cole** of Curtis at the NCTA Welcome Center for the 50th anniversary with Arlan and Jerry Huntwork, and Andy Knepp.

## Graduation is May 5



The Class of 2016 will be honored with graduation activities May 4-5. A picnic is May 4 at "The Barn" from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with awards presented at 7 p.m. at the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center.

Graduation is May 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the Curtis Memorial Community Center. University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds will attend. Join us for the reception afterward.



# Alumni President Message

It's been a mild winter here in the Curtis area, but you know how it is on the farm and ranch. The lack of moisture will eventually catch up with us. I'm confident that April will bring some form of wet and if it is snow, common sense tells us it won't stick around for long.

I've had the opportunity to take part in a number of activities at NCTA this past few months and it's exciting to be involved again. In November, it was especially rewarding to help with the 50-year celebration of the college. Dr. Rosati welcomed past and present dignitaries to the event including Dr. Ron Yoder, associate vice chancellor of IANR; Stan Matzke, UNSTA Superintendent 1965-1968; Elaine Siminoe, widow of Bill Siminoe, UNSTA Dean 1968-1995; Jerry Sundquist who wore many hats at UNSTA and NCTA from 1978-2006; and Dr. Weldon Sleight, NCTA Dean 2006-2012. This group of men, their spouses and families, have contributed tremendously to the legacy of technical agriculture in Nebraska. They shared their knowledge, passion and talents with countless students throughout the decades to propel this great campus forward in our ever-changing agricultural arena.



The future is even brighter for NCTA with a 19 percent increase in state funding for the 2016/2017 biennium. This funding supports growth for NCTA and shows strong commitments for advancing agricultural students who attend our college. The budget increase supports NCTA faculty, in particular, and strengthens academic programs in veterinary technology and meat science, as well as improvements to teaching resources, facilities, farm and lab equipment. In general, we are keeping NCTA competitive in post-secondary education choices for agricultural students.

Your alumni association board has been busy coordinating the June 11th Annual Reunion and Banquet at Curtis. Activities include guided campus tours, student recruitment tips for alumni, trap shooting, golf tournament, social time, silent auction and a prime rib supper with entertainment by Dave Thorell, KRVN "personality." Please mark your calendar, round up members from your class and join us!

Kim Bowers Mortensen  
Vet Tech '83

## Broadcaster is banquet emcee



Dave Thorell

Dave Thorell, KRVN radio announcer, will bring wit and inspirational tales to the 2016 NCTA Alumni Reunion on June 11.

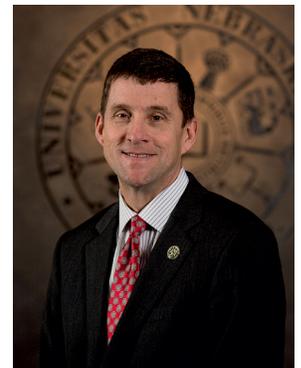
He is a 1967 graduate of Loomis High School and 1972 graduate of Kearney State College (now UNK) where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in speech communication.

He got his start on the air in 1969 at KUVR in Holdrege before moving to KRVN in September of 1974. He has been a longtime friend and trusted source of news, entertainment and information for ranchers and farmers across Nebraska and beyond.

Dave will be inducted into the Nebraska Broadcasters "Hall of Fame" on August 16th in Lincoln. He and his wife Patti, who retired from KRVN after 36 years, are the parents of a son, Matthew.

## NCTA to Investiture

Dr. Hank Bounds, the seventh president of the University of Nebraska, will be formally inducted in an Investiture ceremony on Friday, April 15 in Lincoln and NCTA will be there. A charter bus will transport students, faculty and staff to the 10 a.m. ceremony at Kimball Recital Hall. Congratulations and Happy 1st Year Anniversary to our President!



**"Discover Your Way at NCTA"**  
**[ncta.unl.edu](http://ncta.unl.edu)**

## Campus leaders

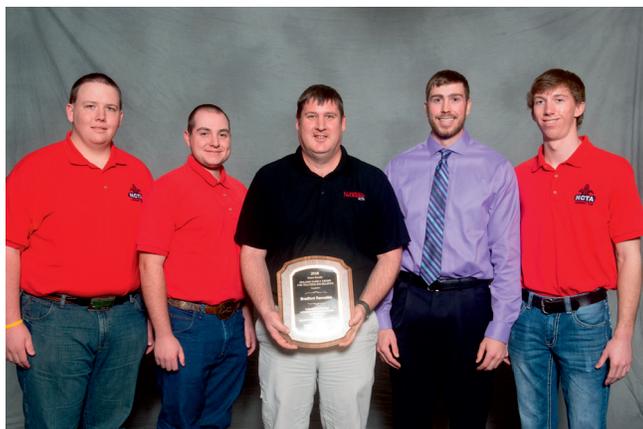


Alumni Association board members, from left, Dave Mehaffey, Bellwood, and Ann Bruntz, Friend. Second row, Catherine Hauptman, Curtis, Gene Heller, David City, Boni Edwards, North Platte, and David Bruntz, Friend. Third row, Dan Stehlik, Taylor Rossenbach, Kim Mortensen and Jerry Sundquist, all of Curtis. (Crawford/NCTA)



UNSTA-NCTA leaders at the 50th anniversary, from left, front row, Dorothy Matzke, Jerry and Arlan Huntwork, Pauline and Weldon Sleight, and Ron Rosati. Back row, from left, Stan Matzke, Cindy Siminoe Lauby, Elaine Siminoe, and Jerry and LaDonna Sundquist. (Crawford/NCTA)

## Agronomy prof wins teaching award



Crops judging team members with Ramsdale are, from left, Aaron Jensen, Goehner; Dalton Johnson, Gering; Ross Steward, Littleton, Colo.; and Nolan Breece, Holdrege. (Greg Nathan/ UNL photo)

When Brad Ramsdale went to Lincoln for a recognition event in February it was only appropriate that several crops judging students made the trip too.

Ramsdale, associate professor of agronomy, was awarded the Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

“Dr. Ramsdale is an outstanding faculty member - well deserving of the recognition bestowed upon him by receiving a Holling Family Award,” said NCTA Dean Ron Rosati.

“His students benefit from the high degree of creativity and intelligence he displays in the classroom. Brad is especially skilled at taking complex research findings and showing the students how they apply in practical, field applications.”

Ramsdale arrived at NCTA in 2007 and started the collegiate crops judging team in 2010. Students have steadily progressed in contest rankings in six years.

Nolan Breece, Dalton Johnson, Aaron Jensen and Ross Steward attended the awards ceremony with their mentor.

“I was honored to introduce Dr. Ramsdale for this award. I have had many valuable experiences through crops judging, Farm Bureau club, and classes that were made possible by Dr. Ramsdale,” Steward said.

“His recognition for teaching excellence reflects his dedication to the students at NCTA and has made an impact on me and other students,” Steward added. “He is helping to lay the foundation for the next generation in agriculture.”

Ramsdale founded the NCTA Honors Program, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and now coordinates NCTA's academic assessment and reporting. He also supervises agricultural mechanics and irrigation technology programs.

He is the eighth NCTA faculty to receive the award with Senior Faculty, Judy Bowmaster-Cole, 2005; Del VanDerWerff, 2003; Jerry Sundquist, 2000; and Jo Bek, 1999; Junior Faculty, Cory Reng, 2009; Clyde Cranwell, 2005; and James Kennedy, 1999.

# ***NCTA adds welding certificate; Learn program updates on June 11th***



From left, Madison St. John, Hastings, and Alaina Kauffman, Gretna, practice braising skills in Welding I last fall. (Crawford/NCTA photo)

curriculum, NCTA's welding program could soon meet standards for certification by the American Welding Society (AWS).

Hear more details at the June 11th alumni reunion. Better yet, come to campus and see first-hand the exciting growth of the Agricultural Mechanics programs.

State and industry certifications for students in Dan Stehlik's welding programs are gaining traction.

NCTA was approved for an undergraduate certificate in agricultural welding. With 16 credit hours, students are workforce-ready or they can progress into the Agriculture Equipment Management option of an Associate of Applied Science degree.

Stehlik, an UNSTA alumnus who taught high school and community college welding and agricultural education courses in Kansas and earlier in Nebraska, joined NCTA faculty in August, 2015. He also teaches the electricity courses required for the Irrigation Technician's program.

Welding is popular with many students in Agricultural Education, Diversified Agriculture and other programs. Eventually, more continuing education for FFA instructors can occur each summer.

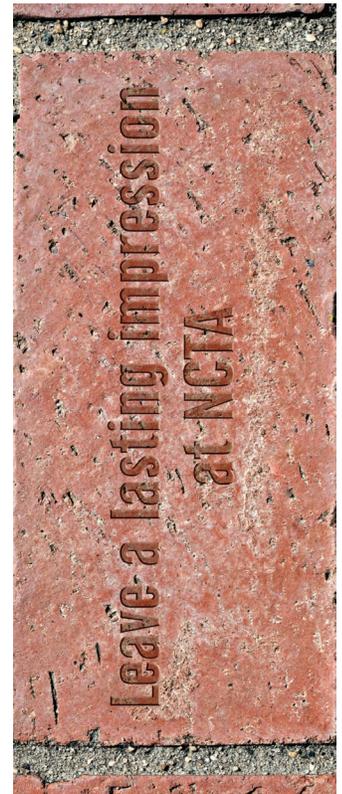
If successful in program expansion with commercial equipment and slight changes to existing

## ***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 spring.

Customize a brick for \$100 in Phase II. Request your order form from Catherine Hauptman at [chauptman4@unl.edu](mailto:chauptman4@unl.edu) or 308-367-5200.

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!



**Stan and Dorothy Matzke  
Lincoln, NE  
First College Superintendent  
UNSTA 1965-1968**

### ***Legacy Wall Tile***

Check out the Legacy Wall in NCTA's new education center. Consider contributing to help support the best learning environment possible. A 12" x 12" glass tile can include your logo or photo for a \$1,000 contribution. Thanks for your generosity!

# Sixth year in 2016 for Alumni Awards

## Auction

Bring donations for items to the silent and live auctions!

Register to: Ann\_Bruntz@hotmail.com

All proceeds go the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Taylor Rossenbach, treasurer.

## Scholarship

Alumni Scholarships due May 1 Alumni who have a son or daughter attending NCTA for 2016-2017 should encourage them to apply. Two \$250 scholarships.

Parents must be UNSTA/NCTA alumni. Call (308) 367-5200, or e-mail chauptman4@unl.edu for details.

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 by May 1, 2016 to:

Dan Stehlik, Chairman  
Alumni Association Awards  
404 East 4th Street  
Curtis, NE 69025  
dstehlik2@unl.edu

### **Award recipients:**

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

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

## Aspen Prize Program

The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis was named as a Top 150 two-year institution by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.

"NCTA is proud to be selected for this prestigious honor which recognizes the college's statewide mission with the University of Nebraska system for an affordable, quality education," said Ron Rosati, NCTA dean. "We educate skilled, career-ready graduates in agriculture."

The nomination enabled NCTA to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. High achievement and performance criteria in four areas are evaluated: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

NCTA has a strong record of facilitating student success. The graduation rate is 46 percent, and the retention rate is 66 percent, both well above the state average for two-year institutions and community colleges, Rosati said.



# 2016 Alumni Weekend

## Aggie Alumni Weekend 2016

### Friday June 10:

7 pm: Alumni Board meeting  
Farnam, Neb.

### Saturday June 11:

8 am – 5 pm: Aggie Alumni Golf Tournament  
Arrowhead Meadows Golf Course

10 am: Recruiting Tips for Alumni  
Ed Center classroom 131

11 am: Campus tours, meet at Ed Center

11:30 am - 1:30 pm: Lunch – NCTA Cafeteria

1 pm: Campus tours, meet at Ed Center

1-4 pm: Trap shoot  
Curtis Shooting Range

5-7 pm: Social Hour/Silent Auction  
Curtis Memorial Community Center

7-9 pm: Prime Rib Banquet  
Curtis Memorial Community Center  
\*Dave Thorrell as banquet emcee/entertainment\*

### Sunday June 12:

8-10 am: Breakfast – Aggie Dining Cafeteria

### **Contacts**

#### Golfing:

Jerry Sundquist (308) 367-7461  
[gsund@hotmail.com](mailto:gsund@hotmail.com)

Dave May (402) 432-2000  
[dave.may@bryanhealth.org](mailto:dave.may@bryanhealth.org)

#### Trap Shoot:

Alan Taylor (308) 366-8662

\*Please bring a silent auction item to the banquet for donation. Proceeds go to our Alumni Association and Student Scholarships. Thank you\*

## Registration form for 2016 Alumni Weekend

Please fully complete this form, and return with a check payable to: *Aggie Alumni Association* by May 27  
Mail to: Aggie Alumni Association, c/o Catherine Hauptman, 404 East 7<sup>th</sup> St., Curtis, NE 69025  
Questions? 308-367-5200 or [chauptman4@unl.edu](mailto:chauptman4@unl.edu)

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

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Alumni Membership Fee per Alumnus

\$15 \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Already a lifetime member: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Saturday, June 11**

Lunch: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$7/person

Prime Rib Banquet: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$35/person

### **Sunday, June 12**

Breakfast: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$7/person

Meals Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Accommodations**

Valley View Inn (308)367-4580

[www.curtisvalleyviewinn.com](http://www.curtisvalleyviewinn.com)

NCTA dorms (308)367-5247 / (308)367-5200

Bring your own sheets, pillows, towels, and toiletries for the dorm rooms. (2 per room)

*(Tear off right half and send in with your payment)*

**2016 Spring Newsletter**  
**Editor: Mary Crawford**  
**Design: Eric Reed**  
Send address changes,  
story tips and photos to  
[mcrawford@unl.edu](mailto:mcrawford@unl.edu)  
(308) 367-5231  
~ Thank you! ~

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## *Parents salute six NCTA faculty*

Parents taking note of the influence and guidance provided to their sons and daughters while away at college have recognized six NCTA faculty.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Parent Association awarded certificates of merit in a February ceremony to Jo Bek, Tee Bush, Judy Bowmaster-Cole, Joanna Hergenreder, Brad Ramsdale, and Mary Rittenhouse.

"These deserving individuals were recognized for the positive impact they make each day in the lives of NCTA students," said NCTA Dean Ron Rosati. "The caring, compassion and educational leadership consistently demonstrated by NCTA faculty has not gone unnoticed by students and their families."

NCTA's 2016 recipients are:

- Jo Bek, Curtis, professor, animal science, 37 years, 7 months
- Tee Bush, Curtis, assistant professor, mathematics/horticulture, 5 years, 8 months
- Judy Bowmaster-Cole, Curtis, assistant professor, veterinary technology, 23 years, 8 months
- Joanna Hergenreder, Curtis, assistant professor, animal science and Ranch Horse Team coach, 3 years, 9 months
- Dr. Brad Ramsdale, Farnam, associate professor, agronomy division chair, 8 years, 7 months
- Mary Rittenhouse, Curtis, assistant professor, agribusiness management systems chair, 10 months (previously at UNK)

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



NCTA Honorees with Dean Rosati: From left, Jo Bek, Tee Bush, Mary Rittenhouse, Rosati, Judy Bowmaster-Cole, Dr. Brad Ramsdale and Joanna Hergenreder. (Hauptman/NCTA)