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Ag experts advocate curriculum changes

By Christine Anderson
Senior Editor

Agricultural colleges throughout the nation need to modernize their curriculums to fit the needs of a changing society, said three agricultural experts at the Animal Science Complex dedication at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Eugene Allen, dean of agriculture at the University of Minnesota, said in order to be globally competitive, students need to have technical skills, receive a broad-based education and possess good communication skills.

Many agriculture students are in "too narrow of a niche," Allen said Friday to an audience of about 300.

He said undergraduates should be required to take courses from all academic departments in the university.

But all students should not take the same courses, Allen said. The curriculum should reflect what the student wants to do in his career.

Jack Maddux, livestock producer in Wauneta, agreed.

Maddux, a guest speaker at the dedication, said the new animal science building was only part of the equation for a quality education.

He said students should learn many areas of agriculture.

Maddux said "sister disciplines" in agriculture are mandatory. He said courses such as business administration and economics are important for survival in today's society.

He said there is not enough time in four years to "make all things of all people." As a result, students are taking courses that specialize in a certain area of agriculture, he said.

Allen said student advisers should encourage students to broaden their understanding of other areas of the world. Agriculture students should also take a foreign language, he said.

UNL officials have taken steps to globalize the curriculum at the College of Agriculture.

An International Studies Committee was created last fall to identify ways to globalize the curriculum.

Earl Ellington, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, said some of the proposals include integrating options or minors in international agriculture. Also, courses may be developed to globalize agriculture

and existing courses may be globalized.

Allen said people must understand other cultures at a time when society depends on a global market.

"We can't afford the ignorance of the general population that we do today," he said.

Allen said it is also important for agriculture students to understand upcoming sciences and technology, such as biotechnology.

But, he said, students should learn the roles that technology plays internationally because technology works as a "system."

Agriculturalists "need to look at the whole system involving the global dimension," Allen said.

Max Lennon, president of Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., said students should become more educated in areas of biology.

For example, he said, a "tidal wave of opportunity" exists for students in areas of biotechnology.

"Biotechnology will be a \$150 billion industry," Lennon said, referring to many of the emerging products, such as animal growth stimulants.

Allen said society is also entering the "information age."

Employers want to employ people who have good communication skills, he said.

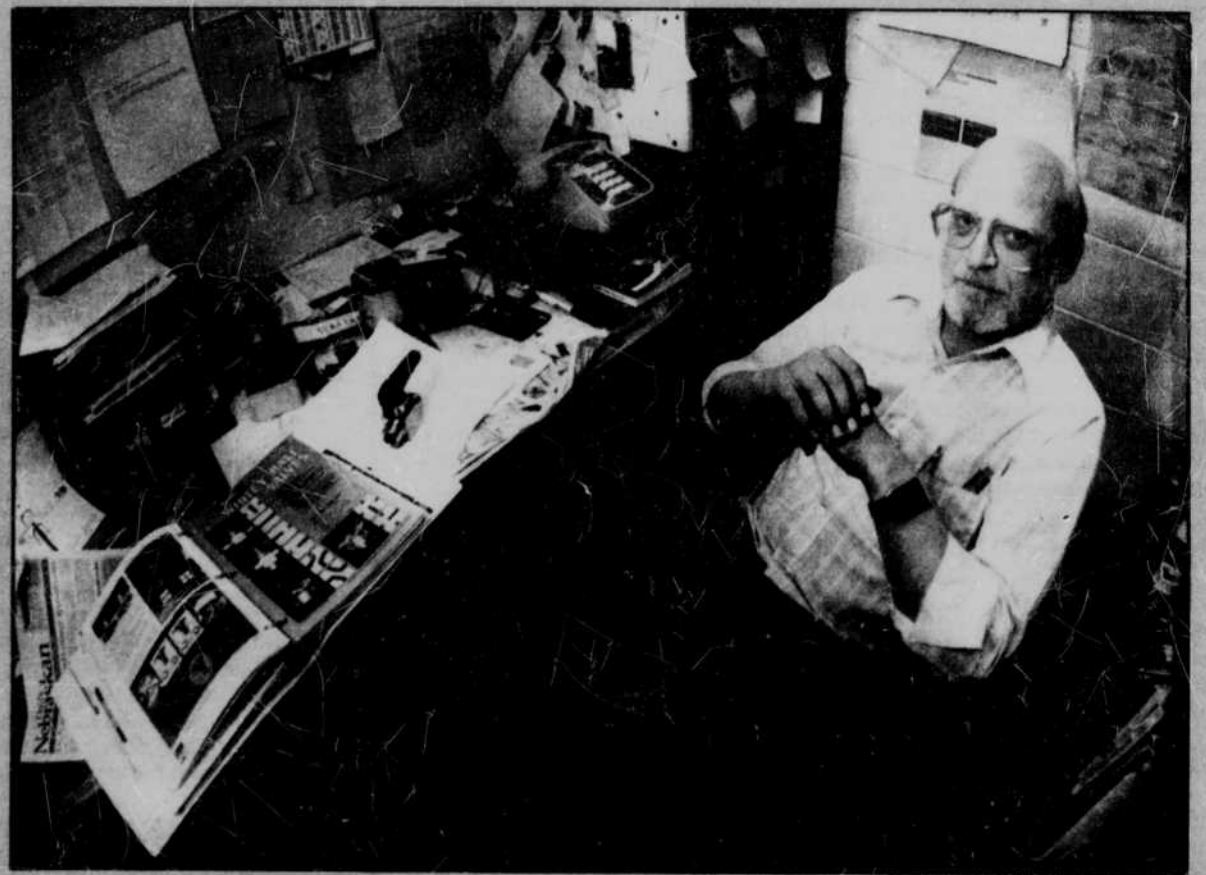
He said many students lack communication skills. But these communication skills do not need to be developed through additional courses, Allen said. Rather, these skills should be integrated into classroom and laboratory work, he said.

Along with improving the academic curriculum, Lennon said, agriculture professionals must strive to become "better students of our business."

Professionals must also "globalize" their thinking, he said, and understand agriculture and marketing in other nations.

"An economic event is unfolding," Lennon said. Agriculturalists need to understand the world market and produce what the market demands at competitive prices, he said.

"We are being clobbered in the global thinking place," Lennon said. "We're entering the global marketplace and we're still thinking narrow, domestic thoughts."



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Les Marquart in his office, located in the basement of Hamilton Hall.

Machinist puts time into craft

By Shawn Hubbell
Staff Reporter

Les Marquart hung a sign on the door of his shop in the basement of Hamilton Hall.



"There's never enough time to do it right," the sign reads, "but there's always time to do it over."

The sign adorns the door of the chemistry department's instrumentation shop, where Marquart is supervisor and Mike Jensen is his assistant, and where chemistry professors go when they need something built.

"That's my view on machining," Marquart said. "Because the minute you start taking shortcuts, you're going to end up starting

over." Marquart and Jensen don't take shortcuts. Their work is tedious and precise and one slip-up can blow hours of work on the expensive scientific instruments the men create.

"We've made some expensive paperweights," Marquart said. "But it wasn't because it was our mistake. They were just experiments that didn't work."

The two-man crew makes up the chemistry department's instrumentation shop. Jensen has been working in the shop since 1984. Marquart got his start as a sophomore in 1970 when he got a part-time job putting together wooden boxes for the physics department's shop.

"I just evolved into it," Marquart said.

The two form a support service to chemistry researchers by building instruments that aid in the researchers' work.

The majority of their work involves designing and building sci-

entific instruments. Marquart has designed and built instruments as complex as an electronic insertion probe that minimizes instrumentation deviation in a mass spectrometer (used for determining the structure of genes).

'... the minute you start taking shortcuts, you're going to end up starting over.'

— Marquart

He has also used his talent to convert an old washing machine into a make-shift centrifuge that separates liquid protein from ground-up plants.

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Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Army ROTC freshmen cadets play war games Friday under the watchful eyes of Capt. Kevin Wimmer and Master Sgt. Donald Rothermund.

Battle simulation succeeds

Students learn war tactics with hands-on experience

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshman Army ROTC cadets waged battle on the fields of Hunfield, Germany, Friday and Saturday.

The 42 cadets, members of Military Science 112, played a simulated battle game called Dunn Kempf in place of regular class.

The main purpose of the game is to teach the students how the chain of command works, said Capt. Kevin Wimmer, instructor for the course.

"The army has gone to a more hands-on approach to learning," Wimmer said. "The retention is better. Now when I talk about lieutenants, captains and vehicles in class, they'll know what I'm talking about."

The game is played between U.S. and Soviet troops, with red tanks representing the Soviets and gray tanks representing the United States.

The Soviets are the aggressors and the United States is supposed to defend itself, Wimmer said.

The students said they had fun playing the game.

"I think it's a riot," said Don Kros. "It's 20 times as much fun as regular class."

The battle wasn't real, but students made up for it by simulating battle sounds.

The students got pretty involved in the game, Wimmer said, but "that's fine. The learning process is enhanced."

The students also admitted they got pretty involved in the game.

"I might be starting to eat in Moscow pretty quick," said Scott McEwen after a bad battle sequence. "The artillery was supposed to waste them and we got one. Didn't even piss anyone off."

"In a matter of seconds you get trashed," Kros said. "I think it's time for a thermonuclear war."

Friday's team of students ended up with more losses on the Soviet side, while the losses were about even for Saturday's team.

But "the goal is not to win or lose the game, it's to understand the roles and responsibilities of the junior officers," Wimmer said.

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