Homecoming 2014: Blue Magic

Grace Cole
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Homecoming week begins on Monday, September 29 and ends with the game on Saturday, October 4. Go Bobcats! As the school year progresses, Homecoming is quickly approaching. Between the buzz of who might be elected as this year’s King and Queen, the array of activities planned for the week, and the excitement of getting to play the Homecoming game in the newly renovated Oak Bowl, the feeling in the air is almost magical. This year’s theme, Blue Magic, promises to be one full of surprises and wonder. The Campus Activities Board has put together a variety of fun-filled activities for students and faculty to enjoy throughout the week. The locations and some of the times of these events are still being decided upon. Keep your eye out for e-mail updates as well as a full list of events in the Toilet Paper and on the Student Organizations Office window (by the entrance to the Student Center).

On Monday, September 29, from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM will be Sign Shop. Back by popular demand, many students remember this activity from two years ago. You tell them what word or phrase you want, and they put it on a road sign for you. In the evening, there will be a “Fly-in” movie out on the quad. The movie that will be shown is still being decided upon, but possible titles have included The Illusionist, The Prestige, and The Incredible Burt Wonderstone.

On Tuesday, September 30, from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, you can get Henna Tattoos. Henna tattoos are intricately designed temporary tattoos. That evening, come enjoy the illusions of professional magician Steven Stone.

Image courtesy of BHS spotlight

Wednesday, October 1, from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM there will be pumpkin carving. An opportunity to get your hands dirty, and you can take your creation home with you. In the evening, also back by popular demand, there will be a bonfire. It has yet to be decided if s'mores will be present, but the idea is being kicked around.

Thursday, October 2, from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM will be Stamp-a-Ring. Similar to Sign Shop, you tell him what you want, and using a hammer and tiny letter stamps, he engraves it on for you. There will be a choice between several colors of rings, as well as the option of choosing a pendant in place of a ring. That evening, come make a magical creation with your friends at the Potions Class. Friday, October 3, from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, there will be a Magical Scavenger Hunt that will lead participants all over campus. That evening will be the Homecoming Dance. There, students will have the opportunity to take pictures in the Magical Photo Booth.

Saturday, October 4, is a jam-packed day full of competition and excitement. Morning activities begin with the Homecoming parade at 10:00 AM and the tailgate following from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. The highly anticipated football game kicks-off at 2:00 PM, during which this year’s King and Queen will be crowned.

Also happening this week that CAB has been kind enough to include on their schedule, The Peru Theatre Company will be performing The Virginia Monologues. These performances are Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 2:00 PM.
New head of Student Activities

Kacie Lang

Kacie Lang has accepted the position of Student Activities Coordinator for Peru State College. She is from Raymon, New Hampshire. Lang has one brother named Jeffrey Lang who is a senior at Regis College in Massachusetts. Lang graduated from Daniel Webster College in Nashua, NH with a bachelor’s in Sport Management and a minor in Marketing. She has been really involved with Peru State thus far. Lang enjoys working with and getting the chance to work with many departments on campus, along with student and faculty. She has already met many wonderful people. This is her third year at Peru State College.

Lang has no concerns with this new position other than making sure that she does her absolute best that she can for everyone here at Peru. She hopes to provide students with yet another wonderful year! She understands that this position is really important and wants to make the most of it.

Lang hopes to engage students in many activities as possible so that each and every one student is given the full college experience. We wish Kacie the best of luck with her future roles here at Peru!

Image courtesy of Ama Bikoko

Student Senate spotlight

The big day is coming up! That’s right, Homecoming. Homecoming is Saturday October 4th. Don’t forget about the memorable Homecoming Parade. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to be a part of the parade, the forms can be found on Peru’s website. They must be turned in by October 2. We have three different categories that are: floats, decorated vehicles, and classic cars. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 in each category! If you have any questions regarding homecoming, feel free to e-mail student senate with questions- studentsenate@campus.peru.edu. While we are talking about homecoming, let me introduce you to Peru State Royalty for 2014. Senior Homecoming Queen Candidates are Carrie Lierz, Lexi Neemann, Chloe Langford, Cassie Eilers, and Abby Bohling. Senior Homecoming King Candidates are Alex Wessels, Ryan Bauman, TJ Beckert, Kellan Garber, and Bo Sheppard. Congratulations Bobcat Candidates!

Kacie Lang

Image courtesy of Ama Bikoko

The Peru State Times

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What are you most looking forward to about Homecoming?

“I’m looking forward to the homecoming parade and decorating the softball float.”
Chelsea Reznicek
Sophomore, Biology

“The football is where it’s at.”
Kaylee Birt
Freshman, Biology

“The football game because my brother plays.”
Maddie Shepard
Freshman, Elementary Education

“All the spirit from everyone, excitement and anticipation.”
Carlina Grove
Junior, Psychology

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All letters to the editor are welcome, and the writers of those letters need not be students. Letters, cartoons, articles, pictures and any other material submitted to the Times must be signed by individual(s) submitting them and will be published at the discretion of the staff. The Times reserves the right to edit all letters, articles and other submitted materials for grammar, length and clarity. The Times also reserves the right to decline the publication of any materials, including paid advertisements, for any reason.

To reach the Times, send material to the Peru State Times through campus mail or to: PSC Times, Peru State College, P. O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421 or e-mail us at perustatetimes@gmail.com.
Chloe Langford
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Why get involved?

There is more to college than just going to classes. Getting involved on campus is a great way to become connected with Peru State College. Our college is full of resources, and taking the time to get involved will help you to seek out those resources. Being involved on campus also helps build a community here at Peru State.

Being involved helps students to discover their passions and strengths and build their resumes. Peru State College has twenty-four clubs and organizations. We have an Art Guild, Psychology Club, Biology Club, Student Senate, Residence Hall Association (RHA), Photography Club, and more! There is a club or organization for so many of your interests and hobbies. Our clubs and organizations are doing some really awesome things on campus.

Peru Theatre Company will have their first main stage production of the year, The Virginia Monologues, October 2 - October 4 at 7:30 PM and October 5 at 2:00 PM. Student Senate just put in the Frisbee golf course at Neal Park, and CAB is busy getting homecoming ready!

There are a few clubs that have some very exciting things planned for this semester. Pam Riffle, who is the vice president of Rotoract, President Elect for PSEA, and the Historian for CAB gave me the 411 on what Rotoract and PSEA have planned for this year. Rotoract will be doing Movember, of course. It takes place during the month of November, and they raise money and awareness for men’s health. PSEA will have their annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash second semester. Hundreds of elementary students come to Peru’s campus to see PSEA act out our famous Dr. Seuss stories. PSEA also did a local outreach program in the day care last year. They went all extreme make over on us, and turned the Ball. Pride is really trying to become a recognizable club on campus. They hope to get to know each other better as a group and be involved on campus.

Janessa Davis had a lot to say about Black Student Union. “If I could describe Black Student Union in one word it’s family. Everyone in the group looks out for each other. Everyone in the group knows that Black Student Union is safe place, and we come with open arms. One cool factor about Black Student Union is that former members always come back and visit during events and meetings. So it always feels like a family reunion when they come back.

Black Student Union this year is doing amazing so far. This year our membership went up, and our executive board is in tip top shape. We have big plans for BSU this year. Some of the events that we have this year are going to be: Volunteer projects, our Halloween Dance, and Open Mic Night for first semester. As for second semester we are still in the works for events. Also anyone is welcomed to join BSU. We have meetings every Thursday @ 11:30 in the Burr Oak Room.”

Peru State College is lucky to have so many talented and driven students to lead our clubs and organizations.

Why I teach - Dr. Kelly Asmussen

When I was in 3rd grade, my mother was my teacher. Maybe some of you have classroom experiences similar to what I considered to be an agonizing year. My mother disappeared and I had this lady who seemed to enjoy “teaching me lessons” all the time. I survived the seemingly endless scrutiny of every assignment; every daily decision. And I hated it when my relatives delighted in asking me, “How do you like your teacher this year?” I suppose I learned valuable lessons, but at the time, it seemed so horribly tough. When it came time for me to think about attending college, a teaching career had already been ingrained into my head. I was encouraged to take jobs that allowed me to learn how to teach swim lessons in the summer, helping Mom with summer school activities, teaching Sunday school, and other similar activities. When I graduated from High School, a double major in Teachers College at UNL was right on target for me. It was a very easy decision. When I was selected as an outstanding student teacher and offered a teaching position at District 66 in Omaha, I was overwhelmed at the thought that I was considered a good teacher.

My teaching career began in Urbandale, Iowa, where I taught 5th and 6th grade and felt like I was not a good teacher. I resigned from that school, but my first year in graduate school completely changed my life. As a graduate teaching assistant, I was assigned to help teach a kindergarten girl (Sheila). She was born with no arms or legs due to her mom using injectable drugs while pregnant. Sheila’s hands were steel pinchers she could contract to hold items and she essentially pulled herself along the floor as she had no hip sockets, just the humerus bone and no ankle or toes. After about a week, 6 year-old Sheila looked me squarely in the eyes and held out her pinchers and asked me “to hold her hand.” She was locked onto my eyes to see if I would falter and look down at her hands before I held them! She was “teaching me” the most important lesson of my life. Will you unequivocally accept me without any reservation? Will you accept me and teach me as I am and treat me the same as every other child? Can I trust you? I think of her every week I teach. Am I doing the best job I can for every student in my class? What am I failing to do? What should I be doing? What do I think of her every week I teach. Am I doing the best job I can for every student in my class? What am I failing to do? What should I be doing? What do I think of her every week I teach. Am I doing the best job I can for every student in my class? What am I failing to do? What should I be doing? What do I

Cartoons courtesy of Susan Sisco
Students must have earned 30 credits or more – sophomore standing or higher, although no graduate.

Students must have some membership in at least one on-campus organization: a club, athletics, residence life, student activities, theatre, etc.

Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75

Non-renewable, although students may reapply.

If any member of Professional Staff is interested in contributing specifically to the Professional Staff Scholarship fund, please contact the Peru State College Foundation to make a one-time donation. Or, if you would like to make a monthly donation you can contact Human Resources to authorize an automatic withdraw from your paycheck. Be sure to indicate the fund to which you would like to designate your money.

Professional Staff Scholarship

Recently, the Professional Staff Senate at Peru State College voted on the criteria and guidelines for a new scholarship available to returning students. This scholarship will be offered every fall, starting fall semester 2015, to two students every year for the amount of $250.00 each.

The process to apply for this scholarship is the same as applying for any scholarship housed with the Peru State College Foundation; all students need to do is complete the Returning Student Scholarship Application through MYPSC when it is available in February.

The scholarship criteria set forth and agreed upon by the Professional Staff Senate is as follows:

- Non-renewable, although students may reapply.
- Students must have earned 30 credits or more – sophomore standing or higher, although no graduate students.
- Students need to be considered an on-campus student.
- Students must have some membership in at least one on-campus organization: a club, athletics, residence life, student activities, theatre, etc.
- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75.

Mr. Myers listed other feats on his Peru State faculty biography, such as “developing a widely used structure for reverse FOIL,” and “teaching Young People to play on the Missouri State Championship in 1986.”

One of his proudest accomplishments comes from his coaching career. He led a girls track team to the Missouri State Championship in 1986 “leaving marks that are still top four of all time.”

Professor Myers returned to PSC so that he could “the opportunity to go full circle by teaching where [he] received [his] Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees.”

“I wished to find a new level of education in which to share my abilities.” He continued, with his motivation for teaching. “The need to share, to impart experience, to give back, and to prepare others for the ever changing future. There are a few things in the world that have you waking up every morning knowing the job you do is important and fulfilling, and that is all you can ask for.”

He advises budding teachers that “Having high standards and expectations begin with one’s self. If you are looking for easy or non-stressful, sorry. On the other hand, that is the case with every job. So, can you give your heart every day whether it is noticed or not, for the sake of a younger generation? If yes, you have a chance to be good and leave a mark. Oh, by the way, you will not always have the answer. Be willing to learn.”

Professor Kenneth Myers spent decades teaching math and inspiring young people to expect more from themselves. He led athletes to victory as a coach and manned the helm of schools as a principal. He earned his Masters and devised mathematical methods. “Yet, the greatest accomplishment has been to raise two wonderful young ladies, who want to live education, through their university education,” he wrote of his daughters, Kendra and Kayla. “My wife, Willo and I are blessed. Never lose sight of your own family in reaching your goals for yourself and others.”
Breaking out of the box

Chelsea Turek
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are phrases we hear often while we are at college. Be engaged, be outside your comfort zone, push yourself. Many roll their eyes about getting that speech, again. It’s restated though because people tend to stay in their little bubble of safety, and don’t join new things or join anything. If a person never tries new things then how will they know what they are capable of?

“...clubs teach skills, expose talents, build resumes, and gain you connections that will help out with your future careers.”

Do people think that Lucy Ball just started her comedy when she was born? Do people think that Albert Einstein just started out great at math? No, both had to try out that field, and get out of their comfort zones. A great way to get out of a comfort zone is being involved on campus, which means clubs. There are over 24 clubs on campus from the creative like the Art Guild and the Peru Theatre Company, to physical activity like Bobcat Amis Defense (BAD), intramural sports, and community service clubs like Peru Individual Leader of Today (PILOT), and Red Cross Club. Of course, the suggestion to be out of your comfort zone doesn’t necessarily mean “pick something you hate.” We hate certain events, homework assignments, or jobs because we feel like we are bad at it.

Pick a club and after attending a few meetings, a person can decide if they are bad at it or not. Don’t judge a club from their cover but their content. There are many benefits from choosing a club that isn’t in your comfort zone.

Kohl Crelicius, one of last year’s distinguished speakers, stated that one of his friends from college helped him start his company to help third world countries. They would have never met and never thought of that company if they both stayed in their rooms, though.

The second benefit to joining a new club is that the club can add to your resume. The Science Club for instance goes to regional conferences and does presentations. The education club (PSEA) cleans up schools, and goes on education conferences. The third reason to be in a club is to make connections. Think of it like this, graduates will need letters of recommendation to get a job. Having letters of recommendation from diverse sources will look nice to future employers. The fourth reason kind of goes along the same line as the third. Other connections you make in clubs can be with other students.

### Julie Taylor-Costello
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

So in the last article I suggested four ways of becoming a more engaged learner: allow yourself to be uncomfortable, find faculty that help you learn, the best way you know how, participate in international field experiences, and consider an internship. In keeping with the one common thread that binds all of this together, allowing yourself to be uncomfortable, I figure it might be good to suggest some ways to muster through it.

Look back and remember times when you have struggled and made it through – remembering what that was like, that you made it out alive, will help get you through the next tough situation.

Talk with others who may be experiencing or have experienced similar situations. Sometimes there is comfort in knowing that other people have dealt with the same issues, comfort in knowing that you are not alone, comfort in gaining the perspective of others, and comfort in sharing stories of success and failure.

Talk some more – sometimes we don’t know that we have shared or are sharing the same experiences because we don’t want anyone to know what we don’t know, or what we are going through … you would be amazed to find out that once you share your story, someone will be able to relate or will know someone else who can relate. So don’t be embarrassed if you are homesick, miss your dog, can’t seem to understand the statistics homework, can’t find a book in the library, are dealing with a mental health issue, can’t seem to relate to your significant other anymore, or are worried about something. More often than not there is someone who can relate and help you through.

Use the resources provided to you – the professional counselors on campus, residence life staff, faculty, staff, peers, coaches… there are so many support systems on and off campus, it is hard to include them all. Regardless of what is going on, ask for help and someone will either help you, or find someone who can help you.

I would like to leave you with a story of struggle – the biological facts may be a little off (if one of our biology students or wildlife students knows the truth, please, let me know), but the sentiment is the important piece – so take it for what it is worth.

### The Butterfly Story

There once was a student who spent hours watching a caterpillar struggling to emerge from its cocoon. The caterpillar made a small hole, but not one large enough for its body to emerge from. After a long struggle, it seemed to be exhausted and then remained absolutely still. So the student, being of the helpful kind, decided to cut into the cocoon, making the hole bigger so that the caterpillar could emerge and reveal itself as a beautiful butterfly.

To the student’s dismay, nothing happened, the caterpillar did not ease out of the larger hole… instead it limped out, with a very swollen body and very small, shriveled wings. The student watched intently, expecting the wings to fan out and the butterfly to take flight, but that did not happen. The caterpillar ended up spending its life, a brief one at that, crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings, incapable of flight.

The student, upon further reflection and a little research, discovered that the caterpillar’s process of struggling to release itself from the cocoon is nature’s way of removing the fluid from its body and helps the wings become strong and fully formed.

Sometimes a little extra effort and struggle is what prepares us for the next obstacle to be faced. If we don’t endure the struggles or we get the wrong kind of help, we may be left unprepared to deal with the obstacles that will face us every day. As you go through school, and life in general, keep in mind that struggling is an important part of any growth experience.

Image courtesy of starharborcomics.com
Carlina Grove  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After two years Peru State’s Oak Bowl is finished. It took approximately $9 million to rebuild. Bill and Lucille Sapp, as well as Lee Sapp made the first significant donation of $500,000 to the Oak Bowl project. These generous people donated in honor of their mother and sisters that attended Peru State College.

The institution established Nebraska’s first college football team in 1885. Students were tired of playing football games off campus on other parts of town. So the decision was made to create the Oak Bowl. The Oak Bowl was the perfect venue because mother nature was kind enough to provide the perfect shape in the land.

The Oak Bowl was debuted Thanksgiving Day of 1901. The first game was played against Fall City High School. During this first game spectators had to sit on the hillside to watch their boys defeat Fall City High School. Bleachers were added in 1910 and in 1915. A few years later the field was widened and lengthened. On September 6, 2014 Peru had the honor to play their first game in the new Oak Bowl.

Peru State athletic teams didn’t have a mascot until 1921. Previously the athletic teams’ nickname was “The Teachers.” It wasn’t very intimidating. A man named Wilcox came up with a motto and proposed it to the athletic department and that is how “Bobcats” became the mascot for Peru State College. In Oct. 27, 1927, Peru was given its first live mascot, the first in the conference. The bobcat was named Bob and lived in a cage near the auditorium. Bob died in 1938 and has been preserved in the student center. Of course, the logo has evolved throughout the years.

The Oak Bowl has been around since 1901 and has stood for so many things such as, hard work, dedication, and creativity. A lot of people have made generous donations to make this day possible. Peru offers its sincere gratitude for those who offered a helping hand.
September 6, 2014 marked the rededication of Peru State's historical Oak Bowl Stadium. A commemoration ceremony and an inaugural game took place to mark the momentous occasion. Several people were recognized as contributing benefactors to ensure the completion of this project. After the ribbon cutting was complete, the school song rang through the stadium. The energy surrounding the stadium was intoxicating. Being the first game of the season, and the first game on the field, the players couldn’t have asked for a better environment. The stadium was so packed, people were sitting on the sidelines near each end zone.

The Bobcats ran onto the field with a burst of energy, and the fans jumped with excitement to get the game started. Dr. Jacob Bartlett’s voice filled the stadium as the Bobcat fans stood to salute the nation’s flag during the national anthem. The fans turned into a choir, as they sang along. A moment of silence was held for Keith Williams. A coin toss, and Hayden Kusy a senior Biology major ran along the sidelines waving a PSC flag to encourage the crowds enthusiasm. The first half of the game set a hurting factor for the Bobcats. The whole third quarter was a tennis match. With the ball going back and forth between Midland and Peru, there seemed to be no gain between the two. With seconds left in the quarter, the Bobcat defense was able to put a stop to the Midland offense. The ball turned over to Midland at the 15, and the boys once Peru got the ball, Midland’s defense was able to keep Peru from getting their first down, so Midland got the ball back. The crowd seemed to lose hope at this point in the game. The cheerleaders tried hard to get the crowd back, but many members of the crowd began to leave. Midland ran the ball a little over half the field and scored another touchdown, and kicked another field goal. The score was set at 7-28. A minute left in the game the boys refused to back down. The offense ran the ball hard. Everyone left in the stands were on their feet biting their nails. Bobcats were able to score a touchdown and kick a field goal before the clock ran out.

The game ended Bobcats 14 Midland 28. As everyone filed out of the stadium, there was less energy that there was when everyone was filing in.
Lempka and Tate 2014 Peru State Swenson Award Winners

Zach Lempka (Sterling) and Jasmine Tate (Coppell, Texas) were recognized as the 2013-14 Bert Swenson Award winners in recognition of their participation in athletics, outstanding character, personality, service, and loyalty to Peru State College. The award was created in memory of Bert and Stella Swenson’s 13-month-old son, Bert Jr., who passed away.

Zach Lempka is a four-year starting guard for the Bobcat women’s basketball team. As a freshman, Jasmine was named as the defensive player of the year while earning MCAC all-conference recognition. Tate did earn HAAC all-conference recognition as well. Like Zach, Jasmine was a four-year member of SAAC and also was named as a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete. In addition, she earned HAAC scholar-athlete recognition twice. She too earned Omaha World-Herald honorable mention. Finally, Jasmine finished in the Bobcat women’s career record books with five top ten records, including first in career steals and career free throws attempted.

Jasmine French, who is from Columbus, Georgia, is in the Pre-Med program and has a minor in Exercise Science. French will play a center as well. A fun fact about French is that she has never flown in an airplane before.

“Head Coach Joan Albary states, “We have more depth than ever, which will keep us competitive with any team we play against. Brunette Berkey is the Bobcat women’s basketball team ready for the season to start. The girls are ready to get underway. The alumni game will be on October 4, 2014 and will begin at six o’clock PM. Their first home game will be November 4, 2014 at seven PM.”

President Dan Hanson (second right), along with women’s basketball head coach Joan Albary (second left), and graduate assistant Erica Williamson (far left) presented the awards to Lempka (far right) and Tate (center).
Paben wins the Daktronics NAIA A.O. Duer Award

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has announced that Logan Paben, a junior football student-athlete and middle grades education major with a concentration in mathematics and social science at Peru State, is the male winner of the Daktronics NAIA A.O. Duer award. Paben is from Columbus and graduated from Columbus Lakeview High School.

The award was announced during the NAIA’s National Awards Day video presentation Monday at noon on the NAIA website. This past April at the NAIA’s spring convention, it was voted to have all of the special awards announced on Sept. 15. All member NAIA institutions submitted their nominations to their respective conferences by June 15. Then, in turn, the Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC) awards committee made their selections and submitted those nominations to the NAIA Awards Selection Committee. A complete nomination includes an official nomination form; a current photo; an official transcript and statement from the Registrar’s Office regarding the degree program; a minimum of five recommendation letters attesting to character, citizenship, and leadership; and a letter from the individual’s coach addressing playing ability.

The award is named for A.O. Duer, who served as executive secretary of the NAIA for 26 years and was well known for his strong opinions that the NAIA and its member institutions should strive to effectively balance academics and athletics. The award is presented to an outstanding NAIA junior student-athlete who maintains an overall grade-point average of at least 3.75 (on a 4-point scale).

The NAIA Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives selects the two winners, one male and one female. The winner is awarded a $1,000 scholarship, which will be applied through the financial aid office for approved college expenses.

Peru State President Dan Hanson was very pleased to learn of the NAIA award for Paben. Hanson stated, «Logan is truly deserving of the A.O. Duer Award. His life exhibits the Five Core Values of the NAIA’s Champions of Character program. He is a strong and positive leader on campus and will make an outstanding contribution throughout his life in the communities in which he resides.» Continuing Hanson added, «As a middle school teacher, Logan will have a long and positive impact on thousands of young people at a challenging time in their lives.»

Paben is very active on the Peru State campus while maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average. The defensive back earned HAAC all-conference honorable mention in 2013. Among his many activities includes his president role for the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) of which he is now a two-year member. Along with his teammates, Paben has been involved in the Peru City-Wide Clean-up and has made visits to the Children’s Hospital in Omaha. Last year, Paben became involved in the TeamMates mentor program as he meets weekly with a middle school student.

As a member of the football team, Logan was elected as Bobcat Elite Team Leader. The two-time letter winner has also worked with his teammates in cleaning up a hiking trail in Brownville, helped with elementary track meets in Auburn, and volunteered for several different activities on campus. Paben will also be assisting the Bobcat sports information office this year preparing different video and audio segments.

In addition, last fall Paben was a CoSIDA Capital One Academic First Team recipient.

Paben’s former high school head football coach, Kurt Freiden, wrote the following in his nomination letter, «Logan is a positive leader who has found a great balance between leading vocally and leading by example. It is hard sometimes for young people to step up and speak their mind even when they know it is the right thing to do. Logan is a young adult who is not afraid to stand up for what is right.»

This is the second time within two years a student-athlete from Peru State has been selected as a winner. Mitch Boshart (Wood River) was named the national winner in May of 2013. Boshart was a Bobcat football player.

Boshart, the first A.O. Duer winner from Peru State also wrote a letter of recommendation for Paben. He wrote, ‘As a past winner of the conference and national award myself, I know Logan has all of the characteristics and traits of someone worthy of the Duer Award. I came to know Logan as our time at Peru State overlapped and we were on the football team together. I have seen his hard work first-hand in the classroom, community, football field, and the weight room. Logan assumes leadership roles in everything he does, and it is his respect for every member’s opinion that often leads to success.”

Peru State athletic director and head football coach Steve Schneider was excited to learn of the announcement. Having recruited Paben to Peru State, Schneider knew of the abilities Paben possessed on and off the field. Schneider commented, “Logan demonstrates outstanding verbal and written communication skills which will help him in the classroom and obviously helps him as a football player. He is the type of individual who gets things accomplished. This is due in large part to his ability to relate to all types of people. He is a very goal-oriented individual as well. When he sets an objective, he goes after it with much enthusiasm, and, more often than not, he accomplishes the task.”

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

Paben was surprised to have won the award. He stated, «I am very honored that first, the Peru State athletic department selected me to be the campus nominee and then honored as well to be recognized the Heart of America Athletic Conference to be the HAAC’s national nominee.»

«My parents, family, friends, coaches, and others in my life have helped me to develop into the person I am today and without their constant help and support, I know I could not have come this far,» added Paben. «To be named the Daktronics NAIA A.O. Duer Award, especially during the very first NAIA National Awards Day presentation is truly special,» continued Paben.

Peru State College
Memory is truly bittersweet. We possess this unique intellectual power which enables us to hold onto our most precious feelings, but also relive all our mistakes. Imagine not having these capabilities, and forgetting all of the great memories because the bad ones are too terrible to bear. If you have read the book, The Giver, you know how much memory plays a role in it, or shall I say, “Lack of” memory. You have probably also seen “The Giver” in bright lights on the front of movie theaters recently, which if you’re a fan of the book, either got you on your feet or left your head in your hands. If you haven’t read it or seen the film, here is a little background:

The story is about a community which chooses to have its people brainwashed to retain order; a society which resorts to “Sameness” as a means to control its people and keep them from any kind of harm. This way of living is accepted by everyone until the main character, Jonas, has been given the position of “receiver of memory”. He begins remembering feelings of happiness and love, pain and hate, and realizes that his community’s way of life is wrong, especially when they “release” certain people if they are not needed, because everyone there lacks human emotion and relies on stability and predictability. He realizes that a life without love is no life at all. This doesn’t sound much like a child’s story does it? While the themes in the story might seem a bit more adult-like, the story is written simply and is short enough to hold a child’s attention. (I read it with my fifth grade class, and was left with many unanswered questions.)

Lois Lowry’s novel, left much to the imagination of the reader to interpret. The book hitting the theaters was sour milk to many. “The movie will be another’s interpretation of the book, and it can’t be like mine!” Nevertheless, the reviews came back more positive than negative, but still quite mixed.

Though the cast is quite exceptional with actors such as Jeff Bridges, Katie Holmes, and Meryl Streep, Taylor Swift’s “swift” mediocre acting could lead one to conclude that the movie was made with money more in mind over quality. I suppose most movies are, but really, Taylor Swift?! Another fault in the movie is that the concept is painfully familiar. Lowry is owed much credit for the views filled in her novel, for they inspired novels “Divergent” and “The Hunger Games”, which are also dystopian novels but include much more action and appeal to a wider audience than “The Giver” does. This movie and book is, however, much smarter and deeper than the other two. But unfortunately, while published first, it was filmed too late.

The film is quite beautiful visually, has a nice combination of science fiction and drama, and doesn’t have over the top effects (which I agreeably prefer without.) Jeff Bridges is being praised all over for his outstanding acting in this movie. But dude, are you going to answer any of my questions? The movie leaves most questions unanswered which is effective at times.

Feeding 44 is now seeking a driven Peru State student to fill the position as Program Director starting in January of 2015! If you are interested in community engagement, serving others, and building real-world experience, apply now on the Human Resources section of the college’s website. This is a paid position based on qualifications and work experience.

Feeding 44 is a monthly mobile food distribution dedicated to serving the citizens of Nemaha County facing food insecurity. Hours will include the monthly distributions on the second Friday of every month, as well as outside time commitments and office hours. The job description for Program Director can be found at http://www.peru.edu/hr/student/feeding44.htm
Kateri Mittan
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Growing up, I was a Red Cloud Warrior, in August, I became a Peru State Bobcat. This is ironic because in Red Cloud, we considered our rivals the Blue Hill Bobcats. While I was packing, my mom said to me, “You know you’re not going to be red and gold anymore,” as I shoved my red and gold cheer bow into my bag, “you’re going to be blue.”

Red Cloud is a little town in Webster County, Nebraska. The way I describe Webster County’s location to people is this: you know the county-by-county map that shows up in the corner of the TV screen during severe weather, well Webster County is in the very bottom row, seven counties in from both sides. I’m closer to a Wal-Mart here, than I was at home, but Red Cloud’s moving up in the world, they just opened a Dollar General!

My senior year of high school I didn’t “exactly” sluff through, I had government, an applied communications class, and creative writing. We ran eight classes five days a week. So I suppose five eighths of my classes were sluff. Regardless, now I have three classes four times a week and a class on Fridays. I’m happy with my schedule for the most part. I don’t feel overloaded or stressed.

College is going well, so far, but of course there are some things I miss. I miss playing my saxophone next Regan every day, walking in the middle of the street, the huge mirror in my bedroom, my two cocker spaniels, and my family.

Peru is absolutely beautiful, I can’t wait until the leaves change and start falling. The trees are gorgeous, and the bluffs are colorful and vibrant. I love the community feel in Peru. I really enjoy how Peru, as well as Auburn, really embrace college students. The bike trail is amazing. My boyfriend and I have walked some of it, and we love it.

I was really amazed at the Oak Bowl opening, as well as the second home football game, that there were so many students there that weren’t on the team, a cheerleader, or in the band. I’m happy to be a part of a school that shows so much spirit. Now, I suppose, the community, I feel honored to be a part of them. I did not bring a car to Peru or buy a car since I have been here. I miss being able to drive whenever/wherever I want, I also miss going out to eat or to a movie with friends. I hate that Peru is not as entertaining as I thought my college experience would be, and because of that, I miss my family a lot more than I thought I would. However, I love to Skype or call my family when I really miss them, to see what is new or how they are doing.

Peru would be more entertaining if it were a bigger town with stores and restaurants within city limits. It would have also been nice if there was a shopping mall, movie theater, waterpark, or even a Starbucks in town so that all the students who do not own a car, can be entertained within the town of Peru, instead of having to buy a car or ask a friend for a ride. Furthermore, I enjoy Peru because of the close - knit family feel, and getting to know everyone on a more personal level, but, it would have been even MORE enjoyable if it was a more developed city, instead of a “middle of nowhere” country town.

Mental Health Awareness Day
Games, contests, scavenger hunt and more!

You Are Not Alone

October 8, 2014
Wear green to support mental health awareness!
Campus wide event
For more information contact Jamie Eberly jeberly@peru.edu

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I was born and raised in Chicago, a massive city with a population of 2.7 million residents. In a city like Chicago, you are never bored; there are malls, restaurants, theaters, museums, comedy clubs and extravagant festivals. I was the only girl out of four children; three brothers. I also shared my home with three large dogs and two cats.

I went to Warren Township High School, with a graduating class of three thousand, and tried to get as best of grades as possible. Unfortunately, I struggled through high school while my brothers thrived. My oldest brother was always enrolled in honors classes and had an outstanding GPA, he received massive academic scholarships and was able to attend the school he wanted. I had to struggle to keep my GPA at an acceptable level, I did not receive any academic or athletic scholarships, and it was a miracle that I even graduated.

When I began researching what colleges my family could actually afford to send me after my embarrassing high school years, I came across one search result, Peru State College. Population of approximately nine-hundred. Great. Despite my lack of enthusiasm for the population rate, I submitted my application, toured the school, enrolled in fall 2014 classes, drove nine hours to the middle of nowhere, and moved in. Even though Peru is the smallest town I have ever been to, I love how not only are the students and staff friendly and helpful, but the whole community as well. I enjoy my teachers and classes, I have joined both the Campus Activities Board (CAB) and Peru’s Individual Leaders of Today (PILOT) and I really love how involved both clubs are around campus and/or the community, I feel honored to be a part of them. I did not bring a car to Peru or buy a car since I have been here. I miss being able to drive whenever/wherever I want, I also miss going out to eat or to a movie with friends. I hate that Peru is not as entertaining as I thought my college experience would be, and because of that, I miss my family a lot more than I thought I would. However, I love to Skype or call my family when I really miss them, to see what is new or how they are doing.

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For more information contact Jamie Eberly jeberly@peru.edu
UPCOMING EVENTS

September 30, 2014
7:00 PM
Peru vs. Mid-America Volleyball
AWAC

October 1, 2014
Application for Graduation
May/August due

October 2, 2014
11:30 AM
Jazz on the Green
Campus Quad

October 3, 2014
2:00 PM
Peru vs. SCC Softball
Softball Field

October 4, 2014
9:00 AM
NCMA Fall Business Meeting
Campus wide

October 4, 2014
10:00 AM
Downtown Peru

October 4, 2014
1:00 PM
Peru vs. Graceland Football
Oak Bowl

October 10
1:00 PM
Peru vs. Doane College Football
Oak Bowl

October 10 - October 14
Midterm Break
No classes
Offices open

October 18, 2014
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
NCMA Fall Business Meeting
Campus wide

October 21, 2014 - October 22, 2014
High School Show Choir Festival
College Theatre

October 31, 2014
7:00 PM
Peru vs. Doane College Men’s Basketball
AWAC

Dude, what did you say?

Wanna know what I wrote? Shoot us an e-mail at perustatetimes@gmail.com with your guess and the most accurate description will receive a prize.