

Residency Requirements

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the only reason we implemented this policy change is to try and help those students.”

This change is found to be true, statistically speaking, to help students that are found to be on or near academic probation. NCTA saw a rise in the number of students of academic probation this year and wanted to do something about it to help lower the numbers. NCTA finds students to be on academic probation if their cumulative GPA is lower than 2.0. Also, many of the students that attend NCTA are averaging 15 credit hours per semester, being that the minimum credit hour requirement to be considered a full-time student is 12 credit hours per semester.

Research was conducted before the change by Matt Allbright and others to see what other institutions have for on-campus residency requirements. Research has also found that students tend to be more committed to their studies and have more access to school resources, this being the computer labs and professors. This isn't to say that off-campus students aren't as committed or have less access, but on-campus students are within walking distance most times compared to driving distances for off-campus students. In the ease of accessibility, walking is preferred to most if you are looking at financial expenses that most college students express concerns about.

Lastly, some showed apprehension about how this would affect them if they were going out to complete an internship, which is very reasonable. When this was reviewed with Allbright, he assured that this would not be a problem as most students leave Curtis to complete the internship and with the unreasonable expectation of driving back and forth the new policy would affect those students in this situation.

Overall, the implication of this new on-campus residency requirement policy is to act mostly as a safety net for the students that are caught on academic probation or at risk for it. If you still have concerns or questions you can address a letter to the editor or contact Matt Allbright.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

30 Stock Dog Demonstration and Clinic at 9:00 a.m.

April

- 1 SURF Allocation Hearing at 4:30 p.m.
- 2 Student Senate Meeting at 12:00 p.m.
- 6 Jeanne Mueller Barrel Racing Clinic at 9:00 a.m.
- 9 NCTA Horse Judging Contest at 8:00 a.m.
- 9 Save-A-Life Tour at 7:00 a.m.
- 11 Livestock Quality Assurance Training at 6:30 p.m.

May

- 1 Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony at 5:00 p.m.
- 1 NCTA Awards Night at 7:00 p.m.
- 1 End of Year Dance at 9:00 p.m.
- 2 Spring Plant Sale at 9:00 a.m.
- 2 Graduation Ceremony at 1:30 p.m.

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

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. We should start spring break in April and then just not come back.
2. Drunk drivers are selfish. Go drive in a pasture. Don't kill innocent people.
3. There are less than 4 weeks of class left. Attending for the 1st time at the end of March isn't going to cut it.
4. March Madness. It's supposed to be about basketball, not spring fever.
5. There will be people in church Sunday that haven't been there since last Easter. Interesting.
6. Want an political conversation? Go stand in front of the empty ammo case at WalMart. You will hear it all.
7. Tried to start reading a book last night. Had the electronic Yhatzee game out in 5 minutes.
8. I am very proud of the way some students have turned themselves around. I have hope for some others.
9. Have a purpose.
10. Earn respect.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!



Changes Made to On-Campus Residency Requirement

By Amanda Castle, *Editor*

Recently, new information regarding updates and changes to the on-campus residency requirements hit the campus with a widespread reaction from the students. It was felt by some that confusion was fueling the reactions, so Aggie Up decided to do some investigating and answer some of questions on the minds of those concerned. This is what was found.

The On-Campus Residency Requirement affects all students who attend NCTA, both first-year students and returning students. Until the current time, students were only required to live on campus their first year, and then they would be allowed to move off campus. The new On-Campus Residency Requirement states: "All unmarried students who are enrolled for 12 or more credit hours, and who are under the age of 21, has fewer than 30 credit hours of post-secondary education or has a cumulative GPA of less than 2.0 as of the first day of the fall semester, are required to reside in on-campus housing." This policy is in effect for the entire academic year. If you do



Aggie Central Residence Hall.

not meet one of these criteria but wish to live off campus you will have to fill out an Exemption Request Form which you can get from Matt Allbright's office or from the Residence Life webpage (<http://ncta-residencelife.info>).

In simple terms, the new requirements state that if you are a first year student and are living on-campus now, have maintained a minimum 2.0 GPA and have completed or will complete 30 credit hours or more by the end of spring semester you can move off-campus next year. Residence Life Manager Matt Allbright said of the policy, "In reality this change is going to affect 10 to 15 students at the most, and

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Available Online

- ncta.unl.edu/aggie-up
- facebook.com/aggieup

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Aggie Up! Staff

- Amanda Castle
Editor/Photographer
- Megan Streweler
Writer/Photographer
- Sydney Roth
Guest Writer
- Eric Reed
Faculty Advisor

See staff for available positions!

Amanda's Column: Decisions, Decisions, and More Decisions

Opinion by Amanda Castle, *Editor*



As Spring Break came and gone, we were all anxious for the relaxing break, a little time to just breathe and recuperate. I know that I was in need for

some family time; a ten hour road trip was nothing if it meant I got to spend a week with my family.

Quite often, I consult my father for advice and tips on my writings. He gives me his opinions and ideas about how to expand my thoughts even more. When I told him about my idea for this column and decisions he made in his life, he told me this. "I have come across many old friends in my life. I look to them for advice for my life. I ask them of their regrets, they simply say the only regrets are the risks not taken; the decisions that took them forward aren't regrettable because at least they decided on something and made a step towards it. I think there is a lot to say about that."

Spring Break was a good time to reflect back on the past, analyze the present and plan for the future. Talk to the people you look to for advice, whoever they may be surely will have something to say about deciding on what your next step should be.

Now it is back to the grinding stone, back to NCTA to finish up another semester, for some it is the last, for others it is just one in the books and one more to go. It is up to us to decide if this is where we stop or if we go on. A quick and easy decision for some, for others it requires a lot of thought and consideration. These decisions could be so important in the long run.

This is a time for decisions. Despite all the chaos and busy schedules everyone has, take time to look up and take notice to what is going on around you. Take time to look at where you have been, where you are and where you could be going. These decisions, though at times it seems trivial, are all a part of our future. Internships, summer work, transfer options, whether to get a second major, whether or not to quite college and go in another direction, these choices are all a part of our future.

Start with one decision you made in your life,

that one decision can lead to an infinite amount of outcomes and any of those outcomes can lead to another infinite amount of outcomes and this goes on and on. Every decision we make can lead us to something bigger, if we use the knowledge gained here at NCTA, the courage built within us, and with our faith. So, if you find yourself at a fork in the road, know that you have many choices you can make. Don't go for the easy route, don't go for the route that everyone travels, but choose the route that is best for you.

Dr. David Norman



Dr. David Norman, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, was the guest speaker at NCTA on Tuesday, March 14. Dr. Norman's lecture, "Hunger in a World of Plenty," was held in the NCTA Education Center Auditorium at 12 noon.

Dr. Norman's presentation showed his nearly 40 year career focused on agricultural development in low-income countries. He has worked on projects funded by the United Nations, World Bank, organizations such as the Ford, Rockefeller, and Gates Foundations, and governments of nearly eighty countries around the world.

The presentation gave an insight of the United State's role in agricultural development in low-income countries. He talked about his concern that the gap between supply and demand is increasing and there is a need to meet the upcoming demand.

Dr. Norman was hosted by the 'Economics of World Food and Agriculture' class at NCTA.

Bookstore News

**Caps and gowns will be arriving soon.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR graduates.**

Textbook buy-back will begin April 25.

Thoughts from an M&M Jar: Are There Angels Among Us?

Opinion by Megan Streweler



Going through life, I have realized that some of the people that we claim as our closest family members are not related to us by blood but rather by a connection of the heart. These special people in our lives have crossed our

paths and have helped us along the way with our own path. They have accepted us without judgment of our past and loved us for who we are. They were the ones who lifted our spirits up and gave us a reason to live, dream and hope again.

At some point or another when we grow up, we realize that our biological families are not perfect. There's always going to be a nut or oddball in every family, and sometimes we might even feel like that oddball is *ourselves*. We think or act differently than the rest of our family members and end up being the butt of every joke or criticized at every family gathering. This doesn't always mean that we are wrong; it's just the plain and simple fact that we are all different.

It's times like these where I am thankful for the family that I was not born into because it seems to me that they are the ones who understand me the best. I don't have to explain my actions or motives because they already know. They don't judge me from my past mistakes and experiences. All they care about is who I am now and how I learned from my past.

Most of the time after a mistake, what we really need is comfort from the ones who are not going to rain their authority down upon us. We need that fresh start and to be told it's okay to make a mistake and that they will help us learn from it and grow. We need to surround ourselves with people who want to help us grow, learn, and bloom into the people we were meant to be.

Some people say we have guardian angels that walk about this Earth with us everyday. Sometimes I wonder if my guardian angels are the ones who take me in when I have been defeated at some trial in life and lift me back up again. They help me regain my footing, build my spirits back up and fill me with

drive and passion to chase after my dreams once more. After all, aren't some of our greatest battles in life the ones we fight within ourselves?



Photo courtesy of <http://ramattejani.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/home-family-friends.jpg>

Summer Housing
Sign Up
2013

Summer Housing in Aggie West

Sign up for summer housing at the
Residence Life Office by
Friday, April 26th

Costs (8 week session)

- Room with Communal Shower—\$568
- Room with Private Shower—\$652
- 14 Meal Plan—\$644

Interim Housing Available
Prices are in addition to the regular eight week cost for housing.

Residence Life Office
Aggie West Residence Hall
Matt Allbright
308-367-5247
nctahousing@unl.edu

Spring Plant Sale

By Sydney Roth

This spring, the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture horticulture students will be hosting their annual spring plant sale from Saturday, April 27, through Thursday, May 2, in the NCTA greenhouses.

Plants available this year include annuals such as mini petunias, begonias, and lantana; woody ornamental plants such as goldenrain tree, eastern redbud, and mini roses; and vegetables such as many different colors of bell peppers and heirloom tomatoes. Houseplants such as wandering Jew, Boston fern, spider plant, and many succulents are also available.



Above: Some of the plants that will be available at the spring plant sale.

All of the plants are grown by NCTA horticulture students. They are involved in selecting which plants to order, which seeds to order, how and when they are planted, when they are watered, when they are pinched, and how to organize the actual sale. The houseplants are all propagated by the students from various tropical plants in the greenhouse.

Proceeds from the spring sale are used to fund educational trips throughout the school year. This year, the students were able to tour the rainforest exhibit at the Omaha Zoo, and were given a behind-the-scenes look at maintaining tropical plants in a unique environment. Early this spring, students traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska, to the annual Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association conference. Students were able to watch presentations on trends in the green industry, new techniques plant growers are using, and how climate change will affect the industry.

Every spring, NCTA Horticulture travels to the annual Student Career Days. Students are able to compete in different horticulture events such as Landscape Design, Annual & Perennial ID, and Landscape Maintenance Cost Estimating. This competition allows students to practice what they have learned in class, and also gives them the opportunity to network with major green industry corporations.

Our greenhouses are already packed for this year's sale, so be sure to stop by and check it out!

Aggies Speak Out

What exciting things did you do for Spring Break?

Mitch Kubert, Elwood, Nebraska:



"I got to see my family, which is always a good thing, and then I got my bow geared up for turkey season."

Austin Brown, Danbury, Nebraska:



Over Spring Break I went home and went to my grandparents to see my family, but other than that I just worked."

Sara Alber, Blue Hill, Nebraska:



"Went to Colorado to spend time with family then went home and sold calves... yeah my spring break wasn't that exciting."

Michelle Grimsley, Ogallala, Nebraska:



"I worked all Spring Break; we got new plants in at work so that was exciting."

"Don't be so open minded that you're brain falls out."

~Unknown

VTCEA Scholarship Winners



On March 5 five scholarships for \$800 were handed out from the Veterinary Technology Continuing Education Association (VTCEA). The criteria for applying for this scholarship were enrollment in Veterinary Technology Division at NCTA, having passed all first semester classes, had a CGPA of 3.0 or higher the first semester, work ethic, positive attitude towards education, and an active STVMA member and classroom attendance. There were so many well qualified applicants for this scholarship that the VTCEA decided it to be fair to put all the names of students in a hat and draw. The five above are the lucky winners and were presented with an \$800 dollar check and a certificate. The students who were selected were (pictured above left to right) Lynnsey Riha of Spencer, Neb.; Colton Baltazar of Fort Morgan, Colo.; Morgan Bredthauer of Hampton, Neb.; Cheyanne Johnson of Fairbury, Neb.; and Sharmayne Katzburg of Prosser, Neb.

College Tips:
Prepare for each class as though you expect a pop quiz.

Jackson Kummer Selected Aggie of the Month



NCTA has announced Jackson Kummer of Columbus, Neb., its "Aggie of the Month" for March 2013.

Kummer will graduate in May with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Agriculture Production Systems/Diversified Option. He expects to begin working for the Lone Creek Cattle Company in Whitman, Neb., shortly thereafter.

Kummer serves as president of NCTA's Farm Bureau Club and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He also serves on the Student Senate.

In 2012, Kummer won the Agronomic Knowledge Exam at the NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture) national Crops Contest hosted by Coffeyville Community College in southeast Kansas. The exam included 75 multiple-choice questions on knowledge requirements for the national Certified Crop Advisor program. Ten two-year schools and about fifty students competed.

Assistant Professor of Agronomy Dr. Brad Ramsdale said: "Jackson is an excellent student that is performing near the top of his class. He is very dedicated to his education and has shown great consistency and integrity during his time at NCTA. Jackson's achievement of winning the Agronomic Knowledge Exam at the national Crops Contest last year was a very significant accomplishment for a 1st year student and is a great example of his problem solving skills."

Dr. Ronald Rosati Named New Dean of NCTA



Dr. Rosati is on campus and in Curtis this week. Above, he sits in on a meeting of the Dean's Council Friday afternoon.

The current provost of Southeast Missouri State University will be the new dean of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis.

Ronald Rosati will assume the position this summer.

"We are most excited to have a person of Dr. Rosati's talent, skills and experience to be our next dean of NCTA," said Ronnie Green, vice president of agriculture and natural resources for the University of Nebraska.

Rosati has been provost of Southeast Missouri State since 2010. Previously, he served in a number of roles at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, including dean of the College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences.

Rosati received his associate's degree in agriculture from Farmingdale Agricultural and Technical College, his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural education from Cornell University and his doctorate in agricultural education from Iowa State University.

Rosati replaces Weldon Sleight, who retired last year.

"I appreciate the opportunity to join the team at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. I

studied the institution extensively and I've been very impressed by the quality and dedication of its faculty and staff, and the support NCTA receives from the University of Nebraska, state legislators, Nebraska's agricultural community, and the town of Curtis," said Rosati, "NCTA offers some creative and visionary academic programs that are very high quality and serve the needs of its students very well. I look forward to working with the NCTA community to continue to grow the institution, including its enrollment, programs, and service to Nebraska's agricultural community."

"With the foundation that has been established, NCTA is poised to move to the next level under Dr. Rosati's vision, leadership and management capabilities," said Green, who also serves as the Harlan vice chancellor of the university's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Rosati also has experience at Illinois State University, Ohio State University, Iowa State University and Alfred State College, where he also served as provost.

NCTA is a two-year college that offers associate of science and applied science degrees in agriculture fields. It includes a 600-acre land and livestock laboratory.

Horticulture Students Place at National Competition

By Sydney Roth



Above: Brandon Salpas, Keithan Cochran, and Melanie Cadwallader competing in landscape installation.

This March, eight horticulture students from the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture competed in the national PLANET Student Career Days in Auburn, Ala.

Throughout the year, students prepare for competitions such as Annual & Perennial ID, Landscape Design, Skid Steer Operation, and Irrigation Troubleshooting. Students have to take what they learned in their classes and apply it to real-world situations.

During the PLANET Student Career Days, students are also able to participate in a career fair. Representatives from major companies in the horticulture industry, such as Stihl, Caterpillar, and John Deere, set up booths and conduct interviews. Students are given the opportunity to network and learn how the industry is growing in other parts of the country.

This year, NCTA had five students place in the top-five in their events. Jenna Hill placed fifth in Leadership Skills, Sydney Roth placed third in Business Management, and Melanie Cadwallader, Brandon Salpas, and Keithan Cochran placed fifth in Landscape Installation.

Overall, the team placed 37th out of 63 teams.

In order to raise funds to participate in Student Career Days, the NCTA horticulture students have two annual fundraisers. In the fall, students sell poinsettias and

houseplants. During graduation in the spring, students sell annuals, perennials, and some trees. All plants are grown by the students.

This year's spring plant sale will be held Saturday, April 27th through Thursday, May 2nd in the NCTA greenhouse.



Above: NCTA Horticulture Students and Assistant Professor Tee Bush at Auburn University for the PLANET Student Career Days event.