Homecoming:
Once a Bobcat, Always a Bobcat

See story on page 12
This has been a year to remember. For nearly five years, Peru State has been making plans to celebrate its 150th year as the only public institution in Nebraska to celebrate a campus in southeast Nebraska. The Peru State Foundation was on board early and worked hard to plan—and deliver—a host of engaging and celebratory events for this special sesquicentennial year.

As those stories of Peru State’s leadership and faculty continue to emerge, they continue to inspire many others. One of our next milestones will certainly be the 150th Anniversary Gala. Learn more about Gunner’s remarkable achievements on campus leaders, they continue to uncover stories and share a reflection on the faculty or staff present, all guests were invited to raise a glass to their time at Peru State. The impact has resonated for years, even for many decades. As we turn our attention to the future, I encourage you to be involved, be connected, and be a part of Peru State’s next 150 years.

Welcome Upcoming Alumni and Friends Events
Plan the rest of your year with PSC events! Mark your calendars today.
From regional events and the Athletic Hall of Fame to Homecoming – 2018 is a year to remember with exciting activities for the whole family. Learn more at foundation peru.edu and check out EVENTS.

January 13: Basketball Alumni Gathering
Al Wheeler Activity Center with tipoff at 12 pm, for women’s basketball and 2 pm for men’s basketball.

February 3: Annual Bobcat Alumni and Friends Chili Feed
Enjoy basketball, chili and friends during the annual chili feed in the Al Wheeler Activity Center.

February 15: Tampa Alumni and Friends Gathering
Gather with friends for a Peru State tailgate and spring training baseball game.

May 4: Peru State College Commencement
Peru State’s sesquicentennial celebration draws to a close with this capstone event.

June: Omaha Alumni and Friends Dinner
Hosted by the Peru State Alumni, this annual event provides an evening of fun and fundraising to support Peru State students.

Additional events are being scheduled, so check out www.psu.edu/foundation/events for more information. Also save the date for the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame (September 21 and 22) and Homecoming (October 5 and 6).
Peru State Today... Year in Review

Welcome Week 2017

Celebrating Jerry Joy Day

Alumni and Friends Celebrating Swenson Awards

Friends gather at Bobcat Football games

Dennis Obermeyer ('70, '78) and Daryl Obermeyer

Alumni and Friends Celebrating Swenson Awards

Alumni and Friends at the Oak Bowl Tailgate and Game

Solar Eclipse

150th Anniversary of the First Day of Classes at Peru State Commemorative All-Campus Photo

Kansas City Royals Gathering
Year in review

Brownville, NE 4th of July Grand Marshals

Chuck Schoreder, artist, addresses exhibit guests

President's house decorated for the holidays on campus

Proclamation Day Honoring PSC's 150th Anniversary with Governor Ricketts

Peru State's Phi Beta Lambda competitors on the National Leadership Conference stage in Anaheim

New Faculty at PSC: Dr. Nathan Netzer (Chemistry), Dr. Kathleen Nehls (History), Ms. Cassandra Cox (Math), Ms. Heidi Jo Bartlett (Education)

Ted Harshbarger ('77) Named to Phi Beta Lambda National Awards Committee

Scott Riley (left) was elected to the FBLA-PBL National Officer Team

Mary (Inglis) Rinne and Jan (Johnson) Rinne roomed together at PSC and married brothers.

Move-in Day

PSC Football Players Help with Move-In

Alumni Welcome Freshman to Campus

Gran Fondo event

Boo Bash

Proclamation Day Honoring PSC's 150th Anniversary with Governor Ricketts

OCTOBER 14, 2017
The Swenson Awards and Celebration

Each year since 1925, outstanding student-athletes have been presented with the Bert Swenson Award in recognition of their participation in athletics, outstanding character, personality, service, and loyalty to Peru State.

2017-18 Peru State Men’s Basketball Season Preview

This season the Bobcats are led by senior guard Michael Neuberg (North). Last season, Neuberg led the team in minutes played (971), minutes per game and averaged 10.6 points per game. Pura State will also bring back a pair of starters from last year, returning the experienced内蒙古s of the season. This year, Coach Ludwig wants to play aggressively on offense and give players as much freedom as possible to make adjustments that they prove can handle. While going at a high tempo, the players understand the balance of speed and control as well as shot selection.

For more on the team and a complete schedule for the Bobcats, please go to: https://gopics.sports.naia.edu/schedule.

The Swenson Awards and Celebration

New and past Swenson winners (1 to 1) (P) Cruze Brock, Devon Richardson, Troy Jansema, Tim Rap, Jack Langela, The Clearys, Orson Pfeifer, Chris Lindab, Joseph Tief, Mike Voss, Anna Dose, Christina Hafner, Nicole Reichardt, Jill Whit, Jr., Marissa Pfeifer, Chad Frandsen, Ted Edwards, Mark McGirrrey, and Bobcat head basketball coach Wayne Altrey.

Dr. and Mrs. Hanson congratulate the 2017 Swenson Award winners. Pictured is Dr. Hanson and Mrs. Hanson.

The Bobcats are excited to see what the team can accomplish this year. Coach Ludwig wants to play aggressively on offense and give players as much freedom as possible to make adjustments that they prove can handle. While going at a high tempo, the players understand the balance of speed and control as well as shot selection.

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Orcutt Named to 2017 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®

For the first time ever, Peru State has a representative on the 2017 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®. Pura State senior Gunnar Orcutt (Omaha) was among the 11 honorees in the NCAA Division II, DIII, DII, and NAIA groups. Only other NAIA player to be recognized.

This award shines a spotlight on the remarkable stories of athletes and community service displayed by these student-athletes and honorary head coach, and honor their dedication to volunteerism and enriching the lives of others.

Orcutt was clearly excited when the news was shared with him. He said, “I didn’t think it was going to happen. My dad didn’t know what to say. To be the first from Peru State College to accomplish this is a great honor for both of us.”

The Swenson Awards and Celebration

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2017-18 Peru State Women’s Basketball Season Preview

This season the Bobcats are led by senior guard Michael Neuberg (North). Last season, Neuberg led the team in minutes played (971), minutes per game and averaged 10.6 points per game. Pura State will also bring back a pair of starters from last year, returning the experienced内蒙古s of the season. This year, Coach Ludwig wants to play aggressively on offense and give players as much freedom as possible to make adjustments that they prove can handle. While going at a high tempo, the players understand the balance of speed and control as well as shot selection.

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Celebrating Jerry Joy Day at the Oak Bowl

The Jerry Joy Home Locker Room initiative is closing in on the goal of raising $100,000 to name the new Bobcat football home locker room in honor of Hall of Fame coach and former administrative assistant Jerry Joy. The Jerry Joy Home Locker Room initiative was public in April after a surprise announcement. The initiative is a fifteen-year cutting and open house for the fall and the Blue and White spring scrimmage. To promote the naming initiative and fundraising goal, and to celebrate and honor Jerry Joy and his smallest support for Peru State College, President Dan Hanson declared August 26, 2017 as Jerry Joy Day at the Oak Bowl. This celebration occurred during the Bobcat’s first home football game. Joy was joined at the game by family, colleagues and alumni.

The naming initiative was launched by daughter Cristy Joy and nephew Mark Joy who offered to assist in fundraising for the facility if their efforts could be devoted to honoring Jerry. The College readily agreed, and the initiative has inspired more than 30 contributions and nearly $100,000 in donations to improve facilities for student athletes. As a part of Jerry Joy Day at the Oak Bowl, Joy participated in the coin toss, honored friends and family in the Oak Bowl hospitality suites and was recognized at halftime and presented with a commemorative Oak Bowl coin. Jerry Joy also participated in the radio broadcast, as did special guests Al Urwin ’82, Tim Alvis ’81, Dennis Oltman ’77, Barry Lundstrum ’78, Craig Joy, and Mark Joy who reflected on Jerry’s influence in their lives both on and off the football field.

To lend your support to this naming initiative, contact the Peru State College Foundation, at 402-872-2304 or give online at foundation.peru.edu, noting “Jerry Joy Locker Room” in the text box.

Seven Individuals Inducted Into Peru State Athletic Hall of Fame

Prairie State College inducted seven individuals into the Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 19 and 20. This is the 26th group to be inducted into College’s Hall of Fame. Individuals were nominated and selected by the College’s Alumni Office and the Peru State College Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

For those interested in learning more or participating in the planning of this special initiative, contact the PSC Foundation at 402-872-2304 or email Deborah Solie at dsolie@peru.edu.

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Homecoming Parade

National Alumni Association Parade Float

President and Mrs. Hanson at Homecoming Parade

Sheryl (Ehmke) Gaston, '01

Past Homecoming Kings, Queens, and Student Senate Presidents

Past and Present PSC Cheerleaders

2017 Homecoming Court

Toughest Mile

Jazz Band at Picnic on the Quad

Homecoming Fun in the Cold

Past PSC Student Senate Presidents

Past PSC Kings and Queens

First Lady and Cece Harmon, '67 Homecoming Queen

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Daryl and Peggy Long served as Grand Marshals of Peru State Homecoming Parade

The Peru State College Student Senate named Dr. Daryl and Peggy Long as the Grand Marshals of the Homecoming Parade. Daryl Long taught at Peru State College for fifty years, starting in January of 1967, and ending in January of 2017.

Dr. Dan Hanson, president of Peru State College said, “The Longs have dedicated their lives to the region and to the students of Peru State College. Their legacy will live on in the lives of students for years to come.”

Together, the Longs have also had tremendous influence on Tri-State Missouri River Tourism, the Peru Chamber of Commerce, the Nemaha County Development Corporation, Nemaha County Hospital, Southeast Nebraska Development District and River County Economic Development.

The Longs were honored on Saturday, Oct. 28 in the Homecoming Parade. As Grand Marshal, Dr. Long performed the coin toss for the Bobcat football game vs. Graceland University and both were recognized at halftime.

Campus Unveils Gift of New Bronze Sculpture

As a kick-off to Homecoming weekend, Peru State College unveiled a new piece of artwork, a bronze statue called Power of Thought, which was a gift to the college from Dr. Daryl and Peggy Long.

The statue features a figure, arm outstretched, encircled by representations of some of the finest achievements of humankind. Power of Thought was created by Colorado artist Victor Issa. Issa writes that the inspiration for this statue came from “the amazing concept that a single thought could become a world-famous concert hall, an iconic sculpture, a trip to the moon or convert a collection of ordinary materials into what we grow to completely depend upon.”

The Longs came upon the statue while vacationing in Estes Park, Colorado, and felt that it would be a perfect addition to Peru State’s campus. Dozens of people gathered in the lobby of Jindra Fine Arts Building on Friday, October 27, 2017, to see the unveiling and get a first look at the statue. During a short program, Daryl Long expressed his and Peggy’s hope that the Power of Thought will “encourage you to do better, to continue to pursue your dreams.”

Artist Victor Issa shared this wish with the gathered crowd. “I invite you here at Peru State to slow down, to pause, and to think things into existence. To think, why not?” President Dan Hanson stated, “The Power of Thought is especially meaningful this sesquicentennial year as we reflect on the role this college has played during the past 150 years, in generating new knowledge through research, in sharing the thoughts and discoveries of the current and previous generations, and inspiring new perspectives, new thought, new creations and ideas.” Hanson added that the Power of Thought will serve as a reminder of the college’s role in sharing thoughts and new discoveries with each generation.

Campus visitors are encouraged to stop by Jindra Fine Arts Building to enjoy this beautiful new addition to the Peru State College Campus.

Daryl Long, Victor Issa, and Peggy Long celebrate the installation and unveiling of Power of Thought on the Jindra Fine Arts Building.
Leading the Cheers For The Bobcats

Laura Bando-Ross ('98), Jason Ross ('99)
Dan and Elaine Hanson celebrate new members of the 1867 Society

Laura described the College as a “teaching tool” and place where the townies taught people from different cultures and backgrounds. “It was an inviting culture,” she said. “I made friends for a lifetime there.”

Jason agreed, adding, “I wasn’t a number at Peru State. I was part of something. It was a true community.”

Recalling Peru State in the 1990s, Jason said, “The campus has always been beautiful, but back then it was much uglier. The college, today, the campus has come so far, it’s amazing.”

A few years after graduation, Jason and Laura reconnected. After a marriage proposal and a few years later, the two were married. Laura is employed as a social worker for Arise Health and Jason for CHI Health St. Mary’s in Nebraska City as a structural technician.

Recently, Laura and Jason completed a class project and made the decision to join the Peru State College Foundation as a beneficiary of retirement funds or life insurance, contact the Peru State College Foundation at 402-872-2304 or by email at pscfoundation@peru.edu.

Davis Retires From Peru State After 33 Years

Dr. Spencer Davis, professor of history, retired from Peru State College. His last teaching semester was the spring of 2017 with an official end date in August.

From teaching language arts to her current position, Davis has taught a wide variety of courses, including Literature of Africa, History, Modern Africa and more. “Since 2012, I have been picking out books for my classes at Peru, teaching courses like World Mythology, African American History, Black History Museum in Omaha, and it was lovely to have my students known as friends,” said Davis.

While his teaching assignments at Peru State focused on Classics and Literature, Davis has taught a wide variety of courses, including Literature of Africa, History, Modern Africa, and more. “Since 2012, I have been picking out books for my classes at Peru, teaching courses like World Mythology, African American History, Black History Museum in Omaha, and it was lovely to have my students known as friends,” said Davis.

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Students Share to Tell Their PSC Experiences

This past fall, 50 students gathered to share their Peru State experience with alumni and friends during the Phonathon campaign. “I really enjoy speaking with alumni and friends,” said Remotn Syher, sophomore. “I feel that there’s something happening in Peru, and they tell me about their own experiences. This is the second time I’ve participated in Phonathon and I’d do it because I love it.”

Under the direction of the Peru State College Foundation, the Phonathon is held for two weeks each fall and spring. Funds raised during Phonathon are spent on things important to students – scholarships, graduate assistantships, student organizations, club support, and more.

Phonathon is also an opportunity for students to directly thank donors who support the Peru State Mission.

Moved a call during Phonathon but would still like to give? Visit peru.thanks4caring.org to give today.

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Lighting the Way for 150 Years

All students, alumni, and friends were invited to visit the Peru State College campus as the college celebrated the sesquicentennial Christmas. This was a time of festive celebrations in the Student Union and around the campus. The college hosted a special gathering at the end of the day to celebrate the past 150 years of education at PSC. As alumni and community members stepped onto campus, they took a stroll back in time to 1867. Brilliant themes of red, white, and blue destroyed the decor of the Student Union. Lemonade was served on deck chairs, candles in the students of campus buildings, and events streamed with alumni, parents, students, faculty, and red and gold ribbon everywhere as they crossed campus.

Campus Decorating

The trees were decorated, 40 wreaths were hung on doors, gold, and lights adorned the lampposts, and the lanterns were ready for lighting. In honor of the College’s 150th anniversary celebration, it’s an old-fashioned Christmas celebration on the Peru State campus this year.

It took the cooperation of 78 students and 14 adult helpers, under the leadership of First Lady Elise Hanson, 131 volunteer hours to accomplish the decorating. The student groups contributing time and talents included Christian Student Fellowship, Softball, BLU, Cross Country, Rosenwald, PE/TAF, Golf, and NFL.

While enjoying the sesquicentennial at PSC, don’t forget to stop by the Little Red Schoolhouse at the entrance to campus. Inside, you will find 150 years of Peru State history displayed along with campus maps and walking route guides. And before you leave, sign the guest book inside the Student Union and stop by the Foundation Office located in the SAC Lounge for a gift bag.

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Reflections of a Brilliant, Young Lady

By Ray McIsaac, ’62

These are excerpts from an essay written by a brilliant young lady, my sister Mary, during her time at Peru State College. Born in 1921, the only sibling of seven children, and thirteen years my older. Diagnosed with diabetes at the age of ten, she lived to be twenty-six years of age before passing away from complications of this disease.

Mary was a very bright student, and was taken into “Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities,” a senior year at Peru State College. Following her graduation from high school, where she took “Normal Training,” she immediately began teaching in “Country Schools” to work her way through school. She attended Peru State College and was a gold medalist in her senior year. Mary attended Nebraska Wesleyan University for a year, and later attended Nebraska State College.

Upon her college graduation she embarked on her “career-to-be” as a high school English teacher in Villisca, Iowa. Shortly thereafter the school year took its full toll on her diabetic-related condition, and she was hospitalized for several weeks.

Upon her recovery she lived at home for a time and then spent the rest of her life in Stockton, California, living with an ex-husband that she and my parents had raised. The dream was that she could receive better care from doctors in San Francisco who were conducting diabetes research.

No. 2, there were thirty pupils in attendance. Nearly half of these were my first cousins. I had always worked hard in school, not because I had to, but because I loved everything about school—especially books and reading. Now I began to study even harder; trying to make up for my physical disability by earning the highest grades of my class. I used to look forward to each day, pondering in my mind the nice things that were going to happen, or guessing at those that might happen.

Though I was very slow in growing up, when I began my junior year in high school, everyone marveled at my sudden increase in stature and weight. My remaining high school years passed so swiftly that before I fully realized what was happening, I was applying for colleges. Upon her college graduation she embarked on her “career-to-be” as a high school English teacher in Villisca, Iowa. Shortly thereafter the school year took its full toll on her diabetic-related condition, and she was hospitalized for several weeks.

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Peru State Alumni Directory

Peru State is excited to announce that we are publishing an alumni directory in 2018 in honor of the 150th anniversary. The PSC Foundation has contracted with Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI), a reputable publisher that works with numerous universities nationwide. Over the last couple of months, PCI will be contacting Peru State alumni via mail, phone, and email to invite them to participate in our Alumni Directory Project at www.peru.edu/foundation. Alumni Directory is opt-in. Learn more about Peru State College alumni via mail, phone, and email to PCI will be contacting Peru State alumni.

Delzell Hall: What's New?

• Existing dorm rooms were fully remodeled with new sinks, cabinets, carpet tiles, doors and paint.
• The finished rooms have new desks, chairs, dressers, and small beds complete with resemble mattresses. New windows and white window blinds were installed throughout.
• A complexsounds of smooth/shower features were completed and like, the original bathrooms, used white tile.
• Lounges that were previously used as dorm rooms were turned into small gathering spaces with new furnishings and wall-mounted flat screen TVs.
• The Great Hall had a woodwork refreshed, flooring updated, and more LED lights installed. The fireplace was cleaned and the original hanging fixtures were remodeled with new lighting for LED Edison bulbs. Public restrooms were installed on the first floor near to the Great Hall.
• A workshop has been provided for the Resident Advisors in the first floor and an accessible print station for students is located nearby.
• Efficient heating and cooling for the renovated dorms include a mechanical system that supplies a geothermal well field consisting of 60 vertical wells, 350 feet deep which takes advantage of the constant, year-round moderate ground temperatures and provides efficient heating and cooling.
• A new HVAC facility includes air conditioning.
• A new electrical system accommodates information technology requirements and there is enhanced building security including.
• A handicapped accessible elevator was installed on the north side of the building to allow those with disabilities enter all floor levels, including the attic.
Doug Goltz ('86)

North School.

Falls City Public Schools and teaches 2nd grade at

of Falls City

years, Tom received many teaching and coaching

at the middle school.

Dan also began teaching health

in the 1940s

collected sympathy cards, notes and
ing cards and crafts.

rural Deshler.  Lois is best known for her baking

of Deshler passed away October 21, 2017.  After receiving her teaching certificate from

of Stuart, IA passed away

of Nebraska City has been

the Sioux City, Iowa Symphony Orchestra and the

at Lincoln Orchestra, the University of Nebraska

the Murdock United Methodist Church, where

where she was one of the

of Nebraska City passed

of Lincoln passed away

was hired as the
district, where he is an Engineering Technician I.

of Beatrice passed away June

of Beatrice

at the Rockport High

began work with Beatrice

at the University of Nebraska Community College of the

To join the Rockport High

in the Atlantic during World War II.  He

convoys in the Atlantic during World War II.  He

served the

of Grand Island passed

of Grand Island

of Lincoln passed away

of Alliance passed away October

of Alliance

of Stuart

2017.  She wore many

of Herbert passed away

of Nebraska City Museum Association

Loma Sack ('79)

District, where he is an Engineering Technician I.

Harry Hnatek ('73)

of the Boys

of FBLA-PBL since he studied at PSC in the 70s.

Reducer (14) of Lincoln passed away

on the football field.

and the Peru Senior Citizens Center.  She was

and the Peru Senior Citizens Center.  She was

of Beatrice was inducted into the Interstate 35 Hall of Fame

on the football field.

for his play in three

of the St. Louis Cardinals organization following

lettering in track and golf.  While Peru did not

and coach for 38 years, missing only four days of

was inducted into the Interstate 35 Hall of Fame

in the St. Louis Cardinals organization following

Dale enjoyed being a teacher

be remembered for the many cards, notes and
driving his students crazy.

Barbara (Durnford) Milbrandt

of Beatrice was inducted into the Interstate 35 Hall of Fame

in the St. Louis Cardinals organization following

and the Peru Senior Citizens Center.  She was

the Peru Senior Citizens Center.  She was

the Peru Senior Citizens Center.  She was

coaches both foot-

in the United School District Community School

Malissa Reinhard ('91)

of Lincoln has been selected as the Boys

14th out of 33 teams.

Sara Neavelson ('17)

in the 1940s

enjoyed gardening, reading, puzzles, games, play-

of Deshler.  Lois is best known for her baking

of Deshler passed away October 21,

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Inside this Peru Stater you’ll find...

| Pg.  3 - 7 | Alumni Event and Photos |
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► Create a login. Once created you will remain logged in to the app.
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