

# *Can the Path be Altered? Salvaging and Renewing Communities of the Rural Plains*

The Grassland Foundation announces the second annual lecture on "Grassland Conservation and Sustainable Communities." Larry Swanson, Ph.D., Director of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at the University of Montana, will speak on "Can the Path be Altered? Salvaging and Renewing Communities of the Rural Plains" at 3:30pm on Thursday, April 12th at the Great Plains Art Museum on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus, 1155 Q Street. There will be a Q&A session following the lecture.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Center for Great Plains Studies ([www.unl.edu/plains](http://www.unl.edu/plains)), the University of Nebraska's Rural Initiative ([www.ruralinitiative.nebraska.edu](http://www.ruralinitiative.nebraska.edu)), RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship ([www.ruraleship.org](http://www.ruraleship.org)), the UNL Economics Department ([www.cba.unl.edu/dept/economics](http://www.cba.unl.edu/dept/economics)), UNL School of Natural Resources ([snr.unl.edu](http://snr.unl.edu)), the Center for Grassland Studies ([www.grassland.unl.edu](http://www.grassland.unl.edu)), and the Prairie Plains Resource Institute ([www.prairieplains.org](http://www.prairieplains.org)).

The purpose of the lecture series is to inform the University community and residents of the State of Nebraska about issues and current knowledge in biodiversity ecosystems and the sustainability of their human communities.

A pre-lecture reception will begin at 3:00pm. For questions regarding the reception or the Great Plains Art Museum contact Kim Weide, Events Coordinator, Center for Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3964. For more information about the lecture series or talk by Dr. Swanson contact Jill Francke, Administrative and Communications Associate, Grassland Foundation, 402-477-2044 or visit [www.grasslandfoundation.org](http://www.grasslandfoundation.org).

**Larry Swanson, Ph.D.** is Director of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West ([www.crmw.org](http://www.crmw.org)) at the University of Montana- one of the leading regional study centers in the West. Over his career, Larry has worked as a journalist, educator, researcher, economic consultant, and policy analyst. He received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Nebraska in 1980 then served as Director of the Office of Policy Studies at the University of Nebraska's Center for Great Plains Studies in the early 80s. He then worked as a private economist and policy consultant for several years, affiliated with a Washington, D.C., consulting firm.

He joined the University of Montana in 1988, as Director of Economic Analysis for UM's Bureau of Business Research and moved to the O'Connor Center in 1995 to head the Center's Regional Economy program. In 2005 he was named Center Director. He has conducted hundreds of individual studies on the changing economy of the American West and how this change is playing out in communities and sub-regions throughout the region.

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Date: April 12, 2007  
Time: 3:30pm  
Great Plains Art Museum  
University of Nebraska- Lincoln  
1155 Q Street  
Phone: 402-472-3964

