

50 +/- Years ago (Vol V, No 2, 1961)

“Only those who no longer are alive make mistakes,” someone has said. It is obvious at this point (and most confusing) that the present editor in setting up the numbering system for the publication used very poor judgment in inventing a “convention” year instead of using the calendar-year. In order to prevent further confusion, we are starting to number on calendar-year basis with the first issue in 1962. It is a well-know fact that a regular quarterly schedule has not been followed.

The first two issues in 1957 and 1958 were called NEWSLETTERS, since the third issue in August of 1958 the term JOURNAL has been used.

30 Years ago (Vol XXIV, No 2, June, 1980)

A report of agricultural enrollment in member institutions for the fall of 1979 showed that junior and senior classes are larger than freshman and sophomore classes, suggesting that transfer programs are becoming more prominent. The sophomore class is slightly smaller than the freshman class, perhaps due to attrition. The junior class is substantially larger than the sophomore class, possibly reflecting the size of the transfer group. The senior class is larger than the junior class, perhaps because some require more than the typical eight semesters to graduate.

Nationally the graduate enrollment is roughly two-thirds in masters programs and one-third doctoral students.

The composition of national enrollment is roughly 90,000 undergraduates, 13,000 masters and 7,000 doctoral students.

The distribution of undergraduates by the broad categories or fields are as follows:

<u>Field</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Animal Science	19.3
Related Sciences	15.9
Natural Resources	15.9
Plant-Soil Science	15.2
Social Science	15.1
General Agriculture	10.5

Because the 1978 data did not distinguish between undergraduate and graduate women, the trends cannot be stated with confidence. If the 1978 data included only undergraduates, then the percentage of women stayed at approximately 30%. Because of incomplete data for graduate women, we can assert only that a least 5 % of the graduate students are women.

20 Years ago (Vol XXXIV No. 2, June, 1990)

Danny Terry from Central Missouri State University suggested that NACTA become a facilitator/coordinator of one or more international exchange programs, serving as a central focal point in the process. Information and details about an upcoming exchange could be published in the NACTA Journal....perhaps a member of the International Agriculture Committee would coordinate students wishing to experience agriculture in an international setting.

On a broader scale, perhaps the NACTA Journal could serve as a “notice board” for student exchange of various types....Would NACTA involvement in international education be possible, beneficial, and feasible?there is a possibility that NACTA can make important contributions and have a significant impact on the teaching and understanding of agriculture on an international level. Thus I challenge each NACTA member to consider these possibilities. (Note: Danny was one of the first members to encourage NACTA to become engaged in international exchange)

10 Years ago (Vol. 44 No. 2, June 2000)

At the NACTA meeting at Delaware Valley in Doylestown, Pennsylvania the Distinguished Educator Award was presented to Dr. Robert C. Sorensen. Dr. Sorensen has been an active NACTA member for 23 years. He served as Nebraska State Coordinator for 20 years, as Central Regional Director for 3 years, and as Chairman of the NACTA Journal Award Committee for the past five years. He taught Soil Resources, Soil Nutrient Relationships, and Agronomy Sophomore Seminar. He has taught in the University Foundation Program for New Freshmen, and also serves as the Undergraduate Teaching Coordinator for the Department of Agronomy.

Dr. Sorensen has received the Teacher Fellow Award, the Outstanding Teacher Fellow Award, and the E. B. Knight NACTA Journal Award. At the University of Nebraska he has received the Distinguished Teaching Award, the Instructional Innovation Award, the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award, and the Recognition for Contributions to Students five times. The Soil Science Society of America honored him with the Resident Instruction Award. He is one of two faculty members from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural resources to be selected for Academy of Distinguished Teachers at the University of Nebraska. (Note: Dr. Sorensen was a model of the academic scholar and was a leader in NACTA and a role model for others)

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