Honors Program Students graduate With Distinction

Rebecca Bartlett
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The first group of seniors will be graduating from Peru State College from the Honors Program with Distinction May 10. This is not only an exciting moment for these individuals, but for the history of the college. In Peru State College, to graduate with Distinction from the Honors Program students must complete all the requirements to graduate with honors and also complete an independent study project under the direction of a faculty advisor.

Kelli Gardner, coordinator of the Honors Program since 2012, advises interested students to start thinking about possible projects early, but not begin until their senior year. Gardner is excited about the growth of the Honors Program, which promotes advanced study and scholarship for its participants. It isn’t a requirement that students complete their project in their field of study, but all the students have so far. The following students will meet the requirements to graduate with Distinction upon their graduation from Peru State College:

Rebecca Dostal is a psychology and criminal justice double major who will be graduating May 10. In addition to her participation in the Honor’s Program, Dostal is a campus tutor and a member in Phi Beta Lambda.

Dostal is completing her project by sending out a campus-wide survey. The survey participants were asked to answer demographic information and were shown one of four random resumes - high qualified male, high qualified female, low qualified male, or low qualified female - and then answered questions about the resumes.

“After looking at some of the data, I found that low qualified males were more experienced than low qualified females, and that high qualified males were seen less qualified than high qualified females,” Dostal explained. “I also found that low qualified males and females ranked the same level of hire-ability, however, the high qualified female was more likely to be hired than the high qualified male.” Because these resumes were created in the same format and to have the same quality, the conclusion was that gender made the difference.

Her next step in data analysis is to see if any of the demographic information - like major, gender, and whether the participant has children - has any correlation with applicant hire-ability.

After graduation, Dostal plans on taking a year to work and prepare for law school.

Rebecca Bartlett is a language arts major minoring in psychology who will be graduating May 10. In addition to participating in the Honor’s Program, Bartlett is a campus tutor, editor-and-chief of the student newspaper, a member of Sigma Tau Delta, and works as an office aide in the CATS building.

Bartlett completed her project on Anxiety’s Effects on the Writing of College Students with Kelli Gardner as her advisor. Bartlett’s data was collected through a campus-wide survey. The survey requested participants to answer questions about demographics, complete a writing sample, and complete two anxiety scales.

Her research found that anxiety affected the content of writing as well as the use of pronouns. Psycholinguist James Pennebaker found similar results in the writing of individuals with depression. An essay copy of her research is available to anyone interested by emailing her at rebartlett@campus.peru.edu.

After graduation, Bartlett plans to work for a few years and then apply to graduate schools. Her long term goal is to get a Licensed Master of Social Work and PhD in linguistics. She would like to research how individuals with mental illness and disability communicate to better help their families, educators, and medical professionals.

Cassie Leonard, mathematics major, will be graduating May 10. She holds positions on campus as a tutor, a mentor for the freshman fusion program, a member of CRU, and the president of the math club.

Laura McCauley advised Leonard on her research on star arboricity. This research focused on finding a real world application for this concept. Leonard concluded that star arboricity could be used to divide students into groups for class projects and assign group leaders, while ensuring a variety of experience or understanding levels in each group.

Leonard will be getting married this summer and then attending graduate school at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where she will earn her Masters of Science in mathematics. Leonard is interested in becoming a professor and would love to teach at Peru State College someday.

Angela Zarybnicky will be graduating in May 2015 with degrees in secondary math education, middle grades math and language arts education, elementary education, and a minor in coaching. In addition to classwork, Zarybnicky is a mentor and tutor for SSS, a student worker at the library, a member of PSEA, a member of PILOT, and an active member of Southeast Nebraska Torchclub.

Judith Ruskamp advised Zarybnicky on her research project over the differences between United States and Dominican Republic educational systems, which she completed in conjunction with her study abroad. “When the trips were announced, I wanted to go, and we had a chance to take an independent study or take the classes for the trip,” said Zarybnicky. After speaking with Ruskamp, she completed some pre-research before the trip and prepared some surveys and interviews to give to teachers on her trip.

Zarybnicky found that educational philosophies in the United States and Dominican Republic are similar, but requirements are different. Students are only required to attend school for eight years in the Dominican Republic, and high school there is comparable to the American college system. Zarybnicky enjoyed the experience and found the language barrier to be more difficult than she expected. “[The language barrier] made me know how to relate to the ELL students I will have in my classroom,” she added. She will be completing follow-up interviews with teachers online and presenting her research at the NH Social Sciences Fall Conference.

Nakita Baird, psychology and criminal justice counseling major, will be graduating May 10. Baird is the captain of the cheerleaders, the secretary of SAAC, a tutor, a mentor, and is also involved in the PTC.

Baird will be researching the motivations and expectations that students have for studying abroad during the May trip under the advisement of Gardner. Baird will collect data from participants of the study abroad experience throughout the trip.

Baird plans to take a year or two off of school before attending graduate school.
Seniors bid farewell

Rebecca Bartlett
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Having worked on the Times since I was a freshman, saying goodbye to the student newspaper is as hard as saying goodbye to the campus and the people on it.

I began on this campus a shy, unsure freshman. Throughout my years here I changed my major and my goals, but more importantly I am more confident and able. I owe this change to the professors, staff, and students I have met along the way.

To the entirety of the CATS and SSS staff, past and present, I owe a lot of my skills and training. Each member of the staff has acted as a mentor and friend to me at one point in time or another, and the CATS building itself has acted as a second home for me.

The psychology department, particularly Dr. Gardner, has been very supportive of my research endeavors. Dr. Gardner guided me through my independent research project and is helping me publish my research.

The English department has been a second home for me. As sad as it is to leave this place, I know that my experiences here have helped pave the path for an exciting future. In the words of Dr. Seuss “Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.” Thank you Peru State College and the friends and family I have met along the way for putting this smile on my face.

Congratulations to the class of 2014. This isn’t goodbye, it’s “See ya later, Peru.”

Cartoons by Jennifer Trapp

Jennifer Trapp
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Never would have imagined saying goodbye to a school newspaper would be so difficult. When I signed on to join the paper as a cartoonist my freshman year little did I know what an impact it would have on my college experience. Having to say goodbye to this paper and this college is like having to part ways with a very dear friend.

I was a timid young freshman when I arrived in Peru five years ago. One of the best decisions I made that year was to get involved with this paper. It turned a very shy girl who often kept to herself into an outgoing, involved and passionate person who never slept because she was too busy.

I would like to thank Peru State College for all the opportunities and experiences that I have been granted while here. The people here have welcomed me as is family and this college welcomed me in and allowed me to call it home and for that I will always be grateful.

I have gained the confidence to reach for my goals and never loose sight of the stars. If my dreams don’t scare me, I know they aren’t big enough. I would like to thank Kristi Neis for opening her heart and being an incredible mentor. Thank you for being a friend. When I grow up, I want to be just like Ms Neis!

To Professor Ken Anderson, thank you for pushing me to always do better and instilling a great work ethic in all of your students. Because of you I know how to weld, get a stain out of anything and measure anything proportionately. Most importantly, because of you I know I am capable of being a teacher who will be able to better the lives of her students just as you have for all of us.

Residence Life has played a huge role in my experience here at Peru as well. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but I am glad I did. All of those sleepless nights and every new situation helped me learn how to approach any situation no matter how difficult or stressful with a calm and cool demeanor. I would like to thank Residence Life staff members both past and present for being part of my Peru family. Without the relationship we have built, our job would have been far more difficult and a lot less enjoyable.

Only in Peru can you find people who welcome you into their lives and expect you to never leave. Peru will always be my home. As sad as it is to leave this place, I know that my experiences here have helped pave the path for an exciting future. In the words of Dr. Seuss “Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.” Thank you Peru State College and the friends and family I have met along the way for putting this smile on my face.

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www.peru.edu/pstimes

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Thank you to all of the Peru State Times staff for another great year, and thank you to all our readers for allowing us to continue publication!

*indicates staff members that assisted with layout

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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.
New psychology club

Chelsea Turek
STAFF WRITER

Want a way to network, learn, and expand your horizons? Look no further than the new Psychology club. You may be thinking, “Didn’t we already have one?” Well, yes and no. There was the criminal justice and psychology club but both groups decided to separate into their own entities just this semester. The new club president, Lexi Neemann, commented that the decision was tough but in the end, both sides knew there were more benefits to become their own clubs than continuing to be together. This gives the criminal justice and psychology club more opportunities to gain more breadth and depth on their fields.

Darrin Coe, professor of psychology, agreed saying he would like to do more psychology work in the club such as doing more research on the behavioral mind. Can you imagine applying for a job and on your resume it says you conducted your own research project that actually studied and helped people? Coe also stated, “I chose to be an advisor for the club because I love the science of psychology and want to encourage others in pursuing it with passion.” This club plans on being an honorary chapter by promoting research, going to museums, and challenging students’ minds.

The club already has several committees beginning to take shape including a research idea committee, a marketing committee, and a social coordinator. If you want an officer position or be in a committee, the club is open and willing to think of more committees or elect you in a position. Not a psychology major or minor but still want to be involved? Feel more than free to come and join the club anyway. You can contact one of the club’s two advisers, James Nevitt and Coe if you want more information. The Psychology Club meets every other Thursday in TJ Majors in room 304 at 11:30.

Like most people, I selected possible future careers based on those people and experiences that I was exposed to as a youth. Since five-seventh of my family became teachers, I have been exposed to an extraordinary number of educators. But I guess I am off the point of the question a little bit. I became a teacher because of my exposure and I continue teaching because of the possibilities and joys that arise from this career choice.

Teaching is a career in which you never stop learning. Teaching allows me to expand my knowledge in subjects that I have studied for many years already. It allows me to build on the discoveries of others as well as share those discoveries with my colleagues and those that I teach. To engage and investigate within a discipline is one of the joys of teaching and one of the reasons that I teach.

Another joy of teaching is to see students use their gifts and discover their potential. I would love to say I have a student reach their potential in my class but even as a college professor we are only opening doors to greater possibilities for students. Seeing the proverbial light bulb turn on in the students mind when you are teaching a lesson is valuable and sustains me for another day. It is a great joy to have students return and reminisce about classes from years ago. Hearing how they were inspired to achieve their life’s goals is priceless.

Teaching requires self-reflection. It needs a clear assessment of your successes, failures, motives, assumptions and actions. As a result, teaching is never boring. It is constantly changing and always challenging. Teaching and learning is a lifelong endeavor in which we all participate.

Many years ago when I taught high school in southern California, I had a student talk with me about an examination question. After a few minutes of conversation, he finally asked the question “What do you want me to do ... think?” My response was simply, yes. Learning, thinking and teaching go hand in hand. I teach because I know I have not finished learning.
Graduation fears loom over the future

Andy Medina
STAFF WRITER

In many cases graduation can be a time for celebration. Parties are often thrown for the graduate, maybe a small get together of family and friends is all someone wants. Maybe they aren’t even looking forward to graduating. Maybe the thought of graduating terrifies them beyond belief.

Imagine for a moment that school is all you have ever known. You never worked a job while going to school, the only real responsibility you have ever had was towards school work. Imagine being thrust into a system where you are given a place to stay, food to eat at a designated time, and work, menial and tasking work. You do not get paid for the work you do, unless you count getting paid in knowledge payment enough. I do not.

Yes, we are given a choice as to what we would like to specialize in for our future, but for those of us who do not wish to become math wizards, why is it so important for us to pass calculus? If we are not planning on becoming scientists, why do we have to take a class that forces us to learn about the shapes of clouds and what they mean?

Everyone keeps telling me to be happy that I am graduating, I suppose I should be, but being in school for so long makes me wonder if I am cut out for the real world. When asked if I was excited to be graduating, I responded with comparing school to prison. It is all I have ever known. It is like I spent my life behind the walls of knowledge while only learning enough to get by and then being thrust out into the free world with no plan for the future or no idea what to do with myself.

I am sure I cannot be the only one who feels this way, but the facts remain the same. We all have to graduate sometime. Sooner or later, we all have to bite the bullet and accept the fact that school is only a part of life, not life itself.

Senate Spotlight

Student Senate has been very busy around campus this year. Here is some activity to look out for this year and next! A printer and computer in each resident hall

- EZ Cooler Water Fountain Systems in the AWAC and Student Center
- Recycling throughout campus
- Frisbee Golf at Neal Park

Student Senate would like to thank all of the administration, faculty, staff, and students for your cooperation and continuous input. The Senator of the Month for March is Jessica Johansen.

Jessica is a Biological Science major from North Platte, Nebraska. She was named Senator of the Month for her work as Recording Secretary. She has shown great attention to detail and dedication to accuracy. She has also been very proactive, making sure records are available in a timely manner. We appreciate Jess for her commitment, leadership, and active involvement as a student senator. If you or anyone you know has thoughts about campus improvements please submit your ideas in the box located outside of the student organization office located in the student center. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us as student-senate@campus.peru.edu

Leadership Perserverance

Jessica Merrill
COPY EDITOR

Being a student leader on our campus is a life-changing experience. When I came to Peru as a freshman, I instantly loved the idea of being one of the students that everyone knew and that people looked up to. The Ambassador that gave me my tour my senior year of high school was still here when I became a Peru State student. When I came here for New Student Weekend, that Ambassador remembered my name and my major, as well as other bits of information about me. I remember being so impressed and looking up to him so much. The tour I had taken with him had pretty much solidified my decision to come to Peru in the first place. I wanted to make that same impact on someone else’s college career and choice.

Toward the end of my freshman year came the time to start running for positions. I ran for Campus Activities Board president at the encouragement of the current President, applied to be a student Ambassador, applied to be a Top Cat, and applied to be a mentor for the Fusion Program. I received the position of CAB President but none of the rest. I was incredibly discouraged and honestly, I was so embarrassed and disappointed in myself that I never wanted to try for any leadership position on our campus again. But in the middle of June, I was asked to become an Alternate Ambassador. In the end of October, I was asked to step up into a Resident Position. The next February, I applied and was given the position of Student Trustee and decided to run for my second year as CAB President.

Now, I’m graduating in December and many of the positions that I hold are year-long commitments so I will not be returning to them. It’s sad and strange to think that next fall, my planner won’t be full of events, programs, and meetings that I have to attend. I’ll have tons of free time that I didn’t have in the past and I’m still not totally sure what I’ll do with all of it.

The point of this article is simply to show you readers just how easy it is to get involved and to also not let a couple of ‘failures’ discourage you from doing what you truly want to do. It’s easy to let other people drag you down when it comes to achieving your dreams but in the end, you will always end up exactly where you need to be.

Mary Fielder and Jasmine Tate
April 22 - May, 8 2014
Peru State Art Gallery, A.V. Larson
Regular gallery hours are 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Monday through Thursday
Artists’ Reception
April 27 from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Opposing Opinions: One-to-One; Should students be given the technology?

Raemanna Carbaugh
STAFF WRITER

As an education major I am all for one-to-one. One-to-one means one laptop or iPad/tablet for each student. This is a great resource for the students because today’s generation of students is almost 100% technologically savvy. I have walked down the street, and seen 5 year-olds playing with iPhones and iPads. Today’s generation learns via technology and being able to provide the students with the means of being able to learn in the way they have come to gain information, is important.

Special Education students have shown valuable progress via use of this type of technology. According to the article “How do special education students benefit from technology?” by Kris Zorigian and Jennifer Job, “Technology can be the great equalizer in a classroom with diverse learners.” I feel that this is completely true because there are apps completely designed to help learners with specific disabilities.

As a Language Arts Education major my students will be able to use this technology to research, write, and develop their skills with specific learning apps.

One of the arguments that people have against the students having laptops or iPad’s is that not every student has had the opportunity to use this type of technology, so they will become overwhelmed. This may happen, but the students will learn with time and this gives them access to that type of technology.

Another argument people have against one-to-one is that the students will abuse the privilege. Yes, there will be some hiccups, but what program is entirely perfect? With time more restricted access programs can be created or downloaded, or we can just instill a sense of ownership and responsibility into the students, make them feel like adults, and trust that they will be on task.

Some teachers are embarrassed because they don’t know or understand the technology, and that leads to a negative attitude towards the implementation of one-to-one. I would much rather jump on the bandwagon now and learn, than be stuck attempting to learn later down the road when I am completely behind in technological knowledge. I feel that it will be ok if my students are teaching me things. I know I won’t know everything, and they will feel empowered and invested in their learning when they know that they can teach me something. When the students are in their learning comfort zone the program will be more successful.

Personally this technology will make learning a lot easier. There is no point in fighting the inevitable. Technology is becoming a major part of the current and future students’ lives. Schools and teachers need to hop on board, and learn from their students. In Education classes professors stress the need to meet the learning needs of all students, and now-a-days people this is how the next generation of student is and will be learning. Some day the classroom will be entirely technology-based, and there will be no way to fight this.

Chloe Langford
STAFF WRITER

Being a one-to-one school means that every student gets an electronic device issued from the school, it could be a laptop or in many cases an iPad. As an education major I have done multiple projects on and research about technology in the classroom and one to one schools.

I feel that technology can work very well in the classroom, if implemented correctly. I feel that for technology to be effective in the classroom it takes a special type of teacher. The reason I am not of fan of using technology in classrooms is because it doesn’t always work, it is expensive, and to be effective with technology it takes a lot of training. I have been in many different classes and time was wasted trying to get a laptop to work, or a video to play, or the internet to load.

Also, for a teacher to be effective with technology is takes a lot of training and that means conferences and time away and money spent.

Importantly enough, there are no statistics saying that technology in the classroom improves a student’s performance. I do not believe that Peru needs to change to a one-to-one campus in classrooms. The first reason being most students have a computer or laptop of their own that they could bring to class and all students at Peru State have access to the library’s computers and laptops and also the computer lab in T3 Majors. Teachers can even schedule to hold classes in these areas so students can use the computers for a lesson.

I believe switching to a one-to-one campus would be outrageous when we already have these tools provided for our use every day.

The second reason that this would not be a good idea is because it would be very expensive, and as the saying goes money doesn’t grow on trees… so, the cost of this switch would be coming from students’ pockets.

In a nutshell we, as in the students, would be paying for something we already have access to.
Have you wondered what

Ashlynn Blomstedt
STAFF WRITER

Arts and Sciences
Language Arts

Most students encounter the Language Arts department in their PSC careers in one form or another: general education speech or composition classes, the Peru Theatre Company’s various enterprises, or by majoring in English. “Having a degree in English is most useful because it prepares a person to read, write, and think more deeply and proficiently,” explained Dr. Dan Holtz. Interested in the exciting things the Language Arts faculty are involved in? Do continue! The Peru Theatre Company, advised and directed by Professor Josh Young, “produces 3 main stage performances, a night of student directed One-Acts, an annual haunted house...and an Annual 24-Hour Theatre project,” explained Professor Young. He participates each year in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, PTC’s final production of the year will be Deathtrap on April 24th through the 27th in the Jindra Fine Arts Recital Hall. “As a scholar in the field of literary studies, I get the opportunity to access archives and collections that are not available to the general public,” said Dr. Michelle Lee. Currently, she researches Irish writer Edmund Downey. She will present her research in Dublin at an international meeting. One of her two current articles deals with the monstrous in Irish political writing of the 19th Century. “I would encourage students to think critically about the texts they read and to interrogate their foundations of knowledge – it’s not enough to know what we think, we need to know why we think the way we do.”

“An English major needs to have a love and passion for literature and writing and a curiosity that spurs learning about people from other cultures and other times,” added Dr. Holtz. He exemplifies these traits in his many pursuits, from serving on the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Historical Society to researching historic Nebraska and Civil War folk music. He has written articles about several Nebraska authors, including PSC’s own Marion Marsh Brown. He has also coordinated “eight statewide tours of literary and historical sites” with Dr. Sara Crook of the Social Science department. In 2012, they put together a group that traversed the American North East exploring early American writers, such as Poe and Emerson. “I would advise any student interested in pursuing a higher level of literary studies to be aware of the job market, which can be unpredictable and difficult,” said Dr. Lee.

Students not going into teaching must figure out ways to use their skills in the job market,” advised Dr. Holtz. “Consequently, I recommend that non-teaching English majors take a course or two in business (for example, advertising or marketing), in graphic arts, in journalism and other areas which complement their communication skills so that they can be competitive in the job market.”

Science

“We make scientists,” Dr. Richard Clopton answered. That is to say, the science department pushes students to be independent thinkers that turn to science for the answers. They allow for student research and give plenty of opportunities for learning outside the classroom.

“In our program, students learn techniques that they would not learn in-depth in the normal classroom laboratory or field course,” said Professor Deb Clopton. The department has received a National Science Foundation grant which allows a group of motivated and gifted student researchers to gain field experience and to publish findings. They have traveled as far as North Carolina, Alabama, and Florida. “Our research investigates the evolutionary relationships between protozoan parasites called gregarines living in the gut of their insect hosts. The students, of course, are not the only researchers. The professors that make up the Biology department are all parasitologists that continue their research, with some student assistance, in their respective specialties. Dr. Joanna Cielocho, a systematic parasitologist, focuses her research on tape-worms that parasitizes sharks and rays. Her research has taken her to exotic locales like Japan, India, and Thailand. She described going to a fish market in Thailand to find fresh specimens. Her research more recently has taken her to the coastal south.

Dr. Gul Ahmad, among other things, works to develop vaccines. He is currently trying to establish a basic research facility to begin developing a vaccine for Trichomonas vaginalis, an STD that primarily affects young women. His previous research has included working on a vaccine for schistosomiasis, a parasite that affects impoverished, tropical regions. “This is the second most debilitating parasitic disease after malaria,” wrote Dr. Ahmad. “It directly or indirectly impacts about a billion people in some 76 countries.”

The newly reinstated Biology club welcomes anyone who is interested in giving back to their community, science, and fun science-themed trips. Check out the PSC Facebook page or contact Dr. Cielocho for more information about meetings.

Dr. Mike Barger, who reinstated the honors program in 2007, teaches the honors class, Microscopic Monarchs as a study of diseases that shaped the course of human history. “My sincere advice to all the students at Peru State College, whether they are pursuing science or any other discipline is that they must try to excel in their respective field and never give up,” advises Dr. Ahmad. “Think beyond Peru State College or even the state of Nebraska and strive to achieve your goals.”

Social Science

Learning history and political science enriches students’ critical thinking skills and provides a strong understanding of the surrounding world. PSC’s Social Science department promotes diverse thinking by teaching a wide range of courses, from American Constitutional Law and American Political Thought to Nebraska History and World Civilization to 1500. They also bring in many guest speakers to offer fresh perspectives and encourage students to attend a variety of events.

Phi Alpha Theta, co-sponsored by Drs. Sara Crook and Spencer Davis, offers students many opportunities for educational trips and conferences. It sent two students to the Missouri Valley History Conference which partnered with the National Phi Alpha Theta group to present papers earlier this spring. The club is open to anyone interested in history, however, there is criteria for students to join the honors society aspect. “Phi Alpha Theta offers a great opportunity to expand your horizons,” added Dr. Crook.

History Day, the event that brings students from the surrounding middle and high schools to compete, is organized by Dr. Crook. Members of Phi Alpha Theta and social science majors assist by acting as judges’ assistants and in various other capacities.

Dr. Davis is active in the honors program on campus. He teaches Democracy Ancient and Modern which explores how democracy has evolved through the ages.

Along with Dr. Holtz, Dr. Crook serves on the Nebraska 150 committee which is preparing for the sesquicentennial of the state and researches Nebraska statehood. Her area of interest lies in Nebraska history. Both her and Dr. Davis portray historical people in living history 1st person portrayals.

“For students going into education, keep the students as your first priority,” advises Dr. Crook, “Are you giving them what they need to excel?”

Professional Studies

Business

The business department has a wide array of expertise and fields. Computer and Management Information Systems (CMIS) is a specialization that focuses in on the technological aspects of business. Professor Lisa Parrriott stays ahead of the swiftly changing tides of technology by seeking out resources. “Technology continually evolves, so I look for information about new innovations every day. I attend training and conferences to gather information to update my classes... There are so many new and exciting things to research!” She loves seeing students get excited about areas they find particularly interesting.
technology. “Never stop learning — be curious, be innovative, be willing to embrace technological change.”

Accounting is a more traditional focus in the business department, however, it remains valuable and viable in today’s technological world. Professor Heather Pemberton, C.P.A. works with the surrounding area to “develop a plan for improving the community for the youth of Auburn and nearby communities.” She has been an educator at the college since the fall of 2012. Prior to arriving at PSC, she worked at a “Big Four Public Accounting Firm,” which refers to the largest partnership firms that supply services such as audits, actuarial, and corporate financing to a number of Fortune 500 corporations. She advises those interested in business to “make sure to start networking with professionals in your field at the first opportunity you get.” Also, students, be mindful of your behavior because “you never know when you might accidentally run into someone that could be your potential coworker or boss…Always be on your ‘A-game.’”

The business department has exciting opportunities for those passionate about the field. Phi Beta Lambda is an active club for those inclined in such a way. Dr. Sheri Grotian-Ryan acts as the advisor for the group. “This year, we have 35 members and 10 are competing at the State Leadership Conference…We have been very successful in the past and hope to continue this in future years.” Due to Student Engagement Enhancement (SEE) grant money, she and her husband, Dr. Kyle Ryan, were able to “provide conference presentation opportunities” including trips to San Diego, California and Honolulu, Hawaii. Her current research deals with “mentoring functions and their relationship to students participating in service-learning opportunities.”

Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice department brings opportunities to students interested in investigative and correctional work. Professors Daniel Hayes and Ronica Schottel co-adviser the new CJUS Honors Fraternity Kappa Omicron Rho (KOP). “This is the Peru State Chapter of the National Criminal Justice Association — Lambda Alpha Epsilon (ACJA-LAE),” explained Dr. Greg Galardi, the dean of Professional Studies. While members attend regional and national conferences, they learn the newest ideas in the field, network with cohorts and professionals from the country, and compete in a variety of activities that range from written examinations to physical competitions.

Experts are brought in to classes to lecture on their specialties and demonstrate skills. “For example, within Professor Hayes’ Criminalistics course, students have hands-on experience working with techniques that officers and crime scene investigators use in the field,” supplied Dr. Galardi. “Laboratory experiences students participate in include fingerprinting, casting, crime scene sketch, investigation, evidence collection, blood splatter, and pattern analysis.”

Students also attend field trips and non-traditional classes. Dr. Kelly Amsussen teaches class at Tecumseh State Correctional Institution called “Inside-Out.” “There are 15 inmate students (Inside) and 15 Peru State students (Outside) discussing and learning about issues of the current justice system,” said Dr. Galardi. Data has been collected from the last four years regarding how students viewed the prisoners before and after their time in class with them. Dr. Amsussen has also taken groups “on several international study tour for a comparative justice experience in Costa Rica and Australia.” A focus of the major is to understand criminal law and its process, this is taught both in a practical way as in the class “Criminal Procedures” and in theory in a variety of other courses.

A joint research effort between the CJ and Psychology departments is being considered that would look at the “risk of offenders that are placed in or have spent some time in segregation.” Students have conducted independent research and are continually encouraged to do so.

Students interested in criminal justice are invited to come and speak to the faculty. “All of our faculty come from a practitioner model; all have applied knowledge in that field and can talk about real experiences to help you determine where you might like to work…We would welcome a visit and the opportunity to share our knowledge.”

Psychology

“Dr. Kelli Gardner and I are currently collecting data on personality and how personality variables measured by NEO Five Factor Inventory relate to students taking courses at PSC,” explained Dr. James Nevitt. When asked for more details, both professors pointed out that in order to conduct a valid experiment the participants had to be unaware of the purpose of the study.

Dr. Darrin Coe is also gathering information from the student body. “I analyzed data over this past school year that investigates any relationship between ethnicity and a person’s perception of well-being.” He will present his findings at a conference this May in San Francisco.

While the psychology faculty uses students (voluntarily, of course!) for their research, they are also busy with clubs. “This semester the psychology and criminal justice majors decided to separate, so each could focus more specifically on offering events and opportunities relevant to their field,” said Dr. Gardner. “The new psychology club was approved just last month.”

Dr. Coe is an advisor for new psychology club and “helped students start the Bobcat Amis Defense Club, which is the new martial arts and self-defense club on campus.” Any Bobcats interested should check out the PSC Facebook page.

Dr. Mark Beischel, the author of two books on attachment, operates workshops dealing with his area of study across the country. “I will be training professional psychologists, social workers, and educators this summer in Northern California, Nevada, Texas, Alabama, and Georgia…Due to my workshops, I get consulting opportunities as an expert witness in high profile murder cases, etc.”

The Psychology department is also very involved with the Honors Program. Dr. Nevitt enjoys teaching the exciting Honors course series Analysis of Evil I & II, which explores “serial homicide” and “small dysfunctional New Religious Movements.”

Dr. Gardner, who leads the program, assists students conducting independent research in psychology. Advice from the professors:

“Get practical experience through internships or do research in some area of psychology.” —Dr. Mark Beischel

“Take courses in research methods, math, and biology. Due to the growth of neuroscience, psychology is moving in the direction of a more biological science.” —Dr. Beischel

“Graduate school is competitive—there are more students who want to go than spots available—and grades are one of the crucial factors that graduate admissions committees consider. If students can earn a B pretty easily but have to stretch for an A—stretch!” —Dr. Kelli Gardner

A big thank you to everyone who participated. The facility really put a lot of effort into assisting with this section. Their enthusiasm makes Peru State College a unique and vital campus!
Aubrey Dezarn  
Las Vegas, NV  
Pos.: RF/RHP

Major: Social Science  
Years playing for Peru: 3  
Years playing overall: 18  
Plans after graduation: “Make money”  

Best memory/moment with the team: Playing in the National Tour in 2012

Tommy Barnes  
Cusseta, GA  
Pos.: 1B

Major: Sports and Exercise Science  
Years playing for Peru: 1  
Years playing overall: 18  
Plans after graduation: “Get a job in coaching”  

Best memory/moment with the team: Walk off winning in general

Wayne Albury

Years coaching at Peru: 4 years  
Years prior to Peru: 17  

A little on his senior players: “They are a good group overall, a good group of senior leaders.”

Abbie Moser  
Lincoln, NE  
Pos.: 1B/2B

Major: Social Science Education  
Years playing for Peru: 4  
Years playing overall: Whole life  
Plans after graduation: Student teaching followed by graduation in December  
Best memory/moment with the team: Getting lost in the Jack-In-The-Box parking lot in Arizona

Tommy Barnes  
Cusseta, GA  
Pos.: 1B

Major: Sports and Exercise Science  
Years playing for Peru: 1  
Years playing overall: 18  
Plans after graduation: “Get a job in coaching”  

Best memory/moment with the team: Walk off winning in general

Jake Wright  
Freeport, FL  
Pos.: C

Major: Criminal Justice  
Years playing for Peru: 2  
Years playing overall: 12  
Plans after graduation: “Not too sure yet”  

Best memory/moment with the team: Being part of the team with a good group of guys to be around

Bryan Duncon  
Seattle, WA  
Pos.: RHP

Major: Business Marketing  
Years playing for Peru: 3  
Years playing overall: Whole life  
Plans after graduation: Undecided  
Best memory/moment with the team: “Winning the tournament two years ago”

Tyler Croushorn  
Omaha, NE  
Pos.: CF

Major: Business  
Years playing for Peru: 5  
Years playing overall: Whole life  
Plans after graduation: “Start a business or join the Marine Corps”  
Best memory/moment with the team: Finding out that dirty little secret...

Mark Mathews

Years coaching at Peru: 21 years  

“My favorite moment with the Seniors has been to watch their perseverance throughout their process to this point in their lives. We have had many challenges together and I am proud how they have handled themselves and stepped up as leaders for this years team. They are not only good softball players but good people. On a lighter note I guess it would be the card games on the bus and hand hugs!”
Miranda Lyndes  
Peyton, CO  
Pos.: 2B/1B  
Major: Exercise Sci./Sports Mgmt.  
Years playing for Peru: 4  
Years playing overall: 16  
Plans after graduation: "Go back to school and get my Master's in Public Health"  
Best memory/moment with the team: Love them all  

Vance Keller  
Tacoma, WA  
Pos.: RHP  
Major: Sports and Exercise Science  
Years playing for Peru: 2  
Years playing overall: 18  
Plans after graduation: "Airforce, maybe law school"  
Best memory/moment with the team: Ryan Grabowski's walk off last year  

Manny Estrada  
Las Vegas, NV  
Pos.: RF  
Major: Business Marketing  
Years playing for Peru: 1  
Years playing overall: 9  
Plans after graduation: "Get drafted"  
Best memory/moment with the team: Every moment is a good moment  

Derrick Davis  
Orange Park, FL  
Pos.: C  
Major: Business Mgmt. and Admin.  
Years playing for Peru: 2  
Years playing overall: 16  
Plans after graduation: "To coach high school/ open up a wooden bat company"  
Best memory/moment with the team: Sweeping Baker last year with 3 walk offs  

Traci Bohlmeyer  
Fairbury, NE  
Pos.: MIF  
Major: Elementary Education  
Years playing for Peru: 2  
Years playing overall: Whole life  
Plans after graduation: Student teaching- Subsituting  
Best memory/moment with the team: Meeting everyone and being able to count on teammates  

Devon Massengale  
Elkhorn, NE  
Pos.: P/OF  
Major: Secondary Mathematics  
Years playing for Peru: 4  
Years playing overall: 18  
Plans after graduation: "To go teach in whatever state my boyfriend and I end up in."  
Best memory/moment with the team: Career strikeout record and the whole team was there for it  

Brent Brown  
Hemet, CA  
Pos.: RHP  
Major: Criminal Justice  
Years playing for Peru: 2  
Years playing overall: 18  
Plans after graduation: "Fish and Game"  
Best memory/moment with the team: The way home on the Bobcat bus...
When the haze finally left, I saw Sondra and Rhett standing in front of me. “Hey guys…what’s up?” I asked, feigning laughter.

Sondra shrugged, “Nothing much, we were just waiting for you to come to.”

Rhett rolled his eyes, reaching out towards me and taking hold of my upper arms, “Sorry, no time for chitchat. We’re on a time crunch. We need you to acquire the blade of the Blessed sword.”

I blinked. “Uhh…what?”

Rhett exhaled slowly, “Just cooperate with us, Will, and we won’t have to resort to violence, alright?”

I pursed my lips, he would hurt me… I knew that wasn’t a bluff. On the other hand, I had this gut wrenching feeling that if I helped these guys get the blade they wanted, really bad things would happen. My mind swirled with the different scenarios that could possibly play out if I retaliated. So, if I helped them, yes, I am, though, I saw the lines of text from the Liber de Lapsis, ‘the spawn of Satan and the She-Devil will come forth and plunge the Earth into an eternal darkness…’” “That guy… form before… he’s Lucifer isn’t he.” I said, looking between Rhett and Sondra.

“Looks like someone’s been doing their homework,” Rhett replied, “but no, that wasn’t Lucifer.”

“Then… that was his kid?” I asked.

“Ugh… you talk too much,” Sondra spat.

I glared at her, “I just want to make an informed decision. I mean, how can I possibly make such a life changing decision with no information to back it up? For instance, how do I know that you guys won’t use this blade to do terrible things?”

“You don’t.”

“Exactly! And another thing, how do you know that I’m the one who know where it is?”

Sondra parted her lips to reply, but was interrupted by the male voice earlier, “They don’t, but I do.”

I looked around, trying to find where the voice was coming from, but to no avail. “Who are you?”

“You know who I am, Willow,” he replied, “we’ve met before… in Professor Algernon’s office.”

I could almost hear the smirk that was more than likely etched into his features. I racked my brain for people I’d met in Algernon’s office, “Mikael!” I asked, finally.

A puff of purple smoke billowed in front of me, swirling upward, the dark-haired boy I had encountered last month, “I told you that I’d see you around, didn’t I?” He smirked, “By the look on your face, I’d say that you were under the impression that I meant something along the lines of a completely different circumstance.”

“You could say that,” I replied, “mind telling your goons to let me go?”

Mikael nodded and could feel Rhett’s grip on my upper arms disappear, only to be replaced with a different kind of pressure. This new pressure coiled up my body from the ground, “Get your butt out of bed!” I heard someone calling out my name. I looked around frantically, my vision starting to go hazy again, “Help!” I screamed, only to hear my name in response. I could see Rhett and Sondra standing on either side of me, “You’re going to be taken from me. You’re going to be taken from me!” I tried to let out but was interrupted by the goons slamming the door shut. I sat up quickly, looking around. I was… in my bedroom… back in Indiana, but that couldn’t be right. I couldn’t be sitting in my bedroom because I was in some… well… I didn’t really know where I was exactly. I’d been kidnapped, to find out what the blade of some blessed sword and now… here I am.

I swung my legs over the side of the bed and leaned against my knees, holding my head in my hands, something’s not right. I shouldn’t be here. I should be dead, shouldn’t I?

Regardless, I pushed myself from the bed, pulling my hair into a sloppy bun at the top of my head. I walked over to my vanity mirror and turned, craning my head around to try and see if my newly acquired wings tattoo was still present on my back. Nothing. Weird.

I walked out of my bedroom, expecting to fall into some kind pit of despair, or something like that, but instead it was my hallway. I walked down the stairs and spotted a pile of mail sitting on the table at the end of the staircase. My name was printed on the front of an envelope, but I didn’t recognize the emblem. I opened it nonetheless.

Dear Ms. Goodwyn,

We regret to inform you that your request for a private room has been denied due to the overwhelming number of incoming freshmen. Instead, you will be living in the suite-style housing with five other students. Again, we apologize for any inconvenience and look forward to working with you this coming school year. Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Sincerely, Residence Life at Collinsworth University

This had to have been a dream, I mean… I’d already gotten this letter four months ago. “Mom… is this some kind of joke?” I asked, walking into the kitchen and waving the paper in my mom’s face.

She looked at me like I was crazy, “Is what a joke?”

“Then… that was his kid?” I asked.

“I don’t know anything about your stupid blade!” I spat. 

“Then… that was his kid?” I asked again, “Help!” I screamed, only to hear my name in response. “I only just found out who I really was, I was starting to relax within the grasp of the purple smoke. “It’s quite simple, really,” he replied starting to pace in front of me, “your father was an angel and yet, he fell to the same sin of, yes, and everything that comes with it. You, for instance. Pure angelic blood runs through your veins, even though your wings are tainted with the sins of your father. Therefore…” “Making me the purest of the impure,” I murmured. “You don’t.”

“Exactly! And another thing, how do you know that I’m the one who know where it is?”

Sondra parted her lips to reply, but was interrupted by the male voice earlier, “They don’t, but I do.”

I looked around, trying to find where the voice was coming from, but to no avail. “Who are you?”

“You know who I am, Willow,” he replied, “we’ve met before… in Professor Algernon’s office.”

I could almost hear the smirk that was more than likely etched into his features. I racked my brain for people I’d met in Algernon’s office, “Mikael!” I asked, finally. Mikael asked, the sound of his voice told me that he’d definitely heard of me. Mikael and the literal spawn of Satan. He wanted the blade of whatever to bring on the apocalypse-type. “What didn’t make sense was the part about purer of the impure. How can something be pure and impure, that just sounded… impossible. The more I thought about it, however, the more it started to make sense. No...” I breathed softly, “It can’t be…” I didn’t mean to speak at that moment. “So now it makes sense… doesn’t it.” Mikael asked. “Ugh… you talk too much,” Sondra spat.

“Making me the purest of the impure,” I murmured. “How is that even possible?” I asked, feeling my body start to relax within the grasp of the purple smoke. “You don’t.”

“Making me the purest of the impure,” I murmured. “How is that even possible?” I asked, feeling my body start to relax within the grasp of the purple smoke. “You don’t.”

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“Making me the purest of the impure,” I murmured. “How is that even possible?” I asked, feeling my body start to relax within the grasp of the purple smoke. “You don’t.”
Chelsea Turek
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps you have seen the posters already for the Tony Award winning play Deathtrap but what is the play about and why should you go? Well, this is not just a thriller. This play is a comedy and a thriller.

The reason that Josh Young, the play director, chose this play was because it is an icon for its time and one of the first of the comedy-thriller genre. If you don’t think that is possible to make a comedy-thriller please refer to Ira Levin’s, the playwright, Tony award and it’s incredibly long run on Broadway. Deathtrap is set in 1978 in one room with five characters including a lawyer, a zany psychic, a playwright, a murderer, and the murdered.

The play is about Sidney Bruhl, a playwright that has written flop after flop. After a workshop he is contacted by Cliff Anderson who has created, “The best play ever written.” The murderous wheels begin to turn as the play makes both hilarious jokes and terrible turns.

One more unique feature about this play is that it takes place in the Black Box Recital Hall in Jindra. When asked why, the director Josh Young stated, “It gets the audience close to the action. They are only a matter of feet from all the action which creates more reactions because the audience feels they are involved in the play.”

The play will take place April 24 through April 26 with the doors opening at 7:00 and again on April 27 with the doors opening at 2:00.

Entry is free for Peru students, faculty and staff, $5 for seniors and outside students, and the general admission is $10. This play is also rated PG-13 for violence and language.

Summer movie preview

Carlina Grove
STAFF WRITER

Now’s the time where people will be asking “What’s your summer plans are?” The possibilities are endless! There are so many things that you can do. This summer there will be a tremendous amount of movies showing.

“Mr. Jones” is a horror movie played by Richard Gere. Mr. Jones goes from being this all-powerful being to the next moment being drugged up and depressed facing the world of normality.

“Legends of oz: Dorothy’s Return” also comes out this May! Dorothy (played by Lea Michele) returns to Oz to save her friends the scarecrow (Dan Aykroyd), the lion (Jim Belushi), the Tin Man (Kelsey Grammer) and Glinda (Bernadette Peters) from a new villain. She sets out to save the magical city Oz!


Many of you probably saw “21 Jump Street,” I’m happy to say that the movie “22 Jump Street” will be coming out! After going through high school twice Jonah Hill, and Channing Tatum go undercover in a local college.

How to train your Dragon: the sequel comes out June 13! As you may know in “How to train your dragon” Hiccup teachings his family and friends that dragons and humans can be friends, well in the sequel Hiccup and toothless explore and find a secret ice cave that has many strange possibilities. There are many more dragons that have been undiscovered. Lastly, “Think like a man too” comes out in June. Think like a man too is a comedy.

July you will have the opportunities to see these movies. Deliver US from Evil- suspense, Earth to Echo- Adventure, Begin Again- Drama, Dawn of the Planet of the Apes- Drama, And so it goes- Drama, Road to Palomar- Drama, Boyhood- Documentary, A Long Way Down- Drama, Mood Indigo- Drama, Happy Christmas, etc.

Melissa McCarthy plays in the movie “Tammy,” playing criminal living it up on the wrong side of the law. The Purge- Anarchy also comes out this summer. I don’t think I can do another scary movie after watching the conjuring but for those of you brave souls who think you can handle it. Good luck!
...knowing this place will always be home and these people will always be family.