

Spring 2017



# Growing

A HEALTHY FUTURE



Cornstock pg8



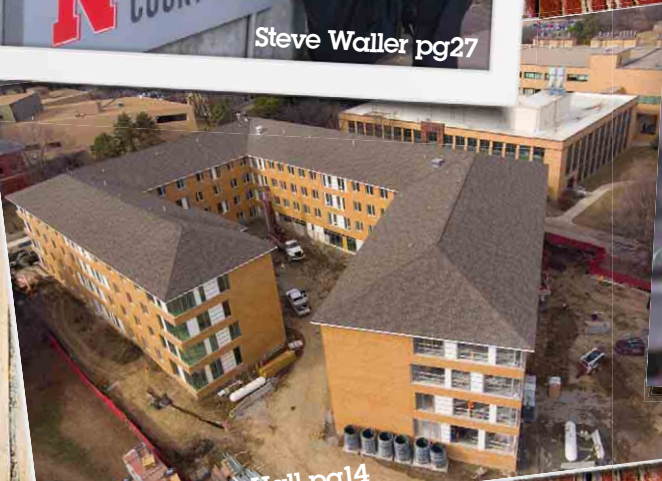
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FOOD ■ FUEL ■ WATER ■ LANDSCAPES ■ PEOPLE

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES | UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN







## THE GOOD LIFE



**Michael J. Boehm**

**Go Big Red!** I am excited to call Nebraska home. Since joining the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) on January 1, I've had the opportunity to log thousands of miles touring the great state of Nebraska. I have enjoyed meeting many wonderful individuals and seeing all that Nebraska has to offer. The blue

sky in Nebraska is simply amazing, and the Sandhills are breathtakingly beautiful. Pictures really don't do Nebraska justice, until you can see and experience it firsthand.

Prior to coming to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I was a professor of plant pathology and vice provost at Ohio State. I also had the honor of serving in the military for 20 years. While I may be a plant pathologist by training, I'm really a student of all subjects.

My natural curiosity spurs my love of the land-grant system. Our land-grant mission is exciting because we have the opportunity to put discoveries and intellectual capacity to use on major challenges facing society. It's our responsibility to not only think about local challenges, but also what's facing our region, nation and globe. We must think globally and act locally.

The real fun of working in academics is bringing a team together to drive a mission forward. Working with producers, companies, government officials and other stakeholders is critical to IANR's success.

This spring, we had the opportunity to create a gentle collision of minds and purposes at a science summit. It was a wonderful opportunity for integrated collaboration amongst our faculty members and was a great lead-in to a much larger event we have planned for this coming fall where we hope to bring together our faculty, staff, students, alumni, organizations and industries.

We also hope to see many of you at the Burr/Fedde and Friends reunion this June. We are elated to open the new East Campus Residence Hall this fall and can't wait for you to see it. The reunion will be a time of much reminiscing and celebrating how campus has evolved to better serve our students.

I want to close with a special shout-out to Steve Waller, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, as he transitions from his current leadership role. When I was applying for this position, Steve reached out early on to tell me that the excitement on campus is real. It only takes a person a few seconds of visiting with him to realize why that excitement exists. We owe Steve our thanks and appreciation for the countless lives he has positively impacted during his years at the university.

Nebraska is a great living, learning laboratory and I can't wait to see it all! Given our location in the center of the country, we are perfectly positioned to be a global leader in higher education. We have outstanding students, talented faculty and staff, and amazing supporters.

I'm truly honored to serve as your Vice Chancellor and Vice President. My wife Connie and I look forward to seeing you down the road soon!



**Michael J. Boehm, Ph.D.**

*Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska*

*IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor,  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*



**4-12**  
**Burr & Fedde Halls**



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**GROWING**  
**A HEALTHY FUTURE**

Spring 2017

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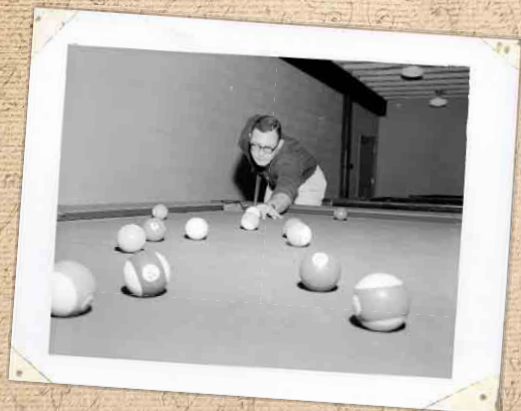
# Honoring the past, celebrating the future

By: Haley Steinkuhler



The year was 1957. Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House, Elvis Presley was on the big screen in Jailhouse Rock and you could get a gallon of gas for less than a quarter.

At that time, Carolyn Hall of Bassett, Nebraska, was studying animal science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She lived in apartments south of Holdrege Street while she anxiously awaited two new on-campus residence halls to be constructed on East Campus. That fall, Carolyn became one of the first residents of Fedde Hall.







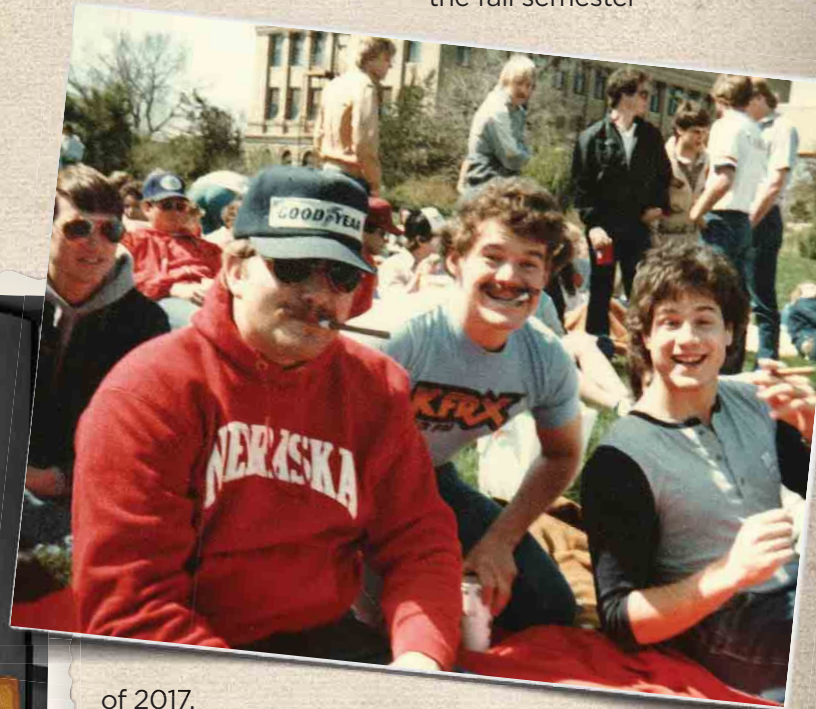
"It was like driving a brand new car," Hall said of the new living space. "It was mighty nice to live right on campus and be so close to everywhere you needed to go."

One of the most memorable tales from her time in Fedde is from a day she was trying to study in the basement. When she heard what sounded like an animal squealing, she raced

around the building to find a group of fraternity brothers trying to sneak pigs into the Fedde laundry room.

"I have so many fun memories from Fedde Hall," she laughed.

Fast-forward nearly 60 years, and while the world has completely changed, Burr and Fedde Halls are still at the heart of East Campus and home to many university students. A new residence hall is scheduled to open on East Campus for the fall semester



of 2017, bringing an end to the reign of the iconic Burr and Fedde Halls.

To celebrate the new hall, and relive the many memories of Burr and Fedde, a special event is planned. Attendees at the Burr/Fedde & Friends Reunion on June 10, 2017, will get to experience Burr and Fedde Halls one last time, get a sneak peek of the new residence hall and connect with friends.

"It's a special time on East Campus," said Steve Waller, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. "We wanted to plan a reunion to celebrate the community of people who have helped us get to this point; those who have passed through Burr and Fedde, and those who will pass through the new hall."

The new hall sits on the site of the former Biochemistry Hall, immediately north of C.Y. Thompson Library and east of the Nebraska East Union. The 370-bed hall will feature a mix of traditional and apartment-style units, and will house both freshmen and upper-class students. While the new, modern amenities of the hall are a draw for potential residents, it's the community-like atmosphere that university administrators are hoping to replicate from Burr and Fedde.





"If there has ever been an under the radar cocurricular activity that has complemented and enhanced the educational experience, it has been what's happened in Burr and Fedde Halls," said Waller.

For several residents, their experience at Burr and Fedde did much more than shape just their education. Anita Sandahl lived in Room 221 of Burr Hall from 1979 to 1983. On one of her first days living in the hall she met Kerry Keys, a young man living in Room 205. A few years later she and Kerry were married, and in 2010 they moved their daughter into Room 236 of that very same hall.



Natalie Jones

"I lived there for four years so I got to know everything about the building and the people who lived there," said Keyes, who today lives south of Valentine. "It was so much fun to relive some of those memories when our daughter Amanda lived there."

Current Burr Hall resident, Natalie Jones, a freshman Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Communication major from Stapleton, also has connections to the hall. Several of her relatives were Burr Hall residents, which is what pushed her to make Burr her home.

"I really wanted to keep the family tradition alive by living in Burr, and I'm glad I did. There's such a fun atmosphere in the hall and we're a close-knit community."

**For more information about the reunion or to register, visit [go.unl.edu/bffunl](http://go.unl.edu/bffunl).**

## Burr/Fedde Alums – Where are they now?

### Jean Rhodes

Ag Honors – Agricultural Education '82, Law '82  
Fedde Resident: 1975-1982

Jean Rhodes has called two places "home" in her lifetime; Bridgeport, Neb. and Fedde Hall. During her seven years at the university, Rhodes lived in Fedde Hall the entire time, studying ag education then law. After earning a law degree, she returned to the family farm in Bridgeport.

She still maintains that land today while also practicing law.

A self-described prankster, Rhodes will never forget the night she and her roommate tried to catch the masterminds behind Fedde Hall's infamous "Thorny."

### The Legend of Thorny

Thorny may go down as one of the most famous traditions in Fedde Hall. It is a mysterious tale that spanned several decades.

Early in the fall semester residents would awake to discover messages on the bathroom mirrors and notes suspended in the hallways warning, "Beware of Thorny" and "Thorny's Coming!" It soon became the talk of Fedde Hall, yet none of the residents would admit to having knowledge of who Thorny was.

So who was this infamous Thorny? You'll have to ask a Fedde Hall resident to find out!



Jean Rhodes



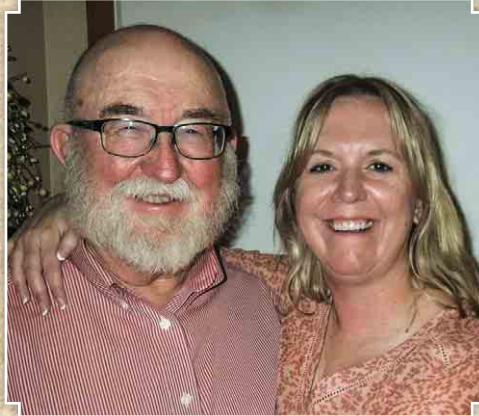


# The Bjorklunds

**Walter Bjorklund**  
**Ag Honors -**  
**Range Management '64**  
**Burr Resident: 1960-1962**

**Natalia Bjorklund**  
**Horticulture '02**  
**Burr Resident: 1997-1999**

**B**urr Hall runs in the family for the Bjorklunds. Walter Bjorklund, a native of Greeley, Neb., was a resident in the early 1960s while a part of the ag honors program, and nearly 40 years later his daughter Natalia moved into the same hall, where she began her pursuit of a horticulture degree. Their East Campus connection has sparked several moments of reminiscing



between the father and daughter.

“While I was waiting for class one day as a freshman, I was in the animal science building looking at old pictures of the livestock teams, and I saw my dad’s name — I didn’t even know he was on the team,” laughed Natalia, now a horticulture

educator with Nebraska Extension. “It was hilarious. And just what a homesick freshman needed.”





# Doug Swanson

**Agricultural  
Journalism '91**

**Burr Resident:  
1987-1989**

**D**oug Swanson's life today is much different from his childhood. He was raised on a small farm in northeast Nebraska and now he lives in an urban neighborhood of Arlington, Virginia, and rides the train to Washington, D.C., each day, where he works as national program leader at the 4-H National Headquarters within the United States Department of Agriculture. He's also pursuing a doctorate in human and organizational learning.

"I was pleasantly surprised in my doctoral courses at George Washington University that there were several researchers and professors from UNL who were referred to in our program," Swanson said. "Very nice to see the caliber of academic work that comes from my alma mater."



**"VERY NICE TO SEE THE CALIBER OF ACADEMIC WORK THAT COMES FROM MY ALMA MATER."**

**- DOUG SWANSON**



Swanson earned a degree in agricultural journalism from the university in 1991. He, along with several of his Burr Hall friends, was very active in the collegiate 4-H club and

did many service projects on campus and in Lincoln.

"Several of my best friends today were people I met in Burr Hall. I fondly remember going to the East Campus cafeteria early for dinner and then going back to the dorm to watch many repeats of M\*A\*S\*H\* before whatever we did for the evening."

*It's hard to beat a Burr Hall Girl (Song)*



"Oh when a Burr Hall girl walks down the street ...

She looks a hundred per from head to feet ...

She has a winning smile, a winning way, and when you look at her you'll recognize her and you'll say ...

Now there's a girl I'd like to know ...

She has that Burr Hall spirit, pep and go ...

Just look at her she's kind of sweet ...

It's hard to beat a Burr Hall girl"

# CORNSTOCK

**F**irst held in the early 1970s, Cornstock was a music and dance festival held each fall on East Campus. The sounds of country music would carry across campus to the delight of thousands of students and alumni in attendance. The event was held annually until the early 1990s.





# Kathleen Lodl

Family and Consumer  
Science Education '85

Fedde Resident: 1981-1985

**K**athleen Lodl has been on East Campus since the fall of 1981. She holds three degrees from the university and is currently associate dean of Nebraska Extension and Nebraska 4-H program administrator.



*"I came to campus and never left!"*



# Jennifer Schoen

Agricultural Education '11

Burr Resident: 2007-2008

**J**ennifer Schoen's first memory of Burr Hall came at a young age. She remembers her father driving their family through campus and telling tales of his time at the university. When the time came for Schoen to head to college, she only had one residence hall in mind. Still, the Oxford, Neb. native was nervous about moving to a new environment.



"The nerves wore off pretty quickly thanks to my first night in Burr Hall. We lined the hall of B3E in our pajamas, passing junk food around, dishing on the good looking boys on the other side of the building and quickly bonding as a family," Schoen recalls. "We did everything together that first year. Nearly 10 years later, we still get together a few times a year and even have our own Snapchat group. I thank God and Burr Hall for giving me my favorite memories and my closest friends."

Schoen earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education in 2011. Today she is a 4-H Youth Development educator with Nebraska Extension, serving Garfield, Loup and Wheeler counties.





# Phil Erdman

Agricultural Education '00

Burr Resident: 1996-2000



After a two-term stint in the Nebraska Legislature then nearly six years working alongside U.S. Senator Mike Johanns, today Erdman is the vice president of membership for the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation.

“My favorite memory of living in Burr Hall was the 1998 Bull Fry when we raised money for the Adrian Regier family.”

# Zach Hunnicutt



Agricultural Economics '04

Burr Resident: 2000-2003

“The community in Burr Hall was wonderful to be a part of,” recalled Zach Hunnicutt. “Whether it was playing cards all night, having Bible studies, or road tripping to Husker games, there were always plenty of people to hang out with.”

Hunnicutt came to the university in 2000 from Giltner, Neb., to study ag economics with a minor in agricultural leadership, education and communication. Today he's back on the family farm working with his family raising corn, soybeans, popcorn and seed corn.

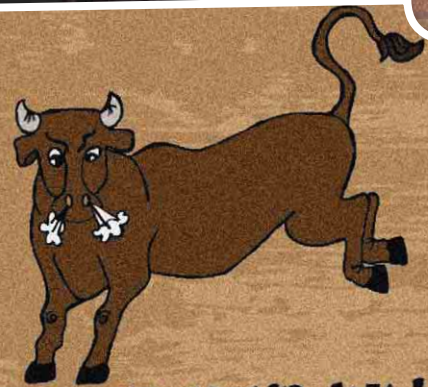
## BURR/FEDDE/ LOVE BULL FRY

The annual philanthropic event on East Campus was started by residents as a way to help those in need, while having a bit of fun at the same time. It features entertainment, games and of course, Rocky Mountain Oysters, or bull testicles.

While the menu surprises some, it hasn't stopped them from coming out and supporting a great cause. Since it began in 1996, the Bull/Fedde/Love Bull Fry has raised over \$100,000 for families in need.

Before each Bull Fry, the Burr/Fedde/Love student senate reviews nominations submitted anonymously by residents, and selects one family to receive the funds raised from that year's event. The chosen family is typically in need of financial assistance due to an unfortunate circumstance. Prior Bull Fry recipient families have been affected by serious medical conditions and natural disasters.

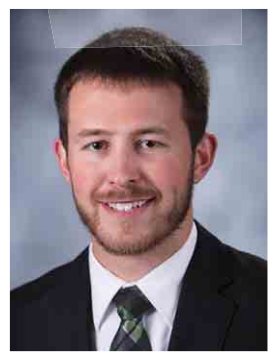
In addition to food, the first Bull Fry featured potato sack races, a sand volleyball tournament and roping contest. Over the years the event has expanded to include inflatable games, a dunk tank, bowling tournament and a chili feed. Rocky Mountain Oysters remain the staple of the Bull Fry, but hot dogs and hamburgers are always on the grill to please all taste buds.



STEER YOUR WAY  
TO THE  
★ BULL FRY ★



# Boone McAfee



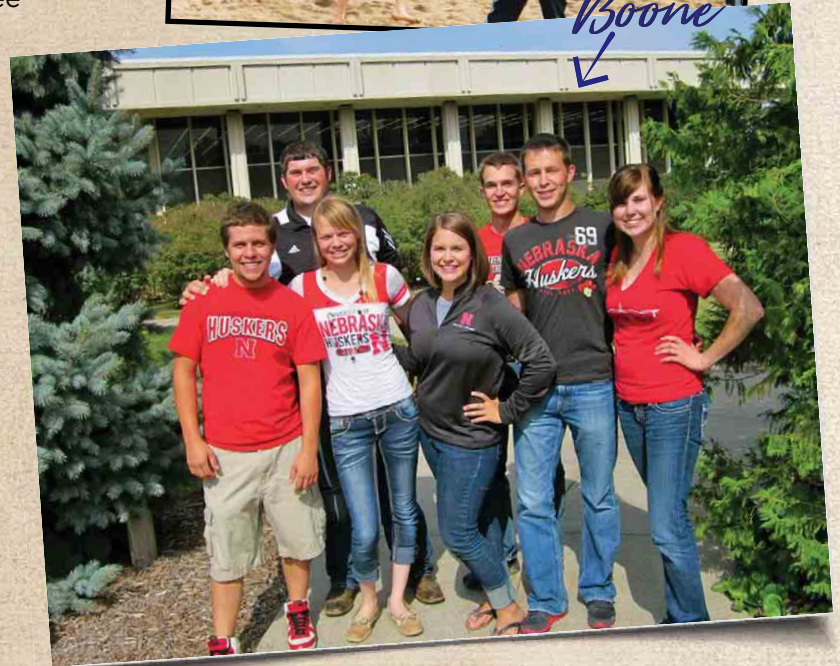
**Agricultural Economics '13**  
**Burr Resident: 2009-2013**

**W**ho needs sleep in college? Boone McAfee did not!

"All of my best memories from Burr Hall were spending time with friends and

playing sand volleyball for hours, the Bull Fry, making late night grilled cheese in the dorm and hanging out in the hall at all hours of the night."

McAfee, a native of Leigh, Neb., lived in Burr Hall for four years while earning his degree in agricultural economics. McAfee is currently the director of research for the Nebraska Corn Board.



# Val Kesterson

**Agricultural Journalism '15**  
**Burr Resident: 2011-2012**  
**Fedde Resident: 2012-2014**

**V**al Kesterson lives in Minneapolis working as an assistant account executive for Broadhead — an

advertising agency that is focused on connecting the interests of urban and rural. It's a mission that she believes in because she has lived in both places.

In 2011 Kesterson moved from Bridgeport, Neb., population 1,500, to Lincoln to study agricultural journalism. It was the nice residents and tight-knit community she found on East Campus that made the transition easier.



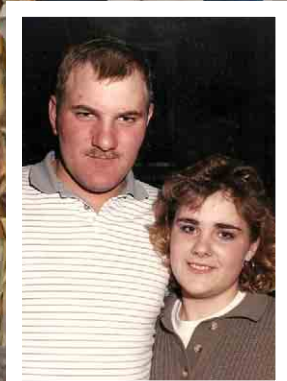
Pictured is Val (right), with fellow Burr Hall resident Amanda Keys.

*"The people are what made Burr/Fedde the best place to live on campus!"*  
 - Val Kesterson





By: Haley Steinkuhler



# PALLAS FAMILY TRACES ITS ROOTS TO BURR HALL

**Over the years, a number of traditions have started in Burr and Fedde Halls. From Cornstock and the Bull Frys, to the “Legend of Thorny,” these traditions have created a culture unique to East Campus. Each of these happenings was started by students to bring people together, and that’s exactly what happened for Tim and Colleen Pallas.**

When Colleen (Medinger) moved into Burr Hall as a freshman in the fall of 1986, she wasn’t looking for her future husband. In fact, she’ll even admit to participating in an anti-Valentine’s Day party on campus. The Central City native was focused on earning a degree in agronomy and enjoying life as a college student. That all changed when she attended the roommate dance in November 1987.

The roommate dance was thrown annually by the residents of Burr and Fedde Halls. Each resident

would set their roommate up with a date to the dance. That year Colleen was set up with Tim Pallas, a diversified ag major from Lawrence, and the rest is history.

“We did not know each other before we were set up at that dance so you could say Burr Hall brought us together,” Colleen said.

Today, Tim and Colleen live in Stromsberg, Neb., and have been married for 25 years. Colleen has worked with Nebraska Extension in Polk County for 24 years as an extension associate for 4-H Youth Development. Tim is a sales representative for DuPont Pioneer Hi-Breds.

The couple has three children all with ties to the same university their parents attended. Their son Cale graduated from Nebraska in 2016 with a degree in agronomy. Megan, their middle daughter, is a junior education major, and their youngest daughter, Jenni, plans to attend the university in the fall.

While pursuing an agricultural economics degree, Jenni will live

on East Campus, but it won’t be quite the same experience her parents had. Jenni will be living in the brand new residence hall on East Campus. The new hall will have an estimated 370 beds in a mix of traditional and apartment-style units. It will replace the 300-bed, 1950s-era Burr and Fedde residence halls.

“Getting to live in the new hall is really exciting, but I’m also looking forward to experiencing all that East Campus has to offer,” Jenni said. “My parents have told me that it’s like living in a small town where you know everyone.”

While the living arrangements may look a little different, the Pallases are looking forward to their youngest daughter living on East Campus and getting to experience the community and traditions that they did 30 years ago.

“East Campus is special,” Colleen said. “My husband and I met at Burr Hall and we have so many wonderful memories of our time there. We met some of our best friends on campus.”



# C.Y. Thompson renovation reflects the way students study and learn

By: Linda Ulrich

**The renovation of C.Y. Thompson Library will provide spaces for students to learn collaboratively.**

The C.Y. Thompson Library is being reimaged.

The library, located on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus, has not changed much since it was built in 1966, but the way students study and learn has changed dramatically. Students now are interactive learners who are accustomed to having technology available 24/7, communicating via social media and engaging in collaborative learning.

A proposed renovation of C.Y. Thompson will reflect students' increasing use of digitally accessed research and information and will enhance interdisciplinary connections through spaces where students gather. Plans call for a technologically rich space that will facilitate both individual and group study with virtual access to thousands of e-books, e-journals and academic articles. The printed word, however, will not go away. A "power library" will house a 60,000-volume collection of the most recent, unique and active parts of the print collection. Faculty and staff also will benefit from cutting-edge technologies and instruction resources.

Additionally, the renovated library will provide one central location for many of the student resources of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, including the East Campus Visitors Center, the Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program, the Student Testing Center, Career Services and Education Abroad.

The library's transformation from a traditional environment to a collaborative learning commons is being privately funded, said Josh Egley, University of Nebraska Foundation senior development officer for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. A \$10 million challenge grant requires \$12.5 million to be raised from other sources. Naming opportunities will recognize the generous donors who make the library's transformation possible. In addition to naming the spaces that will be highly frequented by students, donors who make a significant contribution to the C.Y. Thompson renovation initiative will also be recognized on a donor wall located in the west lobby and lounge.

"This is a once-in-a-generation capital improvement that's going to significantly impact the East Campus student experience for many years to come," Egley said.

To learn more and donate, please contact Josh Egley at [josh.egley@unfoundation.org](mailto:josh.egley@unfoundation.org) or 402-458-1202.





By: Linda Ulrich

# NEW RESIDENCE HALL OFFERS STUDENTS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A ROOM

**F**or many college students, a residence hall is their first home away from home. It's not often that they get to live in a brand new space, but students living on East Campus will have an opportunity to do just that beginning this fall.

In the heart of East Campus, the new residence hall will have many amenities that the 1950s-era Burr and Fedde residence halls, the current East Campus housing, don't have, said Steven Jara, East Campus residence director.

The new hall has 240 beds in traditional-style rooms. Upper-class students have the option of living in apartment-style two- and four-bed units that have a total of 134 beds. The first and second floors on the traditional-style side of the building will be "dynamic," meaning a room with two male students might be next to a room with two female students. The remaining floors on the traditional-style side will be separated by gender.

The open layout, more common area spaces, floor lounges and large meeting spaces better fit the



needs of this generation of college students, who often like to study in groups and engage in group activities, Jara said. The courtyard with a fire pit will be the focal point. S'mores anyone?

And, sometimes, small amenities are a big deal, such as much larger windows than those in Burr and Fedde, some of which overlook Maxwell Arboretum; soft water and laundry facilities on all the floors; and an elevator, which makes the building accessible and eliminates the need for students living on the upper floors to schlep their belongings up and down the stairs.

In addition to students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the new residence hall also will be open to all students, including



other East Campus programs such as those in the College of Law, the College of Dentistry and the Barkley Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic. "It will make us more diverse," Jara said.

"I'm excited about the new residence hall, but I'm even more excited for the students and what we'll be able to provide for them," he said.

Jara, who earned his bachelor's and is completing his master's degree

from the university, has been the residence director for 10 years. "I was a first-generation college student, and it's nice to give back to the university that has given so much to me."



Steven Jara, East Campus residence director, visits with Burr Hall students Angelica Carlini, Elizabeth Carreiro, Jacob Frerichs and Dax Fouts.

*"I was a first-generation college student, and it's nice to give back to the university that has given so much to me."*

*- Steven Jara*



# Maxwell Arboretum

*50 years of horticultural beauty*

**F**or 50 years, a luscious space on East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has been a popular spot for tours, school field trips, family photographs and people seeking a tranquil escape from a busy day. The five-acre Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum of towering woodlands and shrubs showcases the greatest diversity of plant species at the university.

By: Haley Steinkuhler



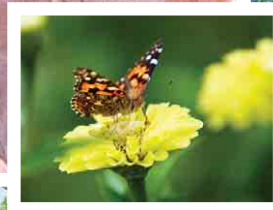
The arboretum bears the name of Earl G. Maxwell, a longtime state extension forester at the university. Maxwell was interested in finding woody plants that could survive, even thrive in Nebraska's harsh environment. To this end, and out of a basic love and interest in trees, Earl Maxwell began to test species at the site that now bears his name. In the end, he planted and evaluated over 100 species.

Dedicated as the second site of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, the Maxwell Arboretum features

special collections of trees, shrubs, vines and perennial plants, sunny open prairie and trial sites for new cultivars. The Karl Loerch Gazebo and the Perin Porch provide shady seating areas at the entrances to the arboretum, and beyond them visitors find secluded benches and picnic tables nestled among the collections.

The Department of Landscape Services maintains the Maxwell Arboretum. In 1992, a group called The Friends of Maxwell Arboretum was founded to assist Landscape Services with the development of the space.

A 50th anniversary celebration of the Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum is planned for May 16. Remarks will be made at the Nebraska East Union at 2:30 p.m., followed by a tree planting, refreshments and tours in the arboretum. The public is invited to attend.





# Dairy Store

celebrating 100 years  
of tradition

By: Haley Steinkuhler

**W**hen the Dairy Store opened in 1917 on East Campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, it served all-you-can-drink milk for a nickel to those who brought their own cups. One hundred years later, the Dairy Store is now a must-stop destination in Lincoln. Serving 16 flavors of ice cream daily and a variety of other products, the Dairy Store is primed to carry an outstanding dairy tradition into its second century.



The mission of the Dairy Store is to provide hands-on experience for students in dairy and food production and sales, facilities for dairy product research, and the opportunity to work with

entrepreneurs who are developing dairy products to boost the value of Nebraska's agricultural commodities.

**1917** - The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Dairy Store opened in the Dairy Industry Building (now Filley Hall) on what was then known as the Farm Campus.

**1942** - Husker Cheese was developed by Reichart and Downs of the Dairy Husbandry Department.

**1972** - The Dairy Industry Building was renamed H.C. Filley Hall.

**2007** - The Dairy Store's flagship ice cream flavor, Scarlet & Cream, was introduced to showcase the university's school colors.

**2017** - The Dairy Store will celebrate 100 years of serving up ice cream and memories.

Keep up to date on all of the latest Dairy Store news by visiting [dairystore.unl.edu](http://dairystore.unl.edu).





# STUDENTS GROW THROUGH RESEARCH

WHETHER STUDENTS ARE WORKING TOWARD UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE DEGREES, OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH ARE PLENTIFUL.

By: Linda Ulrich

## UCARE

**K**aitlyn Cuming is researching the capacity for beef production in Nebraska.

**Yichuan Hu** is analyzing the effect of the particle size of flours on gut microbial fermentation.

**Madeleine Koenig** is investigating the molecular mechanisms of fetal alcohol syndrome using *drosophila melanogaster* as a model system.

**Michael Miller** is exploring a mutagenesis approach for improving sorghum grain quality and digestibility.

**Matthew Russell** is working on validation of the cosmic-ray neutron method for estimating soil moisture.

The common denominator of this wide-ranging research is that all of it is being conducted by undergraduate students in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources through the **Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience (UCARE)** program. Each year, 50 to 60 CASNR undergraduates participate in UCARE, which gives them an opportunity to work in research one-on-one with a faculty research adviser.

"Many students don't actually know what research really is, so participating in UCARE introduces them to research and the research culture," said Justina Clark, Undergraduate Research director at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "UCARE allows

them to try it out and see if research is right for them and something they'd like to pursue."

Over 80 percent of the students who participate in UCARE plan to attend graduate school, so UCARE helps those students strengthen their graduate school applications. UCARE also gives students the chance to engage in a research or creative project that may be outside the scope of their major.

Many other universities offer undergraduate research programs, but UCARE is one of the better-funded programs with a research stipend of \$2,400. Skill-building seminars enhance the overall experience, Clark said.



"UCARE is really a win all around. The student gains experience and mentoring while the faculty adviser gets a funded research assistant," she said. "Student research assistants are an integral part of many labs."





"STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF MANY LABS."

## GRADUATE RESEARCH

By: Linda Ulrich

In the past, developing new varieties of wheat to increase its nutritional qualities often resulted in a decrease in yield.

**Jorge Venegas**, who is working on his doctorate in plant genetics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is researching ways to combine the best of both worlds — nutrient-rich wheat with high yields. He is one of many students who have an opportunity to perform research while pursuing their degrees.

Venegas, who grew up on a family farm in Ecuador, South America, says his current research focuses on biofortification, which is the development of micronutrient-dense staple crops using the best traditional breeding practices and modern biotechnology. He uses genomics tools to understand the effect of two genes, GPC-B1 and Lpa-1, in the mineral composition of wheat. His main objective is to incorporate these traits into Great Plains wheat germplasm, which will increase protein, iron and zinc without affecting yield. His ultimate goal is to provide nutrient-dense wheat varieties, particularly for developing countries.

Jorge Venegas, a doctoral student in plant genetics, researches ways to increase the nutrients in wheat without decreasing yield.

"My first year of field data was very encouraging," said Venegas, who hopes to work in the public sector after completing his doctorate.

Venegas's adviser is Stephen Baenziger, the university's world-renowned small grains breeder, and his co-adviser is Robert Graybosch, USDA-ARS research geneticist. Venegas, who also did research in dry beans while earning a master's degree in plant pathology from Nebraska, encourages people interested in agricultural research to come here.

**"This university is one of the best places in the world to do agricultural research. The faculty are exceptional and encouraging and have the funding for research," he said.**

"I love the University of Nebraska," Venegas said. "It really feels like home to me."





# NEW VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC CENTER WILL ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING

**W**hen it opens in June, the new Veterinary Diagnostic Center on East Campus will provide improved laboratory services for veterinarians and others who care for animals, and it will also enhance the learning experiences of students in the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine.

Because students in this rigorous program are in school six to eight hours a day and have to study beyond that, they will have card access to the student-designated spaces in the new center 24 hours a day.

“We are providing the best acoustical, visual and comfortable space for students that we can,” said Dr. Alan Doster, center director.

Each laboratory will have a teaching component, and students will see what diagnosticians see on a daily basis. “We give students hands-on, practical real-life experiences,” Doster said. “We show them what they are going to see as veterinarians right away.”

The Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine is a cooperative agreement between the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and Iowa State University. Students selected for the program attend two years of Professional Veterinary School at Nebraska before transferring to ISU to complete the final two years of their DVM degree, which includes the clinical aspects of their training.

Two Nebraska students who completed the Nebraska portion of the program graduated No. 1 and No. 2 at ISU last May. They were tied. “In the past seven years, the Nebraska program has





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always had a significant number of graduates in the top 10 at ISU, which is really amazing considering the few number of Nebraska students in the program as compared to the total number of students,” Doster said.

“We take pride that we’re getting really, really good students, and I think we’re giving them a very good education,” he said. “What we hear from our ISU colleagues is that they are well-trained, extremely polite and they dress professionally when they arrive at Ames to complete their final two years of study.”



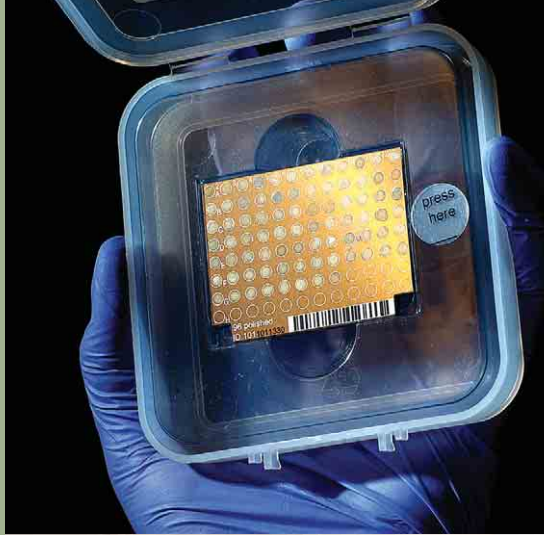


## The new Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center will continue to do research.

It also will continue to offer necropsy, histopathology, virology, bacteriology, serology, toxicology and limited clinical pathology services. But the increased space and new state-of-the-art equipment, such as the new MALDI-TOF technology, will enable the center to more quickly and accurately diagnose bacterial pathogens.

About 75 percent of the center's caseload is related to cattle, but "you never know what's going to walk in the door," said Dr. Alan Doster, center director.

"We know that in the future the technology will be different. We've tried to design the facility with the idea that the technology eventually will have to be upgraded and we will be able to accommodate the needs of our clientele as knowledge and technology continue to evolve," he added.



Kara Robbins prepares a sample for the MALDI-TOF research equipment at the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center on East Campus. The device uses a laser to vaporize pathogens into ions that can be identified through mass spectrometry. It allows researchers to identify pathogens in minutes.

Kara Robbins and Dustin Loy discuss bacteria samples tested in new equipment at the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Clinic.

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**"The Veterinary Diagnostic Center is a great public-private partnership that will serve the needs of all of Nebraska. This project was made possible by the generous support of the Nebraska Unicameral, industry partners like the Nebraska Cattlemen and private donors. It represents what is possible when the Unicameral and the university work together for the benefit of our state," said Dr. Alan Doster, center director.**

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# Nebraska

## ACROSS THE STATE

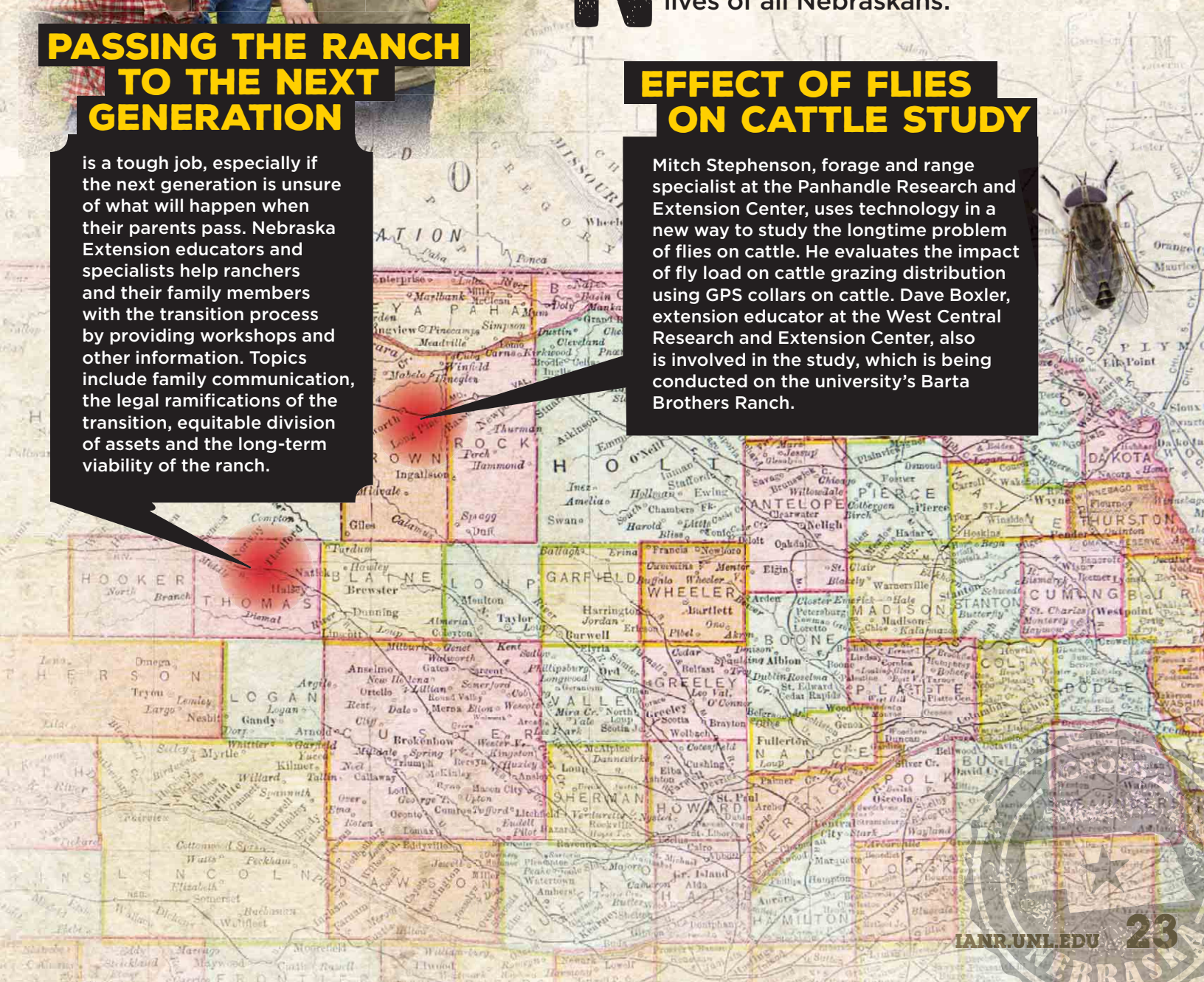
**N**ebraska Extension serves all 93 of the state's counties. Here's a small sample of the varied work extension does to enhance the lives of all Nebraskans.

### PASSING THE RANCH TO THE NEXT GENERATION

is a tough job, especially if the next generation is unsure of what will happen when their parents pass. Nebraska Extension educators and specialists help ranchers and their family members with the transition process by providing workshops and other information. Topics include family communication, the legal ramifications of the transition, equitable division of assets and the long-term viability of the ranch.

### EFFECT OF FLIES ON CATTLE STUDY

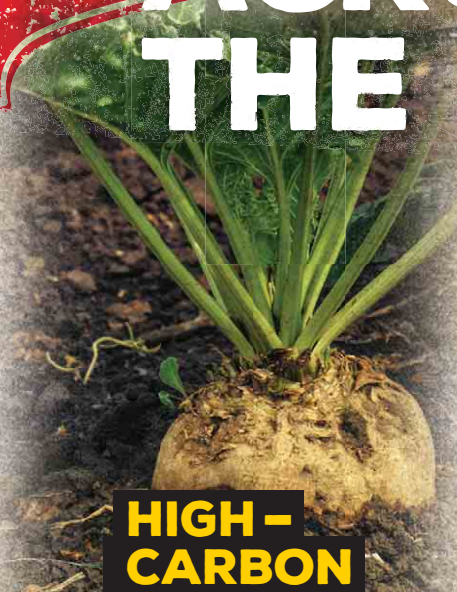
Mitch Stephenson, forage and range specialist at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center, uses technology in a new way to study the longtime problem of flies on cattle. He evaluates the impact of fly load on cattle grazing distribution using GPS collars on cattle. Dave Boxler, extension educator at the West Central Research and Extension Center, also is involved in the study, which is being conducted on the university's Barta Brothers Ranch.





# Nebraska

## ACROSS THE STATE



### HIGH-CARBON CHAR

Extension specialists and educators are studying whether high-carbon char, a fine, powdery coal dust left over from the processing of sugarbeets, will improve the soil if applied to farmers' fields. During the three-year study, they will apply high-carbon char to several research plots near Scottsbluff. The char will be applied at different rates in a rotation that will include sugarbeets, corn and dry edible beans.



### FIELD PEA RESEARCH

A team of extension specialists and educators is quantifying the feasibility of growing field peas in southwest Nebraska. Results were shared recently at a tour of the farms of collaborating producers and at a workshop attended by 260 producers.





## ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROCESS (ECAP)

The Entrepreneurial Community Activation Process (ECAP) is a holistic approach to help communities support innovation and entrepreneurship by understanding their unique characteristics, community assets and potential opportunities. By working with extension specialists and educators, communities are embracing visionary thinking and endorsing entrepreneurial leadership. As a result, they are able to leverage resources to attract and retain a working age population that will enhance community economic growth.

## BIG RED AG GROWERS (BRAG)

Big Red Ag Growers (BRAG) is a youth advocacy program in which youth ages 12-15 experience many facets of the agriculture industry through tours and visits with industry leaders. Those who graduate from the program have a better understanding of how modern agriculture is efficiently delivering food to the world.

## SURVEYING BEE POLLINATORS

Natalia Bjorklund, a Nebraska Extension educator, is developing guidelines for urban garden modifications to attract pollinators and measure their success. The research objective is to survey bee pollinators in urban Nebraska gardens, identify the plants they prefer for nectar and pollen, and incorporate that information into garden recommendations.

## NEXT CHAPTER AT NEBRASKA

is a college-readiness program delivered through Nebraska 4-H that helps students prepare for and succeed in college. The program, which is offered to students beginning in the 8th grade, inspires youth ages 12-15 to continue their education after high school, to gain awareness of higher education options and to develop college readiness skills. Students also develop social skills, stress management, self-discipline, self-motivation and a sense of responsibility while exploring careers.





**Kari and Erik Hoegemeyer**

**G**reetings from your College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) Alumni Association! I'm a 1999 graduate of the Department of Agricultural Economics and loved my time at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In fact, I enjoyed it so much, I often find myself back on campus recruiting new employees for our business, participating in a meeting or checking in on my dad who recently retired from teaching in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

I most recently have enjoyed being back on campus to participate in CASNR Alumni Advisory Board meetings, where I am proud to serve as the president of the board. As an organization, we strive to offer outstanding programming and networking opportunities each year. We are very proud to share some of the fantastic events happening in 2017.

To start with, our banner event for the year is the Burr/Fedde & Friends Reunion on June 10, 2017. This one-day event is a fantastic opportunity to experience Burr and Fedde Halls one last time, get a sneak peek of the new residence hall on East Campus and connect with old and new friends. Tickets to this event are \$100, which includes breakfast, East Campus tours, lunch, city campus events and a social hour and banquet at the Cornhusker Hotel. Come out, celebrate with friends and fellow alumni, and enjoy all the memories that truly form East Campus's DNA. For more details, please visit [go.unl.edu/bffunl](http://go.unl.edu/bffunl).

As many of you know, one of our primary purposes is to connect our alumni. On February 22 we held an alumni social at Thunderhead Brewing in Kearney.

Pizza and conversation were shared over stories of campus and laughter. Thank you to everyone who attended! Our next alumni social gathering will be held at Bolo Beer Co. in Valentine on May 17, 2017, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.. All are welcome to attend and we hope to see you there! And then before we know it, State Fair and Husker football will be here. See the calendar of events for a listing of the upcoming activities.

**Last, our board would like to sincerely thank CASNR Dean Steve Waller for his many years of service to the college. Steve has been an outstanding advocate and leader in our organization, and his commitment to our State and University has been tremendous.**

As always, thank you for all that you do for CASNR and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Please have a safe planting season and **Go Big Red.**

**Erik Hoegemeyer**  
CASNR Alumni Association President





SALUTE TO STEVE

## STEVE WALLER

Join us as we celebrate Steve Waller's 17 years as Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

June 23, 2017; 2-4 PM,  
Nebraska East Union

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2017

**May 17, 2017 – Alumni Gathering,**  
Bolo Beer Co., Valentine, 4:30–6:30 p.m.

**June 10, 2017 – Burr/Fedde & Friends Reunion,**  
Learn more at [go.unl.edu/bffunl](http://go.unl.edu/bffunl)

**June 23, 2017 – Salute to Steve,** Nebraska East Union, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

**September 3, 2017 – Ice Cream Social at the Nebraska State Fair,** Hospitality Loft, Five Points Bank Livestock Arena. All potential, current, and former CASNR students and supporters are welcome to attend, 1:00–3:00 p.m.. Also, plan to join us for the #UNLREDOUT pep rally at 4:00 p.m. in the Family Fun Zone.

**September 23, 2017 – CASNR Alumni Football Tailgate and Silent Auction Scholarship Fundraiser,** held before the homecoming football game against Rutgers. Starting time is to be determined, but there will be free parking, free food, and free shuttle service from the Nebraska East Union to the stadium.

## CONGRATS TO OUR RECENT CASNR ALUMNI WINNERS

**2017 Outstanding Young Alumni**  
Nebraska Alumni Association  
**Andrew Uden**, Lexington, Nebraska

**2017 Achievement Award**  
CASNR Alumni Association  
**Dennis Boesiger**, Lincoln, Nebraska

**2017 Service Award**  
CASNR Alumni Association  
**Barb Cooksley**, Anselmo, Nebraska

**2017 Legacy Award**  
CASNR Alumni Association  
**Alan Moeller**, Lincoln, Nebraska

**2017 Emeriti Engagement Award**  
CASNR Alumni Association  
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