Vol. 5 Iss. 3 Aggie Up!

Dave Smith Retirement

Continued from page 1

Smith: "There have been many changes at this campus, but the most significant for me was when the school moved from a quarters system to a semester system."

AC: Are there any things that haven't changed? Smith: "The student's interest in agriculture is still very good."

AC: What were your reasons for retiring from NCTA?

Smith: "I'm tired, it's time to retire. I don't have the energy that's needed for this job anymore. This job needs someone that is young and aggressive. I want to do something else. 39 years is enough."

AC: What are your plans after NCTA? Smith: "My wife and I are moving to the Black Hills. I will probably look for a part-time job, take it easy and enjoy retirement with my wife. Maybe even do some traveling."

AC: You're viewed as being an instrumental source for the 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage Program; what were your thoughts on creating this program at NCTA?

Smith: "The cattle industry needs young people. This program was one way we could see to help young people to find a way to get in and stay in the cattle industry."

AC: Do you think it will affect the program any since both you and the Dean are retiring this year?

Smith: "I hope not, I hope NCTA will be able to continue what we started."

AC: Over the years, you have encountered a lot of students. What is your main concern/goal for them and their future?

Smith: "Success in whatever their endeavors are. It gives me a lot of pleasure to hear from graduates who are doing well.

AC: What will you miss about teaching at NCTA? Why?

Smith: "I will miss the student interaction. The teaching part is fun, but all of the other stuff that goes with it is what gets to be a drag sometimes."

AC: Do you have any advice for the past, present and future students of NCTA?

Smith: "Work hard, set good goals and work toward those goals."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- Flag Football at 5:00 p.m.
- After Dark at 7:00 p.m.
- Last day to drop first 8-week course
- Continuing Education Program for Vet Tech at 8:00 a.m.

October

- December Degree Applications Due
- Intramural 6 on 6 Volleyball at 5:00 p.m.
- Medicine Creek 4-H Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Student Senate Meeting at 12:00 p.m.
- NSA Affiliate Arboretum Site Tour and Tree Planting at 8:30 a.m.
- Open House at 8:00 a.m.
- Impact FFA Conference at 8:00 a.m.
- 11-14 Les Vogt Horsemanship Clinic at 9:00 a.m.
- PTK Blood Drive at 12:00 p.m.

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

Things I Think

By Kevin Martin

- 1. 18-20 year olds using the elevator to go DOWN two floors is interesting.
- 2. Fall weather is just flat out awesome.
- 3. Dogs are reincarnated humans. The humans that were good that is.
- 4. \$4.00 gas and people still want to play hot rod. Glad it's not my money your sticking your boot through.
- 5. Friendly, fun students on campus this year. Just makes everything better.
- 6. The men's dorm as a haunted house is perfect. As long as the ghosts already there don't mind.
- 7. How long can the cost of living go up while income and job opportunities don't?
- 8. The ammunition guy at Wal-Mart is going to report my buying habits to the police. Zombie apocalypse or varmint invasion, I'm ready.
- 9. Started to exercise regularly last week. Not bad, maybe I'll try it again in a month or so.
- 10. Everyone freaked when the cell service went down. I thought it was nice. Miss the good old days.

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Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

AGGIE UP!



Available Online

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

Inside this Issue

- David Smith Interview
- Editorials by Amanda Castle and Megan Streweler
- Aggies Speak Out
- Shiny Show
- PTK Blood Drive
- Arboretum Tour and Tree Planting
- Rodeo Stock
- Curtis Fall Festival

Aggie Up! Staff

- Amanda Castle Editor/ Photographer
- Megan Streweler Staff Writer/Photographer
- Eric Reed, Faculty Advisor

Dave Smith Retirement

By Amanda Castle, Editor

I had the opportunity to interview Dave Smith, a valued instructor here at NCTA, about several different topics ranging from changes he has seen on campus in the last 39 years he has been here to his decision to retire this year. I found the experience to be rich with advice yet emotional at times because it made me realize what a great

resource Mr. Smith is to NCTA. Whatever his next journey may be we wish him the very best and thank him for his years of hard work and dedication here at NCTA. You will be truly missed.

AC: When you were first starting out what were your goals for life?

Smith: I probably didn't have the best goals. When I went to college I was undecided with what I wanted to do. When I was interviewed for this job I was asked how long I would stay; I told them five years. I wanted to return to the family ranch after that. But the opportunity to go back wasn't there, because the economy



Instructor David Smith talks to students in his Range Management Class about the conditions of a site near campus.

and cattle market at the time wasn't the greatest. Plus, I liked it here.

AC: What is your educational background?

Smith: "I have a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science and a Master's in Education."

AC: How long have you been working at NCTA?

Smith: "This is my 39th year at NCTA."

AC: What are some of the most significant changes you've seen on this campus?

Continued on page 8

Amanda's Column: Change

Opinion by Amanda Castle, Editor



You know what really grinds my gears? Life and how it is always changing. People say that change is good.
Well, change can be good but change

can also be bad. People constantly move in and out of one's life, and just when one thinks they have it all figured out, life changes it all up again. It's like Patty Loveless put it in her country western song: How Can I Help You Say Goodbye, "Mama whispered softly, time will ease your pain, life's about changing, nothing ever stays the same, and she said, how I can help you to say goodbye? It's OK to hurt, and it's OK to cry. Come, let me hold you and I will try. How can I help you to say goodbye?" I use to sing this song all the time when I was little, but I never truly understood the words until I was older.

Life is constantly changing. Every decision we make now affects us in the future. Every change in life isn't always bad. Meeting new people, making new friends, and changing a bad lifestyle to a good one is always a positive thing. But what about saying goodbye to people like Dave Smith and the Dean, who are retiring? Or graduating from NCTA and moving out into the "real world" to encounter all of its ups and downs? What if you don't want change to happen and refuse to face it? One can get stuck in the past and left in the dust, watching life drive off in the distance with nothing but taillights in front of you.

It takes acceptance, strength and character to face the changes life has to offer. When we encounter changes that we don't want to face we need to look to those who have had great change that has been inflicted upon their lives.

We have all met them, at some point in our lives. They are usually quiet, keep to themselves and have the brightest personality. They have a smile that warms the heart and a heart big enough to fill this room. Life... Life is hard for them. They have had to overcome extraordinary difficulties at a time in their

life. Some have it harder than others. But when you meet them, they are the last to tell of their troubles but the first to lend a hand. Character: Such a simple word, but yet it has the power to define these individuals. The ability to carry on from struggles says a lot about one's character. Change is inevitable. These individuals are usually the ones that face the most change but accept it the best.

In the end though, life will always be full of changes. As the saying goes, "Roll with the punches." Maybe it is all in our perspective though, like the cup is half full instead of half empty. Albert Einstein said this about change, "The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." Even though bad changes will always be negative, change in general can be viewed as a good thing, we just have to change our thinking.

Flag Football





Intramural Flag Football began last week with four teams competing. Below are the current standings as of September 27:

Team	Win/Loss
Castle Raiders	1/1
TPD	2/0
Wranglers	0/2
YOLO's	1/1

Page 7 Aggie Up! Vol. 5 Iss. 3

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

Do Our Parents Get Smarter As We Get Older?



I remember when I was a teenager. I couldn't wait to get out from under my parents' thumb. I felt that I knew what was going on way before they did and I had skills that they had yet to acquire when it came to

technology. I figured I could get a job anywhere and do anything. I believed I was invincible and I had the world at my fingertips. Does this sound familiar to any of you?

Well if it does, believe me, I have been in your shoes and so have many of your Instructors. They know that you're going to be rebellious and you are living a life that you see fit for yourself. Partying it up on the weekends, maybe even the weeknights. Skimming through your books right before class just so you kind of have an idea of what's going on in class, only to be focused on something totally different when the time for class arrives.

I do not like to be the bearer of bad news, but someday, and maybe this day has already come for some of you, life is going to throw you a curve ball. I

"...life is going to throw you a curve ball." know because I have also received this curve ball. It will knock you to your knees and make you open your eyes to the real world. It will humble your personality and then in the back of your head there will be this small voice...one that sounds so familiar to you.

It's a voice that starts to repeat all those phrases that have been drilled into our minds such as ..."You can't listen if your mouth is running over..." "Use your head! Think twice before you act," "The truth will always catch up to you."

I'm not sure when this curve ball hit me, but one day I was talking to a friend of mine that was going through some problems in his life and I heard this voice. Funny thing is that it was my voice but my father's words that I was speaking. Once I realized

what I had said I was shocked that I was saying the exact same things my father had always said to me over the short span of my life. I called my mother up right away to tell her this and you know what she said to me? "Guess we're not that dumb after all if you said the exact same thing we have been telling you for years!" I was appalled at first, almost in denial that I would actually repeat what they had drilled into my mind for years to a peer as advice for them.

Now a few years has passed since this first reaction and I have noticed that I have gained a new respect for my parents as I know that it was through their example, and of course the best way they knew how, that they were instilling these thoughts and values into my brain,

not because they wanted to be a nuisance in my life or make me feel like I was in boot camp, but to build a strong foundation underneath me because they knew someday that I was going to be out on my own and I would need

"...it was my voice but my father's words that I was speaking."

something to fall back on, something that was going to drive me forward and give me motivation and ambition. In short, I have learned that not only have my parents become smarter as I am getting older, but they were smart along.



As much as we hate to admit it, most of the things our parents' tell us when we are younger seem to ring true as we get older.

Vol. 5 Iss. 3 Page 6 Aggie Up!

Shiny Show

By Amanda Castle, Editor



NCTA students participated in the Shiny Show, September 16.

The NCTA Equestrian Team welcomed back participants and their horses for the NCTA Shiny Show on Sunday, September 16th, at the Livestock Teaching Center, where different events took place in the arena.

The events varied throughout the show. There was the more traditional class setting. First, the day started with English riding classes. Then participants showed off their skills afoot with the Showmanship classes. After that came about the Western Riding classes. Ending with Trail and Reining. Then it was the "fun events" such as the Egg and Spoon class and the Speed Events. In the Egg and Spoon class, participants had to balance an egg in their spoon while riding their horses in all of the gaits.

The NCTA Shiny Show was a part of the Greater Nebraska 4-H Show Circuit, and followed the Nebraska 4-H rules. There were four age divisions and three classes that offered a walk-trot option. The fee was minimal at \$5.00 per class or \$40.00 to ride all day. Also, the NCTA Safari Club provided a concession stand.

Joanna Hergenreder, a key figure in putting the show on, said, "The day overall was good. We had a good turn-out and had fun. Though it was quiet and not many participants showed up today, it was a good start for the Equestrian Team for this year. Next year, we decided it would be best to have the show on a Saturday in hopes for a better turn out."

Aggies Speak Out

What do you think symbolizes the agriculture heritage of this country?

Sara Alber: Blue Hill. Nebraska



"Your hands... like doing everything the old fashioned way, like gathering cows with horses instead of 4-wheelers and planting and harvesting without all the new technology."

Mattea Huelsman: Winona, Kansas



"Hard work and sweat, because the success of this country and industries has come from those who are the most determined."

Josh Perlinger: Scottsbluff, Nebraska



"Faith, there has always been faith." There will be a crop to bring in and that there will be plenty of grass for a year. People always have worked hard with faith that it will pay off in the end."

Melissa McConnell: Creighton, South Dakota



"I guess I think of farmers plowing fields with horses, and the good old cowboy days, where everything was open range."

Taylor Rossenbach: Ainsworth, Nebraska



"Worn boots and a well broke-in cowboy hat, because it shows the days of hard work and the dedication to a lifestyle that means more than just a job"

Vol 5 Iss 3 Aggie Up!

PTK Honor Society Plans Red Cross Blood Drive



Photo courtesy of redcross.org.

Of all the ways to help save or change a life, giving blood might require the least effort.

On October 11, the NCTA chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society will sponsor its now-annual blood drive with the American Red Cross from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in The Barn (Student Union). Appointments can be made with PTK Sponsor and Division Chair of General Education Eric Reed at 367-5276. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society recognizing the academic achievement of two-year college students. The organization encourages individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

Blood Facts and Statistics

- One donation can help save the lives of up to three people.
- More than 44,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- The blood type most often requested by hospitals is Type O.
- More than 1 million new people are diagnosed with cancer each year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.
- The number of blood donors in the U.S. in a year: 9.5 million (2006).
- The number of patients who receive blood in the U.S. in a year: 5 million (2006).
- The number one reason donors say they give blood is because they "want to help others."

Source: American Red Cross (redcrossblood.org).

Arboretum Tour and Tree Planting at NCTA

NCTA will be among more than a dozen locations providing free public tours of arboretums in south central Nebraska this fall. The gardens are part of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, having made a commitment to careful plant selection, diversity, wise management and use.

The tours will take place October 3-5, with NCTA the first stop on October 4 at 8:30 a.m. Also scheduled for that time is a tree planting at NCTA. Plantings are an important part of the college's teaching mission, and like other public gardens, the campus serves the community it's located in with landscapes designed for active use, sustainability, and

After NCTA, the tour will move to McCook, Cam-

bridge, and Alma before ending at the Minden Community Arboretum at 6-8 p.m.

The tours are open to the public and participants are invited to ask questions during the informal "walkabouts."



NCTA horticulture student at work in front of the Education Center in the spring

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NCTA | TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

Bucking Bulls Go To College

By Megan Streweler

On every Tuesday and Thursday evening, one can find the rodeo team at Mill Park along with a few main stars of the show...bucking bulls! With the arena lined with a throng of students, Zeke and Elijah Mora, two brothers originally from Brush, Colorado, and their bullfighter, Chad Connelly, from Arnold, Nebraska get ready to show the bulls.

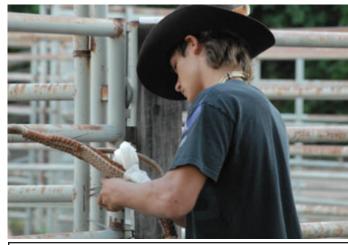
The Mora brothers brought with them to school this year the bucking bulls they had been using from contractor Lee Miller, who is also from Colorado. They have a long history using bucking stock from Lee Miller and were excited to bring them this year.

When Zeke Mora was asked why the bulls were brought to Curtis, he replied with a smile that they are "for practice and so we can get on bulls, to have fun and it's what we do! Why wouldn't we?" When asked how long the bulls will be able stay for the use of practice, Zeke stated that they are planning on keeping the bulls here as long as the resources are available.

Both Zeke and Elijah Mora are bull riders for the NCTA rodeo team and claim it is their favorite event. They have been riding bulls since they were very young and still have a passion for it today. Zeke is a second year student at NCTA and is majoring in Livestock Industry Management and Nutrition while Elijah, a freshman, is also majoring in Livestock Industry Management.



Elijah Mora is on one of the bulls with Chad Connelly, right of photo, as their bullfighter.



Above: Elijah Mora getting his riding gear ready for practice



Above: Zeke Mora riding on another one of their bulls with Chad Connelly to the right of the photo.



Standing next to the bucking chutes at the end of practice is the pick-up men, the bull riders and the bull fighter.

Curtis Fall Festival Page 5

By Amanda Castle, Editor

"A Country Paradise" was this year's theme of the Fall Festival in the town of Curtis. That was definitely the perfect description of the gathering too. Adults and children altogeth er gathered for the various events scattered throughout the three days.

To start things off, Friday was the Health Fair put on at the

Curtis Memorial Community Center, ending with the Team Roping at Mill Park Arena that night. Saturday, was filled with the Grand Parade, which featured many participants from NCTA, the Kiddie Rides and Games at the City Park, the Free Will Donation Barbecue, and ending with the FFA Team Sorting at Mill Park. To end the festival, Sunday offered the Maywood Lions Club Golf Tournament and a Free Kids Movie, Rio, at the Star Theatre.

A strong sense of a small yet strong and tight-knit community was expressed during the entire Fall Festival. It was exciting to see everyone come together for exciting fun-filled days. This year was certainty "A Country Paradise" here in Curtis.



Highlights of the Curtis Fall Festival: Top right: NCTA student Katelyn Sughroue rides in the Curtis Fall parade; she is the new 2012-13 PRCA Miss Kimball County Rodeo Queen; Bottom left: Ariel Buhrman took a "walk on the wild side" with the Safari Club in the Curtis Fall Parade



Vol. 5 Iss. 3







