The Peru Stater

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Oak Bowl Ribbon Cutting
Kicks Off New Season

Story on page 7
Greetings from Peru State

Dear Friends,

Peru State College is at a pivotal time in our history as we have an unprecedented opportunity to build a vibrant future. Thanks to the diligent work of our faculty, staff, alumni and community members, the institution is moving forward, increasing our prominence and becoming known for our academic excellence focused on student engagement. Here are just a few of the reasons for our success.

We have talented faculty and staff focused on our mission and on student success. Student achievement is the heart of Peru State’s mission. Creating an educational environment that encourages student participation and leadership is critical to ensuring that our students are able to draw on their experiences to respond effectively to future challenges. Relevant coursework, undergraduate research and professional development opportunities all play an important role in the education process. By giving our students active and relevant learning experiences we ensure they can compete successfully when they graduate. That mission-centered culture, which involves providing our students with engaging experiences, is resulting in national recognitions for our students, which increases our prominence.

We have a beautiful campus. The natural beauty that surrounds our campus and grand architecture of the buildings are certainly an asset to our recruitment efforts. But it’s the $60+ million in renovations to our facilities that are making a big difference. While buildings like Delzell Hall and the Student Center need work, the vast majority of our campus infrastructure has been beautifully renovated in a way that modernizes the facilities while keeping their historic nature intact. We continue to work on ways to address the remaining areas of campus in need of attention.

We are strategically located. Because of our proximity to the Omaha and Lincoln metro areas, we are perhaps the most strategically located of the three state colleges. It’s an easy drive from the growing population centers of Nebraska and we are showing market penetration in those areas. Just this year we have posted a 5 percent increase in applications from the Omaha area.

We have a personalized recruitment process that is reflective of the personalized education a student will receive at Peru State. One of the hallmarks of a Peru State education is the one-on-one attention students get from faculty and staff. From the beginning of the application process to graduation day, we want our students to know that they are part of a family that cares about their success.

We have an increased commitment by the Foundation and friends of the college, not only for supporting scholarships for our students, but also for the efforts to improve our infrastructure. We are incredibly thankful for the Foundation Board’s commitment to the Campus Entrance Project. First impressions are everything in student recruitment. An improved entrance will not only improve safety for our students, it will lend an aesthetic appeal to all who journey to campus.

We continue to be one of the most affordable colleges in the region. U.S. News and World Report and GetEducated.com have once again recognized us for the affordability of our online graduate programs.

All of these are reasons to celebrate and be proud of Peru State. Thank you for your continued support of Nebraska’s first college. I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

All the Best,

Dan Hanson, Ph.D.
President
Job Well Done

The time is right to take a minute and say thank you. The last couple of years have been a bit of a blur. The College has been growing and building and planning for the future almost nonstop. The Foundation has been busy raising funds for the Oak Bowl and the campus entrance and scholarships and educational programs.

Now, with the holidays and the end of 2014 fast approaching, it is time to take a breath, and thank Peru State’s many friends and donors for your care and support.

Without our supportive alumni and committed donors, projects like the Oak Bowl, or the new campus entrance, simply would not be possible. Alumni who step up and make a difference in the life of Peru State are leaving their mark on the College, as well as on the students who will one day be alumni themselves.

Whether you are a $100,000 donor to a capital project, or a $100 donor to educational programs, or an alumnus who is proudly wearing the blue and white, you are an important part of the Bobcat family.

So, on behalf of the College and Foundation, thank you for everything! Thank you for your gifts to the Foundation. Thank you for your dedication to Peru State. And thank you for the promise of tomorrow.

The future is bright for Peru State College. The College’s strong enrollments are a testament to the leadership of President Dan Hanson and the Nebraska State College System. Planned improvements include a completely revamped campus entrance, a fully remodeled and expanded Delzell Residence Hall, and a renovated, expanded and more user-friendly Student Center. Educational programs such as the Distinguished Speaker Series and the Institute for Community Engagement are broadening experiences and better preparing students to compete … and succeed … after college.

Even so, achieving the promise of that bright future requires real investments today. Investments of time. Investments of talent. Investment of treasure. Peru State’s commitment to that bright future begins today with our current students.

Not long ago, a group of students enjoyed lunch and conversation with the leader of a regional foundation. During the lunch they had an opportunity to talk about their goals for the future. You would have been proud, as President Hanson was, to listen to the students talk about how Peru State has prepared them to face challenges and pursue their dreams whether it be as an educator, a business professional, a healthcare professional, or beyond. Our guest left the campus that day deeply impressed by our students and their affection for the College.

Students are not alone in their affection for Peru State. The College and Foundation counts you among the group of dedicated, committed Peru Staters who will help ensure the promise of PSC’s tomorrow is just as bright as it was in 1867 when the College was founded.

So thank you for your commitment and support. Our students today, and those who will become Bobcats tomorrow, deserve the best that the College can give them. With your continued interest, they will get that … and more.

Todd Simpson, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
Peru State College Foundation

2014 Alumni Events

New Students Move-In Day

Every fall the National Alumni Association (NAA) board participates in New Student Move-In Day.

This year NAA board members served cookies and lemonade to students of the 2014 freshmen class on August 15, 2014. If you are interested in helping welcome new students to campus on move-in day, contact the Peru State College Foundation at 402-872-2395.

Hospitality Suites

President Dan Hanson, the Peru State College Foundation and the Peru State Athletic Department enjoyed hosting special guests in two new hospitality suites in the renovated Oak Bowl for each home football game this season. The new suites are located at the top of the grandstand. Guests are able to watch the football game from inside the suites or outside on balcony seating.

50-Year Reunion

Peru State graduates of 1963, 1964 and 1965 returned to campus on October 3 in honor of the 1964 class celebrating their golden anniversary. Alumni and their guests enjoyed an event-filled weekend, including a banquet dinner and a ride on a float during the Homecoming parade. Each 1964 graduate received an engraved medal commemorating the anniversary.

2014 Alumni Events

Upcoming events

Alumni Chili Feed

The National Alumni Association will host their annual alumni chili feed on February 21, 2015. Enjoy a warm bowl of chili soup and watch Peru State take on Culver-Stockton College in women’s basketball at 2:00 p.m. and men’s basketball at 4:00 p.m. in the Al Wheeler Activity Center. Gary’s Tumblers will perform half-time acrobatic entertainment.

Omaha Dinner

Join the Peru State Omaha Alumni Chapter at their annual dinner Thursday, June 4, 2015. The event will be held at a new location, Anthony’s Steakhouse. Attendees will enjoy dinner, conversation, and an opportunity to bid on some Peru State items.
Bobcats Repeat A.O. Duer Award

Logan Paben

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has selected Logan Paben from approximately 30,000 male athletes for its prestigious 2014 A.O. Duer Award.

The award is presented annually to one male and one female junior student-athlete who exemplify scholarship, leadership, service and character while maintaining an overall grade-point average of at least a 3.75 (on a 4-point scale).

Paben, a junior middle grades education major from Columbus, Neb. is the second Peru State student athlete to receive the honor in two years. Mitch Boshart, a senior education major from Wood River, earned the award in 2013.

President Dan Hanson said, “Both Mitch and Logan are well-deserving of the honor and represent the many fine students who choose to attend Peru State. I appreciate the focus on character-driven athletics of our coaches and Athletic Director Steve Schneider. This focus helps build future leaders of high character.”

The award is named for A.O. Duer who served as executive secretary of the NAIA for 26 years and was well known for his strong opinion that the NAIA and its member institutions should strive to effectively balance academics and athletics.

Last year Paben, a defensive back on the Bobcat football team and two-time letter winner, was a CoSIDA Capital One Academic First Team recipient and earned Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC) all-conference honorable mention. He is a Bobcat Elite Team Leader, TeamMates mentor and president of the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC). Paben has also taken an active role in the community, visiting children at Omaha’s Children’s Hospital, assisting with elementary track meets in Auburn, helping clean up a hiking trail in Brownville and volunteering for the annual Peru city-wide cleanup day.

Paben said, “I am very honored that the Peru State Athletic Department selected me to be the campus nominee and honored as well to be recognized as the Heart of America Athletic Conference’s national nominee. My parents, family, friends, coaches and others in my life have helped me to develop into the person I am today and without their constant help and support I know I could not have come this far. To be named the Daktronics NAIA A.O. Duer Award recipient, especially during the very first NAIA National Awards Day presentation, is truly special.”

Peru State Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Steve Schneider said, “Logan demonstrates outstanding verbal and written communication skills which will help him in the classroom and obviously helps him as a football player. He is the type of individual who gets things accomplished. This is due in large part to his ability to relate to all types of people. He is a very goal-oriented individual as well. When he sets an objective, he goes after it with much enthusiasm and, more often than not, he accomplishes the task.”

Paben will assist the Bobcats Sports Information Office this year by preparing video and audio segments.

With the honor, Paben and his family have been invited to attend the NAIA’s national convention on April 13, 2015 in Charlotte, N.C., where he, along with the other NAIA award winners, will be recognized in a special presentation.

Peru State Freshman Speaks About TeamMates Program

Je’kerra Hopper is a Peru State College (PSC) freshman criminal justice major aspiring to be a police officer. Hopper was raised by her grandparents in Lincoln, Nebraska. She takes part in clubs including the Black Student Union and Lambda Alpha Epsilon on campus.

Hopper was chosen to speak at the TeamMates Tailgate Gala on October 24, 2014. She joined other notable guests including Warren Buffett, Dr. Condoleezza Rice and Dr. Tom Osborne.

Tom and Nancy Osborne founded TeamMates in 1991 to help youth who need a caring adult in their lives to help them succeed. Children from elementary age through college can receive the guidance and support they need to persist in school through high school graduation. Local adults are recruited as mentors who dedicate one hour each week helping youth find hope, vision and purpose. Currently, the TeamMates Mentoring Program across Nebraska and Iowa provides more than 7,000 youth with mentors.

Hopper talked about the challenges she faced growing up and told the audience about the positive impact TeamMates has had on her life.

Hopper has been a mentee in the TeamMates program since her junior year at Lincoln High School. Hopper enjoys TeamMates because of the relationship she has with her mentor. When Jennifer Davidson (Hopper’s mentor) found out that Hopper would be receiving the TeamMates Advantage Scholarship, Davidson made a special trip to visit Hopper so they could be together when Hopper received the news.

2014 is the first year that the TeamMates Advantage Scholarship has been offered. In order to be eligible for the TeamMates Advantage Scholarship students must enroll as a new first-time college freshman at one of the state colleges (Peru State, Wayne State, or Chadron State), be a Nebraska resident, be enrolled in 12 or more on-campus credit hours for the semester, and hold a 2.5 G.P.A. Four Peru State students received the Scholarship for this academic year.

Hopper had met, and even presented with, Tom Osborne on several occasions. However, she was very nervous meeting the other notable guests such as Buffett, Rice and successful businessman Lee Sapp. The day still feels like a dream to Hopper, and she is grateful for the opportunity to meet so many iconic people and share her story with them.

Forty percent of Peru State’s first-year students come from low-income households. Scholarships allow many bright, hard-working students like Ja’Kerra the opportunity to fulfill the dream of a college education.
Ted Harshbarger, the Nebraska State Advisor for PBL, was elected chairman of the National Board of Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) this past July. Harshbarger joined the national board in 2012. After serving one year as chairman, he will serve one final year on the board as the past chairman.

Harshbarger is very excited to have been elected chairman. “Just to get on the board has been on my bucket list,” said Harshbarger. As chairman, he will work to reach more students and to continue the growth of PBL in the future.

Harshbarger has been affiliated with PBL for 40 years after joining the club as a student in 1974. He eventually served as president of Peru State’s PBL chapter. Following graduation, Harshbarger started the FBLA chapter in Tecumseh, served on the Nebraska board of directors for three years, and served as the FBLA-PBL Colorado State Advisor from 1987 to 1989. Since returning to the staff of Peru State, Harshbarger has assisted the college’s PBL advisors and has served as the Nebraska State Advisor since 1997. Harshbarger has also served for nine consecutive years on the FBLA-PBL National Awards Committee, the longest serving member on that committee.

Harshbarger is proud of the Nebraska students who have competed nationally for PBL. “This last June was the first time in 50 years that Nebraska PBL won more awards than any other state. I believe it is because of the quality of education as well as the quality of leadership they receive in our Nebraska institutions. We are one of the smaller states but we beat out a lot of the big states who had twice as many competitors,” said Harshbarger.

In June, six PSC students won national championships in three categories, and a total of nineteen Peru State students placed in the top 10 at the PBL National Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN. PBL is a state and national business and leadership association.
Jim and Theresa Krajicek Named PSC Grand Marshals

Theresa, an Omaha native, graduated from Peru State in 1985 with a degree in elementary education. Jim, a native of Papillion and Hoskins, earned a degree in biology from Peru State in 1986 and later a Master's degree from Southeast Missouri State University.

While attending the Campus of a Thousand Oaks, Jim continued a Krajicek tradition started by his brothers, following in their footsteps as a member of the Bobcat football team. Jim played for four years and served as co-captain of the team his senior year along with close family friend Pat Mertens of Hastings. Mertens tossed the game coin on Jim’s behalf.

Peru State President Dan Hanson said, “Jim is the consummate football booster and Peru State champion. He was largely responsible for organizing fellow football boosters and friends in adding folding stadium chairs to the Oak Bowl in the late 1990s. His devotion to his beloved Bobcats continues to this day as he relishes cheering on his team and attending football alumni reunions.”

In 2012, Jim suffered a stroke that has left him with a new challenge - to recover and continue his role as husband, father and Peru Stater. The south entrance to the Oak Bowl Stadium has been named in his honor.

Student Senate President Lexi Neemann, a senior psychology major from Beatrice, (and this year’s homecoming Queen) said, “Student Senate is proud to honor the Krajiceks as grand marshals of our homecoming parade. Their long-time dedication to our college and the hard work they have done to support it are deserving of our recognition and thanks.”

Theresa Krajicek said, “We are honored and thrilled to be asked to be grand marshals. Jim loved his years playing football at Peru and considers Peru his family. Peru will always be close to his heart.”

Jim spent his career working in environment and safety compliance for the Nebraska Department of Environment Quality, Nebraska Power District, Pacific Union Railroad, Omaha Public Power District and Chief Industries. Theresa taught elementary education for six years and has cared for their five children, Ann (24), Katie (21), Meghan (19), Joe (17) and Tessa (10).
Oak Bowl Ribbon Cutting Kicks Off New Season

After two years and approximately $9 million, Peru State College rededicated its newly renovated Oak Bowl football field and stadium during a brief ceremony before the Bobcats took on Midland University Warriors on Saturday, September 6.

The day started with an unveiling of four plaques to acknowledge the outstanding contributions and extra efforts of many involved in the renovation. First, a special donor display was dedicated to acknowledge and thank those who have contributed gifts of $2,500 and more to the project. This display is located on the new concourse. New names will be added to the display as additional funds are contributed throughout the fall, the new facility also has seen frequent use throughout the week, as students participate in intramural sports and other campus events. In addition to the student athletes on the football team, the new facility has been used and enjoyed by hundreds of students. “The football field is one of the few large, flat areas in Peru,” says President Hanson. “The renovated facility has really enhanced campus life.”

Hundreds of Peru State alumni and friends made gifts to support this historic campus improvement. Thank you to all who contributed to this signature feature on the Peru State College campus.

A second plaque recognizes Lavon Heidemann, former Lt. Governor and state senator, for his work in securing $7.5 million from the Nebraska Legislature.

At the stadium’s north seating entrance, a plaque recognizes Jim Kanter (‘65). Jim played on the Bobcat football team and then enjoyed a career that spanned education, coaching, sales, advertising and marketing. Jim’s family made a special gift in memory of Jim’s life and legacy, which includes a deep appreciation for Peru State and the Bobcats.

Finally, a plaque at the south seating entrance honors Jim Krajicek (‘86) for his steadfast support of the Bobcats as a player, fan and dedicated booster. Jim’s life took an unexpected turn when he had a stroke at age 48. Jim’s friends made gifts to honor him and his passion for the Bobcats.

President Dan Hanson said, “I want to extend heartfelt thanks on behalf of everyone at Peru State for the unwavering support lent to this project by the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees and Chancellor Stan Carpenter. I also want to thank the Nebraska Legislature, which helped secure $7.5 million to renovate the facility – the largest single construction appropriation for Peru State by the state of Nebraska.”

Just before kickoff, President Dan Hanson was joined on the field by Stan Carpenter, Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System; SaraBeth Donovan, Chair of the Peru State College Foundation; lead donors; other dignitaries; and the entire student athletes on the football team, setting an all-time attendance record in the Oak Bowl. While Midland University outscored the Bobcats 28-14, the day itself was a huge “win” for Peru State College.

While thousands of fans have enjoyed the new Oak Bowl on football Saturdays throughout the fall, the new facility also has seen frequent use throughout the week, as students participate in intramural sports and other campus events. In addition to the student athletes on the football team, the new facility has been used and enjoyed by hundreds of students. “The football field is one of the few large, flat areas in Peru,” says President Hanson. “The renovated facility has really enhanced campus life.”

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Class of 1964 Celebrates 50-Year Reunion

Members of the classes of 1963, 1964, and 1965 returned to campus in October 2014 to honor the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1964 and to participate in Peru State’s 94th Homecoming celebration.

A welcome reception and registration in the library, the former gymnasium, immediately inspired memories and remarks about the changes to campus since the early 1960s. A tour of campus reminded the alumni of favorite classes, water fights in the dormitories, and a familiar yet dramatically improved campus setting.

During a reception at the home of President Dan and Elaine Hanson, the group shared their brief biographies, often noting gratitude for what Peru State contributed to their lives.

Jim Hall spoke eloquently about being one of very few African American students on campus in the early 1960s. He said he felt the experience prepared him for a successful future in corporate America, where he was often a minority but felt equipped to do well in any setting. Larry Cornelius recalled paying his own way through college. Since tuition at the time was a set rate regardless of how many classes one took, Larry took as many as possible and graduated with two majors and six minors. This broad educational background prepared Larry to teach almost every subject during his career as a teacher.

The evening ended with a special dinner where each member of the graduating class of 1964 received a medallion commemorating their 50th class reunion. On Saturday morning, the reunion class became enthusiastic participants in Peru State’s 94th Homecoming celebration. Reunion attendees rode on a float in the Homecoming parade, and then joined the Tailgate on the Quad for lunch and entertainment provided by the Hoyt Street Jazz Ensemble.

The classmates were honored guests in the newly completed Oak Bowl hospitality suites to cheer for the Bobcats as they took on Baker University.

Next year’s 50-year reunion will honor the class of 1965 on October 30, 2015. Classes of 1964, 1965 and 1966 are encouraged to mark your calendars for a fall trip to Peru State and a walk down memory lane.

2014 reunion attendees (Back row left to front row right: Don Rut, Ardith (Pratt) Rut, Bonnie (Suda) Kreshel, Caroline (McCann) Wiechelman, Curtis Nelson, Susan Perina, Joeseph Perina, Sherri Hall, Jim Hall, Dr. Dan Hanson, Larry Cornelius, Ilma (Gobber) Gottula, Lee Sapp, Melissa Jarecke, Elaine Hanson)

Larry Cornelius, Melissa Jarecke, Susan (Hulbert) Perina, and Joseph Perina riding on the 50-Year float
College and community leaders in Peru are collaborating on a project that will make safety and aesthetic improvements to Park Avenue. Unfortunately, lacking appropriate curb, gutter, and shoulders, Park Avenue faces a constant threat of erosion along its eastern edge, especially the section along Neal Park. Sidewalks are intermittent along Park Avenue, and pedestrians frequently walk on the road itself.

Virtually all visitors and residents enter Peru using Park Avenue, the only paved road into Peru. With Casey’s General Store at the south end and T.J. Majors Hall at the north end, Park Avenue is a vitally important corridor for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Peru State’s 2012 Campus Master Plan identified a need for an improved entrance corridor, noting “The [campus] entry is visually dominated by parking and the presence of a major intersection of two non-campus streets…As a result, a driver may not realize he or she has arrived at the entrance to the campus.”

In September the Park Avenue project was approved for a $250,000 Community Development Block Grant administered by Nebraska’s Department of Economic Development. The project has already received contributions from several area financial institutions and gifts from donors and regional foundations. The City of Peru and Nemaha County have also pledged support for the improvements. In total, more than $900,000 has been contributed toward the estimated $2.6 million needed to complete the project.

This project will widen Park Avenue from Casey’s General Store to the intersection of Park Avenue and 5th Street which marks the college’s main entrance. Wide sidewalks along the entire length of the road from campus to Casey’s will make the route pedestrian friendly. New lighting, benches, and landscaping will extend the historic ambiance of the campus out along Park Avenue.

To eliminate the need for the sharp corner where Park Avenue meets 5th Street, plans call for the roadway to be curved to the east and the corner eliminated. Shifting the roadway to the east creates space for an attractive entrance plaza and circle drive in front of the Little Red Schoolhouse.

If adequate financial support is received, construction on the project could begin as early as May 2015.

To inquire about supporting the Park Avenue project, contact the Peru State Foundation at 402-872-2304.

A rendering of a portion of the planned improvements to Park Avenue in Peru.

The 1867 Society honors the past, and secures the future for PSC.

Saturday, October 4, during the Homecoming festivities, a group of 1867 Society members joined PSC President Dan Hanson and Chair of the PSC Foundation Board SaraBeth Donovan, to dedicate a new plaque display listing the names of the 1867 Society members. The occasion also offered the foundation and the college an opportunity to extend heartfelt gratitude to each member of the 1867 Society for their thoughtfulness and generosity to PSC. The display is located outside the Gabus Family President’s Suite, on the third floor of the Administration Building.

Currently, 90 names are listed on the membership plaques. Several other members have indicated a desire to remain anonymous.

If you have included the PSC Foundation in your will or estate plan and would like to be considered a member of the 1867 Society, please contact the foundation at 402-872-2304. For more information on the 1867 Society and giving through your estate, visit foundation.peru.edu/giving

A planned giving society devoted to the future of Peru State College.
Marlan and Marea Downey Share Expertise and Advice

Marlan Downey graduated with his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Peru State in 1952, then began a successful career in the oil industry. Downey worked for Shell Oil for 30 years, rising in the ranks from research to president of Pecten International, a subsidiary of Shell Oil. After a brief retirement, Downey returned to the oil industry to serve as president of ARCO (Atlantic Richfield Company) International. During a fascinating career, Downey led oil exploration teams in 62 countries and was even knighted by the president of Cameroon. Downey has been honored by the world’s largest geological society as “A Living Legend in the Oil and Gas Business.” Downey currently serves as Bartell Professor of Geoscience at the University of Oklahoma, Chief Scientist at the Sarkeys Energy Center and Chairman of the Board of Roxanna Oil Company and Roxanna Associates.

Marea Downey’s love for photography began as a child after an uncle lent her his camera. Over time, Mrs. Downey’s hobby grew into a passion that has led her quite literally around the world. Mrs. Downey has published two books of photography featuring Cadgwith, Cornwall, England. Proceeds from these books, and other photographs, have gone to charities in England and the United States. Mrs. Downey has also judged photography competitions around the world. Her photographs have been published in numerous publications. Just as her uncle shared his interest in photography with a young Marea, today Mrs. Downey takes great pleasure from sharing her expertise and passion for photography with young people.

“I’m easy to be a hard worker if you’re passionate and interested.”

Peru State welcomed Marlan and Marea Downey to campus in September, 2014, along with their sons Nick and Alex, to share their considerable knowledge with Peru State. Students had the unique opportunity to hear “About the Future of Energy” from Mr. Downey, while Mrs. Downey visited an Introduction to Graphic Design class and provided a captivating lesson on photography.

In addition to sharing their professional expertise, the Downeys also discussed their personal recipe for success. For them, a key ingredient is passion.

“My job for 65 years has been finding buried treasure,” said Mr. Downey. “Finding an oil field is very exciting to me. The greatest gift that Peru State can give to students is an introduction to an area of interest that becomes a passion.”

Mrs. Downey advises people to keep their options open, noting that students today have a much greater variety of career opportunities available to them. “Stay flexible. Very few people stick with one career for an entire lifetime.”

The Downeys believe that hard work is important in every career. “It’s easy to be a hard worker if you’re passionate and interested,” said Mr. Downey.

President Dan Hanson is grateful for alumni like Marlan and Marea Downey who are willing to share their time and talent with current students. “Part of our strategy of offering engaged learning experiences includes connecting our students with accomplished alumni like the Downeys. Hearing about the Downeys’ life experiences and professional achievements helps students relate classroom learning to their future goals and visualize what is possible for themselves.”

The Broader Vision for the Oak Bowl

The comfortable seating, spacious concourse, and brilliant green field combined with the beautiful natural setting of the Oak Bowl provides a truly unique game experience at Peru State.

Even with so many renovations complete, the broader vision for the Oak Bowl has not yet been fully realized. The plans for the athletic complex include two additional important facilities: a renovated home locker room and a new coaching center.

The current home locker room at the north end of the field has received a new roof and other exterior renovations. However, little has been done on the interior of the home locker room in many years. Aging fixtures, worn out equipment, and deteriorating finishes must be replaced.

In addition, the campus does not have a classroom space large enough to accommodate the 120-member football team for team meetings and other large group sessions. A new coaching center is being designed which will include coaches’ offices, team meeting areas, space for athletic trainers, and a film room. “This new facility will become home to the student athletes who spend a lot of time, energy and effort representing Peru State,” says Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Steve Schneider. While plans are still being finalized, the preliminary estimates suggest a total cost of approximately $2 million.

Calling Peru State College Alumni...

Peru State College will celebrate its Sesquicentennial (150 years) in 2017. We are looking for any photos, stories or old articles that might help us tell the story.

Please send submissions to: www.peru.edu/perustate150
Peru State Baseball Catches National Award

The Peru State College baseball team was recently named as a 2013-14 Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Team Award winner. Peru State was selected as the best from among 188 NAIA institutions with a baseball program. Only one team from each of the NAIA’s 23 championship sports is selected as a winner each academic year.

The Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Team Awards are presented at the end of the respective season. Teams that receive this prestigious award demonstrate integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant leadership. These institutions and athletic programs strive for excellence in and out of competition and are part of communities throughout the country dedicated to character-driven intercollegiate athletics.

Bobcat head coach Wayne Albury was thrilled to learn of the award. Albury said, “It was very exciting to learn of this recent recognition for our baseball team as well as Peru State College. Knowing that we were the only baseball team to be honored in the NAIA makes this award even more special.”

“Character helps shape the destiny of an individual. In this case, each team member’s character helps shape the destiny of our team. When I took over the program four years ago, I put a big emphasis on character development. It is important to me that these players are good leaders off the field as well as on the field,” said Albury.

Some examples of character the team shows in the community and on campus are community-service activities such as trash pick-ups, the athletic department’s community seminar outreach events, and helping with the back-pack program in the Auburn elementary school. In addition, the team has assisted with the College’s food pantry (Feeding 44) which is held once a month.

“Over the past two seasons, our team has weathered some challenges and I believe it has been our character which has helped us get through it. Last year, our season was cut short by Mother Nature and the team was not able to have a repeat trip to the national championships. Because of this, our character was challenged, but we resolved as a team to do everything in our power to work together to not allow the same thing to happen this year,” said Derrick Davis, Senior.

The Bobcats were selected at the conclusion of the spring sports season after a review of the application submitted by the athletic department to the NAIA.

Spring 2014 Bobcat Baseball Team

Bobcat Golfers Win First Tournament Ever!

After a record-setting day on the first day of the College of St. Mary (CSM) Fall Invitational (in September), the Bobcat women’s golf team set another record on the second day! In fact, they set two records.

On the first day, the Bobcats broke an 18-hole team record by 11 strokes by shooting a team low of 335 and held a one-stroke lead going into the second day of the competition. Peru State came back as a team and shot a 334 on the second day, breaking their previous team record and eventually won their first tournament ever as a golf team. The tourney was played at the Miracle Hill Golf Course in Omaha.

Bobcat head golf coach Brett Hahn was extremely pleased with his team’s performance. Hahn noted, “Our first tournament of the season was full of positives. Day one showed just how hard the girls have been working when we broke our 18-hole low school record by 11 shots when we shot 335! The girls were very happy, but after day two they showed even more determination and we again, broke the 18-hole low school record by shooting a 334! The 36 hole total of 669 bests our previous school record 36 hole low total of 702 by 33 shots!”

With a two-day total of 669, the Cats topped Des Moines community college by two strokes for the team title.

Marisa Pribnow (Lincoln) finished with a two-day total of 166 after shooting consecutive rounds of 83. Pribnow finished in a tie for third.

Emily Hausman (Columbus) finished in a tie for fifth with a two-day total of 169. Hausman shot an 83 on the first day and followed up with an 86 on the second day.

Alana Payton (El Paso, Ill.) shot an 87 on Sunday and came back with an 84 on the second day for a two-day total of 171. Payton finished in a tie of seventh.

Also shooting her best collegiate rounds was Jordon Sukup (Sidney). Sukup had consecutive rounds of 89 for a two-day total of 178 and finished in a tie for tenth.

What might be even more impressive for the Bobcats is the fact that Weickert, Pribnow, Hausman, Payton, and Sukup are all sophomores.

Also competing for Peru State were four freshmen who played in their first collegiate competition in the CSM Fall Tournament. Hahn added, “Achieving the first tournament win in school history has been a goal of ours since the beginning. Now that we have accomplished that goal, the girls have already moved on to focusing on our next tournament and our ultimate goal of winning a HAAC (Heart of America Athletic Conference) Team Title.”

Bobcat Golfers Win First Tournament Ever!

Peru State finished with its top five golfers in the top ten and was led by Jessica Weickert (Beatrice). Weickert followed her career-best of 81 on Sunday with another and the results were great! These were both personal bests for her and I know she isn't satisfied yet and will continue to work hard every day.”

2014 Golf Team

2014 Golf Team
Remembering Dr. Thomas Ediger

This past summer, Peru State lost one of its own. Dr. Thomas Ediger passed away on August 20, 2014, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Ediger was born on May 8, 1950, in York, Nebraska, the son of Milford L. Ediger and LaVon Holmes. He grew up in Aurora and graduated from Aurora High School.

Earning a Bachelor’s degree in music education from the University of Nebraska, and a Master’s degree in piano performance and Doctorate in theory and composition from the University of Northern Colorado, Dr. Ediger also completed postgraduate work at Portland State University, Yale University, and in Graz, Austria. He held the permanent national teacher certification in piano and theory through the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

After joining the Peru State faculty in 1979, he served as director of the Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers and taught courses in music theory, music history, music education and piano. He was an active performer, composer, and a popular piano and vocal clinician/adjudicator in the region. His most recent compositions were The Land of Ooeps, a chamber opera for the Madrigal Singers, and Psalm 121 for choir published by Concordia Press. His piano and composition students have often won state and regional competitions.

Ediger founded Peru State’s Piano Extravaganza in 1990, an annual event that brought more than 200 pianists to campus for day-long rehearsals and a final performance where, under his direction, 30 pianists simultaneously played 15 pianos. He coordinated the college’s annual High School Show Choir Festival and annual Choral Festival Honor Choir. Dr. Ediger was also director and producer of the college’s annual Holiday Madrigal Dinner.

In addition to his teaching duties at the college, Ediger served as treasurer of the Nebraska Music Teachers Association, having previously led the organization as president. He was honored by the association in 2008 as their Distinguished Teacher of the Year and Service Award Winner.

In March 2009, Ediger was awarded the MTNA Foundation Fellow Award in recognition of his service and leadership. He served as director of the MTNA West Central Division and as a member of the Board of Directors. He was on the MTNA Foundation Fund’s national development committee.

Peru State President Dan Hanson said, “It is rare that one individual has so much impact on a campus culture.”

A three-time winner of the Peru State Teacher Excellence Award, Dr. Ediger was long a master of student engagement, Hanson said.

“His tireless efforts have been widely recognized throughout southeast Nebraska and the region. Dr. Ediger, his students and their performances have given the campus a treasured sense of heart and soul. He positively influenced the lives of thousands of students throughout his tenure at the college. He was an accomplished musician whose talent, kindness, and commitment to the institution and students were inspiring. He will be greatly missed.”

Peru State College held a memorial service for Ediger on September 2 in the College Theatre. A reception followed the service in the Jindra Fine Arts Choir Room.

Below is an article that Dr. Ediger wrote for the October 7, 2013 issue of the Peru State Times. The Peru Stater is reprinting this article to remember Dr. Ediger and share his passion for teaching in his own words.

Why I Teach

By Dr. Thomas Ediger

As I am in my 35th year of teaching at Peru State College, somehow I think this essay should be “Why am I still teaching?” Ever since I can remember all I wanted to do was to make music—perform it, compose it or help others make music. When I was in high school, I started teaching beginning piano lessons to a class of eight students. There was a need in my community, and my piano teacher at the time told me I would be able to guide these young students. I liked this experience, and I have been teaching music to students of all ages since that time.

My interest in teaching is really only connected with my passion for performing and composing music. At Peru State College I get to work with vocal students in the concert choir and the madrigal singers and private pianists to perform wonderful music. It’s doubtful that I would continue teaching, if it didn’t involve performing and composing music.

It’s often said that people should find something that they really like to do. Do that activity with enthusiasm and passion. Develop as much skill as you can; if possible get better every day. Then, if you can get paid for that activity, that really does make for a wonderful life.

As a music teacher and choral director my primary concern is always to provide the best possible musical experience for every student in my choirs. I strive to push every student to be better and to develop skills that will allow the choir to come together as a cohesive unit performing at a very “high level.” This means adapting the musical repertoire and the teaching techniques to the talent and skills of the current singers, always working for musical excellence.

My approach is to motivate students through positive messages, high standards, a disciplined approach to time management and rehearsing the music so that we are improving every time we practice or even every time we perform the music.

In the process of preparing concerts and special projects, such as one of my favorite activities, “A Holiday Madrigal Dinner,” we hope to “build a community of singers” that both improve their musical skills, increase their love of music and are able, through their excellent performances to make lasting memories for both themselves and the people that attend our concerts and special events.

I hope that my passion, enthusiasm and expertise will help to motivate and possibly even inspire my students to be truly excellent musicians. Along the way we hope to develop sensitivity to and respect for each other and “love” for music and the arts. Of course, I also hope we will have some fun. As long as we are making wonderful music and improving all the time and I have wonderful PSC students, I hope I can continue to teach and hopefully, “to make a difference.”

Dr. Ediger playing piano at the 2012 Spring Commencement

Jazz on the green 2011
A Meaningful Tribute

Donald Page lived most of his life in California, but he traced his roots back to the town of Peru, Nebraska. His father, Fred Page, was born in Peru in 1885 in a house near the river. Don said the house was so close to the river, when the water was high a boat could be tied to the front rail of the porch. Fred Page met his future wife, Agnes, at Peru State, then known as the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru. Fred and Agnes moved to eastern Colorado and had five children; Don was the youngest. Don moved to California where he eventually became the head of the state’s Office of Safety. Don was proud of the fact that 10,000 employees in that department served under him. As Don planned for his legacy, he remembered his ties to Peru, Nebraska, and Peru State College.

Several years prior to his death, Don indicated that he had included the Peru State College Foundation in his Living Trust, and he became a member of the foundation’s 1867 Society. The 1867 Society recognizes and honors those who have included the Peru State College Foundation in their estate planning. Because Don alerted the foundation to his interest in using his estate gift to create a scholarship, the scholarship criteria were developed with Don’s input and involvement. Don had the assurance that his final plans would be carried out, and the foundation had confidence in fulfilling those wishes as an informed steward of Don’s gift.

In 2013, when Don passed away, he left a meaningful tribute to his mother, a 1909 graduate of Peru State College, by establishing the Agnes Margaret Blank Scholarship. The Agnes Margaret Blank Scholarship supports students “of limited income and/or resources who have a need for this assistance in order to enter or continue their education at Peru State College.” Don’s scholarship was awarded for the first time this year and will exist in perpetuity as a lasting memorial.

If you would like to learn about how to make a lasting impact by including Peru State in your will or estate plan, please call the foundation office at 402-872-2304 or visit the foundation’s website at foundation.peru.edu.

Inspiration Behind Disney’s “Million Dollar Arm” Speaks at Peru State

Image courtesy of Disney

“You won’t regret failing, if you can look in the mirror and know you gave all of your effort and prepared.”

J.B. Bernstein, the inspiration behind the Disney film “Million Dollar Arm,” kicked-off the college’s 2014-15 Distinguished Speaker Series on October 20, 2014.

As a 25-year veteran of the consumer goods and sports marketing industries, Bernstein knows what it takes to receive positive results. As the Chief Marketing Officer of Seven Figures Management, a sports marketing and athlete representation firm, Bernstein was the mastermind behind the “Million Dollar Arm” television program. This reality TV show centered on a talent search for the best baseball pitchers in India. It yielded the first two Indian-born men to ever sign professional sports contracts in the United States, both signing with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Bernstein’s story is the subject of a Disney motion picture that was released in May 2014.

Bernstein is co-founder and president of the Access Group of Miami and has represented some of the greatest athletes of all time, including Barry Bonds, Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith and Curtis Martin. Bernstein was responsible for creating groundbreaking programs such as Smith’s “Run with History.” He also orchestrated Barry Bonds’ departure from Major League Baseball Player’s Association group licensing, making him the first baseball player to successfully operate outside of their auspices.

Bernstein got his start in sports during the formation of The Upper Deck Company. As director of development for the Memorabilia Division, he developed more than 250 products and is widely known as one of the godfathers of milestone marketing for his work on Wayne Gretzky’s 802nd goal program and Dan Marino’s all time touchdown record.

Bernstein enthusiastically spoke on his experience with the reality show and movie, along with encouraging listeners to dream, apply themselves, believe in themselves, and follow through with their plans.

After sharing personal stories from his experiences with “Million Dollar Arm,” Bernstein connected with the audience by sharing some words of wisdom. “I never hear, ‘No.’ I hear, ‘I don’t see what you see….’ That’s okay, because if they saw what I saw, they’d be up here talking about the million dollar arm.”

Bernstein made a lasting impression. Audience members walked away with laughter and inspiration in their hearts.

Peru State established the Distinguished Speaker Series in fall 2010 as part of its commitment to student engagement and success. The intent of the series is to bring diverse nationally and internationally recognized speakers to southeast Nebraska to enrich the educational experience of students while also providing the surrounding communities with opportunities to engage in interesting and relevant topics. Speakers connect with the community in a variety of ways during their visits through classroom discussions, classroom lectures, receptions, and a keynote address.

Previous guests include civil rights leader and Little Rock Nine member Minnijean Brown-Trickey, Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson Arun Gandhi, Bawa (Cameroon, Africa) Health Initiative co-founder Dr. Dennis Richardson, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author Sonia Nazario, consumer advocate and former Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Shirin Ebadi and others.
Meet Professor Sheli Petersen

Sheli Petersen joined Peru State College (PSC) this past summer as the new Peru State Assistant Professor of Art.

Professor Petersen grew up around Kansas City, MO, and spent eighteen years living in New England.

“I like that Peru is community oriented, and I love the small classes. It gives one-on-one mentor time and offers the students a chance to learn from each other and critique,” said Petersen.

With a B.F.A. from Missouri State University, and a M.F.A. from Savannah College of Art and Design, Professor Petersen brings a wide range of experience to PSC, including book design and illustration, art direction, 2D game art and fine art. Her clients include McGraw-Hill, Harcourt, Highlights for Children education, Creative Quarterly, and the National Heritage Museum.

She exhibits her art work at regional and national venues including the Currier Museum of Art (Manchester, NH), the Danforth Museum of Art (Boston area), and Creative Quarterly.

“I love how art can prompt the individual to see the world more completely and make us more human,” said Petersen.

From October 5 through October 31, PSC displayed “Nature Nurture,” an art exhibit featuring works by Professor Petersen. The exhibit featured art inspired by nature, illustrations for children's picture books, promotional design and game art.

“I love how art can prompt the individual to see the world more completely and make us more human.” – Sheli Petersen

Petersen said, “There are three main strands in my work which all have a connection to narrative. In my first body of work, I fuse my long-standing interest in culture, natural history, and mythology in children's book design and illustration. As an extension of my interest in design and illustration, the second and most recent strand in my creative work focuses on developing 2D game art and animation for game apps. My aesthetic approach in my game art, design and illustration stems from my exploration of traditional media in studio art. In this strand, I convey the intimate relationship of wildlife to the landscape that often suggests a mythological dimension.”

Students Claim National Championships at Business Competition

Six Peru State College students won national championships in three categories at the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in July.

PBL advisor Dr. Sheri Grottrian-Ryan, associate professor of business, was also honored as the National Conference Advisor of the Year for the third time in eight years. She was also recognized with this honor in 2007 and 2012.

PBL is a national business and leadership association. The competition focuses on a wide array of business and leadership-related tests, including subjects ranging from financial analysis and economic concepts to human resource management and business ethics.

Peru State's national champions and their categories include:

First Place - Business Sustainability: Becky Dostal (senior from North Bend, NE) and Amy Poole (senior from Ashland, NE)

First Place - Community Service: Allie Buesing (sophomore from Cozad, NE) Lydia Lusk (junior from North Platte, NE) and Preston Sunneberg (Burchard, NE)

The group won for their presentation of the CHANCE Initiative, a Nemaha County after-school program that promotes healthy eating and physical activity.

First Place - Networking Concepts: Sergey Ratakhin (senior from Peru, NE)

Dr. Greg Galardi, Dean of the School of Professional Studies, said, “The success of the Phi Beta Lambda chapter at Peru State College is a testament to the dedication and quality of our students and the continuous, year-round work of Dr. Sheri Grottrian-Ryan, who was named PBL’s National Conference Advisor of the Year for the third time. We are very proud of their efforts and congratulate them on their continued success.”

Grottrian-Ryan said, “The Peru State students experienced phenomenal success at the National Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference. Having three first-place events involving six individuals is outstanding! I commend all 19 students who placed in the top 10 this year. It highlights the quality of education our students are receiving.”

From L to R) Students that represented Peru State at the national conference: Matt Heskett, Rachel Henry, Ryan Arnold, Charlotte Grooms, Jamie Theye, Amanda Jo Cleek, John Beal, Rebekha Dostal, Allie Buesing, Amy Poole, Dustin Gerdes, Lydia Lusk, Alex Wessels, Tairi Ferguson, Preston Sunneberg, Zach Zobel, Lauren Stewart, Cody Sullivan, Paige Riza, and Jake Long
Friends We Will Miss

1930s
Esther Eunice (Jones, ’35) Pilster of Omaha passed away July 20, 2014. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church for over 60 years and served as both Sunday and Vacation Bible teacher.

Muriel “B” Schaffer Reichardt (’35) of Lander, Wyoming passed away September 15, 2012. She spent most of her time teaching reading and English in middle grade and junior high schools. She was a member of numerous organizations and groups.

Robert Jean Gerber (’39) of Peru passed away July 4, 2014. She taught and coached girls volleyball in Dunbar, then taught business courses at Nebraska City High School. She enjoyed knitting, crafts, boating, fishing, bowling and traveling.

1940s
Margaret (Bence, ’41) Kassing of Beatrice, passed away on October 23, 2014. She was an active community member and an avid reader. She enjoyed historical fiction and autobiographies. She also loved tending her numerous flower gardens and spent many hours riding her lawn mower.

Josefine Boosinger Loennig of Humbolt, passed away August 17, 2014. She worked very hard to put herself through college coming from a very poor family and in the depths of the Great Depression. She always valued her education and had many wonderful memories of her days at Peru. She was a great example of how a good education can enrich a life and a community.

Alta Mayola (Mez, ’45) Fugett of Beatrice, passed away June 12, 2014. She taught for seven years at Fisher, Argo and Cotcher rural schools. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Beatrice and had taught Sunday school. She enjoyed gardening, canning, watching tennis and baseball, and attending her grandchildren’s activities.

Donald Bruns (’47) of Maryland, passed away July 21, 2014.

Bob Graham (’48) of Grand Island, passed away August 17, 2014. He loved to travel and had been to every state in the Union and Canada. He taught high school chemistry, physics, physical science and mathematics at West Point for 15 years, while obtaining his master’s degree at Colorado State College. He then moved to Hastings and taught the same subjects at Hastings High School for 23 years.

Marjorie Marie Graham (’48) of Burr, passed away August 25, 2014. She was a person who remembered people’s birthdays and anniversaries and sent her well wishes either by a phone call or email. She enjoyed bowling, reading, sharing family photos, and visiting with family and friends.

Edith Sykes (’48) of Saint Thomas, Virginia passed away September 2, 2013.

Percy (Perk) Schmelzer (’48) of Fort Collins, Colorado passed away May 12, 2014. He loved the classroom and students best of all. He was active in many professional and church organizations. He enjoyed gardening, carpentry, building and repairing projects at home.

1950s
Doris Elaine (Hayes, ’51) Moore of Arlington, passed away June 9, 2014. Doris taught in rural Nemaha and Richardson counties. She always devoted herself to raising her children and running the household. She loved to sew any chance she got, especially her Christmas tree skirts she made hoping to sell.

Charlene Howrey (’53) of Rogers, Arkansas passed away September 13, 2014. She worked as a teacher for 10 years in various public schools in both Nebraska and Iowa. She was an unselfish loving wife and mother who put her family first. She loved watching sports, especially college football where she was a big fan of the Huskers and the Razorbacks.

Leo Lindahl (’55) of Grand Island, passed away June 15, 2014. Leo was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church, was certified as a Parish Ministry Associate in the ELCA, and worked in Prison Ministry, Toastmasters and the Gideon Society. He enjoyed old cars, reading, and studying his Bible.

George D. Slaughter (’57) of Wymore, passed away August 21, 2013. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy. He taught 31 years in District 60 at the Thatcher School until it closed, then at Somerlid until he retired.

Lorraine Leland “Lou” Haack (’58) of Elk Creek passed away August 6, 2014. He began his career in administration at Filley High School. He dedicated 32 faithful years of service to being superintendent at Treynor High School until retiring.

Sidney Applegate (’58) of Casper, Wyoming passed away August 6, 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951-55 with an overseas tour to ports in Great Britain and the Mediterranean Sea on the Destroyer USS Cone in 1954. He became an elementary school principal in 1960 and later earned a master’s degree. He loved his family and traveling, as long as health allowed. He enjoyed people in general, always willing to strike up a conversation with someone at the local Glenrock establishments.

1960s
Jack Broady (’62) of Omaha, passed away August 30, 2014. He coached Little League baseball for many years, and traveled the Midwest and South for 10 years. He enjoyed working in the shop doing woodwork and he enjoyed doing lawn work.

John Jay Masonbrink (’62) of Humboldt, passed away June 15, 2014. He was the science, chemistry, and physics teacher at Falls City Public Schools for 27 years. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1962 and served for six years during the Vietnam War.

Daryl Alan Bonow (’64) of McCook, passed away September 8, 2014. He enjoyed time with his grandchildren, spending time at their activities. He was a past member of the NSEA and the Nebraska Coaches Association. He had a passion for the St. Louis Cardinals and the Huskers.

Edd McCartney (’64) of Loup City, passed away June 10, 2014. He was a high school teacher and he taught music, math, and computers throughout his teaching career. He was the former Mayor of Loup City and up until his death worked at King’s Variety. He enjoyed woodworking, his cars and traveling. He was a member of the First Christian Church in Grand Island.

Evangeline Beran (’65) of Aurora passed away on July 5, 2014. She was a school secretary and then she became an elementary school teacher. She was a member of Odell United Methodist Church and Rebekah Lodge. She was always ready to greet new people and enjoyed reading, crocheting, solving word puzzles, gardening, bingo, and Cornhusker football.

Dominick Larocca (’66) of Vermillion, South Dakota passed away July 1, 2014. He began the wrestling program in Burwell in ’72 where he stayed as head coach until ’91. He coached 1-3x State Champ, 2-2x State Champs, and 3-1x State Champ. He had 38 State Medal Winners. His teams finished in the top ten ’79-’90. He started the Burwell Pee Wee Wrestling program in ’77 and was the co-founder of the Ogallala Huskerland Wrestling program in ’01 which continues to this day.

Geraldine Laughlin (’66) of Shenandoah passed away September 8, 2014. She was a member of St. Patrick’s Alter Society and Business and Professional Women. She enjoyed shopping, playing cards, polka music, attending ballgames and concerts of her great nieces and nephews, and baking. She was known for her pies, cookies, and panckaes.

Marjorie “Marge” Mock (’66) of Sabetha, passed away August 17, 2014.

Gayle L. Ellison (’67) of Lewiston passed away April 24, 2014. He taught school for one year in Superior then for 42 years at the Lewiston Consolidated School and was a substitute after he retired. Gayle enjoyed his present and past students and was very involved with the activities of Lewiston school, running the clock, being a score keeper, and the quiz bowl.

Donald Armstrong (’68) of Sun City West, Arizona, passed away May 15, 2014. Don coached and taught for several years. He farmed for 10 and spent 18 with AFLAC. He was a member of the Nebraska National Guard, a member of American Legion Post 0027, Beatrice, and Sun City Elks Lodge No. 2559.

Doris (Wyatt, ’68) Windels of Syracuse passed away November 22, 2013. Doris taught rural schools in Otoe and Syracuse, where she retired.
Wyatt Frohling was inducted into the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame November 1, 2014. Frohling wrestled at Peru where he was a 1977 NAIA National Qualifier. He has spent 32 years as a head wrestling coach in three different states.

Doris Galbraith ('63) was honored to receive the Crete Sertoma Service to Mankind Award. Russ Workman ('63) was named the 2014 Wilber-Clatonia Wall of Fame honoree. He taught at Wilber-Clatonia from 1991-1999.

Ron Foreman ('65) retired after working 47 years for the Veterans Administration. Retired to Arizona, playing golf and enjoying his IA training in making furniture for their new home.

Teresa Hahn ('77) was recognized during the Nebraska Career Education Conference in Kearney for receiving the Nebraska State Business Education Honorary Membership Award. She was a business educator for 15 years at Auburn High School, 18 years at Nemaha Valley High School and one year at Table Rock High School.

Ray Kappel ('77) was named the new editor of the Pawnee Republican. As news editor he will be responsible for deciding what stories will be written, placement in the paper, edit copies and work with management on policy. He also does his own photography.

Rochelle Rolfs ('89) of Syracuse became Nebraska girls high school coach of the year. She loved sports and played four years of softball, volleyball, basketball, and track. Rolfs took over the Crusaders’ volleyball program in 1989 and has never left. She taught math for 23 years before becoming the school’s athletic director.

**Look at These Bobcats Go!**

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**Bobcat Love is in the Air**

Jamar “Juma” Williams ('99) got married in April 2010, father of 2 boys and 1 girl.

Jennifer Marie Koehler ('01) and Zachary Randal Borg were married on October 10.

Nicole Janae Kaelin and Brice Alexander King ('11) were married September 13, 2014.

**Welcome Baby Bobcats**

Katrina (Daniels) Moore ('02) and husband Rod had their first child, Daniel Lee, on September 29, 2014.

Jeffrey Schwarz ('09) and Apryl (Petersen) Schwarz ('10) welcomed baby boy #3, Jace Jeffrey on November 13, 2013.