Peru State’s 2013 - 2014 crime statistics have been published. The report goes through prevention and awareness programs, emergency procedures, school policies, disciplinary actions, and has charted data of how Peru scored in the crime statistics this year and for the previous two academic school years at Peru State College. The charted data is divided up into five categories: arrests, disciplinary actions, criminal offenses, hate crimes, and fires. The different categories are then split into on campus, residence halls, and public property to indicate where the offenses took place and the data listed is from the 2011, 2012, and the 2013 academic school year. The disciplinary actions data is reflective of write ups from the dorms, and the majority of those violations come from drinking alcohol in the dorms. If you look at the arrests data you can see that the numbers are very low, and no arrests were made on Peru State College’s campus this past academic school year, and only one the previous year.

Peru State security officer Jordan Hall was asked him a little about the crime report published. I asked him if as a campus we were happy or disappointed in the results. Hall mentioned that we had gone down in offenses compared to previous years, but that our illegal weapons count had gone up. We only had two in 2013, but we are a small campus and any number is alarming. Accordingly, Hall was asked what Peru State as a student body can do to continue to lower these statistics and to stay safe. “Know regulations, be informed. If you don’t know something talk to your RA, hall director, or come ask security. If you don’t know if something is allowed, just ask.” Jordan also mentioned having a level of respect. As a campus it is our responsibility to be informed so we all stay safe.

If you are interested in looking at the crime report you can find a copy of the PDF file at http://www.peru.edu/security/crimestats.pdf.

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Campus welcomes Sheli Petersen

Ashlynn Blomstedt
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“I love telling a story in pictures,” says Sheli Petersen. Petersen joined the art department at the beginning of the semester. When asked in our interview why she chose to teach at Peru State College, she wrote that she was drawn to “[t]he close-knit community and smaller class sizes which supports giving more individual attention to students.” Petersen is an experienced artist who not only has skills in the classic artistic mediums of drawing and painting but also in the more contemporary design of apps and digital manipulations.

“I teach because I love sharing what I know about design and art. I enjoy cultivating each student’s strengths as a designer and/or artist.” Petersen draws with a whimsical, yet highly realistic style. Those of you who had a chance to witness her art first hand at her expedition on the Peru State College campus will have noticed that she uses her art for many purposes. Displayed next to her sketches for children’s books were mock ups for apps. When asked which of her accomplishments meant the most to her, she wrote, “The art and animation I created for Genre Jam, a music tapping game for the App Store. I’m proud of this accomplishment because I liked collaborating with the independent game developers designing unique worlds that visually expressed various genres of music including Jazz, Heavy Metal, and Reggae.”

She has illustrated several books, including Gigi and the Birthday Ring by Giselle Fernandez and Magali: An Aztec Legend about Good Fortune by Patricia Petersen. “I’m also proud of my fine art exhibition record. I’ve been recognized regionally and nationally for my animal mixed media series.” Wrote Professor Petersen. According to her personal website, spetersenillustration.com, she belongs to the well established professional organizations: Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators and FATE—Foundations in Art: Theory and Education. My first year out of college I spent a lot of time networking to get established in the design and illustration field. I talked to many professionals in the visual communications industry and went on many interviews. I also did freelance illustration for various Kansas City, Missouri publications, which eventually lead to a full-time associate designer position at Pitch magazine.” She advises students planning for a career in art to “[c]ultivate intellectual curiosity! As a designer/artist, the more you know, the better you’ll be able to communicate your ideas visually in a deep and thought-provoking way.”

Peru welcomes Nebraska author

Karen Shoemaker read from her new novel, The Meaning of Names, a book that has enjoyed considerable success in and out of Nebraska. Among other things, the novel addresses the anti-German sentiments in WWI centered in Stuart, NE, home of Karen’s grandparents and where her mother was born. In addition, the horrible flu epidemic plays a central role in the narrative.

The Times, the official student newspaper of Peru State College, is published four times per semester by Peru State College students. The Times office is located in the College Publications Office in Room 126 of the AV Larson Building. The opinions expressed in the Times may not be those of the entire newspaper staff. The Peru State Times is an independent publication funded by student publication fees. The views expressed in this publication, including the contents of paid advertisements, do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration, faculty or staff of Peru State College. 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.
When asked to write this essay, I pondered and thought, “Why Do I Teach?” There is actually a simple answer. In the 70’s a woman could be a mother, secretary, nurse, or teacher. It was an easy decision! I have always liked school so it seemed to be the right thing to do….become a teacher. Neither of my parents had the opportunity of attending college, so both of them made sure my school, so it seemed to be the right thing to do….become a teacher. It was an easy decision! I have always liked school so it seemed to be the right thing to do….become a teacher. When I go into the classroom, I regularly remind students of attending college, so both of them made sure my school, so it seemed to be the right thing to do….become a teacher. It was an easy decision! I have always liked school so it seemed to be the right thing to do….become a teacher. When I go into the classroom, I regularly remind students of attending college, so both of them made sure my school, so it seemed to be the right thing to do….become a teacher. It was an easy decision! I have always liked school so it seemed to be the right thing to do….become a teacher.

Why I teach- Dr. Judi Grotrian

Astrid Moore
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Life changing.” Ask anyone about the Inside-Out Prison Exchange program and chances are you’re going to hear these very words- perhaps even several times over from several different people. Dr. Kelly Asmussen, Professor of Criminal Justice and coordinator of the Inside-Out program at Peru State College, insists that this program will ‘blow your mind.’ It’s enough to make even a skeptic have reservations, especially with so many former program participants and esteemed professors giving such sparkling commentaries as “life-changing”. Could this be so about it? Only this: As of next year, Inside-Out will have been running for close to a decade after its pilot in 1997 through the Philadelphia Prison System and Temple University, and been implemented in classes in more than 250 institutions across North America and worldwide.

For two and a half hours once a week on Tuesday nights through the Spring 2015 semester, 12-18 PSC students who have been lucky enough to be selected for this class will be driven up to Tecumseh State Correctional Institution, a maximum-security prison, and engage with a class of the same number of selected inmates. Students are only allowed to exchange handshakes upon coming in and when leaving. There is a strict dress code to observe as well as a security training procedure that all students must undergo up to a semester before this class.

But there’s a key word here: engage. Not interrogate, not even interview. Dr. Asmussen states that these class sessions are held to collaborate, investigate, and question the very criminal justice system itself. He derides the notion of ‘just sitting there and asking them “what did you do?”’, instead insisting that students bring in values like critical thinking, open-mindedness and diversity to these classes. “By a couple of weeks in,” he said, “you’re going to forget you’re in a maximum security prison.” This is because the focus is not on the fact that these ‘inside’ students are inmates: it lies in examining the nature of justice versus injustice, as Dr. Asmussen says. It seems fairly straightforward, but the truth is, it isn’t. The majority of us have never been inmates in a maximum-security prison; another fair percentage of us have never even stepped foot inside one, much less had to imagine what it must be like to be serving a twenty-five to life sentence. What Dr. Asmussen is doing in this program is inviting us to open our eyes and see the criminal justice system as something outside of the conventional black-and-white good-guys-and-bad-guys mentality. The question ceases to be “What did you do?”; as he phrased it- it becomes a look at the much bigger picture. Because there is a bigger picture to the criminal justice system beyond the bad guys getting punished, and that picture demands to be seen.

It works wonderfully on both sides. Dr. Asmussen notes that “Inside” students- inmates, that is- absolutely treasure the opportunity to participate in this class. To them, the very ability to simply shake hands with someone from “outside”- to be, for two and a half hours, something other than a criminal doing time- is priceless. And for “outside” students, there is the opportunity to work towards understanding that inmates are more than criminals: they are people with feelings and desires and the ability to give critical insight on the criminal justice system literally from the inside out. “90% of inmates are going to come out as our neighbors and live in our society,” says Doctor Asmussen. And, indeed, the profound quality of Inside-Out seems to lie in its transformative ability to bring out the best and brightest sides the incarcerated students who go through it, as well as debunk the misconceived ideas the “outside” students may have of these men. And maybe that ties directly in to what former students call “life-changing” about Inside-Out: the constant invitation to turn out your understanding of criminals, of prisons, of the system in its entirety and to see it on a real and human level, to gain true insight in the place of one-dimensional ideas.
EBOLA! Now take a second to panic. Alright, now take a second to relax. As of late, this word has created a tremor in every community. Yes. There has been an outbreak of Ebola. Yes. There have been Ebola patients brought to the U.S. for treatment. Yes. A nurse contracted Ebola from a patient. Are you in real danger of getting Ebola? Not unless you are a medical worker who has been touching the fluids of an infected patient. The internet has flooded with jokes, rumors, and panic. Unnecessary panic, everyone cringes because, “Oh no he might have Ebola.” It is a habit humans have. Making jokes out of dark moments in history. People are dying every day of this disease. This is a sad, very true fact. Understandably people will make light of this dark situation to help with the tension, to comfort one’s fear, but there is a time and place for everything. Right now we need to focus on the facts. The facts are the biggest need to know right now about Ebola. I myself was not very sure on the facts. I never realized how out of hand this can get until I began researching the facts. The Ebola outbreak of 2014 is the largest outbreak in history. This outbreak has affected several countries in West Africa. According to the CDC, there has been a total of 14,098 cases of Ebola, and 5,160 deaths. In the U.S., there have been a total of 6 cases and 1 death. 4 out of the 6 cases reported in the U.S. were due to contraction of the Ebola virus in one of the infected areas in Africa. The other 2 contracted the virus through contact of the bodily fluids of those infected individuals that were brought to the U.S. for treatment. The CDC estimates by January 20, 2015, there could be almost 1.4 million people infected with the Ebola virus according to the CDC. This number does not include the number of untimely fatalities. There is a chart that shows a model prediction that is considered the “Worst-case scenario.”

In Nebraska, many people panicked over the idea of an Ebola patient being brought to University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, for fear that the virus may spread further. This fear was irrational. The man was quarantined like all Ebola patients who have been taken out of the hot zone for treatment. All those infected have been in the hot zone, for medical work, or have received the virus through being a medical worker who worked on the infected. An example of this would be the nurse in Texas.

The main stage of the Ebola breakout is in Gueckedou, Guinea in West Africa. Guinea borders Liberia and Sierra Leone. These are the hot zones for the virus. Much aid has been sent to all regions to help contain the virus, and keep it from spreading further. According to the New York Times, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been working on getting the needed staff to facilitate treatment centers in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. What is America doing to prevent the spread of Ebola? New York and New Jersey Governors, Andrew Cuomo and Chris Christie, have officially announced the required quarantine of those medical workers returning from West Africa. Many officials have begun to follow suit. The nurse’s union, National Nurses United, decided to go on strike. Their demands? Proper training on how to handle Ebola patients; proper gear to protect themselves from transmitting the disease to themselves. According to nationalnursesunited.org, as of November 10, 2014, hospital management, congress, and the president all have yet to respond to these demands. Reasoning’s behind these demands? Simple, an Ebola patient will go to the nearest hospital. A nurse is the first person to look at these patients before the doctor. Nebraska just received their third Ebola patient as of November 16, 2014. This new patient is Dr. Martin Salia of Sierra Leone. He was in the hot zone working on curing Ebola patients. University of Nebraska Medical Center has successfully treated two Ebola patients, Dr. Rick Sacra and a NBC cameraman, and are very positive about the future recovery of Dr. Salia. Unfortunately, Dr. Salia passed away on November 17, 2014. Before panic consumes the nation, the WHO believes everyone needs to know the following.

**Key facts**
- Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
- The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.
- The first EVD outbreaks occurred in remote villages in Central Africa, near tropical rainforests, but the most recent outbreak in west Africa has involved major urban as well as rural areas.
- Community engagement is key to successfully controlling outbreaks. Good outbreak control relies on applying a package of interventions, namely case management, surveillance and contact tracing, a good laboratory service, safe burials and social mobilisation.
- Early supportive care with rehydration, symptomatic treatment improves survival. There is as yet no licensed treatment proven to neutralise the virus but a range of blood, immunological and drug therapies are under development.
- There are currently no licensed Ebola vaccines but 2 potential candidates are undergoing evaluation.
- 2-21 days is the interval time for symptoms to show.

**Symptoms are very much flu-like in the beginning.**
- Sudden onset fever fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Headache and sore throat
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Rash
- Impaired kidney and liver function
- Internal and/or external bleeding

For more information visit the CDC or W.H.O. websites to get reports, outbreak numbers, and more information.
Winter breaks 2014

Julie Taylor-Costello
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ahhh... Christmas break (12/14/14 - 01/09/15) is just around the corner and even though you still have finals to take, you are probably already thinking about what you are going to do on break December 13, 2014 - January 11, 2015. How about buying your books for spring semester before you leave, and reading ahead? I know you think I am kidding, and I am, a little, but not entirely.

The break is going to be a long one, and, as you well know, sometimes the time away from school sends your body and mind into a state of comatose. This isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but it isn’t necessarily a good thing either. I am not saying you shouldn’t relax and enjoy your time away but, I am going to offer a few suggestions so that you don’t fall victim to the “this is winter break and I am going lay around, sleep in, and not get out of my pajamas, and now, wait, spring semester is starting and I am so not ready” syndrome.

Reach out early:
You technically should register for your spring classes before you leave for break – so, you should know who your faculty is for your spring classes. Since you have this information, and if you have never had this professor in the past, it would be a good idea to stop by his or her office and introduce yourself. Explain to them who you are and that you will be in their (insert name of class here) class in the spring. You might see this as hokey or uncomfortable, but it will go a long way when the spring semester starts.

Plan ahead:
Whether this is the first time you have met this professor, or the fifth time you have had them for class, it helps to get a leg up by at least becoming familiar with what you will be covering in the classes you are taking in the spring. Having the syllabus ahead of time will allow you to review all of the courses you are taking and will help you start scheduling your semester accordingly. Looking forward to spring semester, you may realize there are some times you are going to be away from campus – a vacation, for athletics, for a trip with an organization, etc. Planning ahead (over break) will allow you to have a plan in place to take care of assignments or to at least know what to expect, which will help you avoid falling behind. You will feel much better and your faculty will appreciate this too!

Do a little light reading:
Go ahead and if you can, buy your books for your classes or check out the Open Educational Resources (OERs) that your faculty have listed as the required readings for your class. I am not saying read them from cover to cover, or even read them for complete understanding. What I am saying is familiarize yourself with the documents - so the first time you look at them isn’t when you have your first assignment or test in that class. The only exception to this would be if you purchase your books and they come in a packet... if you ever do, you might drop that particular class, don’t break open the vacuum seal, since the bookstore will not allow you to return the packet for that course if it is open.

Take care of yourself:
Yes, break is a time to relax, eat good food, sleep in, go out with friends you haven’t seen since you left for college, and stay out late. I think you need to have fun and enjoy your time away from school, but if you come back to campus more tired and worn down than you were when you left, you will start your semester on rocky ground and will have to really work to get back up to par. If you come back refreshed and relaxed, you will come back ready to tackle everything second semester has in store for you with ease!

Your break is just that, a break - from the craziness of school, from the roommate that may or may not drive you crazy, the professors that expect the best from you, and from the responsibilities of being a college student. But, your break should not be a complete shut down - at least not for the entire break. There are several schools in the world that don’t take breaks like we do - long periods of time for your brain to release all the information that you just learned. Again, I am not saying you have to be busy of every minute of every day of your break - by all means, amazon.com so be sure to find some good deals during this break. This would be the perfect time to find your “professional college reader” and enjoy your time away from campus more.

Chelsea Turek
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Worried about next semester? Worried about your grades? Not to fret, for you can work out the kinks during fall break. Fall Break is November 26 through December 2 and is a perfect way to relax, drink some cocoa, and figure out how to get through college. First, there are the classes figure out. As many have, or should have, registered for classes for next semester, this Fall Break is perfect for figuring out if the classes you are registered for, are really the classes you should take. Unless you want to be a “professional college student” I would highly recommend a four year plan along with the most current rotations schedule. After you are sure that you don’t want to add or drop any classes, the next step is to buy your books. The Bobcat Bookstore does price matching for chegg.com and

Final Exam Schedule – Fall Semester 2014

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Final exams for evening classes are scheduled for 0630 pm on the regular class meeting day.
Surviving long distance relationships

Marissa Gomez  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

No fairy tale/love story happens without issues. For Cinderella, she had to leave the ball early, leaving only a shoe behind. For Mulan, she met her one and only when she was disguised as a man. When Hercules met Meg, she was under Hades’ control. What’s the problem with a lot of Peru Students?

A lot of us have significant others whom we are trying to maintain long distance relationships with.

My boyfriend and I started dating January 5, 2010, during our freshman year of high school. In that time we've had our fair shares of ups and downs. Our worst problem yet?

It wasn’t surviving drama, wasn’t graduation, and it wasn’t even my overprotective siblings. No, it was my decision to come to Peru for higher education. Although we are only a little over a hour away from each other, last year in October we decided a long distance relationship wasn’t the step we were ready for. Since then, we have rekindled our love, and decided to make another attempt at this long distance relationship. However, being separated isn’t always easy.

So, what’s the key to making a long distance relationship work? COMMUNICATION. You can’t just assume something will continue going good without putting forth the time and effort it deserves.

But, how can you communicate without being together in person? Shayln Holloway, a sophomore at PSC, is 40 minutes away from her boyfriend and even though their relationship is in the new stages, roughly 2 months, they find texting constantly to be what keeps their relationship going.

In my personal relationship, my boyfriend calls me every night to at least say goodnight; however, goodnight usually turns into a 3 hour conversation about nothing in particular. Still, to those of us in a long distance relationship know that seeing a text or hearing your loved one’s voice just isn’t enough.

Marcella Dalton, a junior at PSC, is 3 hours away from her fiancé of 3 years; Dalton and her fiancé Skype each other every night. For the couples that aren’t close enough to drive the make on a semi-regular basis, Skype is something that can get you through those awful, “I haven’t seen them in so long”, times.

Skype is a great way to keep couples who are separated close. Lowgaen Schmidt, a junior at PSC, has Skype dates with his girlfriend who lives in Elmira, New York.

Skype dates are a good way to feel close to that special someone, but is it really enough? Some of you may be asking, “What is the purpose of a long distance relationship?” Well, let me tell you; first and foremost, the purpose of a long distance relationship is to stay with the person who you want most. There are even some benefits to it. Susan Sisco, a junior at PSC, says, “The only good part of being in a long distance relationship is when you do FINALLY get to see each other, it makes it so much better!” For me, I couldn’t agree more. I spend all week talking to my boyfriend knowing that there will be a day I finally get to see him again. I treasure the time we have together because it’s not something I get all the time. Like the scoop of ice cream you allow yourself while on a diet, Holloway says, “the benefit of a long distance relationship is it gives them a little space.” She says if they were together all the time they’d smother each other, and the distance allows them to be individuals.

So what do I recommend to put on YOUR playlist?

Hello There Deliah by Plain White T’s

• Hello, I’m in Delaware by City and Colour

I Can Wait Forever by Simple Plan

If These Sheets Were States by All Time Low

Hello There Deliah by Plain White T’s

Of course there are so many different songs you can listen to, but those are my favorites.

I don’t recommend trying to maintain a long distance relationship unless you know it’s something you really, really want; if you know that you want something to come of it. Schmidt’s girlfriend wants to move to Nebraska and live with him. Dalton’s fiancé is coming to Peru as a student next fall. I would like to move in with my boyfriend over the summer as we’ve previously done and actually stay together this time. Holloway sums it up best when she says her long-term goal is, “…just to stay together no matter what happens.”
Why not finish what you started?

You may be closer to your associate degree than you think.

Finish the degree you started at Southeast Community College with some credits you’re earning here at Peru State College!

What is Reverse Transfer?
Let’s say you started at SCC, earned credits toward an associate degree, then transferred to Peru State College, where you are earning additional credits. Added together, the credits may meet the SCC requirements for an associate degree. If so, reverse transfer allows you to transfer credits back to SCC for an associate degree without affecting your goal of a bachelor’s degree.

Result: Now you have a completed associate degree on your resume.

Why do it?
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“This process has allowed me to accomplish my educational career goals. I’m very appreciative of all the advising staff at SCC who helped me. It was a very quick and easy transfer, and in the end I felt a sense of accomplishment.”

Brooke Werner, Associate of Science Degree Academic Transfer Graduate, December 2013

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Cross-Country Team Hosts the HAAC Finals Meet

Brittany Harward
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2014 Peru State cross country team successfully hosted the HAAC Meet November 8, 2014. A lot of planning and preparation went into this one day. Head coach Katie Billings said, “The real legwork took place in September and October as I began to seek out volunteer and volunteer groups to help with the meet. In mid-October I compiled all the information for the coaches in the conference, and I corresponded with them at length via email about the meet. Last week was the busiest part because I was marking the course, picking up supplies, emailing back and forth with volunteers and preparing my girls for the race as well. Friday was kept busy with meeting teams and showing them the course, and Saturday is a blur!”

Saturday morning of November 8th went by rather smoothly and quickly. All the volunteers arrived with positive attitudes creating a fun environment. The energy from the runners added to this exciting day as well. The beginning of the race was full of anticipation from each team competing. Towards the end of the race runners ran their hardest to beat their own personal records. Parents, families, friends, and volunteers cheered on the runners throughout the 5km race.

Overall the Peru State team competed very well this season. At the final meet the Bobcats finished in 8th place. Coach Billings had to say, “That’s a good accomplishment for the team because in the past few years they finished last at the conference meet. Five out of the six girls posted their best times of the year this past Saturday at the HAAC meet.”

Even though the season is now over, coach Billings has some goals set for the 2015 season. “I want us to have an individual medal at a meet, and I want our team scores to improve, so we can keep climbing to the top of the conference.” Winning and placing in the conference is great; however, Billings went on to say, “Another important goal next year and every year is to stay focused on the NAIA’s Champions of Character Code and the Live 5 Traits that they’ve established,” she said.

When asked if she would host the conference meet again coach Billings replied, “Yes, I would love to host the conference meet again! Each school in the conference takes a turn in an alphabetical rotation, so it could be quite a while before we host the meet again.”

Although the weather was a bit chilly, the environment of the meet warmed everyone that participated. All the volunteers were a huge help as to making this event such a success. Coach Billings said, “I’d like to mention once again that I’m very thankful for the wonderful group of volunteers we had, not only from Peru State, but from Auburn and the surrounding area as well. The day would not have gone as well as it did if it weren’t for all the great volunteers.”

So hats off to the cross-country team this year and can’t wait to see what happens next season. Go Bobcats!

Football Wrap-up

Alyssa Rodriguez
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the Peru Football season came to a close with 2 wins and 9 losses all the players and coaches gave it their all the whole way through. They are constantly improving with what the players and coaching staff has to say and do, the Bobcat elite players provide input consistently, which also helps the coaches. As for the players, next season points Schneider thinks they will strive to improve are

 pushed through being lead by Head Coach Steve Schneider. It was a pleasure to sit with Head Coach Schneider and rehearse some challenges they undertook this season as well as get a better idea for the time and consistency the football team undergoes. When asked how he felt his team handled the season overall he said that it was, of course, not what they expected overall but they will continue to work hard each and every day to become better athletes and students. Schneider said they are a group of good teammates and family, each one of the boys learn life lessons from all they do as players and teammates.

Some points Coach looks forward to hitting hard on next season is input from the players. At the end of every season they get together and debrief all that went on throughout the season and take what they can from that to improve for future seasons. They are constantly improving with what the players and coaching staff has to say and do, the Bobcat elite players provide input consistently, which also helps the coaches. As for the players, next season points Schneider thinks they will strive to improve are push hard and they are constantly improving with what the players and coaches have to say and do, the Bobcat elite players provide input consistently, which also helps the coaches. As for the players, next season points Schneider thinks they will strive to improve are

 Image courtesy of Ama Bikoko

DIVERSITY 2015

AWARENESS MONTH

Jan. 19 3:15 p.m. MLK Day
Feb. 2-6 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Diversity Collages, Student Center
Feb. 9 7 p.m. Exploring Belief panel, TJ Majors 114
Feb. 11 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Diversity Jeopardy, Student Center
Feb. 17 11 a.m. Lunch & Learn for Faculty and Staff, Bur Oak Room
Feb. 18 6 p.m. Open Mic Night with Brandon Thornton, Dining Hall
Feb. 23 7 p.m. Distinguished Speaker W. Kamau Bell, College Theatre
Feb. 26 11 a.m. “John Brown’s Raid: To Do Battle in the Land” CATS Conference Room, Co-sponsored by The Mayhew Cabin, Phi Alpha Theta & Black Student Union

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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In the Heart, Avila University finished in a tie for eighth overall with a 90 score for the Gold Level while Benedictine College (Kan.) finished just one point ahead of Peru State in the Silver Level. In the state of Nebraska, Peru State was the only institution at the Silver Level. The highest-finishing Nebraska schools were Concordia University and the College of St. Mary, both finishing with 72 points. Peru State athletic director Steve Schneider stated, “Over the past few years, our student-athletes, coaches, and the entire department have supported the Champions of Character program. There is a commitment to striving to achieve the status each year. Part of the direction of how we, as a department, achieve this recognition is through our Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC).”

SAAC president Logan Paben (Columbus) was pleased to learn of the announcement. Paben, a junior who represents the football program on SAAC noted, “Having been a member of SAAC past two years, I know each year the group has put an emphasis on doing what is necessary for the athletic department to earn this annual recognition.” Continuing, Paben added, “We knew this year there was a different direction in how the scores were tallied and the teams worked hard to implement the Live 5 program as part of it.”

Of the 23 NAIA Conferences, 17 were named Five Star Champions of Character Conferences. This distinction is bestowed on every conference in which a certain percentage of the member institutions earn Champions of Character Five Star Institution status. Some of the program specific results included the fact that over 187,000 students, parents, and coaches were touched with character messages throughout the year. In addition, over 648 different community service activities were conducted by the institutions throughout the 2013-14 school year. Senior volleyball player Mallory Hull (Morse Bluff), the current vice president of SAAC commented, “As we knew there were different aspects that each school had to do, as well as, each team, throughout the year we (SAAC) encouraged our coaches and teammates to participate. Most all of the sports did the Live 5 Poster and all student-athletes reviewed and signed off on the student-athlete pledge.” Continuing, Hull added, “Six of the athletic programs helped with the annual Peru City-Wide Clean-up which President and Mrs. Hanson started several years. Also, SAAC, along with all of the teams, participated in the Nemaha County Gives Back program held in December.”

Since 1937, the NAIA has administered programs and championships in proper balance with the overall educational experience. In 2000, the NAIA reaffirmed its purpose to enhance the character-building aspects of sport. Through the Champions of Character program, the NAIA seeks to create an environment in which every student-athlete, coach, official, and spectator is committed to the true spirit of competition through five core values: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. SAAC secretary Toni Blackwell (Papillion), a senior softball player, stated, “As members of SAAC, for the 2014-15 year, we have already set plans in place in which the athletic department will work together to try achieve the gold level. There are some aspects that will be more difficult to attain than others, but we plan to be among the top institutions next year.”

**Peru State Athletics**

The NAIA released its Champions of Character Five-Star Institution list on Thursday and the Peru State athletic department was once again among those being recognized. After undergoing a total revamping of its Champions of Character scorecard, the NAIA awarded 168 member institutions for achievements in training, promotion, and conduct in competition. This year, the 2013-14 scorecard measured commitment in five key areas and totaled 100 points. Recognition was awarded at the Gold Level (90 to 100 points), Silver Level (75-89 points), and Bronze Level (60-74 points).

This year, 12 institutions were recognized as Gold Level Champions of Character. Peru State was among the 60 institutions among those at the silver level while 96 schools were bronze institutions.

Peru State scored 78 points this year and was in the top fourth of all institutions by placing in a tie for 41st overall in the scorecard listing. The 78 points puts Peru State as the third-ranked institution in the Heart of America Athletic Conference (Heart) and on top among the NAIA schools in the state of Nebraska.
Anime NebrasKon 2014: Who are you really?

Bri Urrutia
LAYOUT EDITOR

What do Star Wars, Star Trek, Lord of the Rings, Batman, and Power Rangers all have in common? A gigantic fandom! Everyone has heard of Comic Con where some unexpected movie trailers are revealed, but has anyone ever heard of Anime NebrasKon? When it comes to anime many people tend to simply nod their head and smile, or have a funny look on their face when it came up in conversation. Not necessarily for reasons of utter disgust, but simply because they really have no idea what's being talked about. For those who are unfamiliar, anime and manga are basically the Japanese art style of animated television shows, movies and comic books. A lot of anime and manga have been dubbed/translated into English and released in the United States—Pokémon, Sailor Moon, Dragonball Z, Astroboy, Yu-Gi-Oh!, etc... There have always been large fandoms that follow many different series and with fandoms, come people who enjoy dressing up and acting like their favorite characters. The convention is not limited to just anime and manga cosplayers. There were several sightings of character from Hanna-Barbara, DC, Marvel, video games, cult classics (ie. David Bowie from the Labyrinth), and even original characters. The sky’s the limit! There are anime conventions held all over the country and happen just about every weekend out of the year.

Anime NebrasKon started in 2004 by members of the UNL anime club, Otaku Jinuri, as a fund-raising project. At the first convention, there were mere 300 attendees and as the years progressed, so did the numbers. This year, the convention had a record of over 5,100 attendees. The convention is made up of panels, guest speakers, charity auctions, art vendors/dealers, contests, table top games, raves, and thousands of people stopping each other for pictures. Guest speakers for this year included Kyle Hebert, Richard Epcar, Fredd Gorham, Chris Cason, Chritina Vee, Erica Mendez, Stephanie Brehm-Young, David Brehm, Eric Stuart, Alexis Tipton and Robert Axelrod. Most, if not all, are voice actors that have been in the business for years and have voiced in thousands of television shows. When asked, several conventioneers were more than happy to share some of their experiences. Morgan Runnic-third year attendee–shared, “I’m normally very reserved and a little awkward, but at Nebkon, there’s no fear of being shamed for fully expressing yourself, no matter how strange or unorthodox you really are.”

Molly Kreifels has been attending NebrasKon since it’s birth year ten years ago and joined the staff in 2009. She shared some of the behind-the-scenes’ items she oversees such as updating policies, dress code, as well as spreading news of the event via word of mouth to anyone who would listen. Molly also shared that “the best experience I get with this convention are the people who tell us our convention is the highlight of their year.”

Sarah Crimson said, “As an attendee for the second year, I can very much say that the first year is what makes you want to keep coming back for more.”

DeProgrammer-second year attendee–said, “I don’t know if a single human should be allowed to have that much fun in a three-day period.”

Stephanie Clarke—second year attendee–shared her experience, “Meeting many other fellow otakus (anime lovers) and gamers is fun, everyone is in their own element. As well as having guests, fangirling and getting signatures is awesome.”
It’s Christmas again

Kateri Mittan
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s Christmas time again, and you’re probably wondering what you’re going to do to make your holiday season special. So here are a few things you can do:

First thing’s first, write your letter to Santa. You’ve got to make sure it gets to the North Pole before Christmas. When I was younger, I didn’t really understand mail, I thought when I dropped it in the box, it popped up from a box in the North Pole, or something. Now, I’ve realized, I never got it in the mail soon enough. Snail mail, indeed.

Then, before it gets too late, make your paper ring Christmas Countdown. I always find then torturous to put together, but watching the rope get smaller and smaller really makes me happy. Put up the Christmas tree with your family. Make food, lots of food. Do things with pretzels, Pinterest it. Eat food. (The food you make, plus whatever else you want, it’s Christmas, you can worry about it after you start your annual New Years diet.)

Make hot cocoa, snuggle with your dog and watch Christmas movies. (My favorite’s The Year Without a Santa Claus, or A Charlie Brown Christmas)

Stay indoors, at all cost. Not only is it freezing out there, but it’s dangerous, too. There are exceptions to this rule, including but not limited to: building snowmen, Christmas caroling, driving around to look at Christmas lights, having snowball fights, and Starbucks runs.

Make a gingerbread house. Take a picture of it. Post the picture online. Then eat it.

Make paper snowflakes with small children. I know I loved when big kids helped me. Then, hang them everywhere. Spend all of your money on special gifts for your loved ones. Taunt them until Christmas. For example, tell other people (those whom you can trust, obviously) what you’ve gotten someone. I hate being the only one in the room who doesn’t know what I’m getting for Christmas!

Wear Christmas sweaters. All day, every day. Drive carefully, because not everyone else will be.

Shovel your sidewalks, you might not need to use them, but someone else might.

Have an amazing holiday season with your loved one, and remember that it’s not all about receiving, but also giving. Stay warm, and let it snow!

Fall music in review

Grace Cole
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Late October and early November have been a very exciting time for music lovers. Many incredible artists from a variety of genres have just, or are just about to release new albums that have been highly anticipated by their fans. Here are a few of the most interesting albums that have been released in the past few months.

Leighton Meester, who made her acting debut in the hit TV show Gossip Girl, released her debut album, Heartstrings. Although she’s been working on releasing her first album since the early 2000s, Heartstrings is worth the wait. Leighton’s light and airy voice makes for some easy listening. The album has an early 2000s pop sound, as is to be expected, and even has a few hints of country music, also to be expected as Leighton was in the movie Country Strong. This album is the perfect soundtrack for studying on a Sunday afternoon.

If you’ve been listening to country radio the last few months, chances are you already know who Sam Hunt is. His first single Leave the Night On was incredible and made people stop and notice this songwriter turned country artist. Sam’s debut album Montevallo is a cross between pop/hip-hop and country, similar to Florida Georgia Line. He has a habit of putting spoken lines into his songs, which can be off-putting at times, but his incredible voice and catchy lyrics make up for it. With songs like Break Up in a Small Town and Speakers, this album will leave you wishing you already knew all the words so you can sing along. You’re definitely going to want to put this one on repeat.

Switching away from the debut albums, Calvin Harris is known for amazing singles like I Need Your Love and Summer. His latest album, Motion, in my opinion, is a tiny step back from those songs. Some of the tracks on this album are a bit slower than his more popular songs, but not by much. Motion has a very 90s sound with pulsing beats and beautiful vocals. I’m not sure that this album is worth listening to in one sitting, but a few of the tracks are definitely worth putting on your workout playlist.

Finally, those of you who know me knew that this one was coming. Taylor Swift’s fifth album 1989 promised to be completely different, and it is. Taylor has made the transition from country to pop, and it is a delicious one. This album holds hints of artists like Rihanna in the song I Know Places and Sia in Wildest Dreams. A few of the songs, like Welcome to New York and Out of the Woods have a very definite 80s sound, as the title 1989 would suggest. And as always, these lyrics are incredible and very relatable. It is defiantly different, but in this case, different is almost better. This album is perfect for road trips with friends or as the soundtrack for random dance parties.

Upcoming albums to watch out for later this month include Garth Brooks’ Man Against Machine, One Direction’s Four, and Pitbull’s Globalization.
Life in their hands, death on their minds! 12 Angry Jurors

Meghan Tyburski
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One murder, one suspect, no real evidence, and twelve opinionated, indecisive, stubborn, angry jurors, that have to close the case. Originally titled Twelve Angry Men, this production has since been reformed as woman have been cast in theatrical adaptations of Twelve Angry Jurors. This successful 1957 movie was first produced as a teleplay for a television series on CBS Studio One in 1954 by Reginald Rose, and has since become a historically significant piece of artwork. Most recently, our very own Peru Theatre Company has taken it to the stage.

One way this play is unique is because of the nonexistent scene changes. It is set in the jury room for the majority of time, which poses a potential problem of a bored audience, but leaves no impression of this. 12 of the 13 cast members sit around a large table, consuming our black box theater. The one character that is not a juror, is played by Jeremiah Villeneuve, the clerk and guard. He stands outside of the door leading into the room, for the entire show! Inside the small room, the jurors shuffle around taking turns speaking, fighting, and especially, providing explanations and facts for support. The juror that experiences most is No. 8, played by the passionate Jordan Williams, evaluating the facts, (or lack thereof) and trying to save a man’s life instead of getting involved with his own, which seems to throw the other jurors off track. Their opinions cloud the facts.

The setting alone acts as a catalyst for relationships to develop, which furthermore, extracts complex themes that are brilliantly hidden in the courtroom. Twelve very different people agreeing on an actual “life or death” situation is not going to be easy. Raeanna Carbaugh, Juror No. 3, made an agreement especially difficult. Though she looked slamm’n in a red dress, heels, and curls, her character could talk up a storm but refused to hear anything but her own opinion. Carbaugh was loud, mean, and one hell of an actress. The fogger the evidence seemed, the more everyone felt the man was innocent. But the stubborn jurors weren’t going to admit defeat, not because they truly felt the man was guilty, but because they did not want to be wrong. The difficulty of man to leave emotion out of emotional topics concerning man, is a fact that flows steadily through this production, and into real life. The inevitability of bias in a trial of the murder suspected to be committed by a Hispanic boy in the slums during the 1950’s is quite high. The same thing can be said for 2014. But Juror No. 10, Jacob Gleason, took his emotions a little too far. It was made clear that he was the angriest of the 12, as well as the most racist. Gleason did an incredible job as he portrayed this sick bigot with a fury for justice, which was no justice at all. Juror No. 9, Andrew Hockabout, on the other hand, seemed to be speaking truthfully and knowledgeably with the intent of making the right decision. Though he was right there with the other two, believing the boy guilty, he was very reasonable in evaluating all facts. Hockabout delivered his lines effectively and compellingly. Though it can be discouraging to hear the group of jurors collectively being referred to as “gentleman”, I am sure this is because of a time restraint. I mean think about it, if there was a juror in which the majority were women, the few men in the group would be singled out as men. They would not be collectively called “women”. The second and last woman in this play was Juror No. 6, played by Avery Grebert. She did a fine job as a bright woman who left her heart at home and came with just a brain. Though she changed her mind frequently because the evidence changed as well. It is also worthy of mentioning how beautiful Grebert looked in her ’50’s outfit, as well as all the men! Great job costume crew.

Michael Trivilino played Juror No. 5, who actually felt a connection with the man on trial because he himself grew up in a slum. Though this only swayed his position a little, for Michael’s character did not play around! He spoke the truth, knew how to use a switchblade, and put his anger on the jurors that wouldn’t give the poor kid a chance. He was fighting for the rights he knew weren’t given to minorities and other disad-advantaged people. Trivilino is a true bad ass. Juror No. 9, Quentin Victor, was a very convincing actor. He made me feel sympathetic when he spoke of the old man witness, and how he might’ve lied for attention. This brings us more knowledge of Victor’s character, and how understanding he is, and truthful as he states himself to be a liar. He brings us a different perspective to evaluate. He enlightens us to question ourselves, as well as what we know to be true.

Nick Girard, Juror No. 2, brought a different character to the table when wearing big goofy glasses, speaking with a stutter, and having OCD when it comes to keeping track of time on his watch. Girard mastered this passive, silly character, who yet had some very valuable thoughts to consider. He really set himself apart from the other jurors, which is always needed for the colorful contrast.

Ethi Fricke also set himself apart as he played Juror No. 11, with the respectable German accent. His character was definitely the wise words of the bunch. He helped tremendously sway the others to realize the great amount of accumulated doubt in the case. Fricke is a solid, versatile actor.

Juror No. 12, Shane Brichacek, seemed to fit the scene just right with his N’york accent and know-it-all attitude. He did a great job in this play. His character was forceful and clever, but eventually surrendered his pride and agreed with the others. Brichacek stepped into his character’s shoes, acting right at home in the jury room, contemplating and arguing!

The Jury Foreman was played by Thomas Horky. His character kept up with the deliberations even though it seemed like he would have liked to be somewhere else. He tried keeping order, but that couldn’t work with the personalities in the room. He looked quite handsome with his slicked back hair and red tie. His tone inflections are what make him so funny and such a great actor.

Juror no. 7, Michael L. Cassavant, was a tremendous pain in the ass. His character showed impatience by smacking on gum and rushing everyone, but he did have a pretty awesome fake death scene. Cassavant was funny and played his character well.

The Peru Theatre Company provided us with a wonderful performance. This was not a mystery of “who done it?” but more of “who sees it?” Every juror had to face the fact that, whether they wanted to or not, there weren’t enough facts to give the man a death sentence.

“It’s NOVEMBER! This is my month! Get back into your sleigh and WAIT YOUR TURN!”