Meetings with faculty to discuss their goals for 2012 are well underway. Given the large number of faculty in SNR and the abbreviated timeframe, this process will continue into mid-May. As many of you are aware, in previous years I began meeting with faculty in mid to late January. This year, because of the new submission date for the eARFA (January 15), the process of meeting with faculty could not begin until early March.

Staff evaluations and follow-up meetings with supervisors have now been completed as well. Thanks to faculty and staff for helping me and other supervisors systematically move through this process. Although this is a time-consuming process, I hope it was also a rewarding one for faculty and staff. Documenting and reflecting on your activities and accomplishments from the previous year should be a valuable exercise.

**IANR’s Unit Planning Process—An Update on SNR Actions**

Tala and I have been working with SNR’s faculty in developing a series of documents highlighting current and emerging high impact programs in the unit. This exercise is part of IANR’s unit planning process. These reports were submitted on March 30 to Ron Yoder, IANR associate vice chancellor. In each of these documents, we were asked to address how these high impact programs will assist UNL in meeting the goals articulated by Chancellor Perlman. For IANR, this process will lead to the strategic reallocation of resources across the Institute beginning later this year. In late July, the IANR Administrative Team will be holding a retreat to further this process.

In response to this call for the identification of key high impact programs in the unit, the following areas were highlighted in our reports.

- Climate's Challenges to Resource Stewardship
- Nebraska’s Signature Landscapes and the Services They Provide
- Innovative Assessment, Management, and Restoration of our Water Resource Future
- Advancing Geospatial Information Technology and Remote Sensing Science to Address Key Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Resource Issues
- Nebraska Invasive Species Project
- Environmental and Human Systems Education
- Conserving Fisheries and Wildlife
- Atmospheric Exchanges of CO₂, Water Vapor and other Greenhouse Gases
- Long Term Agroecological Systems
- National Institute on Wildlife Damage Management

I expect to begin receiving feedback from IANR administration on our submission in mid-to-late April.

**Congratulations to SNR Faculty on Promotion and Tenure Decisions**

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**Upcoming Events**

See SNR April 2012 calendar.

**Director's Upcoming Travel**

April 3-4, 2012
Huntsville, Texas
To present an invited lecture for the Presidential Distinguished Lecture Series at Sam Houston State University.

April 8-13, 2012
Rome, Italy
To meet with colleagues at the Food and Agriculture Organization and to present an invited talk at the World Climate Research Program’s Workshop on Global Drought Information Systems in Frascati, Italy.
This year we had many faculty who submitted applications for promotion and/or tenure. The applications for the following faculty were approved and are awaiting final action by the Board of Regents:

- **Tala Awada**, promoted to professor
- **John Lenters**, tenure
- **Steven Thomas**, promoted to associate professor, with tenure
- **Brian Wardlow**, promoted to research associate professor
- **Cody Knutson**, promoted to research associate professor
- **Joe Szilagyi**, promoted to research professor
- **Xinhua Zhou**, promoted to research associate professor

Congratulations to each of these faculty members for this recognition of their efforts on behalf of SNR and UNL. Please join me in congratulating them on this achievement. Thanks also to the hard work of SNR’s Promotion and Tenure Committee for their deliberations on behalf of the SNR faculty.

**Remote Sensing Scientist Search Status**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Brian Wardlow to the position of assistant professor/remote sensing scientist in the School of Natural Resources, effective March 30, 2012. His appointment is the product of a search process that began last fall and produced more than 60 applicants. This position is a tenure track, 12-month appointment in SNR, fully funded by IANR. The position has a 60 percent research, 38 percent teaching, and 2 percent service appointment. Brian is currently a research assistant professor with the National Drought Mitigation Center. He will relocate in the near future to room 316. We look forward to interacting with Brian in a broader capacity as a result of his new appointment and new responsibilities. He will be promoted to associate professor on July 1, 2012, pending Board of Regents approval, on the basis of the outcome of the promotion process described above.

**Hydrogeophysicist Interviews—Please Participate**

April 22-25, 2012
**Geneva, Switzerland**
To attend an informational meeting for officials from embassies and consulates in support of the international initiative on national drought policy organized by the World Meteorological Organization.

May 27-June 5, 2012
**Shanghai, Nanjing, and Beijing, China**
To present lectures at the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau and Hohai University in Nanjing, and to give a keynote presentation at a drought workshop at Beijing Normal University.

June 11-14, 2012
**Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
To attend a meeting of the International Organizing Committee for the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy and participate in a panel at Rio +20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
IANR will be interviewing two candidates for the position of professor, hydrogeophysicist, as part of the IANR Water for Food cluster hire. The candidates for this position are:

P. A. “Ty” Ferré, professor in the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson. Ty has been a faculty member at the University of Arizona since 1999. His seminar, “Hydrogeophysics,” will be Monday, April 2, at 3:30 p.m. in the Hardin Hall auditorium.

Todd Halihan, associate professor in the School of Geology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. Todd has been a member of the faculty at OSU since 2000. His seminar, “Groundwater Doctors: Scanning the Subsurface to Improve our Science,” will be April 4 at 10 a.m. in 901 Hardin Hall.

Please plan to attend both seminars and take advantage of other opportunities to meet with the candidates to discuss their research and teaching programs and how they intersect with your fields of expertise.

Heuermann Lecture Series Planning Committee

In my March Director's Report I mentioned that I had been invited to be a member of the committee to recommend potential speakers to Vice Chancellor Green for the 2012-2013 academic year. There were 72 nominations received from faculty and staff. Following a thorough review of these nominations, ten names were submitted for consideration. There will be four lectures as part of this series in the next academic year. Those nominees not forwarded for consideration in the coming academic year will be held over for consideration for the following year.

2012 Weatherfest—Another Successful Year

SNR hosted the 12th Annual Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Weatherfest on Saturday, March 31. This year there were a record number of families participating in the event and the volume of participants remained busy and steady throughout the entire day. There were 14 hands-on activities for families—all bringing weather, climate and natural resources information to participants of all ages. The event also had 10 exhibitors, including Raytheon, the National Weather Service, several emergency management agencies and the American Red Cross.

New York Times best-selling author Jenna Blum, after giving a presentation in the packed auditorium, signed books for the public in the main lobby. Emergency management vehicles were outside Hardin Hall for families to explore, and a huge festival tent filled the front lawn where families rested and had ice cream from the nearby UNL Dairy Store truck. In response to the awful tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri, last May, Ken Dewey hosted a mid-day Town Hall meeting where Lincoln and Omaha weathercasters, the warning coordination meteorologist from Omaha, and a National Weather Service Central Region Headquarters official engaged the public in a dialogue on how to make our communities "Storm Ready."

Families enjoyed "Weather and Climate Hit or Myth" and other hands-on activities at Weatherfest 2012.

A young weather enthusiast embraced Lil' Green, the 4-H mascot, played by Jonah Lux Wall of Ashland-Greenwood High School, son of Nicole Wall.
Joe Robine, SNR graduate student, and Chantelli Fulst, UNL Admissions, held a banner welcoming participants to Weatherfest.

Planning has already begun for next year’s 13th annual event, to be held in Hardin Hall on April 6, 2013. Beginning next year, it will simply be known as the Weatherfest.

Media coverage the day before the event included a half-hour live show at KLIN radio, a live interview on KOLN/KGIN TV noon news, and live broadcasts at 5 and 6 p.m. by KLKN TV meteorologist Kevin Coskren in front of Hardin Hall and the festival tent, promoting the event and interviewing several of the guest speakers. The *Omaha World-Herald* and *Lincoln Journal Star* both covered the event.

Special thanks to the more than 60 people who volunteered to work at Weatherfest. These volunteers came from SNR, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and the local community.

**Proposals Submitted and Grants Awarded**

Congratulations to SNR faculty and staff for grants awarded during March. Total funding received during the month was $751,047. The majority of funds received this past month were from the USDA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the University of Missouri. Those faculty and staff awarded funding included Tapan Pathak, Larkin Powell, Cody Knutson, Tonya Bernadt, Mary Bomberger Brown, Karie Decker, and Craig Allen.

Proposals submitted during March 2012 were for funds totaling $1,704,807. SNR faculty submitting proposals included Scott Hygnstrom, Annabel Lee Major, Lisa Pennisi, Steve Comfort, Kevin Pope, Mike Hayes, Brian Fuchs, Mark Svoboda, Brian Wardlow, Gene Guan, Martha Shulski, and Ken Hubbard. These proposals were directed to NOAA, USGS, Department of Defense, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the Walmart Foundation.

The total funding requested so far this fiscal year, July through March, is $15,891,499. The total funding awarded to SNR faculty and staff this fiscal year is $5,788,668. The distribution of this funding by source is included below.