

Choices

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You have to increase numbers and fill our capacity. My background and administrative experience would make me a good fit for NCTA. I think there is a good opportunity for growth, a good vision and a base.”

Dr. Camfield mentioned the changes that are going to occur in agriculture and because we are an applied science agriculture school at NCTA, that is what makes us so “tantalizing” to him. He wants to make sure that we are actively known in every FFA program in the state of Nebraska.

Our final Dean Candidate, Dr. Jack Whittier from Colorado State University, visited us on February 11. He grew up in northern Utah and participated in livestock judging and showing steers. He attended UNL, which left a lasting impression on him, and he has been trying to find a way back ever since.

He presented a simple analogy using a car, fuel, a roadmap, and key. The car is the campus, history and the alumni. The fuel is the current and future students and faculty. The roadmap is a vision and a mission, and the key is a strong leadership team. He quoted Temple Grandin that “Travel is a good teacher,” emphasizing students going on field trips, taking spring tours to successful agriculturists, and visiting affiliate membership in trade associations.

He focused on how to guide the process of recruiting and how to train and empower students from rural backgrounds to return to rural America. He wants to lead a great faculty to even greater accomplishments.

When asked if he had seen anything in agriculture that would be fitting that we are not doing here in Curtis, he replied, “I think that this school--I read an article that mentioned that the middle skills are being left behind--I think the skills that are being learned are vital.”

We have been granted some very good candidates, and now our school has been left with the decision of which one will work best for our current and future students, our faculty and staff, and our programs.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 20 District X1 CDES #2 at 8:00 a.m.
- 26 Farm Advisory Council Meeting
- 27 Student Senate Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

March

- 01 First 8-week final exams
- 02 4-H Early Market Beef Weigh-in at 9:00 a.m.
- 04 NCTA Open House at 9:00 a.m.
- 07 NCTA Talent Show at 8:00 p.m.
- 09 NCTA Ranch Horse Show and Clinic at 8:30 a.m.
- 12 Aggie Days Contests at 8:00 a.m.
- 12 NCTA Community Advisory Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Student Senate meeting at 12:00 p.m.
- 23 Purina Feeds/Land o' Lakes/NCTA Feeding and Fitting Clinic at 8:00 a.m.

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

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. People could be more considerate towards each other. A lot more.
2. It's a good thing Thin Mints are only available once a year and are ridiculously overpriced.
3. Your horse may have to pull your pickup and trailer by the end of the summer. \$4.00+ gas... again.
4. My Dish TV isn't much better than my free TV when I was little. That's not saying much.
5. Why do dogs like to eat horse hoof trimmings?
6. Not feeling well? Go to Martha Joe's and have a little Bugogi. You shall be cleansed.
7. It doesn't bother me if students fail. It bothers me if they are OK with failure. Try again.
8. Everyone should drive slower in town. I just don't understand what the hurry is.
9. If I'm in your last will and testament, I'd better be the only one. Not fighting anyone for what you earned.
10. You can listen to some really bizarre music on Spotify. And I listen to some weird stuff.



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!



Choices and More Choices

By Megan Streweler

The last few weeks have been buzzing on campus, as we have had three more Dean candidates step on campus and give presentations along with touring the college and western Nebraska.

Shortly after Dr. Dann Husmann, we had Dr. Ron Rosati from Southeast Missouri State visit us on February 4. He focused on solving problems, keeping people happy, and keeping things moving forward. He wanted to improve our enrollment growth (get it growing and keep it growing). He mentioned that higher education is based on teaching students how to handle new technology and acquire the knowledge to utilize it. When asked why he wanted this position, he replied, “This institution is very well poised. I understand the institution, like the support and [like] that it is about agriculture. I have a passion for agriculture. I like the small, friendly campus--easy to get your arms around the campus. I like the warm friendly environment. I am not looking at just staying here for a few years but looking at a definite place and looking at it as a long-term commitment.”

His tentative vision was to produce

an agricultural workforce that meets the needs of graduates and Nebraska's agribusiness industries. He wants to facilitate entrance into production agriculture and

associated agricultural industries for aspiring entrepreneurs and for providing a pipeline for easy transfer to UNL, along with collaborating with IANR.

On February

7, we had Dr. Peter Camfield join us on campus. He was raised in west Texas and is currently at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, which is an ag school similar to ours, only in a larger spectrum. He felt he would be a good fit for NCTA: “I embrace the advancements that agriculture makes. I love rural America. I associate and I can communicate with rural people. I have the ability to be a good recruiter and I think I can help NCTA's numbers.

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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
- Eric Reed,
Faculty Advisor



Above: Dr. Ron Rosati.



Top: Dr. Peter Camfield; Bottom: Dr. Jack Whittier.

Amanda's Column: These Crazy Days

Opinion by Amanda Castle, *Editor*



Does anyone else feel like since second semester started everything has become a blur? For the second years who are planning on graduating or

those who plan on transferring or even the first years who are feeling the pressure of the nearing end of the year, do you feel like me, like you are always behind on something that needs to be done? It is either the graduation application that was supposed to be turned in last Friday, the Entrepreneurship project that needs to be worked on, the composition paper that isn't going to write itself, or the scholarships that you need to apply for the next year.

It is always something that needs to be done and it seems like there is never enough time to do everything. At the moment, I am in the transition mode, trying to get things organized

for the transfer to UNL next year. I have applied, been accepted, paid my enrollment fee, and applied for scholarships. Now I have to start preparing for enrollment dates and looking for student housing. It gets me to thinking what it is going to be like next year, when I leave the rural countryside, a place that is all I have known, and move to the big city.

Fear is one word that can sum up my thoughts. I often think about the fact I am from a small town, where the common perspective is conservative. That is one thing that sold me on NCTA, the uniquely tied family feel and the conservative views. When I go to UNL, conservative thoughts are going to be a minority, or so I am told.

Sitting in one of my classes last week, I asked my professor about when he attended college if he felt the pressure of his liberal professors or felt that he could

not reveal his true thoughts for fear of being ridiculed or even receiving a lower grade on assignments if he did in fact counter-part the "common opinion." His response was that he sometimes did feel the pressure and that he never really revealed his true opinions because at the time it was easier to just go with the flow.

I can see myself in the same position. I have always taken pride in getting good grades and working hard for them. But one thing I hate is having someone's beliefs shoved down my throat. I can hear someone's opinion as long as they take the time to hear mine. To sit in a classroom and listen to a professor talk about something that I disagree with and

then not get to tell them my thoughts without getting punished for it would be extremely discouraging.

You may think I am getting a little over-excited about this but in fact the same day I had this discussion with my instructor, there was a news story on Fox News about the same exact thing. A liberal professor at West Liberty University in West Virginia

told her political science students they could not use Fox News as a source for projects. She went as far as to tell her students that she could not stand the news station because it made her "cringe." She told her students that the news station was biased and she would rather they print something off from the Onion, a parody of actual news (Fox News, 2012).

Since then, the professor has been released from the school for the time being, but still this gives me a shudder of fear. With all the things that have become a blur these days, this puts me in a place of reality. NCTA is unique, as we all share a common tie, perhaps a common sense tie. I just pray that when I transfer to UNL and am in the midst of all of its craziness I find the strength to raise my voice to be heard at the right time.



Image courtesy: <http://blog.speakupmovement.org>

Thoughts from an M&M Jar: Country Girl in a City World

Opinion by Megan Streweler



On February 8, I made the long trek to Lincoln to their "How to Transfer Days." My advice to anyone going up to Lincoln to tour the campus is to go up the night before like I did because I was able to view the campus at night.

It was so quiet, with no traffic, so we could take our time and not feel bad about getting in the way of students and faculty members trying to get to places. Since I had never been to either campus, I was able to get a layout of East Campus.

Then we also showed up early; well, a little too early. I forgot to check out itinerary, so we were three hours early. Note to self and all of you: always check the itinerary and don't be afraid to call and ask for directions. But it all worked to my advantage as I was able to see student life and how busy both City and East Campus can be. We toured a few buildings on our own and visited both student unions.

Now, I have been to the west coast and large cities and never experienced the culture shock that I did when I visited City Campus. I was promptly greeted by a lady who looked at me like I was another poor soul trapped in a nightmare when I stepped into the classroom session. She handed me my nametag, and by the way, I hate name tags. I had always heard the rumors of students being another number at UNL, and I refused to be a number, so I ripped off my nametag and threw it away. The way I figured, if I was going to make an impression, I didn't want someone looking at my name tag, I wanted them to get to know me and remember me for me.

As the morning went on into the afternoon, the instructors talked about Blackboard and MyRed for a few hours. My advice to NCTA students looking to transfer is to schedule a tour with your advisor, as we already know about MyRed and Blackboard.

But lunchtime was when the shock set in. We went to Selleck to eat at the food court and it is located on City Campus. I was dressed in my cowboy boots, blue jeans, and a nice t-shirt. I was the only person wearing cowboy boots. I felt like a hick from

the sticks. I never realized that western Nebraskans have an accent until that day. I'm glad I had my boyfriend for company and he had attended UNL for college, as he kept

me from freaking out. I never expected UNL to have such the multicultural diversity that it did. In a way I was proud that so many different ethnic groups chose UNL, but at the same time, I wondered if I was still in Nebraska.

I struggled through my lunch, and finally it was time for our appointments with our academic advisors. I have never run so fast to our pick-up in my life. That being said, I fell in love with East Campus and the faculty over there. They are so welcoming, warm and understanding. It looks like a large NCTA campus and I felt right at home. While working with Lloyd Bell and Dr. Dann Husmann, who both were my advisors, the scariness was washed away and I felt an eagerness build inside me to start my education there and experience new opportunities. There was one quote I remember from City Campus that changed my perspective and kept me from running home, and it went something like this, "We will never learn anything new if we don't let ourselves come out of the comfort zone and place ourselves in difficult and different situations."

So my final word of advice if you go to a big university and get the ultimate shock of your life like I did, don't run for the hills quite yet. It might be scary and unnerving at first, but it's a choice to stand up to adversity or to blend in. I could choose to change my wardrobe and blend in, but what good would that do? Instead, I am choosing to represent my home, my passion and my dreams. When you reach an obstacle, you have the chance to turn it into an opportunity.



Gaughan Building on City Campus in the morning. Photo by Megan Streweler.

Aggie of the Month



Megan Streweler of Arnold, Neb., is NCTA's Aggie of the Month for February.

An agriculture education major, Streweler will graduate from NCTA this spring and transfer to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to pursue a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education and Leadership in the fall.

Streweler is a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society, the Business Club, and the Aggie Up! student newsletter staff. She is active in all three organizations and helps with other events on campus, such as the FFA Livestock Judging Clinic her first and second year.

"Megan is taking 24 credit hours to graduate this semester and remains visible on campus," said Assistant Professor and PTK advisor Eric Reed. "She also makes the dean's list and maintains a minimum 3.5 grade point average to be in Phi Theta Kappa regardless her number of commitments."

Streweler hopes to teach agriculture and business at McPherson County High School in Tryon.

College Tips:
Introduce yourself to your professors and go to their office hours.

Aggies Speak Out

"Of the Dean candidates you saw, which was your favorite and why?"

Cody Soukup: Exeter, Nebraska



"My favorite candidate was Dr. Ron Rosati because he talked about how he would help each program in any way he could. He seemed to genuinely care about NCTA."

Katie Nelson: Ansley, Nebraska



"I thought Dr. Jack Whittier was a good candidate. Out of all the other candidates he seemed to have the best agriculture background. I feel he has a lot more to offer to NCTA and can advance us more in the agriculture field."

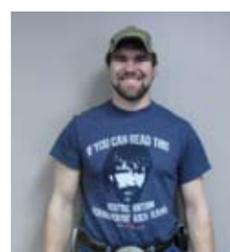
John Dunlay: Orleans, Nebraska



"I saw Dr. Peter Camfield from OPSU. I thought that he could bring a lot of things to NCTA, as far as more programs, which the programs could lead to more student involvement. Also, he really wants to get more people to come

to NCTA which is very important. Lastly, I think he has good ideas and morals, he is just an all-around kind of guy."

Austin Treiber: Danbury, Nebraska



"I thought that Dr. Dann Husmann was pretty good. I thought he brought a lot of good points and could do some good for NCTA, especially with his ties through CASNR and UNL."



Ride for the Brand Ranch Horse Show and Clinic

By Amanda Castle, Editor



Saturday, February 16, 2013, kicked off the second annual Ranch Horse Clinic and Show. Saturday was the clinic. Several people were brought to NCTA to give tips for riders. The clinic was open to the public and NCTA students with a \$40 fee for the whole day. Jeremy Knoles was there to help out at the cattle clinic, Rusty and Shelly Wills and Todd Theizen was there for tips on reining, and Judy Bowmaster-Cole and TL Meyers helped with trail. The Ranch Horse Team split the riders into groups to focus more specifically on each rider and explain each event in greater detail.

Sunday, February 17 was the show. The events

started with working cow horse, ranch trail, and reining and ended with ranch pleasure. Each class was \$15 with a \$10 cow fee. The rules were followed according to the American Stock Horse Association guidelines. Ranch Horse Team members, Morgan Hoffman and Katelyn Sughroue were a part of the day's festivities.

Katelyn, an experienced rider says this of the clinic and show: "I greatly appreciated the tips learned through this clinic; it approved upon my skills, and I feel it was a great thing to provide for NCTA and the public."

Morgan Hoffman echoed her by saying, "The clinic gave me a lot to think about and helped me in a lot of ways. I learned new things to help me when I ride."

The clinic and show was considered to be a great success, and the Ranch Horse Team looks forward to putting on another great event March 9 and 10. The costs as well as the classes are expected to be the same. Remember that if you are planning on riding in the next clinic and show there is a new bio security; each horse must have current coggins, health certificate, and 5-way. The papers will be checked, and for the self-vaccinated you will need a proof of purchase. For any questions about the future clinic and show, you can contact the Ranch Horse Team Coach, Roy Cole at 308-367-6313.

Free College Movie Night

By Amanda Castle, Editor

College Night at the Star Theater is February 22, 2013. The movie will be Lincoln, and it is FREE for NCTA students. Students need to check in with Matt Allbright. The box office opens at 7:15 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Lincoln is described as the following. In a nation divided by war and the strong winds of change, Lincoln pursues a course of action designed to end the war, unite the country and abolish slavery. With the moral courage and fierce determination to succeed, his choices during this critical moment will change the fate of generations to come.

Be sure to come out and enjoy a free movie with your friends at the Star Theater!

College Night at the STAR

February Movie: Lincoln

Friday, February 22nd, 2013

Box Office Opens at 7:15pm

Movie Starts at 7:30pm

College Students are admitted

Free of Charge.



NCTA Career Fair



NCTA hosted its first career fair in years February 7. About seventeen colleges and business came to check out NCTA's students and attract some of them

to their organizations. Approximately 143 individuals attend the fair. Plans for next year's fair are already in discussion.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the \$20.00 gift certificate drawings in the bookstore: Jenna Schilke, Jackson Kummer, Katie Nelson, Cy Barnes and Christy Bacon!!



Above: Megan Streweler, Melissa McConnell, and Amanda Castle help prepare "Treat Snacks" for the PTK Valentine's Day Fundraiser.

Send your NCTA-related photos, articles, and ideas to Amanda Castle at openann08@yahoo.com.



**"Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first."
~Frederick B. Wilcox**

A "Hands-On Experience" at NCTA

By Amanda Castle, Editor



When prospective students come to tour NCTA, a common phrase is heard. A lot of colleges promise a hands-on experience, but NCTA stands apart from other institutions by staying true to its promise.

Students in various classes are asked to sign up for a week out of the course to check on the school's cattle during the calving season. In classes such as Beef Production, several students have had to check on the cows in evening and morning to see if there are any new calves or if they need to assist the cow by pulling her calf.

Students, Matt Dole and Brooks Holbrock had to assist a new calf last week. The beginning of the week, when the wind was whipping through the campus and it was turning cold, Dole and Holbrock went out for their routinely night check and found a newborn that needed extra help. They got the cow and calf down to the working facility barn. They then worked the calf to try and get him started sucking. With some success they turned the happy pair out for the night.



Captions: NCTA student Matt Dole works with a calf that was recently born on campus.

Student Talent Show

By Amanda Castle, Editor

NCTA, get to practicing your special talents, because on March 7, 2013, you have the chance to showcase them at the Student Talent Show. The show will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Education Center Auditorium. There will be judges of all the performances. Judging will be based on talent, showmanship, appearance, crowd response and time deduction. All the participants must be current students of NCTA and participants will be selected based on first come, first serve basis. All the entries must be pre-approved by Matt Allbright. Please notify him by March 6 of your talent so it can be approved and put in the line-up.



Participants will need to be ready to check-in at 7:00 p.m. on March 7. The line-up for the contestants will be posted on the NCTA Facebook page. If there should

be a reason for a contestant cancellation please notify Matt Allbright by noon of the talent show day.

Performances must not exceed 4 minutes, after the four minutes is up, the contestants will be penalized 5 points for each 30 seconds over the 4 minutes. Please, no obscene performances, which include any gestures or slurs regarding sexual, racial or discriminating content. Contestants will be asked to leave if this occurs. Participants are required to sign and turn-in the Risk and Responsibility Form with the entry form to Matt Allbright. Contestants cannot participant without the form being signed. Students interested in performing in the talent show can talk to the Residence Life Manager, Matt Allbright. Contestants can pick up the full list of Talent Show Contest Rules and Regulations, Talent Show Entry Form and the Talent Show Risk and Responsibility Form all from Matt Allbright; his office is located in Aggie West.