

Dean Interview

Continued from page 4

AC: How do you feel about retiring? Are you ready for it?

WS: "I don't like it: I will never retire. This is a forced retirement; my daughter has serious health problems and I am going to take care of her. But, as soon as I get established there I will figure out a way to stay in touch with agriculture."

AC: How do you feel about the future of NCTA, especially of the programs you helped create such as the 100 cow program?

WS: "I am very optimistic. The time will come when only a small percentage of America will know how to produce enough quality food to feed this nation. Farmers and ranchers will be of great value. A nation that can't feed itself cannot defend itself. There are only two institutions in the nation that are completely dedicated entirely to agriculture, NCTA being one of them."

AC: How do you feel about the future of agriculture?

DS: "It will depend on a lot of politics in the US and other countries. Political maneuvering will be a good thing. With time, commodities will go up so farmers and ranchers can make a good solid living with energy costs going down. We also have to come to the realization of the importance of water. We need to learn to use water more efficiently."

AC: What can we do, as NCTA students, to ensure our future in agriculture?

DS: "I want you all to be owners, and I want you to be leaders. I am afraid that when students leave here they are scared to step out and lead. I want to let people know that students have intelligent thoughts that deserve to be heard. I want the students to build something for themselves. This is an excellent time to start, if you can find the backing. We need to bring back rural America."

AC: Do you have any advice for those starting out in the agriculture industry?

DS: "The most important advice I can tell you is to own it. Have a passion to own your business. Have a passion for ownership. There's something that happens when you own something, you foster it and help it grow. When you own your own business you are living your dream, not someone else's."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 11-14 Les Vogt Horsemanship Clinic at 9:00 a.m.
- 11 PTK Blood Drive at 12:00 p.m.
- 12 AMS speaker Mike Slattery at 12:00 p.m.
- 15-16 Fall Break - No classes
- 17 Second 8-Week Session Begins
- 17 District 9 FFA Livestock Judging Contest at 8:00 a.m.
- 17 Student Senate meeting at 12:00 p.m.
- 18 Membership Recruitment Fair at 6:00 p.m.
- 20 NCTA Horse Sale at 7:00 a.m.
- 23 Farm Advisory Council Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
- 25 Collegiate Cattlemen Bra Race/Costume Contest at 7:30 p.m.
- 27-28 Sherman Tegtmeier Reining and Horsemanship Clinic at 7:00 a.m.
- 27 Halloween Carnival at 5:00 p.m.
- 29 Pumpkin Carving Contest at 4:00 p.m.
- 31 Student Senate Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

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

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

1. A Blackshirt defense giving up 50+ points is unacceptable. But it is going to win me a steak dinner in the end.
2. Time to get smart. The agricultural economy is going to move, and you had better know what to do.
3. People have been taking care of their friends. That's cool.
4. Drama. Pack it away at home with the rest of your high school stuff.
5. Christmas stuff is on sale. Shoot me.
6. Worst smell in the world? 75 lbs. dog fart.
7. Sleeping in class. Uhhh...you don't get participation points for that.
8. They say a bacon shortage is coming. This could get ugly.
9. Firewood. Looks like my mandatory exercise program has a name.
10. My daughter over reacted when I painted one of her life size porcelain dolls up like a zombie clown for target practice... Didn't she?



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!



New Faculty Spotlight: Joanna Hergenreder

By Dayna Cayer

Dayna Cayer: Where are you from?

Joanna Hergenreder: Nunn, Colorado.

DC: What degree do you have?

JH: Two associate's, one in equine science and one in equine training and management from Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming; a bachelor's in animal science and veterinary sciences with a concentration in Ag. Business from the University of Wyoming in Laramie; and a master's in animal science-equine reproduction from Colorado State University in Ft. Collins.

DC: What made you decide to come to NCTA?

JH: I really wanted to teach at the community college level. I have been working towards it for a long time and have always kept my eye on NCTA. I just finished graduate school and worked for CSU as a coordinator when I saw the opening. Also, there is no other school like NCTA.

DC: What are your plans for NCTA?

JH: To help the equine program grow and to provide students with the opportunities and experience—and for them to learn about the equine industry. I also want to help students learn more about the start to finish of equine production. We have the acreage, area, barn, horses of all ages, and the opportunity to train and show. With this program I want to reconnect NCTA



with the equine industry, not only with Nebraska but across the country.

DC: What is your background with horses?

JH: I didn't start riding until I was nine or ten, my first horse a POA. Through high school I did rodeo and trail riding. In college I started cutting and got a few more horses. Most recently, the last four years, I started my career in breeding horses. I also interned for a cutting horse trainer and was an assistant trainer.

DC: Your message for students?

JH: Dream big and work hard.

Available Online

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

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Amanda's Column: A Man of Great Influence

Opinion by Amanda Castle, *Editor*



I remember the first time I met Dean Sleight; I was a freshman in high school. At that time, I was in a rough spot in my life and I came to Curtis with an ach-

ing heart. I disliked everything about Curtis and even NCTA. My sister passed away here and nothing was bringing her back. I didn't care what anyone had to say here because I was hurt. But I remember sitting down in the Dean's office with my family. He was welcoming and the aura of his office was warm and peaceful. He was considerate and caring when it came to talking about my sister and he asked questions about who she was and what her plans were for the future.

My family is very thankful for all of the things that were created around the campus in honor of my sister. Some of these things created are the Chandra Castle Memorial Scholarship, a Colorado Blue Spruce that was planted in front of Ag Hall with a plaque with my sister's name, majors and a quote on it; a plaque that was placed on the third floor of Ag Hall with her picture because she was majoring in Agricultural Management Systems; and last but not least there is Chandie's Castle, with a meal named Chandie's Haystack on the menu.

Though at times it is hard being here and seeing everything, I am so thankful that my sister's memory lives so strong here. I can't help but think the Dean has had a great influence in keeping it that way. But besides that he took a special interest in all of my family. Whenever I see him he always asks about my family and he remembers the smallest details about them or the last conversation he had with them. My dad and the Dean connected, and both found the value of agriculture to be the same and that there was a great need for a school like NCTA. The Dean also asked me about my future plans. He listened to me and understood my thoughts and feelings. He knew my worries and gave me advice. He told me that these times are great struggles in my life but with time they will help me by giving me strength and motivating me to go further in life.

Dean Sleight influenced me greatly; for one, he

believes in me and my future, and two, he is full of advice and insight when it comes to life and agriculture. When I was a senior in high school and in the middle of deciding where to go for college, I considered coming to NCTA. My parents were not sure about the idea at first because they thought it would be too hard for me, but I had intentions to come here and finish it for me and for my sister. I wanted to receive my degree and shake the Dean's hand for me and for my sister. So, when I heard the news that he was retiring my heart sank and two thoughts came immediately to my mind: first, what would happen to everything that was created here at NCTA, such as, the ownership programs, the new buildings, and of course all of the stuff dedicated in my sister's memory? Second, I wasn't going to get the chance to graduate with the Dean, I wasn't going to have a degree from NCTA with his signature; I wasn't going to finish from NCTA with a handshake from him. Today, I still don't know what is going to happen to the buildings, the tree, the plaques or if someday Chandie's Castle will just officially become known as "the deli," but I do know that all of the contributions, dedications, and memories will live strong within my family, myself, and the Dean.

People like Dean Sleight are few and far between. He is an example of someone we read about making a great difference in the lives of others. It will, in my opinion, be no small task to fill Dean Sleight's shoes. While even the most, revered universities and colleges merely train students to work for corporate America, Dean Sleight's unwavering dedication to agriculture and passion for entrepreneurship has enabled NCTA to lead the way in turning out owners, not just hired hands. Ownership is the basic principle on which this country was founded. I personally would like to take this opportunity to commend Dean Sleight on a job well done.

NCTA Halloween Carnival

Saturday, October 27

5-8 pm

Some activities will include pie the professor, truck and car show, pumpkin bowling, haunted aggie land, haunted dorm, cow pie bingo, caramel apple decorating, apple dunking. Fun for all (students, staff, faculty, families, and community members).

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

Can Dreams be Too Big?



At many of your graduation ceremonies, you heard a few speeches and probably a couple hundred people state that they wanted you to chase your dreams. They talked about going down the road less traveled; the sky is

the limit or maybe even doing whatever it takes to make your dreams come true!

These are all great samples of advice to anyone aspiring to follow their hearts and pursue the path of their dreams. Question is, do you know what your dreams are? What are your goals? Do you know what you want to be doing ten years from now, five years from now or even at the end of this year?

You have to set goals and do things one day at a time. Dreams are what keep us moving forward and provide motivation to get out of bed on an early Monday morning. They feed our souls.

But how do we know what we really want or what our dreams are?

I have realized that you have to take time to under-

stand who you are and what you want out of life. What truly defines you as a person? The greatest person you may ever get to know is yourself, which is quite ironic because even on your loneliest days and your most chaotic schedules you will always have yourself.

Keep in mind that dreams can change. They are never set in stone, as the most constant thing in life is change. You could be doing great, feel like you're on top of the world and then something drastic happens

and everything you thought was so important suddenly seems materialistic.

Sometimes you might feel like you're letting others down by changing your dream. You could feel like you're a disappointment to your parents or friends, but let me remind you that this is your life. There might be people who can walk with you throughout your life but you are the only one who determines the path you walk.

So choose carefully as you make your daily choices, as you will have to live with the consequences tomorrow. Go with your gut instinct and try to live life with no regrets. Can dreams be too

big? I don't know. If they change as our lives progress and change, who's to say that you never stopped chasing them.



Bra Race

Collegiate Cattleman are hosting a Bra Race and Costume Contest towards the end of October. The contest is to recognize that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to show support for the women in our lives who have fought and are still fighting this battle. More details will be provided in the next issue.

Want to write for Aggie Up? Send your articles and ideas to Amanda Castle at openann08@yahoo.com

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Residence Life and the Activities Office will sponsor a Pumpkin Carving Contest October 29, at 4 p.m. Bring your own pumpkin and design; carving tools and haunted treats will be provided. You can also drop off your carved pumpkin at this time. Judging will be Tuesday, October 30.



Intramural Flag Football Champs



NCTA intramural flag football champions. Back row (left to right): Brandon Salpas, Bart Ginther, Bill Leapley, Keisha Wemhoff. Front row (left to right) : Keithan Cochran, Chase Martin, Jacob Trausch, Breanna Meissner. Photo by Lauren Burke.

Ruth Good is Ready for World Series

NCTA math instructor Ruth Good came to class supporting her World Series-Champion St. Louis Cardinals Friday, October 5. The Cardinals defeated the Atlanta Braves that night in Major League Baseball's first wild-card playoff. The Cardinals won 6-3 thanks in part to a controversial infield fly call that led to a protest and fans tossing debris onto the field.



Ruth Good in her Ag Hall office. (Photo by Jennifer Rittenhouse-tenBensel)

Good started playing baseball at the age of three and still has the scar above her left eyebrow to prove it. She only partially remembers the story, but as her mom told it, she was hit by a bat and ran into the house bleeding and saying, "hurry and bandage me up, Mom, the boys are going to let me bat today!"

Aggies Speak Out

What are your plans for fall break?

Tyle Christensen: North Platte, Nebraska



"My Fall Break will consist of going home and harvesting corn with my family."

Shawna Clement: Lincoln, Nebraska



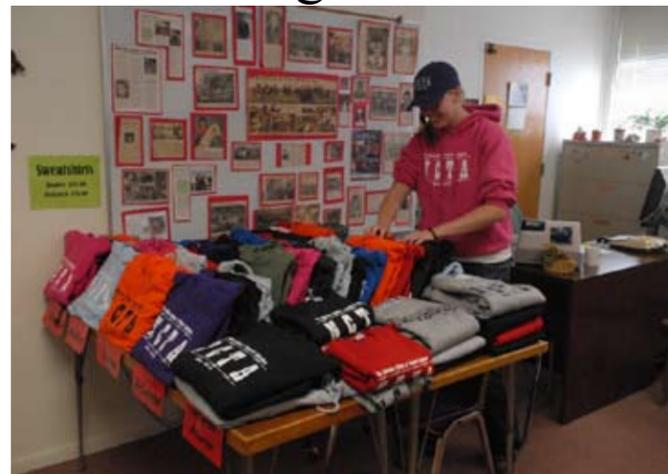
"I am taking a well-deserved break. I am going to relax because this last week has been hell on me."

Tyler Gruntorad: Lexington, Nebraska



"My plans are to go home and work, so nothing really exciting I work for a farmer in Lexington.."

Bookstore Preparing for Big Sale



Watch for the Holiday Sale in the Bookstore in November and December. All NCTA apparel will be offered at a discounted price. (Pictured above: Bookstore student worker Rachel Johnson.)

NCTA Attends Morrill Act Celebration in Lincoln

By Matt Allbright



NCTA group photo at Morrill Act (left to right): Tina Smith, Senator Mike Johanns, Jeff Hanhardt, Former Secretary Jon Block, Mollie Bose, Lance Hilker, Tristan Smith, Kaci Schroer, Cory Johnson, Cody Welsch, Victoria Johnson, Matt Allbright, Former Secretary Don Glickman, Joanna Hergenreder and Dr. Doug Smith

The year 2012 marks the 150th celebration of several milestones in American History including, the start of the American Civil War, and the establishment of the Homestead Act. An important milestone in agriculture and agriculture education was the passage of the Morrill Act of 1862. This act gave 30,000 acres of federal land to the states to establish what is referred to today as the Land-Grant College. This year the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln spent the week of September 23rd through the 29th celebrating this occasion.

Throughout the week events were held each day which lead to the lecture about the Morrill Act and its importance on agriculture today. The schedule of events for the week included:

- Sunday: Agricultural Research and Development Center's 50th Celebration
- Monday: Entrepreneurship and Youth Day
- Tuesday: Life Science Symposium
- Wednesday: International Day
- Thursday: Rural Futures Day
- Friday: Heuermann Lecture Series
- Saturday: IANR Tailgate

NCTA was represented by seven students and four faculty/staff members at the Heuermann Lecture Series on Friday, September 28. The event started



NCTA group at homecoming parade (left to right): Front: Mollie Bose, Tristan Smith, Victoria Johnson, Cory Johnson, Kaci Schroer, Jo Hergenreder. Back: Matt Allbright, Doug Smith, Cody Welsch, Jeff Hanhardt, Lance Hilker

with an opportunity for students from NCTA, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and members from the Nebraska State Association of FFA to ask questions of four former U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture including; John Block (Regan Administration), Dan Glickman (Clinton Administration), and two former Secretaries of Agriculture from Nebraska; Clayton Yeutter (George H.W. Bush Administration) and Current Senator Mike Johanns (George W. Bush Administration). Topics of discussed included; the Farm Bill, the importance of trade, major events that happened during their tenure and the future of agriculture. Following the session attendees were treated to dinner and the opportunity to attend the UNL Homecoming parade.

Later in the evening the NCTA delegation attended the Heuermann lecture series. During this event the former Secretaries of Agriculture were led in a discussion about events covered earlier with the students and many more and how the Land-Grant colleges are playing an important part in agriculture and how they will lead the future of agriculture. The audience was also able to submit questions to be answered by the panel. The panel was led by Dr. Ronnie Green Vice Chancellor for IANR at UNL and Jeff Raikes, CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

An Interview with Outgoing Dean Sleight

By Amanda Castle, Editor

I had the opportunity to sit down with the Dean and ask him a couple of questions. What I found was a great person with a lot of valuable advice and someone that truly cares about NCTA and the students that come here. He believes in each and every one of us and he believes in the future of agriculture. From the time I entered to his office to the time I left I was welcomed with kindness and an eagerness to hear about me and my future. Dean Sleight is truly an inspiration and I thank him personally for allowing me to interview him. It was truly an honor.

Amanda Castle: When did you start at NCTA?

Dean Sleight: "I started working at NCTA in May of 2006."

AC: Why did you pick to work at NCTA?

DS: "I took an early retirement at Utah State, but a friend of mine that was working at UNL told me about NCTA. He encouraged me to come here and see the college. My wife and I came, and it was so welcoming here at NCTA. Everything here reminded me of my hometown growing up. I felt bad, though, because it reminded me of how my little hometown shrank to the point it was slowly dying off. It made me want to help save rural towns all over. Seeing Curtis and the opportunity NCTA presented made me want to help rural towns grow and prosper with agriculture—starting with the students. There was this passion within me to educate students to go home to build up their communities."

AC: Where are you from originally and did you grow up on a farm/ranch?

DS: "I am from Paris, Idaho and I grew up around animals, but my father owned a feed mill and store."

AC: What is your educational background?

"I graduated from Utah State with two degrees and then finished with a Ph.D. from Iowa State."

AC: When you were first starting out, as a young man, what were your goals for life?

DS: "I had a plan with my dad that I would return back to Paris, to take over the feed mill. I was going to build up the feedlots and such. But things changed when my father passed away young at the age of 43. I was lost, I didn't know the operation of the feed mill and I didn't have the same connections as he had. I lost that anchor in my life and so I had to go in another direction."



Dean Sleight arrived in 2006 and has delivered on major projects, including the college's ownership programs, a Student Union, Education Center, new residence halls, and a large edition to the Veterinary Technology complex. He is retiring to be nearer his daughter.

AC: When you were first starting out, at NCTA, what were your goals?

DS: "After I got here, I established that three things needed to happen to move NCTA forward. First, a student center needed to be made. It is important to have a place where students can go outside of classrooms and dorms. Second, there needed to be new housing options. Several parents voiced concerns to me about their children staying in the traditional halls. Thirdly, there was a significant need for new classrooms and laboratories. I had the idea that if we build it they will come. We have had national coverage and I have this feeling that the floodgates are going to be opening for NCTA."

AC: What do you consider your biggest accomplishment?

DS: "My biggest accomplishment here was probably leading a program development team to develop the ownership programs available at NCTA. These programs are going to drive this institution—helping students and their families continue what they're doing but with the idea of the students someday owning their own operation. When I left Utah State, they told me that if you didn't have it or marry it, you would never own it. But this is untrue, and at NCTA we provide the tools for students to go out and work towards someday owning their own ranch or farm. The idea of ownership appeals to people."

Continued on page 8

Jacob Trausch Named October Aggie of the Month



Jacob Trausch of Roseland, Neb., was named the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture's Aggie of the Month for October. Trausch is described as a hard worker, a good student, and a gifted athlete.

Trausch is one of a few people who volunteered to place the hardwood floor in the Curtis Community Center, where he will play basketball for NCTA and intramural volleyball this fall.

Basketball coach Jeremy Sievers said, "Jacob is willing to go above and beyond what is asked of him in

Phi Theta Kappa to Sponsor Saturday Dance

The Phi Theta Kappa is sponsoring a Saturday night dance October 20, 2012. The cost to get in for the fun-filled night is \$3 dollars for singles and \$5 for couples. Ashley Panowicz is going to be the DJ for the dance. If you would like a certain song to be played at the dance, please get all your requests in to Ashley before the day of the dance. Also, it is optional if you would like to dress up like a nerd.

PTK is hosting the dance on a weekend in hopes it will draw in a crowd especially for those who stay on campus on the weekends. The dance was strategically placed the same day as the NCTA Horse Sale in hopes that the crowd will make their way over to the dance after supporting the horse sale.

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order to help out NCTA and his fellow students. He is a great leader and someone that not only students but faculty and staff can look towards for what dedication and desire to be the best can be."

In addition to playing basketball and intramural athletics, Trausch is a member of Collegiate Cattleman, Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and this fall's intramural flag football championship team.

An animal science major, Trausch plans to transfer to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August 2013.

freshmantips #113
don't be afraid to disagree with
people during discussion.

freshmantips | tumblr

Halloween Treat Sacks Available!

The 2012-2013 NCTA Business Club is taking orders for Halloween treat sacks to be delivered Wednesday, October 31. The sacks contain lots of goodies and a special message from you. The cost of this delicious treat sack is only \$6.00 and all funds raised will go to help the Business Club with activities and trips. Also, the treat sacks can be delivered to any of the dorms and to an off-campus Curtis address.

To send a Halloween treat sack, you can get an order form from any of the Business Club members, or contact Amanda Castle, Rachel Johnson or the club advisor Jennifer Rittenhouse in Ag Hall.

