



National ACTion

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Inside this issue:

NACT Happenings 1

Regional Conference 2

Aggies with Pinkies 2-3

Staying Connected 3

NACT Happenings

We are halfway through the school year, and now is time to look forward to the many activities on the horizon.

National ACT dues should have been submitted by December 1, 2007; but don't worry, you still can participate in the Critique & Contest and other National ACT opportunities if you turn them in by the entry deadline (April 4). More information can be found at our Web site, www.gonact.org.

Critique & Contest rules and entry forms are available online! Entries must be postmarked by April 4.

National ACT offers many opportunities for students and chapters besides the C&C. The Jim Evans Grant can match you chapter's resources to help make new activities a reality. Please apply at least 30 days prior to your event.

Internships and scholarships are also offered continuously through the

listserv and Web site, keep and eye out!

The National officer team met in Fort Worth, Texas, in September to take a look at the year in review, make changes for the national convention as well as meet with the Hondo Group, a strategic marketing communications firm. The 2006-2007 National ACT President Ashley Woodward is a Hondo Group employee. The trip was a wonderful experience, bringing together the officer team and creative solutions to help us move the organization forward.



Regional Conference

Lindsey Horner
UNL ACT

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow chapter is proud to host the 2008 Professional Development Conference, February 29 through March 2, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Presenting dynamic speakers throughout the weekend will encourage everyone to discover endless possibilities in Nebraska. Events featuring agricultural enthusiasts such as Jim Pilen, owner and operator of Progressive Swine Technologies, Jill Brown, UNL's Career Specialist, and others from Nebraska Press Association, DTN, KRVN Rural Radio Network, Gallup, and many more. The Nebraska ACT Professional Development Conference will take place on UNL's East Campus and the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel.

The Nebraska ACT chapter, again, invites everyone to see more than just Nebraska at the 2008 Professional Development Conference.



Aggies with Pinkies

CanACT refines its table manners at international etiquette dinner

By Matthew Setzkorn
CanACT

Aggies, like anyone, can always improve their etiquette and manners. In January, CanACT set out to do just that and enhance its international relations by hosting a high-brow social event that brought together not only Aggies, but student leaders from other degree programs, University of Guelph faculty and representatives of sponsoring ag-industry groups.

The formal evening, held at the University Club, featured certified etiquette expert Diane Johnson in a program titled "The Art of Dining and Social Graces." Johnson traveled all the way from Fort Worth, Texas, to share her knowledge on the subject and her experience with proper etiquette edu-

cation and training. CanACT met Johnson at the Agricultural Media Summit in Louisville last summer, and the seed for a relationship was planted.

The 30-plus attendees were captivated with Johnson's presentation, and the accompanying chicken dinner. Johnson offered instruction as the food was arriving, then kept an eye on etiquette violations and compliance as the meal progressed. From the pre-dinner bread to the ice cream dessert, her sensitivity to proper manners and social conduct were evident as she pointed out common errors and re-taught the correct way in which to dine and act around a table.

Students were especially engaged in Johnson's les-

(Continued on page 3)

Aggies with Pinkies cont.

(Continued from page 2)

sons, raising burning questions including, “What do you do when your host has mustard on his/her face?”

Johnson presented the top 10 list of common dining mistakes, which included rude, but often overlooked, gestures such as chewing/talking with food in your mouth, leaving lipstick smears on glasses and buttering an entire slice of bread at once.

“Eating is entertainment in our society - slow down and enjoy it,” Johnson said. “Manners will open doors that the best education cannot.”

Johnson encouraged and challenged everyone to exercise what they had learned at the etiquette dinner in everyday life. She stressed that above all it is important to be considerate, honest and respectful toward others. If those three ideals are maintained, she said, everything will turn out alright in the end, even if you accidentally hold your fork incorrectly, pass the bread around the table in

the wrong direction or even wipe your face with your sleeve.

The event also served as a celebration of CanACT’s 5th anniversary. Several of the original founders of the club were honored, as well as past members and past presidents.

Owen Roberts, CanACT advisor, was lauded for his many contributions to CanACT, and his faithful support of the group. Roberts spoke highly of the evening’s etiquette program. “You’re showing leadership,” he said, “by getting people together at events like this.”



Christine Zettler and Owen Roberts. Photo by Heather Donkers.

Staying Connected

Hope to see you at the Region Conference in Nebraska! Many chapters are registered and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is excited to have us.

Watch out for the next edition of ACTION coming out in the spring. We are looking for chapters or individuals that would like to submit articles to ACTION as well as chapter highlight submissions. For more information, contact the National Editor

Nicole Schaendorf at schaend1@msu.edu.

Also a reminder: National ACT has a blog! Feel free to upload your chapter events, photos and announcements. We are always interested in what your chapters do and how our members are succeeding. The blog can be found by visiting www.gonact.org and clicking on the link at the bottom of the home page.