

## Vet Tech Hospital

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A yellow-crested cockatoo named Prissy greets Mikayla Mulligan as she works in the Dr. Walter Long Veterinary Technology Teaching Clinic.

in Burwell. In 1968, he was appointed the first division head of the new veterinary technology program at NCTA (then the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture). He remained for 22 years, helping develop one of the nation's top veterinary technology programs. In 1973 the program became one of the first in the nation accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

The clinic that now bears Long's name is housed in NCTA's historic and completely redesigned "Dairy Barn," attached to the Veterinary Technology Teaching Complex. NCTA administrators hope the clinic will attract more students like Mulligan, who seek "hands-on" experience in their agricultural-related trades.

"When I learned about the college, I immediately fell in love," said Mulligan. "There was no other place that offered the same hands-on experience like NCTA. If I had gone to a university or any other college, I would constantly be in the classroom reading out of a book or listening to a professor talk about situations and procedures, but here I get to actually learn with my hands what I am taught in the classroom."

In addition to learning with their hands, students benefit from non-traditional classroom settings, a small student-to-teacher ratio, and professors who share a dedication to agriculture and passion for entrepreneurship.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November

- 8 Farm Bureau Club Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Jeff Wahl concert at 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Veteran's Day Program at 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Registration Begins for Spring Semester
- 13 Medicine Valley Wranglers 4-H Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Texas Hold 'Em Tournament at 7:00 p.m.
- 13 NCTA Community Advisory Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Student Senate Meeting
- 20 Residence Halls close for Thanksgiving at 5:00 p.m.
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Vacation
- 27 Last day to drop second 8-week and 16-week courses.
- 27 District Livestock Judging, Ag. Comm, Natural Resources at 8:00 a.m.

To add an event, contact Eric Reed at ereed2@unl.edu

Within the veterinary technology program, prospective students are often surprised to hear about the college's 25 different animal species.

"One day I could be working with the exotics, like learning to clip a bird's wing," Mulligan said during a tour of the clinic. "That's when I met Prissy, a beautiful yellow-crested cockatoo. Or there is Rosy, a Hog Island Boa; she is truly exceptional and very fast when it comes to catching her food. The true celebrity is Monty, an albino Burmese Python. The next day, though, I can be working with dogs and cats. There is a class dedicated to each species here, including production animals such as cattle and horses."

NCTA is one of only two institutions in the nation that provide a two year college setting dedicated solely to agriculture, and its veterinary technology program offers a very large college-based collection of exotic animals. The Veterinary Technology major requires 80 credit hours and is AVMA accredited. Upon completion of the Veterinary Technician Option graduates are eligible to sit for the Veterinary Technician National Board Exam and become a licensed veterinary technician. Graduates may also transfer and work towards a veterinary technologist bachelor's degree which can include meeting pre-veterinary program entrance requirements at UNL.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

# AGGIE UP!



## NCTA Students Gain Experience in New Veterinary Clinic

By Amanda Castle, Editor

*This article recently appeared in the Plains edition of the Fence Post under a different title:*

In the past two years, Mikayla Mulligan has woken up and worked with dogs, cats, snakes, rats, hamsters, rabbits, chinchillas, iguanas and birds. She has even worked with "Franklin" the tortoise. But contrary to assumptions, Mulligan does not work at a zoo. She is a sophomore studying veterinary technology at the University of Nebraska-Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in Curtis, and caring for the college's wide variety of animals is part of several classes preparing her to work rotations in the college's new Dr. Walter Long Veterinary Technology Teaching Clinic.

Mulligan, who is from Grand Island, Neb., now works in the Dr. Walter Long teaching clinic as part of a nursing class. The clinic is designed to help students gain experience at a working animal

clinic. Students under the supervision of the college's three veterinarians and two licensed veterinary technicians perform basic grooming, flea dips, vaccinations, nail trims, and de-worming procedures on college- and student-owned animals.

Before she graduates, Mulligan will work all the positions at the clinic, but first she will have to work her way up the ladder as a clinic attendant, a technician, a receptionist and an office manager.



The Dr. Walter Long Veterinary Technology Teaching Clinic is located inside the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture's redesigned historic Dairy Barn.

The clinic, which opened in November 2011, is named after Dr. Walter Long. A plaque on a clinic wall describes Long's contributions to NCTA's Veterinary Technology program. Born in Lincoln, Long graduated from the

University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1944. He served in the military during World War II and worked after the war as a county agent in North Platte. In 1956, he earned a DVM degree and began practicing veterinary medicine

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### Available Online

- [ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up](http://ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up)
- [facebook.com/aggieup](https://facebook.com/aggieup)

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### Aggie Up! Staff

- Amanda Castle  
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- Megan Streweler  
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- Eric Reed,  
Faculty Advisor

## Amanda's Column: A Cycle of the Seasons

Opinion by Amanda Castle, *Editor*



This time of the year I always find myself feeling down about things. Perhaps the reason is the change of weather, the cool, crisp air replacing my lovely

warm, sunny days or the beautiful leaves falling off the lifeless trees as they burrow down for the winter's cold. Either way, I feel myself and my attitude changing. My perception of looking on the bright side of things begins to narrow, and I wonder if it is just me that feels this way?

The last few weeks I have found myself thinking about my future and just life in general. I came to a realization that just happens to be connected to this change of weather. Our lives run in a cycle, much like the cycle of the seasons. We have our ups and downs, sure, but on a bigger picture the seasons symbolizes our stages of life.

Spring is a time of youth. The land is spotted with calves being born; the earth is embedded with seeds being planted; the trees bloom with dancing blossoms, and the flowers play peek-a-boo. The young generation moves into a transition, in hopes of gaining a higher education. All the while, the young lives acquire the knowledge learned from the winter.

Summer, my favorite season, is where everything gained in the spring is utilized. Summer is the production months. After the education, the tools learned must be put to use. Students are fertilized with higher knowledge, irrigated with goals and skills, just as the corn and soybeans lining the fields. In the summer, the plants can

grow and flourish using their roots to obtain nutrients, or they can wither from the burning sun and give up. Summer days are when long, countless hours are spent working hard to achieve goals.

Fall is the time to enjoy the splendid harvest from what was accrued through the summer. The plants are harvested, the cattle are gathered from the mountaintops, and the ranchers and farmers celebrate. A look in the past reveals that all the hard work paid off. But for the others who slacked off and gave up in the summer, their work only begins. They have to harvest enough now, in the fall, to make it to winter.

Winter is the time when cold is abrupt and the night falls young. Plants become dormant, the animal nestle in to bear the frigid temperatures. For others, the end of winter teaches younger generations what to be prepared for. The older generations tell of hard times—the floods in the spring, and the droughts of the summers. They tell of the good times, to enjoy life's simplest pleasures. Above all else, the winter teaches to plant the seed in the

spring—build your future with education; grow in the summer—go after your dreams when you're young; enjoy the fall's bountiful harvests—appreciate it when all you're hard work pays off; winter is for reminiscing—at the end of it all, look back and smile, knowing you did go after your goals.

Here at NCTA, students are only in the midst of their spring. Students are gaining their education in hopes they will grow beneath the ripening sun. It won't be easy, but perseverance will be the key to their fall harvest. In the end, when winter's winds howl through the falling night, this journey is what will be remembered.



## Thoughts from an M&M Jar (Opinion by Megan Streweler)

*Is it the End of the World?*



Well, it looks like we will have Barack Obama as our President for the next four years, like it or not. Some of you claim that you're going to move out of the country for a better life, or that our country has just been flushed

down the drain. Others might rejoice that life as we know it will not change in some ways over the next four years.

Assuming that the majority of those on campus are grouped into the first bunch, there will probably

be profanities, name-calling, and bashing of our current president as he takes office once again for his last term with us. Food for thought—if you want some positive aspect on this—is that this is his last four years. No president can serve more than two terms consecutively. I want all of you to keep in mind that even though the person you voted for did not get elected, that to pay attention to how your words are arranged as they leave your mouth or, in this day and age, appear on a computer screen. You might not know how your words or actions may affect someone since you haven't walked a mile in their shoes.

Granted, we are entitled to the freedom of speech, but you are also entitled to the consequences of your words and actions as well. And I will admit, simply stating your opinion on campus in a humble respectful way is not going to cause a lot of ruffled feathers, but

it's when rudeness comes into play and obscenities are used, that people tend to wonder where your heart is. Are you having a civil conversation with someone who voted differently than you in this election, or are you attacking that person's beliefs, because last I checked, we are also entitled to our own beliefs.

That being said, some might mope around for a week or two, maybe even the whole next four years, but it's not the end of the world. Life is filled with so many more meaningful things that bring richness to our world that for us to slip into a depression over a president being elected for a term of four more years is almost silly.

Maybe I'm too optimistic to be depressed about our current situation with our country; however, I do keep



up-to-date on the issues and economic events and realize that we could be in "grave" danger, but if you want change, you need to act on it, whether it be push and strive in spite of our country's situation or mope and pout and show the world that our country's morale has crashed. Which one would you rather do?

## NCTA Alumnus Speaks about Rebuilding Kazakhstan Beef Industry

By Jennifer Rittenhouse



Slattery with Professor Jo Bek

Mike Slattery was on campus Friday, October 12, 2012, as a guest speaker for the Agribusiness Management Systems Department. Mike recently returned home from a two year stint in Kazakhstan. In October, 2010, Slattery flew to the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan with 170 head of pregnant cows and heifers. His new job was going to be to manage one of the new 2,500 head animal breeding facilities, helping the country rebuild their beef industry.

Slattery spoke about the challenges of operating a beef operation in less than pleasant conditions. The winters in Kazakhstan were not as mild as what we are accustomed to in Southwest Nebraska, and the equipment was subpar.

Slattery, was raised in Indianola, NE and is a former student at NCTA.

### Reminder for Student Workers:

If you don't receive a time card from your supervisor by Monday of each work week then you should ask for one.

## Aggies Speak Out

*How do you feel about the presidential election results?*

Nellie LaPointe: Mission, South Dakota



"I feel like if America wanted a change they would have voted different and made that change for themselves. It may just be a repeat, but it may be better. We shall see I suppose."

Payton Dewey: North Platte, Nebraska



now."

"I feel that our country needs to figure out who a true leader is before they vote. A true leader makes smart decisions. So I feel that our country made a big mistake to have Obama back for an additional 4 years! If any time is to panic, it is

Cody Welsch: Fairbury, Nebraska



"I feel that it was an uneducated mistake by the American public to vote for, what are becoming more and more, a socialistic government. And I was not happy with the results."

Nicole Morgan: Larrabee, Iowa



"I'm a little disappointed in the outcome. I don't understand why we wanted Obama in office for another four years but there's no turning back now. I can say that I did vote."



## NCTA to Celebrate Contributions of Dean Weldon Sleight and Associate Professor David Smith

By Eric Reed, Faculty Advisor

A farewell ceremony is being planned at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) in honor of Dean Dr. Weldon Sleight and Associate Professor David Smith. Both men announced their retirement this year. The ceremony will take place December 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center on campus. Students, friends, colleagues, alumni and others are invited to attend.

Sleight arrived at NCTA in 2006 and led the college through a million dollar capital campaign and a plan to develop the campus through new construction and revitalization. Under his leadership, the college gained a student union, Education Center, two new residence halls, and a large addition to the Veterinary Technology Complex that includes the new Dr. Walter Long Veterinary Technology Teaching Clinic designed to help students gain experience in a working animal clinic while enrolled at the college. These projects have brought state-of-the-art classrooms, labs and facilities, as well as modernized entertainment and living spaces, to the college.

Smith, who is retiring after 39 years of service, was the first NCTA faculty member to use computer simulation in the classroom. He used a "dumb terminal" connected by modem to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln mainframe to run a cow game and perform ration balancing. He also wrote a computer program to calculate range conditions that was available nationally over the Ag. Net system, and he developed a computer program on which to keep the college's cattle records that was later made available to producers as a mail-in records system through Farmland Industries. Some of his other accomplishments include offering the college's first artificial insemination class, designing the college's AI teaching facility, and starting the first collegiate-level cattlemen's organization to be recognized by the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association.

Smith was named the Young Teacher of the Year (1978) and Post Secondary Teacher of the Year (1982) by the Nebraska Vocational Teachers Association. He received the Holling Family Award for

Teaching Excellence and the NCTA Teacher of the Year Award in 2006.

Sleight and Smith worked together to implement several new programs at NCTA aimed at revitalizing and preserving rural America through education and entrepreneurship. Programs such as the nationally recognized 100 Cow Advantage program and 100 Acre Advantage program were created to help young men and women become owners of agriculture operations through attainment of a college education, the development of a partnership and business plan, and low-interest loans.

These achievements and others have put NCTA on a path to future growth. The December 8 event will include hors d'oeuvres, slide shows, and speeches of presentation. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP and submit their "well wishes" at the NCTA website: <http://ncta.unl.edu>.

### NCTA BOOKSTORE HOLIDAY SALE!!

**Scrub tops ~ \$21.99**  
**Hoodies ~ \$26.00**  
**Crew Neck Sweatshirts ~ \$24.00**  
**Long Sleeve T-Shirts ~ \$15.00**  
**Short Sleeve T-Shirts ~ \$13.00**  
**Caps ~ \$13.00**  
**Portfolios ~ \$13.00**  
**Logowear ~ \$9.69**  
**Mugs ~ \$4.00**  
**Planners ~ \$4.00**  
**Notebooks ~ \$2.00**  
**Slingpaks ~ \$6.89**

**Bookstore Hours:**  
 Mon. - 8-Noon  
 Tues. - 8-2:00  
 Wed. - 8-Noon  
 Thurs. -8-2:00  
 Fri. 8-Noon

*Do your Christmas shopping in the bookstore!!*

Taking orders for sizes and colors.  
Place order by Nov. 15

## Home of the Free Because of the Brave

By Amanda Castle, Editor

Veterans Day, November 11, is a day we can all pay our respects. We can honor those who have fought for the freedoms that we know today. On Friday, November 9, NCTA will be hosting a Veterans Celebration on the front lawn of Ag Hall. The celebration will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. I believe that people should recognize and respect those who have served and are serving for this country. I would like to encourage the students of NCTA to come out and support the Veterans Celebration.

Before going to the Veteran's Celebration, it might be a good idea to brush up on some quick facts so you can be more aware of just how many veterans there are in America, and how these veterans have made the ultimate sacrifice for you and me. According to the United States Census Bureau, there are 21.5 million military veterans in the United States. Of those 21.5 million, 1.6 million are female veterans. 9.2 million Veterans are 65 and older and 1.8 million are younger than 35. Young and old, each and every veteran has made the pursuit to preserve our freedoms.

### Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. If you're going to buy guns, buy now.
2. Drove to work and walked home. Never realized I drove in the first place. They call that something.
3. Grass should not still be green.
4. Basketball shoes that cost \$250. Are they serious?
5. I don't fully get the whole electoral vote thing.
6. Legalize it, tax it. Simple.
7. Women 14 to 20 are the most vicious creatures (to each other) God ever created.
8. Again, this isn't high school. You don't pass because you show up once in a while.
9. Why do people take pics of themselves in mirrors?
10. Neighbor kids were running around shirtless with Santa hats on. I think everyone is confused.



Photo courtesy: <http://www.clearviewbc.com/news.php>

This country has faced its fair share of battles. Through it all America has persevered, rivaling in success and pushing on through the difficult times. There are 5.1 million Gulf War veterans, 7.5 million Vietnam veterans, 2.4 million Korean War veterans and 1.8 million World War II veterans in America (U.S. Census Bureau).

Let us never forget those who fought, those who served, those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who are still with us today. Please take a few minutes out of your day, November 9, 2012 to thank those in the United States Armed Forces and may we always remember the sacrifices made in our behalf.

### Thanksgiving Meal

Everyone is welcome to the Annual NCTA Aggie Dining Thanksgiving Meal, Thursday November 15, in the Cafeteria from 11:30 to 1:30

Serving: Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, Dressing, Sweet Potatoes, Dinner Roll, Salad Bar, Pumpkin Pie, Ice Cream

Cost = \$6.50 plus tax (\$6.92) per person



## Sydney Roth Named November Aggie of the Month



The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture has named Sydney Roth of Minneapolis, Kansas, Aggie of the Month for November. Roth is a sophomore studying horticulture while performing custodial and grounds duties and also working as an assistant to Horticulture Assistant Professor Trentee Bush.

Bush said of Roth: "Sydney has been a great role

model for NCTA. She comes to class with a great attitude to learn as much as she can while she's here, and her enthusiasm rubs off onto the other students. Sydney is also an extremely hard worker and is dedicated to making the NCTA experience better for current students and future students."

Roth, who is the President of the Horticulture Club, has sought to help grow the horticulture department and make it more visible on campus. For example, she is developing a "learning garden" educational site on the NCTA campus, and she recently obtained her Pesticide Applicator's License in anticipation of this year's campus "weed season." (She passed the requisite licensing tests on her first attempt.)

Roth is described as a very versatile and flexible student worker. Many days she can be observed mulching trees on campus, watering newly-seeded grass, "shoveling rock" from the former rock beds at Aggie West residence hall, or performing any number of other tasks.

## Music, Food, Support for a Good Cause!

By Amanda Castle, Editor

Are you in need for a little relaxation time in this busy work week? The cure is both fun and simple: bring yourself and your friends down to the United Methodist



Photo courtesy: <http://www.jeffwahlguitar.com/>

Church Thursday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. for good music, good food and a good cause. The star of the show will be solo acoustic guitarist, Jeff Wahl, from Colorado. The Curtis Rotary is sponsoring the event, and the admission is based on free will donation. All the proceeds will go to Polio Plus.

Wahl is a solo acoustic guitarist, and features various genres of music. The music will range from folk, jazz, new age, classical and Indian ragas. He writes most of his own music but will also play different sorts of music. He plays six-string and 12-string and will be doing amazing things with his instruments. He has six CD's out and you will think you are hearing several musicians. In fact, it has been said that when first hearing his music the listener often thinks it is coming from several performers playing together.

Besides the great music, there will be an assortment of snacks. Diane Herman, Curtis Rotary Club President requested the presence of NCTA students, saying, "We don't get this caliber of performer here in Curtis very often. The Students would enjoy this guy very much!"

In the past, NCTA has helped raise funds for Polio Plus by hosting a dance. Students can help this year by attending the event on Thursday and paying the free will donation.