

Dean's Newsletter 2018

2018 Message from the Dean

Greetings from campus! This has been an extraordinary year for your alma mater and its students. This year, the college has added new academic programs, received national recognition for the success of its graduates, and grown in enrollment for the fifth consecutive year.

External assessments rank NCTA among the top U.S. two-year colleges for quality results. Here are some of the 2017 rankings that are based on federal government statistics:



- NCTA ranked as #1 U.S. two-year college for graduate career outcomes - WalletHub.com ranked NCTA as the #1 U.S. two-year college for graduate career outcomes; determined primarily by calculating the ratio of starting salary for graduates to cost of education. Default rate on educational loans is also considered. Overall, WalletHub ranked NCTA as 17th among community colleges and institutions measured in three categories: cost and financing, education outcomes, and career outcomes. See <https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-community-colleges/15076/>.

- NCTA ranked as #7 U.S. two-year college for graduate career success - Using 10 years of U.S. government data such as tax records, as reported in IPEDS and College Scorecard, NCTA is the #7 two-year college in the U. S. for graduate career success at 92 percent employment 10 years after graduation. (Zippia, 2017) <https://www.zippia.com/advice/best-junior-colleges-for-jobs/>.

- NCTA ranked as #11 U.S. two-year colleges for graduate salary - Government tax records reveal average NCTA graduate earnings are \$49,800 at 10 years post-graduation which ranks NCTA graduates as having the 11th highest average salaries of all U.S. two-year college graduates. <https://www.zippia.com/advice/junior-college-highest-earning>

NCTA enrollment has grown every year since 2013. We now have 255 full-time on-campus students, composed of 81% Nebraska residents and 61% women. Enrollment has increased, on average, 4.75% per year since 2013 for a cumulative increase of 19%.

The college continues to add new academic programs. NCTA has been charged by the Nebraska Legislature with expediently responding to emerging workforce development needs in Nebraska's agricultural industries. Our academic programs evolve so we can accomplish this mission.

You have likely heard of the planned growth of the poultry industry in Nebraska. Lincoln Premium Poultry, a subsidiary of Costco, has started construction on an initiative that will result in 500 broiler houses, employing 800 to 1000 workers, and producing up to 4 million chickens per week in Nebraska.

One of the challenges to the growth of the Nebraska poultry industry is the lack of a workforce skilled in poultry production. To meet that challenge, NCTA partnered with the Poultry Science department at Mississippi State University in a creative initiative that will allow Nebraska residents to spend three semesters in Curtis and one semester of intensive, hands-on poultry work at Mississippi State University. The students will then graduate from NCTA with an Associate's Degree in agricultural production systems.

Another remarkable achievement this past year has been the success of our students— in the classroom, in the field, and at academic and team competitions across the nation. Aggie students won individual and team awards at many levels, including the 2018 national agricultural academic competition sponsored by the organization called the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

Twenty-five NCTA students competed head-to-head with other two-year college agriculture students from across the country and consistently come out on top in these academic trials.

The competition consists of 13 knowledge and skills contests across a broad range of agricultural disciplines. Many NCTA students competed on multiple teams. The results were a strong testament to the knowledge of our students and the skill of our faculty:

- In the 13 contests, ten NCTA teams finished among the top three colleges.
- NCTA achieved second place in the Agricultural Knowledge Bowl competition.
- The NCTA crops judging team came away as the national champion team for the third year in a row. The four top scoring individuals in this contest were all from NCTA.
- The college came away as the Reserve Champion College - meaning the college ranked number two among all colleges competing across all 13 competitions.

THANKS to each of you for your support to NCTA students and our campus. You can be quite proud of your alma mater! I look forward to visiting with you in Curtis on June 16.

2017 Alumni Awards

Five recipients were honored by the Aggie Alumni Association on June 24, 2017 at the annual meeting and banquet in Broken Bow. The awards committee was chaired by past president Dan Stehlik, Aggie alumnus and NCTA agricultural mechanics instructor.



(Above) Veterinary Technology Division Chair Barbara Berg receives the **Alumni Achievement Award** from Kim Mortensen, Aggie Alumni Association president. Berg is a 1973 UNSTA graduate of veterinary technology, is a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) and is a past president of the Aggie Alumni Association.



(Above) Professor Emeritus Teri Jo Bek, Curtis, was presented the **Legacy/Distinguished Service Award** by her daughter, Paige Bek Wood of St. Paul, and Kim Bowers Mortensen. Professor Bek retired in late December, after 39 years as faculty with the animal science and veterinary technology departments.



(Left) The **Alumni Service Award** was presented to the Mervin R. Eighmy Foundation for equipping the welding laboratory with eight new welders. Former Nebraska State Sen. Jim Jones of Ed-

dyville serves on the Eighmy board of directors and accepted the award on behalf of UNSTA Alumnus Jim Stewart of Lincoln and the Eighmy board.



(Left) Alumna Andrea Burkhart of Winnetoon was the 2017 recipient of the new **Alumni Leave Your Mark Award** because of her outstanding efforts on campus as a student worker in the horticulture program.

The 2017 graduate was unable to attend the banquet as she was attending further studies at the Floral Design Institute in Portland, Oregon. She now works as the assistant retail manager at Shamrock Nursery in O'Neill.



(Left) Judy and Bill Nutt of Curtis were awarded Honorary Life Membership to the Aggie Alumni Association as a result of their 46-year history of boarding horses, dogs and other livestock for college students. They were not able to attend the banquet. Their family is establishing a recognition in purchasing a tile for the NCTA Legacy Wall in the Education Center. Contributions from students who boarded animals at the Nutt Place or by other donors are encouraged.

Alumni President's Message

Greetings from Bellwood / Burwell.

Well, actually, I'm in Burwell writing this now. Long story, but my home is Bellwood. I work in Burwell and stay at my second home during the week. Come to the banquet on June 16 and I will fill you in on the rest of the story.

Just read through the latest "The Aggie." It is the college's recruiting magazine packed full of info for anyone interested in agriculture education. So much has changed on campus since I was there in 1983.

If you know anyone interested in an agricultural career I'm sure Catherine would be happy to mail "The Aggie" out to you. (308-367-5200 or chauptman4@unl.edu).

Aggie Alumni will gather June 16-17, with honored years by 5's... '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08 and '13. Contact your classmates and join us for a fun weekend in Curtis!

Remember, all are welcome to join the Aggie Alumni - graduates of NSA, UNSA, UNSTA and NCTA. Annual dues of \$15 per year, or \$100 for lifetime membership, allow us to provide scholarships and fund campus projects.

Last but not least, consider making an N Fund contribution through the University of Nebraska Foundation to help fund priority needs at campus.

See you in Curtis!

Aggie Alumni Association
Dave Mehaffey, President
Ag Mech '83



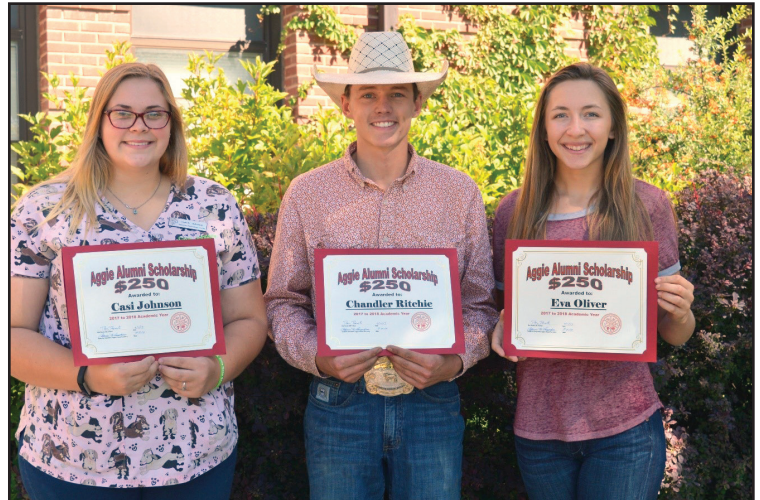
2017 Aggie Alumni Scholarships

In 2017 the Aggie Alumni association awarded three \$250 scholarships to students going into their sophomore year of college at NCTA. The recipients last year were Casi Johnson of Belvidere, Neb., Chandler Ritchie of Sargent, Neb., and Eva Oliver of Merriman, Neb.

Casi is involved in STVMA (student technicians of veterinary medicine association) and collegiate 4H. Casi is the daughter of UNSTA alumni Tammy Hintz Johnson and Rex Johnson (UNSTA 1985) and will graduate next year with a degree in Veterinary Technology. She plans to return home and work at a local veterinary clinic.

Chandler is the son of NCTA alumna Amy Doheny Ritchie (NCTA 1996) and is involved in the Rodeo Club and Farm Bureau, and is a Resident Advisor for the NCTA dorms. He will be graduating with a degree in Ag Production Systems. He plans to go home and work on his family farm/ranching operation after graduation.

Eva is the daughter of Stacie Segebarth-Oliver (UNSTA 1986) and is involved in STVMA, Collegiate Cattlemen, Women in Ag, and intramural sports. When Eva graduates this year as a veterinary technician she plans to find a job at a rural veterinary clinic. The alumni association scholarships for 2018 will be increased to \$400, as voted by the alumni board.



Johnson (left), Vet Tech major of Belvidere, is the daughter of UNSTA alumni Tammy Hintz Johnson and Rex Johnson. Ritchie (center), Agronomy major from Sargent, is the son of NCTA alumna Amy Doheny Ritchie, '96. Oliver (right), Vet Tech major of Merriman, is the daughter of Stacie Segebarth-Oliver, UNSTA '86

"Discover Your Way at NCTA"
ncta.unl.edu

Where are they now?

Tana Jo Almand graduated from NCTA in 2014 with an animal science degree. She transferred to UNL where she received her bachelor's degree in Animal Science with a minor in Entrepreneurship in May 2017. Currently, Tana is working on a master's degree in the Animal Biology Graduate Group at the University of California-Davis. Her research focuses on reproductive physiology. More specifically, she studies the epigenetic control of aromatase expression by miRNAs in boars. She plans to graduate in June of 2019 with a master's degree in Animal Biology.



Evey Choat has continued to follow her passion for agriculture. She is currently teaching at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Public School as the Agriculture Education instructor and FFA advisor. She and the FFA chapter engage the community through volunteerism, community service, and by providing games during local community events. These activities include Laurel Ag Days, Fall Frenzy, and this summer's Laurel Q125 event. Evey has introduced Tower Gardens to the school and has incorporated them into the classroom as well as the special education program. Evey is currently involved with the ReVision process at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Public School. This program works with the community in order to provide Nebraska schools the opportunity to analyze and transform the career education program in order to improve the educational process and provide a qualified workforce needed in the area.



Jo Bek Retirement



Professor Jo Bek retired in December after 39 years of animal science and veterinary technology instruction.

"The one thing every student had for Jo was respect," said Kevin Martin, Students Services Advisor. "Whether she had chewed them up one side and down the other or flunked them, kids understood she was going to make them better people, one way or another."

Assistant Professor Meredith Cable of rural Bertrand was hired in August and trained with Jo Bek until her retirement. Cable's specialties include beef cattle and animal nutrition. NCTA also hired Assistant Professor Darcy Moreland, DVM, this spring. Dr. Moreland specializes in beef cattle and equine health.

Special Alumni Award



Andi Knepp, North Platte, retired campus farm manager, and Dave Smith, Rapid City, S.D., former Ag Production Systems chairman, were presented with commemorative NCTA Belt Buckles from their former colleague Teri Jo Bek, NCTA faculty member.

As their former colleague, Professor Bek wanted to personally recognize their longtime support of UNSTA and NCTA and the positive impact each made for students.

Smith continues as an adjunct instructor and teaches online courses for NCTA.

Auction!

Bring donations for the silent and live auctions!

Register to: Ann_Bruntz@hotmail.com

All proceeds go the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Ag Director Steve Wellman, UNSTA '81

Steve Wellman was appointed Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture by Governor Pete Ricketts in December. He graduated in 1981 from the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture.

“My education and associate degree in production agriculture from the UNSTA prepared me to fulfill the desire to continue on our family farm,” Wellman says. “I definitely wanted to continue my education past high school, but a big campus, four-year degree did not appeal to me.

Wellman and his wife, Susan, own and operate a fourth generation family farm near Syracuse, where the farm produces soybeans, corn, wheat, alfalfa and cattle. He credits UNSTA-NC-TA for success.

“The class room setting combined with hands-on work made the experience in Curtis ideal for me. The recent investments in facilities, staff and class room offerings makes NCTA an excellent option for students interested in various sectors of agriculture,” he told Dean Ron Rosati.

Wellman has been active in trade missions, agricultural policy, and many national, state and local organizations including the American Farm Bureau, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Ag Builders of Nebraska and Outstanding Farmers of America.



Steve Wellman, UNSTA '81, meets with NCTA Dean Ron Rosati

Purchase a legacy brick or tile

Customize a brick or \$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 a aluminum commemorative tile to take home. Thank you for your generosity!



Mark a legacy! Place your order with Catherine Hauptman at chauptman4@unl.edu or 308-367-5200 for either the brick or the glass tile.

UNSTA-NCTA Alumni Awards

Alumni association awards are based on nominations submitted to the board of directors, in these categories:

Alumni Achievement – Recognizes exemplary service to NSA, UNSA, UNSTA, or NCTA or to Nebraska agriculture and natural resources, in general. The honoree must have completed a degree at the Curtis institution.

Alumni Service – For outstanding service to NSA, UNSA, UNSTA, or NCTA. The recipient need not be a graduate.

Honorary Life Membership – For outstanding service to Nebraska's agriculture or natural resources; recipient is not an alumnus.

Distinguished/Legacy Award – Recognizes personal or professional excellence in advancing the legacy of NSA, UNSA, UNSTA or NCTA, or for demonstrating exemplary commitment, leadership, and participation bringing distinction to themselves, their profession, the technical college, or to the NU system.

Leave Your Mark Award – For outstanding service to the NCTA campus community while an Aggie student. (2017)

Here is a list of recent recipients:

- 2017 – Jo Bek, Distinguished/Legacy Award
- Barbara Berg, Alumni Achievement Award
- Mervin R. Eighmy Foundation, Alumni Service Award
- Bill and Judy Nutt, Honorary Life Membership
- Andrea Burkhardt, Leave Your Mark Award

- 2016 – Gene Heller, Alumni Service Award
- Stan and Dorothy Matzke, Honorary Life Membership
- 2015 – Jerry Sundquist, Distinguished/Legacy Award
- David and Ann Bruntz, Alumni Achievement
- Dr. Martin Massengale, Honorary Life Membership
- 2014 – Dave Smith, Honorary Life Membership
- Mike Stewart, Alumni Achievement, posthumous
- Dr. Walter Long, Distinguished/Legacy Award, posthumous
- 2013 – R.P. Smith, Distinguished/Legacy Award
- 2012 – Community of Curtis, Alumni Service Award
- 2011 – Richard and Marilyn Shinn, Alumni Service Award
- Dr. George Garlick, Distinguished/Legacy Award
- 2010 – Elaine Siminoe, Alumni Service Award
- Dr. Weldon Sleight, Honorary Life Membership Award

Contact Dan Stehlik for nominations: dstehlik2@unl.edu or 308-367-5241.

Garlick honors college mentor with memorial scholarship fund

The influence that a small town teacher made decades ago on a small town boy will benefit many Nebraska college students

A new scholarship has been established through the University of Nebraska Foundation by Carol and George Garlick of Richland, Washington, for students to attend NCTA.

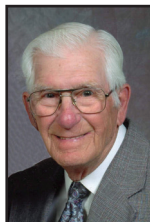
The Glenn Jurgens Memorial Scholarship funded by the Garlicks has been awarded to Rylee Ehmke of Avoca, Nathan Lashley of Curtis, and Katharine Schudel of North Loup. Each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

A native of Curtis, George Garlick, attended high school at the campus institution which at that time was the University of Nebraska School of Agriculture, a regional boarding school. While taking classes, he was counseled by an observant teacher, Glenn Jurgens.

Jurgens, a much-admired math teacher, student council advisor and community leader in Curtis for nearly five decades, taught at UNSA and Medicine Valley Public high schools, followed by becoming a faculty member at the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture (UNSTA) and then NCTA. He retired in



George Garlick



Glenn Jurgens

1986, and died in 2014 at the age of 92.

Jurgens saw promise in Garlick, of a local farming family, and encouraged him to continue his studies by connecting Garlick with a work-study scholarship at Hastings College. Garlick later received his doctorate in electrical engineering and solid state physics at Iowa State University, moved to Washington and is president of Garlick Enterprises Inc.

Throughout the decades, the Garlicks have returned to visit family and friends in Southwest Nebraska and have been integral supporters to NCTA and the community of Curtis.

Schudel of North Loup graduated in 2016 from the Double Tree Academy, a home school.

Ehmke is a 2016 graduate of Syracuse High School who is transferring from Southeast Community College in Lincoln to major at NCTA in animal science and minor in agribusiness.

Nathan Lashley, a 2016 graduate of Medicine Valley Public Schools, is a second-year student in livestock management with a minor in agribusiness.



Schudel



Ehmke



Lashley

2018 Alumni Weekend

Aggie Alumni Weekend 2018

Saturday June 16th

8:00am to 5:00pm:

Alumni Golfing
Arrowhead Meadows Golf Course
Curtis, NE

1:00 to 4:00 P.M.:

Campus Tours
Alumni Room/Bookstore OPEN

2:00pm to 4:30pm:

Trap Shoot

5:30 P.M.: Social Time and Silent Auction

Curtis Memorial Community Center
201 Garlick Avenue
Curtis, NE 69025

7:00 P.M.:

Aggie Alumni Banquet
Prime Rib Meal provided by:
Fox Creek Catering
**please bring your own alcohol; water, tea
and coffee will be provided*

Golfing: Dave May (402)432-2000

Dave.may@bryanhealth.org

Trap Shoot: Alan Taylor (308)366-8662

Silent Auction contact: Ann Bruntz

402-366-6608 / ann_bruntz@hotmail.com

**Please bring an item with you for the silent
auction**

Sunday June 17th:

8:00am to 10:00am – Alumni Breakfast
NCTA Aggie Dining - Cafeteria

Curtis Accommodations:

Valley View Inn

Reserved under Aggie Alumni
308-367-4580
www.curtisvalleyviewinn.com

Arrowhead Meadows Golf Course

Camper spots
308-367-4123

www.Curtis-ne.com

NCTA Dorms: Erika Arambula (308)367-5247

Registration form for Aggie Alumni Banquet

Please return this form completely filled out and a
check payable to *Aggie Alumni Association* by
May 31, 2018

Mail to: Aggie Alumni Association c/o Catherine
Hauptman 404 East 7th St Curtis, NE 69025
(308)367-5200 or chauptman4@unl.edu

Name(s): _____

Department: _____

Graduation Year: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Annual Alumni Membership Fee per Alumnus:

\$15: _____

OR

Already a lifetime member: _____

Saturday June 16th

of Lunch Meals: _____ at \$8/person

of Banquet Meals: _____ at \$35/person

Sunday June 17th Breakfast

of Breakfast Meals: _____ at \$8/person

TOTAL enclosed: _____

(Tear this half off and send in with your payment)

2018 Spring Newsletter
Editor: Catherine Hauptman
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Send address changes, story tips and photos to mcrawford@unl.edu
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