Alumni Profile:
Celebrating the Life of Larry Green (‘71)

See story on page 20
Building on a Tradition of Excellence – Student Satisfaction

Peru State College has a 150-year tradition of transforming student lives through personalized and engaging education experiences. This hallmark of a Peru State education was noted again in recent strategic planning. When students, faculty, staff and alumni were asked, “What are you proud of at Peru State College?” the responses were resounding. Students, faculty, staff and alumni are most proud of the strong one-on-one relationships that develop between faculty, staff and students.

In a latter part of the evaluation and planning process, Peru State students participated in a national survey on student satisfaction. Using surveys developed by Ruffalo Noel-Levitz, online and on-campus undergraduate students were asked about their experiences at the College. In this national survey, Peru State students report higher satisfaction in every category than both the national average and their Midwest cohort, which typically gives higher ratings than the national cohort.

The survey measured not just a student’s satisfaction with their experience at Peru State but whether the College met or exceeded their expectations. When measuring the differences between satisfaction and expectations, Peru State again exceeded the average results of its national and Midwestern peers.

Students rated their satisfaction with Peru State highly in all areas, including:

- Academic Advising
- Academic Services
- Campus Climate
- Campus Life
- Concern for the Individual
- Institutional Perceptions
- Instructional Effectiveness
- Instructional Services
- Recruitment / Financial Aid
- Registration Effectiveness
- Responsiveness to Diverse Populations
- Safety and Security
- Service Excellence
- Student Centeredness
- Student Services

I was especially pleased that some of the highest ranked categories were consistent with our tradition of a personalized and engaging educational experience, highlighting the pride in personal relationships between students and faculty we heard earlier. Included in the top five ratings were “Faculty care about me as an individual” and “Campus staff are caring and helpful.” Faculty and staff are committed to the College’s tradition of personalized education, a tradition that continues to benefit our students.

I am glad to share with you that the 150-year tradition of transforming student lives endures at Peru State. While the sheer scope of success found by the Ruffalo Noel-Levitz surveys is incredible, the College continues to identify areas for improvement in student service. Our work continues, but so does the amazing efforts of our alumni, donors and friends. I see on campus every day just how the sustained commitment to scholarships and strategic initiatives have been key to assisting more incoming students navigate higher education and break down barriers to success.

Thank you for your continued support of Peru State College.

In closing, in this issue of the Peru Stater you will read about the passing of Larry J. Green, Chairman of the Peru State College Foundation, former President of Ball Plastics and a 1971 graduate from Peru State. Larry’s leadership and dedication will be greatly missed here at the Campus of 1,000 Oaks. If you are able, I hope you will join us in May for the grand opening of the Performing Arts Center and Commencement where Larry will be honored.

All the Best,

Dan Hanson, Ph.D.
President
As I reflect on 2018, I am thrilled by the outstanding support of Peru State College alumni, donors and friends. With your generosity, the Peru State College Foundation was able to commit more than $1 million to the College in scholarship support, funds for the Performing Arts Center renovation, admissions support, student worker programs and more.

With your help –

• More than 280 students received Foundation scholarships to attend Peru State College.
• A $7.5 million renovation of the Performing Arts Center was completed.
• More than 500 prospective students and their families were hosted on campus.
• More than 180 students were employed on campus; allowing them to stay on campus and participate fully in Peru State College activities.

In the New Year, the Foundation is identifying additional ways to support the College and faculty, staff and students.

The Peru State College strategic plan has set aggressive goals to emphasize engagement in the classroom, outreach in southeast Nebraska, increasing prominence of the institution and enhancing on-campus facilities. Your support is needed to reach these goals – whether through your philanthropic generosity or your gifts of time and talent – Peru State College needs your help.

How you can continue to help –

Consider a charitable donation. Donate to scholarships, the general fund (a fund that supports programs like admissions and the Peru State College areas of greatest need).

Answer surveys and provide your input during this exciting time.

Participate in alumni events and activities and share your view with the College President.

Consider including a gift in your estate plan and leaving a legacy at Peru State.

Finally, on a somber note, this issue of the Peru Stater includes a farewell to long-time Foundation Board member and Chairman Larry Green. Larry’s influence on the Foundation was significant, and his “focus on what matters” approach helped move projects like the Performing Arts Center from imagination to reality. His passing is a loss for us all.

Todd Simpson
CFRE
Chief Executive Officer,
Peru State College Foundation

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 year will be packed with fun events for the whole family. Learn more at foundation.peru.edu and click on EVENTS.

February 28: Cat in the Hat Statue Dedication
March 23: Tucson, AZ Alumni and Friends Gathering
March 24: Royals at Rangers Spring Training Game in Phoenix, Arizona
April 2: Distinguished Speaker Series on Peru State’s campus: Megan Phelps-Roper
April 4: Thousand Oaks Alumni Excellence Awards Celebration
April 7: Peru State College Volleyball Alumni Quads & Social
April 20: Bobcat Football Blue and White Scrimmage
April 27: Baseball Reunion and Community Picnic
April 29: Peru State College Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon
May 3: Performing Arts Center Ceremonial Grand Opening
May 4: Peru State College Commencement
June 6: Omaha Alumni and Friends Celebration

Additional important dates:
Homecoming – September 27 and 28
Peru State College Giving Day – October 24
Athletic Hall of Fame – October 25
Current men’s basketball players join alumnus Ivan Wineglass (’94), Becca Jewell, Foundation, and President and First Lady Hanson for a night of fun and networking in Omaha.

Nettie Sikyta (’94) and her daughter Alina Sikyta (soon to be PSC alumna) attend the Lincoln alumni and friends gathering.

Softball alumnae water a magnolia tree planted in memory of Coach Mark Mathews.

The All-College Dinner during Homecoming hosted alumni and friends. Pictured L to R: Betty (Neil) Barrett (’57), Dr. Clyde Barrett (’56), Arlene (Borcher) Fell (’67) and Paul Fell (’67).

Alumni celebrating milestone reunions gathered at the President’s House prior to the All-College Dinner during Homecoming. Pictured L to R: Jason Wunderlich, Christina (Wusk) Wunderlich (’08), Sherry (Kvasnicka) Clarkson (’08) and Brandon Clarkson.

PERU STATE TODAY... YEAR IN REVIEW
The Stater

The Stater today... yEar

in rEViEw

Women’s basketball team participates in 2018 Homecoming parade.

Peru State alumni gather in Kansas City for a tailgate and Royals baseball game.

President and First Lady Hanson pose with Lincoln Alumni and Friends guest speaker Je’Kerra Hopper ('18) and her father.

Women’s basketball team participates in 2018 Homecoming parade.

The Stater 5
Thousands of alumni traveled to Peru State College’s campus for the 2018 Homecoming festivities.

“Alumni, students and friends showed their Peru State spirit during Homecoming this year,” said Deborah Solie, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. “The weather forced many activities indoors, but it didn’t dim the smiles or excitement of everyone in attendance.”

Due to rain and cooler temperatures, the annual outdoor tailgate was held inside the Al Wheeler Activity Center. Activities included face painting, balloon artistry, a spirit table to make your own Bobcat gear, the Cat Cave featured new apparel and the jazz band played music to fit the spirited mood.

Homecoming featured a variety of activities including a building decorating contest amongst faculty and staff, the selection of Homecoming Court and the King and Queen, honoring of members of the 1867 Society, and a celebration of milestone reunions, music majors and Carlos Harrison (’51), Grand Marshal.

Grand Marshal:
The Peru State College Student Senate selected Carlos Harrison (’51) of Shenandoah, Iowa, as the Grand Marshal of the Homecoming Parade held on October 6. Harrison is a 1951 graduate and longtime supporter of Peru State College.

“I’m very, very honored and thrilled to have served as the Grand Marshal for Peru State College Homecoming,” said Harrison.

“Peru State means a great deal to me and I’ve enjoyed volunteering and being a part of the College throughout the years.”

Harrison started attending Peru State College in 1949 and was involved in chorus, band and was a member of the Music Educators Conference, now known as the National Association for Music Education. Graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science in Education, Harrison went on to obtain a master’s degree in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He then served in the U.S. Army for two years, before eventually taking a position with Air Products and Chemicals Inc. and moving to California where he spent the next 39 years in the airline industry.

Even while living in California, Harrison maintained his connection to Peru State through multiple organizations, including the Northern California Alumni chapter, where he served twice as president, and the Southern California PSC Alumni chapter, where he served once as president.

In 2000, Harrison retired from United Airlines and returned home to Shenandoah to be near family and friends once more. However, he still travels extensively throughout the United States, taking five to seven trips per year.

Harrison never forgets his Peru State roots. He’s established not just the Walter and Lillian Harrison scholarship in memory of his parents, but also the C. Carlos Harrison alumni fund to create a usable, effective alumni house and assist with alumni activities. Harrison has assisted with calling legislators and constituents to raise awareness of Peru State College and assisted the Foundation work, with other alumni, to keep Peru State in Peru when there was once the possibility of moving to Nebraska City.

Harrison is also a member of the Peru State 1867 Society and the PSC National Alumni Association Board of Directors. He regularly volunteers to help with Freshman Moving Day, alumni activities such as the Chili Feed, Homecoming and student projects like the Phi Alpha Theta Oral History Documentary.
The Homecoming Parade featured many entries including the band, local residents, cheerleaders and the Bender family dressed as dinosaurs heading to Peru State.

Music reunion attendees sang the National Anthem prior to the Homecoming football game with members of the Peru State chorale led by assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, Matt Hill.

Alumni and friends gathered during Homecoming to celebrate the 1867 Society and their membership. The 1867 Society was created to enable Peru State alumni and friends to give back to the College through their estate plans.
Performing Arts Center Rescheduled to May 3

Mark your calendars and plan to spend spring in Peru. The Performing Arts Center grand opening was postponed due to weather and construction delays and will now be held on May 3.

“We wanted to celebrate this facility when we could enjoy the splendor of the entire completed project,” said Dan Hanson, Peru State College president. “By moving the grand opening to May we ensure the completion of all aspects of the project and combine this great event with Commencement – allowing faculty, staff, alumni and parents of our graduating students to participate.”

The Performing Arts Center grand opening will include tours of the newly renovated facility, performances showcasing the acoustics and space and a reception celebrating donor support. Those who purchased paving stones in the Sesquicentennial plaza will have an opportunity to view their engravings as part of the reception activities.

“Support from alumni and donors were an important and necessary component of the Performing Arts Center renovation,” said Todd Simpson, CEO, PSC Foundation. “Without their support, we wouldn’t have this beautiful facility.”

Invitations by email and mail will be sent out with additional information by early March.

Contact the Peru State College Foundation with questions, (402) 872-2304.
Jimmy Johnson

Jimmy Johnson ('18) graduated from Peru State College with a degree in Music Marketing. After graduation his goal was to pursue work as a sound technician and to work in a recording studio.

During his time on Peru State's campus, Johnson served as the light and sound technician for a variety of theater productions, concerts and events.

“Peru gave me the opportunity to run lights and sound for the College which opened my eyes to a passion I didn’t even know I had,” said Johnson.

Following graduation, Johnson is working at Best Buy and interning at Fusion Concert Hall in Brownville, NE. His favorite PSC memory: “The trips I took with show choir and jazz band. Conceived Hall in Brownville, NE.”

He worked for Cirque de Soleil for 16 years, eventually serving as the Global Citizenship Director. She was a member of Cirque’s Senior Management group and was responsible for implementing Cirque’s social and cultural affairs policies and programs in the United States.

Faculty member with greatest impact: Dr. Kyle Ryan was a huge impact on me with my success with her time at Peru State College and after I graduated. I credit him with much of my success.

To explore the many options for supporting students at Peru State College, contact the Foundation at 402-872-2304.

Faith Nelson

Faith Nelson ('15) graduated from Peru State College with a degree in Music Marketing. Following graduation Faith moved to Branson, MO to put her music marketing degree to work in the vibrant music community.

“I am now the Executive Assistant and Group Sales Manager for two shows in Branson, The Bretts Show and Prince Ivan. I do sales, marketing, accounting and anything else that is needed to make the show run.”

Faith moved to Missouri directly following graduation and has worked with many talented musicians. She credits her success with her time at Peru State.

Favorite PSC memory: “My favorite memories of Peru involve show choir. Rehearsals were always filled with laughter, performances were rewarding, and the choir became my family.”

Faculty member with greatest impact: Dr. Jake Bartlett had a huge impact on me. He always challenged me and encouraged me to test my limits and become my best.

Peru State Foundation Would like to Thank these Supporters of the Performing Arts Center

Advocate
Van Allen
Ken & Jean Anderson
Mildred Appeloff
Loren & Elsie Argabright
Roland Barrett
Paul Bodke
Thomas & Leta Bosworth
Betsy Blackhahn
Hilary Bradford
David Bremer
Harry Bryant
Kevin & Karen Caverzagie
Yvonne Chandler
Rhonda Chomos
Darrel Christensen
Larry Cotron
Denise Daake
Don Damme
Spencer Davis
Linda Dickerson
Ruth Dietrich
Janet Dingman
Jack Dodge
Dorothy Duerfeldt
Ben & Carol Duerfeldt
Barbara Easley
Dr. Dick Eichenberger
Ralph Ener
Gertraude Erteleman
Jean Everhart
Gaura Falk
Mary Findt
Jeni Fink
Kay Fish
Jayne Fredrickson
Russ Freitag
Carlene Frenzel
Alicia Frick
Fred Giddler
Terri & Carolyn Glathar
Janice Godinez
David & Linda Gomon
Virginia Good
Irene Good
Judy Gravell
De Anz Hansen
Don Handelkopf
Patsy Harper
Margaret Harrold
John & Nancy (Green) Hasley
Robert Heng
Carol Henning
Karen HERSEMANN
Sandra Hilding
Phyllis Hoffman
Patricia Holmes
Max & Janice Hosier
Lonnie & Nancy Houchin
Chityr Hutchison
Jeffery Jacob
Vicki & Tom Jacobitz
Mary Ellen (Green) Jennings
Laura Johns
Stanley Johnson
Mary Kellogg
William Kerins
Julia Kerens
Jane Kirkendall
Sharylin Knob
David Koll
Joseph Kotnik
JoAnn Krause
Dick Kunde
Calvin Kunze
Deborah Larson
SHERYL LARSON
Richard Linder
Stanley & Gay Longfellow
Randy Luther
Carol Martyn
Darlene McCorr
Lois McMullen
Ray & Myra Meister
Gary & Stephanie Mercer
Ronald & Susan Meyer
Virginia Meyerkorth
Robert Michaelis
Lee & Mary Miller
Haney & Karen Milstead
Pamela Mitchell
Jack Moles
Richard & Romona Moore
Janet Moore
Maxine Moore
Robert D. Moore
Janet Mortimore
Nancy Nealon
Craig Nੋdettreep
Dorea Nenneman
Ruth Nixon
Edith Norris
Sharon Ocker
Russell & Stephanie Olsen
Lisa Osborne
Jerry Payne
Nelda Peterson
William Peterson
Charles & Vickie Pickering
Les Pizely
Gordon Primo
Wayne & Gloria Pressmill
Lonny & Mary Pressmill
Joseph Primus
Harold and Lila Prisco
Mary & Janice Prouse
Dorothy Pritchard
Darren & Kim Stegemayer
Michael & Danni Stodder
Gaylin & Carol Sudik
William Swenson In honor of Bert Swenson
Larry & Ramona Sweet
Gayle Swiegood
Brenda Teelen
Dean Teten
Jean Tayan
Diane E. (Coever) Thomas
Marilyn Van Groningen
Tracy Van Dyke
Sara Veigel
Barbara Vogel
Shirley Wach
Dwight Wagner
Richard & Ann Watson
John Wilson
Donald Wendt
Shirley Wenzel
Carol White
Fran Whited
Dennis Williams
Robert Williamson
Dorothy Willis
Karen D. Wolken
Dorothy Willis
Robert Williamson
Dorothy Willis
Karen D. Wolken
Russel Workman
Thomas & Mary Wolf
Alexander Zambrano
Champions
Stacy & Barb Applegate
Dr. Beb & Mary (Riley) Bohlen
Gene & Rita (Green) Nodettreep
In memory of Senator Wiley & Maxine Remmers
Jean & Dick Rotrman
Lloyd & Betty (Painter) Russo
Dr. Bill & Janice Schultz
Michelle & Todd Simpson
Al & Kristin Urwin
In memory of Adam Urwin
Dr. Al Wheeler Jr.
In memory of Alan Glen Wheeler
Danny & Debbie White
Benefactors
Advocate
In memory of Dr. Royal Eckert
Karen (Coever) & Stephen Gay
Mary Lu (Hicks) McCoy
Pat & Cathy Mertens
Omaha Alumni Association
Bill & Shirley Snyder
Patrons
Garth & Gloria (Bean) Adams
Tim & Cindy Hoffman
Mainstreet Bank
The Sunderlund Foundation
Eldon Teten In memory of Betty (Whipple) Teten
Benefactors
Dr. Larry & Sue Green
Judy (Green) & Charles Grotrian
C.W. "Buck" & Dohey (Falton) Hays
The 2018 cross country team was one of the largest in Peru State’s history as there were 13 runners participating. Junior Julia Zurek (Louisville) led the team in every race in which she competed. Four individuals earned Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete recognition at the end of the season. Always a highlight, the team also hosted its “Nebraska’s Toughest Mile” which drew over 60 runners in late October.

Bobcat Cross Country

The 2018 version of the Bobcat football season came to a disappointing close with a 41-23 loss at Benedictine. Peru State finished its year with a 3-8 overall mark and a 1-4 mark in the Heart of America Athletic Conference North Division. Seven Bobcats received all-conference recognition at the end of the season while five players will be named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes. The team dedicated its season to Justin Haystrand, a teammate who was killed in a car accident in February. On Senior Day, Haystrand’s heart recipient, Chris Jones, was in attendance and presented all team members with a special coin memorializing Justin and his heart transplant.

Bobcat Football

The Peru State volleyball team finished with a 12-21 overall mark and an 8-10 record in the Heart of America Athletic Conference North Division. In the North, the Bobcats finished as the third seed and eventually fell in the conference’s postseason quarterfinals. Three players earned all-conference recognition while seven were named as Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

Bobcat Volleyball

Save the Date
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction
October 25-26, 2019
Profile: Wayne Albury, Peru State College Athletic Director

Wayne Albury was named the athletic director for Peru State College in July 2018. In his role, Albury oversees nine NAIA Division I sports, coaches and student-athletes.

“Peru State College and athletics both have tremendous administration, faculty and staff,” said Wayne. “I am very excited about working with them and anxious to continue building on the solid foundation of Bobcat Athletics.”

Wayne has worked with administrators and athletic directors throughout his professional career and had the opportunity to see all aspects of the position including fundraising, directing athletic activities, managing athletic budgets and serving as a liaison with sports conferences or division administrators.

Dr. Dan Hanson, president of Peru State, said, “Wayne brings a strong commitment to character-driven athletics, a history of success as a coach, effective experience in fundraising, and a commitment to student athlete success.”

Wayne’s philosophy is student-centered and focused on academics.

“Student success is important on and off the field,” said Wayne. “During the past few months, one of the things I’m proudest of is our Champions of Character event held this past October. We highlighted the importance of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership.”

Wayne’s goals include improving on the Champions of Character achievements and achieving even more.

“I believe you can have character, be a good citizen and be champions on the field,” said Wayne.

Over the next 6-12 months, Wayne plans to listen and learn from his coaches, fellow administrators and the students. Starting next year he will also oversee the addition of four junior varsity programs, which will help Peru State College grow enrollment through athletics.

“This is an exciting time for athletics at Peru State College,” said Wayne. “With the addition of new programs and the approval of a new indoor practice facility for all sports, we continue to see growth and investment in athletics.”

Professional History

Wayne is Peru State’s coach with the most wins and has more than 700 career wins in baseball. He returned as head coach of the baseball team in 2016.

Previously Wayne served as head baseball coach at Peru State from 2011 to 2015. His other collegiate coaching experience includes Lambuth University, University of Rio Grande (Ohio), Union College (Kentucky), and Pikeville College (Kentucky). He also managed the Portsmouth (Ohio) Explorers in the independent Frontier League.

Wayne holds a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Union College and a master’s in health, physical education and recreation from Morehead State University (Kentucky).
Dr. Sara Crook: Planning Ahead to Leave a Legacy

A few years ago, Dr. Sara Crook, Professor of History, and her husband John, went through a process to formalize and complete their estate plan. At the time, Sara said, “We clarified for ourselves the legacies we wanted to leave for the entities that are important to us. For us, that included Peru State College.”

Sara Crook has been a faculty member in the Social Sciences Department for nearly 35 years. Her areas of expertise include the U.S. Congress and Nebraska politics. For many years, she has led tours for students and others to historic sites in Nebraska and throughout the country. For Sara, sharing her love of history – and of Nebraska history in particular – has been her passion as well as her profession.

As Sara and John were completing their estate planning process, Sara approached the Peru State College Foundation with a question: Could she determine how her future estate gift would be used before the gift arrives at the Foundation?

The answer was a firm “Yes.”

Sara and Foundation staff created an agreement outlining the Dr. Sara B. Crook Endowed Fund for Nebraska History. This endowed fund, to be funded at some point in the future, will provide financial support for the Social Sciences Department to conduct activities that support the study and teaching of Nebraska history at Peru State College.

It will provide support for activities such as bringing speakers to campus, field trips for students in the History of Nebraska class and other things that promote the teaching and learning of Nebraska history.

If you are considering including Peru State in your will, or as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account, and would like to explore your options for supporting a specific area of study or campus activity, please contact the Peru State College Foundation at (402) 872-2304 or pscfoundation@peru.edu to discuss your interests.

By planning ahead, you can leave a permanent legacy at Peru State College.

Save-the-Date:
Peru State Giving Day
October 24, 2019

For 24 hours on October 24, all Bobcats are invited to GIVE BACK to Peru State College. This is a day dedicated to Peru State College philanthropy, volunteerism and history.

How you can help:
• Donate and support Peru State College on October 24 – help the College reach their fundraising goal!
• Sign up to be a social media ambassador!
• Volunteer in your community or on-campus and promote the Bobcats!

Learn more at www.peru.edu/foundation/givingday
IRA Gift Means “The help is always there if you need it”

Senior Myles Hicks has enjoyed three great years as a student at Peru State. After attending another school for one year, he transferred to Peru State following the recommendation of a friend back home in Independence, Missouri.

Hicks has played football for the Bobcat’s defensive line for three years. This year, as a senior, he was elected by his teammates as a team captain. He has been happy with his decision to transfer. “I like that the teachers and everybody are always available when you need them. The help is always there if you need it.”

This year, Myles got some unexpected help, thanks to a new endowed scholarship fund established by alumni Paul and Arlene (Borcher) Fell.

Paul and Arlene Fell met on campus as students and graduated in 1967. They both became teachers, including spending time as faculty members at Peru State. They both have had successful careers as small-business owners. Paul Fell is a syndicated cartoonist. Arlene Fell owned and operated an alterations business. Together, they have co-chaired the National Alumni Association and have remained loyal Bobcats since graduation.

Recently, the Fells became interested in establishing an endowed scholarship. For Paul and Arlene, it made financial sense to establish the scholarship by making a direct contribution of money held in their Individual Retirement Accounts. By making a contribution from their IRA to the Peru State College Foundation, they were able to avoid paying income tax and increasing their adjusted gross income. The gift also counted toward the annual mandatory minimum distribution requirement. Most importantly, they created a scholarship that will support students like Myles in perpetuity.

Hicks has benefited from the best Peru State has to offer: caring faculty and staff, coaches with character and commitment, and generous alumni who are paying it forward and making the dream of a college education just a little bit easier to manage.

For information on how you can make a contribution from an Individual Retirement Account or to inquire about the Foundation’s scholarship program, please contact the Peru State College Foundation, 402-872-2304 or via email at pscfoundation@peru.edu.

Bobcat Alums Arlene (Borcher) Fell (’67), Paul Fell (’67)

Share Your Story with Current Peru State Students

Two weeks in spring and two weeks in fall, current Peru State College students call to hear the stories of alumni and friends and share updates on the College.

“My favorite part of working the Phonathon was speaking to alumni and friends, and learning about their experiences on campus,” said Valyn Sterns, current student and past Phonathon caller. “It’s awesome to know that Peru State alumni and friends are passionate about the College.”

Current students from the Schools of Education, Arts and Sciences, and Professional Studies are hired each semester to share current College happenings, ask for updated contact information to ensure alumni receive event invitations and the Peru Stater, and ask for philanthropic support to help students on campus now and in the future.

“The Phonathon program is an important way we stay in touch with the Bobcat family,” said Todd Simpson, PSC Foundation CEO. “The money raised during Phonathon is spent on things important to students like scholarships and supporting student activities.”

Alumni and friends are invited to pick up the phone and enjoy a conversation with these talented students.

Pick up the phone and speak with a Peru State student this March!

Spring Phonathon is scheduled to kick off March 16.
Leave Your Mark on Peru State College’s Campus for Generations to Come

Many Peru State alumni and friends have chosen to leave their mark on Peru State College’s campus through the Sesquicentennial Plaza engraved paving stones.

“This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate what Peru State College has meant to our family,” said Danny Hayes (’02). “Many members of our family have attended classes, games and events at PSC. The College is an important part of our lives and now we will be a permanent part of campus.”

Two sizes of paving stones will be engraved starting in February and March of 2019 (weather dependent) located in the Sesquicentennial Plaza directly south of the newly renovated Performing Arts Center.

“Donations to the Sesquicentennial Plaza Program and engraving a paving stone go to support Peru State College students,” said Todd Simpson, CEO, PSC Foundation. “Investing in Peru State College through this fund allows you to truly make a difference and offer students opportunities they may not otherwise afford.”

Learn more about the paving stone and donation options below:

**Paving Stone Information:**
- 12”x12” - $1,000
  - 5 lines with 15 characters/spaces/punctuation at 1” font
- 6”x12”
  - 3 lines with 15 characters/spaces/punctuation at 1” font

**Donation Options:**
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 12”x12” paving stones
   b. $250 in year 1 and $250 in year 2 for 6”x12” paving stones
3. Monthly giving over 24 months (amount determined based on donation – for example a 6”x12” would be $20.83 per month).

Paving stones will be engraved once full payment has been received by the PSC Foundation. Learn more at www.peru.edu/foundation/pavingstone.

Daryl and Peggy Long Inspire New Gifts through Matching Challenge

Long-time faculty member Daryl Long and his wife Peggy are deeply committed to supporting Peru State College. This year, in celebration of Daryl’s 50-year teaching career, he and Peggy offered a special challenge to the Peru State community. Daryl and Peggy have made a gift of $50,000 to the Peru State College Foundation. They will contribute an additional $50,000 if alumni and friends of the College match that with gifts totaling $50,000.

In case it’s been awhile since you have been in a math class, that adds up to $150,000, another number the Campus of a Thousand Oaks has been celebrating recently.

Daryl and Peggy hoped to encourage new donors to join them in supporting Peru State College, so the matching gift opportunity was initially offered to first-time donors who have not made a gift to the Foundation in previous years.

Throughout the year, the matching opportunity was gradually expanded to also include people who had not made a gift for a period of years, and then to people to have given in previous years, but had not yet made a contribution in this current year.

So far, the results have been very exciting. Many people have responded with great enthusiasm. One donor said he was among Dr. Long’s first students, and he just could not pass up the offer to “get some of Dr. Long’s money.”

The matching opportunity has inspired more than 240 people to make their first gifts to the Foundation.

To date, because of the wonderful support of the Bobcat family, $25,000 has been raised through this special matching opportunity.

Through the original contribution plus the matching fund of $50,000, Daryl and Peggy are establishing the Bicentennial Fund. This endowed fund will be invested today to provide support to the College beginning with the College’s Bicentennial. The Long Bicentennial Fund is planting seeds for a bright and successful future for Peru State College.

Stay tuned to future issues of the Peru Stater to follow the Long Bicentennial Fund as it grows and flourishes through the magic of compound interest!
State and International Award-Winning

Peru State College History Book

Nebraska's First College: Shaping the Future since 1867 was recently honored by the Nebraska Center for the Book for best cover/design and illustration. The book was created in collaboration with the Omaha World Herald, author Dan Sullivan and designer, Christine Zueck-Watkins.

According to the Nebraska Center for the Book, their stated purpose is to “bring together the state’s readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word.”

Nebraska’s First College: Shaping the Future since 1867 was also selected for national recognition by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

“CASE is the preeminent association for higher education foundations and alumni programs in the world,” said Todd Simpson, CEO of the Peru State Foundation. “Receiving the 2018 Gold Award in the Circle of Excellence in the Institutional Relations Publications Books category from CASE for Peru State’s 150th anniversary history book “Nebraska’s First College: Shaping the Future since 1867” is a tremendous honor.”

The international awards program honors outstanding work in advancement services, alumni relations, communications, fundraising and marketing at colleges, universities, independent schools and affiliated nonprofits. Peer professionals at schools, colleges and universities as well as professionals from outside of education judged the entries.

Nebraska’s First College: Shaping the Future since 1867 may be purchased through the Peru State College Foundation for $39.95 (+$5.00 shipping). Learn more and order online at www.peru.edu/foundation/book.

Thank You 2018 Fall Event Sponsors

- More than 420 alumni and friends of Peru State College returned to campus this fall for the Athletic Hall of Fame induction and Homecoming. The Peru State College Foundation would like to recognize the following sponsors who generously supported our 2018 fall alumni events.
- Sponsorships allow us to highlight alumni-owned and alumni-affiliated businesses and the business community throughout southeast Nebraska.
- If you would like to have information about serving as a sponsor for 2019 events, please contact Becca Jewell at the Peru State College Foundation, (402) 872-2304
Bobcat Family Tree: Anderson Family

In this issue of the Peru Stater and in upcoming issues, true blue Bobcat families will be profiled – highlighting their family tree of Peru State attendees and graduates.

Peru State College has made an impact on families for more than 150 years. This series highlights the passion families feel about their Peru State experience and the generations impacted by the College.

The Anderson Family

Gary Anderson ('60) and Marian (Schmidt) Anderson ('60) stopped in the PSC Foundation office and shared their true blue Bobcat story. They met in speech class and found love on Peru State’s campus. They married between their sophomore and junior years. Gary majored in secondary education and Marian majored in elementary education.

After graduation both taught with Gary working 40 years in education with 33 as a principal and Marian teaching for 29 years. They had four children who all attended higher education with their son Spencer ('94) and granddaughter Tawny ('16) attending Peru State College.

Their extended family also attended Peru State College. Gary’s sister, Eula (Anderson) Nook ('55) and her son, Roger Nook also attended Peru State (Fr. 1975).

“Education was very important to our family,” said Gary. “My parents weren’t able to go on to college, but they encouraged their kids to attend. Peru State was the right fit for us.”

Marian’s Aunt Fern (Russell) Schmidt ('1911) attended Peru State. Also Marian’s cousins graduated from Peru State including Lucille (Christensen) Rawson ('65) and her husband Keith Rawson ('65), Wayne Christensen ('67) and Faye (Christensen) Lessner ('72) and her husband Bob Lessner ('73).

“Peru State has been a very special part of our lives,” said Marian. “We continue to come back for activities including the sesquicentennial celebrations.”

Gary and Marian Anderson and their family are a wonderful example of many true, blue Bobcat families. Next issue will highlight profiles of the Sayer family and Bohlken family.

Have a story you’d like to share? Contact the PSC Foundation at pscfoundation@peru.edu or (402) 872-2304.

Peru State Alumni Notes:

Throughout the year, the PSC Foundation receives notes and updates from alumni. Thank you for keeping the Foundation updated! Many of the updates we receive are located in the back of the magazine (Look at those Bobcats go!, Bobcats we will miss and Bobcat love). But, a few notes fall outside these categories and we would like to share them with readers:

Dave Stoller ('85) encourages everyone to consider a graduate degree from Peru State College. Due to his encouragement, the next Peru Stater will feature an article on PSC graduate programs. In the interim – learn more at www.peru.edu/graduate.

Janet (Barton) Vermeer ('74) sent a letter telling us of her freshman year living in Delzell Hall. With all of the history shared about Delzell Hall due to the recent renovation, we failed to mention in 1970-1971 Delzell Hall was a women’s residence hall. Janet shared, “I’ll always have fond memories of my freshman year in Delzell Hall, including freshman orientation, wearing beanies and memorizing the Peru State fight song.”

Thousand Oaks Alumni Excellence Awards: Showcasing Alumni Success

Peru State College has outstanding alumni making a difference in their profession, communities and positively impacting Peru State. To honor these individuals the Peru State College Foundation and the College created the Thousand Oaks Alumni Excellence Awards in 2018.

These awards recognize outstanding alumni from the School of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs, School of Professional Studies and School of Education, and the inaugural awards will be presented in 2019.

“We are excited to recognize our alumni and their achievements,” said Dan Hanson, PSC president. “These awards provide an opportunity to engage our outstanding alumni with current students. Peru State students will benefit from interacting with alumni and hearing their success stories.”

The awards will be presented in April 2019 in conjunction with the first Undergraduate Research & Creativity Day. Recipients will be announced via email.

For additional information on the awards and nomination process, visit www.peru.edu/foundation/awards.
Why did you choose PSC?

Peru State gave me the opportunity to continue my football career past high school. My two older brothers and dad also played football at Peru State. This allowed me to visit the campus multiple times a year and see its beauty. The community around campus is what makes Peru State special and I experienced this on many Saturday afternoons in the Oak Bowl.

Please describe your current position. Where have you worked previously?

I am currently a Sports Performance Intern for the Houston Texans. My job is to make sure our athletes and coaches have everything they need from a nutrition aspect to perform at the highest level. This includes working with other departments including sports performance and sports medicine to provide a multidisciplinary approach.

My main responsibility is to support the day-to-day operations of the Performance Nutrition program. This includes anything from managing inventory to researching new items and protocols. I also assist with various others jobs that include menu ideas, nutrition consultations and practice hydration. The fun part about working in sports, especially the NFL, is that it keeps you on your feet and no day is ever the same.

I started my career as a strength and conditioning coach and completed internships at the University of Idaho, University of Washington, and Iowa State University. I was an assistant strength coach at Monmouth University before becoming a graduate assistant strength coach for the University of Akron football team. That is when I fell in love with nutrition and returned home to study at the University of Nebraska. While at UNL, I was a strength and conditioning intern with the men’s basketball team.

My first work in nutrition was during my dietetic internship, which is a requirement to become a registered dietitian. I did rotations in athletics at the University of Oregon and the University of Alabama with their football team. After my dietetic internship, I worked for the Iowa Cubs, the Chicago Cubs Triple-A affiliate and IMG Academy as a Nutrition Coach for their NFL combine and NFL pathway programs. These experiences were amazing!

Overall, I have worked with over a dozen sports including male and female teams. This variety is one of the main aspects that have allowed me to grow as quickly as I have in my career. There are brilliant people in every field and each student needs to take advantage of today’s technology to connect with potential peers.

What are your career goals?

My goal as of right now is to become a director of sports nutrition for an NFL team. Football has been a passion of mine since high school and the NFL allows me to work with some of the best athletes in the world. The world is always changing along with my priorities. Working with the Texans has been my favorite job, so I plan on staying in the NFL for as long as possible.

Preventative health is also a passion of mine with the increased prevalence of chronic disease. Down the line, I would love to own a non-profit and help those living in the inner city focus on their health from a nutrition, exercise, and mental aspect.

How has Peru State helped you with your career path?

Peru State provided me three things: friendships, leadership and determination.

As I mentioned before, the community surrounding Peru State is its best quality. I left the campus with best friends that I will have for my entire life. This includes those that I played football with and a professor.

I was fortunate enough to be named a captain on the football team my senior year. Leading others is a valuable trait to have especially when dealing with a group of athletes. I now have to do the same with the athletes here in Houston.

The professor I mentioned earlier was Dr. Kyle Ryan. He came in my sophomore year and realized the potential I had but was not utilizing. Kyle pushed me to see that education is not something to take lightly and goals can come true to those that work hard. One of my favorite sayings is “nobody owes you anything.” Peru State has a lot to offer every student and Kyle made me determined to get the maximum of what the campus provides. I have taken this lesson with me to every job that I have had and believe this determination is what helped me achieve my dream of working in the NFL.
2018 Peru State College Athletic Hall of Fame

In September 2018, Peru State College inducted four individuals and one team into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Learn more about these outstanding individuals and team.

Dr. Tom Hallstrom (’49) – Basketball/ Meritorious Service

Dr. Tom Hallstrom demonstrated outstanding athletic ability during his time at Peru State and is part of the Hall of Fame as a team member for the 1947-48 men’s basketball team. Hallstrom was inducted as an individual member to the Hall of Fame for his contributions to athletics throughout his career as an educator and administrator.

After graduating from Peru State in 1949, Hallstrom taught, coached, supervised and coordinated physical education and athletics for the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) for 30 years. He was considered to have been one of the nation’s early leaders in high school athletic administration.

Hallstrom had major roles in recruiting minority basketball and football officials, was instrumental in implementing high school girl’s gymnastics in Nebraska, and was one of the founders of the national AAU Junior Olympic Track and Field program.

Hallstrom is a member of the Omaha Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame and the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame. He was very instrumental in moving the Nebraska High School State Track and Field State Championship to Omaha and created the organizational blue print that remains in place today.

Mark Mathews (posthumously) – Coach

The longest-serving and most victorious coach in Peru State softball history is Mark Mathews. His 24 seasons as the head coach produced 584 wins that currently account for more than 70% of the total wins in Bobcat softball history. In addition, at the time of his passing, Mathews was 15th on the all-time winningest list of active coaches in the NAIA.

Mathews was twice named as the conference coach of the year – in 1996 and in 2006. The 2006 team won the conference regular season and tournament titles – a first for Peru State while participating in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference (MCAC). The only Bobcat softball team to ever make it to the NAIA National Championships was his 1996 team which finished with a 42-23 mark.

Truly an advocate of the student-athlete, 48 of Mathews’ players were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes while others earned NFCA and CoSIDA academic and athletic honors. In addition, most of his teams earned NAIA or NFCA scholar team status. Mathews will always be remembered for his love of conservation and for planting a tree for each of his seniors.

Kent Propst (’81) – Meritorious Service

Kent Propst served the College as editor of the PSC student newspaper and became Sports Information Director late in his freshman year. The 1981 graduate returned in 1983 as Director of College Relations and eventually as Vice President of College Relations – positions he held for 20 years.

In his roles, Propst produced countless articles promoting Peru State College and athletics regionally and nationally. In addition to his regular duties, he teamed up with Hall of Fame member Randy Gottula and others as the color commentator for many Bobcat football games and other athletic contests.

Propst was the initial instigator for the Peru State Hall of Fame which started in 1986. He spent countless hours of research to help ensure many individuals and/or teams would eventually be enshrined and properly recognized. His initial planning and work for not only the selection, but the rest of the Hall of Fame activities, are followed to this day. Propst also served as Executive Director for the Peru State College Foundation.

Brett Richards (’92) – Basketball

A 1992 graduate, Brett Richards, is being inducted into the Peru State Hall of Fame due to his prowess on the basketball court. Nearly 30 years after he played, Richards is listed in numerous single-season and career record categories. During the 1989-90 season, he attempted 281 three-point field goals and made 125 – both still records for a single season. In addition, he owns the career marks for both categories as he made 260 out of 621 attempts making nearly 42% of his three-point tries – which is second-best all-time.

In other career-record categories, Richards is second in assists with 347, third in scoring with 1,493 points, and seventh in steals with 113.

Richards’ other top single-season marks include: third in points with 663, third in three-point field goal percentage with 44.5%, seventh in assists with 148, eighth in single-season three-point field goals made with 80, tenth in single-season three-point field goal attempts with 201, and 11th in scoring average at 21.4 points per game.

1988-1989 Women’s Basketball Team

The 1988-89 Bobcat women’s basketball team was the first Peru State team to gain state and national attention. Under the direction of Coach Wayne Davidson (a member of the Hall of Fame himself), the Bobcats matched the College’s most wins in a single season with 23 – a mark which still stands today. In addition, they set a record with 17 consecutive straight home wins.

The team was the NAIA District 11 finalist and had victories over such teams as Kearney State College (now University of Nebraska at Kearney), Chadron State, Wayne State, Doane, Hastings, Midland Lutheran, and many other teams.

Team members Connie Viner and Carrie Menges were both unanimous choices to the 11-member All-District squad Peru State finished as the district runner-up to the Doane Tigers. In addition, four players were recognized as members of the All-District Scholar-Athletes.

The 1988-89 team still holds the highest three-point field goal percentage mark of 38.1% while numerous individuals still hold spots in various top ten career categories.

2019 Nomination Process

To nominate an individual or team for induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame, please print and complete the nomination form available at pscbobcats.com/hof. Completed forms and supporting documentation should be submitted to the Peru State College Foundation by email at pscfoundation@peru.edu or by mail at PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421.

Nominations for consideration in 2019 should be submitted by April 1, 2019.

• A committee of alumni make the selections annually each spring. For more information about the Athletic Hall of Fame, contact the Foundation at pscfoundation@peru.edu or (402) 872-2304.
Trying to match the outcome of the 2017-18 season, the 2018-19 Bobcat men’s basketball team worked hard in the pre-season and is off to a good start this year. Peru State is looking for a repeat trip to the NAIA DI National Championship. This year’s version of the team features 14 newcomers working with four returners to seek their ultimate goals.

Bobcat Women’s Basketball

After an offseason which was focused heavily on recruiting, the 2018-19 Peru State women’s basketball team is nearly triple the size it was the previous year – both in number and in height! Early in the season, the Bobcats broke a 25-game losing streak and scored the most points in a contest in over two years. Peru State will be looking to fool many of the teams in the conference which had picked them to finish last in the Heart.
The name Larry Green is well known in southeast Nebraska and around the world. He grew up in Brock helping on his family farm, but always knew he would pursue a different path – eventually becoming a leader in the business industry after graduating from Peru State College.

“Larry often expressed his gratitude that education took him from his farming home in southeast Nebraska to a career that took him literally around the world,” said Todd Simpson, Foundation CEO.

Larry attended Peru State College in the late 1960s and early 1970s, graduating in 1971 with a degree in business administration. While at Peru State, Larry was a recognizable member of the Bobcat basketball team.

“There aren't many 6'8" guys walking around southeast Nebraska,” Larry used to joke. Larry often mentioned the many life lessons of leadership, diversity, teamwork and perseverance he learned while traveling with his teammates and Coach McIntire heading to the next basketball game.

“It's amazing what I learned about life in that old station wagon,” Larry shared.

After college, Larry worked in manufacturing sales and management. He rose through the ranks and in 1980 became the Senior Vice President of Constar International, at the time the largest provider of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic containers in the United States.

In 1994, Larry was recruited by Ball Corporation to serve as President of the Ball Plastic Container Operations, a Fortune 500 company. Under his leadership, Ball entered the market for PET plastic containers and in less than four years, Ball grew its plastic container division from a strategic idea to five manufacturing facilities around the country.

Larry’s longtime friend and co-worker, Al Lepper shared that “(w)hen the going would get tough, and we were around the table trying to drag out just one more dollar of profit (or one less dollar of loss), Larry would say “We need to live to fight another day.” He never ever gave up - never. And he taught us to do the same.” Al worked with Larry for 25 years in Tennessee, Arizona, South Carolina, Texas and finally, Colorado.

Upon his retirement in 2011, Larry oversaw an increase in sales for the Ball Plastic Container Operations division from $300 million to more than $3 billion.

“Larry Green was a leader on the world stage for his work at Ball Corporation,” said Dan Hanson, President of Peru State College. “But he never forgot the importance of education and how Peru State College prepared him for success.”

In 2002, Larry joined the Peru State College Foundation Board of Directors. Larry served on the Foundation’s Executive Committee from 2005 to 2008, and again from 2013-2019. In 2015 he was elected Chairman of the Foundation and continued in that role until his death.

As Chairman, Larry led a clarification of the Foundation’s Board and committee roles at Peru State College focusing on high level direction resulting in an efficient and engaged Board of Directors. His efforts have included establishing or reestablishing the Audit Committee, Investment Committee and Prospect Research Committee as well as re-energizing the Nominating Committee.

“He believed in supporting other students at Peru State with the gift of education and he demonstrated that repeatedly through his leadership on the Foundation Board of Directors and in his contributions to Peru State,” said Todd Simpson.
As an integral part of the Foundation’s efforts for more than 15 years, Larry and his wife, Sue, began the Green Family Scholarship at Peru State (which provides more than $4000 in scholarships each year to deserving students). They were also significant contributors to the campus entrance project and were the lead donors for the theatre/performing arts center project.

In October 2018, Peru State College President Dr. Hanson notified Larry that the Nebraska State College System had awarded him with the Peru State College Distinguished Service Award.

“The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor Peru State can bestow on an alumnus,” said Dr. Hanson. “Larry is a most deserving recipient. His success in the business world fueled his desire to ensure students have an opportunity to be transformed by education. His impact on Peru State College will be felt for generations to come.”

Larry was scheduled to be presented with the award in May in conjunction with the College’s 2019 commencement exercises.

On January 5, 2019, Larry J. Green, ’71, Chairman of Peru State College Foundation, passed away following a private battle with cancer.

Larry is survived by many friends and a loving family including his wife, Sue Green, sister, Dr. Judy Grotrian (’72 graduate and Professor of Business at Peru State College) and husband, Charles (’71), sister, Mary Jane Green (’74), nephew, Jay Grotrian (’96) and wife Michel, and niece, Dr. Sheri Grotrian (’02 graduate and Professor of Business at Peru State College), and great nephew, Ian. A private service is being planned by the family for the spring.

Donovan Takes the Reins

With the passing of Foundation Chair Larry Green in January, 2019, Vice Chair SaraBeth Donovan has stepped up to again lead the Foundation as Chair.

Donovan has served on the Peru State College Foundation Board of Directors since 2008. She previously served as Chair of the Board from 2011 to 2015, and as Vice Chair from 2015 until February 2019.

“I plan to continue with Larry Green’s vision for the Foundation and his dedication to providing funding for scholarships and educational programs for Peru State College,” Donovan said.

Originally from Lincoln, Nebraska (Northeast HS), Donovan graduated with distinction in 1985 from Peru State, with a Bachelor’s of Science in Education (Mathematics) and a coaching endorsement.

However, Donovan’s relationship with Peru State is deeper than her attendance. Her grandparents, Glenn and Verda Frary both graduated from Peru State in 1927. She also has a brother who graduated from Peru State in 1993 and a niece who received her Bobcat degree in 2017. You might call her relationship with Peru State a family affair!

After teaching and coaching for several years, Donovan continued her education receiving a law degree from the University of Nebraska in 1992. She became a trial attorney with the Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C. A few years later, she returned to the Heartland, becoming an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska in Omaha.

From 2001 to 2005, she took a break from the legal profession, developing and implementing a planned giving program for the Peru State College Foundation and later providing full-time care for her recently widowed brother and young niece in California.

In 2006, she returned to the Voting Section in Washington, D.C., becoming a Deputy Chief in 2009. In 2015, Donovan relocated with the U.S. Department of Justice to South Dakota where she continues to serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

In 2013 Donovan was selected to serve as Peru State’s Homecoming Grand Marshall and she gave the commencement address to the graduating class of 2015.

With Donovan’s ascent to the Chair, the Board elected current Secretary Joyce Douglas to serve as Vice Chair and Board member Pat Mertens (’86) to serve as Secretary for the rest of 2019.
HELP RE-CONNECT THE BOBCAT FAMILY!

Receiving updated contact information is one of the biggest challenges alumni associations and foundations face. Starting with this issue, the Peru Stater will feature a list of alumni from each decade that the Peru State Foundation and National Alumni Association are missing contact information.

If you know someone on the list, please contact them and ask them to update the PSC Foundation or contact the Foundation directly at pscfoundation@peru.edu or (402) 872-2304. Many alumni don’t realize they are missing issues of the Peru Stater, event invitations and more – help them and help your alma mater to reconnect.

This Issue: Alumni Who Graduated in the 1940s.
In fall 2018, under the direction of the National Alumni Association, the Foundation conducted a survey of Peru State College graduates from 2008 through 2018.

“The survey was conducted to better understand how recent graduates prefer to be engaged, what types of communication methods and topics are of interest, and their philanthropic giving philosophy,” said Deborah Solie, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving.

More than 840 recent alumni responded. “The response was overwhelming and much appreciated,” said Solie. “This information will guide the National Alumni Association and Foundation next steps.”

Special thanks to the Peru State College's Office of Assessment and Kristin Buscher, who helped draft the questions, conducted the survey and assisted with the analysis.

Next steps for Recent Alumni:

Based on the survey results, the National Alumni Association is creating a sub-committee to focus solely on recent alumni engagement. This group will be comprised of graduates from the years 2008 through 2018 and led by current National Alumni Association board member, Tyler Nutsch ('13).

“Our goal is to develop programming that intentionally engages our most recent graduates throughout the year,” said Nutsch.

The sub-committee will be formed over the next few months based on recommendations from faculty, staff, alumni and friends. After the group has formed and bylaws created, recent alumni will have the opportunity to apply to be on the board.

“I am excited we are creating something completely new for Peru State College alumni,” said Nutsch. “Our first meeting will be held in conjunction with our first recent alumni event on June 22.”

The first recent alumni programming scheduled for 2019 is a tailgate prior to a Stormchasers game on June 22.

“We are excited about the new programming and committee,” said Solie. “Our goal is to re-connect alumni with Peru State College and this group of recent alumni will lead the way.”
Look at those Bobcats Go!

Tiffany Arcuri is teaching yearbook, photography, web page design and an intern mentoring class in Marysville, KS. She taught at Manhattan High School from 2001 to 2018 before joining her new school.

Jack Cook, who enlisted in the Navy his junior year at Peru, was featured in an article in the Goshen News in Indiana. Jack recouunted his year in country in Vietnam in 1968.

The Duder Family received the 150 year Heritage Farm Award. John Duda left Bohemia in 1865 and eventually settled the farm, which has been passed down through the generations. Those future family members included Peru State alumnu Ruth Ann Finck ‘58, Lawrence “Larry” 67, and John (68).

Kim Farrar began the 2018-19 school year as a new fifth grade teacher at Arboe Park Intermediate School in the Blair Community Schools.

Kris Farris retired from the education field after finishing out the 2017-18 school year. She had just completed four years of service to Johnson County Central Schools. In addition to her work at JCC, she also taught at Auburn Public Schools for 15 years and Peru State College for two years.

Chris Maher and two other Auburn residents have been operating Airstream Heating and Cooling. He worked for eight years in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning field before relocating to Auburn.

Emanuel Maldonado is starting at the Blair Community School for the 2018-19 school year. Emanuel will be a Spanish teacher at Blair High School.

Debra Neighbors retires as math teacher at Elkhorn High School. She taught for nearly 25 years and spent her entire career at Elkhorn since 1993.

Adam Quintana played his first season with the Gary (IN) Southshore Railcats. Adam spent the 2017 season pitching for the Lake Erie Crushers in the Frontier League.

Tom Ridener was inducted into the Nebraska Prairie Museum’s Sports Wall of Fame. Tom lettered in three sports in four years of high school, all conference for two years, and all state honorable mention for three years.

Randy Santiesteban played in his third season with the Gary (IN) Southshore Railcats. Prior to joining the Railcats in 2016, Randy played with the Sonora Stompers of the Pacific Association (Independent).

Susan Sisco opened an art show at the Schoolhouse Art Gallery in Brownsville on August 2, 2018. It ran through August 26, 2018.

Jan Wright had poetry feature in the Kimmel Gallery at the Morton-James Public Library in Nebraska City in April 2018.
Amanda Ackley (Stuckemeyer, ’08) has been a part of Wright Community Foundation. Dena works as the Family Development Coordinator for children’s programs. She is teaching Special Education at Central Community College. She has been teaching in the community since 2010.

Dena Beck (Peterson, ’08) is teaching in the fourth grade at North Platte Community College. She is teaching Physical Education at Central College starting the 2018-19 school year.

Matt Carlson (’09) was named the keynote speaker at the 2017-18 Nemaha County Leadership Class where he spoke with kids about connecting with everyone in society and how it can be hard to connect in certain situations.

Danny Hayes (’07) is teaching at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the College of Arts and Sciences. He is teaching in the fourth grade at Lincoln Public Schools and Conestoga Elementary.

Dan Ackland (’06) is teaching at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the College of Business Administration. He started his new position as the Dean of Students at Burke High School this fall.

Amanda Andrews (’10) is teaching in the fourth grade at North Platte Community College. She is teaching Physical Education at Central College starting the 2018-19 school year.

Dan Holtz, as warden of the Nebraska State Penitentiary on June 4, 2018. He also started his new position as the Dean of Students at Burke High School this fall.

Abigail Meyer (’16) is the new 7-12 History teacher at Baker High School. She is teaching Special Education at Fort Calhoun Elementary School.

Maddie Kohr (’18) is teaching fourth grade at Johnson County Central Schools starting the 2018-19 school year.
Mary Ellen (Barkey) Boyden of Woodbine, IA passed away October 17, 2018 at the age of 94. In addition to her teaching and nursing career, Mary Ellen was an active volunteer. When she found free time she enjoyed gardening, traveling, sewing and quilting. However, she always had time to spend with her family.

Thehma (Ward) Domingo of Weeping Water passed away April 13, 2018 at the age of 99. Thehma has an extensive volunteer history and was named as Weeping Water Ambassador for Limestone Day and as a Distinguished Alumna of Weeping Water High School. Thehma was a woman well loved by family and all with whom she met and worked.

Margaret (Radii) Hornokla of Wilber passed away June 8, 2018 at the age of 96. She enjoyed her flowers, garden, pets, family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved visiting with family, friends, neighbors and all those she met.

Kenneth Krefels of Nebraska City passed away September 26, 2018 at the age of 90. Kenny served in the US Air Force for four years during the Korean War and later worked at American Meter for 37 years, retiring in 1991. He was very active in his community.

Art Porter of Chicago, IL passed away September 1, 2018 at the age of 63. Art worked as a Chicago radio producer and show booker where he met many famous celebrities. He also helped organize and host the NAACP awards events. Outside of work, he was devoted to his family.

Ruth (McCormick) Wilhelm of Syracuse passed away August 7, 2018 at the age of 97. She enjoyed being on the farm, having a garden, tending her flowers and documenting her family history. She played piano and organ for over 70 years and volunteered for many community events.

Zola Albers (Mahoney, ’47) of Red Cloud passed away April 21, 2018 at the age of 93. Zola enjoyed traveling, reading and her many friends. Her family was the foundation of her life and she especially loved her grandchildren. She was active in her church and was always willing to help with community activities.

Eleanor Irons (Lindsay, ’51) of Weeping Water passed away August 14, 2018 at the age of 85.

Donna Knoche (Kunc, ’51) of Beatrice passed away August 15, 2018 at the age of 89. Donna enjoyed working in her flower garden, reading, Christmas, Husker sports (especially football and volleyball), and spoiling her grandchildren.

Hazel Weible (Leeper, ’52) of Nebraska City passed away September 30, 2018 at the age of 85. She was known to most as Joan and formerly worked at Joe’s Café and JC Penny’s. Hazel loved traveling and enjoyed card games with family and friends.

Margaret “Magg” Keibler (Svoboda, ’59) of Council Bluffs, IA passed away July 5, 2018 at the age of 80. Mag was a 4th grade teacher for the CB Lewis Central School System for 41 years, retiring in 2000 and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2015. She was an active volunteer with many organizations and societies.

Paul DeVries (’60) of Lincoln passed away September 5, 2018 at the age of 80. Paul loved his family, their extended families, and many friends. Often offering his lake home for many gatherings, any reason to celebrate. He was active all of his life, enjoying lake activities, sporting events, traveling and being with his family.

Patrick Cooper (’62) of Twinburg, OH passed away September 7, 2018 at the age of 78. Patrick was an American History buff who not only enjoyed reading history, but also enjoyed taking vacations to historical places. He was a talented artist, wood carver, and builder of jigsaw puzzles.

Martha Fish (Jameson, ’29) of Omaha passed away September 30, 2018 at the age of 106. Martha was recently interviewed for Omaha State oral history documentary.

Marjorie Rider (Moore, ’43) of Colorado Springs, CO passed away August 30, 2018 at the age of 93. Marjorie loved teaching and was involved in teaching and giving instructions her whole life. She also loved her family, cooking and travel.

Sophie Rizer (Bohling, ’43) of Tecumseh, passed away October 25, 2018 at the age of 94. Sophie enjoyed flowers, reading, and for many years, volunteered for BINGO with the residents at Belle Terrace. After her retirement, Sophie enjoyed many organized tours in the lower 48 and Alaska.

Virginia Harms (Lienenmann, ’48) of Beatrice passed away August 29, 2018 at the age of 88. She was an accomplished seamstress, sewing her daughters’ wedding attire. Virginia also chronicled many projects and quilted; she handed out 13 full or queen size quilts or Christmas. She always had a huge garden and always had African Violets.

Willa Rabstejnek (Rickman, ’49) of Table Rock passed away February 12, 2018 at the age of 88. Willa was employed at the Pawnee County Veteran Service Office for 45 years. She was a member of Bowers-Hays Unit 289 Legion Aux., VFW 5289, Eastern Star, and the Jolly Workers Club.

Evelyn Christie (Simeoniet, ’46) of Lincoln passed away October 11, 2018 at the age of 89. Evelyn was happiest when he was on his horse or in his plane; with his wife, Millie, by his side. He kindled towards others was part of his gentle spirit and his endearing smile and twinkle in his bright blue eyes will not be forgotten.

Robert was a veteran of the Vietnam War doing two tours. He retired from Hickam AFB in 1979 after 25 years of service. He was a Mason and Shriner.

Michael Treat (’54) of Omaha passed away June 23, 2018 at the age of 82.

Lila Chatfield (Stander, ’55) of Omaha passed away June 18, 2017 at the age of 86. She was a member of the Narcissus Chapter of the Eastern Star (#369).

Lila Paap (Windle, ’55) of Charleston, IL passed away December 17, 2017 at the age of 81. Lila was the matriarch of her family and a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother who was extremely organized and worked hard at making her home filled with warmth, love and delicately prepared family meals.

Margaret “Marg” Kilibarda (Svoboda, ’59) of Council Bluffs, IA passed away July 5, 2018 at the age of 85. Marg was a 4th grade teacher for the CB Lewis Central School System for 41 years, retiring in 2000 and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2015. She was an active volunteer with many organizations and societies.

James “Jim” Agnew (’65) of West Des Moines, IA passed away August 2, 2018 at the age of 74. He started his teaching career in the Hamburg, IA Public School before moving on to the Urbandale IA Community School District. In 1973 he resigned his teaching assignment and founded his tax and accounting business. He continued in this line of work until his final retirement in 2015.

Richard Ferron (’65) of Maitland, MO passed away April 29, 2018 at the age of 75. New to the Maitland area, he and his wife Brenda looked forward to beginning a new chapter in life together. Richard was a devout Christian, avid outdoorsman, and loving and caring father and husband.

Letha Hayes (Monk, ’66) of Spokane, WA passed away May 13, 2018 at the age of 92. No matter where Letha lived, she was active in her church and an active volunteer in her community. She loved to look at cookbooks and to cook. Anyone who visited her house was always fed and encouraged to eat a little more.
Bobcats We Miss

Vivian Houts (Dooley, '66) of Kansas City, MO passed away September 28, 2018 at the age of 94. Initially, Vivian attended Peru State College after graduating high school in 1943, but had to return home to help with the farm. She was able to return to teaching and finally complete her degree. She was active in her church and enjoyed solving the Word Jumble in the daily newspaper. She was a devoted KC Royals fan.

John Chasse ('67) of Rutland, MA passed away July 28, 2018 at the age of 73. John taught history for 37 years and also coached multiple sports. As an outstanding athlete himself, he was a member of the Worcester Public School Hall of Fame, Leicester Junior College Hall of Fame and the New England Basketball Hall of Fame! John was also a proud Vietnam veteran, earning many commendations.

Marian Terry (Mulhivist, '68) of Grand Island passed away October 16, 2018 at the age of 101. Marian received her normal training certificate and once her children were all school age, returned to college and achieved her BA in Education. Marian lived her life by the Golden Rule: “Treat others as you would want to be treated.”

Jane Glover (Givethand, '69) of New London, CT passed away October 13, 2018 at the age of 71. Jane taught for a year in New Long public schools before serving as president of the Connecticut Education Association. She also worked for many years as a children's librarian. Jane was very civic minded and served on the Board of Education and City Council.

James “Jim” Kleaveland (69) of Glenwood, IA passed away July 1, 2018 at the age 71. Jim had a vast array of hobbies and truly enjoyed gardening, bee keeping, raising border collies, collecting coins, knives, and patriotic memorabilia.

Albert Smith (69) of Braymer, MO passed away April 14, 2017 at the age of 75. He taught school for three years then was a corrections officer and assistant case worker at UMCC in Cameron.

1970s

Gregory Maguire (70) of Lincoln passed away August 11, 2018 at the age of 70. Greg retired after 38 years as assistant director of housing for the University of Nebraska Lincoln. He enjoyed watching all types of sports, especially the Huskers.

Frank Mikos (70) of Seward passed away August 28, 2018 at the age of 73. Frank loved watching Kim and Kory play in their ball games. He also like to golf and fish and really enjoyed putting around in the barn and doing yard work. Frank was a true family man, and his wife, children and grandchildren were everything to him.

Catherine “Cathy” Cross (72) of Lincoln passed away November 16, 2018 at the age of 70. Cathy lived and taught in smaller Nebraska communities and substituted in Lincoln and surrounding area schools, tutoring students in need through Southeast Community College. She was an active member of St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church.

Rebecca “Becky” Perkins (Rossell, ’84) of Lincoln passed away August 22, 2018 at the age of 57. Rebecca worked as the children’s librarian in Atlantic but then left the workforce to raise her children, only going back after they were grown. She enjoyed sharing time with her family and her beloved dachshunds.

Danny Harvey (85) of Mount Tabor, WV passed away February 7, 2018 at the age of 68. Danny was retired from the US Air Force after 20 years of service. He enjoyed fishing, soccer, and loved gardening.

Jane Glover (Givehand, ’69) was very civic minded and served on the public schools before serving as president of the community church, Eastern Star, Stella Research Club, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Janis Winter (74) of Ankeny, IA passed away August 16, 2018 at the age of 66. Janis was a member of the Des Moines Astronomical Society, serving as president for several years. She also contributed to the Girl Scouts of America. Janis enjoyed listening to music and loved star gazing in one of her many telescopes.

Lois Milford (Sporer, ’77) of Louisville, formerly of Murray, passed away September 29, 2018 at the age of 85. All told, Lois taught for 50 years. She was a lifelong member of Murray Christian Church and a member of Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority.

Robert Bethel (78) of Tucson, AZ passed away October 1, 2018 at the age of 86.

Gary Allis (78) of Columbus passed away June 4, 2018 at the age of 66. He enjoyed doing crafts, hunting, fishing and spending time with his family and friends. Gary was actively involved with his faith, attending the Church of Christ in Columbus.

1980s

Mary Lansen (Morrow, ’04) of Wahoo passed away April 29, 2018 at the age of 73. Mary taught home economics/family and consumer sciences for 27 years. She also worked in foster care as a teacher, case manager and placement specialist.

Rachel Curry (McMann, ’10) of Auburn, passed away October 21, 2018 at the age of 32. Rachel loved animals of all kinds, and her work interests followed that love, most recently working at Town and Country Veterinary Clinic in Auburn. She made jewelry in her spare time and also enjoyed hunting mushrooms and deer antlers in the spring. She was also very proud of the fact she was an “8 Gallon Donor” to the American Red Cross.

Jordan Murphy (’17) of Pawnee City, formerly of Wymore, passed away September 15, 2018 at the age of 24. Jordan loved anything related to sports and was a huge KU basketball fan along with being a fan of the Hukers, Dallas Cowboys and the Lakers. He enjoyed coaching, camping, boating and being surrounded by his friends.

Friends

Nyla Akian (Bartholomew, ’73) of Bolivar, MO passed away June 11, 2018 at the age of 73. After achieving her degree from PSC, she received an MBA from Wyoming State University and went on to work as a Registered Social Worker for 25 years.

Eleanor Hill (McCullen, ’73) formerly of Stella passed away July 12, 2018 at the age of 86. Eleanor managed and taught at a preschool for years. She was a member of the Stella Community church, Eastern Star, Stella Research Club, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Jeffrey Hinz (’91) of Beatrice, passed away April 2, 2018 at the age of 51. Jeff was very creative doing all kinds of art, posting short films online and enjoyed gaming. He was a cook at Woody’s Diner.

Kim Brightham (Hosham, ’93) of Wahoo passed away June 14, 2018 at the age of 48. She began her 21-year career as an art teacher at Mead and joined the faculty at Wahoo High School in 2005. In addition to teaching, she loved coaching track and especially working with the hurdlers.

Dwane and Joni Bressler in Rock Port, MO. They were married on June 30, 2018 at the Hills Event Center in Omaha. Sara is a preschool teacher at Kelkum public school in Omaha and Jacob is currently employed with National Indemnity in Omaha as a desktop analyst.

Anna McCord (’18) and Joel Johnson wed October 13, 2018. Anna is currently employed by Peru State College as a Coordinator of Admissions Services.

Anna Naber (’18) and Hayden Johansen (’18) were married on July 14, 2018. Hayden is working as a technical services manager at Buildertrend Solutions in Omaha. Emily and Arthur (’11) Rose welcomed a baby, Maize May Rose on March 24, 2018.

Bob “Duffy” McAdams of Peru passed away June 15, 2018 at the age of 60. Bob was born and raised in Peru, graduating from Peru Prep in 1955. Bob opened his own service station in town until starting up Duffy’s Inn which gave way to Ruboshke’s. He enjoyed fishing and hunting and was a big Husker football and Peru State College sports fan.

Miriam (Newton) Vendt of Fort Calhoun passed away November 15, 2017 at the age of 83. Miriam was a 1952 graduate of Peru Prep. She then attended nursing school and retired from nursing after 66 years. Miriam and her husband, Bob, enjoyed many trips to Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota in retirement.

Bobcats in Love

Brooke Sayer and Thomas Horky (’14) wed May 19, 2018 at The World Theatre in Kearney.

Tess Messman (’17) and Shane Bloom were married on May 5, 2018.

Marisa Pribnow (’17) and Fletcher Zornes were married on October 12, 2018. Marisa is an English teacher at Lincoln High School.

Rebecca Smallfoot (’17) and Adam Liess wed on June 16, 2018 at the Auburn Presbyterian Church. Adam is a long time employee of Dwane and Joni Bressler in Rock Port, MO.

Sara Meyer and Jacob Fedorich (’18) wed on June 30, 2018 at the Hills Event Center in Omaha. Sara is a preschool teacher at Kelkum public school in Omaha and Jacob is currently employed with National Indemnity in Omaha as a desktop analyst.

Brooke Sayer and Thomas Horky (’14) wed May 19, 2018 at The World Theatre in Kearney.

Tess Messman (’17) and Shane Bloom were married on May 5, 2018.

Marisa Pribnow (’17) and Fletcher Zornes were married on October 12, 2018. Marisa is an English teacher at Lincoln High School.

Rebecca Smallfoot (’17) and Adam Liess wed on June 16, 2018 at the Auburn Presbyterian Church. Adam is a long time employee of Dwane and Joni Bressler in Rock Port, MO.

Sara Meyer and Jacob Fedorich (’18) wed on June 30, 2018 at the Hills Event Center in Omaha. Sara is a preschool teacher at Kelkum public school in Omaha and Jacob is currently employed with National Indemnity in Omaha as a desktop analyst.

Anna McCord (’18) and Joel Johnson wed October 13, 2018. Anna is currently employed by Peru State College as a Coordinator of Admissions Services.

Anna Naber (’18) and Hayden Johansen (’18) were married on July 14, 2018. Hayden is working as a technical services manager at Buildertrend Solutions in Omaha.

The mission of the Peru State College Foundation is to provide assistance and support for Peru State College, and through the National Alumni Association promote the unique legacy of Peru State College through lifelong involvement.

The PSC Foundation tasked with meeting these objectives is pictured from L to R: Annie Neveau (Program Specialist), Kelly Cole (Business Manager), Todd Simpson (Chief Executive Officer), Becca Jewell (Advancement Officer) and Deborah Solie (Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving). Contact the Foundation today at (402) 872-2304.

Inside this Peru Stater you’ll find...

| Pg. 4-5 | Alumni Events and Photos |
| Pg. 6-7 | 2018 Homecoming Review |
| Pg. 8-9 | Performing Arts Center Update |
| Pg. 16 | Bobcat Family Tree |
| Pg. 17 | Jake Mertens Alumni Profile |
| Pg. 18 | Bobcat Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees |
| Pg. 20 | Celebrating the Life of Peru State Leader: Larry Green ('71) |
| Pg. 21 | Donovan Takes the Reins |
| Pg. 23 | Alumni Engagement Survey |

The Peru Stater is published twice each year by the Peru State College Foundation. Send your comments, news items and address changes to:

The Peru Stater
PSC Foundation
P.O. Box 10
Peru, NE 68421-0010

For more information about Peru State College, Nebraska's first college, visit www.peru.edu or find us on Facebook.

For more information about the Peru State College Alumni Association and Foundation, visit foundation.peru.edu or call us at 402-872-2304 or email us at pscfoundation@peru.edu.