

## 50+/- years ago Vol V, No. 2, 1961

From John Carters presidents message..."The National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture has something for every educator and can contribute many intangibles to his becoming a more effective teacher-which I am sure is the goal of every member. You can contribute to NACTA, but even more important, NACTA can give you much more in return."

*This is no less true in 2010. It's amazing how these don't change. In our recent meeting in Stillwater on the Oklahoma State campus, our membership was just about 1000.*

## 30 Years Ago (Vol. XXIV, No 4)

Bits from the NACTA Conference of 1080..."NACTA membership in Canada is at 53, but awareness and knowledge of NACTA and NACTA work is increasing. The future for NACTA membership in Canada remains bright. During the year the coordinator for Canada visited most Schools of Agriculture, and improvement of teaching methods as well as teaching practices were discussed with administrators. NACTA's role in this area was brought to the attention of school directors. The reception was favorable. All schools now have the portfolio displays carrying the NACTA brochure. A large potential for membership was uncovered at Community Colleges which in Canada have more than half of the country's post secondary education programs in agriculture. I feel that in Canada each institution should have a NACTA representative since there is often little contact between institutions. A letter containing names of Canadian NACTA members was mailed to all Canadian institutions (administrators and instructors) in February, 1980. Several follow-up inquiries were received after this letter, asking about membership details...." Paul Stelmaschuk, Coordinator for Canada.

*A reminder of the years Canada has been active in NACTA as we go back to Canada in 2011. As we look at Alberta for 2011, we have quite a ways to go to get Canada back to its 1979 membership numbers.*

## 20 Years Ago (Vol. XXXIV, No. 3)

In his report on NACTA Challenges, John Mertz made these comments..."there are some old challenges that are taking on new dimensions for us: World hunger is one such challenge. World hunger is not a new problem. And boatloads of Haitians and mobs of desperate Chicano dashing across our southern borders bring that problem even closer to home. Here we sit, the world's most productive agricultural enterprise ever....and we don't even seem

to make a dent in the problem, not even if we give it away. Why not? What's the matter with those people? Why don't they be like us and solve their production problems?

The answer, or at least a large part of the answer, is ignorance. I have had the opportunity to visit one of the world's deepest pockets of poverty several times in the last year, the Republic of Haiti. And, I suggest that it is ignorance that lets some of the Haitian peasants I have seen grow their rows of crops across contours, up and down steep slopes of that island republic...."

*It is amazing how things remain the same. This could have been written in today's newspaper. A snap shot of membership and finances of the organization.*

## 10 Years Ago (Vol. 44, No 3)

Jean Gleichsner from Fort Hays State University, NACTA's first woman president gave us the following charge."I am excited and honored to be the first and I hope not the last woman president of NACTA. I plan to continue the strong tradition of leadership displayed by past presidents. My challenge for the members of NACTA involves three easy steps.

Step 1: NACTA members need to get involved in NACTA. Attendance at the annual NACTA Conference is an excellent start towards achieving this goal. All of you in attendance today have successfully accomplished the first step.

Step 2. NACTA members need to stay involved. Sign up for a committee and contribute. Identify a colleague that deserves recognition through the NACTA Awards Program and encourage, cajole, or prod them to complete the application process. Contribute to the NACTA Journal-- the Journal offers opportunities to share our ideas about teaching, so let's share them.

Step 3. Get others involved. Share the NACTA Journal with colleagues at your institution. Bring a colleague to the next conference in Canada and let them experience NACTA first hand. Dare I say what an experience that will be for them."

*Jean was not our only woman to serve as president in the past 10 years and our membership has continued to increase in diversity, however her simple steps are still a relevant charge in 2010. Seems this is still a concern on our campuses...it was relevant then and is now...look up the rest of Dale's article and read his action plan to address this issue.*

James "Jim" McKenna  
Historian  
Virginia Tech