

WEATHER: Friday, partly cloudy with a high around 50. Friday night, partly cloudy. Low of 25 to 30. Saturday, mostly sunny and warmer. High of 55 to 60.

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Inside:

News Digest Page 2
 Editorial Page 4
 Sports Page 6
 Entertainment Page 8
 Classified Page 9

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Agriculture College attracting urbanites

By Christine Anderson
 Staff Reporter

Although overall enrollment in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Agriculture has decreased by about 30 percent in the past 10 years, the number of students enrolled with urban backgrounds has doubled, said Dean Ted Hartung.

In 1977, 25 percent of the student population came from urban areas, Hartung said. But this year the number reached about 50 percent.

Currently, 1,231 students are enrolled in the college.

Students are finding fields of

study outside of traditional farming to major in, Hartung said. Such fields include horticulture, agricultural business, natural resources and food science.

These courses have attracted students without farm backgrounds, he said. And they provide students with opportunities besides livestock and grain production — an industry closely associated with traditional farming.

Angie Cartwright, a sophomore in natural resources, said she didn't know much about agriculture until she started college.

Coming from a non-farm back-

ground, "I wasn't interested in it," she said.

Cartwright said it wasn't until she joined the UNL Wildlife Club and talked to other members that she became interested in the major and changed colleges.

Other students have also been attracted to courses offered in the Agriculture College.

Erik Wagner, a sophomore natural resources major, said although he doesn't come from a farm background, he has always been interested in the conservation of rain forests, endangered species and wildlife

habitat.

Hartung also said some students have entered the college because of the type of people and atmosphere associated with it.

Wagner said he liked the college's atmosphere.

"People are nicer and more relaxed" on East Campus, he said.

Cartwright agreed.

Students and instructors are "more one-on-one," she said. "You can talk to them — you can get an idea of what the fields are about."

Hartung also attributed part of the increase in urban students to the shift

of the farm population to the city during the last decade.

Many students from farm backgrounds are attracted to production courses such as animal science, agronomy and mechanized agriculture, Hartung said.

But, he said, production course enrollment has dropped by 30 percent during the past five years.

Wagner said one reason for not enrolling in production classes is the farm crisis.

"The way the farm economy is," he said, "I'd never get in those areas today."

Fossil collection a natural history treasure



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Professor Mike Voorhies shows off the fossil remains of two mammoths that became entangled in battle and died because they could not get free. Voorhies is curator of the University of Nebraska State Museum's research collection of fossil vertebrates in Nebraska Hall.



By Mick Dyer
 Staff Reporter

Nebraska Hall usually conjures up images of computers, high-tech instruments and the engineering students who use them to develop technologies for the future.

But Nebraska Hall is also home to brushes, scrapers and the paleontologists who use them to explore Nebraska's distant past.

Nebraska Hall, 16th and W streets, is home to the University of Nebraska State Museum's research collection of fossil vertebrates. The collection, housed in Room W436, contains more than 1 million fossil bones, skulls, jaws and teeth of Nebraska's prehistoric wildlife.

Michael Voorhies, curator of the collection, said the collection is often used as a pool to draw upon for displays in Morrill Hall.

"People from Nebraska like to see things from their own area," he said.

The specimens are arranged systematically according to the kind of animal, geological age of the fossil and where it was discovered. The collection provides a resource for researchers or members of the general public who wish to identify fossils they have found, Voorhies said.

The collection consists primarily of mammal specimens from the past 30 million years. Elephants, mammoths and mastodons are most common in the collection. But camels, rhinos, sabercats, horned gophers, giant tortoises,

sharks and other extinct Nebraska animals are also represented.

Each specimen is listed in a catalog that contains data on the fossils. The data includes where a fossil was discovered, how far beneath the surface it was located, what the sediments around it were like and other important variables.

"It's a little bit like a library, except we have bones instead of books," Voorhies said. "The reason for a collection like this is to document the past."

The collection also has several hundred "type" specimens from Nebraska, including a tiny cat, a hornless rhino and an oreodont — a brush-eating, sheep-toothed, pig-like animal found in the badlands.

A type specimen is the first specimen of a species to be discovered and described scientifically. They are standards by which future discoveries will be evaluated. The type specimens are stored in safes.

"These are some of Nebraska's treasures of natural history," Voorhies said.

The fossil record does not tell the whole story, but one can determine a lot about an animal by studying its skeletal structure. For example, teeth can indicate what the animal ate and its age at death, Voorhies said.

"Fossils are packed with a lot of information," he said.

Fossils are often found eroding in creek beds or at road work or construction sites, Voorhies said.

"There are fossils to be found just about anywhere you scratch the surface in this state," he said.

About once a week the center gets reports from people who have found fossils, Voorhies said. The most recent discovery being treated in the lab adjacent to the collection was excavated from near McCool Junction. Bruce Bailey, highway salvage paleontologist, and George Corner, staff paleontologist, found the site several weeks ago after a report from a resident of the area.

"Many important discoveries are made by accident," Voorhies said.

Perhaps the most unusual item in the collection is a pair of bull mammoth skulls, tusks locked in mortal combat.

"As a fossil it is very exciting, because it tells you something about behavior," Voorhies said. "As far as I know, it's the only one like it in the world."

The skulls are wrapped in plaster traveling jackets, waiting for display in Morrill Hall after its renovation. The skulls were discovered in the badlands in 1965.

'There are fossils to be found just about anywhere you scratch the surface in this state.'

—Voorhies

Saturday is last time musician will chime in

By Dave Weber
 Staff Reporter

Alice Corkill will give her final performance on Saturday before the Nebraska-Oklahoma game, and anyone in the vicinity of City Campus and downtown Lincoln will probably hear her.

Corkill, who has played the carillon bells in Mueller Tower before home football games for four years, graduates in May.

Twelve preprogrammed songs play during the week. An assortment

of football songs like "March of the Cornhuskers," "Hail Varsity" and "Dear Old Nebraska" have played all week.

But Saturday the music will be live. Corkill said she plans to play "The Nebraska Fight Song," and pieces ranging from "Bach to Chopsticks."

"I have a favorite arrangement of 'Chopsticks.' If I get requests for anything else, I'll also try to play it," she said.

Corkill, a graduate student in her

10th year at UNL, will receive her doctorate in education psychology in May. She is also a counselor at the Near Center on campus.

Four years ago Harley Schrader, recently retired Physical Plant director, asked Corkill to play the chimes. Corkill then was playing chimes at St. Paul's Methodist Church.

"When the last people wanted free football tickets as compensation for their playing, we got Alice. She does it from the goodness of her heart," Schrader said.

Corkill said she leaves the door open while playing, but "when you walk by from most directions you can't see the person sitting at the keyboard."

"I often wonder if they think it was a mistake that the door is open, when they look in," she said.

But if they inquire, she said, she invites them into the tower.

"If anybody wants to take a try at it, I'll let them. Young children get a real charge out of trying to play the bells," she said.

The four-octave keyboard is connected to electronically controlled mallets that hit 36 bells, amplified to four of the eight stadium-type speakers atop the 75-foot tower.

The tower was built in 1948 and dedicated to Ralph Mueller, a major benefactor. The current solid-state system was installed about 10 years ago, Schrader said.

Corkill said she'll stop playing "when I hear the cheering in the stadium and the teams come out onto the field."