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Welcome to the Alumni Magazine

This issue includes a showcase of alumni accomplishments over the past six months and the many end-of-year festivities on campus. We have also initiated a series of historical reviews of each building on campus. Readers and your friends and family members are invited to submit photos and written memories of Sparks Hall for features in the December Alumni magazine.

Dr. Rhine: Welcome to the June Alumni Magazine.
Connie: Thank you, Dr. Rhine. Sharing alumni and faculty memories of Old Admin is a fitting kickoff for the building-by-building theme we plan to follow over the next several years. (See page 8.)

Dr. Rhine: One of our oldest traditions, Ivy Day, is almost as old as the institution itself. (See page 12.)
Connie: That’s true. Speaking of history, a significant national event occurred in mid-December when the U.S. announced normalization of diplomatic relations with Cuba while CSC students and faculty were on a return flight from a study trip there. (See page 3.)

Dr. Rhine: Closer to home, the dedication ceremony of Loy Young Court at the Chicoine Center was a historical event. (See page 14.)
Connie: Dr. Rhine and I hope you enjoy this preview of what’s in store for you in the Alumni Magazine. Please enjoy reminiscing throughout the magazine, as well as catching up on recent CSC happenings. I’m also sure you’ll all enjoy seeing what’s going on with your classmates and other alumni in the Class Notes, beginning on page 20. For those who enjoy social media, please follow the CSC Alumni Facebook page for gathering updates and other interesting news.

On the Cover:
The original blueprints for the Administration Building are combined with a recent photo of Old Admin. Old Admin, the oldest building on the Chadron State College campus, was erected in 1911. It was remodeled in 2008-09 and offers many amenities to students, faculty and staff. (Photo illustration by Daniel Binkard)
Kathy Bahr
Professor of English and Humanities

After 21 years as an English professor at Chadron State College, Dr. Kathy Bahr says one of her first impressions when she arrived for the interview in 1994 was right on target.

“I accepted the position because I liked the people in the department,” she recalls. “They included Andy Elkins, George Griffith, Mike Cartwright, Bob Doxtator, Bob McEwen and the Dickinsons—Zane and LaVida. They seemed like nice people who would be fun to work with. Although all but Bob McEwen have left or retired, their replacements have continued the tradition of exceptional collegiality. It’s been a great department and a great gig.”

During her tenure at CSC, Bahr notes that she’s taught “lots of literature, ethics and composition.”

A teaching highlight for Bahr was in 2000 when she and the 19 students in her Composition II class interviewed nearly 50 World War II veterans and others who had been involved in the war effort.

The project produced what is now a legacy for Bahr and her students. Thirty frames hanging in the lower level of Crites Hall contain the stories and photos of many of those who were interviewed. The display was taken to several western Nebraska locations and exhibited in the rotundas of both the State Capitol in Lincoln and the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Richard Bird
Professor of Art

Art professor Richard Bird is retiring after 28 years at Chadron State College.

When Bird was hired as a Chadron State College art faculty member in 1977, he was the youngest person in Memorial Hall. Now, at 67, he is the senior art faculty member. He has spent all but six years of his college teaching career at CSC.

“It never seems like a job. I’m still playing in the sandbox,” he said.

In the early days of the CSC glass program, the school only had one furnace, in the middle of the ceramics room. Later a primitive, outside structure was built, but it was in need of upgrades for a growing program. Bird and two work-study students improved the building just south of Memorial Hall that currently serves as the program’s glass blowing studio.

Bird keeps in contact with former students like Rod Clause, who is currently an adjunct in the department, and Brice Turnbull, a glass blower who was recently highlighted on a Colorado television station.

“Sometimes you wonder if you’re making an impression on your students and then an occasional email or Christmas card from someone you taught years ago provides the confirmation that you are having an effect,” he said.

Margaret Crouse
Dean of Education, Health, Physical Education, Recreation/Sports Management, Psychology, Counseling & Social Work; Dean of Assessment & Accreditation

Dr. Margaret Crouse is retiring after 36 years of service to Chadron State College. Crouse was hired as a home economics instructor in the fall of 1979 and served as dean in various areas since 1993.

Although the Kansas native’s original goal was to move on to a position at a research university after one year, she soon found she enjoyed supervising student teachers and teaching home economics at CSC.

“My first love is teaching. The outcomes are immediate. It is very rewarding when you see the lights go on for students,” Crouse said.

Following 14 years in the classroom, Crouse served as a dean in Business and Applied Sciences from 1993 to 2002. In this position she worked with colleagues to establish CSC’s range management program and raise money for the initial program statement for the new Rangeland Complex.

Over the decades, Crouse has supervised the process leading up to two accreditation visits in education, two in social work, two in business and one currently in progress for music. She said her role has been to build rapport and organize each team’s efforts.

Between 1984 and 1990, Crouse and her colleagues in applied sciences wrote numerous mini state flow-through grants for Vocational Education projects, including school-to-work job shadowing programs, in the Panhandle.

This work resulted in Crouse receiving the 1993 Special Service to Nebraska Home Economics Teachers award and the 1994 Outstanding Vocational Educator award from the Nebraska Family and Consumer Science Association.

Timothy Donahue
Professor of Business, Director of NBDC

When Dr. Tim Donahue arrived at Chadron State College in the fall of 2005 as a marketing/entrepreneurship professor, he already had a wealth of experience in those fields. Since then, he has expanded on those activities and says he has thoroughly enjoyed his 10 years at CSC.

Donahue has owned and operated small businesses and has received five district, three regional and two national awards from the Small Business Administration for outstanding consulting work.

“I try to push and stretch my students. I tell them I want them to ‘dare to be great,’” he said.

Donahue is proud to have been a part of the great growth that has taken place in the MBA program while he’s been at CSC. He says there are around 150 students enrolled now, more than 10 times the number of 10 years ago.

Another highlight occurred in the spring of 2009, when he spent nearly three weeks discussing American business practices and observing the lifestyle in Russia. While there, he spoke 16 times to students in business and economics classes at Voronezh State University.

continued on page 2
Annette Langford
Project Coordinator - Marketing Development

During her 25 years at Chadron State College, Annette Langford assisted hundreds of students she never met. That’s because she was the “go between” who helped students register for the college’s various off-campus offerings and often was in contact with them while they studied and completed the coursework.

During the early years of her tenure, a majority of the students she worked with were taking what she calls “paper” correspondence courses. Generally, both the course documents and the work produced by the students were handled by the U.S. Postal Service. She recalls that as many as 500 courses were in progress at one time, and no student could take more than two at a time. Chadron State ended its long association with correspondence courses via U.S. mail last summer, a few months before she retired.

“It was busy, but I absolutely enjoyed my job,” Langford said. “I got along well with all four of my supervisors and had very few problems working with the faculty or the students.”

Langford is proud to say that she’s among the Chadron State graduates. She had earned an associate’s degree while living in North Carolina and completed the courses to earn her bachelor’s degree from CSC in 1994.

Lewis Myers
Maintenance Repair Worker IV

Lewis Myers came to work at CSC as a maintenance worker in October 2000. From 2010 until his retirement in September 2014, he was the lead boiler operator.

Dale Grant, vice president of administration and finance, said Myers had a high level of ownership of the operation and made several improvements that reduced expenses.

Gayle Stetson
Human Resources Coordinator

Gayle Stetson retired as Human Resources Coordinator in January 2015, capping nearly a 25 year career at Chadron State College.

Stetson began working at the college in August 1990 as an Accounting Clerk I in the Machine Room, formerly located in the basement of Old Admin. She quickly moved up the stairs to the Business Office as an Accounting Clerk II in September 1991 and became the Business Office Manager in 1996.

For the next 13 years, Stetson was instrumental in developing business office procedures and programs. She also played a pivotal role in the implementation of PeopleSoft to the Chadron State campus.

In June of 2009, Stetson transitioned to Human Resources and worked, in her own words, “with a little bit of everything.”

Stetson has lived in Dawes County for nearly her entire life and graduated from CSC with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and real estate in 1990.

“I wanted my kids to go to school and I thought if I showed them I can do it at my age, then that would show them to do that same thing,” Stetson said.

Steve Taylor
Associate Vice President of Market Development

Steve Taylor is retiring after 20 years of service to Chadron State College. He was hired in 1995 as the Director of Extended Campus Programs meaning he was responsible for coordinating academic offerings at CSC’s Scott–bluff office and sites in North Platte, McCook, Alliance and Sidney.

Taylor came to his position with 24 years of experience in retail. He and his brother owned and operated several men’s and women’s clothing stores in Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and Wyoming.

In 2000, after earning his Master of Business Administration from CSC, Taylor was promoted to assistant vice president for Extended Campus Programs.

In 2011, Taylor was promoted to associate vice president of market development and led various initiatives, including summer school, early entry, study abroad, Interactive Television distance learning, online learning, economic development, correspondence courses, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), professional development and continuing education courses, specialized training courses, and development of new market opportunities for CSC.

“Working at CSC has been a great experience. I’ve enjoyed it a great deal, met some great people, and have appreciated the opportunities I’ve had here,” he said.

Attracting international students to CSC has been a main focus for Taylor in recent years. In the past three years, international enrollment has steadily increased with the development of an international agent-partner network.
Cuba Libre capstone course achieves Essential Studies Program’s goal

By Alex Helmbrecht

For a college student who lives in northwest Nebraska, traveling 90 miles is an ordinary occurrence. However, for 10 Chadron State College students and Dr. Deane Tucker and Dr. Thomas Smith, the 90 miles across the Gulf of Mexico to Cuba was anything but conventional.

In fact, Cuba Libre, which is part of the Essential Studies Program’s six-hour capstone requirement, marked the first time a group of Nebraska State College System students pursued academic endeavors on the island of Cuba, one of the world’s final remaining Communist states. Until recently, Cuba and the United States have had an adversarial relationship, but after rounds of discussion, Cuban and U.S. officials are working toward restoring diplomatic relations after a 54-year-old embargo.

When the CSC students and professors arrived in Havana, Cuba’s capital city, Dec. 8, the discussion of restoring diplomatic relations hadn’t been finalized. The news of the budding relationship between Cuba and the U.S., in fact, was announced when the group was flying back to the United States Dec. 17.

Regardless, the CSC students — all 10 majoring in different disciplines — still had a remarkable experience while completing their capstone courses.

“Deane and I felt there might be a time of change occurring in Cuba and we were interested in having our students see a cultural, economic and political system that is worlds away from Nebraska,” Smith said. “Everyone has now heard more about Cuba because of the recent changes being reported in the media. However, the nine days we were there belies the main narrative of the news stories. For example, we didn’t see the inevitability of capitalism as so many news outlets crowed; instead, we saw an autonomous country with some U.S. influence. We saw Cuba as a separate entity and the interactions we had with the Cuban people were very de-politicized.”

For Tucker, a professor of English and Humanities, and Smith, an associate professor for the Social and Communication Arts department, the trip to Cuba was a culminating and interdisciplinary endeavor on the island. Communication, writing, personal and social responsibility, diversity and more were some of the outcomes we were going after. We let the students determine their own projects and they incorporated as many of those skills as they could.

Once the idea took shape, Tucker and Smith set their sights on obtaining an institutional visa. After a six-month process, the United States Office of Foreign Asset Control granted Chadron State an educational license.

Of course, the trip wasn’t going to be cheap. However, thanks to Alldritt’s connections in Cuba, support from the Chadron State Foundation and the CSC administration, each student’s trip cost about $3,200.

“There’s no way we could have done the trip if we didn’t have the help we did,” Tucker said. “The administration was incredibly supportive of this endeavor.”

So were the students. Before leaving for Cuba, students had to have a major project nearly complete. While they were in Havana, they worked on different aspects of their projects daily. Tucker said they were busy from 7 in the morning to 7 at night. In addition to several tours across the island, Tucker taught about the culture and art of Cuba, while Smith taught history and politics.

“We stayed in a state-run hotel and we were a few of the non-Cubans in the hotel. It wasn’t spring break,” Tucker said. “Even we as professors became students. We weren’t searching for the tourist experience and we got that.”

Tucker and Smith agree the Cuba Libre trip was a success. To them, it accomplishes the goal of the Essential Studies Program and the academic impact and depth of the cultural experience captivated the students.

“We want to continue this, especially now that we can see change and track it. That’s exciting. We can improve the course as we go and want to schedule it every fall,” Smith said. "These Nebraska kids handled it with flying colors and they all gained self-confidence. They all learned from it and our student base and the leadership gained from it is for the better.”
Bieganski honored with Distinguished Alumni Award

Ed Bieganski, a longtime supporter of Chadron State College, was awarded the college’s Distinguished Alumni Award during a luncheon in his honor following the spring undergraduate commencement in May.

The 95-year-old Bieganski was joined at the luncheon by members of his family, Chadron State administrators and staff as well as friends of the college. Bieganski, who received the award from President Dr. Randy Rhine, treated the audience to several stories of his military service and time in northwest Nebraska for nearly an hour following the presentation.

Bieganski’s connection to Chadron State began more than 75 years ago, about the same time he started a 20-plus year career with the U.S. Army. Bieganski earned both of his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Chadron State College, taught speech and communications, and was involved in adult and continuing education classes.

Bieganski has been involved with the college for several decades, beginning in 1938 when he sparred with other boxers in Miller Hall. He eventually traded in his gloves for a rifle, and as a member of the Dawes County Honor Guard, he has been part of the flag raising ceremony before home football games for more than 20 years. He is also an ardent supporter of fine art events at CSC and is a regular presence on campus at lectures.

In addition, his son Gary, a member of the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees, graduated from CSC in 1969, and his daughter-in-law, Donna, graduated in 1967. Bieganski’s grandson, Mark, and his wife, Andrea, also graduated from Chadron State.

Bieganski is the 60th person to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award since 1996. Recipients of the award must have attended Chadron State College for at least two years or earned at least 60 hours and have demonstrated exceptional service to the college or distinguished themselves in their career or their community through volunteer efforts.

Henkens donates lettersweater

Jean Van Horn Henkens of Chadron has given the college the lettersweater she received as the outstanding woman in physical education when she graduated from Chadron State in 1941. She said she also received a $10 bill. While there was no intercollegiate competition for women then, she said they played basketball and softball, swam and danced in classes. A native of Martin, S.D., Jeanie married Pete Henkens of Chadron in 1945 and has lived in the community since then. Besides helping manage Henkens Equipment Co., she has been extremely active in the American Legion Auxiliary and is president of “the Survivors,” a group of CSC alumni who attended the college during the Depression of the 1930s and World War II.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

The CSC pep band will be playing the national anthem at the Colorado Rockies game on September 20. The CSC football team plays Colorado Mines the day before. For information visit the CSC website once Rockies ticket details are available.

Make it a Colorado weekend.
Dr. Jamie Wada is the Chadron State College recipient of the 2015 Teaching Excellence award. In addition to a $1,000 award from the Chadron State Foundation and plaque, Wada becomes a finalist for the Nebraska State College System Teaching Excellence Award. The honor was announced at the college’s annual faculty and staff recognition luncheon April 9.

Wada, a native of Ontario, Oregon, earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Boise State University and his Ph.D. from Washington State University.

Since he began teaching in the CSC Justice Studies department in 2007, Wada has been a Faculty Senate secretary, a Student Senate adviser, the faculty athletic representative and served on numerous committees.

He has been involved in the London Study Abroad program and has been the adviser or co-adviser of Omega Phi Rho, Criminal Justice Club, Night of Country Swing, Women’s Rugby, Outdoor Adventure Club and the Weightlifting Club.

Dr. Jim Margetts, dean of Liberal Arts, said in his nomination letter that Wada is an exemplary member of the CSC community as well as a dedicated volunteer and gifted leader.

Margetts noted Wada’s extraordinary ability to connect with his students in dynamic and engaging ways.

“His students mention how much they appreciate the ways in which he applies class topics to real-life situations and shares his own experiences,” Margetts said.

Tracy Nobiling, a colleague on the justice studies faculty, said in her support letter that Wada maintains a research agenda in spite of his teaching, advising and committee load. She noted his exceptional dedication to his profession and his students.

In addition to his exemplary teaching skills, Wada has embraced online learning, published articles, sought out opportunities for professional development and assisted with the planning and preparation for the study trip to London, according to Nobiling.

Wada has volunteered for numerous campus events from finals breakfast to the college’s annual service day known as The Big Event.

In her letter of support, Frances Gonzalez, coordinator of the Learning Center, said Wada is a talented and passionate colleague as well as an outstanding mentor who goes above and beyond to help students.

“He is committed to the future of the Justice Studies program, CSC and the students is apparent in his every day work,” Gonzalez said.

Danielle Lecher, an adviser in the Student Transition and Retention Team (START) Center, echoed Gonzalez’s observations about Wada’s willingness to work closely with students to ensure their progress through their academic program up through graduation.
Matthesens have fond memories of days at CSC

By Con Marshall
Fifty-five years ago this fall, Larry Matthesen began living a dream that many sports-minded youths can only hope for. He quarterbacked the Chadron High football team to a perfect 8-0 season, then was the leading scorer and an all-stater on the Cardinals’ Class B state championship basketball team that winter.

His good fortune did not run out at the state tournament, either. Shortly afterwards he was the recipient of an Elks Leadership Scholarship that would pay his tuition to any Nebraska college for four years.

“The University of Nebraska invited me to walk-on to play basketball,” Matthesen remembers. “But I wanted to stay home and play at Chadron State College. That’s what I did and it worked out well for me.”

Reflecting back on his basketball career, “Matty,” as his teammates often called him, made a change. In high school, he was an outside sharpshooter who scored 1,236 points, still third on the Cardinals’ all-time list. Since he was a rare four-year starter, there are those who believe he might have scored 1,600 points if there had been a 3-point arc in the late 1950s and early ‘60s.

At Chadron State, his long range shooting wasn’t needed as much. While he still scored in double figures quite often, he became an assist leader. Many of his passes went to legendary center Felix Sanford, the 6-foot-6 Chicagoan who was a four-year all-conference choice.

“Felix was absolutely the best I ever played with,” Matthesen says. “He could score a lot of ways. He had a jumper, a hook shot and could make layups many different ways. College players weren’t allowed to dunk in those days, but he still found a lot of ways to score. It was my job to help get the ball to him. He’d do the rest.”

Matthesen, who also played baseball at Chadron State, had another interest in those days. That was his girlfriend—Jean Gatze-meyer also of Chadron. They started dating in high school and continued through college. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this May.

Like Larry with the 3-point shot, Jean wishes she would have had the opportunity to compete in athletics. She speculates that she and other girls who were in high school then could have formed teams that were about as successful as Larry’s. A couple of her friends had brothers who were state track and field champions and others excelled in PE classes.

Both Larry and Jean earned teaching degrees at CSC. She taught high school business courses for 34 years, mostly in Rushville and Scottsbluff. Larry coached boys’ basketball and girls’ track and taught social studies in Rushville and Gering for 32 years. His track team at Gering won a state championship in 1979 and three others placed among the top three teams at the state meet.

In the mid-1990s, Larry and Jean tried a new venture. They moved to Custer, S.D., and purchased Golden Circle Tours, which provides tours of the Black Hills. During the 15 years they owned the business, they expanded it and frequently gave tours to 200 people a week during the tourist season.

“It was a lot of work, but also a lot of fun,” Larry relates. “We had both four-hour and eight-hour tours. We showed the Black Hills to people from all over the world. They especially enjoyed seeing buffalo.”

Just as they were in college, both Matthesens have been involved in numerous activities where they lived and have been honored several times. Early in their careers, both received Outstanding Young Educator Awards, Larry was elected to the Gering City Council and in recent years they have been recognized by the Custer Chamber of Commerce.

Through the years, the Matthesens have stayed in touch with the developments at their alma mater. Connie Rasmussen, the executive director of the Chadron State Foundation, says they were “a soft sell” when she approached them about joining the Living Legacy Club. It is set up so people may leave a portion of their estate to the college.

Both Larry and Jean say they are impressed with the improvements they have observed over the years.

“It’s been amazing to note the new buildings and other facilities as well as the enrollment growth,” Jean said. “We often recommend Chadron State to Custer High School students that we know.”

Do you have a seasonal address?

Don’t miss our mail!

Please contact SuAn at sreece@csc.edu with your current address information.
Fitch brothers are Nebraska legends

By Larry Miller

It was 92 years ago — March 10, 1923 — that Val Fitch was born at Merriman, Nebraska. His older brother, Lyle, was nearly 10 years older.

While “Fitch” is not exactly a household name, it’s one that gained considerable prominence across the country and around the world over the past several decades.

The Fitch brothers were products of the Nebraska Sandhills – and they both attended Chadron State College, as did their sister, Helen.

Lyle Fitch graduated from Gordon High School in 1930. Armed with a scholarship, he went to Chadron and enrolled at the State Normal School. After earning his bachelor’s degree at Chadron in 1935, he went on to take a master’s degree from the University of Nebraska. He married Violet Vaughan in 1937, before later enrolling at Columbia University in New York City, where he earned his Ph.D. in Economics.

Recognized as an authority on urban problems, Lyle served as Deputy Administrator for the City of New York from 1957 to 1960 and in the early 1980s, served as Regents Professor and Visiting Scholar at the University of California at Berkeley.

If Lyle Fitch was an achiever – and there’s little doubt that he was – his younger brother Val would carry the Fitch name to even greater heights.

After graduation from Gordon High School as class valedictorian in 1940, Val Fitch enrolled at Chadron State College, where he remained until March 1943 when he was drafted into the Army. He served as an enlisted technician on the Manhattan Project at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, rubbing shoulders with some of the top physicists in the world – all working toward development of the atomic bomb.

He moved to Montreal and went to McGill University, earning an electrical engineering degree in 1948. He then went to Columbia University to work on his doctorate. While conducting research with his adviser, James Rainwater, Fitch discovered that the nucleus of the atom was much smaller than was previously thought – about half the size and twice the density.

After receiving his Ph.D. in physics from Columbia in 1954, Fitch then began a long association with Princeton University as a faculty member in the physics department.

His colleagues at Princeton observed that Fitch became “a towering figure in physics, who helped shape our understanding of the universe.”

Dr. Fitch served on the President’s Science Advisory Committee from 1970 to 1973 and had a long list of awards and honors that only a precious few people could ever hope to receive.

Fitch died at his home in Princeton, New Jersey, on February 5, 2015. He was 91 years old.

Fitch married Elise Cunningham in 1949 while a student at Columbia University. They had two sons, John and Alan. Four years after her death in 1972, Fitch married Daisy Harper Sharp and became father to her three children.

Larry Miller is a 1969 Chadron State College graduate. To read more of this story and others, visit the website: dawescountyjournal.net
The sign in front gives the name of Old Admin to the stately, three-story brick structure facing north onto the picturesque lawn and towering trees of the Dean’s Green at Chadron State College.

Historically, the moniker seems appropriate since the core of the building, erected in 1911, was the first construction at the Nebraska State College. But the administrative functions that long occupied center stage of Old Admin moved elsewhere following a 2008-09 remodeling project, and the building’s purpose has shifted largely to student education in well-equipped classrooms and labs.

Classrooms have actually been part of Old Admin from the earliest days. Students in programs as diverse as industrial arts, home economics and business have passed through its substantial front oak doors, walked the tiled hallways, and climbed the white marble-lined staircases on their way to classes.

While program offerings have changed, students are still making those treks today, but now they enter classrooms mediated with computers, projectors and Internet. Those new technologies have become an important part of teaching practices, said Michael Bogner, professor of Justice Studies, on the building’s third floor.

“I think everyone makes use of the mediated part of the classroom,” Bogner said. “The students are comfortable with this world. It’s part of the teaching and learning environment.”

Justice Studies occupied space in Old Admin for many years, but moved out in 1994 in anticipation of the remodeling project, according to Justice Studies Professor Tracy Nobiling. Returning in 2009 to a “home” on the building’s third floor, now outfitted with a forensics lab and a mock courtroom, has been rewarding, she said.

Larger mediated classrooms have proven useful for the English and Humanities Department, another occupant of Old Admin’s second floor, said professor Katherine Bahr. Instructors also make use of the smaller classrooms set up with tables to facilitate group work, she said.

The creation of a lounge for Criminal Justice students was also a plus, Bogner said. He added the lounge gives students “a feel of residency,” a place to study or relax between classes, and more informal contact with faculty.

Students in CSC’s Social and Communications Arts Department also benefitted from returning to Old Admin following the remodel, according to Michael Kennedy, instructor and adviser to CSC’s student newspaper. The department’s second floor computer lab, with a dozen top flight computers and a large format printer, makes an excellent classroom, and conveniently adjoins the newspaper office, he said.

The Education Department occupies the ground floor of Old Admin, and has its own set of classrooms and computer lab. As on the other floors, department faculty and staff offices are nearby, facilitating teacher-student interaction.

Old Admin has the air of a place of learning and students seem to feel at home in the building, said Nobiling. She notices that students often hang out in the building, and hallway tables and chairs are frequently occupied.

Nobiling said she often thinks about the building when coming to work.

“I think about how many students and faculty have walked through those halls,” she said. “I come in through the front door every day. It’s cool to come in.”
Reflections on Old Admin

“I first came to CSC as an undergraduate student in 1954 as a transfer from what was then Scottsbluff College. As a mathematics major, I discovered that my classes were offered in a classroom in the basement of Old Admin. The room, with its exposed pipes and ducts, had a ceiling not over 8 to 10 ft. above the floor (and in some places we had to duck to walk through) and it was cold in the winter and hot in the summer. In spite of that, we did get a quality education. It was my privilege to student teach at Chadron Prep in a classroom on the second floor of Old Admin.

“After graduation in 1956, I moved on to Kansas State University to work on a master’s degree. I was invited back to join the faculty at the end of the summer in 1957. My office was located in the basement of Old Admin across the hall from the mathematics classroom.

“During my years at CSC, I was privileged to move through the ranks from Instructor to Professor, and from Department Chair, to Dean of Administration. That progression enabled me to “move up” from my office in the basement to sharing one on the first floor with Dr. Edwin C. Nelson, who was at the time Dean of the College. Without a doubt, the mentoring I received by being in that location, at that time, enabled me to move on to my 40+ year career in higher education administration.

“As I reflect on Old Admin, I feel truly blessed to have received my formal undergraduate education in its basement classroom and my informal “administration mentoring” in the offices in the basement and on its first floor.”

– Dr. Eugene Hughes ’56, former math professor and administrator

“I took journalism classes with Bernard Donahue. He was a wonderful teacher and I have fond memories of classes in the Administration Building. He started me on my way with a broad scope of journalism for a career lasting 40 years. I was in the hospital for 10 weeks of the 1954-55 school year. Mr. Donahue and Joseph Dugas came to the hospital twice a week to give me lessons. I got my three hours of credit for the semester. They were spectacular. I’ve always been appreciative.”

– Mike Smith ’55

“Five of the eight academic divisions were located in the Administration Building when I arrived in 1969. Additionally, the top administrators, the registrar, the business office, the post office, and the office of information were included. It was a busy place.”

– Dr. Rolland Dewing, retired history professor
Reflections on Old Admin

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higher education administration. That progression enabled me to "move up" from my position as Department Chair, to Dean of Administration.

Starting in 1957, my office was located in the basement of Old Admin across the hall from the mathematics classroom. It was my privilege to student teach at Chadron Prep in a classroom on the second floor of the college. As a mathematics major, I discovered that this was my calling.

I took journalism classes with Bernard Donahue. He was a wonderful teacher and I have fond memories of classes in the Administration Building. He started me on my way with a broad scope of journalism

The starting monthly salary for the first president of the college, Joseph Sparks, was $250.

The enrollment of the first class was 111.

Cost of the construction of the center section done by W.J. Assenmacher of Lincoln was $29,300.

Cost of the plumbing contract performed by Pomerene and Co. of Lincoln was $3,700.

Cost of construction for the West Wing in 1913. It included 8 rooms and an assembly room was $27,569.

Cost of East Wing in 1919 was $52,195.

Classrooms were 18

Computer labs were 3

Restrooms were 6

Water fountains were 6

Lounges were 2

Offices were 47

Newsroom was 1

Courtroom was 1

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The December 2015 issue of the Alumni Magazine will feature Sparks Hall. Originally built as housing for students and later for faculty, it currently serves as offices for CSC administration and staff. Share your memories, stories or photos about this repurposed building. Send them via email to alumni@csc.edu or mail them to the Alumni Office, 1000 Main St., Chadron, NE 69337.
By George Ledbetter

When some of the top students at Chadron State College were singled out for recognition at the Ivy Day ceremony preceding commencement exercises in May, chances are few realized they were taking part in a college tradition dating back almost a century.

And parts of the annual observance, that honors graduating seniors with high academic records, members of the Blue Key and Cardinal Key honor societies and other top students, lead back even farther, to much older traditional May Day ceremonies.

On May 27, 1919, Chadron State, then known as Chadron Normal School, celebrated its first May Fete and Ivy Day exercises, in front of the main building of the young institution. The outdoor event included the crowning of May Queen Vida Mackey, elaborate dance performances by senior female students dressed all in white and the planting of ivy by three senior boys, according to a report in The Chadron Journal. The Journal praised the event as “one of the prettiest ceremonies ever performed at the Normal.”

Similar ceremonies were held at schools, especially women’s colleges, across the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their origins sprang from traditional spring holiday observances common in northern Europe. Features such as dancing around a May pole and crowning a May Queen were often part of the events on U.S. campuses. Old CSC annuals depict similar activities, and stories mention other traditions, including an Ivy Day oration, and young children participating as May Queen attendants.

Celebration of a May Fete at CSC continued annually until 1938. By then the college was home to chapters of Blue Key Honorary Fraternity, a national organization for college men, and Cardinal Key Honorary Sorority, a similar group for women. Both organizations recognize high academic standards and promote ideals of service, character and leadership among college students.

On May 3, 1938, the honorary societies collaborated in sponsoring Ivy Day at Chadron State, and incorporated crowning of the May Queen into the ceremony, along with ‘hanging of the keys’ on new honorary society members, a student orator, and planting of ivy.

Ivy Day celebrations continued to include a May Queen, elected by students from among women in the senior class for many years, but parts of the ceremony changed. In 1940 a woman was first chosen to deliver the Ivy Day oration. Recognition of outstanding students in various departments of the college was added and the event moved indoors. In 1973, Ivy Day orators were selected from both Blue Key and Cardinal Key. In 1989 naming an Ivy Day King was included.

At some point ivy planting was dropped, but the ceremony still includes an ‘ivy chain’ held by female and male undergraduates as the procession of honorees enter.

Timing of the ceremony also changed, from early May to the Friday evening before spring graduation. That has increased attendance, said former CSC Information Director, Con Marshall, the college’s unofficial historian.

“It sure packs Memorial Hall with parents and grandparents who have come for graduation,” he said.

The most recent Ivy Day celebration (2014) included a revival of one tradition that had been abandoned for a time—the inclusion of young children of faculty members as attendants for the Ivy Day royalty.

While there was talk at one time of discontinuing Ivy Day, Marshall said he is glad the event has continued.

“I think it’s a really great tradition. It’s got to be one of the longest-standing in Chadron State’s annals,” he said.

That’s exactly what The Chadron Journal writer wished for back in 1919, when reporting on the first Ivy Day.

“This is an innovation here and it is hoped that it will be continued as one of the trademarks of the Normal,” the paper’s front-page story said.
Crouse asks graduates to leave a legacy

By Tena L. Cook

Dr. Margaret Crouse, dean at Chadron State College, took the opportunity as commencement speaker in May to present a lesson to master’s graduates. Crouse, who will be retiring in June, asked the graduates, “What are you leaving for your legacy?”

During her speech in Memorial Hall, she challenged the graduates to purposely build legacies rather than leave them to chance.

“Behave as though a young person idolizes you, become a listening mentor and perform as a role model, always on stage,” she said.

She believes the legacy a person builds outside the world of work is often more important than career accomplishments.

Inviting audience members and graduates to pause and think of their childhood idols, Crouse asked them to consider why they idolized these individuals.

She shared an example of a public figure who influenced her as a young woman. Secretary-General of the United Nations Dag Hammarskjold impressed her with his efforts to build peace and establish the United Nations.

“He was a peace-loving man who had no idea a young girl in Kansas looked up to him and learned from him. I couldn’t have expressed these feelings then, but looking back, I realize how much a faraway man influenced me,” she said.

She cited the research of noted educator Dr. Morris Massey which maintains young children go through distinct developmental stages including an initial phase called imprinting, which shapes their basic values.

“My challenge to you is to see if your behavior is what you think should be idolized. Watch who is watching you,” she said.

Assuming the familiar and comfortable role of teacher, Crouse challenged those in attendance to reflect on the characteristics of their mentors and consider acquiring the same characteristics in the process of becoming a mentor.

Regarding the role model facet of building a legacy, Crouse offered her insight.

“Avoid expecting perfection, invest in and value relationships and maintain a balanced perspective, avoiding dominance. You have a responsibility to help others achieve. I challenge you to build a legacy rather than just let it happen,” she said.

Jacox found his fit at Chadron State College

By Alex Helmbrecht

John Jacox, a retired aeronautical engineer and 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, encouraged the graduates of Chadron State College to find their fit during his undergraduate commencement address Saturday, May 9.

“Each of us is a puzzle piece and, as such, each of us is absolutely unique,” Jacox said. “Relish the fact that of the more than 7.1 billion residents on this planet, you are the only one of you. Furthermore, you never proceeded yourself, and you will never succeed yourself. The only way that the continuum of mankind can properly function is that you, each of you, find your fit.”

Jacox, a native of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, who worked more than 30 years in the design, testing, manufacturing and management of aerospace weapons systems used in the defense of the United States, spoke candidly about his fond memories of Chadron State College, as well as his struggles at Texas A&M, to a capacity crowd at the undergraduate ceremony in the Chicoine Center.

“My degree at Chadron was a portal, one of three, to my career, and to the rest of my life.”

Like many of the undergraduates in the audience, Jacox chose Chadron State based on affordability and familiarity. Since he paid for most of his classes, he could afford his education, and he was comfortable with the school because his mother and an older sister were graduates.

“My time at CSC was an investment that was absolutely critical to my future.”

Chadron State conferred bachelor’s degrees to 265 graduates during the undergraduate ceremony in the Chicoine Center. Earlier Saturday morning, 96 master’s degrees were granted during a ceremony in Memorial Hall.

In addition to Jacox’s address, graduates Alyssa Peters of Bridgeport, Nebraska, and Jorge Flores of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, delivered moments of reflection.
Trailblazers Reunion in 2016

We are seeking stories and memories of CSC female athletes from the era prior to the passage of Title IX in 1972. You paved the way for our current CSC women’s teams and we are planning a reunion in the fall of 2016. Help us compile names of your teammates, stories of competition, memories of your coaches or other information regarding your participation in sports at CSC. Submit the information to the Alumni Office at alumni@csc.edu, via phone at 308-432-6366 or by mail at CSC Alumni Office, 1000 Main St, Chadron, NE 69337.

These three men helped spearhead the effort to name the playing court in the Chicoine Center after their coach, Loy Young. Joe Lytle, Larry Lytle and Bud Larsen all played for Young at CSC in the early 1950s. (Photo by Alex Helmbrecht)

Sparks Hall Memories

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Save the Date
CSC Rodeo Reunion
September 18-20
Come enjoy this year’s rodeo, tour the new Coffee Agriculture Pavilion and reminisce with fellow rodeo alumni.

Watch your mail and the CSC website for information.

You are Invited

Building dedications for the Coffee Agriculture Pavilion-Rangeland Complex and the Chicoine Center will be held September 26, 2015.

Please join us in recognizing our generous donors that made these additions to the CSC campus possible. Plans are currently underway so mark your calendars and check the Chadron State Foundation website at www.csc.edu/foundation for more information.
Students pause from picking up trash around the Chadron City Ponds to pose for a group photo. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

CSC faculty members and volunteers Todd and Wendy Jamison plant trees with their daughters at Camp Norwesca Saturday. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

Garret Dockweiler of Oconto, Neb., works with other members of the Health Professions Club clean the entrance of the Chadron State Park during Chadron State College’s third annual The Big Event. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

Members of CSC’s golf team spread wood chips at the Middle School during The Big Event. (Photo by Miranda Wieczorek)

Volunteers clean armrests and seat backs at the local movie theater. (Photo by Frank Bright)

Volunteers of The Big Event arrive at a local residence. (Photo by Tiffany Valandra)

The 2015 Big Event volunteers gather for a group photo on Elliott Field prior to departing to their work sites. (Photo by Miranda Wieczorek)
By Shaun Wicen

The Chadron State College men’s and women’s track and field teams took on some new faces, bringing in over 30 athletes, freshmen and transfers, in head coach Brad Gamble’s first season. Despite losing one of the largest and talented senior classes in program history, the Eagles never lost a step in its newest chapter.

“It was a great indoor season for both men and women,” Gamble said. “Many around the RMAC didn’t expect much from this team because of all the seniors we lost last year, but this group knows how to work hard, and they fought their way to 10 new school records and six national qualifiers.”

The Eagles started off their indoor season in fine fashion when long jumpers Stachia Reuwsaat and Damarcus Simpson had national leading jumps. Reuwsaat jumped a school record 21-feet, 1½-inches in the second meet of the season at Colorado School of Mines, while Simpson improved his school record to 25-4½.

Simpson was named the RMAC Field Athlete of the Year as well as RMAC Freshman of the Year after setting an RMAC record in the long jump and placing second in the 60 meter dash and triple jump. All three of Simpson’s marks were school records.

Following the conference meet, Reuwsaat and Simpson both earned All-American honors in the jump. Simpson also earned that distinction in the 60 meter dash.

RMAC hurdles champion Chris Cutcher, Tessa Gorsuch, Shelby Bozner and Mel Herl all qualified for the national meet, but missed out on finals or the top ten in their events.

One other newcomer to the Eagles roster came on to shatter a school record. Gorsuch, a University of Northern Iowa transfer from Rapid City, came to CSC in the fall and lowered the women’s 60 meter hurdle record by almost half a second to 8.51 seconds.

Other records that fell included Caryn Martin’s 22-year-old pentathlon record broken by Bozner. The women’s 60 and 400 meter records, which were previously owned by Monique Fair, Reuwsaat and Tiffany Thomas, were also broken. In addition, Thomas and Bozner combined with Rochelle Nelson and Shelby Guy to re-write the women’s 1600 meter relay record by five seconds in a time of 3:51.98.

Outdoor pole vault record holder Skyler Hoopes took over the indoor record with a mark of 15-9.

Gambele, Medigovich named head coaches

The Chadron State College track and field and cross country programs have two new head coaches after Brad Gamble and Brian Medigovich each had their interim posts become permanent appointments in early February.

Gamble, a national champion in the heptathlon in 2011 for the Eagles, is no stranger to Chadron State. Despite only competing for the Eagles’ track and field team one year, he distinguished himself both indoors and outdoors. He set a Division II Indoor Track and Field National Championship meet record while winning the heptathlon and he followed that up with a runner-up finish in the decathlon at the outdoor national championships.

The native of Eagle, Colorado, has been on the CSC coaching staff since the fall of 2011. During that time, he has coached 10 All-Americans, 33 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference champions and guided the Eagles to three runner-up finishes at the conference championships.

He is the 25th track and field coach in Chadron State’s history.

Medigovich, who was the interim head coach during the 2014 season, is the first full time cross country coach in Chadron State history. In all, he’s the eighth coach in program history and just the second since the Eagles joined Division II in 2012.

Medigovich, a native of San Luis Obispo, California, will also work as an assistant coach for the distance runners on the CSC track and field team.

Since 2013, Medigovich, or Coach Med, which is how many people at CSC refer to him, has helped the men’s and women’s cross country program improve. In the 2014 season, the CSC men improved by seven places at the regional championship and the women’s team have been just outside the top 10 two years in a row.

Prior to Chadron State, Medigovich was an assistant coach at Cuesta Community College in 2012 and at Adams State University for two years. At Cuesta, he focused primarily on recruiting. He also ran for the Asics Aggies. At Alamosa, he helped guide the Adams State men’s cross country team to a second place finish at the NCAA National Championships, while the women’s team finished fourth.

He ran collegiately for Adams State, earning All-American honors 13 times. He was the individual national champion in the 5k indoors in 2010 and competed on three national championship teams.
Copeland leads young CSC wrestling team

By Shaun Wicen

Despite their youth, the Chadron State College wrestling team won nine duals and had a successful season.

The young CSC team featured 14 varsity wrestlers in 2014-15. Ten of them were freshmen and sophomores.

“This season was a year of ups and downs and you’re going to have that with such a young squad,” head coach Brett Hunter said. “We are excited about this group’s future and the new guys coming in for Chadron State.”

Three sophomores, Taylor Summers, Jacob Anderson and Caleb Copeland, paved the way for the Eagles. The three had 22 or more wins and combined for a 70-35 record.

Copeland, a 174-pounder, highlighted the Eagles’ season, qualifying for the national tournament for the first time in his career after wresting to a fourth place finish at the Super Regionals. Copeland didn’t win any matches at the national tournament but he did lead the Eagles with a 24-16 record.

Men’s basketball had ups and downs in 2015; Holliman, Lee named All-RMAC

By Shaun Wicen

The 2014-15 season was a season of ups and downs for the Chadron State men’s basketball team. CSC finished the season with a 7-19 record including a 6-16 conference record.

The season started out well for the Eagles, going 3-4 through seven games including a home win against Colorado Mesa University. The end of December into January was not a pleasant time for the Eagles, however, as they lost nine straight.

With the postseason looming as a possibility, the Eagles kicked it into gear, winning three of their next four games. Unfortunately, CSC lost its final four games to fall short of the conference tourney.

The road wasn’t kind to the Eagles. Chadron State finished with a 1-12 record away from the friendly confines of the Chicoine Center and were 2-6 in conference games decided by six or less points, including a heart-breaking buzzer beater by Colorado Mines at home.

The seniors of the CSC team shined. Evan Brooks, a senior from Pasadena, California, finished the season with one of the best free throw percentages in Chadron State history. Brooks went 54 of 59 from the line, shooting 91.5 percent. Brooks finished just shy of the glorified 50-40-90 (field goal percentage, 3-point percentage, free throw percentage), shooting 47 percent from the field, 44 percent from 3-point and 91.5 percent from the line.

Another senior sharp shooter, Christopher Smith, had an outstanding shooting season. He finished 51 percent from the field, 45 percent from beyond the arc and 75 percent from the line.

Copeland leads young CSC wrestling team

The Eagles will lose two to graduation, but will return 11 athletes, including four starters and two regular substitutes.

Midseason surge, veteran leadership lifts Eagles

By Shaun Wicen

Though barely missing out on the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference tournament, Chadron State’s women’s basketball team came together in a midseason surge. The Eagles went 8-18 for the season, including an 8-14 record in conference play.

“I feel that we had the most competitive basketball team that this program has seen in my seven years,” coach Tim Connealy said. “We took a huge step forward and are looking to take another one next year with a solid core of players returning.”

The Eagles played their best at home, which was the first season inside the Chicoine Center. CSC went 6-6 in home games, including a 72-70 upset over conference leading University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. That victory sparked a four-game winning streak, tying the team’s longest span since 2001.

Unselfish play was the key to CSC’s success, as five different Eagles scored 20 or more points in eight different games. Two freshmen, Emma Block and Maka Daysh, two transfers, Allegria Chisom and Stephanie Knowles, and senior Kate Simonton all eclipsed the mark.

Daysh, a freshman, led all scorers with 260 points in 26 games. The center from New Zealand made her presence felt in the paint and the foul line, making the eighth-most free throws in a season in Chadron State history. Only Lorna Dahlgren, Lacy Orpin, Sunni Busch and Kaitlin Petri have made more in a season.

Daysh also tied Orpin for the best free throw percentage in a game, making all 12 of her shots against Colorado Christian.

Junior transfer Knowles also shined for the Eagles in the middle of the season. Her season field goal percentage of 54.3 percent (101-186) is the best season shooting percentage in Chadron State history. The previous record was owned by Starla Paulus, 53.3 percent (165-309), who led the Eagles in points and rebounds in 1988-89.

The Eagles will lose two to graduation, but will return 11 athletes, including four starters and two regular substitutes.
Alumni Events


Tucson, Ariz.: John & Linda DiCastro, Bill & Judy Wickham, Laura Fenza & Gerald Drieling, Trisa Austin, Bill Baker

Surprise, Ariz.: Rich & Micki Siewert, Cash & Deanna Franklin, Dan & Donna Contonis, Vern & Linda Cullers, Daisy & Harold Mundschienk, Daryl Dedic

Portland, Ore.: Karen Pope, Michele McCormack, Rick Burk, Joann Keder, Doug Keder, Connie Rasmussen

Las Vegas, Nev.: Karen Pope, Brett Robertson, Jan Blundell, Larry & Dorothy Turner, Larry & Donna Lochridge, Connie Rasmussen


La Quinta, Calif.: Front row, Dana Lawrence, Elaine Graczyk, Max Schleppenbach, Corky Evans, Doug Messersmith. Back row, Connie Rasmussen, President Randy Rhine, Roger Graczyk, Jane & Gary Decker, Jim Schwartz, Fran & Jean Wrage, Jim Evans, David Schleppenbach.


Surprise, Ariz.: Rich & Micki Siewert, Cash & Deanna Franklin, Dan & Donna Contonis, Vern & Linda Cullers, Daisy & Harold Mundschienk, Daryl Dedic
Can you help us?
Graduates with two-word last names may be listed incorrectly in our database. If we need to correct the way your name prints on our mailings, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@csc.edu or 308.432.6366. Thank you for your assistance.
50's
Dale Mekeel ’51 Tallahassee, Fla., celebrated the 43rd anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He serves as rector of St. Andrew’s Anglican Catholic Church in Tallahassee.

James and Marjorie (Nehe) Kannolt ’54 Albuquerque, N.M., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Robert Nyaarda ’55 Apple Valley, Calif., was inducted into the CSC Music Hall of Fame.

Ina (Dunlap) Glaubius att. ’59 Wisner, was the recipient of Northeast Nebraska Experimental Farm Association and UNL Northeast Research and Extension Center’s award for Outstanding Contribution to Northeast Nebraska Agriculture for 2014 in recognition of her 52 years (and counting) as a 4-H volunteer.

60’s
Alan Hafer ’65 Aurora, Colo., wrote a book titled Descendants of Wounded Knee, Ultimate Sacrifice on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He spends winters in Breckenridge, Colo., as a ski instructor.

Gene Martin ’64, MA ’67 and Fran (Herbaugh) Martin ’66 Beatrice, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 16, 2014. Fran is in her 50th year teaching and plans to continue next year.

Larry Matthesen ’65 and Jean (Gatzmeyer) Matthesen ’64 Custer, S.D., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 27, 2015.

Sheryl (Jones) Bruns ’65 and husband Melvin Chadron, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Doris (Runge) Jensen ’66 Sidney, retired after 25 years from the Sidney Public Library in April.

Douglas Shaver ’66 Hemingford, retired and sold his pharmacy.

Thomas Groth ’66, MS ’72 and Beverly (Brophy) Groth ’66 Piedmont, S.D., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 1, 2015.

Andrew Gudgel ’69 and Lila (Schrantz) Gudgel ’70 Grand Island, both retired from the Grand Island school system. They enjoy attending professional bull riding events all over the country.

70’s
Rick Cotant ’70, MS ’84 Torrington, Wyo., retired from Torrington Middle School as the assistant principal on July 1, 2014.

Sharon Decory ’70 St. Francis, S.D., retired from teaching in May 2014.

Ron Kohn att ’71 Rapid City, S.D., was inducted into the South Dakota Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in April 2015.

Barbara Skala-Irish ’72, MS ’79 Bassett, continues to enjoy substitute teaching in all four Rock County Public Schools following her retirement in 2006.

Jean (Bishop) McMindees ’74 Grand Island, has been wood carving for fifteen years. She belongs to a wood carving club and attends seminars each summer to improve her skills.

Mike Hagemeister ’74 Meeteeteet, Wyo., retired in 2013 after 38 years of teaching.

Ronald Anderson ’75 Greeley, Colo., recently retired from the State of Nebraska as human resources director at the Grand Island Veterans Home and relocated to Colorado.

Jerene (Johnston) Kruse ’76 Albion, retired in May 2014 after 29 years of teaching art in grades PK-12 in the Boone Central Schools. She is now enjoying her own studio and doing some traveling.

Kim Earney ’76 Whitney, was awarded the Engineering Technician of the Year Award from Region 2 of the US Forest Service for his outstanding leadership, creative and visionary uses of effective technologies to solve problems and his dedication to the Nebraska National Forest, Pine Ridge Job Corps and US Forest Service Engineers.

80’s
Monica (Flatt) McGowan ’80 Lakeville, Minn., has served for 15 years as the handbell coordinator and faculty at the International Music Camp Summer School of Fine Arts which marks its 60th anniversary in 2015. There has been a Handbell Week offered at the camp for 40 of those years with handbells offered at the adult camp for the past five years.

Jill (Cook) Wright ’81 Spring, Texas, retired in October 2014 from the Spring ISD as associate principal following 34 years in education.

Thomas Lazure ’81 Fort Calhoun, retired from Omaha Public Schools after teaching business for 33 years.

Sherry Harvis ’81 Burwell, published her book, Win Your Horse’s Heart.

Duane Dorshorst ’81 Oberlin, Kan., serves on the National Board of Directors for elementary principals. His wife Pat (Miller) Dorshorst ’81 was named Cross Country 2A Girls Coach of the Year in Kansas.

Nancy (Langner) Elwell ’82 Seward, was recently named dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences by Concordia University where she has held several positions since 1997.

Kristine Litteras ’82 Harrisonville, Mo., has worked for the past 25 years as a certified therapeutic recreational specialist specializing in geriatrics and Alzheimer’s dementia.

Brian Balfour ’84 Casper, Wyo., retired after 30 years as a PE teacher and assistant wrestling coach at Centennial Junior High.

Richard Patterson ’84, MS ’86 Torrington, Wyo., was appointed president of Eastern Wyoming College on Feb. 12, 2015.

Todd Sprong ’84 Kennewick, Wash., retired after 34 years of teaching. He continues to work as the junior golf director at Canyon Lakes Golf Course.

Lori Liggett ’84 Gordon, will take over as superintendent of Gordon-Rushville Schools at the start of the 2015-16 school year. She is currently principal at Gordon-Rushville High School.

Marilyn (Lee) Cotant ’84, MA ’92 Torrington, Wyo., retired from Eastern Wyoming College as a workforce grant coordinator in October 2014.

Michael Hanley ’85 Saginaw, Mich., retired as a math and science teacher for the Saginaw Public Schools.

Chuck Litteras MS ’86 Harrisonville, Mo., was inducted into the Missouri High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in December 2013. He retired in May 2014 after 36 years of coaching high school and college football.

Randy Jarzynka ’86 Cairo, surpassed running 88,000 miles on Nov. 5, 2014.

Don Matt ’87 Chadron, surpassed 400 wins in his volleyball coaching career this season on his way to being named Western Conference Girls Coach of the Year. He is slated to coach in the Nebraska State Volleyball Game in late July.

Corey Jenkins ’89 and Sarah (Cotant) Jenkins ’85 Valentine, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Sept. 24, 2014, with a cookout for family and friends at the Valentine City Park.

90’s
Eugene Hanks ’90 Kimball, was named 2014 Nebraska Principal of the Year. He is serving in his eighth year as principal for Kimball Public Schools.

Jackie (Hasselbach) Webb ’90, ’93 Keystone, S.D., is the first female in history to earn a spot on the Mount Rushmore Ropes Team. They will be rappelling off the faces of the monument as part of routine maintenance.

Ed Hoffman MA ’91 and Pat Hoffman MA ’02 Custer, S.D., recently relocated to Custer from Lincoln. Ed continues to work for BVH Architects of Lincoln and Pat works for the University of Nebraska Omaha Medical Center.

Casey (Olson) Courtney ’92 Sidney, has been accepted into the University of Montana’s transitional doctor of physical therapy program.

Mark Johnson ’93 Bozeman, Mont., retired as a detective from the Bozeman Police Department in September 2014.

Jason Funk ’94 Rushville, is a professor at the Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, S.D.

Heath Peters ’95, ME ’06 Mitchell, was chosen as Nebraska’s Middle School Principal of the Year. He will also be up for consideration for the National Principal of the Year Award in September.

Roxie Murphy ’96 Torrington, Wyo., was nominated for the Best of the Best Teachers in Wyoming in 2014. She teaches first grade at Lincoln Elementary in Torrington.

David Larson ’95 Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., was named employee of the year at Bay Mills Resort Association where he works as a forestry technician.

Dustin Ladenburger ’99 Stratton, serves as the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers representative on the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture board of directors.

Rita (Rowton) Wallin ’99 Grant, received the 2013 Farm Service Agency Administrator’s Award for service to agriculture in the category for support services. This is the highest honorary award that management can nominate an employee for within the USDA-FSA.


00’s
Susan Shaver MS ’01 Hemingford, retired from teaching at Hemingford High School.

Lynne DiSanto ’01, MA ’03 Rapid City, S.D., is serving her first term as a state legislator in South Dakota.

Cameron Soester ’03, ME ’06 South Dakota State University, celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on Sept. 2, 2014.

Sarah (Cotant) Jenkins ’05 Valentine, celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary on Sept. 24, 2014, with a cookout for family and friends at the Valentine City Park.
the Carnegie Arts Center in Alliance as one of their featured artists. Her display, entitled Winter in the Sandhills, was displayed in January and February 2015. She also owns and operates Calinda’s Pot Shop & Art Gallery in Ashby which was awarded the Business of the Year – Friend of the Byway for the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway organization. She serves as the newly elected vice-president of the organization which consists of member businesses along Highway 2 from Grand Island to Alliance.

Mitchum Wells att ’05 Norfolk, started his own DJ business called Chief Principle Entertainment in Norfolk.

Rachel (Fitzpatrick) Larson ’05 Scottsbluff, coached the Scottsbluff High School girls basketball team to a berth in the Nebraska state tournament.

Ansley Mick ’07 Scottsbluff, was promoted to agricultural liaison in Nebraska Congressman Adrian Smith’s district office. She previously served in the congressman’s Washington, D.C. office as a legislative assistant.

Spring Landfried ’07, ME ’11 and Sharley Cleveland ’07, ME ’12 North Platte, recently opened a private mental health practice together.

Alexander Schwarz ’08 Bertrand, was selected to participate in the Nebraska LEAD Program. The program began 33 years ago to develop agricultural leaders in the state.

10’s

Kelsey Weber ’11 Rapid City, S.D., is currently attending law school at University of South Dakota.

Dean Fankhauser ’11 Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, is one of two associates named to the law firm Berenstein, Moore, Heffernan, Moeller & Johnson, L.L.P. in Sioux City in December 2014.

Derek Ginn ’12 Hay Springs, attended a week long precision planting training session in Tremonton, Ill. He hopes to help local growers improve yield by improving their planting techniques.

Tami Hughson ’13 Oelrichs, S.D., was this year’s Special Education Teacher of the Year for the State of South Dakota.

Michael Sandstrom ’13 Yuma, Colo., has been named the 2015 James Madison Fellow for Colorado. He will earn six graduate hours in constitutional study from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. when he completes the summer 2016 institute. The credits will count toward his Master’s degree from Chadron State College.

Sean Smith ’14 Gretna, was promoted to director of enterprise network center operations at West Corporation in Omaha.

Kaitlen Flynn ’14 Bismarck, S.D., teaches 5th grade in the Bismarck Public School District.

FUTURE EAGLES

90’s

Skye Farris to Christopher Farris ’90 and wife Otty, Cheyenne, Wyo., March 2013.


00’s

Dawson Raymer to Justin ’00 and wife Linda (Sondergard) Raymer ’01, Hay Springs, May 16, 2015.


Barrett Joseph Gill to Bobbie (Kennedy) Gill ’03, Chadron, Dec. 18, 2013.


Jackson Owen Dorenbach to Brandon Dorenbach ’06 and wife Amy, Lincoln, July 10, 2014.

Cash McCoy Goodrich to Jodi (Stowe) Goodrich ’06 and husband Brent, Atlantic, Iowa, March 19, 2014. He joins big brother Brock and sisters Grace and Avery.

Cooper Connot to Travis ’08 and wife Joanna (Smurthwaite) Connot ’12, Valentine, July 10, 2014.

Brooklyn Cassity to Ryan Cassity ’08 and wife Maygen, Riverton, Wyo., on May 5, 2014.

Reese Antonia Watson to Loni (Hughes) Watson ’08, ME ’13 and husband Matt, Chadron, on April 18, 2015.

Tayson Kole Schwager to Jessica (Bilby) ’08 and husband Kody Schwager ’11, Bridgeport, March 21, 2015.

10’s

Audrey Crawford to Wade ’10 and Brittany (Johnson) Crawford ’10, Sundance, Wyo., Dec. 10, 2014.

Arianna Barraza to Victoria (Marquez) Barraza ’10 and husband Cesar, Chadron, on Feb. 20, 2014.

Jenna Schommer to Joel ’10 and wife Taylor (King) Schommer current, Brainard, Aug. 2014. She joins big brothers Jaydyn, 4, and Jett, 2.

Colton Richard Haag to Mark ’10, MBA ’12 and wife Lauren (Platt) Haag ’12, Scottsbluff, on March 14, 2015.

Quinn Noel Hutchison to Jon ’13 and wife Jamie (Lewandowski) Hutchison ’12, Gering, on Jan. 28, 2015.

OBITUARIES

Friends


Vallie (Brow) Hardy Alliance, died Jan. 28, 2015.

Faculty & Staff


Loy Young Mankato, Minn., died March 25, 2015; his wife Janette died a few weeks later on April 19, 2015.

MARRIAGES

Alex Helmbrecht ’05 Chadron, married Brittany Kingsley May 2, 2015 at Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park, Custer, S.D.

Tina (Jennings) ’05 Chadron, married Jeff Watt, son of Don ’80 and Jana (Epp) Watt ’96, ME ’12, in November 2014.

Kyle Schell ’06 Wall, S.D., married Carrie (Buchholz) ’11 in August 2014.

Kelly Troester ’13 Crawford, married Lacy Peterson on Nov. 9, 2014.


Frederick “Fritz” Wefso ’51 Rushville, died March 27, 2015.

Edward McBride ’52 Gering, died May 4, 2015.


Sandra Richards MS ’90 Piedmont, S.D., died March 15, 2015.


Neil Nunn ’81 Harrison, died Feb. 18, 2015.


Sandra Richards MS ’90 Piedmont, S.D., died June 9, 2014.

Elizabeth (Hubbard) Arnold ’91 Rapid City, S.D., died May 27, 2014.

Nancy (Houston) Musegades ’91 Rapid City, S.D., died Nov. 30, 2014.
Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 8
11 a.m. Survivors Luncheon – Country Kitchen, eat at noon

Friday, October 9
8 a.m.–4 p.m. Registration in Alumni Office – Sparks Hall
2–3:30 p.m. Campus Tours – Student Center

Friday, October 9, Cont.
Noon Eagles Luncheon – Student Center Bordeaux Room, Visit with President Rhine

Saturday, October 10
8–9 a.m. Alumni Coffee & Registration – Student Center Lobby
8 a.m. Eagle 5k Run/Walk – NPAC
Contact Chris Green, 308–432–6392 for details
9:30 a.m. Parade – Main Street
11 a.m. Homecoming Luncheon – Student Center Ballroom
Recognition of Family Tree and Alumni Award Recipients & Alumni Reunion Groups
1 p.m. CSC Football vs. Adams State, Elliott Field
4 p.m. Postgame Reception at Country Kitchen
6 p.m. Reunion group social and dinner
50 Year Reunion for Class of 1965

Homecoming Registration
Deadline is Oct. 1, 2015
Please save, this will be the only notice!
Please return with your paid reservations to: CSC Alumni Office, P. O. Box 1210, Chadron, NE 69337 or call 308-432-6366 or 800-242-3766.

Name ____________________________________________ Grad year ________
Spouse/Guest ______________________________________ Grad year ________
Additional Guest(s) ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________
City, State Zip _________________________________________________________________
Phone __________________________________________________________________________
Contact e-mail _________________________________________________________________

Thursday, October 8:
Survivors Luncheon
Order from the menu # attending ______
Friday, October 9:
$11.00/person # _____ $ ________

Saturday, October 10:
Homecoming Luncheon
Order from the menu $16.00/adult # _____ $ ________
$7.50/12 & under # _____ $ ________
5 & under are free # _____

Total $ ________
Grand Total $ ________

*A specific RSVP for 50 Year Reunion activities will be mailed to class members.
*Survivors Lunch members will receive a postcard with details

Check our website: www.csc.edu/alumni/events for details about Homecoming.
Or visit our Facebook page, Chadron State Alumni.