This is an exciting week with many graduation-related festivities planned both by SNR in Hardin Hall and by CASNR in the East Campus Union. It is always difficult to see our seniors graduate but it is also gratifying to see them move on to the next phase of their lives. Congratulations to all undergraduate and graduate students who are finishing up this week. We wish you well! Come back to see us often.

Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Weatherfest

The 11th Annual Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Family Weatherfest was a tremendous success on April 9 because of the efforts of many SNR faculty, staff and students. The Symposium and Weatherfest was moved from the usual late March date (when it is often cold and rainy) to April 9. The CPSWS and Weatherfest is an outreach event for SNR and IANR and brings enormous community exposure to UNL.

Following the event, Ken said he was “extremely proud of SNR and their commitment to help put on this large outreach event each year.” I would like to thank the scores of people who helped to plan the Symposium and the Weatherfest and to all of those who volunteered their time to help out at the day-long activity.

Short Course on Climate Change for Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture

At the request of IANR, I have been developing a proposal for a short course on climate change for approximately 30 representatives of the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture. It would probably be for three weeks in May 2012 and would likely be held in Hardin Hall. Lecturers...
for the short course would be faculty from SNR, from other departments in IANR and from city campus. A preliminary draft of the proposal has been submitted to Ousmane Youm, who oversees international programs in IANR. Thanks to all faculty who have agreed to participate. Also included in the course would be a series of field trips to research field sites and local industries such as LI-COR and Valmont.

**UNL Wildlife Club Banquet: A Fun Event for All**

On April 16, SNR hosted the annual UNL Wildlife Club banquet in Hardin Hall. Following a great dinner, many awards were presented to students. I had the pleasure of giving out the Academic Awards to students with a 3.3 GPA or better. The Brian Smith Memorial Outstanding Student Award was presented to Amber Fandrich. The recipients of the Wildlife Club Alumni Award were Ritch Nelson and Kay Kunze. Walt Bagley, emeritus faculty member, was presented with the 2010 Howard Wiegers Lincoln Journal-Star Nebraska Outstanding Wildlife Conservation Award. Both Howard and Walt were present for the banquet and award ceremony and their participation was one of the real highlights of the evening.

The program for this year’s event was given by Wildlife Encounters Wildlife Rescue Organization. Thanks to Dennis Ferraro and others for helping with this portion of the program. It was exciting to see the auditorium filled with various wild animals—a delight for young and old alike.

The faculty advisers for the Wildlife Club are Larkin Powell and Dennis Ferraro. Thanks to Larkin and Dennis for their investment of time in support of this outstanding club. It is a model for all campus student organizations.

**SNR Receives the 2011 Award for Emeriti Faculty**

SNR was honored as the recipient of the 2011 Award for Engagement of Emeriti Faculty at the CASNR annual banquet on April 17. This award is given by the CASNR Alumni Association. The statement on the plaque says “for effective and innovative engagement of emeriti faculty and recognition of this rich resource to the betterment of the department, its students, the College, and the University.” Our emeriti faculty have given much to the University of Nebraska and many continue to contribute in many ways to the mission of SNR. I greatly appreciate their service to SNR. The plaque will be mounted on the first floor lobby area in the near future.
**Water for Food Institute: Executive Director Search Status**

The search committee for the executive director of the Water for Food Institute has been working diligently to identify a short list of candidates to be interviewed for this position. Plans are now underway to hold campus interviews during May and early June for each of the finalists for this position. Since WFI is a system-wide initiative, the expectation is that each candidate will visit both the UNO and UNMC campuses in Omaha. Given the time constraints associated with each interview, it is expected that key faculty from UNK will be traveling to Lincoln to participate in each of the interviews. With the Water for Food Conference scheduled for May 1-4 and the campus interviews to be held in the weeks that follow the conference, this is a very exciting time in the evolution of the WFI. As information on the candidate interviews is announced, please try to participate in the interview process for as many candidates as possible.

**Reminder: Please Identify Your Areas of Expertise**

At the request of SNR stakeholders, we are creating an expertise directory so that potential partners in agencies and organizations can find faculty and staff within SNR with the expertise they need more easily. We are asking each faculty member and many staff members to fill in their expertise. Staff members who are providing mostly service support to their group or the School do not need to fill out this request. If you have questions about this please contact your supervisor. [Instructions are online.](http://snr.unl.edu/aboutus/what/directornews/directors_report_05_2011.html)

Please complete this task by May 9.

**Kudos to Eric Hunt, SNR Graduate Student**

Congratulations to Eric Hunt, who is the recipient of the 2011 Student Organization Member of the Year award. Eric is a Ph.D. student in Applied Climate Sciences. He is advised by Brian Wardlow. In her letter of nomination, the Graduate Student Association advisor, Carolyn Pope-Edwards, Department of Psychology, said that Eric “has been an inspirational member of the GSA since 2008. In this time, he has been a Department Representative, an Executive Committee Officer, and is now a Campus Representative. Eric undertook the majority of the responsibility in rewriting the constitution and, moreover, restructuring the organization to include Campus Representatives as voting members. He also collaborated with UNL administrators to create and implement a Family Leave Policy for graduate students. Eric has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment, respect, and care for the graduate student population by reorganizing leadership and policy internally (within the GSA) and externally (at the UNL level).” When notifying Brian and me that he had been nominated for this award, Eric said that “many graduate students are not fortunate enough to have advisors that encourage extra-curricular activities. SNR faculty and administrators should be proud of the number of graduate students that have contributed to the UNL GSA and to the larger community. That reflects well on the School and makes us a role model for other departments on campus.”

**Larrick Memorial Travel Funds Awarded to SNR Students**

Several SNR students are the recipients of the David H. and Anne E. Larrick Memorial Travel Fund awards for travel during the period from January 1 through June 30, 2011. Congratulations to Katherine Van Cleave, Brittany Potter, Sharmistha Swain, Hsin-Ro Wei, Eric Hunt and Jessica Milby.

**SNR’s Meritorious Graduate Student Awards: Brittany Potter and Dustin Martin**

Brittany Potter has been selected by the SNR Graduate Committee as the recipient of the Master’s Graduate Student Award for her outstanding performance as a graduate student and research and professional contributions in the area of hydrologic sciences. The Graduate Committee also selected Dustin Martin as the recipient of the Doctoral Meritorious Graduate Student Award for his research and professional contributions in the area of angler participation. Congratulations to Brittany and Dustin!
Proposals Submitted and Grants Awarded

Congratulations to Bruce Dvorak, Steve Ress, Steve Thomas, Craig Allen, Steve Comfort, Jesse Korus, Kyle Hoagland, Mark Burbach, and Tadd Barrow for grants awarded during April. Total funding received during April was $731,248. The total value of grants awarded from July 1, 2010, to April 2011 was $7,164,798.

Proposals submitted during April 2011 requested funds totaling $1,425,956. SNR faculty and staff submitting proposals included Matt Joeckel, Amy Burgin, Jesse Korus, Song Feng, Craig Allen, Ed Harvey, and Drew Tyre. The total funding requested from July 1, 2010, to April 30, 2011, was $51,577,653.