

## Upcoming Volleyball Intramurals

Team	Date/ Time
Ramrod Vs. The Shots	Feb 9 @ 6pm
Staincock Palace Vs. Team USA	Feb 9 @ 7pm
Free Ballers	
Vs. Multiple Scoregasms	Feb 15 @ 6pm
Ramrod Vs. Team USA	Feb 15 @ 7pm
The Shots Vs. Multiple Scoregasms	Feb 16 @ 6pm
Staincock Palace Vs. Free Ballers	Feb 16 @ 7pm



Aggie Up! now has an official Facebook fan page where readers can discuss popular articles and look at current and past issues! Like us and stay updated wherever you are.



<http://ncta.unl.edu>

## Aggie of the Month

By Eric Reed, Faculty Advisor

Lisa Niedermeyer of Cook, Neb., was named the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Aggie of the Month for February.

Niedermeyer, a veterinary technology major, seeks to involve other students on campus and to build awareness for campus activities. "I also find it important to get the community involved with any activities taking place on campus as well as provide them assistance in community service projects," she said.



Lisa Niedermeyer. Courtesy photo

Several organizations have made Niedermeyer one of their officers. She is the vice president of Student Senate, secretary of Student Technicians of Veterinary Medical Association (STVMA), treasurer of Women in Ag, president of Collegiate FFA and 4-H, and vice president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She works as a resident assistant

in the Aggie West dormitory.

Niedermeyer expects to complete an internship at a veterinary clinic in Tennessee or Lincoln, Neb., this summer and to start taking classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August. She will pursue a bachelor's degree in veterinary science with an emphasis in business. She wants to work in a veterinary clinic in Nebraska.

Britni Freiboth, Director of Student Involvement and Housing said, "Among the traits that make Lisa a superior candidate for Aggie of the Month are intelligence, integrity, persistence, the above-average attention to detail, a willingness to collaborate for the common good, and a straightforward communication style." Freiboth described Niedermeyer as "an engaging, adroit and focused" leader who empowers students and effects change.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 10 Valentine's Day Dance in The Barn @ 9:30pm-12:00am
- 7-14 Valentine Cookie Sale
- 14 Free Movie Night - Country Strong in the Star Theater @ 7:30pm-10pm
- 23 Career Development Skill Contest #2
- 24 Comedy Magician/ Escape Artist: Daniel Martin in The Barn @ 6:00pm-8:00pm
- 24 NCTA Bonfire behind Vet Tech Building @ 9:00pm-11:30pm
- 27 Sweetheart Dinner in Community Center @ 5:30pm-8:00pm

### March, 2011

- 3 STVMA Dance in The Barn @ 9:00pm-12:00am
- 4 STVMA Movie Night in Veterinary Hospital @ 6:30pm-9pm
- 17 FFA Dance in The Barn @ 8pm-11pm

To get an event added to the Calendar of Events, contact Eric Reed at [ereed2@unl.edu](mailto:ereed2@unl.edu) or find an Aggie Up! Editor.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

# AGGIE UP!



Volume 3, Issue 9

February 10, 2011

## Students Reach Out Overseas

By Eric Reed, Faculty Advisor

U.S. military service members from around the world will receive care packages from students at NCTA thanks to a grant from the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation.

The NCTA Student Senate has been awarded \$1000 to send care packages to Frontier and Lincoln County service men and women currently stationed overseas. The care packages will contain batteries, socks, sewing kits, playing cards, hygiene products, snacks such as energy bars and beef jerky, and letters from local elementary school children.

NCTA students Erik Williams, Noel Ochoa and Katrina Rotness are heading up the care packages project. They plan to finish by the end of March.

Ochoa said, "I feel this is an important project simply because it allows us to provide something—a good feeling to those who are so far away that will receive these packages. I have a friend in Afghanistan and I'm sure if he were to get one of these it would make him feel a bit more appreciated."

The students also will send troops brochures for the NCTA Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots program. This program is similar to NCTA's 100 Cow, 100 Acre, and Business Builder programs, which help beginning farmers, ranchers and rural students get on a path to owning their own rural business or agriculture operation. Under the Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots program, veterans who enroll at NCTA are eligible for lower interest loans. They also receive help developing a business plan with a partner.

Helping to get the Combat Boots



NCTA graduate Garrett Dwyer is an Iraq War veteran. He met Willie Nelson as a spokesperson for the NCTA Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots program. Courtesy photo.

to Cowboy Boots program started is NCTA graduate and Iraq marine veteran Garrett Dwyer. With his father as a partner, Dwyer used the NCTA 100 Cow Program to purchase 125 head of cattle last year.

Six other veterans currently attend NCTA out of an on-campus population of about 300 students. Dean Sleight says the campus will be able to grow to 600 students during the next two years now that the college has started construction on its new Education Center and residence halls.

There are more than enough people in the armed forces to fill those residence halls. According to Dwyer, there are currently 2 million people serving in the armed forces, either actively or in reserve. In addition, forty-five percent of service members already come from rural towns.

Through the Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots program, NCTA hopes to entice more veterans to rural Nebraska.

Through the care packages project, students might convince some of those veterans to attend NCTA.

## Basketball: It's More Than Just a Sport. It's a Team

Opinion by Matt Wieden, Guest Writer

With the basketball season coming to a close this week, I can't help but look back at all the highs and lows of the season. The season started off with ten players ready to hit the hardwood. At the beginning of the year it looked like we had a great start to a promising season with the return of three starters. Like every basketball season we had to start off with conditioning and practice to get the plays down so we could be able to play as a team on the court. Due to academic ineligibility and injuries we had to cut the season short because we could not continue to play with six players.

The practices have been tough lately because we have not been able to fully execute a full court practice, as we do not have enough players for a full team. However, we have been fortunate enough to scrimmage the Curtis town team every Wednesday, so we are able to practice on the full court and run some plays.

As the season ends and I look over the stats and rankings of the season and can't help but notice how well we compared to other schools across the nation in the USCAA league. Here are some highlights of the season:

NCTA was ranked 17th in the nation in the week 20 coaches poll, several players ranked high in individual stats. Jed Sekutera led the nation with offensive rebounds, defensive rebounds and total rebounds. Jed is also ranked in the top 25 for scoring, field goal percentage, double doubles, and blocked shots. Joel Stryker, returning All-American, led the nation in assists while ranking in the top 25 for scoring, free throw percentage, total rebounds, double doubles, and steals. Waylon Christen is ranked in the top 25 for total rebounds, double doubles, offensive rebounds, defensive rebounds, and blocked shots. Also, Dusty Metzner is ranked number one in the USCAA for most steals. With four players out of eight making national rankings, I would say this season is a success.

Playing on the basketball team has given our teammates a sense of belonging in support of our college in a town that lacks extracurricular opportunities. Most of us take NCTA basketball very seriously and have abstained from alcohol to keep a clear mind and conscience.

With all of that said, it illustrates that our hard work has produced national results some may have overlooked. We have endured a lot of criticism, but we have continued to strive as a team. Some may not share our same sense of pride, but the team is just that. A team.

## Letter to the Editor

I would like to address the article in the January 25 issue of Aggie Up! entitled "Get Cheggin and Make a Difference."

The sentence, "somehow the bookstore can always justify raising the prices on books" especially needs clarified.

Following are the facts on book price comparisons between the 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 academic years:

Prices on new books in the campus bookstore:		
Raised (8)	Lowered (3)	Remained the Same (45)

Prices on used books in the campus bookstore:		
Raised (3)	Lowered (17)	Remained the Same (41)

As you can see, there were many MORE textbook prices that remained the same or were lowered than textbooks that realized a price increase.

Eric Reed, Faculty Advisor for Aggie Up and General Education Division Chair, commented he bought a book for himself and paid \$12.00 for it. The bookstore was able to find the same book and sell it in the bookstore for \$5.95.

Overall student bookstore expenses have decreased the last few years due to the bookstore now being able to offer a larger supply of used books.

While attempting to remain competitive with on-line options, the bookstore researches various vendor sources in an effort to stock the bookstore with lower-priced books. Many books are ordered during the summer months when the online prices are reduced.

Many students have had excellent on-line ordering experiences but I have heard of several instances where on-line ordering did not work out for them, i.e. received the wrong edition, book didn't arrive, pages were missing, no CD included, etc.

Before heading straight to your computer or smartphone for on-line ordering or renting, please check with the bookstore for price comparison, and for assistance in getting the information for the correct title, edition, etc.

Our campus bookstore also offers clothing and supplies for vet tech students, NCTA logo wear, reference texts, and other on-site shopping conveniences.

**Jan Burton, NCTA Bookstore Manager**

*I appreciate that Jan wrote expressing her concern. I also appreciate the effort that goes into getting affordable prices for the students. I agree with checking bookstore prices--not only is it convenient, you're supporting your school. Just the other day Jan opened up the bookstore even though it was already closed, just to get me some supplies for class the next day. I was not thinking of the NCTA bookstore specifically when I talked about rising prices. It's in the students' best interest to find the cheapest price, after all every dollar adds up. - Aaron Couch, Co-Editor*

## More Thoughts on the "Sports Dilemma"

Opinion by Noel Ochoa, Guest Writer

After having written my article about the "athletics" issue at NCTA I got quite a bit of feedback. I had people e-mail me, Facebook about it, and even come visit me in Aggie West to discuss the issue. I believe the article has begun to do what I intended it to do: make people think and question.

By no means was this article directed towards one person, and in no way did it mean players on the basketball and volleyball teams don't know how to play or play well. The article was intended to provide numbers and facts. It did indeed come along with some of my personal opinions, but that is why it was published either as a Letter to the Editor or an opinion piece, depending on where you read it.

The part of the article that elicited the most interest or concern was the \$25,000 figure I discussed. This number is not simply a figment of my imagination, but rather a number which I gathered after research. The first place this number was presented to me—and many other students—was at the January 29 NCTA Student Senate meeting in which Dean Sleight gave a presentation on the topic.

I also got some information after speaking to the NCTA Business/Facilities Officer, Jan Gilbert. She confirmed that 100 percent of the student Activity fees this fiscal year (2010-2011) are allocated for athletics. In other words, student Activity fees are used only for athletics. "It is my understanding that the student Activity fee has always been earmarked for NCTA athletics," Gilbert said.

In prior years, the Activity fees fund sometimes paid for intramurals and entertainment as well. But then the SURF (Student Union Resource Fund) fee was created. The SURF is intended for non-sports activities. However, this fiscal year (2010-2011) athletics received \$3,848 from the SURF fund to be used for paying officials. This SURF money for athletics is in addition to the money athletics receives from the Activity fees.

Like other organizations, student athletes also receive additional funds from endowments in the UN Foundation and the Farm Aid Scholarship Fund as scholarships.

So not only did athletics receive most of the Activity fee money this fiscal year, it also received some of the SURF money.

According to Gilbert, athletics (men's and women's basketball, volleyball) did use approximately \$25,000 of student money last year. Also, over the course of about four years, the student Activity fee fund is about \$25,000 in debt, "primarily associated with athletics," according to Gilbert.

Gilbert stated, "The student activity fund that has supported primarily athletics expenditures must be brought to a positive balance. We need a solution in place by March 1, before the next academic year scholarships are awarded and the new fiscal year budget process begins."

This doesn't necessarily mean getting rid of the athletics program, but something must be done. All these funds going to athletics still don't cover all of its needs. Questions need to be asked and my previous article has initiated this.

A second question that arose with my article was, "why did

you send it to the Frontier County Enterprise?" Curtis is a small community and NCTA is linked closely to it. Given that the article was proposed to provide information for everyone affected (and to express my thoughts) I believe it was OK to have printed it there.

Some people suggest it might have been better to wait until the issue was resolved before writing about it. I disagree. What use would the information be if it were not presented until after possibly uninformed individuals with incorrect information had made a decision? News is real-time information. Old news is just that.

Others believe alumni should be involved in this issue. I do believe there are alumni in this community who probably don't see the school paper, Aggie Up!, and who wouldn't have known about this issue and its details if I hadn't written about it.

As human nature goes, I knew before submitting my article that not everyone would be happy after reading it. Voicing opinions that are not popular or facts that are not "good news" are not the easiest things to do.

I understand why students hold back their thoughts on many issues. This must change in order to move forward and improve that which we have. I hope students see, as I did, that it is OK to have an opinion. Instead of rumor, gossip, and hearsay, students should research the facts and seek to present the facts to the public—whether via Aggie Up!, the Frontier County Enterprise, or any other outlet. And they should not be afraid to express their opinion in writing.

I hope students take advantage of the fact that we have freedom of speech, which should be used. On a school campus the students' voices should be expressed, heard, and taken into consideration.

I thank everyone who came to me with their questions, concerns, and opinions on the "athletics" issue article.

NCTA students, voice your opinions, post about it, or arrange a meeting with whomever it is you'd like to discuss a topic with. It is imperative that the student voice be heard. As for the athletics issue, it has yet to be resolved, but I am confident that through student involvement and cooperation with those in charge on campus, a solution shall come about.

## Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

- All cars should come with remote starts.
- February sucks. There is just nothing good about it.
- The Super Bowl commercials were not very good.
- Cutting firewood is getting more difficult with age.
- Going to class without a writing utensil and paper is not going to gain you much.
- The fact that horses make "apples" and cows make "pies." Interesting.
- Powerful people are powerful for a reason. Don't trust them.
- A 2.0 GPA is not "good" regardless of what your buddy tells you.
- Cowboy boots do not appear to be the best footwear for the ice and snow.
- Being a baby calf born when its -20 degrees would be enough reason to crawl back in.