



School of Natural Resources Alumni Newsletter



From the Director's Desk

Time does fly here in the School of Natural Resources. This is my third installment of the Alumni Newsletter since arriving here in 2013. The past year has been an exciting time in SNR with changes occurring at what seems to be an ever-quickening pace. The changes here have been good ones with consistent support from the university and state. For those who follow higher education, we are definitely in a good place here in Nebraska.

This year was a watershed one for hiring new faculty in SNR. We are still in the midst of it, but so far we have done very well. This past fall, Troy Gilmore and Jesse Korus joined us in the area of water science. Chris Chizinski started in October, and his area of interest is human dimensions of natural resources. Liz Van Wormer was offered a joint position in VetMed and SNR where she will coordinate One Health efforts for IANR. Jenny Dauer moved from the professor of practice track to tenure track in the science literacy program. In January, we were very lucky to get most of the appointment of Bob Zink, who is very well known for his work on avian systematics. He is also partially in SBS and the museum where he will work to strengthen our ties.

Coming on board in the near future are John Gamon who will work in the area of remote sensing and will supervise the airplane program; Jamillynn Poletto, a fish physiologist; and Tiffany Messer, who will have a partial appointment with SNR as a water engineer. John Benson

also has accepted a position as a vertebrate ecologist, and Becky Buller has accepted a professor of practice position and will serve as the advisor for our undergraduate geography program.

Other positions in the works include an environmental geographer, Great Plains forester, spatial science scientist, pedologist, climate risk and adaptation scientist, limnologist, and private lands wildlife scientist. Like I said, exciting times.

Programmatically we established a new Nebraska State Climate Office. We believed that this layer focusing on a Nebraska constituency would allow us to better serve the state, and Martha Shulski took on the role as director in January. The climate office will begin unrolling its web presence this summer.

SNR also had a program review this year, and it highlighted areas where we need to work very hard over the next five years. Key areas included diversifying our faculty, streamlining and updating our teaching program, and doing a better job of reaching out to our alumni, friends, and constituents.

It has been a busy year, but one with a range of outcomes that continues to strengthen our position locally, nationally and internationally.



John Carroll, Director

A Note from our Alumni Coordinator



Karen Jensen
Alumni Coordinator

Greetings alumni and friends of SNR! Nearly 50 people have joined the ranks of SNR alumni in the past few weeks. We so enjoy hearing about all the things you are doing and the impacts you are having.

If you're in the area, stop by for events. Check out a calendar of upcoming events at <http://events.unl.edu/snr/upcoming/>.

You can keep connected to us via the web as well at snr.unl.edu or through our SNR Alumni page, go.unl.edu/snr/alumni. There you can sign up to receive the weekly SNR newsletter, InsideSNR and you can see what other interesting things are happening with our alumni.

We also appreciate the financial support provided to SNR through the NU Foundation. Please consider supporting one of the funds such as the Natural Resources Development Fund, Geography Founders Fund, or another funds that is special to you. Visit go.unl.edu/snrfunding to discover all the possible opportunities. You are a valuable part of the SNR team; we thank you for your generosity and support.

Times are changing here at SNR. You can read about our new communications associate, Shawna Richter-Ryerson, in this issue. But this is my goodbye: I am leaving SNR and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to pursue other opportunities and adventures with my family in Phoenix, Arizona. I have greatly enjoyed working with you and encourage you to continue your connections with the SNR family. Once a part of SNR, always a part of SNR!

Welcome to SNR's Alumni Newsletter and our new communications associate

We hope you'll take a moment to read through SNR's alumni newsletter. Whether you were part of one of our many academic programs or are simply a natural resources enthusiast, we invite you to get up to speed on SNR happenings and to share your news and updates with us.

More details at: <http://go.unl.edu/snralumni>

I'm Shawna Richter-Ryerson, and I'm the new communications associate for the School of Natural Resources, the National Drought Mitigation Center and the Nebraska State Climate Office. I'm a person driven by curiosity and an insatiable desire to learn, so I'm looking forward to the depth and breadth of the SNR.



Shawna Richter-Ryerson

My parents, both who grew up on family farms, instilled a love of nature in me and my siblings from a very early age. They cultivated this love by giving us hands-on roles in our summer food gardens, taking us hunting and fishing, and taking annual summer vacations to national parks. I often teased my parents that I'd visited every national park in the United States by the time I was 18.

My enthusiasm for the topics taught within the SNR, NDMC and NSCO are high. They are topics I've paid close attention to as a journalist over the last 11 years. As a reporter in Iowa, I covered everything from prescribed fires to a Trumpeter swan re-release program to natural disaster planning. As an editor in Iowa and in Lincoln, I pulled and edited stories ranging from droughts to climate change to species discoveries. I helped sandbag in an effort to save Gulfport, Illinois, from major flooding in 2008, only to see the levee collapse and the town go under. I've taken part in Living, Lands and Waters and done annual Earth Day cleanups. Each of these experiences has taught me a little about the globalization of our society, about how something I do, no matter how seemingly small, can impact someone thousands of miles away. It's become hugely important to show that relationship, and as the communications associate, I now get to share in that responsibility.

I am wholeheartedly looking forward to it, and I hope to inspire an enthusiasm in the public for what those in the SNR, NDMC and NSCO do every day.

Feel free to contact me at 402-472-6515 or srichter-ryerson2@unl.edu. Or just pop in my office at 911 Hardin Hall — after all, I'm a small-town Illinois girl who grew up sitting on my neighbor's front porch swing and listening to stories. I value that kind of relationship and hope to build one like it with you all.

Nebraska Master Naturalist Program training sessions set for summer and fall

Training sessions are set for:

- June 5 to 11 at The Nature Conservancy's Niobrara Valley Preserve, Valentine-Ainsworth-Bassett area; though the course is full, a waitlist has been started. Course registration is \$300.
- July 7 to 9 at Panhandle Research and Extension Center, Scottsbluff, Gering area; course registration is \$150, and scholarships are available.
- Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 and Oct. 7 to 8, AkSarBen Aquarium at Schramm Park, Lincoln-Omaha-Gretna area; course registration is \$150.

The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program is an adult education program, focused on providing volunteers with hands-on experiences in Nebraska's natural

resources. The Master Naturalist program offers the opportunity to get up close and personal with Nebraska's natural legacy. Participants will undergo 60 hours of in-depth training, led by experts in their fields. Learn about Nebraska's Flora and Fauna, native ecosystems, natural resource interpretation, citizen science and more.

Apply today at <http://naturalist.unl.edu> or call Matt Jones, training assistant 402-937-8601, for more details.



NDMC celebrates 20th anniversary

The National Drought Mitigation Center celebrated its 20th anniversary April 22 at the International Quilt Study Center and Museum.

NDMC Founder Don Wilhite, current director Mike Hayes, and the nearly 20 center faculty and staff, welcomed dozens to the event with hors d'oeuvres and drinks. An earlier celebration, planned for December, had been postponed.

NDMC was established in 1995, with the intent of helping to develop and implement measures to reduce drought vulnerability across the United States. Rather than respond only when a situation had developed into a crisis, NDMC hoped to and continues to stress drought preparedness and risk management.

Among some of the tools NDMC has played a role in or developed over the years are: the U.S. Drought Monitor, U.S. Drought Impact Reporter, Drought Risk Atlas, VegDRI and a suite of web-based drought management decision-making tools.

For more information on the NDMC, its outreach and research, visit drought.unl.edu/.

— *Natural Resources*



NDMC director Mike Hayes (left) and NDMC founder Don Wilhite (right) talk with Senator Ken Haar during the center's 20th anniversary celebration at the International Quilt Study Center and Museum.



SNR director John Carroll (standing on left) visits with attendees of the celebration.

Fossil books used in unique way for visually impaired

A teenager sits with a piece of paper in his lap, his fingers reading the translated content of “Fossils on the Floor,” by Bob Diffendal, emeritus professor in the Conservation and Survey Division of UNL's School of Natural Resources. The outline of an ancient trilobite is raised up from the paper, its features apparent.

In addition to the raised-outline images, his teacher, Mary Farris, also had turned the descriptions from the book into Braille, giving her blind and visually impaired students the ability to work independently to visualize the imbedded art in the Capitol floor.

“It was a great experience,” she wrote in a letter to Diffendal, “a wonderful opportunity to learn, and just plain fun at the end of the day. What kid doesn’t like to crawl around on the floor (or teacher for that matter!)”

Farris, an educator at the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired in Nebraska City, said she’s always on the look-out for curriculum materials she can adapt to meet the special needs of her students. The “Fossils on the Floor” books, which pairs the Capitol mosaics with scientific drawings and other information, fit the bill.

“These images captivate thousands of visitors each year,” Diffendal said when his books were released. “I’ve heard parents, tour leaders and teachers struggle to describe what they’re looking at when they’re looking at the mosaics. I wanted to put something together to give them a fighting chance at telling kids what these mosaics are depicting.”

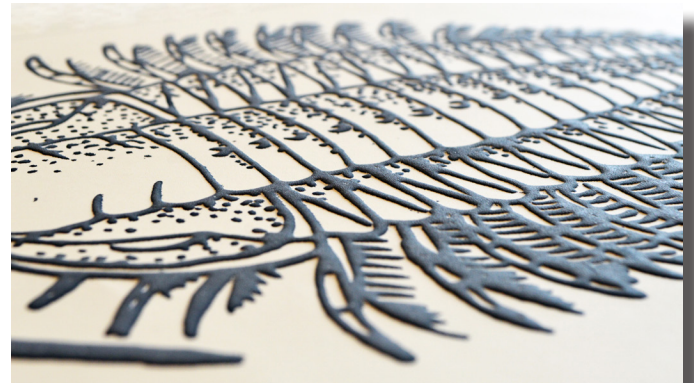
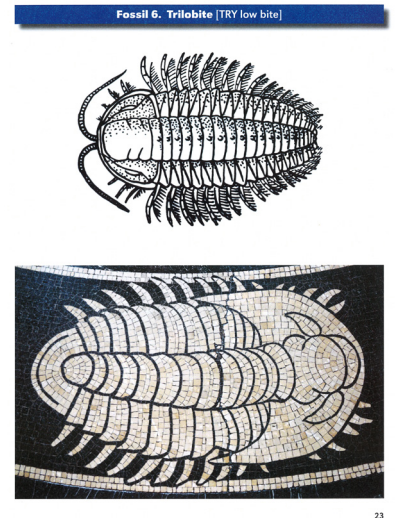


Bob Diffendal

“What a wonderful surprise when I opened (Farris’) letter and saw how she used the book,” Diffendal said. “I would have never thought of that use.”

Farris said the books were the perfect teaching tool for both science and history subjects.

“It not only was appropriate and relevant to the course I was teaching, it also picked up on many of the previous lessons I have taught in my social studies curriculum,” she said.

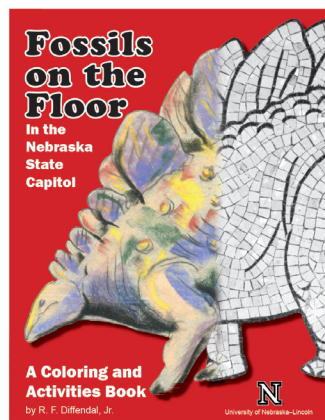
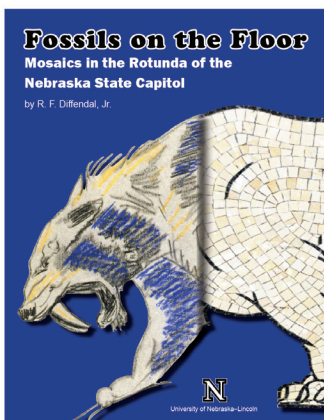


Students from the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired school in Nebraska City use specially created drawings to find and identify the fossil mosaics in the Nebraska Capitol rotunda floor in April 2016.

The pair now are discussing the possibility of turning parts of the “coloring” book into a form that kids with vision issues can use.

For those interested, both publications still are available for sale at Nebraska Maps and More Store on the first floor of Hardin Hall at 33rd and Holdrege streets. The book also can be purchased online at marketplace.unl.edu/nemaps or over the phone at 402-472-3471.

— Shawna Richter-Ryerson, Natural Resources



3rd Annual SNR Elevator Speech Contest winners announced

The 3rd annual SNR Elevator Speech Contest took place at 7 p.m., February 25th in the Hardin Hall auditorium with students competing for cash prizes of \$5,600.

The evening included the speech competition and a poster contest. The SNR Graduate Student Association also hosted a Silent Auction that raised some \$400.00 to support their service and outreach activities.

In addition to a People's Choice category based on a vote of the audience, the contestants were evaluated by a three judge panel:

Sen. Ken Haar, Nebraska Legislature Dist. 21
Susan J. Weller, Director, NU State Museum
Michael Farrell, Special Projects Manager, NET

Final placements in four contest categories, in addition to the poster symposium winners, were announced.

Elevator Speech Winners

Undergraduate Division

- 1) Jenna Schweiss (\$1,000)
- 2) Alli Hough (\$300)
- 3) Matthew Russell (\$200)
- 4) Brooke Welsh (\$100)

Masters Division

- 1) Ann Smith (\$1,000)
- 2) Qwynne Lackey (\$300)
- 3) Brian Harmon (\$200)
- 4) Alexis Fedeles (\$100)

Doctorate Division

- 1) Kelly Willemssens (\$1,000)
- 2) Jessica Burnett (\$300)
- 3) Michael Whitby (\$200)
- 4) Johnica Morrow (\$100)

Audience Choice

Brooke Welsh (\$100)

Poster Contest Winners

Undergraduate Division - Olivia Straka (\$200)

Masters Division - Christian Cruz (\$200)

Doctorate Division - Jonathan Spurgeon (\$200)

Audience Choice - Dylan Tegtmeier (\$200)

Congratulations to all of the participants and thank you to those who attended these events.



In Memoriam - Walter Bagley

Former UNL assistant professor of forestry passes away



Walter Bagley of Lincoln passed away Feb. 29, 2016. He was born Jan. 3, 1917, at homestead in Yuma County, Colorado, to Alice (Beach) and Arthur Bagley. He married Virginia Hagemen.

For most of his life, he was employed in Nebraska at the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service and as assistant professor of forestry at the University of Nebraska. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and during the Korean conflict.

With his wife, he established Prairie Pines, a site devoted to wildlife habitat, education and research guided by the University of Nebraska and the Prairie Pines Pals nonprofit.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia, on Feb. 14, 2007. He is survived by a son, Gary, and daughter-in-law, Judy, of Denver; two grandsons, Curtis and Denny; five great-grandchildren; two sisters; and two brothers.

Bagley's wish is that you celebrate life by planting trees and saving and establishing prairies, wherever you are.

A celebration of Walt's life was held at Prairie Pines in mid-May. Memorials can be sent to Prairie Pines Pals, 3100 N. 112th St., Lincoln, NE 68527.

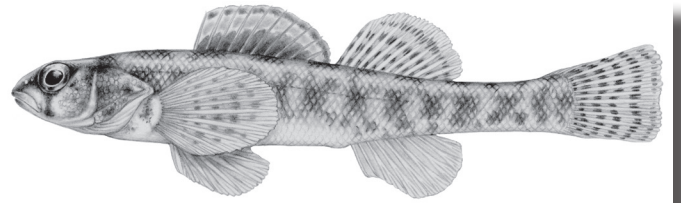
The Fishes of Nebraska book for sale at Nebraska Maps & More Store

Ever reel in the line and find a doozy of a fish you just can't identify? Nebraska fishermen will never have that problem again.

The Fishes of Nebraska field guide recently was released, and the 542 pages covers it all.

"This will be THE authoritative text on fishes of Nebraska," wrote Daryl Bauer for NEBRASKAland magazine's Barbs and Backlashes. "The identification key and species descriptions are complete and include the latest research and information."

Color photographs and penned illustrations provide excellent visuals for identification purposes. Range maps for each species are provided based on historic and

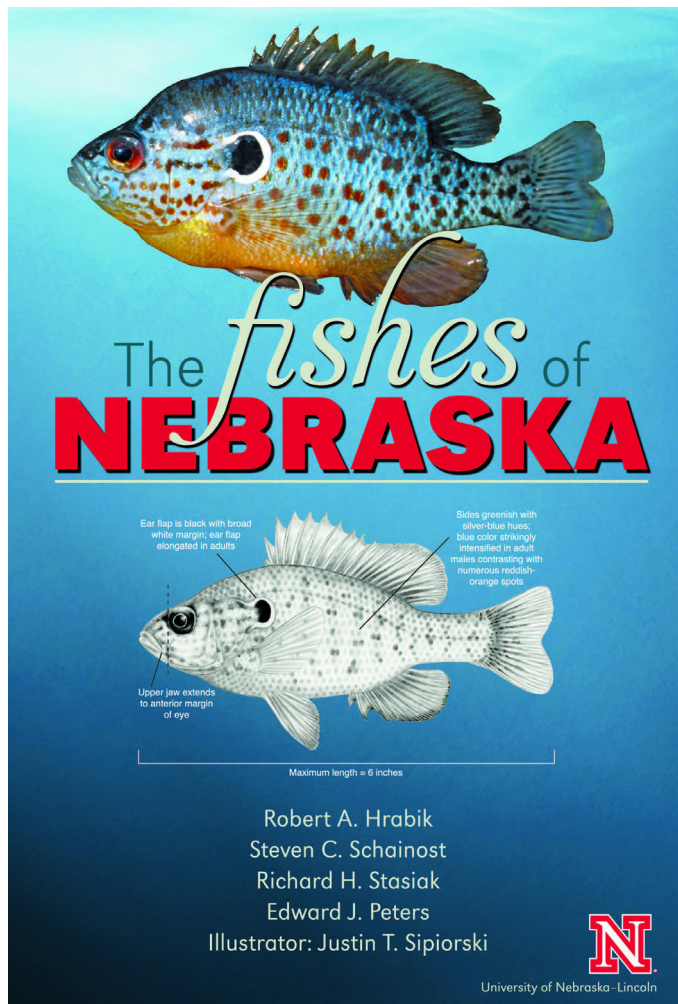


modern documentation, as are the natural history and habitat requirements for each fish, Bauer wrote.

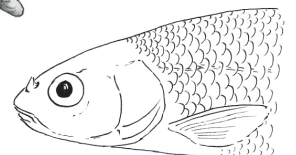
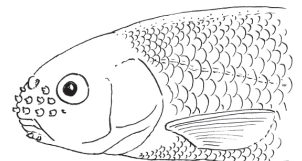
"What I have read is absolutely packed with invaluable information," Bauer wrote. "This is THE complete 'fish book' for Nebraska that we have been waiting for, and I am thrilled. I ordered a copy as soon as it was available."

Anyone into fishing will want one, too.

You can order The Fishes of Nebraska through Nebraska Maps & More in the UNL Marketplace or pick up a copy in the Nebraska Maps & More Store in the south lobby of Hardin Hall on East Campus.



The book is illustrated with detailed drawings and color photographs.



Order your copy of The Fishes of Nebraska at:
<http://go.unl.edu/07fc>

Reinhard earns mentorship award

Karl Reinhard sat in his Hardin Hall lab with doctoral candidate Johnica Morrow, reflecting on his career as a professor and researcher and attempting to answer one question: Why has he made the students he teaches such an important part of his role as a professor of environmental archaeology and forensic science, as a Fulbright Scholar who has taught abroad and as a paleopathology researcher.

Short answer: It's what you do.

But for the nine current and former students who nominated him for the Eve Cockburn Mentorship Award from the Paleopathology Association, not all professors do, and that's why it is such a big deal that Reinhard earned the award for his role as a mentor.

"(Dr. Reinhard) goes beyond the call of duty for both students and colleagues, yet despite their monumental impact, his efforts remain largely unacknowledged," Morrow wrote in her nomination letter. "It is a testament to his dedication to the field that he appears content to have functioned as a conduit for the success of others without any formal acknowledgement."

Those who nominated him, from as far away as Brazil, all echoed that thought.

"Dr. Reinhard avoids talking about himself, choosing instead to focus his energies on mentoring the next generation of scholars who will have to fill the very large void his retirement will leave in the fields of paleoparasitology and paleoecology," SNR masters student Rebecca Bevans wrote. "It seems only appropriate that he should receive this award, nominated

by his students and junior colleagues, as he would never choose to give himself the spotlight he deserves."

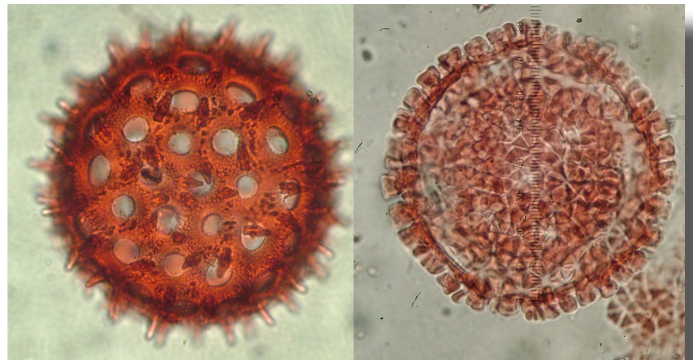
The award was announced at the association's meeting April 12 in Atlanta. It is an award given out every other year to a deserving

member. The Paleopathology Association was formed in 1973 by U.S. and Canadian scientists, and the award has been given out since 2008.

Paleopathology is the study of ancient diseases in humans and animals.

Just as time isn't a factor that hinders his research, distance isn't one that hinders his ability to mentor.

"I have now known Karl for 19 years, and he has been an exemplary teacher, advisor, co-author and friend," said Elizabeth Martinson Goodman, who met Reinhard in 1997 when she was a graduate student at



the University of New Mexico. "Of the many professors with whom I worked, I must say that Karl has done more to see that I succeed than any other. This is quite a testament, considering we have had a limited amount of face time; almost our entire relationship has played out via email."

—Shawna Richter-Ryerson, *Natural Resources*,
UNL Today contributed to this report



Karl Reinhard

In 1976, Ron Block left the East Coast to pursue his graduate studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

It didn't take long for him to become fully entrenched in life as a Cornhusker.

"Although I only spent two years in Lincoln and three years in Nebraska, this was a transcendent time of my life," Block said. "I totally bought into Husker Culture. I participated in many activities – from football games and pep rallies to adopting Runzas and Valentino pizzas into my food choices."

Block studied physical geography and climatology. Among his advisers were Merlin Lawson, Norman Rosenberg and a newly hired Ken Dewey.

"The faculty were very accommodating and flexible in guiding my curriculum," he said. "The wide range of coursework supplemented by various applied fields like agronomy allowed me to understand meteorology from many viewpoints."

Block took courses like "Climate Chance," "Dynamic Climatology" and "Bioclimatology." He also taught a lab section of "Introduction to Physical Geography."

"Teaching the lab helped develop and sharpen my organizational and communication skills, which were essential for advancing my career," he said. "UNL provided an excellent environment to grow both as a student and as a person."

After earning his master's degree in 1978, Block spent a year as an instructor in meteorology, geology and physical geography at Doane College in Crete, followed by a one-year stint as an air pollution meteorologist in California. Then it was time to go global.

"I served in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean for five years in the Peace Corps and with the U.S. State Department," Block said.

His roles abroad involved everything from agricultural meteorology to teaching to practicing weather forecasting.

"My career began to fully take shape overseas where I was working way out of my comfort zone," he said. "I had to challenge myself every day to be effective and to grow as a person and as a professional."

In 1987, Block joined the National Weather Service. He worked as a senior weather forecaster for the agency in four locations: New York City, Phoenix, San Juan and Tallahassee, Florida.

"My weather service career was largely centered on the daily issuance of forecasts and timely issuance of warnings for hurricanes, tornadoes, severe storms and floods in a myriad of climates," he said.

Block also served as an outreach and EEO coordinator in all four offices.

"That involved promoting weather as a career and discussing weather safety at schools and with senior citizen groups," he said.

The most challenging aspect of his NWS job was the rotating shift work.

"The weather never takes a vacation," Block said. "You're always on call. You're forecasting and issuing weather warnings under very stressful scenarios, aware that mistakes could lead to fatalities and property damage."

Although the stakes were always high, knowing that his efforts directly saved lives was a "great satisfaction."

Block retired from the NWS in 2014. Now more



Ron Block with wife, Diana. They met and married in the Dominican Republic in 1985. (Courtesy photo)

than a year into retirement, he remains active with the Nebraska Alumni Association. As a current Tallahassee resident, he often talks with prospective students in Florida and Georgia about attending UNL.

"The world has become much smaller and more global since I graduated," Block said. "Students should be willing to expand their horizons, leave their comfort zones and consider jobs and locations that they normally would not consider."

He advises students to seek volunteer and leadership positions while in school with clubs on or off campus. He also suggests taking more applied courses and learning a foreign language.

"Look for non-traditional opportunities," he said. "That is what prospective employers are looking for, much more so than your GPA."

Any current, prospective or former students interested in weather – especially in a career with the NWS – are invited to contact Block at ronblock53@gmail.com.

— Mekita Rivas, *Natural Resources*

UNL alums finish 'Atlantic Challenge'

Stepping onto the dock at English Harbor in Antigua after more than 58 days at sea left George Pagano a little wobbly.

"It's good to be back on land," he said. "You're excited to go hug your parents, your sister and your family, but you have to take it a little slower than you want because you haven't got your land legs back."

Pagano and Caitlin Miller, both University of Nebraska-Lincoln alums and former Husker club crew members, finished the nearly 3,000-nautical mile journey from the Canary Islands to Antigua on a sunny Tuesday morning. Miller, a native of southwest Minnesota, is an SNR alum. Pagano is a native of Philadelphia.

The "Cranial Quest: Rowing for a Change" team completed the Transatlantic race in 58 days, five hours and six minutes, making them the youngest team to ever finish the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. Pagano and Miller, the only male-female team in this year's race, finished 17th overall.

"We're still on an emotional high," Pagano said a few hours later by telephone from Antigua.

He and Miller were able to overcome the challenges of rowing across the Atlantic by keeping each other occupied and upbeat.

"We were fortunate nothing went wrong with our boat and we didn't have any injuries," Pagano said. "We had everything going for us."

Still, 58 days away from civilization and at the mercy of the elements can take a toll.

One three-day period kept Pagano and Miller inside the two small cabins on their boat while winds and the current virtually kept them in place.

The Cranial Quest boat usually traveled 6 to 8 miles every three hours, but it went a single mile over those three days, he said.

"You just kind of have to

hunker down in the cabins and wait it out until the sea and winds are in your favor," he said. "Rowing is your means to get to the other side, and while it's physical work, when you're stuck in the cabin you're actually really excited to go outside and row."

Competing to raise awareness of ALS and money for research, Pagano said he hopes the Cranial Quest team accomplished more than completing the race.

"My grandfather died in 2003 and he was my motivation and inspiration to do this," he said. "It was also for every other family and individual who has succumbed to the disease or been affected by it. I know how that feels and it's not a good feeling."

"I understand the amount of money and awareness we raised is not going to change things overnight, but it puts us higher than we were originally and that's always a good thing."

— Chris Dunker, *Lincoln Journal Star*



George Pagano and Caitlin Miller

Dr. Robert Zink joins SNR faculty

Dr. Robert Zink has been to 28 countries, including a three-month stint to Antarctica to collect birds for study. He's published more than 150 articles and written a successful book, "The Three Minute Outdoorsman." But he's stayed grounded as a professor of ornithology, researcher of conservation genetics and museum curator.

His mother's mink stole decorates his Hardin Hall office; hunting and fishing trips with his two sons are common; and birding with a cheap pair of Nikon Monarch binoculars is just fine.

In January, Zink became one of the newest faculty members to join the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He brings more than 30 years teaching and research experience with him and will utilize his skills with the SNR, the School of Biological Sciences and the Nebraska State Museum of Natural History. His wife, Dr. Susan Weller, took over as director of the State Museum on Oct. 1. Zink also will serve as faculty sponsor to the UNL Shotgun Club.

"It's a luxury that (the public) allows us to be here," Zink said about his years teaching and researching at universities across the United States.

He brings that viewpoint to his writings, his research and into the classroom.

While at UNL, Zink will teach courses in both SNR and SBS and will continue his research on the evolution of avian migration and genomics of birds in Baja, California. But he also will expand his research to include the genetic structure of white-tailed deer, wild turkey and pheasant populations in Nebraska.

Zink hopes to map the gene for resistance to chronic waste in Nebraska deer populations. He'll compare the data with that of the deer from neighboring state's white-tailed deer populations.

He's also working on mapping the genetic codes of the state's turkeys. That research could play a role in boosting hunting tourism in the state.

Three subspecies of wild turkey, Eastern, Rio Grande and Merriam's, likely reside in the state due to previous efforts to boost turkey populations across the United States. Crossbreeding among the subspecies will have occurred.

Zink hopes to figure out the genetic barcodes of purebred turkeys and of those in the state to help prompt a discussion about genetics vs. appearance when it comes to turkey hunting. Depending on the outcome of those conversations, Nebraska, where hunters can have up to three turkey permits per season, could get



Dr. Robert Zink

a hunting boon, and those working toward a National Wild Turkey Federation Grand Slam (the harvest of one of each turkey subspecies) could see most of that achievement in Nebraska.

Zink's other goal for his time with UNL is to gain funding for the State Museum and its projects. He looks forward to the planned \$11.4 renovation of the fourth floor, which will include state-of-the-art exhibits using modern technology. (See more on the renovation here: <http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/unltoday/article/morrill-hall-plans-114m-renovation-via-private-funds/>)

"I'd like to rekindle interest for the kinds of research a curator does," Zink said. "I would like to see the museum active in research and valued by all."

Zink, a native Minnesotan, earned his Ph.D. at University of California-Berkeley, completed his post-doctorate work at the American Museum of Natural History, served as a faculty member of Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge, and from 1993 to 2015 was Breckenridge Chair in Ornithology at University of Minnesota. In his down time, he likes to hunt, fish and do home repair.

—Shawna Richter-Ryerson, *Natural Resources*

Fundraising & Connecting with CASNR Alumni Association

Private support is integral to the success of SNR and its programs. You can have a big impact. Here are a few opportunities where you can make a difference.

CASNR Alumni Football Reunion and Silent Auction

Saturday, October 1, 2016

Preceding the Nebraska vs. Illinois Homecoming football game – game time TBA

Hosted by the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Great Plains Room, Nebraska East Union, four hours prior to kick-off

No RSVP is required; the event is free to attend

Free parking is provided, as well as a free shuttle service from the Nebraska East Union to the stadium for those with tickets to the game

Silent Auction

Every year a silent auction is held during the football reunion to raise money for student scholarships. If you are interested in donating items for the silent auction fundraiser, please contact Jill Brown at 402-472-3224 or jbrown14@unl.edu or Meg Kester at 402-472-7909 or meg.kester@unl.edu.

CASNR Alumni Brick Program and Installation

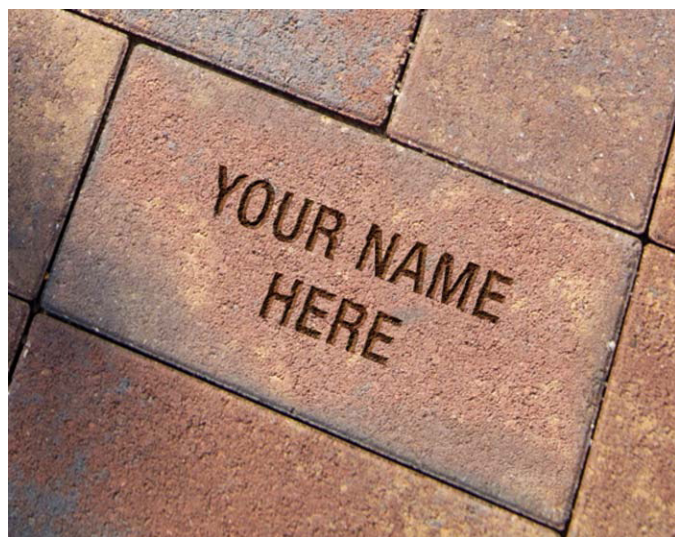
Individuals are invited to purchase a brick to support our CASNR Alumni Scholarship Fund. When you make a donation to the CASNR Alumni Brick Program you will leave a permanent legacy on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus in the Legacy Courtyard. You also will help make college more affordable for future students.

Your brick can be engraved with your name or that of a friend, favorite professor, family member – anyone you would like honored at CASNR. Funds raised from donations to the CASNR Alumni Brick Program will be used to support an endowment for scholarships that will be awarded by the CASNR Alumni Association to incoming CASNR freshmen.

To date, 413 engraved bricks have been installed in the Legacy Courtyard. Another 31 bricks have been ordered for the fall 2016 installation.

To have your brick included in the fall 2016 installation, please order by August 1, 2016. Two brick size options are available: 6 by 12 inches and 12 by 12 inches.

For more information, contact Jill Brown at 402-472-3224 or jbrown14@unl.edu or Meg Kester at 402-472-7909. You also may donate online at nufoundation.org/casnrbuyabrick



Burr/Fedde and Friends Reunion

UNL East Campus is building a new residence hall. We are organizing a reunion to take place June 2017 for everyone who called Burr or Fedde Hall home.

Visit our website at www.casnr.unl.edu/burr-fedde-reunion and like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/burrfedde/ for upcoming information on this event and an opportunity to submit your memories or ideas.

Weatherfest continues to be a community success

Hardin Hall was packed April 16 with weather enthusiasts of all ages for the 16th annual Weatherfest and Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium.

The first and second floors of Hardin Hall were filled with dozens of booths where participants learned about all aspects of weather.

"This is a really fun and involving event," said Emilee Lachenmeier, sophomore meteorology and hydrology major, who was manning the Hail to You booth with Haylie Mikvlak, junior meteorology and climatology major. "It's a learning opportunity for students, but a good opportunity for families to get involved. It's a very hands-on event, and it's easier to learn from hands on."

Children at their booth were using homemade, colored play dough to build their own hail, one color at a time. Starting with one color dough, they rolled a ball; then added a second color around the outside, and then a third. Once smooth, Lachenmeier and Mikvlak cut the ball in half, revealing a jawbreaker of color on the inside.

"You have three layers," Mikvlak told a participant. "How many times do you think it went up and down in the cloud?"



Three. Each time a hail stone enters a cloud, it gets another layer of ice, she told them.

Each booth offered a similar activity plus information opportunity.

Vicki Cotton, her husband Scott, and their three grandchildren were capitalizing on it. The children didn't miss a booth Saturday, not even the face painters.

Emmalyn, Shane and MaKaley Smith watched a heated can collapse on itself when dropped in ice water. They created their own weather spinning wheels. They learned facts and myths about weather. And they became their own weathercasters in front of a green screen.

"The two older ones are really enjoying the interactive exhibits," the Lincoln woman said. "It's great information, and they're really relating the information to the kids."

Adults weren't left out either.

Those who didn't participate themselves in each of the booth activities attended the symposium, which focused on the flooding that hit Lincoln and Southeastern Nebraska in May 2015. A pair of speeches preceded the Storm Spotter training workshop.



"The symposium was how this all started," said Ken Dewey, event organizer and SNR professor. Out of the series of daylong talks grew activity-driven Weatherfest.

Since the transition, Dewey has shifted his focus for the event as well.

"I have two goals," he said. "This is an opportunity for people who want to learn more about weather to do

so, and as a host location for the statewide Nebraska Science Festival, it's also an opportunity for people of all ages to have fun exploring science. Seeing all the smiling faces and engagement of participants in the various activities tells me those goals were reached."

The success is evident.

— *Shawna Richter-Ryerson, Natural Resources*



Fundraising

Private support is integral to the success of SNR and its programs. We are grateful to our many donors whose investments help SNR evolve into a world-class natural resources educator.

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Get Involved



Your time, knowledge and expertise with us are extremely valuable to us. Whether it's staffing a booth at one of our outreach events or being a guest lecturer, there are plenty of ways to stay active within SNR even after you've earned that degree.

Share Your Story

Are you working your dream job?
Are you doing innovative research?
Are you living abroad?

We love hearing what our alumni are up to! Share your story so we can share it with the rest of the SNR community.



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For upcoming events:
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