



Dean's Newsletter

Fall 2018

Thank you friends and colleagues

Sometimes we get so busy with day-to-day activities at NCTA that we forget to occasionally step away and look at the big picture. As we approach Thanksgiving, we say THANK YOU!

It's especially important to express our gratitude to alumni and to recognize the college's growth and development over the past 10 to 15 years. During this timeframe, we've been fortunate to invest in the campus with \$15 million of new facilities and renovated buildings which all provide an outstanding collegiate experience for students.

Our faculty and staff skillfully use resources to deliver top-notch academic programs, as evidenced by national recognitions. In 2017 and again in 2018, Forbes magazine ranked NCTA among the nation's top two-year trade schools in workforce development.

National entities also rated NCTA leading the two-year colleges in Nebraska, and in top rankings of all two-year colleges in the United States for earnings and career success of our Aggie graduates.

Word is spreading about the success of NCTA programs. Full-time enrollment this fall reached a 23-year high. We've grown annually since 2013 and we expect that progress to continue.

With our statewide mission and role within the University of Nebraska system, NCTA is open admission for all Nebraskans. We keep tuition costs low to ensure all can attend college. High-quality academics combined with one, affordable tuition of \$131.50 per credit hour attracts students from across the U.S. We are grateful we can offer an extraordinary package: nice facilities, low cost, growing enrollment, highly-skilled students, and successful graduates. That's NCTA in 2018. We have many people to thank for our success:

- Faculty are on the front lines working with students on a day-to-day basis teaching them academic skills, appropriate work habits, ethics and life skills to become successful adults.
- Staff play a significant role in guiding student success. Freshmen come to NCTA directly from high school, many away from home for a first time, and are expected to be fully responsible students.
- NCTA Student Services staff guide "adulting skills" for this transition. Our small size enables us to dedicate one-on-one attention to help students in dorm life, academics, and campus events.
- Also, the University of Nebraska plays a big role in the success of NCTA students. We rely on assistance from Lincoln to strengthen NCTA through academic partnerships, student financial aid, facilities and resources improvements, and student support services.
- Locally, we are fortunate to be living in the community of Curtis with residents supportive of the college and its activities. Our friendly small-town engages everyone through its churches, businesses, and community activities, including employment for Aggie students.
- Nebraska's agricultural industries are great partners as curriculum advisors, guest lecturers, employers for internships and our graduates, and donors of equipment and teaching resources.
- Nebraska state government, through the legislature and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, supports NCTA with financial resources, technical assistance and partnerships

We are extremely grateful to all of these friends, supporters and alumni. Thank you! Mark your calendars now for the next Aggie Alumni Association reunion in Broken Bow on June 22, 2019.



Dean Ron Rosati, PhD

Welcome Aggie alumni

The University of Nebraska School of Agriculture (UNSA) Class of '68 observed its 50th class reunion on September 22 in Curtis. Four alumni (who are also graduates of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as well) planned over the course of two years this return to their alma mater. Mary Alice Coyle Corman of Edgar, Lorne Wilson of Lincoln, Mick Glaze of Oberlin, Kansas, and Diane Nelsen Pollmann of McCook welcomed classmates from several states including Alaska, Texas, Missouri and Nevada. They gathered at campus Saturday morning for a welcome and campus update from NCTA Dean Ron Rosati and shared many memories and campus history with Dr. Rosati, a group of NCTA student tour guides, and Aggie Alumni Association Secretary Catherine Potter Hauptman, NCTA VetTech '03. While some toured campus, others watched some of the Husker football game at the Student Union (old gym) and shared in campus hospitality. An evening banquet was at the Curtis Community Center where they exchanged many more memories, laughter, photographs and collected donations for Class of '68 tributes to the NCTA patio at Ag Hall, the oldest campus building constructed in 1912.

The first Aggie institution, the Nebraska School of Agriculture (NSA) opened in the fall of 1913 as a residential high school. Young men studied agriculture, and young women took "normal training" to become teachers or enter home economics. For 55 years, the NSA/UNSA campus educated and housed students from the ninth through 12th grades. When the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture (UNSTA) began in 1965, the high school and college operated simultaneously until the new Medicine Valley High School was completed. The UNSA "Curtis Aggies" graduated its final students in '68

At their 50th reunion the Class of '68 shared an enjoyable weekend in Curtis. Some classmates shared where they are now in their professions or retirement, along with family updates. Some of the class member professions include a pharmacist, nurses, an engineer, food scientist, college professors, recently-retired cosmetology school instructor, two auctioneers, service members of the Army, Navy and Air Force, extension educators and agricultural producers. Mick Glaze, who was FFA President at UNSA, served in the U.S. Air Force and studied at UNSTA and UNL. After graduation he was an extension agent, ag banker and retired from teaching ag at Fort Hays State in Kansas. Lorne Wilson retired from cooperative management and now lives in Lincoln.

Mary Alice Coyle was raised at her parent's farm located 18 miles south of Curtis. Like her parents, Alice Jewell and Francis John Coyle, Mary Alice lived at the campus dorms 9th-12th grades. UNSA coupled with a home economics degree from UNL prepared Mary Alice for a career as an extension agent in south central Nebraska, where she and her husband farm near Edgar. She credits the ag school for lifelong skills for high school and college students. Her father learned his butchering skills at NSA, while normal training prepared her mother to become a school teacher. Of her high school years, Mary Alice said, "Our class was sad to be the end of an era of educational history. We saw the concern in the underclassmen as they faced the future with nothing certain as to their place of education, then the elation as a school bond was finally



Front row, Lindy Elson and Riley Wallingford; 2nd row, Inez Knepp and Judy Leistritz; 3rd row, John Wilkinson, June Frey, Rojean Gosnell, Delores Andersen, Ramona Province and Mick Glaze; 4th row, Mary Alice Coyle, John Williams, Lorne Wilson, Charlene Gilliland and Diane Nelsen; 5th row, Dean Dillon, Doug Anderson, Ileen Knepp and Vickie Fletcher; Back row, Pete Jepsen, Art Lashley and Jerome Johnston.

passed. It was an emotional time with the Vietnam War and population pressures on colleges promoting negative attitudes toward students. I was amazed by the attitude change in campus staff when my own children entered college in contrast to '68."

Other high school memories: girls wore dresses, not slacks, and they did not have sports. Boys competed in football and basketball. Student clubs sponsored dances and social activities, much like the college clubs do today. The Aggies also hosted a Jr. Ak-Sar-Ben, and girls could show the livestock provided by the boys. Immense school pride existed, as is evidenced by the 1968 year-book.



In 1967-68, Future Homemakers of America (FHA) was one of the largest campus clubs for young women at the University of Nebraska School of Agriculture. (UNSA '68 Aggie Yearbook).

Enrollment hits 23-year high



The number of fulltime students attending classes this semester at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis reached a 23-year record this fall.

"We have 275 fulltime students on campus this fall, showing a 7.8 percent increase for fulltime students from a year ago," reported NCTA Dean Ron Rosati. "We haven't had this many fulltime students here at NCTA since 1995."

The technical college which specializes solely in agriculture and veterinary technology programs is the only campus within the University of Nebraska system offering two-year associate degrees.

High school students taking courses for dual credit (45), and part-time (15) at the Aggie campus boosted overall numbers to 335 students, Rosati said.

A year ago, NCTA had 255 fulltime, 10 part-time and 52 dual credit students, for a 5.7 percent increase this year of all students, including full-time and part-time.

NCTA full-time student enrollment has increased 20.6 percent over the past five years.

Rosati credits the steady, continuous enrollment growth to high quality academics, documented graduate career success, low tuition rates, and national recognition for program effectiveness.

"Students know they will receive superior hands-on skills and workforce preparedness at the low tuition rate of \$131.50 per credit hour," Rosati said.

"Parents and students alike value high quality NCTA academic programs, the low cost of our tuition, and the friendly, small campus environment," he said, adding, "It's challenging to find that combination of high quality, low cost and student support in one small campus."

Rosati points to national third-party evaluations which rank NCTA among the most successful two-year colleges in the country for creating successful graduates.

"External evaluators point out that salaries earned by Aggie alumni 10 years after graduation are top among two-year programs in Nebraska and rank among the highest in the country, overall," Rosati said of recent reports by Zippia.com.

"And, a Forbes report just two weeks ago listed NCTA No. 16 of its top 25 two-year trade schools in the nation," he added.

Students find competition teams in their respective interest areas appealing at the small, rural college, said Jennifer McConville, associate dean.

"Our traveling teams in crops judging, ranch horse, livestock judging, working stock dogs, shotgun sports and rodeo are very popular with agricultural students," McConville. "That's why we are proud to be known nationally as Nebraska's Aggies."

Aggie Alumni Association honors five



(Left) **The 2018 Alumni Achievement Award** was presented to Boni Perks Edwards of North Platte by Kim Bowers Mortensen. Boni serves on the alumni board, has served as president, and shares her outstanding photography talent each year with donations to the silent auction. Thanks to the influence of UNSTA alumna and retired NCTA professor Jerry Sundquist, Boni pursued studies in Ag Land and Water. She started college with the Class of '78 but was able to travel to England, Scotland and Wales with an IFYE scholarship in 1978, so finished her final quarter and graduated with the Class of '79. Boni became one of the first licensed female surveyors in Nebraska, establishing her business Edwards Land Surveying in North Platte, and continues in the profession today. She was re-elected Lincoln County Surveyor in November.



(Above) Reinke Manufacturing Co., Inc. of Deshler was recognized with the **Alumni Service Award** for its outstanding support to the college and NCTA students. Sandi Reinke Wendell, whose father Richard founded the company in 1954, accepted the plaque from Dan Stehlik, NCTA ag mechanics instructor, UNSTA '75 alumnus and Awards Committee Chair. Reinke Manufacturing is an NCTA partner in the irrigation technician program, sponsors student scholarships, has donated a new GPS guided system for the field, and a two-span system for hands-on teaching indoor at the ag mechanics lab. Wendell, of Axtell, is a retired educator and serves on the company's board of directors. She thanked the Alumni Association for the honor, and stressed the value of NCTA's technical training in developing a skilled workforce.



(Left) **Aggie Alumni Association Honorary Life** members Bill and Judy Nutt of Curtis attended the alumni banquet with their daughter Rhonda Jochim of Byron. Friends and the Jim and Rhonda Jochim family are honoring the Nutt Place with a tile for the NCTA Legacy Wall. They have boarded horses and animals of college students and local residents for 47 years



(Left) The **Bruntz Family Excellence in Teaching Award** was presented by Ann Ramm Bruntz (VT '71) and David Bruntz (PA, '71) to Joanna Hergenreder, assistant professor of animal science and coach of the NCTA Ranch Horse Team. Jo joined the NCTA faculty in 2011 and is the primary instructor for the associate of applied science program in equine industry management. Jo is greatly appreciated by her students for her coaching and mentoring methods. She also chaired the Faculty Senate in 2017.



(Left) The **2018 Legacy/Distinguished Service Award** was presented to Conrad Nelson of Wallace, who graduated from UNSTA Class of '78 in production agriculture. He has helped recruit agronomy and diversified ag students to NCTA, and is always ready to lend a hand to support the college. He was instrumental in helping Dean Weldon Sleight bring mechanized irrigation to the NCTA farm with a donation of used pivot equipment. Conrad also served as an advisor when the NCTA-Reinke Irrigation Technician program was established. He owns and operates Nelson Family Farms with his wife Jodi and son Robbie.

Aggie of 2018 is campus leader

The 2018 Aggie of the Year is back at campus this fall, studying for a dual major and serving in campus leadership.

Sadie Christensen of Arnold is adding agribusiness management to her major in diversified production agriculture.

She was named 2017-18 Aggie of the Year by NCTA Dean Ron Rosati at an awards ceremony on graduation eve.

"Being named Aggie of the Year is a huge honor. I never expected to be chosen for this and was extremely surprised when Dr. Rosati said my name at Awards Night," said Christensen.

"I am proud to be an NCTA Aggie and am glad that my hard work in and out of the classroom was recognized by my fellow instructors and peers," she says.

This fall she is again serving as a Resident Assistant in the dorm, working part-time in the office of Dean Rosati and Associate Dean Jennifer McConville, and active in campus clubs such as Stock Dog Club and Phi Theta Kappa.

After graduating next May, Christensen plans to enter the workforce at a livestock feed yard or a cattle seedstock enterprise.

"I would like to manage the health records, grain contracts, and any other management tasks that need to be done," she says.

Pitching in when assistance is needed is one of her strengths.

Those who nominated Sadie for an Aggie of the Month honor last year noted her steady willingness to be a leader and team player.

"Sadie always has a smile, works hard, and will do whatever you ask to go above and beyond," says Catherine Hauptman of the NCTA Dean's Office.

"Sadie is a good, all-around quality student to have on the NCTA campus."



2018 Alumni Scholarships



Three NCTA students were each awarded a \$400 scholarship from the Aggie Alumni Association. The scholarships, which were awarded this fall, were announced at the June banquet by Alumni Secretary Catherine Potter Hauptman (VT '03) and President Dave Mehaffey, (AgMech '83).

Recipients must be in their second year at NCTA with one or both parents as alumni of UNSTA or NCTA. All three of the 2018 recipients are animal science majors.

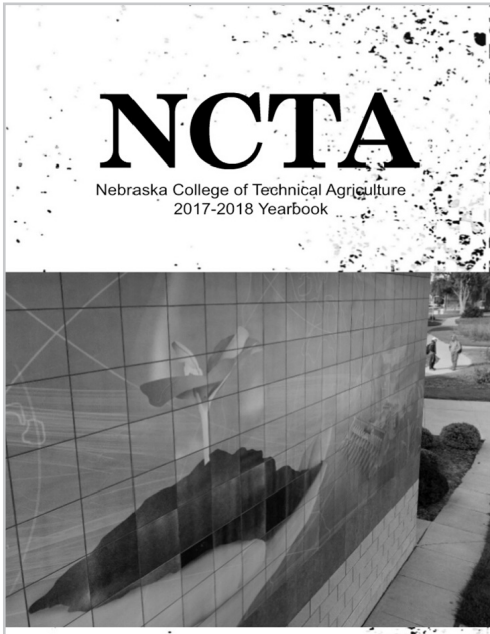
KayLee Rasmussen of Burwell is the daughter of Scott and Carrie Rasmussen, both NCTA graduates, who accompanied Kaylee to the June banquet. Kaylee is majoring in animal science and is active in the Aggie Shooting Sports Team where she serves as secretary. She also is a Resident Assistant in a campus dorm.

Cole Sundquist of Ainsworth is the third generation of the Sundquist family to attend NCTA. His grandfather Jerry and father Jeremy are both alumni, as is his mother Cody Steckel Nilson. In addition to being an animal science major, Cole is an auctioneer and plans to continue his career in the agricultural auction and livestock business.

Shayla Woracek, also a livestock industry management major, is from Maxwell. Her father, Thomas Woracek is a 1985 graduate of UNSTA. At NCTA, Shayla represents Phi Theta Kappa (academic honorary) as the 2nd-year representative to NCTA Student Senate. She was unable to attend the banquet.



New 2017-18 yearbook



The NCTA Aggie yearbook has renewed life thanks to a digital dimension.

Yearbooks for 2017-2018 are available online for viewing, or to order a printed version at cost of \$11.99 for soft cover, or \$21.49 for hard cover.

Student workers were responsible for photography, caption writing, design and page layout under the direction of Eric Reed, chair of the NCTA General Education Division.

Josa Jurado, a veterinary technology student from Omaha, was the primary editor. She put the finishing touches on the yearbook in August, at the end of her summer internship.

“Rosa worked very hard and did a very job,” Reed said. “She did much of the work herself

To view online, or order an e-book or print editions, see the Aggie Alumni Association page at <https://ncta.unl.edu/activities/aggie-alumni>.

Purchase a legacy brick or tile



Customize a brick for \$100 to add to the Alumni Brick patio on the east side of Ag Hall on the NCTA campus.

Also check out the Legacy Wall in NCTA's Education Center. Consider contributing to help support the best learning environment possible. A 12" by 12" glass tile can include your logo or photo for \$1,000 contribution. You will also receive an aluminum commemorative tile to take home. Contact chauptman4@unl.edu for details. Thank you for your support!



Riding for the brand

When Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2019 receives her official title on January 5, 2019, the Cherry County Fairgrounds might look like an NCTA reunion.

Eva Oliver of Merriman graduated with honors in May, 2018 with an associate degree in veterinary technology.

A month later, during a rodeo queen contest in North Platte, Eva not only won the horsemanship competition but the overall title as the next Miss Rodeo Nebraska. She has held several princess or rodeo queen titles.

While studying at NCTA, Eva was busy with classes but enjoyed the ranch horse program. She had received an Aggie Alumni Association scholarship in 2017, following in the Vet Tech footsteps of her mother, Stacie Seegebarth Oliver, UNSTA '86.

Aside from studies, Eva says college highlights were “any class with Jo Bek, playing intramural sports, and living on campus, right across the hall from my close friends.”

Eva grew up around horses, plus working with teams of horses alongside her dad, Chuck Oliver, at Shadbolt Cattle Company where Chuck and Stacie reside. Stacie works at Hyannis Veterinary Services where Eva occasionally lends a hand while preparing for her busy year ahead. Her goal is to work in a veterinary clinic.

Spotlight on Africa

NCTA welcomed 50 young Rwandans to campus for three weeks of intensive coursework on agricultural skills development. The students arrived after completing their freshmen year of study at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) in what is known as CUSP, the CASNR Undergraduate Scholars Program.

The students' third and final week at NCTA ended on June 1. In that week of classes, they learned about farm power systems in tractors, small gas engines and maintenance, along with equipment operation of tractors and farm equipment. Their afternoon courses at veterinary technology emphasized food animal health with livestock pathology, beef quality assurance and proper injections in livestock, clinical pathology and safety in livestock handling. Previous weeks' topics included welding (arc welding and oxyacetylene), horticulture, livestock artificial insemination, agronomy, and animal science.

In October, NCTA also invited two Nigerian speakers to campus.

Tony Adesemoye, PhD, assistant professor of plant pathology and crop disease management specialist, spoke to students about agricultural production practices in Nigeria.

Adesemoye hails from southwestern Nigeria. He joined the University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty in 2014 and resides in North Platte.

The Rev. Tunde Oladimeji, PhD, pastor of the Curtis United Methodist Church, is a frequent guest at NCTA, sharing about culture in Nigeria.

Below, he is shown standing in the front row, wearing traditional attire from Nigeria.



(Top) Tony Adesemoye, crops management specialist from North Platte, spoke at NCTA in October. (IANR file photo)
(Left) A group of UNL CUSP students took horticulture classes during agricultural skills development at NCTA Curtis. (Photo by David Munyaneza)



Community support for the UNL CUSP scholars was evident at the completion ceremony on May 31 at the NCTA Education Center. (NCTA Photo)

Send address changes,
story tips and photos to
mcrawford@unl.edu
(308) 367-5231

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska | NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF
NCTA | TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE
404 East 7th St.
Curtis, NE 69025

Non Profit
US Postage
PAID
UNL

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.
Copyright 2018 The University of Nebraska Board of Regents. All rights reserved.



twitter.com/NCTACurtis



facebook.com/UniversityOfNebraskaNcta