

## NCTA Newsletter

A message from Interim Dean Scott Mickelsen

Celebrating  
 100 Years!



The future has never been brighter at NCTA than it is today. As we reflect back on years past and remember the graduates of UNSA, UNSTA, and NCTA, I can't help but think of the bright future we have for NCTA, Nebraska, and the agricultural community at large.

The alumni over the years have been there to support the mission of NCTA by developing a lasting beneficial relationship between our alumni and the college. Where did that all start – in Curtis, Nebraska, in a classroom, with an instructor teaching valuable skills that led to our graduates getting a job and becoming a leader and a

voice for Nebraska.

As we embark upon the planning and implementation of the 100-year celebration to honor the people, their vision and the passion for this great institution, we will not only relive the past but also create the next steps for the future of NCTA.

Please mark your calendars to come and be part of this great celebration on August 9, 10, and 11. The event will be filled with food, activities while rubbing shoulders with old friends as well as meeting and developing new and lasting friendships.

It has been a busy year at NCTA. Over this past year we have hired a full time agri-

culture mechanics instructor who will provide leadership and vision of that area of the college; we have hired a fulltime Equine Science professor who can help shape the future of equine science at NCTA; we have hired a full time veterinarian to lead the way for our new comparative medicine program housed at the University of Omaha Medical Center; we have hired a fulltime recruiting coordinator with vision to help orchestrate a vision to help grow NCTA; and lastly we have had important conversations with agriculture business to partner on equipment and programming to advance our teaching labs as well as train the next generation of agriculture entrepreneurs.

Please know that as we walk these halls and grounds, there is a special spirit of agriculture that exists here at NCTA – come share this experience with us. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2013!

### Highlights from this issue:

- Alumni interviews: Margaret Augustine and Buzz Cole
- Dairy Business Photos
- Message from NCTA Admission Team
- Inside the Agriculture Industry Education Center
- Note from recent grad Kaci Schroer
- NCTA Legacy Wall



*Celebrate the 40th anniversary of AVMA certification of the Vet Tech program! (Accredited since August 1973.)*

## NCTA Newsletter

### Margaret Augustine Remembers Time at NCTA



*Margaret Augustine as band twirler. Augustine also taught twirling at NSA.*

Margaret Augustine graduated from the Nebraska School of Agriculture (NSA) in 1942 and remembers Japan attacking Pearl Harbor her senior year. Her mother also graduated NSA after the end of World War I in 1919. Between the two of them, Augustine has many interesting stories to tell about the changes at NSA, UNSA, UNSTA, and NCTA.

It turns out some things have not change very much. “The kids were pretty ornery, then, too,” Augustine says of her mother’s time at the school. One boy was suspended for bringing his violin to school and using it to hold a dance.

In the 1940s, NSA did not offer typing classes, so Augustine attended the North Platte School of Commerce after graduation to learn book-keeping, commerce, and typing. When she received a phone call asking her to return to Curtis and work for Miss. Heesch, who

was the principal at that time, Augustine explained that she had already paid for \$25 of schooling. Nonetheless, she accepted the position after being told she could work through the winter and finish studying in the summer.

Augustine never did return. The school wanted to keep her, so they moved her to the office of Superintendent Mr. H. K. Douthit, where she had to learn speed writing because, unbeknownst to many people, Mr. Douthit was going blind.

It was Augustine’s class who started the class reunions. They started as far back as Augustine’s mother’s class. Today, alumni continue to invite Augustine to class reunions because they still remember her.



“It’s fun,” she says, “because if they talk about things that happened at that time then it reminds me of things that happened too at that time.”

One thing Augustine remembers is how an advertisement for the school’s Boys’ Ranch made its way to post-war Europe. A man from Austria wrote the school asking for food, cigarettes, and clothing. Mr. Douthit wasn’t interested, so Augustine sent one of her dad’s coats and some cigarettes. The man was so grateful he sent her the painting above, rolled up in canvas.

“At Work in the Field Crops Laboratory”

(NSA Bulletin, 1914—1915)



# Volume 9, Issue 1

## The Old Dairy Business



When the Nebraska Legislature voted to establish a second school of agriculture within the state, section 6 of the act stipulated that money arising from the sale of the any products of the school farm should be applied to the running of the school's expenses. For many years the school maintained its own dairy business. Top l-r: George Schmid and Dairy Truck, New Dairy Barn completed 1936. Center: Making ice cream and cheese in the dairy lab. Bottom: Horse, dairy and cattle barn, c. 1913-14



*Above: The old dairy Barn has been renovated to house the new Dr. Walter Long Veterinary Technology Teaching Clinic.*



## NCTA Newsletter

### From the NCTA Admissions Team



*Above: Agribusiness Management professor Paul Clark speaks with students during a public campus event.*

The University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) has been very busy with construction projects over the past few years. With completion of these projects comes the task of recruiting students to come live, learn and enjoy the new facilities. The NCTA recruiting team has been busy making stops in high schools, communities and career fairs across Nebraska and surrounding states. Last year, the recruiting team had a goal of visiting high school agriculture programs in the state – they visited 109 of the 143 agriculture programs in the state of Nebraska. In addition to the high school visits, they stopped in at local agriculture businesses and left posters and information about the college. Furthermore, the recruiters visited 45 high schools without agriculture programs as well as participated in 36 college fairs, seven state FFA conventions along with many other events to help recruit students to NCTA.

With all of these efforts we are seeing an increase with our spring enrollment. Census num-

bers at NCTA show 276 students enrolled. Of those 222 are full-time, degree-seeking students; that compares to 216 a year ago. Currently at NCTA there are 20 part-time students compared to 12 a year ago. The highest enrollments for NCTA are in agriculture production systems and veterinary tech programs. Lastly, NCTA has 34 Dual Credit high school students enrolled, where they may transfer credits to NCTA or other institutions. This compares to 39 last year.

Please join us at NCTA in helping fill our facilities. Sometimes a simple gesture of friendship such as handshake, smile, brief note, or a phone call can mean a great deal to a youngster. This is especially true when that greeting comes from a friend or an adult well respected by a youth. Not all youngsters are outgoing and easily approachable, so this kindness lends respect and trust.

As alumni of the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA), your influence can be helpful in guiding the

college path of a young person. Be involved in their high school activities. When you see them at church, 4-H or at the salebarn, compliment them on their successes. Inquire about their future plans. Send a text or e-mail when they make the news. Help guide them on possible employment opportunities. Offer to be a mentor, or suggest they apply for local scholarships and endorse them with a letter of support. Most importantly, encourage them to attend your alma mater.

Remember the adults who influenced you or gave you that gentle nudge in your early years? Do the same when opportunities arise now. You can help your alma mater by helping recruit students and showing these youth you believe in them. A smile or handshake goes a long way.

If you have information about a potential recruits, please let us know so that we can reach out to them as well.

Thank you ~ The NCTA Admissions Team

“An anxious Moment in the Thanksgiving Football Game—The Day We Took the Measure of Franklin Academy”

(NSA Bulletin, 1914—1915)



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## Inside the Ed Center

In the fall, USDA Rural Development State Director Maxine Moul visited Curtis to tour the new Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center with former Dean Weldon Sleight (right) and see the USDA mural depicting various projects that can be completed through USDA programming and funding.

Other areas inside the Education Center show off NCTA's close partnerships with the state's agriculture industry leaders.

Clockwise from top left: Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Soybean Board, Nebraska Farm Bureau.



## NCTA Newsletter

### 2013 Alumni

### Celebration

**August 9, 10, 11**

#### Friday evening

- Chuckwagon feed and entertainment

#### Saturday breakfast

- Pancakes, eggs, bacon, juice, coffee

#### Saturday lunch:

- Hamburger, chips, and lemon aid

#### Saturday supper

- Prime Rib banquet
- Salad
- Baked potato
- Vegetable
- Dance
- DJ

#### Saturday activities may include:

- Quiz Bowl
- Ground rodeo events - LTC arena
- Trail ride
- Test plots, farm, and pasture tour
- Golf tournament
- Alumni games
- Team roping - Mill Park - 9am to 12 noon
- Ranch rodeo - Mill Park - 1 pm to 4 pm

#### Sunday breakfast

- Pancakes, eggs, bacon, juice, coffee

## Note from “Aggie of the Year” Kaci Schroer

Growing up on a small, diversified farm and Hereford ranch has allowed me to live a simple, yet irreplaceable lifestyle. I have been brought up in family where everyone – young and old alike – work to complete the day’s work before night falls (and many times still working long after the sun has called it a day). I have seen many blessings befall on me and my family through this lifestyle we lead and would not trade a day of it for all the gold in the world.

Had someone told me two and half years ago all the wonderful people I would meet, the opportunities I would be blessed with, and the friendships I would build in my short time I had planned to be at NCTA, I probably would have shyly smiled and said, “okay, yeah sure,” not really believing them though. When I stepped onto campus in August of 2010 I was more than just that shy freshman, I was the scared freshman who wondered what decision she had just made. That fear quickly vanished as the welcoming hands and hearts of NCTA opened up to me and the rest of that freshman class.

It was not long until I found the groove I needed to balance class, Collegiate FFA/4-H meetings, Student Senate meetings, and of course the casual roping nights outside of the traditional dorms! I was slowly finding my place at NCTA, both in the classroom and in everyday life. By the end of that first year, I

had found myself. I had become an active and outgoing person.

My second year at NCTA found me even more active than the previous year and as busy as ever. I sometimes laugh because my parents would say, “Don’t you think you’re a little ‘over-involved’ in addition to having 23 credit hours?!” I would usually just laugh and say, “I don’t have time to think about that!” To say I was involved may have been an understatement by that time. I was a Resident Assistant in the Traditional dorm, President of the FFA/4-H club, Vice President of Student Senate, a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and a tour guide for campus visits. All that was in addition to being a double major student of Livestock Production Systems and Agribusiness Management!

This was nothing out of the ordinary for me, though. I have always been taught you take responsibility for everything that you involve yourself in and you do it without complaint. I enjoyed it all, maybe not all the homework, but I suppose that comes with the “college territory.”

I was surprised and blessed yet again beyond what words can



say when I was awarded the NCTA Aggie of the Year award last spring. I was shocked, honored, and humbled all in one emotion. It was an honor and accomplishment I had never dreamed of as that shy freshman who stepped on campus less than two years before.

Since receiving and being named Aggie of the Year in 2012, I completed my double major in December 2012 with a 4.0 GPA, one goal I had actually set for myself! Currently I am looking at colleges to transfer to in August for Ag Education. Again, these were dreams I never had three years ago. NCTA has equipped me with skills and the foundation I need to become an influential person in the industry I love, livestock and educating young minds on the importance of agriculture. Never would I replace any of the lessons I learned, experiences I had, and people I have met while at NCTA.

## Volume 9, Issue 1

### NCTA Legacy Wall



This beautiful “Legacy Wall” is displayed in the new education center at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

This is a wonderful way to add a visual “Legacy” of your family, business, or career.

Through this your support of NCTA will be visible for generations to come.

If you have questions regarding the “Legacy Wall” please contact Ann Bruntz at [abruntz@nufoundation.org](mailto:abruntz@nufoundation.org) or 402-458-1176.

For information regarding tile photo submission process, contact Traci Bradney at 308-367-5200.



Above: Old postcard featuring UNSA gymnasium.

## Interview with Buzz Cole

By Megan Streweler, NCTA Student

Buzz Cole was a high school student at the University of Nebraska School of Agriculture (UNSA) and then a mechanics instructor for the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA). He says his experience at the school was great. He received his teaching credits on campus and recalls having a great set of first time

students. He enjoyed the couple of years that the school had a swing choir, as they went to a couple of music contests, which at that time was a special treat.

Becoming an instructor at NCTA was a means of getting back to his family—previously, Cole had been in the Navy—and it was also where he first met his wife, Mary, who

worked as a Dean’s secretary at the time. He remembers when the Vet Tech building was built and then when the new residence halls and the LTC building were built. He recalled working with Don Woodburn on the drawing plans of the LTC in which later, an architect from Lincoln came down and put the finishing touches on the project.



Buzz Cole

## NCTA Newsletter

### “Return to the Aggies”

“Hey, Curtis! Do you know, I went to school there?” is a common query as visitors approach the NCTA recruiting booth at expos and fairs.

Wherever observers see an Aggie red t-shirt or read a table display emblazoned with “The University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture” logo, people are sure to stop for a chat with NCTA recruiters.

“I love chatting with alumni and hearing about their families, or where they are now in their agricultural careers,” says Mary Crawford, an NCTA recruiter based in Box Butte County. “Their stories are often filled with fond memories, or questions of ‘is so and so still there’, or they tell me they’ve heard about the great new facilities but haven’t yet made the time for a return

visit. I say, come on down and return to the Aggies.”

While recruiters spread the word of the **Student Recruitment Open House events on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**, Crawford and the recruiting team encourage alumni to stop by anytime to bring prospective students to campus, and to mark their own calendars for August 9-11, 2013.



Image from the 2012-2013 Academic Year: Students get an elevated view of intramural flag football.

### Plans Underway to Continue NCTA Career Fair

NCTA’s held its first career fair in a long time on Thursday, February 7. By all accounts, it was a big success. Seventeen businesses and colleges showed up to attract their future employees from NCTA.

Vendors included All Points Cooperative; Riverview, LLP; Zoltenko farms, Inc., Adams Land and Cattle; UNL/CASNR; Lone Creek Cattle Company; Dar Feedlot, Inc.; Farm Bureau Financial Services;

Fairview Veterinary Clinic; NE Department of Agriculture; Ag Valley Coop; Orthman Manufacturing, Hi Line Co-op; and Western National Bank.

“We had approximately 143 individuals attend the career fair as they began their networking opportunities for a future job in agriculture,” said Interim Dean Mickelsen. “Ideas to improve the career fair for next year are already in discussion. We are glad that those business came to sup-



port the career fair and, more importantly, are interested in our graduates.

**Do you have an idea for the 2014 NCTA Alumni News Letter?**

**Contact Traci Bradney at 308-367-5200 or tbradney2@unl.edu.**



### 20 Years: Activity Shots from 1992-1993 Annual



**Picnic Time**



**Class Lectures**



## Volume 9, Issue 1

### Donations sought for NCTA Alumni Room



Don't throw it out! Donate your old NSA, UNSA, UNSTA and NCTA photos, annuals, cds, and other memorabilia to the NCTA Archives room in Ag Hall.

Plans are underway to make sure the school's history is properly protected and that future visitors to the alumni room will have access to the materials in a way that does

not damage them.

For more information about donating to the NCTA Alumni Room, contact Traci Bradney at 308-367-5200.



*Image from the 2012-2013 Academic Year: Students in NCTA Farm Bureau Club tour Monsanto's Water Utilization Center near Gothenburg in September.*

### Farewell to Lee Messersmith

The NCTA family lost former Nebraska School of Agriculture teacher Lee Messersmith at the age of 89 in January.

Messersmith taught vocational agriculture at NSA from 1953 through the spring of 1964. As a faculty member he sponsored student organizations, such as Junior Ak-Sar-Ben and FFA.

In 1964 Messersmith and his wife Barbara moved to a farm at Hemingford, Nebraska.

Messersmith taught agriculture education at Heming-

ford High School for eleven years while also raising cattle.

Messersmith was also a commercial and hobby honey producer. For a term, he served as president of the Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association.



LEE MESSERSMITH

## NCTA Newsletter

### Aggie Alumni Association

President's Message by David D Bruntz

Guess what Alumni? Its time to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the School at Curtis. So if you are an NCTA, UNSTA,

or NSA graduate of the school at Curtis Ne. it is time to all come and celebrate 100 years of the campus being in existence. Plans are being made for the weekend of the 9th 10th & 11th of August to be in Curtis for the Alumni event.

The planning committee has met and will be sending out registration forms to all Alumni for



this event. For people arriving on Friday afternoon there will be rooms at the dormitories for the weekend and there is also a new motel in Curtis that will be listed on the registration. Meals and activities are being planned for all weekend and all we ask is that you register for each activity so we can plan accordingly.

On Saturday evening we will have our Alumni Banquet at the Curtis Community building featuring a prime rib supper. We also have a silent and live auction at the banquet to raise money for Alumni scholarships and other alumni activities. We ask our alumni to buy, make or ask one of your local businesses to

donate an item for the auction. Please bring these items with you that evening and we will have someone there to display and place bid sheets with the auction items for that evening event.

On Sunday morning we will have a breakfast and social time for you and your classmates and other friends. So mark your calendars for this weekend and lets all get together for a 100 year celebration.

Sincerely David D Bruntz  
Production AG. 1971  
NCTA-UNSTA-NAS Alumni  
President



*Image from the 2012-2013 Academic Year: NCTA Student Sawyer Orr was among many NCTA students to attend Husker Harvest Days in 2012.*

### Welcome Dr. Ron Rosati

Dr. Ron Rosati has accepted the offer to become the next Dean of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis. He will assume the position July 1, 2013. Dr. Rosati will be making a trip to Curtis sometime this spring to become better acquainted with the NCTA family.

NCTA is excited to have a person of Dr. Rosati's talent, skills and experience to be our next dean of NCTA. He is an

accomplished administrator. Currently he serves as the provost of Southeast Missouri State, and before that Provost at Alfred State University, State University of New York University, and Dean of the College of Agriculture at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. During his 30-year career Dr. Rosati has had successful experiences at a number of institutions in higher education administration and

teaching in technical education. He has a passion for technical education in agriculture, with his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural education from Cornell University and his Ph.D. in agricultural education from Iowa State University.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Rosati to NCTA and to the State of Nebraska!

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# NCTA 100 Years Celebration

## Schedule of Events

### Friday August 9<sup>th</sup>

6:00-9:00 pm Chuckwagon Feed  
LTC Arena  
Lucky Chuck's Wagon  
& Cowboy Poetry  
Edu Center parking lot

### Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup>

7:00-9:00 Breakfast - Cafeteria  
Noon-2:00pm Lunch - Student Union  
6:00pm-Midnight Prime Rib Banquet &  
Silent Auction  
Community Center  
6:00-7:00 pm Social Hour  
7:00-9:00 pm Supper  
9:00pm-Midnight Dance  
DJ & Cash Bar

### Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>

7:00-9:00 am Breakfast - Cafeteria

### Saturday Activites

Quiz Bowl  
Ground Rodeo Events - LTC Arena  
Test plots, farm tour, pasture tour, etc.  
Yard Games

## Registration Form

### NCTA 100 Years Celebration

Please return this form and check (s) payable to  
NSA/UNSTA/NCTA by August 1, 2013 to:  
UNSTA/NCTA Alumni Association  
C/O Catherine  
404 E 7th St Curtis, NE 69025  
308-367-5200 chauptman4@unl.edu

Please reserve the following (mark all that apply)

On-Campus Housing  
(Aggie West - sleeps 2 people, bring your own bedding)  
\$15 per night per person

\_\_\_ # of nights x \_\_\_ # of people x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Alumni Membership fee: \_\_\_ at \$15 per alumnus

Friday August 9

Chuckwagon Feed: \_\_\_ dinners at \$25 per person

Saturday August 10

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

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

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

Sunday August 11

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

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

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

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

Department \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Please bring one item to be auctioned off at the Banquet.  
We also have two motels in town if you would rather stay there.  
Valley View Inn (308) 367-4580 or Hi Line Motel (308) 367-4340

# NSA, UNSTA, and NCTA Alumni Awards

## Alumni Achievement Award:

To recognize exemplary service to NSA, UNSTA, or NCTA or to Nebraska Agriculture and Natural resources in general. The honoree must have completed a degree at NSA, UNSTA or NCTA.

## Alumni Service Award:

To recognize outstanding service to NSA, UNSTA, or NCTA. The recipient need not be a graduate of NSA, UNSTA, or NCTA.

## Honorary Life Membership Award:

To be conferred for outstanding service to Nebraska's Agriculture and Natural resources in general. The recipient is not an alumnus of NSA, UNSTA or NCTA.

## Distinguished Legacy Award:

Given to recognize personal or professional excellence in advancing the legacy of NSA, UNSTA or NCTA or for demonstrating exemplary commitment, leadership, and participation bringing distinction to themselves, their profession the technical college or to the University of Nebraska.

Award recipients will be selected by the alumni committee each year. Nominations can be made by anyone who feels a candidate is qualified for recognition. The selection committee will determine if nominees have contributed service worthy of recognition. All areas may not be awarded each year. Besides background information and a description of the nominees achievements, nominations should include a short "writ-up" of service suitable for reading at the banquet and to submit to a newspaper for publication.

Selected recipients will be honored at the Annual Banquet each year. With recognition the honorees shall receive a personal plaque and have their name mounted on the Hall of Fame plaque on campus.

If you know of an alum who deserves recognition for their service to NSA, UNSTA, or NCTA, or who has achieved excellence in their career be sure to nominate them for award area.

Please send nominations to:

Dan Stehlik  
1590 N 110th Road  
Concordia, KS 66901