



Community Focus

New Staff At Extension Office



Jaimie Merryman has recently joined Lancaster County Extension office as a Clerk Typist II. Jaimie will be providing staff support to educator staff working in the areas of agriculture and pest management. Jaimie will also be the primary contact for certified pesticide applicator inquiries and scheduling of the Lancaster Extension Education Center rooms. (GB)



Vicki Jedlicka, Extension Assistant, recently joined the Lancaster County office. Vicki's responsibilities include media development and publication resources. She also assumes publishing duties for the *NEBLINE* Newsletter. Welcome to the office, Vicki! (SC)

“Public Notice”

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners seek members of the community to serve on the Lancaster County Extension Board. Several current extension board members will be completing their appointed terms this December. These vacancies will be filled with three-year terms beginning January 2002.

Extension Board members assist and represent University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension staff in Lancaster County with priority issues that include Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability; 4-H, Youth and Families; Food Safety; Health and Wellness; Strengthening Nebraska Communities; Water Quality and Environment. The board meets monthly.

Registered Lancaster County voters interested in serving a three-year term should submit an application postmarked no later than November 1, 2001. Additional information and an application can be obtained from the Lancaster County Extension office. (GB)

Free Speech—From the University of Nebraska

There may be no such thing as a free lunch, but the University of Nebraska—Lincoln's Speakers Bureau can offer you a Free Speech. This year's selection of topics ranges from gummy worms to jazz, lawn care to nutrition, evolution to cosmic rays. And every speaker is provided free of charge.

The Speakers Bureau makes it easy to keep your mind, and your pockets, full. Now in its seventh season, the bureau is one of the university's most visible and successful efforts to share its resources with the state's citizens. When your organization needs an entertaining, informative and intriguing topic presented by an expert, think of us first. Call (402) 472-8396 or e-mail speakers2@unl.edu to schedule a speaker. They will do their best to accommodate your request.

Speakers are available through April 25, 2002. Availability of speakers is limited during December and early January.

Listed below are sample presentations. Other topics are also available through the Speakers Bureau. Please inquire for a complete listing.

James D. Carr, Professor of Chemistry

Atrazine in the Platte River and Lincoln Wellfield

Since 1989, James Carr's research group has developed methods for measuring atrazine and other herbicides in the Platte River, its tributaries, wells in the Lincoln wellfield, rainfall, and other environmental water and air samples. Techniques and results of these measurements and their implications will be discussed in the presentation.

Thomas Elmo Clemente, Assistant Professor of Agronomy and Plant Science Initiative

Agricultural Biotechnology
Thomas Clemente will provide an overview of plant genetic engineering methods (the ability to introduce a gene from an unrelated organism into a plant cell for expression of a novel trait) and a look at what products are in the pipeline.

Robert F. Diffendal, Jr., Research Geologist Conservation & Survey Division

The Land Before Time: High Plains Aquifer

Over the last 17 million years, Nebraska's geology has evolved to create the High Plains (Ogallala) Regional Aquifer, a rich source of groundwater that irrigates our crops and supplies our cities, homes, farms and factories. Robert Diffendal, an expert in geology of Nebraska, will illustrate the geologic history of Nebraska and its groundwater.

Judy A. Driskell, Professor of Nutritional Science and Dietetics

“Should I Take This Vitamin?”

Judy Driskell, a registered dietician, will discuss in this

presentation who should take dietary supplements, at what dosages supplements are most effective and beneficial to one's health, and the importance of vitamins and minerals for healthy living.

Deanna Baxter Eversoll, Director of University and Community Partnerships and UNL Sage Program

Boomers: What Lies Ahead?

In this presentation, Deanna Baxter Eversoll will explore the changes made by the so-called Boomer generation. Communities in Nebraska and across the nation will be changed by the choices these boomers make.

Glenn J. Hoffman, Professor and Head of Department of Biological Systems Engineering

Bringing Engineering to Life

Through the application of basic and engineering sciences, biological systems engineers employ the latest biotechnology to enhance biological systems. From developing medical devices and vaccines and food products to the creation of products that we may see more of in the future such as Soy Smacks lip balm and Biodrip soy-based lubricating oil. Glenn Hoffman will present examples to how faculty and students make engineering lively while applying it to solve or enhance living systems.

Alan C. Kamil, Professor of Biological Sciences

How the Theory of Evolution Began

Kamil and guest presenter Charles R. Darwin will discuss the observations and ideas that compelled Darwin to his conclusions and illuminate the genesis of the Theory of Evolution.

Lyn Kathlene, Professor of Political Science

Balancing the Good Life with Tax Relief

Taxing and spending issues are central to most public policy debates. Changes in demographics, the economy and federal policies all pose challenges to citizens about what and who they will tax and what government services will be provided. Lyn Kathlene will present an interactive survey to outline the issues and let the audience determine which perspective best represents them.

Tom Workman, communications Coordinator of NU Directions, or Linda Major, Project Director of NU Directions

Responsible Hospitality: Its Role in Curbing Collegiate High-Risk Drinking

Lincoln faces the unique challenge of catering to a large

young adult population. In Major or Workman's presentation, the impact of responsible practices and promotions by liquor license holders is discussed.

N. Brito Mutanayagam, Associate Dean and Professor College of Architecture and Extension Educator Cooperative Extension

Learning Environments for the Future

The 21st century has brought a variety of opportunities and challenges that affect the future of post-secondary and higher education. Mutanayagam will explore innovative new learning environments that respond to the needs of adult learners and multiple learning styles.

Terrance P. Riordan, Professor of Agronomy and Horticulture

Quality Lawn, Minimal Effort

“A quality lawn with minimal effort and inputs” sounds impossible, but it isn't. Terrance Riordan is a turfgrass plant breeder. He focuses on the practices required to have a good-looking lawn such as what a lawn caretaker MUST do and what isn't really necessary. He also will discuss ways to reduce costs and water use as well as how to be friendly to the environment.

Gregory Snow, Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy

Students Track ‘Little Pieces of Stars’

All around us at any given moment, protons and nuclei of light atoms are bombarding and striking Earth from all directions. Students in Nebraska high schools are detecting, counting and tracking these particles through a cosmic ray detection project that lets these high school students be involved in real, ongoing research. Learn more about this innovative, nationally known project by the High Energy Physics group at UNL.

Georgianna Whipple, Recruitment Specialist, Food Science and Technology

Let Your Taste Buds Bloom

Tastes are commonly categorized in 15 different families from camphor, aromatic fruit, menthols, anise, sting and burnt to aromatic rinds and phenols.

Georgianna Whipple will discuss how our taste buds work and give the audience a chance to participate in a taste perception demonstration. (GB)

