

# Students learn about environment with help of Great Plains Center

By Ad Hadler  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

A \$2 million Western art exhibit, is only one asset the UNL Center for Great Plains Studies uses to "better educate UNL students about their native environment."

The Center for Great Plains Studies, an interdisciplinary program of the College of Arts and Sciences, combines lectures, symposiums and an art exhibit to teach UNL students about the environment and its relationship to Nebraska's culture.

Although the center is relatively new to the university (established in 1976), several students are involved in the program, said Frederick Luebke, director of the Great Plains program.

The center offers classes in 14 departments, including history, music, biology and others. Although only five students are great plains majors, several others take classes offered in the departments.

Since a major goal of the Great Plains Center is to enroll as many students as possible in the courses, officials say they are pleased with participation.

"We have a very high interest (in student enrollment) in the Great Plains courses," said Luebke,

who has directed the center since 1983.

The Great Plains encompasses the area stretching westward from Missouri River at Kansas City, Mo., and Omaha to the Rocky Mountains, according to a pamphlet distributed by the center. The region extends north from the Texas panhandle into the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada.

In addition to teaching courses that educate students about the Great Plains, the center also sponsors an "outreach" program that includes an annual symposium and public lectures. With the cooperation of city libraries, the center, has sponsored lectures in Lincoln and Grand Island. Lectures also will be given in Omaha and Beatrice this year.

"People from all over the country speak at our symposiums," said Rosemary Bergstrom, administrative assistant in the Great Plains office. "A monthly series is also held (in addition to the public lectures and symposiums). These give our faculty members in the Great Plains studies a chance to talk about what they're working on."

Past topics at lectures and symposiums include: "European Influences on the Visual Arts of the Great Plains," and "American

Pioneer Landscapes."

Although the center concentrates most of its efforts on the public lecture series, attention is also directed toward research, Bergstrom said.

Gary Moulton, an associate professor of history, currently is working on a new edition of the Lewis and Clark expedition papers — a collection of manuscripts that are kept at Yale University.

Another aspect of the Great Plains Center is the Christlieb Collection of Western Art in Love Library. The collection consists of 200 bronze sculptures and 200 paintings. A library of 2,000 volumes accompanies the works.

Original funding for the Christlieb Collection was made through Dr. and Mrs. John C. Christlieb of Bellevue.

"The collection is one of the largest gifts that the university has ever received," Luebke said. Funding for the Great Plains program, in general, is through the university and interest gained on financial endowments.

To help publicize progress made by the Great Plains Center, a quarterly magazine is published and distributed. Frances Kaye is editor-in-chief of the publication. Larry Swanson is the administrator of the Great Plains Center Office of Policy Studies.


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# UNL researchers help area farms increase harvests

By Scott Ahlstrand  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Conservation tillage, biotechnology and gerontology are a few subjects investigated by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Established in 1973 from several programs already in existence, IANR performs many services for UNL and the state of Nebraska.

Services provided by IANR are divided into five divisions:

- The teaching division which serves both graduates and undergraduates, includes the College of Agriculture and the institute's resident teaching program.
- The research division examines various fields of agriculture and provides information to develop it in Nebraska.
- Cooperative extension agencies take information provided by the research division and distribute it to farmers, ranchers and agribusinessmen. This division also works with 4-H groups and other youth programs.
- The international program and the Conservation and Survey Division make up the remainder of the program.

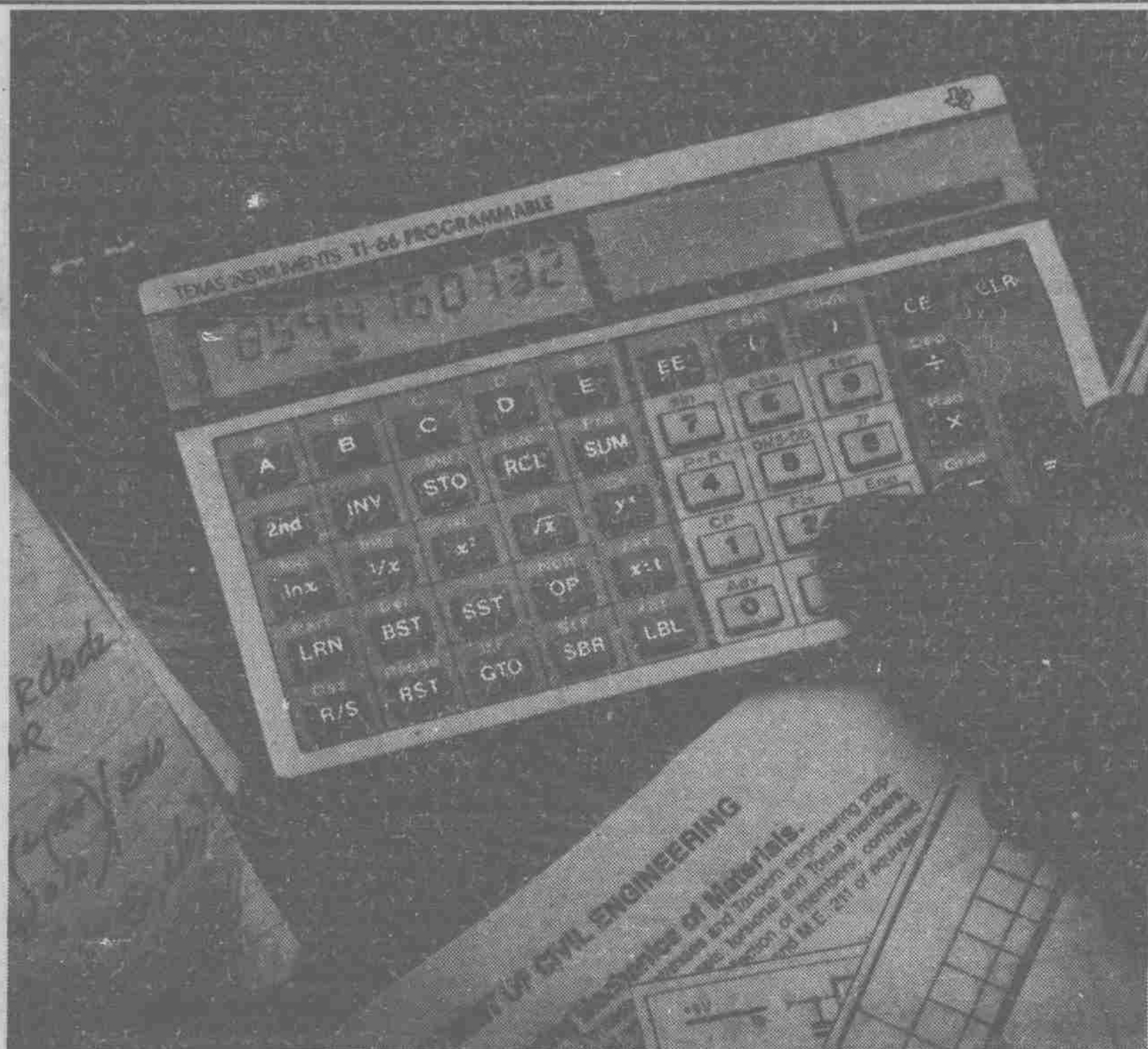
IANR spokesmen said they work with the Agriculture 2001 Committee to set long-range plans for the future of agriculture in Nebraska.

The 2001 Committee was established at the request of the NU Board of Regents as a study and planning committee. The committee consists of 150 people from across the state and includes farmers, ranchers and representatives from farm, natural resource, education, government and agribusiness organizations.

The 2001 Committee recommends IANR programs that best serve the state and can strengthen the economic performance of Nebraska's agriculture.

The recommendations deal with quality education, agricultural marketing and utilization, water and land management, agricultural management systems, agricultural production technology and capital facilities.

The committee says quality education is the "paramount" goal of IANR.



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