

Aggies Speak Out

Do you think the new dorms (Aggie Central) will bring more students to NCTA?

"It's yes and no for me. Yes, because the dorms won't look so run down, beaten up, old, and tiny to people who come to tour the school. But just because we are getting new dorms doesn't mean it will make people more aware of this school and what is offered here. . . ." -Shannon Carmichael, Grand Island, Neb.

"No, because housing is like bribing them. 'Oh, come to NCTA because you'll live in this awesome dorm room.' School should be based on what you want to be educated about for a career, not how well you sleep at night in new dorms. . . ." -Sheyna Huddle, Neola, Iowa.

"I think the addition of Aggie Central will be a positive commitment to the campus. Students looking to attend college must decide what are the positive and negative features of the different schools they are touring. Having a new dormitory built could be the difference between a student choosing this school and another." -Mark McClain, Fremont, Neb.

"I think the new dorms will bring in more students because one of the downfalls of NCTA according to students is the old dorms. I think more students will be willing to come here if they have more options for students housing, and the apartment style dorms are becoming very popular. . . ." -Desi Bruntz, Hastings, Neb.

(Thanks to everyone who responded. Sorry we could not fit all of your opinions. -Aaron Couch, Co-Editor)

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

- Thunderstorms in February are very strange.
- Watching parents make idiots of themselves at their kid's sporting events makes me sad.
- College is a privilege. Really, it is. We need to remember that.
- \$5.00 a gallon gas is coming, and soon. I would bet on it.
- You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes you just might find, you get what you need.
- Things could be worse--we could be in Egypt.
- Glad everyone had a good time at the LTC Saturday. Now come pick up the case of beer cans out of my hedge.
- If you don't like where you are or what you are doing, it's time for change.
- People who tell the truth seem to be the happiest.
- I shouldn't have to stretch regularly to be able to tie my shoes.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March, 2011

- 3 Community Team Roping @ 6:00pm in Livestock Teaching Center
- 3 STVMA Dance @ 9:00pm in The Barn
- 4 STVMA Movie Night in Veterinary Hospital @ 6:30pm
- 4 First 8-Week Session Ends
- 5 Sherman Tegtmeier Reining and Performance Clinic at 7:00 am in Livestock Teaching Center
- 7 Second 8-Week Session Begins
- 10 Community Team Roping @ 6:00pm in Livestock Teaching Center
- 12 Team Roping and Barrel Racing Finals @ 8:00am in Livestock Teaching Center
- 17 FFA Dance in The Barn @ 8:00pm
- 17 Community Team Roping @ 6:00pm in Livestock Teaching Center
- 20-27 Spring Break
- 23 Farm Safety Day @ 8:00am in Livestock Teaching Center
- 30 Mission IMPROVable @6:30pm in Student Activity Center
- 30 Aggie Days
- 31 Community Team Roping at 6:00pm in Livestock Teaching Center

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

Free Seminar

NCTA will host a free seminar March 31 at 1:00 p.m. to help families interested in transferring their farms, ranches, and rural businesses from one generation to the next. The seminar will be held in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital Amphitheater on the Curtis campus.

The featured speaker will be UNL family business transmission specialist Dave Specht. Specht's seven steps for family business success show families how they can work through the transition process.

"In the next 20 years, 70 percent of all agricultural land in the U.S. must transfer into different ownership as current owners age. Nebraska has a tradition of farms, ranches, and rural businesses transferring from one generation to the next, but there will be a larger turnover of business ownership on rural main streets for the same reason," Dean Weldon Sleight said. "It is critical that individuals who want to transfer their businesses to family members seek the information and answers to do so successfully."

Attendees can sign up for a free 30-minute consultation with Specht the evening of March 31 or on April 1. For additional information, please call Emily at 308-367-5200.



<http://ncta.unl.edu>

Inside this Issue:

- Recruiting Contest
- Professionalism Online
- A Family
- Things I think
- Free Seminar
- Aggies Speak Out
- Events Calendar

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AGGIE UP!



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Contest Set to Increase Enrollment

By Brittany Koranda, Guest Writer

Students at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture are finding new ways to fill their fuel tanks and gear up for the next hunting season by participating in a recruiting contest hosted by the college. Students who recruit new students for the fall semester are eligible for \$1,000 in contest prizes.

The mastermind behind the contest is Dave Smith, chair of the Agriculture Production Systems department. Smith was looking for ways to get current students more involved in the recruiting process when he came up with the idea.

"Our students are the best recruiters," Smith said. "They have more acquaintances, know more people that would be interested in our school, and have other classmates."

The biggest challenge for Smith was where to get the money. Funds for the contest are being raised through clubs and organizations in the Agriculture Production Systems department. The top recruiting prize offered is a gift card to Cabela's, specialty retailer of hunting, fishing, camping and outdoors goods. Second and third place prize winners will receive gift certificates to Ag Valley Co-op. Organizations that make a financial contribution towards the gift certificates can earn additional funding for their organizations based on the number of recruitments by their organization's members.

For participants to receive credit in the contest, the students they recruit must submit a verification card with their application confirming the participant's influence in



Professor Dave Smith with students

applying to NCTA.

The Cabela's gift card has encouraged more students to get out and recruit. Marie Jones, Agriculture Production Systems major, said, "Now is the best time to get students involved and to recruit because of all the new improvements going on around campus."

Jones plans to enlist new students by contacting her hometown high school in Alliance, Neb. She hopes to present a PowerPoint presentation to seniors and juniors at Alliance High School illustrating the new additions and programs.

Other approaches NCTA is taking towards recruiting includes the Aggie Days competition. Aggie Days is an extra practice contest for high school FFA members aiming for state competition. This year, NCTA is offering Aggie Days participants an opportunity to tour the campus and meet with advisors and existing students.

Professionalism Online

By Aaron Couch, Co-Editor

Social media is all around us. We have virtually unlimited access to the Internet. Considering how much time we spend online, it is crucial we are representing ourselves correctly. Why, you may wonder? It may come as a shock to you, but if you're on the web you can—and will—be found. This applies if you have any social networking accounts or blogs. In reality, we want to be found—it's the whole reason we communicate on the Internet through Facebook or Twitter, email or comment on blogs. The problem isn't being found; the problem is what other people find.

There is story after story about employees being fired because of what their bosses find on their social profiles. This includes pictures, statuses, blog postings or even links the employees shared. I, personally, follow a rule that has helped me: don't share, say or post anything online that you don't want everybody to know. In other words, if you wouldn't say it in the workplace around your boss, at home around your mother and in class around the instructor, then don't put it online. Notice I said "and," not "or," as you might get by saying something around one or even two of those types of people, but it is highly unlikely all three of them will approve of something "unprofessional."

If all else fails, use your common sense. Alright, but it's not always in our control what gets posted about us on the Internet. Take Facebook, for an example. We can be tagged in photos, statuses, shared links and notes on Facebook, and these show up directly on our profile! How is that our fault? In essence, it's not. We cannot always control what others may think, but we can control our privacy settings on these social networks. Facebook recently "re-vamped" its privacy settings, making it much easier for users to adjust their preferences.

Adjusting your privacy settings isn't really going to improve your professionalism if you continue or start other bad habits. These habits vary in severity, but some of them are foul language, bad pictures, accepting anyone's friendship and having a "messy" profile (I'll get to what I mean by that in a second). The reason why more secure privacy settings won't improve your professionalism is because there isn't any technology that can make you be professional online. You have to do it yourself.

Getting back to the bad habits, I feel foul language and "bad" pictures are self explanatory. There

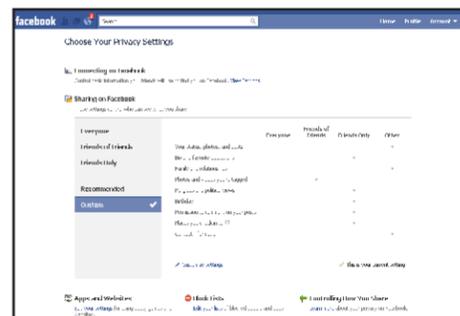


A post like the one above on Facebook can provoke unintended consequences from an employer.

is no reason to have them. Period. Also, accepting friend requests can get hairy. You can potentially offend someone if you don't accept them as a "friend"—crazy, I know, but that is how it goes. I go off a few general rules. I only add someone that I know, have met or who has a friend that I know well. Sometimes I'll even check with our "mutual friends" before adding them. It sounds extreme, but it prevents two things: cluttering of friends, which keeps your social networks personal (after all that's what it's about in the long run) and two, it prevents you from being associated with anyone you may have regretted adding. Granted you don't always know, but there is always the option to remove them later. If you've already made this "mistake," consider filtering out some of these people. A good example would be your sister or brother's friend's friend in tenth grade who added you and you didn't know any better.

Now, getting back to the messy profile—this includes an overabundance of groups, fan pages, "likes," applications such as games or quizzes and excessive sharing of links on your wall. People who have their social profiles (not just Facebook) filled with needless and potentially even dangerous applications typically have excessive "survey posts" and other useless postings covering their wall. Not only is this very unattractive, creating an impression of the person appearing unorganized, it's also just plain annoying. Be sure you are only liking and following groups you want to be associated with. If your boss sees you join a group that has a lot of foul

Continued on Page 3



Use the privacy settings option in Facebook to help control who can see your activity on the website.

Professionalism

Continued from Page 2

language in the name, or one called "I hate my boss and job, but mostly my boss," you will probably hear about it. And even if you don't hear about it from him or her, it still sends a bad impression. This gets back to the guideline of social media. Would you let your mom, instructor or boss see it? In this case, would you say this to your boss, or a future one, face to face? I don't care who it is, the answer is "No."

Britni Freiboth, Director of Student Involvement and Housing said, "I was deeply tied into an international PR firm in Dallas before I came here. We used Facebook to learn about the reporters we were pitching and to send our executives info about people they were going to meet. It's a highly common practice in the corporate world to research potential employees online, based on my experience."

This quote from Britni is a perfect example why you should always be conscious of what you are posting on the Internet. This also applies for blogs, especially if your blog posts are shared on your Facebook wall and can be seen by all your friends. This doesn't mean that your blog is any more public, it just means more people know about what you post. Be aware that unless you have specifically set your blog to be viewed only by specific people, it's public to the world. The reoccurring guideline applies again: don't post anything you don't want everyone to see. Just remember to always be aware how you are portraying yourself online. Here are some last words of wisdom from Britni that I couldn't have said better:

"Adopt a strategy early; be wise, cautious and careful. I used to believe in full access because I had nothing to hide, but I have definitely tweaked my own personal guidelines. So there it is, adopt your own personal guidelines and remember, what may work for Britni or me, may not entirely work for you. These aren't to be followed to a "T"; everyone has a different style. But follow the guidelines and, mostly, use common sense to find out what is the right balance for representing yourself professionally online.



How you present yourself online is just as important as how you present yourself in person.

A Family

Opinion by Maddie Thurston, Guest Writer

A family, according to the English Dictionary, is "a group of people who are generally not blood relations but who share common attitudes." That's what I feel our team at NCTA is: a "family." I am what you call "freshmen" at NCTA though I attended Hastings College for 2 years before transferring. I really didn't know a lot of people here at NCTA, but I was asked to help scrimmage with the volleyball team here. It's easier to make friends playing sports because there is no social awkwardness while you're playing. You're just playing together as a team whether you are good friends or not. Being a part of any group makes you feel like you belong somewhere with people you have something in common with.

This sports "dilemma," I feel, should have been handled in a much better way. We basketball players and our coach did not know anything about it until the article was published in "Aggie Up!" I know that if any other students were notified that their "club" or "organization" was up on the chopping block they would feel the same as us athletes' do. I agree with supporting our habit, but with any college or university, the athletic department is supported by the school. "Clubs" or "Organizations" support themselves by fundraising and with a little help from the school.

Women's basketball for the 2009-2010 spent \$ 8,197.32. This includes meals, officials, mileage, game film, lodging, basketballs, and awards. I know from being a player here at NCTA that there are no new basketballs. We use the community center balls. We don't even have our own balls to take with us on away games. As I stated earlier, yes, we should have to support our habit. I have talked to my fellow teammates and we agree that we would be okay with fundraising to save our sports. Our athletic scholarships are not paid for out of the activity fee or SURF fee funds. These are paid from endowments in the UN Foundation and Farm Aid Scholarship Fund.

This is one thing some of us have to do other than just doing school work. It is physical activity and it keeps us fit and in shape. It isn't a joke. The question being asked before the game is "What defense and offense will we be in?" Not who's going to buy the beer afterward. We are all very competitive girls and like to work hard and win. From what I understand, none of us think our sport is a "joke," as previous articles might have said. We are a family and took great offense to the previous articles that have been written. All we want is a chance to keep playing competitively and do what we enjoy.