Engaging the Future

Almost nine years ago, I joined the Peru State College community as president and one of the first large projects the College undertook was to write a strategic plan titled “Essential Engagement.” After a year of planning, the vision this plan shared focused College energy on creating engaged learning opportunities for students, outreach in southeast Nebraska, increasing the prominence of the institution, and enhancing facilities.

The most noticeable outcomes for people outside the institution are the many impressive facility enhancements. These include the renovations of Morgan Hall, Delzell Hall, the Oak Bowl, TJ Majors, the Park Avenue campus entrance project and the current Theatre/Event Center renovation and addition.

However, the focused attention on engaged learning created a student-centered educational approach that immerses students in active learning environments on campus and throughout the region. This has become a part of the Peru State culture and a key to our distinctiveness as an institution. Thousands of students have benefitted from this approach, with many students earning national awards demonstrating its effectiveness.

This focus on engaged learning is rooted in sound educational research. That research has found that institutions can arrange their curriculum and other student experiences to engage students, resulting in greater motivation and effort by students (Kuhl et al., 2005).

The focus on engaged learning also fits the College’s 150-year tradition of transforming student lives through personal educational experiences possible only in a small-college environment. Finally, focusing on engagement in the region highlights the important role the College plays in the area, giving students relevant learning opportunities and increasing prominence.

Beginning the fall semester of 2016, Peru State College embarked on another comprehensive strategic planning process. The new plan, “Engaging the Future,” extends the College’s vision for six more years. It builds on the culture emerging from the last plan and continues to emphasize engagement in the classroom, engagement across campus and engagement in the region and beyond.

The College community participated in an extensive conversation about this new vision, and while it is an aggressive plan, the College community is committed to its priorities. The creation of this new six-year plan was led by a strategic planning committee composed of faculty, staff, students, alumni and area community members and a member of the Peru State College Foundation Board.

The new strategic plan is both a recommitment to the themes of the previous strategic plan and a new formulation of what it means to learn, work and engage at Peru State College. The themes of creating engaged learning opportunities for students, outreach in southeast Nebraska, increasing the prominence of the institution, and enhancing facilities are clearly continuing to shape the future of the College. Moreover, new perspectives and new solutions were found in the planning process, culminating in a continued promise to serve and educate southeast Nebraska and the region.

The strategic plan builds on the recent and historic success to create a narrative about the institution’s direction and the priorities to achieve this vision. Extensive conversations with campus and community constituents brought the campus together in a common vision and drove the formulation of a new vision, new values and new strategic plan. There is some work yet to do in this process, but I am pleased to share the results of the planning process here.

Learn more on page 19.

All the Best,

Dan Hanson, Ph.D.
President
Taking the Long View

For several reasons, I keep being reminded of the phrase, “taking the long view.”
No, I’m not making trips up to Mount Vernon Cemetery, although the view from that hilltop certainly offers the best – and longest – view around.
It is because I have had the opportunity recently to work with many people who have a confidence in and enthusiasm for the future. They keep reminding me to look beyond my weekly and monthly calendar to a more distant future.
Reason number one: By the time you read this, Peru State’s sesquicentennial commemorations will have officially concluded with the celebration of Commencement on May 5. I can’t help but ask myself this question: where will the College and the Foundation be when it is time to celebrate the next big anniversary, the bicentennial or tri-centennial? What is happening today to position the College for that next major milestone?
President Dan Hanson is truly forward-looking. His leadership throughout the College’s recent strategic planning initiative have pressed all of us on the planning committee to imagine the future we want to see, and then put pen to paper and plan the steps that will take us there.
Reason number two: Recently I have had an opportunity to talk with an alumna who is including the Peru State College Foundation in her estate plan. I know that I am really asking her to take the long view. Her eventual gift to the College will arrive at some uncertain point in the future. Because it is designated as a portion of her estate, the eventual amount of this gift is even uncertain. However, that uncertainty is perfectly acceptable. Whenever this gift arrives, and whatever its final amount will be, it will support students, faculty and staff who will be a part of this College in 10, 20 or even 30 years in the future. She is excited by that idea, and feels good knowing that she has made plans to give back in a way that reflects her gratitude for what she feels she has been given by her education at Peru State.
Reason number three: I have had the honor and great pleasure of working with Dr. Daryl and Mrs. Peggy Long for several months to develop a program to prepare students for professional and financial success. Daryl Long, a professor and a farmer, is a master of long-term thinking. Perhaps his two occupations have taught him this skill, semester after semester, from planting to harvest.
Last semester, with Daryl and Peggy’s encouragement and financial support, the College and Foundation hosted an informational luncheon for students that shared the rules of professional dining etiquette and provided advice on financial planning. The program was given by two other people with lengthy relationships to Peru State: Ted Harshbarger (’77), devoted staff member and our campus expert in dining etiquette; and Mary (Wilson) Oestmann (’67), daughter of faculty members Gil and Mary Ruth Wilson, and a licensed financial planner.
Ted, Mary, Daryl and Peggy all have deep roots in Peru and nearly life-long connections to the College. They came together to share information with students that would prepare them to do well in a job interview, to make good financial decisions with those first “real” paychecks, and to set themselves up for a lifetime of future success. Hopefully, some of these students, well-prepared for their futures, will give back to their alma mater. In their turn, they will help the next generation of students gain education, skills, friendships, and fun at Peru State College.
Investing in education is all about taking the long view. So many of our Peru State College alumni and friends have made the decision to give back to Peru State, investing in students today and positioning Peru State College for a bright future. Thank you.

Upcoming Alumni and Friends Events
Plan the rest of your year with PSC events! Mark your calendars today.

From regional activities to Homecoming and the Performing Arts Center Grand Opening – the summer and fall will be packed with fun events for the whole family. Learn more at foundation.peru.edu and click on EVENTS.

July 20: Kansas City Royals Tailgate and Game
Bobcat alumni and friends are invited for food, fun and baseball under the lights with a tailgate and game (Royals vs Twins).

August 25: Bobcat Football Tailgate and Game
Bobcat alumni and friends are invited for food, fun and football with a tailgate before the Hastings College vs Peru State College football game in Hastings, NE.

September 21 and 22: Athletic Hall of Fame
Four individuals and one team will be inducted into the PSC Athletic Hall of Fame with a Friday banquet and Saturday induction.

October 5 and 6: Homecoming and Reunions
10, 20, 30, 40 and 50-year milestone reunions will be celebrated during Homecoming. All alumni and friends are invited to participate in the family-friendly events throughout Friday and Saturday.

October 25, 26 and 27: Performing Arts Center Grand Opening
The newly renovated, and renamed, Performing Arts Center will be officially re-opened with a variety of music and entertainment for the whole family.

November 13: Lincoln Alumni and Friends Gathering
Alumni and friends in the Lincoln area are invited for food, fun and an update from PSC President, Dan Hanson.
A true blue Bobcat family enjoyed the PSC Chili Feed! Will Jackson ('13) and Madilyn Jackson ('14), with their two children Samuel (2 years) and Annie (5 months old).

Food, fun and hoops highlighted the chili feed. Pictured from L to R: Ilma (Gobber) Gottula ('65) and Arlene (Borcher) Fell ('67).

Alumni and friends gather throughout the year! A mini 70s reunion was held in Lincoln. Pictured with their Bobcat bags from L to R: Evey (Heebner) Lesoing ('74), PJ (Schultz) Criger ('74), Kay (Nutzman) Serdes ('75), Peggy (Kreifels) Groff ('76), Bobbi Thiesfeld ('75), Denise (Beaumont) Mabie ('74).
More than 100 alumni and friends gathered prior to the men’s basketball game during the DI NAIA men’s basketball tournament. Pictured from L to R: Kevin Mowery ('89), Cindy (Walla) Mowery ('92), Bonnie (Mick) Henzel ('86), Vince Henzel ('86).

Peru State fans of all ages gathered during the Chili Feed including Jacquelyn Douglas (granddaughter of Joyce Douglas, PSC Foundation Board of Director treasurer) and her friend.

Retirees from Peru State College were honored this spring at an employee appreciation luncheon. Pictured from L to R: Bill Clemente (Professor of English, School of Arts and Sciences), Pat Rippe (Director of Field Experiences, School of Education), Liz Kearney (Assistant Professor, School of Education) and Hal Eltiste (Maintenance Repair Worker III, Campus Services).

Following spring commencement, Peru State alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends gathered to place items of significance in a time capsule to be opened in 2067. The time capsule will be buried under the new Sesquicentennial Plaza outside the remodeled theatre and event center. Ron Nolte ('70) places a print of the sesquicentennial painting featuring the PSC campus.

More than 400 alumni and friends gathered to celebrate Peru State College basketball. Pictured L to R: Mary Lu (Hicks) McCoy ('68), Chuck Mizerski ('89).

Chili, toppings and cinnamon rolls were the food of choice during the Chili Feed on February 3. Pictured L to R: Barb (Fritz) Jones ('73) and Dallas “Larry” Jones ('72).

Alumni and friends gathered in Tampa, Florida to hear an update on the College from President Dan Hanson and reminisce about their time at PSC. Pictured L to R: Dan Hanson, Marvin Campbell ('81), Alvin Holder ('82), Jonnie Stewart ('81), Jerry Joy ('84), Terrill Williams ('84), Bob Bowman ('85) - all members of the 1980 Hall of Fame football team.
Save-the-Date: Newly Renovated Theatre and Plaza Opens October 2018

Voices raised in harmony, stages set for theatre productions and the Hoyt Street Jazz Band poised to entertain a crowd. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, family and friends these activities and many more will be heard in the newly renovated College Theatre this fall. A renovation and expansion of the theatre is underway and the building will reopen in October as the Peru State College Performing Arts Center.

“Quality facilities reflect a quality education. A renovated theatre will be a more accurate reflection of the quality education students receive at Peru State,” said Dan Hanson, PSC President. “This fall we invite all alumni, friends and community members to commemorate the renovation with Grand Opening events scheduled for October 25, 26 and 27.”

With more than $800,000 raised, the renovation includes a grand piano, stage lighting, flooring, rigging and curtain, an audio/video projection system, new green room, expanded dressing rooms and more.

“Peru State donors are incredibly generous and with their help we were able to fully fund the renovation project and provide better, safer accommodations for audiences and performers, a new event space on campus and support continued growth of music and theatre programs,” said Todd Simpson, CEO, PSC Foundation. “This space will be used by the local community and become a regional event center.”

The renovation budget also included funding for a plaza adjacent to and south of the theatre. The plaza will commemorate Peru State’s sesquicentennial and feature an opportunity for alumni and friends to leave their mark on campus through an engraved paving stone initiative. Additional information on the paving stone program may be found at www.peru.edu/foundation/pavingstone.

With the scheduled grand opening of the Performing Arts Center, the community, donors to the project, alumni and friends are invited to celebrate this historic renovation. Below is a tentative schedule of events. For additional information and up-to-date details, visit www.peru.edu/pac.

Performing Arts Center Grand Opening

Thursday, October 25, 2018
TBD Master Class
Artist taught class with current PSC students
7 p.m. Sneak Peek Concert: PSC and High School Performances
Showcase PSC student talent and engage area high school students - Performing Arts Center

Friday, October 26, 2018
TBD Master Class
Artist taught class with current PSC students
6 p.m. Performing Arts Center Ribbon Cutting and Gala Reception - Sesquicentennial Plaza, Performing Arts Center Lobby
6:15-7 p.m. Performing Arts Center Tours. Depart from Performing Arts Center Lobby
7:30 p.m. Gala Performance
Featuring Nebraska Brass and PSC Students - Performing Arts Center
10:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center After Hours
Featuring CAB speaker for current students - Performing Arts Center

Saturday, October 27, 2018
8 a.m. Toughest Mile Run ending at the Performing Arts Center
10-11 a.m. Live Music Yoga - Sesquicentennial Plaza
11 a.m. Theatre Improv/Workshop - Performing Arts Center
12 p.m.-2 p.m. Performing Arts Center Tours - Depart from PAC Lobby
2 p.m. Phi Alpha Theta Oral History Documentary Premier and Panel - Performing Arts Center

A rendering of Sesquicentennial Plaza.

Sesquicentennial Plaza Program

Leave your mark on Peru State College’s campus.

Peru State College Foundation
P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421
402-872-2304
foundation.peru.edu/plaza
pscfoundation@peru.edu

Peru State College is celebrating a 150-year tradition built on a passion for student-centered education with strong relationships between students and dedicated faculty and staff.

Alumni and friends have a unique opportunity to celebrate the College’s sesquicentennial and recognize their experiences on campus, as well as support future generations of students.

The paving stones will be placed in the plaza, south of the newly renovated Performing Arts Center east of the Administration Building, where they may be enjoyed by all who walk through campus for generations to come.

When you make a donation through the Sesquicentennial Plaza Program, you will leave a permanent mark on the Peru State College campus and support the College’s areas of greatest need.

Donations to the Sesquicentennial Plaza Program may be made using three different options:

1. Pay the full amount outright by check or debit/credit card.
2. Two-year pledge (pay 50% of donation each year):
   a. $500 in year 1 and $500 in year 2 for 6”x12” paving stones
   b. $250 in year 1 and $250 in year 2 for 4”x12” paving stones
3. Monthly giving over 24 months (amount determined based on donation).

Paving stones will be engraved once full payment has been received by the PSC Foundation.

Two sizes of paving stones are available to recognize donations at these levels:

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A rendering of Sesquicentennial Plaza.

Peru State College Foundation
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foundation.peru.edu/plaza
pscfoundation@peru.edu
Two murals are part of the renovation Peru State College Theatre (to be renamed the Peru State Performing Arts Center) depicting Old Main and Professor Hoyt at his telescope. Pictured are the murals as they were installed by sculptor Jay Tschetter and Images in Brick. To learn more about the murals and the renovations, visit peru.edu/services/projects.
Inside-Out Program – A transformative educational experience

Daniel Hayes, Instructor of Criminal Justice

“Over the last semester we brought together students from Peru State and students from within the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution to discuss the criminal justice system and how race, class and gender affect an individual’s experience with that system.”

The theme for the spring 2018 Inside Out course was developed throughout the semester culminating with a presentation to prison and Peru State College administrators with recommendations on how to transform the public perception of incarcerated persons and correctional institutions – Tecumseh State Correctional Institution specifically.

Peru State students and incarcerated students partnered to present recommendations to educate and inform the public about positive development made by incarcerated persons within the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services facilities.

A quote taken from the final paper developed by both inside and outside students, shares the thesis behind their recommendations. “The purpose of our final project is to give a voice to those of us, on both sides of these prison walls, who are doing all that we can to transform lives. We that are here, guilty of some crime, some harm, wish to be different. Strive for change and desire daily an opportunity to return to society and live a good life. Those of us that come in, seeking to help with this change, want a safer society, better returning citizens and a more welcoming community.”

Over the course of the semester, inside and outside students are asked to challenge themselves, step outside their comfort zone and talk about difficult subjects. “College is an important time for students to stretch themselves beyond their comfort zone,” said Dan Hanson, president of PSC. “This class is an example of engaged learning that positions our students to be leaders in their fields.”

By the end of the last class, there was laughter and tears as the inside and outside students said goodbye – knowing they had learned from each other, gained experiences that would help them in the future and that they would not see each other again.

PSC Students and Incarcerated Students Recommendations

Developing a Tecumseh State Correctional Institution Facebook page monitored by the prison’s Public Information Officer for incarcerated persons to share their story with weekly updates about the activities and achievements happening within the prison.

Developing a Tecumseh State Correctional Institution podcast to share the stories of inmates – engaging incarcerated persons in a positive project, educating the public about positive strides made by incarcerated persons.

Updating the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services to reflect courses and seminars taken by incarcerated persons to better themselves.

These recommendations were presented to the Warden Brad Hansen of the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution during the final presentation.

What is the Inside-Out program?

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How did the Inside-Out program get started at Peru State College?
A: The Inside-Out program was brought to Peru State’s campus by Kelly Asmussen, professor of criminal justice. He attended training through the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program and made the necessary contacts with the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution and Peru State College to implement the program. After his retirement in 2016, Danny Hayes, instructor of criminal justice at PSC, completed the Inside-Out program training and became the local program facilitator.

Q: Is it safe to teach a class in prison?
A: According to the Inside-Out program website, teaching in prison is actually quite safe. The administrators would never allow the class to happen at all if they thought there was a safety concern. For another, incarcerated participants tend to value highly the opportunity to participate in an Inside-Out course, and would be unlikely to do anything to jeopardize it. Also, those who might have a higher potential to cause a safety problem are screened out of participating in the course by corrections staff.

Finally, even though bonds between and among students inevitably form throughout the semester, Inside-Out is not a vehicle for developing relationships that will exist outside the parameters of the program. Only first names are used and no other identifying information is shared. Parameters are critical to this program, as it exists within a very clear-cut, black and white environment.

Q: Who is an inside student and who is an outside student?
A: Inside students are incarcerated in the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Outside students are college students participating in the program.

For additional information about the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, visit www.insideoutcenter.org.
Marty Allgood Scholarship Shares Law Enforcement Legacy

Marty Allgood was born in Peru to Clyde and Ellen (Applegate) Allgood, the fourth of nine children. His father was the town police officer, and Marty followed in his father’s footsteps and began his own career in law enforcement in 1967 when he joined the Nebraska City Police Department. He was the father of seven children and spent most of the next four decades working in law enforcement, retiring in 2008 from the NCPD.

Marty died August 1, 2017, and his family has chosen to honor his memory and his commitment to law enforcement by establishing the Martin E. Allgood Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Scholarship. This new scholarship will be awarded to a Peru State junior or senior Criminal Justice major who is planning a career in law enforcement.

When establishing the scholarship, Carey Allgood, one of Marty’s daughters, said, “My dad was committed to his community and to law enforcement. He would go out of his way to help people, and he devoted himself to making Nebraska City a safe and caring community.”

Criminal Justice is a popular area of study for a variety of careers. The traditional path leads to careers in law enforcement, including pathways to federal careers with the Department of Justice. Criminal justice majors also find careers with the courts and corrections. Students with a Criminal Justice degree also have access to business and corporate jobs, such as loss prevention specialists, fraud examiners, and private security.

Dr. Greg Galardi, Dean of the School of Professional Studies and a former police officer himself said, “Students seeking a career in law enforcement are typically dedicated to public service first before all other benefits associated with this career field. This scholarship will be of substantial benefit to them and Peru State College.”

Establishing a scholarship with the Peru State College Foundation is a simple process, and a powerful way to celebrate a legacy in a career field, a commitment to education, a connection to Nebraska, or an interest in investing in the lives of young people.

To explore the many options for supporting scholarships at Peru State College, contact the Foundation at 402-872-2304.
August 13, 1963 – December 24, 2017

The Peru State family lost a devoted Bobcat December 24, 2017 – Coach Mark Mathews. Few can boast the career Coach Mathews had, which impacted hundreds of students, his co-workers, his family and friends.

Close friend and colleague, Ted Harshbarger ('77), associate athletic director and sports information director for Peru State, gave a eulogy at Coach Mathews' funeral and at the on-campus tribute.

Below is an excerpt:

In 1994, Mark took over the softball program at Peru State. He is the longest-serving coach in softball and is also one of the longest-serving coaches ever at the College. His 584 career wins – which he would deflect back to being team wins – put him as 15th in the NAIA in active coaches. While he was proud of all of his teams' efforts, obviously, the 1996 national tournament team and the 2006 regular-season and tournament champs were highlights.

There were numerous comments on social media from softball players and others, including umpires, about how Mark cared about his field. As many of you know, Mark cared for his field like no other. If someone would come by his or my office and if he wasn't there, I would just say, “I bet he is out at the field.” Many players wondered why he spent so much time there, but most finally realized he was doing it for them because he wanted the field to be in the best shape it could be whether for a game or for practice.

And don't even get me started about trees – he learned a lot about trees from his family and was a true believer in preserving and planting more trees. For those who didn't know, prior to each senior day he planted a tree for each senior player. That was something he was very proud to do.

Several former players commented about how he cared for them after they were injured – even when it was a season-ending one. I can tell you that if one of his players was injured, it injured him as well.

Everyone – that was the epitome of Coach Mathews – he really did want the best for everyone he came into contact with while here on earth. Whether you were a player of his or some other student-athlete or whether you were in the show choir or you were the leader of an organization on campus, Mark wanted everyone to do the best they could and he would be there to support them if he could.

And that can be said about how he cared for his colleagues as well. And the same could be said about his immediate and extended family.

Coach Mark Mathews’ PSC record:

Mark started working at Peru State in 1993 as an assistant football coach and maintenance worker. He was an assistant football coach for six years.

In 1994, he became the head softball coach and had just begun his 25th season at the helm of the Peru State softball program. Through his 24 seasons, his teams had won 584 games, which is over 70% of all of the wins in Bobcat softball history. Heading into the 2018 season, Mark was 15th in the NAIA as a winningest coach.

The 1996 season was a Peru State first as Mark led the Bobcats to a school-best 42-23 mark and took them to their only NAIA National Tournament. The 1996 team was inducted into the Peru State Hall of Fame in 2015.

In 2006, the Bobcats won the MCAC regular season and tournament titles. These were the first MCAC championships in softball for the College. That year, Mark was awarded the MCAC and Region IV “Coach of the Year” titles.

As many of his colleagues know, not only did his teams experience success on the field, but the women were successful in the classroom. Forty-eight of his players earned NAIA Scholar-Athlete honors, while many others were NFCA Scholar-Athletes, and CoSIDA All-District honorees. In addition, numerous Bobcat softball teams were named as NAIA Scholar Teams.

In September 2018, Coach Mark Mathews will be inducted into the 2018 PSC Athletic Hall of Fame for his service to Peru State College, athletics and softball.
Quotes from some of the individuals Coach Mathews impacted during his time at Peru State (as shared on social media):

Coach, you were such an amazing man who impacted and inspired so many people in your life. You were more than a coach to us. You truly cared for each and every one of your players. I am so glad that I got to come to the alumni softball game a few months ago and spent some extra time with you.

-Michelle Wedge Eutsler (’04)

Coach truly was one of a kind and had such an impact on anyone and everyone he met. From the day he recruited us to our graduation, you guys were so welcoming and willing to help us whenever. Coach Mathews will be missed.

-Chelsea Reznicek (’17) and Nicole Reznicek

Won’t find a more true and dedicated Bobcat. -Randall “RJ” Wollenburg (’02)

His passion for the game and the amount of blood, sweat, and tears he put into that field to bring it up to his high standards are nothing short of impressive.

-Jiree Wilson

He was always so upbeat, friendly, and positive. He never changed, he loved Peru and was a part of it. He touched so many people not just the girls he coached. I will always remember him for what he did for everyone else.

-Brent Strittmatter (’94)

to your family for sharing you with us. You were an incredible man; you will always have a special place in my heart. Once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat.

-Amy Shotts (’08)
2018 Peru State Athletic Hall of Fame Announced

The Peru State Athletic Hall of Fame committee has announced its 2018 Hall of Fame class which includes four individuals and one team. This will be the 27th group to be inducted into the College’s select group since its start in 1986.

On behalf of the committee, Peru State President Dr. Dan Hanson and Foundation Chief Executive Officer Todd Simpson have announced that Dr. Tom Hallstrom (Omaha), Mark Mathews (posthumously) (Peru/St. Paul), Kent Propst (Fayette, Mo.), Brett Richards (Papillion), and the 1988-89 Bobcat women’s basketball team are being inducted.

A reception, followed by a banquet, will begin at 5:30 p.m., on Friday, Sept 21, in the Student Center. Reservations for this event must be made in advance. For more information, contact the Foundation Office at 402-872-2304 or email Deborah Solie at dsolie@peru.edu.

The honorees will also be recognized at halftime of the football game versus Missouri Valley on Saturday, Sept. 22. The game begins at 1 p.m. and will be held in the Oak Bowl.

Hanson said, “We are thrilled to be able to honor Peru State College’s outstanding student-athletes and administrators in this way. Each of these individuals has made a significant and lasting impact on our athletic programs that will not be forgotten. Their talent and determination have greatly contributed to the College’s long and proud tradition of athletic excellence. We look forward to honoring more Peru State athletic standouts in the future.”

The following are the 2018 honorees:

- Dr. Tom Hallstrom – 1949 – Meritorious Service
- Mark Mathews – 1993-2018 – Coach and Meritorious Service
- Kent Propst – 1981 – Meritorious Service
- Brett Richards – 1992 – Athlete
- 1988-89 Women’s Basketball Team

Athletic Hall of Fame – 27th Year

When the Al Wheeler Activity Center was dedicated in 1986, the Peru State College Athletic Hall of Fame was established. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize, honor and preserve the memory of those individuals and teams whose contributions have greatly enhanced Nebraska's first college.

The Hall of Fame gallery resides in the lobby of the Wheeler Center, named after the first inductee into the Hall of Fame, Alfred G. Wheeler. A candidate can be nominated in one of four categories: coach, player, team, or meritorious service.

A committee of alumni makes the selections annually each spring.

For additional information on this year’s planned activities and previous inductees go to alumni.edu/foundation/events.

Nominations are welcomed and can be submitted to PSC Athletic Hall of Fame, c/o Alumni Office, Peru State College, P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421. For additional information, call (402) 872-2304.

Joan Albury returns to Peru State as Head Women's Basketball Coach

In addition to previously serving as coach for two seasons, Albury has been interim head coach for the program since the beginning of the second semester. Steve Schneider, former athletic director at Peru State said, "Joan is a person of integrity, understands the game, is organized, is a team player and is certainly an individual who models the values of the champions of character. She will be an excellent role model for our student-athletes. We look forward to her leadership of the program."

Thomason Joins Bobcats

Peru State former athletic director Kirk Kelley announced the hiring of J.L. Thomason to serve as the Bobcats’ head softball coach. Thomason had been serving as the interim head coach after taking the place of long-time Peru State head coach Mark Mathews. In making his announcement, Kelley noted, “J.L. did an outstanding job in the interim role this past spring. He displayed a ton of ownership in the program and had lots of support from the players. J.L. has hit the ground running and we look forward to many good things to come from him.”

PSC athletes excel in the classroom and on the field – nearly 40% of the Bobcat student-athlete contingency were honored by making the Peru State’s spring 2018 dean’s list.
A record Peru State crowd was on hand to cheer on the Bobcat men’s basketball team during the NAIA Division 1 Men’s Basketball Tournament opening round. Above, the men’s basketball team celebrates after defeating the top-seeded team, The Master’s, during the first round of the NAIA Division 1 Men’s Basketball Tournament. This was Peru State’s 15th time in the NAIA Division 1 championship, including the second time in three years. It was the first time since 1962 that the Bobcats advanced out of the first round in Division 1.

Peru State baseball team celebrates with head coach, Wayne Albury (in center front) after securing Albury’s 700th career win this past season. The team advanced to the Heart of America Baseball Conference Tournament this year and ended with a 30-20 overall record.

Recent graduate, Gunnar Orcutt ('18) was honored during halftime of the Sugar Bowl as part of the 2017 Allstate®/American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team® on national television. Orcutt is the first football player ever from Peru State to be named to the prestigious honor which recognizes athletics, academics, and has an emphasis on community service.
Looking to the Future

See the ability not the disability.
And so the adventure begins.
Off she went to change the world - Proverbs 22:6

Graduation caps said it all during the 2018 Peru State College Commencement ceremony. These graduates are fired with a passion to change the world – whether it's through their classroom, in a science lab or in the business world.

In total, Peru State College granted 278 bachelor’s degrees and 124 graduate degrees for the 2017-2018 academic year. Keynote speaker, Mike Johanns a former senator and governor of Nebraska, encouraged this passion with a speech highlighting the importance of service.

With his encouragement, the guidance of their professors and mentors – these graduates will make a difference in future generations and represent their alma mater proudly – wherever they choose to go.
Sen. Floyd Vrtiska Honored with Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award was established by the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees. It authorizes each college to nominate a graduate or someone who has made significant contribution to the College or to an alumnus who has achieved distinction and recognition in his or her field. Recipients are nominated by the college president and approved by the NSCS Board of Trustees.

Peru State awarded its first Distinguished Service Award in 1960 to Dr. Alexander Stoddard, a 1910 graduate who went on to a career in education. Dr. Stoddard was an early proponent in the use of television as an educational tool, and his educational plans contributed to the development of public educational television.

Since that first award, Peru State has recognized 52 people with the Distinguished Service Award, last awarded in 2002. President Dan Hanson is resuming the Distinguished Service Award and is pleased to honor Senator Floyd Vrtiska as the 2018 recipient.

Floyd and his late wife Doris, a 1947 graduate of Peru State, have supported the College for decades by contributing to many campus priorities, including the CATS academic support center, the Oak Bowl renovation, scholarships, and more.

Many will recall Vrtiska’s influential support of Peru State College in the late 1990s and early 2000s as questions of moving or closing the campus surfaced in state government. Through his legislative leadership, Senator Vrtiska also wrote and sponsored a bill to secure state funding for the renovation and expansion of Hoyt Science Building. In 2005, the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees recognized this legislative support by naming the new addition in honor of Floyd and Doris.

Vrtiska has a long record of public service. He served three terms as the District 1 representative in the Nebraska Legislature, 24 years as a commissioner for Pawnee County, and on many other local, regional and statewide boards. He also served on the Nebraska State College Board of Trustees and on the Peru State College Foundation Board of Directors.

"Floyd has devoted himself to his family and to the wider community. His life of diligent work and devoted public service has benefited many people in the region and the state of Nebraska. His service provides a positive example for the lives we hope our students lead at Peru State College and beyond,” said Hanson.

Recently, Vrtiska created the first endowed internship at Peru State College Foundation, providing permanent support for a paid internship for one student per session at the Nebraska Legislature. The Senator Floyd and Doris Wagner Vrtiska Unicameral Internship will give students paid work experience and direct knowledge of state government through this internship.

Vrtiska was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award during the College’s Commencement ceremony on May 5.
Locker Room Initiative Reaches Goal

Last April, 2017, family and friends of former coach and administrator Jerry Joy surprised him with an announcement of a special fundraising initiative to raise $100,000 in gifts honoring Joy to name the football home locker room the Jerry Joy Home Locker Room. This initiative would also complete Phase I of the renovation of the Bobcat football field house.

This April, one year later, the initiative has exceeded its fundraising goal, raising more than $130,000. In conjunction with the Bobcat Football Spring Scrimmage held on April 20, new signage was unveiled and the facility officially adopted its new name.

More than 100 contributions were received to support the naming initiative, and enough money was raised to provide seed money for Phase II of the facility renovations. Approximately $235,000 in contributions is needed to complete Phase II.

The football field house is located in the former Peru Elementary School.

Peru State College Foundation thanks the following donors who contributed to the Jerry Joy Home Locker Room initiative:

- Timothy and Jolene Alvis
- Donny and Catherine Anderson
- Hobert Anderson
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- Steve and Carlie Banks
- Bob and Susi Beaver
- Ken and Rebecca Boatman
- Tim Bowen
- Carolyn Bredemeier
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- Jim Joy
- Jerry and Christina Joy
- Mark and Susan Joy
- Paullette and Kent Joy
- Richard and Dorothy Joy
- Cristy Joy
- Jackie Joy-Eoff Family
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- Lanny and Mary Williams
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- Neil Wolfe
- Donald Wright
- JoAnn Wullschleger
- Susan and Jerry Wurtele
- Harlan Zentner
Bobcat Love Stories:

Peru State has brought together many happy couples over the years. This past year, during the sesquicentennial, visitors to campus were asked to mark the spot where they first met the love of their lives. In the winter Peru State edition, alumni and friends were asked to share their Bobcat love stories. Below are stories submitted and some photos from the markers found on campus.

Paul McKay (’95) and Heather (Layson) McKay (’97) met via mutual friends Stephanie (Nedrow) Swanson (’95) and Heather (Nedrow) Rubenking (’96). Heather remembers the first time she saw Paul, who regularly wore his PSC football jacket with bib overalls, Harley Davidson t-shirt, black biker boots and a lil’ slugger hat, when he was a customer at the Dairy Chef in Auburn. The two had an immediate connection but remained friends until the summer of ’93. Twenty-five years later, the two are still together, happily married (22 years) and have two extraordinary sons, Zachary (16) and Devin (14).

Merritt Jensen (‘40) roomed at the Collin House while he went to Peru State where Mary (Collin) Jensen (‘42) waitressed for her cousins who owned the place. A Christmas dance was planned at the Collin House and Mary told her cousin she wanted to go with that Jensen boy. Her cousin was shocked and told her not - he was wild and wore plaid shirts - but Mary said she wouldn’t go without him. They ended up going together to the party during a cold and icy night where he had to hold her close to keep her warm. They married in 1941 and almost made it 60 years before Mary passed away. Her letter sweater is on display on PSC’s campus.

“It seems as though “it” happened yesterday actually it was seventy years ago – Sept, 1947 at Peru State Teachers College. The first day’s activities started with a convocation for freshman. At the conclusion of the meeting a group of students were asked to meet at the front of the auditorium by the stage. That was the moment I caught my first glimpse of the person I would fall in love with and eventually marry, Jack Tillman. All of the students were informed about the English class we would be assigned. Incidentally my husband majored in English and became an extremely proficient English teacher. He inspired many students into the teaching field.

He played football and I led the cheers and help when naming our pep club “The White Angels.” After receiving my two year teaching certificate, I left Peru to teach school. Jack continued his education until graduating May 1951. In the mean-time we married and started our family. After 64 ½ years of love and marriage, my love passed away. My memory filled love letters (172) are yellow with age. They have helped sustain me while traveling this lonesome journey without him. My children and grandchildren have been my rock. The love of my life selflessly donated his body to science and education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. My plans are to follow. Someday our children and their families will scatter our remains in the hills of Peru. This beautiful love story that began 70 years ago on the Campus of a Thousand Oaks will someday end there.”

Peru Staters Forever,

Colleen “Coke” Williams Tillman, Class 1947-1949
Jack Tillman in spirit, Class 1947-1951

“p.s. I still have the pink dress (70 years old) that I was wearing the first time we met.”

An additional Bobcat love story may be found on page 23.

PSC Road Trip: Homecoming and 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50-Year Reunions

All alumni and friends are invited back to Peru State’s campus this October to celebrate Homecoming. The campus will be decorated to reflect this year’s theme - Road Trip.

During Homecoming weekend of 2018 the Peru State Foundation will be hosting reunion celebrations for the 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50-year reunions. Alumni from the graduating classes of 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008 are invited back to campus to celebrate their graduation milestone! Members of the classes from the years before and after each milestone anniversary are also invited to celebrate with their friends and classmates.

The event will include tours, dinner and mingling with classmates on Friday, October 5 and Homecoming festivities on Saturday, October 6, members can choose to take part in the parade if they wish. If you would like more information contact the PSC Foundation at (402) 872-2304 or PSCFoundation@peru.edu.

Special events:
Everyone is invited to the All-College Dinner on October 5!
Alumni of the pep band are invited to participate again this year.
Participate in the parade and show your Peru State spirit!
The Steamboat Trace Bike Ride and Festival coincides with Homecoming on October 6!
Learn more at www.peru.edu/foundation/events.

Homecoming Schedule of Events

Friday, October 5
3:30-5 p.m. - Reunion registration in library
3:30-4:30 p.m. - Guided group campus tours
4:30-6 p.m. - Reunion reception at President’s home
6 p.m. - All-College Dinner with special reunion recognition
8 p.m. - Bonfire and Pep Rally

Saturday, October 6
8 a.m.-2 p.m. - Reunion registration in library
8:30 a.m. - Parade line-up
10 a.m. - Homecoming Parade
10:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - Tailgate and games with Jazz Band
1 p.m. - 1867 Society Reception
2 p.m. - Football, Halftime Coronation and Pep Band performance
The State of Nebraska and Peru State College were both established in 1867 leading to the intersecting of celebrations. On June 20, PSC hosted the Charter Day Celebration - the date that Nebraska’s first territorial legislative session signed the charter authorizing a state-supported college to be established in Peru. Events included Pioneer Day, where children dressed as they would have in 1867, ate lunch out of tin buckets, performed music from that era and did arts and crafts using items from that time.

In the evening, rag time music welcomed guests to Campus where Chautauqua speakers rode in on a horse-drawn buggy and held a presentation. Following the presentation, everyone was invited to dinner at the Student Center where the program for the evening highlighted Peru’s past, present and future.

On October 27, during Homecoming the new All-College Banquet was held on campus with special recognition for 10, 30 and 50 year graduates. Following dinner, guests were welcome to attend a bonfire and pep rally held at Sapp Plaza or the fall choir concert performed by PSC choral students.

The activities from Friday evening led everyone into the excitement of Saturday, October 28th. It was a frigid morning but that did not slow down the enthusiasm for the Homecoming parade, all the participants and those that gathered along the streets of Peru to watch. Lunch was held on the Campus, where folks enjoyed live music, a warm meal, comradery and the Delzell Hall Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The excitement of the morning led everyone to the Oak Bowl to cheer on the Peru State College Football Team. During the game, former cheerleaders were invited back to perform with the current cheer team and pep band alumni were able to perform with the band. Past kings and queens, along with former Student Senate Presidents, were recognized on the field during halftime.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the year a success!
Peru State College – Engaging the Future

Continued from page 2.

Vision: Peru State College will be renowned for transforming student lives through personal and engaging educational experiences.

Values: Peru State College lives its mission and vision through engagement in the classroom, engagement across campus, and engagement in the region and beyond while valuing:

Pride: We proudly celebrate our history as Nebraska’s first College, our heritage of educating all students, and our tradition of achievement by students, alumni, faculty, and staff. We cherish the stately Campus of a Thousand Oaks entrusted to us.

Excellence: We pursue excellence through best practices and innovation in scholarship, teaching, research, and student development. We commit to providing exceptional facilities and resources supporting an engaged collegiate experience

Resilience: We recognize resilience as a key factor in success. We provide support and encouragement to achieve high standards by cultivating passion and perseverance.

Unity: We embrace unity as a diverse and inclusive community. We believe in creating a culture of respect, mutual support, and understanding. We lead and model this culture on campus, in the region, and around the world.

Four goals support the vision. For each goal, outcomes and key performance indicators with targets are identified. These key performance indicators will be tracked and reviewed annually. Several strategies to achieve each goal are presented and steps to accomplish each strategy are listed.

Goal One: Academic Excellence through Engagement

The academic mission of the College is at the core of the strategic plan. This goal has strategies that focus on academic distinction, building partnerships in the region and with alumni, enhancement of proven engaged learning strategies and investing in our faculty members.

Goal Two: Transformative Student Experience

Enriching student lives through opportunities and support is the emphasis of the strategies supporting Goal Two. The strategies for this goal address expansion of campus activities, student leadership opportunities and community service. In addition, preparing to serve the state’s changing student demographics and enhance the safety of the campus are highlighted. Perhaps most important for the campus community are strategies that emphasize career development opportunities tailored to a student’s academic progression.

Goal Three: Sharing the Peru State Story

Goal Three continues the College priority to increase the prominence of the institution. Strategies outline efforts to communicate the many accomplishments of the campus community, remain dedicated to developing strong alumni relationships, communicate the distinctiveness of Peru State’s engaged learning and bring more visitors to our beautiful campus.

Goal Four: Excellence for the Future

Goal Four strategies focus on investment in students, human resources of the College, facilities, and enrollment. This includes finding ways to fund additional scholarships for students. Key strategies include investing in the City of Peru and finding ways to fund a new Student Center for the campus. One strategy focuses on enrollment growth implementing a data driven process to identify programs or activities that could enhance enrollment.

To keep up-to-date on Peru State College’s strategic plan, its implementation and to find additional information, visit www.peru.edu/strategicplan.

NEBRASKA’S FIRST COLLEGE: SHAPING THE FUTURE SINCE 1867

Cost: $39.95 per book | Shipping and handling: $5.00 per book

Commemorate your graduation and time at Peru State College with a special edition book celebrating the college’s dynamic history and impact on the region. Written by the Omaha World Herald’s Dan Sullivan, the book details the founding of Peru State College and its growth over 150 years.

“Peru’s first students planted trees around a single school building with a tarpaper roof. Today stands the Campus of a Thousand Oaks. Just down the road, satellite-guided tractors till Missouri River bottomland where teams of horses once pulled plows. Countless changes have occurred over 150 years. But in 1867, a beacon of learning shines brightly on a hilltop in Peru.”

- Dan Sullivan, Author, Nebraska’s First College: Shaping the Future Since 1867

Order your copy today! Pay online or send in this registration form with check payable to the Peru State College Foundation.

Order online! Go to PERU.EDU/FOUNDATION/ALUMNI-ASSOCIATION

Send registration form and check to Peru State College Foundation, P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421
Ken Boatman (’66):
“"I believe you should give back"

Ken Boatman describes his college career like this: “I graduated, but it was not a typical path.” Boatman received his education from a variety of schools, including the one-room Boatman School near Nemaha, Nebraska, other schools in Shubert, Nemaha, and Auburn, and four colleges including Clemson University, where he received his Master’s degree. Boatman graduated from Peru State College with a business degree in 1966, even though he had what he calls “a few academic bumps” along the way. “It was a wonderful experience. Peru State gave me a chance, and I have appreciated it since the day I graduated.”

Known to classmates as “Kenny,” Boatman is one of the newest members of the 1867 Society which recognizes people who have included the Peru State College Foundation in a will or estate plan. Boatman has included Peru State College Foundation as a designated beneficiary of a portion of his retirement funds.

Retirement assets make a convenient gift to charitable organizations. Retirement assets gifted to heirs through a beneficiary designation are typically subject to taxation. By designating one or more charitable organizations as a beneficiary of an IRA or other retirement fund, a donor gets to direct more of his or her assets toward favorite causes instead of to taxes.

Boatman is involved with three charities and actively supports them. “I believe you should give back to the community you live in at some level,” says Boatman. “Peru State gave me a quality education, and continues to give a quality education to thousands of students in the area.” For Boatman, giving back has included making charitable contributions, coaching youth sports teams, and taking active roles in service organizations including the Lions and the Military Order of the World Wars. Boatman added, “My children have succeeded and do not need all of my inheritance.”

Following his graduation from Peru State, Boatman served for eight years in the U.S. Army with posts in Hawaii, Vietnam, Germany, Fort Meade and Fort Sill and achieved the rank of Captain. He then joined the Army Reserves and retired as Lieutenant Colonel. He has been married for 32 years and had a successful 30-year career in sales. Ken resides in Dallas, Texas and is enjoying a very active retirement making art in ceramics, sculptural welding, and photography, and traveling throughout the United States and internationally.

To inquire about making a beneficiary designation or other estate gift to the Peru State College Foundation, call 402-872-2304 or email PSCFoundation@peru.edu. If you have already included the Peru State College Foundation in a will, estate plan, or as a beneficiary of retirement funds or life insurance and would like to be recognized as a member of the 1867 Society, please notify the Foundation. 1867 Society members like Ken Boatman are paving the way toward a bright future for Peru State College.

To explore the many options for supporting scholarships at Peru State College, contact the Foundation at 402-872-2304.
National Alumni Association (NAA) FAQs:

Q: How do I become a member of the National Alumni Association?
A: Membership is free and automatic for Peru State alumni and friends!

Q: What is the definition of alumni and friends?
A: Alumni Members – Those who have attended the College. Graduating is not a requirement to be considered an alumnum or alumnae. Friends – Those who have given to or supported the College, including PSC faculty and staff and Peru Prep graduates, and have not attended Peru State College.

Update your contact information with the PSC Foundation to receive NAA benefits and event invitations by emailing pscfoundation@peru.edu or calling (402) 872-2304.

Interested in giving to support Peru State?
Donate online at peru.thankyou4caring.org or by contacting the PSC Foundation at (402) 872-2304 or pscfoundation@peru.edu.
2017 DONOR HONOR ROLL

1930s
Dorothy Blount*, 1937
Mildred Weber, 1939

1940s
Merritt Jensen, 1940
Phyllis Hoffman, 1941
Los Adams, 1942
Max Burroughs, 1942
Max & Wilma Jackson, 1942
Melvin Larsen, 1942
Helen Moody, 1942
Edith Norris, 1942
Nelda Peterson, 1942
Nina Klaudt, 1943
Marjorie Rider, 1943
Wanda Schmidt, 1943
Virginia Stuhr, 1943
Densel Fankhauser, 1944
Paul Henry, 1945
Mary Cashman, 1945
Shirley Wenzel, 1945
Dick & Mary Mastin, 1946
Alviera Wells, 1946
Margaret Hazrld, 1947
Max (’47) & Janice (’47) Hosier
Lue Lienemann, 1947
Nelle Pfister, 1947
George Blocher, 1948
Wanda Conradt, 1948
Lura Herr, 1948
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David Lang, 1949
Joan Marfice, 1949
Robert (’49) & Lawrence (’78) Trail
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Helen Wilkinson, 1949

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Bobby Livingston, 1950
Babebe Marten, 1950
Jean Niedfeldt, 1950
Elaine Roberts, 1950
Russell Ruth, 1950
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Kenneth Wolford, 1950
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Joseph Gillispie, 1951
Carlos Harrison, 1951
Ruth Leslie, 1951
Grace Pfister, 1951
Otto Rath, 1951

Arkath Rockeman, 1951
Annabelle Rumbaugh, 1951
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Evelyn Spence, 1951
William Voegeli, 1951
Alta Dakolios, 1952
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Irene Good, 1953
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Sharon Ocker, 1953
Harold Rasplcia, 1953
Bill (’53) & Janie (’52) Schulte
Marilyn Van Groningen, 1953
Frrn Whited, 1953
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Mary Gorden, 1955
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Gary (’60) & Marian (’60) Anderson
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Jerry (’60) & Virginia (’60) Beckmann
Marvin Bergsten, 1960
Lon Bortcher, 1960
Harry Bryant, 1960
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Chuck Francis, 1960
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Dennis (’60) & Linda (’60) Hiliker
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Carroll (’60) & Martha (’60) Johnson
Donald (’60) & Nancy (’57) Kasbohm
Delynn Knienker, 1960
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Ernie Madison, 1960
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Janet Mortimore, 1960
Ronald Stoltenberg, 1960
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Stephen Banks, 1960
Karen Bethel, 1960
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Robert Raper, 1961
Michael Roddy, 1961
Donna Schnertley, 1961
Gary Scoggin, 1961
Alan Wheeler, 1961
Linda Bell, 1962
Donald Carnes, 1962
Katherine Domingo, 1962
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John Green, 1962
Ellen Hajeck, 1962
Jon Iverson, 1962
Robert Dugger, 1962
Richard (’62) & Kay (’62) Stock
Gaylin (’62) & Carol (’63) Sudik
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Mel Hamel, 1963

22 The Stater
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Mark Joy, 1983
Mary Martin, 1983
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Jeff & Robin Smith, 1983
Suzanne Whisler, 1983
Jeff Wignall, 1983
Suzanne Whisler, 1983
Jeff & Robin Smith, 1983

2017 donor honor roll

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Janice Dawson, 1989
Roxann Coudeyras, 1989
Beverly Schwab, 1988
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Elton (88) & Connie (87) Edmond
Anita Downing-Hueftle, 1988
Elton (88) & Connie (87) Edmond
Michael & Stephanie Gerdes, 1988
James (88) & Anne (89) Larsen
Beverly Schwab, 1988
Max Ward, 1988
Roxann Coudeyras, 1989
Janice Dawson, 1989
Janice Godinez, 1989
Mary Grimes, 1989
Ruth Larsen, 1989
Lisa Osborne, 1989
Susan Pease, 1989
Cindy Peterson, 1989
Anne Stirling, 1989
Julie Tubbesing, 1989
Jay Wiechmann, 1989

1990s
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Tim Bowen, 1993
Diana Conrade-Mullen, 1993
Jeffrey Cullison, 1993
Michelle Manes, 1993
William Raftery, 1993
Mark Shively, 1993
Dana Stovall, 1993

2000s
Tammmie Hart, 2000

2010s
Michael Swigert, 2010
Adam (11) & Promise (11) DeBilzan
Kris Christen, 2011
Melissa McLaughlin, 2011
Willbert Williams, 2011
Caroline Garthright, 2012
Stephanie Holdsworth, 2012
Robert Williamson, 2012
Amanda Drier, 2013
Seph Fauver, 2013
Devon Roesener, 2013
**LOOK AT THOSE BOBCATS GO!**

**1960s**

Michael “Mike” Harmon ('56) was named to the 2016 class of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in the Career Coaching category.

**1970s**

Gale By ('74) is in his first year as coach the Palmer Boys Basketball team. He has 44 years of coaching experience.

**1980s**

Sheryl Larson (Schultz, '81) retired as an elementary school teacher in 2017. She is now a student teacher coordinator for the University of Northern Iowa.

Sandra Behrends (Rogge, '82) received the 2018 Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association Outstanding Elementary Teacher Award. Sandra currently teaches first grade at Johnson-Brock Public School.

Elaine Wood (Cecetilla, '85) was inducted into the Livingston (TX) ISD Apple Corps. Employees inducted into LISO Apple Corps have exemplified a positive attitude in their workplace and a desire to excel in their department or on their campus.

Steven Dingman ('86) is in his 28th year at Southern Arkansas University and has served as the department chair of the Health, Kinesiology and Recreation department since 2005. Additionally, he serves as the Director of the Online M.S. in Kinesiology-Coaching degree program. This fall Steven was notified that the Online M.S. in Kinesiology-Coaching program had earned national accreditation, becoming one of only three online master’s programs in North America to receive this accreditation.

Doug Goltz ('86) achieved his 600th win as coach of the boys’ basketball team at Sacred Heart in Falls City on December 16, 2017.

James “Jim” ('86) and Theresa (Polsley, '86) Krajcek were honored March 3, 2018 by the Nebraska Coaches Association for their 600th win as a coaching high school football in Iowa. He has been coaching since 1995, spending the last eight years at Schoo Middle School.

Sherry Clarkson (Kvasnicka, '08) was recently announced as the new staff member for the Tecumseh Chieftain newspaper. Elaine will be working in the area of advertising sales and design.

Tim Oehring ('14, '16) was one of five teachers chosen from 550 entries to be honored as part of Nebraska Teacher Recognition Day. He was honored with the Thank You Teacher Award in March.

Dreamer Award. Sandra currently teaches first grade at Johnson-Brock Public School.

Friends

Ken Anderson, Dr. Spencer Davis, and Dr. Dan Holtz were all named to Peru State’s Emeritus Faculty by the Nebraska State College System Board.

Ryan Held, former PSC Head Football Coach, will take on the role of running back coach at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Matt Hill, PSC Assistant Professor of Business Management, was named to the Midlands Business Journal 2017 “40 Under 40.”

Dr. Vincent Monseau, former PSC professor, and his wife, Kathleen “Kay” celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 17, 2017.

Dr. Darolyn Seay, PSC professor, was reappointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to a second term on the Nebraska Professional Practice Commission (NPCC). The Commission has chosen her to be Chair. The goal of NPCC is to develop, promote and enforce standards of professionalism for Nebraska educators.

Deborah Sole, Peru State College Foundation Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund, presented on PSC’s sesquicentennial year and the role of alumni in philanthropy.

Adam Perry ('08) has been the seventh and eighth-grade math teacher at McCook Junior High. Prior to this, he taught in rural schools for a number of years. He and his wife of 70 years raised 6 children.

Louanne “Laurie” Weinert passed away on November 13, 2017. Louanne was an elementary school teacher before staying home to raise and take care of her children.

Music was another important part of her life, as she was a proficient violinist and appreciated beautiful music.

Mary Ann Weber (Smejkal, '54) of Friend passed away December 17, 2017. In later years, Mary Ann and her husband, Robert, enjoyed short vacation trips to Estes Park, CO every year and attend the Peru College homecoming football games. The also loved going to the Flying V for dances.


Mary Mullens (Vanderford, '55) of Beatrice passed away March 10, 2018. Mary’s teaching career spanned over 35 years, teaching the lives of thousands of students. She always said teaching was never boring or dull because it was always interesting with new challenges and opportunities and that sometimes she learned things along with her students.

Marlyn Heywood (Tucker, '58) of Reno, NV passed away September 9, 2017. Marlyn enjoyed working as a teacher and especially enjoyed the time off it gave her in the summers to spend in the garden. Her family would spend time camping and exploring remote, interesting sites in Nevada. Marlyn will be remembered as a funny, generous, religious, intelligent and family-loving person.

Gary Mayfield (Slaymaker, '58) of Apache, OK passed away April 17, 2018. Gary taught art, music and the Greeley Chorale was always a big part of her life.

Dorothy Farrow (Meister, '52) of Long Beach, CA passed away on February 5, 2018. Dorothy taught in rural schools and attended Peru State Teachers College concentrating in music studies. She pursued teaching for many years. Her passion for music was apparent throughout her entire life.

Gail Godberson (Gilliland, '52) of Wayne passed away February 17, 2018. Gail taught and submitted most of her life until retiring from Dodge Public School in 1994. Gail and her husband traveled extensively, visiting every country fairground in Nebraska. She was very proud of her family and enjoyed attending all of their grandchild’s activities.

Rosemary Morrill (Kyle, '52) of Edmond, OK, formerly Tulsa, OK, passed away January 18, 2018. For a short time, Rosemary was an elementary school teacher before staying home to raise and take care of her children. Music was another important part of her life, as she was a proficient violinist and appreciated beautiful music.

Mary Jean Forsythe (Roberts, '61) of Plattsmouth former of Nebraska City, passed away March 8, 2018. Mary Jean was an elementary school teacher before staying home to raise and take care of her children.

Jerry Whitney ('59) of Niangua, MO, formerly of Reno, NV passed away January 19, 2017. Jerry was active in Topeka Civitan as well as organizations over the years. Music and the Greeley Chorale was always a big part of her life.

26 The Stater
Willadean Kaufman Spier, 59 of Lincoln, formerly of Tecumseh, passed away January 7, 2018. She worked as a teacher for several years and then retired from teaching to raise her family. Willadean later went back to college and received her LPN degree in nursing.

Jerry Whitney, 59 of Niangua, MO, formerly of Topeka, KS, passed away February 20, 2018. He taught and coached at various schools throughout Kansas and Nebraska.

Jerry was active in Topeca Civitan as well as in several churches in and around Topeka and Springfield, MO. In later years, he was an ardent supporter of and participated with the Greene County Prison Ministry and Gideons International.

1960s

Jerry Carlson, 60 of Omaha passed away July 20, 2017. He was a US Navy Veteran and served in the Korean War. After graduating from PSC he began his teaching career as well as coaching high school football in Iowa. He later worked in real estate and sales. Jerry was an avid Husker fan who loved to travel, dance and golf.

Barbara Higgins (Hill), 50 of Tecumah passed away December 28, 2017. Barbara was an accomplished musician who played the clarinet, piano, organ and accordion. She loved to paint and draw. Barbara is best known for her work as the manager of Lundstrom Furniture in Spirit Lake.

Jere Krakow, 60 of Albuquerque, NM passed away November 3, 2017. His life was devoted to service in the National Park Service, which he joined in 1983. He also served as historian at Oatkirk National Scenic River Ways, the Denver Service Center, and then as Superintendent of National Historic Trails for the Intermountain Region that administered nine national historic trails and the Route 66 preservation program. Jere had friends throughout the country and rarely met a stranger.

Betty Tetten (Whipple), 60 of Bridgeport, formerly of Nebraska City, passed away March 2, 2018. Betty worked for many different schools as a teacher and retired in 1993. Betty was a member of the Methodist Church and enjoyed being with family and friends.

Alyce Green (Roberts), 61 of Plattsmouth passed away January 4, 2018. Alyce helped many people with remedial reading and GED courses throughout the years. Even in retirement, she was involved in her community, spending hours teaching GED courses at various locations including the Cass County Jail.

Judy "Judy" Libal (Shuey), 63 of Virginia passed away November 22, 2017. Judy loved the banking industry. Her career included many positions and many banks until the fall of 2017. She also had a passion for service to the community. Most recently, Judy had served as a member of the Gage Co. Red Cross Society, Extension Board, and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ruth Detert (Stahnke), 66 of Fremont, IL passed away November 12, 2017. She was an active member at her church and community in Fremont. Ruth loved her family and friends and hearing about their lives.

William "Andy" Anderson (67) of Carmel, IN passed away September 16, 2017. He worked in retail sales for Volume Shoe Corporation and later as a senior leasing representative for Simon Property Group for over 20 years.

Larry Nedrow (68) of Waverly passed away November 30, 2017. Larry was born and raised in Falls City. After graduating from Peru, he went on to obtain a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Billie Brown (69) of Weeping Water passed away March 17, 2018. Bill served in the US Navy after graduating from high school. He went on to teach in the Weeping Water Schools for 16 years and worked as a self-employed painter until his retirement.

Allison "Buck" Dougherty, Jr. (69) of York passed away on February 28, 2018. Buck worked for Sundstrand Aviation, retiring in 2013. He enjoyed playing softball for the company league and also enjoyed golfing. Buck liked to travel to see his daughters and spending time with his grandchildren.

1970s

Bonnie Goodman (71 of Nebraska City passed away March 5, 2018. Aside from many years of teaching, Bonnie served on the Monroe James Public Library Board and was a member of the One World Historical Society. She enjoyed playing bridge and golf and was an avid reader.

Patricia Sheehan (73) of Aurora passed away March 4, 2018. Pat taught in the Aurora School District for 57 years before retiring in 2015. She was very active in her church, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, as a member of the Altar Society and the funeral committee. Pat was also a CCD teacher for several years. She especially loved to care for her dog, Grady.

Barry Silverstein (73) of Gilbert, AZ passed away January 15, 2018. Barry served in the US Air Force, then went on to work for USPS for 25 years. Barry served as the announcer for football, baseball, and basketball at Creighton Prep, as well as Marian High School. In 2013, he was inducted into the Creighton Prep Hall of Fame.

Judith "Judy" Schwartz (Donahue), 79 of Greenfield, IA passed away March 17, 2018.

1980s

Judith Dorste (Thompson), 88 of Auburn passed away December 26, 2016. After graduation from PSC, Judith worked as a substitute in six different counties in southeast Nebraska, until she passed. Mrs. Dorste was best known as “the candy lady” by her students and teachers. Everyone was always happy to see her. She always said “when it stops being fun, I will retire.” That part never happened; she loved the job and the kids.

1990s

Timothy Batterson (94) of Bloomfield, IA passed away December 10, 2017. Tim served nine years with the US Air Force as an imagery interpreter and computer programmer. As a civilian, he worked as a computer programmer for Principal Financial Group.

Saundra Jordy (Holland), 98 of Plumstead passed away December 21, 2017. Saundra worked for 20 years for the Omaha Public Schools as a Special Educator and was recognized as “Teacher of the Month” in Omaha. She and her husband, Terry, loved spending time near water and watching sunsets at the lake.

2000s

Wade James (67) of Lincoln passed away February 5, 2018. Wade worked for the City of Lincoln for 21 years. He served in the finance department as a system software investigator. He enjoyed golfing, computers, his dog Max, and game nights with friends.

Justin Haystrand of New Port Richey, FL passed away February 26, 2018. Justin was junior at PSC majoring in kinesiology. After graduation, he had plans to attend grad school to become a chiropractor. Justin had played the past two seasons as a running back on the Bobcat football team.

2010s

Joyce (Funke) Blumenthal of Lake Andes, SD passed away January 8, 2018. Joyce worked many years as a bookkeeper. She enjoyed crafts, creating things, crocheting, fishing with her late husband, Bill, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Georgia (Lockard) Duell of A-Z passed away November 22, 2017. Georgia was a dedicated, well-loved member of the United Methodist Church in Pawnee City for over 60 years.

Dorothy Huls of Beatrice, formerly of Cortland, passed away January 29, 2018. She was a very active member of Christ Lutheran Church of rural Pickrell, where she spent many years teaching Sunday School and Confirmation classes. She also enjoyed traveling, writing poetry, short stories and family history.

Nina (Andresen) Mathis of Tecumseh passed away November 22, 2017. Nina worked at the Bank of Peru and as a secretary at Peru State College, among other vocations. In her spare time, she enjoyed camping, fishing, and reading.

2010s

Wade James (67) of Lincoln passed away February 5, 2018. Wade worked for the City of Lincoln for 21 years. He served in the finance department as a system software investigator. He enjoyed golfing, computers, his dog Max, and game nights with friends.

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Friends

Clayton Evans of Des Moines, WA passed away December 30, 2017. He worked for the Milwaukee Railroad for 14 years and then the US Postal Service for 17 years. Clayton and his late wife Beulah traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada and parts of Europe. He continued travel and trailer camping well into his 90s.

Beverly (Sherman) Kieler of Peru passed away November 11, 2017. Beverly was a 1957 graduate of Peru Prep. She was a warm and loving woman who was a stranger to no one. She crocheted afghans for many and made socks for gifts.

Mark Matthews of Peru passed away December 24, 2017. Mark had just begun his 25th season as the head coach of the Peru State softball program. His 1996 team was inducted into the Peru State Hall of Fame in 2015. Practicing what he learned on his parent’s tree farm, Mark planted hundreds of trees in his life. He planted dozens of trees on campus with a particular emphasis on the areas around the softball and baseball fields. Mark also served as a member of the Peru City Council and spent the last 12 years on the Peru Volunteer Fire Department.

Mary Morrisey of Ralston passed away December 15, 2017. Mary and her husband, William “Bud”, opened a variety store in Peru in 1952 and owned it for over 15 years. Through the years she became an accomplished seamstress and put those skills to good use sewing for her daughters as well as for many church projects and fundraisers.

Richard “Red” Reeves of Nebraska City passed away March 19, 2018. Red was a 1960 graduate of Peru High School. He worked at the former Bridyrad in Nebraska City and later for the Nebraska City Street Department where he served as Foreman. He then went on to work at Concrete Industries for several years. Red was also a farmer and livestock producer and did snow removal for various businesses in the Nebraska City area.

Arthur (Derrames) Ritter of Johnson passed away March 6, 2018. After marrying her husband, Herbert “Dick”, she proudly added farm wife to her list of talents as an artist, seamstress, gardener, and cook. Arlene remained active in her church, in her school district and in her community. Over the course of her 107 years of life, Arlene experienced countless, remarkable events.

Dick Stich of Brock passed away January 13, 2018. Dick was a 20-year resident of Peru, serving multiple terms as mayor. He also owned and operated Krazy Dick’s Groomery in Peru and Krazy Dick’s Too in Brownsville. After closing those stores, he worked as an auctioneer for many years before opening Dick Stich Realty in Auburn.

Edna (Allgood) Wheedon of North Highlands, CA passed away August 29, 2017. Edna was a stay at home mom who went back to school at age 43 to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse. She worked 12 years before retiring in 1984.

Mary (Applegate) Winghamon of Solomon, KS passed away February 20, 2018. Family always came first whether it was her children, siblings or grandchildren. She was a housewife until 1974 when she went to work in the dry cleaning business until she retired in 2003.
**Bobcat Love!**

David Kramer (’69) and Marilyn Sasse were married on June 12, 2017 at St. John Lutheran Church (LCMC) of rural Athol, Kansas. Both David and Marilyn had suffered the death of their previous spouses and are so thankful to God for the love that He has given them for each other. Marilyn is a long-time member of St. John Lutheran Church of Athol where David has served as pastor since the fall of 2011.

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**Download the PSC Alumni App!**

- Search for Peru State College Bobcat Life in the Apple or Android stores to download the app.
- Be sure to allow location and notification settings for the app when installing.
- Click on the tile Create Account followed by Alumni and Friends Registration.
- Create a login. Once created you will remain logged in to the app.
- Enjoy! Use the app to learn about upcoming events, read the Peru Stater and plan your next visit to campus!

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Inside this *Peru Stater* you’ll find...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pg. 4</td>
<td>Alumni Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg. 6</td>
<td>Performing Arts Center Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg. 10</td>
<td>Honoring Coach Mathews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg. 14</td>
<td>Commencement 2018 and Distinguished Service Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg. 16</td>
<td>Jerry Joy Locker Room Reaches Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg. 17</td>
<td>Bobcat Love Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg. 22</td>
<td>Donor Honor Roll</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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