

Winter 2020

CHADRON STATE MAGAZINE



Greetings from the PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

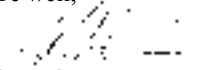
It's been said several times, including by myself, but 2020 was certainly unlike any year Chadron State College has ever experienced. Commencement ceremonies, Homecoming, Scholastic Day, and Ivy Day are just a few of the things we all missed this past year as CSC tried to limit large gatherings. However, despite the lack of festivities, Chadron State College still has a lot to be proud of.

The first thing to celebrate is the flexibility our students and employees have shown during the pandemic. I want to thank them all for doing a tremendous job adapting to our "new normal" since March. Everyone has stepped up, and went above and beyond in a big way to keep campus safe. We pivoted to remote learning with little warning or time in mid-March and our faculty and students worked hand-in-hand, virtually of course, throughout the process. This fall, we returned to in-person learning and that required everyone on campus to work together by following the 3 W's (Wear a mask, Wash your hands, and Watch your distance). I am optimistic that same collective responsibility and attitude will carry us through the spring semester, as well.

Our region has also been supportive. I am thankful for all the Panhandle Public Health District's efforts and I extend a heartfelt thanks to the healthcare providers for all their support.

I have said this to campus before, but it is worth repeating to our friends and alumni: We will get through this, and we will get through this together. We will come out of this situation stronger, confident, and more compassionate. Please continue to do the right things and protect yourself, your friends, and loved ones. If we all do that, perhaps in 2021, we will gradually be able to return to campus and celebrate accomplishments and other activities together and in-person. Until then, I wish you and your loved ones the very best.

Be well,



President Randy Rhine



Dr. Randy Rhine has been Chadron State College's President since 2012.

ALUMNA CONNECTS YOUTH WITH NATURE

By George Ledbetter

Monique Fair, a self-described inner-city child from Denver who earned a degree in ecology and wildlife management at Chadron State College, now spends much of her time sharing her passion for the natural environment with children from her hometown as the education program manager and event coordinator for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

"Individuals from my background don't have much exposure to the natural world, or much interest in it," said Fair, a 2014 graduate. "My goal is to bridge the gap between minority populations and the natural world that is outside their back door."

A 14-mile trail that connects Commerce City, Denver, and Aurora, the two-decade-old Sand Creek Greenway is funded by a variety of sources. Fair has been working for the non-profit organization that oversees the greenway for about a year. She got the position after working as a horticulturist for the Denver Zoo. Previously, she was also in the natural resource department of the city and county of Denver.

As event coordinator for the greenway, Fair organizes workdays three times a year that give volunteers opportunities to help with environmental restoration projects along the trail, which winds its way along Sand Creek to its confluence with the South Platte River and connects with other segments of the metro Denver area's extensive trail network.

Paved for most of its length, the trail crosses primarily urban areas, but the creek attracts many birds, animals, and insects.



Monique Fair, sitting, is the Education Program Manager and Event Coordinator for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway in Denver. (Courtesy photo)

"Our slogan for the trail is 'Wildlife in the City,'" Fair said. She is also working to create habitats for pollinating insects along the greenway. "Denver is growing, so we are attempting to create space for animals, including insects."

But the majority of Fair's work is focused on getting schoolchildren interested in and involved with the natural world.

"About 75 percent of my time is inspiring them and connecting them to plants and trees and bees and beavers — all the cool stuff they feel a disconnect with," she said.

A program called Generation Wild, aimed at connecting children to the outdoor world and directed largely at low-income households, supports Fair's educational outreach. The effort includes six-week programs of hour-long, hands-on sessions on things like investigating animal tracks, and making milkweed seed balls to help sustain pollinating insect populations.

"It's my personal belief that once your feet are in the soil or if you're holding a crawdad, there's a transformative moment that happens that can't be replicated in a school," she said. "Seeing that inspiration and connection is motivational."

Fair said she came to Chadron State on a whim after a track scholarship to the University of Wyoming fell through because of an injury.

Recruited and supported by former head coach Ryan Baily, Fair was an outstanding student-athlete, despite health issues that hampered her career. She holds school indoor records in the 60-, 200-, and 400-meter events, and outdoor records in both the 200- and 400-meters.

Fair credits Rangeland Professor Dr. Teresa

Frink and former Professor Dr. Chuck Butterfield with inspiring her to enter a field that often isn't considered by people of color.

"I look different than everybody in the field and they never made me feel like an outsider," she said. "Most people are surprised that this is the field I'm in, even my friends I interact with."

Coming to Chadron from inner city Denver as a freshman was a culture shock, Fair said, but she found the community welcoming.

"Chadron gave me so many opportunities," she said. "It has become a second home."

Finding a job that uses the training and experience in ecology and land management she gained at Chadron State and aligns with her long-term goals has been fulfilling, Fair said.

"We want to create the next generation of doers and we want them to be diverse," she said. "There are a lot of career opportunities in the natural world. It's important to educate all kids, minority and majority, that they can have an impact and what that looks like."

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The Chadron State Magazine is published twice per year by the Alumni Office.

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www.csc.edu/alumni

On the Cover:

Students enjoy games on the lawn outside Kent Hall,
Fall 2017. (Photo by Dewayne Gimeson)



Monique Fair competes in the RMAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Golden, Colorado, in May 2011. Fair placed fourth in the 100 and 200 meter finals. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)



Kelli Schoch of Columbus, Neb., lights a ceremonial hydrogen balloon as part of Chadron State College's Math Science Center of Innovative Learning groundbreaking Sept. 11, 2020. Other students pictured include Josh Kruse of Gurley, Neb., and Jace Russman of Gothenburg, Neb. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

GROUNDBREAKING COMPLETE FOR \$32 MILLION MATH SCIENCE PROJECT

“These faculty are the most outstanding people on the face of the earth because they care so much about their students.”

— Marjean Terrell

Chadron State College celebrated the beginning of its largest construction project in history when employees, students, alumni, and supporters attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Math Science Center of Innovative Learning (COIL). The \$32 million renovation and expansion project is now underway.

The groundbreaking featured speakers who expressed thanks and recognized the milestone is a result of many people working collaboratively.

Professor Joyce Hardy served as the master of ceremonies. Hardy, who has a long history with the building — both as a student and professor — recounted CSC’s long tradition of excellence in its math and science programs.

“These faculty offered opportunity, professionalism, and mentoring. In a time when significant gender and race inequities existed, this building and campus were warm, welcoming, supportive, and proactively inclusive. They pushed us to excel at levels we were not aware we were capable of,” Hardy said.

Faculty and students combined their affinity for math and science into the ceremony. The former Foucault pendulum that hung from the ceiling in the center of the spiral stairwell will become a time capsule. And in lieu of fireworks, students ignited balloons filled with hydrogen and various salts to create colorful explosions. The faculty and staff christened the building for its renovation voyage by shattering roses freeze dried in liquid nitrogen against the columns of the north doorway.

Nebraska State College System Chancellor Paul Turman noted that the building has been a priority for the Nebraska State College System since 2014.

He explained the important timing of several conditions that made the project a reality, including a 15-year bond period approved by the Nebraska legislature and the governor.

He said the governor and members of the appropriations committee could clearly see the need for the facility and the value of making such an investment, but they also wanted the college to articulate the anticipated return on investment. Turman outlined four contributions the building will provide to the campus, community, and region over the next 50 years.

“First, enrollment in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) is going to continue to increase as a result of having a state-of-the-art facility. We anticipate we’re going to be able to grow our enrollment by an additional 100 students,” Turman said. “The second benefit is our ability to be able to edu-

cate students in a more student-centered learning environment than what was envisioned when this building was built.”

Turman said the third return from the upgrade is to provide a significant community outreach and learning facility for the region’s middle school and high school students who visit campus. The Dr. Lois Veath planetarium, and new areas for world-class collections in the Herbarium and Eleanor Barbour Cook Museum of Geology, will tell the story of the region’s rich history and showcase geological, paleontological, and herbarium artifacts currently in storage.

The final point, he said, is the importance of being able to recruit future faculty.

Chadron State College President Randy Rhine paid tribute to the many students who have come through the building and their contributions to the community, region, state of Nebraska, and the world.

“As we worked on this project, I had the opportunity to travel around this great region and country talking to our alumni about this project. Their stories are amazing and their generosity is unbelievable and humbling. Their love and appreciation for Chadron State College is apparent in the fact that today we will break ground on a facility that would not be happening if it were not for that generosity,” Rhine said.

Marjean Terrell, an NSCS Board member and former chair of the Chadron State Foundation, said math and science students have consistently shined in their professional programs

because of the nurturing, yet tough, faculty. A CSC alumna, she returned to CSC in the 1990s as an adjunct faculty member and echoed Hardy’s praise of the faculty.

“These faculty are the most outstanding people on the face of the earth because they care so much about these students. Even though they have to leave the building, they are keeping the students’ education at the same level,” Terrell said.

The building will meet contemporary laboratory and teaching standards and replace deficient and outdated laboratory furnishings, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems with state-of-the-art facilities designed for energy efficiency. The new facility will conform to indoor air quality standards with modern safety measures for storage and use of chemicals.

The new north wing will connect with the main campus walkway, allowing students and faculty improved access to the building. A new southern entrance will also allow visitors an accessible and convenient route to the facility.

The building will house a variety of spaces, including a lecture hall with two 120-inch projection screens, classrooms, active learning labs, teaching laboratories, study spaces, and an active learning classroom with a 98-inch flat-panel display. The audiovisual technologies in the building will create a collaborative learning and social environment to enhance the learning experience for students on campus, those with disabilities, and those learning remotely.

Dedication begins new outdoor era for Track and Field

By Kaleb Center

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Phase Two of the CSC Sports Complex Initiative at the new outdoor track and field facility honored contributors and served as the official grand opening for the facility, September 10. It concluded the construction project that began in fall 2017.

Hosted by Athletic Director Joel R. Smith, speakers included CSC President Randy Rhine, Chadron State Foundation Board Chairman Patrick Friesen, Nebraska State College System Chancellor Paul Turman, NSCS Board Chairman Gary Bieganski, and Head Track and Field Coach Riley Northrup, who is entering his fourth season leading the Eagles.

Following the speakers, CSC track and field student-athletes commemorated the occasion by running a relay for a symbolic passing of batons by supporters.

Phase One of the Sports Complex Initiative, consisting of a new football facility, was completed in 2018 and greatly expanded Don Beebe Stadium while replacing the Elliott Field grass with a modern turf playing surface.

Phase Two concluded with a new, eight-lane oval 400-meter outdoor track, runways and pits for jumps, a steeplechase water hazard, a grass infield, and a new press box. Construc-



Members of the Chadron State College Track and Field team pose for a photo following the facility’s ribbon cutting Sept. 11, 2020. (Photo by Kaleb Center)

tion on the facility began in April 2019.

The CSC Sports Complex Initiative is part of Next Horizon: The Campaign for Chadron State College, which seeks to raise \$45 mil-

lion in state and private support. The campaign is raising funds for capital projects, academic and athletic program support, and scholarship endowments.

WAR, WEATHER, PANDEMIC: A HISTORY OF HOMECOMING DISRUPTIONS AT CHADRON STATE

By George Ledbetter

What would a college year be like without Homecoming?

That question is one Chadron State College students and alumni have confronted in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the pandemic is unprecedented, records show that 2020 is not the first year of disruption to Chadron State's nearly 100-year tradition of celebrating Homecoming.

Historians generally agree that the first college Homecoming was in 1911 as an outgrowth of a football rivalry between the University of Missouri and the University of Kansas.

Ten years later, the tradition at Chadron State began when President Robert Elliott sent a letter inviting alumni to attend "the peppiest football game of the season" and a postgame reception.

"Homecoming day promises to be an exciting one," the newly founded student newspaper declared in a Nov. 1, 1921, preview of the game against Kearney.

A week later the paper reported on Kearney's 7-6 win and said the reception gave "students and faculty an opportunity to renew old friendships with alumni," and congratulate the players from both teams. Eager to catch the train home, all but two members of the Kearney team left for Crawford after the banquet, but alumni were well represented at the event, The Eagle reported.

By 1925, traditions for the celebration were well established. Besides the game against South Dakota School of Mines, Homecoming included a pep rally and a snake dance that took students from campus to downtown and back to the football field.

A few years later a postgame dance and grand march had been added to Homecoming. In 1932, a student group called the Wing Club decided to name a Gridiron Queen to reign over the celebration. Lucille Wheritt was chosen for the honor and rode in one of the 17 floats in the Homecoming parade.

An alumni breakfast, incorporated into the regional convention of the state teachers association, became part of Chadron's Homecoming in 1940, the year the Alumni Association was formally incorporated. The breakfast was attended by 170 alumni, and 145 bought association memberships at a cost of 25 cents each, according to The Eagle.

Despite the looming war, the college continued to celebrate Homecoming for the next two years, though by 1942 it was difficult to field



Crites Hall, barely visible due to tree damage from Winter Storm Atlas Oct. 4, 2014. (Tena L. Cook)

a football team because so many men had entered military service. In 1943, college enrollment fell precipitously and both football and Homecoming stopped for three years.

Homecoming at Chadron State returned in the fall of 1946, when President Wiley Brooks wrote in The Eagle that the end of the war made it "proper and desirable" to resume the activities that had been suspended.

A winter storm put a damper on the much-anticipated Homecoming, but Chadron State managed to beat Wayne State 12-6.

"The students have been very understanding of the situation and the importance of safety during these unprecedented times."

— Megan Northrup

Many of CSC's traditions are still observed, but there have been changes.

The reigning monarch is now the Homecoming Queen and since 1982 she has been joined by a Homecoming King.

The snake dance was discontinued in the 1960s, and the bonfire has been replaced with the lighting of C-Hill. The number of events for alumni has increased and now includes campus tours, class reunions, a luncheon with the college president, and a ceremony honoring distinguished alumni and families with generational connections to Chadron State.

Another break in Homecoming events took place in 2013, when winter storm Atlas dropped several feet of snow on the entire region. Almost all the planned events were canceled, but nine hours of shoveling by CSC coaches, staff, team members, and community members removed more than a foot of snow from Elliott Field and the football game was played a day later than planned.

By early October 2020, it was clear that risks to student and alumni health from the

pandemic were too great to have a traditional Homecoming. The college Homecoming committee, which includes representatives of administration, faculty, students, and the Chadron State Foundation, did approve some student-only events for the week, but bad weather hampered those activities. Committee members said a decision is still pending on whether it will be possible to safely have a spirit rally and coronation of Homecoming royalty in the spring.

After consultation with reunion groups and honorees, all alumni-centered Homecoming events for 2020 were canceled, according to Chadron State Foundation Director of Alumni and Development Karen Pope. Although alumni looked forward to revisiting campus, the move met with their approval, Pope said.

"Alumni have been supportive and understanding about how the college has handled the changes during 2020," she said.

Students have also taken the cancellation of Homecoming in stride, according to Student Activities Coordinator Megan Northrup.

"The students have been very understanding of the situation and the importance of safety during these unprecedented times," Northrup said.

For students, Homecoming is memorable part of the college experience, Northrup said.

"With Homecoming comes excitement, memories and a sense of belonging," she said.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, one long-standing Chadron State Homecoming tradition took place in 2020. On Saturday, Oct. 17, the Eagles played the first game of their shortened football season against South Dakota School of Mines. The Eagles won the Homecoming matchup 41-25, in a game that, just as in 1946, included playing during a heavy snowstorm.

OWENS-NAUSLAR SHARES TIPS TO NAVIGATE FUTURE

By Tena L. Cook

The second consecutive virtual Chadron State College Commencement ceremony took place Dec. 18. College officials decided the virtual format was safer than an in-person event due to the pandemic. The pre-recorded ceremony is available on CSC's YouTube channel.

John Murphy of Harrison, Nebraska, provided the opening moment of reflection and Jaime Gonzalez of Bridgeport, Nebraska, gave the closing moment of reflection.

The speaker was Dr. Joanne Owens-Nauslar of Lincoln, Nebraska, a well-known motivational and health and fitness speaker who graduated from CSC in 1970. She is the owner and operator of Fitness Is Living, a public speaking, mentoring, and training company. She has



Chadron State College Digital Graphic Designer Daniel Binkard, left, records CSC President Randy Rhine November 18, 2020, for the college's virtual commencement. (Photo by Dewayne Gimeson)

written two books and numerous articles for journals and health and physical education curriculum guides.

In her address, Owens-Nauslar reflected back on the unusual events of 2020.

"We've learned that choices matter. Your choice to come back to campus and finish what you started matters. Being educated and socially responsible matters. Being patient and trusting the processes matter," Owens-Nauslar said.

She advised the graduates to appreciate their family members and loved ones.

"They have helped you endure and make comebacks. They are your rock of support now and in the future. Treasure those who coached and mentored you. This year in particular, we saw far too many families who never got to say 'goodbye.' The faculty, staff, alumni, and leadership at Chadron State have a vested interest in your success, they too are your family," Owens-Nauslar said.

The choices one makes in life matter, whether related to health, education, work ethic, or perseverance, Owens-Nauslar said.

"I hope the degrees and professions you choose have value and respect. Who you work for and what they represent matters. Research the heart and soul of organizations to be sure their contributions to society align with your personal values," she said. "It all goes back to what matters. Choices matter. You and the degree you have just earned really matter."



Dr. JoAnne Owens-Nauslar records her address to the graduates for Chadron State College's virtual winter commencement video November 18, 2020. The commencement will premiere December 18. (Photo by Dewayne Gimeson)

She emphasized that CSC and the opportunities it provides continue to matter.

"I am emotionally moved and energized each time I return to campus. I feel the progress and the energy you have brought to the college. Fly away, but remember to return to the nest. Come back to Chadron State and remember to give back. You will be welcomed and celebrated," she said.

Volunteers assist Foundation with annual Fall Fund Drive

By Tena L. Cook

The Chadron State Foundation's annual Fall Fund Drive raised \$101,984 for student scholarships and college programs in October. According to Jake Rissler, Chadron State Foundation Director of Development, more than 100 volunteers participated in the fund drive asking potential donors for contributions. The campus co-chairs were Shaunda French-Collins and Taylor Osmotherly. The community co-chairs were Gabby Michna and Trish Martens.

The Foundation annually recruits volunteers who are divided into 10 teams of college employees and 10 teams of community members. The volunteers are assigned contacts to request donations. Prizes are awarded to the top teams based on a point system.

The winning team on campus included Dr. Brittany Helmbrecht, chair, Dr. Dawn Brammer, Brenda Barry-Schommer, Alex Helmbrecht, John Murphy, and Dr. Lorie Hunn.

Members of the winning community team were: Clayton Riesen, chair, Pam Strotheide, Angela Harris, and Tammy Davies.

Students enrolled in French-Collins' Communication Campaigns class assisted by creating the theme and mark, radio ads, a press



The Chadron State Foundation's annual Fall Fund Drive celebration Nov. 18, 2020. Co-chairs of the CSC volunteers Taylor Osmotherly, left, and Dr. Shaunda French-Collins, center, announce the total amount of the fund drive, \$101,984, via video conference. Community co-chairs are Gabby Michna and Trish Martens (not pictured). Foundation Jake Rissler, right. (Courtesy photo)

release, and conducting an analysis of the campaign for their final project.

Rissler said the volunteers and donors are integral to the effort.

"Despite a pandemic, our donors came

through for us again. A sincere thank you to all the local businesses and individuals who donated to support the Fall Fund Drive this year. Thank you for supporting the life of CSC," he said.

THE EAGLE FACULTY ADVISERS PLAY LARGE ROLE IN STUDENT NEWSPAPER'S STORIED HISTORY

By George Ledbetter

In the recent celebration of the 100th anniversary of *The Eagle*, Chadron State College's student newspaper, attention focused largely on the nature of stories that the paper's student journalists covered over the years.

Less noticed as *The Eagle* marked the centennial milestone was the role that three CSC faculty advisers have played in creating the publication for two-thirds of the paper's lifetime.

In total, the three instructors, Bernard Donohue, LaVida Dickinson, and current adviser Mike Kennedy, have played a key role with *The Eagle* for 67 of its 100 years in print.

Donohue, a professor of English who taught children's literature and advanced grammar, was adviser from 1952 to 1983.

Kathy Dixon succeeded Donohue as adviser for one year before Dickinson, a veteran journalist from South Dakota, took over the job. Dickinson's tenure with *The Eagle* lasted until she retired in 2008.

Kennedy, who came to CSC with a background as a reporter, photographer, and journalism instructor, became the paper's adviser in the fall of 2008 and continues in the post today.

While student editors direct the paper's editorial decisions, faculty advisers play a role in the success of the enterprise, as well as nurturing the skills of fledgling journalists.

Donohue's daughter, Cathy, recalls visiting *The Eagle* office as a child, and being fascinated by the wire baskets that held stories waiting to be proofread before they were sent for printing.

"There was something almost sacred about those baskets, like 'This is where it starts,'" she said.

Dickinson's tenure at *The Eagle* was marked by changes in technology, including the replacement of manual typewriters with electric models, the first use of computers, the change from pasting up pages to on-screen layout, and shifting from film to digital photography. She also led the paper's change from twice a month to weekly publication and publishing online.

Dickinson had a strong influence on many of the student journalists she mentored, with several former staffers recalling in particular the critiques conducted after each issue was published.

"She taught us to be hard-working, detail oriented, and with the use of a red-pen that made our papers bleed, to have a firm grip of Associated Press style," said 2005 graduate Heather Johnson.



The Eagle staff, Old Admin, January 17, 1990. (Chadron State College Historical Photo)

Dickinson's emphasis on following the basics of good journalism helped many reporters build careers in the profession and related fields.

"Our success in job placement was due to the reputation of our adviser," said 2004 graduate Mari Olson.

"The memories I'm most grateful for are the friendships I gained with intelligent, caring, fun students."

— LaVida Dickinson

intelligent, caring, fun students," she said. Kennedy has also seen big changes. In his first years, the paper moved its offices, chose a new company to produce the print edition, reduced the paper's print run, and cut the number of mailed copies.

While online stories first appeared in 2002, under Kennedy the paper has revamped and ex-

Request for King Library memories

Share your memories of the long hours spent cramming for finals and studying in the King Library. It will be the featured building in the Summer edition of the Chadron State Magazine. Please send us your memories, stories, or photos about the King Library to alumni@csc.edu or mail to the Alumni Office, 1000 Main St., Chadron, NE 69337.



panded its web coverage. In 2018, *The Eagle* was one of the first student papers in the region to use a drone for video coverage of a story and this year the paper added an Ag and Rangeland section.

The pandemic forced *The Eagle* to suspend its print edition at the end of the spring 2020 semester, but the paper's staff continued to post stories on the website through the end of the school year, Kennedy said. The paper resumed its regular Thursday print edition this fall.

Under Kennedy's tutelage, *The Eagle* has amassed a number of awards, including nine consecutive Best Overall Newspaper awards in the annual competition conducted by the Northern Plains Collegiate Media Association.

The tradition of nurturing careers and lasting friendships seems set to continue as the paper enters its second century.

"In addition to the practical skills and experiences that complemented my college studies and readied me for the real world, I also met some of my lifelong friends through my time at *The Eagle*," said 2013 graduate T.J. Thomson.



Volunteers make progress on the stone labyrinth in the hills above the Chadron State College campus November 20, 2020. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

COLLABORATIVE CAMPUS PROJECT LEADS TO LABYRINTH

By Tena L. Cook

The Chadron State College Art Guild collaborated with the campus and community in a project to establish CSC's first Earth art project, a labyrinth in an abandoned cistern west of C-Hill.

Volunteers filled five-gallon buckets of rocks no longer needed at the Math Science building and loaded the buckets into pickups that were driven to the labyrinth site. Participants ran or walked to the site, unloaded rocks, and then returned to the Math Science parking lot for prizes and refreshments.

Art Professor Mary Donahue said the idea for the labyrinth started last fall when she was talking with fellow CSC employee Elizabeth Ledbetter about her research into labyrinths and their healing qualities.

"Elizabeth's idea of a labyrinth in the cistern seemed like an exciting and timely project to work on with students from many perspectives — design, art, history, culture, physical materials, nature, stress reduction, and mental health issues," Donahue said. "I enjoy spending time outdoors in the natural world and have been seeking a way to combine that more with art and wondering what kinds of things we could do here at CSC."

After creating and discussing a proposal with Dr. Jim Margetts, Dean of Liberal Arts, Donahue talked to the Chadron State Foundation that owns the land where the cistern is located.

In the early spring, Donahue submitted a proposal to the University and College Designers Association Design Education Summit Human Centered online conference and the poster abstract was accepted. On the poster, Donahue referenced an article in "Outside" magazine about the medical and health benefits of nature and outdoor activity.

The Art 422/Graphic Design Practicum class in Spring 2020 started research and preliminary designs for the labyrinth. The students visited the cistern with Donahue, took

measurements and photos, and worked on drawings and ideas with the help of Lucinda Mays, grounds supervisor.

Volunteers placed rocks for the labyrinth Nov. 20. Donahue foresees The Big Event volunteers helping clean and maintain the site in the future. Future design classes may refine the drawing of the paths and entrance access ideas. Additionally, Trudy Denham and sculpture students may create clay pieces to accent the site. Others plan to leave cairns, or artistic stacks of rocks, at the labyrinth.



The Chadron State College Art Guild hosts Rock and Run, Sept. 30, 2020. Volunteers loaded rocks from the Math Science building into pickups that drove to the new CSC labyrinth site (on the horizon). The runners (left) returned to campus on foot and competed for prizes. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

Enrollment boom pushed Kent Hall construction

By George Ledbetter

In the 15 years following World War II, enrollment at Chadron State College was growing at a slow but steady pace. That factor brought a pressing need for student living space that was met in the mid-1950s by construction of Brooks Hall for men, the West Court apartments for married students, and a 50-room addition to Work Hall for women.

However, those efforts to provide more student housing were barely enough to meet the rising tide of demand for higher education in the 1960s. By the fall of 1961, when enrollment neared 800, most college housing was filled, the student newspaper reported. With enrollment climbing to more than 1,000 in 1963, the demand for additional rooms was critical.

The purchase in 1959 of land to the east of the existing campus provided space for the college to expand. In 1961, Fullen Construction of Scottsbluff finished the new Campus Center. It was the first structure on the newly acquired property, and a year later, the same company was busy working on the National Guard Armory and the adjacent Armstrong Gymnasium.

In the spring of 1964, Fullen was among the firms bidding for construction of a new residence hall to the east of the Campus Center. At a meeting of the State Normal College Board in March, Fullen's bid of about \$1.2 million was accepted, despite the objection of one Trustee who said the company was behind in work on Armstrong.

Designed by Jim Gorsup of the Rapid City-based Kirkham and Michaels architectural firm, the T-shaped, three-story residence hall



Student life near Kent Hall in Sept. 1984. (Chadron State College Historical Photo)

originally had beds for 204 men in a 335-foot-long north-south section, with a 167-foot wing extension near its midpoint to accommodate 100 beds for women.

In May 1965, the Chadron Record reported construction of the dorm was 80 percent complete, with carpenters installing wardrobes in the dorm rooms and painters finishing the second of three paint coats.

The new residence hall opened its doors to students in the fall of 1965. It was named Kent Hall, in honor of longtime Chadron State College registrar Albert E. Kent, who had retired earlier that year. Kent and his wife, Anna, had already moved to Arizona, but returned for the building's dedication, according to their daughter, Linda.

Since its opening, Kent Hall has proved to be a durable part of the Chadron State campus.

A renovation in 1976 added kitchenettes to the building, the roof was replaced twice following hailstorms in 1986 and 2013, and other maintenance work has kept the interior spaces fresh and welcoming for students.

As housing needs have fluctuated over the years, the allocation of Kent's rooms among different groups of students has varied, but over the past two decades the building has primarily been a home for incoming college freshmen.



Andrews Hall complements Kent Hall

By George Ledbetter

The unprecedented growth in the student population at Chadron State College in the early 1960s sparked a building boom that included awarding a contract for a 304-bed dormitory in the fall of 1965, even though a similar building was under construction.

The two buildings, Kent Hall and Andrews Hall, have nearly identical designs. The two residence halls share a central lounge, were built quickly because of a shortage of student housing, and both are named in honor of long-serving, highly respected college employees: Albert Kent and Lyle Andrews.

Chadron's student population was growing fast and student housing was in short supply in the spring of 1964 when the State Normal College Board awarded a Scottsbluff company that was already working on campus a \$1.2 million contract to build Kent Hall. A jump of nearly 300 students that fall and expectations of a similar increase the following year led President Clark Elkins to tell The Eagle newspaper that even with the new dorm all available student housing would be filled.

With student numbers expected to grow, the November 1964 meeting of the State College Board included refinancing the revenue bonds for the first dorm, as well as authorization to build another.

The new building, named for Andrews, a respected science professor, "...will be a complete duplicate of the one under construction at the present and include 80-foot by 80-foot lounge between the two structures," The Eagle reported.

The 167-foot-long east wing of the three-story building connects the lounge with the 335-foot north south wing, making the joined dormitories resemble the letter H when viewed from above.

The designer for both buildings was James Gorsup of Kirkham and Michaels in Rapid City, South Dakota. A native Nebraskan and University of Nebraska graduate, Gorsup also designed the King Library, the second half of the Kline Campus Center, and the Armstrong Building.



Students play sand volleyball outside Andrews Hall in 1992. (Chadron State College Historical Photo)

The \$1.4 million contract to construct Andrews Hall was awarded to Ely and Sons Construction of North Platte. Work started in April 1965, with a round-the-clock effort to move 25,000 yards of dirt from a side hill, the Chadron Record reported. The company planned to employ about 60 men on the project, with completion set for August 1967, the Record reported.

However, construction was completed almost a year early. In September 1966, Andrews Hall opened its doors to students, with Warren McGrew and his wife as resident directors.

"Though connected to Kent Hall (Andrews) has a character of its own," The Eagle reported.

Instead of bathrooms shared by everyone on the floor, "the pastel-colored rooms of yellow and green are joined by a bathroom between each two rooms," the story said. The

Eagle also praised the feeling engendered by acoustic ceiling tiles and a stone fireplace in the lounge connecting the two dorms.

A month later, The Eagle reported the accidental lighting of trash in an incinerator chute caused fire damage on the building's third floor.

Damage from the fire was apparently minor and the residence hall was quickly put to use. In 1969, it was occupied by 268 men.

Enrollment at Chadron State continued to grow for several years after Andrews Hall opened and construction of the High Rise dormitory in 1967 gave the college ample housing options when student numbers topped 2,400 in 1971.

At present, Andrews Hall houses predominately upper-division students and, like other buildings in the residence hall complex, provides residents a comfortable and welcoming environment for study and relaxation.



Above: This 1990 photo shows students in their residence hall room. (Chadron State College Historical Photo) Left, Andrews Hall's exterior. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)



Above: The Landing in Kent Hall photographed Jan. 2020. (Photo by Daniel Binkard) Top right: Spring Daze activities from 1979. (Chadron State College Historical Photo) Bottom right: Kent Hall's exterior in July 2017. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

Kent Hall named in honor of longtime college registrar

By George Ledbetter

The career of Albert E. Kent, namesake of Kent Hall, as registrar at Chadron State College spanned the terms of five college presidents and nearly three decades of changes in American society.



Albert E. Kent

From the final years of the Great Depression through the early 1960s, Kent was responsible for communications with potential students, registering, scheduling and counseling incoming students, class and classroom scheduling, and processing teacher certifications.

A North Dakota native, Kent earned a bachelor's degree at the University of North Dakota and took a year of pre-dentistry training before completing a master's in educational administration at the University of Kentucky. He was registrar at his alma mater in Minot before taking the job in Chadron in January 1938.

As Kent told a reporter for *The Eagle*, the registrar's job at the time had "all the duties except that of president and bursar."

When Kent arrived, Chadron State had some

340 students and work on Crites Hall was just getting underway. Enrollment dropped to 50 students in 1945, but by the time Kent retired, it had grown to more than 1,300.

For most of Kent's career, the registrar's tasks were carried out with pencils, paper, and typewriters. Assisted by secretaries and student workers, Kent used handwritten cards for registration, and three walls of chalkboards to draw timelines for scheduling classes, former CSC President Ed Nelson recalled for the college's 75th anniversary book.

Kent had married Francis Pearl Bignall in North Dakota in 1927, but she died in childbirth ten years later. The couple's two sons, Richard and John, ages 8 and 4, came with him to Chadron. Shortly after arriving Kent met Anna Nelson, an education professor at the college and supervisor of the Campus Laboratory School (Chadron Prep). They were married in 1939 and had one daughter, Linda, who completed nursing training at the University of Nebraska. Richard attended Chadron State for a year before joining the U.S. Air Force. John joined the Army upon graduation from high school.

Among the jobs Kent handled over the years was assisting rural school teachers who had not completed four years of college when the state adopted certification requirements. His Saturday mornings were often spent counsel-

ing those teachers as they worked to become certified. Many of them remembered him fondly, Linda Kent said.

Kent was also supportive of the few international students enrolled at Chadron State and some maintained communication with the family for years, Linda Kent said.

Kent was an accomplished amateur photographer who taught an elementary photography class for the college and had photos published in magazines and newspapers, *The Eagle* reported. Among his subjects were his family and the landscapes of national parks they visited during his annual two-week vacations.

He was a president of the local Kiwanis Club, a member of the Congregational Church, and an avid gardener who grew both produce and flowers.

After retiring in June 1965, the Kents moved to Arizona.

He was honored to learn the new college dorm was named in his honor, his daughter said. "It meant a lot to him," she said.

Kent died in Arizona in 1981. Anna Kent later moved to Seattle, where she died in 1995.

A Chadron State Foundation endowment in Kent's name summarizes his legacy: "In his 27 years as Registrar, Kent gained a reputation as a reserved and thoughtful administrator, known for his kindness and concern for students."

Andrews: Talented scientist, mentor remembered fondly

By George Ledbetter

When Dr. Lyle Andrews died from a heart attack in May 1962, Chadron State College lost the services of a talented scientist with a national reputation, and a teacher who was remembered fondly by many students he mentored during a 35-year career at the college.



Lyle Andrews

when the college opened in 1911. Andrews was promoted to chairman of the science and mathematics division when Philpott retired in 1949.

Among Andrews' chemistry students were Marle Smith, Jim McCafferty, and Minnie Lichte, who later became valued members of Chadron State's science faculty. He also taught Gary Maxwell, who went on to have a successful career in optical science.

In recognition of Andrews' contributions to the school, the east wing of a two-building residence hall complex was named for him when it opened in 1966.

Andrews was born in Presho, South Dakota, in 1906 and graduated from Valentine High School in 1922. He enrolled at Chadron State Normal School that fall and joined the faculty as a lab assistant two years later.

After graduating in 1926, Andrews attended the University of Nebraska and earned a master's degree in science in 1928. He completed his PhD at UNL in 1932.

First employed full-time at CSC in 1927, Andrews served as the chemistry and physics instructor under former science division head Charles W. Philpott, one of the first instructors

when the college opened in 1911. Andrews was promoted to chairman of the science and mathematics division when Philpott retired in 1949. Among Andrews' chemistry students were Marle Smith, Jim McCafferty, and Minnie Lichte, who later became valued members of Chadron State's science faculty. He also taught Gary Maxwell, who went on to have a successful career in optical science. In the years preceding America's entrance into World War II, Chadron State was part of a civilian flight-training program that transformed into a Naval Aviation Training program in the summer of 1942. Andrews was among the faculty members who served as instructors in the program, teaching courses in navigation and meteorology. Following the war, Andrews was called upon as a consultant to government research efforts in suppression of hail and conversion of seawater to fresh water. Being called to Washington D.C. as one of four consultants for the desalinization project was "Quite an experience for a small potato like me," he told *"The Eagle"* in 1960. Andrews was active in Chadron civic affairs. He was chairman of the Park Board, and president of Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife Esther were also involved with the Methodist Church. The couple had one daughter, Elaine, who graduated from CSC in 1959.

Citing remodeling as his favorite hobby, Andrews told *The Eagle* he lived in an old house so he could rebuild it anytime he liked. He also enjoyed gardening and used his acumen to experiment with plant feeding.

In 1960 Andrews designed and built new lab desks for the Prep School at CSC. They featured an octagonal shape, electrical outlets, and rotating shelves that gave students easy access to equipment and chemicals for experiments.

Andrews returned to his office from a faculty meeting on July 2, 1962, when he suffered a heart attack and was rushed to the Chadron hospital. A second attack the next evening proved fatal, the *Chadron Record* reported.

A member of many professional academic and science groups, Andrews was highly regarded as a scientist and teacher. Nobel Prize winning physicist Val Fitch, who studied at CSC for two years in the 1930s, remembered him as an effective teacher.

"(Andrews) was as highly respected as anybody on campus," longtime CSC information officer Con Marshall said.

In a 2010 tribute, Richard Shepherd, a CSC science student in the 1950s, remembered Andrews as a teacher who "gave students the confidence and understanding which allowed them to be successful in their chosen profession, or to continue their education, or both."



Panorama of Kent Hall and Andrews Hall. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

Alumni memories: Kent Hall & Andrews Hall

Anthony Galasso Jr., '70

I lived in Andrews Hall when it first opened in '66 when it was a co-ed dorm with electronic doors between the hallways separating men and women. The planners forgot that the TV room and laundry facilities in the basement were co-ed and you could access either hallway from the basement. I was also a hallway proctor in Andrews in '67-'68 and on the dorm council. Also lived in Kent Hall the Fall of '69. Too many stories in both halls but boy was it fun.

Ivan Kershner - '70, '74

Cy Yusten and I, both from Buffalo, Wyoming, moved into the new Kent Hall shortly after the start of the 1966 Fall term. We were the first occupants of Room 307, almost directly above and just a bit to the south of the main entrance. While our tenure was filled with memories, I'll share but one. I sincerely hope the statute of limitations on vandalism has expired. One very dark and windy weekend



Students move in to Kent Hall, August 18, 2016. (Photo by Dewayne Gimeson)

night, while many students had gone home, we opened our window and held rolls of toilet paper on wooden rulers and let the wind rapidly unwind the toilet paper, drifting it north over the trees and houses of Chadron. So much fun! So much, in fact, that we raided the toilet paper from some other floors and unwound...I seem to recall...about seven or eight rolls before we decided that we might soon be meeting some Chadron police officers if we didn't close our window.

Gary McCollum, '72

My first dorm I was ever in was at Kent Hall. I was selected to be in Upward Bound in the summer of 1966. It was in the summer of 1966. There were a lot of other students with whom I became friends. It was a time of growing up and learning about how the education at college compares to high school learning. Thank you CSC for supplying a great program for helping students get a better look at life. I was also a counselor in Upward Bound in 1970 and 1971 and a counselor and teacher in the program in 1972.

Thank you for all you have done.

Rick Wheatley, '72

It was the Fall semester of 1969 when I moved into Kent Hall on the first floor and met my roommate, Rick Lusk. In the morning after the first night in my room and sleeping in a little later, it was time to use the bathroom. Bathrooms were shared in the middle part of the floor. My room was at the very end of the hallway. Keeping in mind that this was a guys' dorm, I came out of my room still drowsy in my underwear making my way down to the bathroom. No one told me (us) that we had female custodians working in the building. Halfway to the bathroom I met a custodian sweeping the floor. I don't know who was more embarrassed, me or her. Then I had to meet her again coming the other way on my journey back to the room. Truly an embarrassing moment.

We had members of the rodeo team staying in Kent and when rodeo season was approach-

ing, they would be out in the hallways practicing lassoing on anyone who was walking down the hall. I was lassoed on a couple of occasions. They were great guys and fun to be around.

Mark Price, '83

I was a resident adviser in both buildings in the early '80s. RA on third floor of Kent '81 or '82 I think. Most of my wing were freshmen who had never been away from home. You would be amazed at the number of guys who had all blue or pink clothes because they didn't know how to do laundry.

Rod Worth, '85

I lived in Kent Hall all four years, 1981-85. I was an RA from Fall 1984 to graduation in May, 1985. Peggy Provin was the housing director. My junior year I hid my motorcycle in my room on the second floor. It took three guys to get it up there because it was heavy. Peggy found out soon afterward and said it was a fire hazard. She said if I cleaned her garage, I could park it there over the winter. She was a nice lady.

Derek Andrews, '00

In 1990, I was 13 years old and came to CSC for a basketball camp with some friends of mine from Wray, Colorado. We stayed in Kent Hall on the second-floor west wing. It was the first time for most of us to be away from home and staying in a college dorm room with friends and others we met from the basketball camp was a thrill. Two of us who were at that basketball ended up coming to and graduating from CSC a few years later.

Brent Heyen, '02

I remember Kent Hall was notorious for the fire alarm being pulled in the middle of the night. This one time I recall it going off at 3 a.m. and I simply sat up, looked at my alarm clock wondering why my alarm was going off three hours early. My roommate had to point out to me that it was the fire alarm.

RLOP graduate, Zhang, interns at United Nations

By Tena L. Cook

Chadron State College graduate Kevin Zhang of Alliance, Nebraska, recently completed an internship with the United Nations. He was part of the inaugural class of the Rural Law Opportunities Program (RLOP) in March 2017.

Zhang is in his third year of law school at the University of Nebraska. His full-time, remote internship was extended on a part-time basis until the end of September.

He worked in the General Legal Division in the Office of Legal Affairs, the in-house legal department for the United Nations that provides a wide spectrum of advice, services, and assistance on legal matters affecting operations and activities. He assisted in drafting and reviewing contracts and conducts research on international law and internal legal opinions. In addition, he wrote memos to answer legal questions and helps prepare legal documents.

Zhang said he used email, chat, and virtual meetings to communicate with colleagues in many different time zones and 40 countries. Using various tools and being flexible were skills he said he developed during the internship.

“Usually, the legal officer sends me an email for assistance and provides background infor-

mation and instructions via email or virtual meeting. After I complete my assignment, I attach my work product to email and return it to the legal officer for feedback. Sometimes, I work with other interns on a project,” Zhang said.

Zhang found that communication skills were a key area of growth for him during the internship.

“The telecommunication imposed a challenge for me to get ahold of others since we are all scattered around the world because of the pandemic and the closure of UN Headquarters,” Zhang said. “Nonetheless, I quickly adapted myself to the diverse work environment and learned how to utilize tools that we

“The telecommunication imposed a challenge for me to get ahold of others since we are all scattered around the world because of the pandemic and the closure of UN Headquarters.”

— Kevin Zhang

have to communicate effectively.”

He has worked on a wide range of legal issues like supporting peacekeeping operations of the UN, providing advice on human resources matters and policies, interpreting certain Articles of the Charter, General Assembly resolutions and

UN regulations, assisting UN procurement activities and contracting requirements, and the resolution of related disputes, controversies, and claims.

He said the internship has provided the opportunity for him to discover some new areas of law.



Chadron State College Justice Studies graduate Kevin Zhang of Alliance, Neb., will complete a remote internship with the United Nations Sept. 30, 2020. Zhang was a member of the Rural Law Opportunities Program's inaugural class in March 2017. (Courtesy photo used with permission)

“Some projects I worked on invoked my interest in data privacy, and I enrolled in cyber law and privacy law courses in the fall semester,” said Zhang. “Additionally, the internship reinforces my passion in international law, which I plan to practice after graduation from law school.”

Anderson receives Mari Sandoz research award

Chadron State College graduate Broc Anderson is the 2020-21 Sandoz Scholar and recipient of a \$1,000 research award from the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Anderson, a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and the Community Education Coordinator at the Trails and Rails Museum in Kearney, will present his research during the 2021 Sandoz Symposium.

Anderson's research involved examining how the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890 shaped future interracial interactions in Sheridan and Dawes counties. He will also examine early 20th century interracial relationships in northwest Nebraska border towns.

The Mari Sandoz Research Award committee included Dr. Holly Boomer, also a CSC graduate, Dr. Renee Laegreid, and Dr. Jillian Wenburg.

National One Big Thanks conference



Chadron State College co-hosted the national One Big Thanks conference with Texas A&M Oct. 24. The purpose of the conference was to bring together The Big Event students and advisers from across the country to collaborate, hear speakers, and learn more about improving their processes. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss operations, programs, technology, and participant recruitment, while sharing past successes and failures. More than 170 The Big Event programs have been created worldwide since the inception of the concept at Texas A&M in 1982. (Courtesy photo)

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI COMPLETE MURAL

By Tena L. Cook

Chadron State College students and alumni helped create a mural honoring Chadron's volunteer firefighters. The mural, completed in July, is the sixth in the Chadron Area Chamber of Commerce's Art Alley/Paint the Town project.

The mural depicts three firefighters marching south on Chadron's Main Street with a fire hose toward a fire coming over C-Hill, reminiscent of the 2006 Spotted Tail wildfire. It is about 20 feet high and 40 feet long on an interior wall in the Chadron Volunteer Fire Department's Sixth Street training center.

Former Chadron Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jack Rhembrandt said the exterior of the building is metal and not suitable for a mural.

“Being inside, it stands as a constant reminder of why it's important to always be training,” Rhembrandt said.

The mural was the culmination of months of planning and refining rough drafts into a finished design.

Gabby Michna, Chadron Area Chamber Director, who leads the Art Alley/Paint the Town committee, initially contacted Art Professor and Art Guild adviser Mary Donahue to see how the Art Guild could help.

“I remembered that Art Guild members had helped with previous Art Alley projects and we are constantly looking for people to help us execute murals that encompass the vision of the building owners,” Michna said. “All supplies and materials were donated. It makes such a difference. Donations made it possible.”

Donahue said she gave Christopher Wright, president of the Art Guild, the information from Michna and he took it from there. Wright



Chadron State College art major Chris Wright of Gering, Neb., poses July 27, 2020, with a mural in the Chadron Volunteer Fire Department's training center on Sixth Street. CSC alumni and volunteers, worked with Chadron Area Chamber of Commerce Director Gabby Michna in May and July 2020 to complete the project. (Courtesy photo)



Chadron State College alumnus and Chadron High School art teacher, Travis Hency, left, works on a mural in the Chadron Volunteer Fire Department training center on Sixth Street. Chadron Area Chamber of Commerce Director Gabby Michna is kneeling on the top of the scaffolding and CSC student Kayah Byne is standing on the scaffolding. (Courtesy photo)

met with Rhembrandt about his vision for the mural and the pair continued to fine tune their ideas.

“The vision I was looking for was the sacrifice men and women make every day as first responders, not just local, but worldwide. On the mural itself, from the firefighter's view, they are protecting the town, but the whole community has their backs. Having it completed gives me chills when I see it,” Rhembrandt said.

Chadron High School art teacher Travis Hency, CSC alumni Tristan Stephenson and Whitney Tewahade, and Kayah Byne and Wright, both students, volunteered with Michna during work sessions in May and July. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the number of Art Guild members working on the mural was limited. Kaitlin Adams, an office assistant in the athletic department, also helped with the project.

Stephenson previously painted a mural above a church on Main Street, while Byne painted a butterfly on the west side of Western View Real Estate and a piano at Chadron's Downtown Plaza.

Donahue, who helped with the mural on the Bloom clothing store and the base painting for

EJ's BBQ restaurant, said Wright and Byne did an excellent job of following through on the project, working six to eight hours a day.

“Kayah was a key player in Art Alley/Paint the Town from the beginning with Travis Hency and Whitney Tewahade. She was working on the murals as a high school senior with Travis Hency, who was her art teacher, and she has continued her involvement as a CSC art student and Art Guild member,” Donahue said.

“I hope when people look at it they will be filled with thankfulness for our firefighters.”

— Chris Wright

On the last day of the project, Wright was working alone since others had conflicting time commitments. He said he was humbled by the thought of those who gave their time and energy to paint the mural.

“I had a lot of time to reflect on this project. When we added the highlights to the landscape and to the flag, everything started to come together. It became clear to me why I was doing this. To give back to the community. I am grateful to have my design painted at such a size in a location where people who volunteer their time to keep others safe can know for years to come that they are appreciated and respected. I hope when people look at it they will be filled with thankfulness for our firefighters,” Wright said.

FALL 2020 CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



Chadron State College students Jeremy and Janessa Carley participate in the Project Strive Midterm Breakfast Sept. 29, 2020. (Courtesy photo)



Chadron State College student Mercy Maunu enrolled in Elements of Art (ART 239) takes part in the "Hanging Cone Project" on C-Hill, Sept. 30, 2020. (Photo by Dewayne Gimeson)



Cast members Zak Wellnitz and McKenzie Durand perform during rehearsal for "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," Sept. 21, 2020. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)



The Chadron State College Senior Art Show "Euphoric" Nov. 20, 2020. From left, Chris Wright, Jennifer Boyer, Shania Macomber, and Hannah Conner in Memorial Hall's Main Gallery. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)



Chadron State College students pose during halftime of the Homecoming football game against SDSM&T Oct. 17, 2020. From left, Chris Counce of Scottsdale, Ariz., Shawna Turner of Hill City, S.D., Kassidee Lind of Bow, Wash., Regina Campbell of Broken Bow, Neb., and Olivia Bryant of Anselmo, Neb. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

CSC kindled second career for Living Legacy donor

By George Ledbetter

A desire to take a few classes at Chadron State College after moving to northwest Nebraska in 1999 eventually led to an advanced college degree and a second career for Chadron State Foundation Living Legacy member Leslie Stewart.

Stewart already had a degree in environmental education from the University of Colorado and had worked in technical publications for telecommunications companies for 26 years before coming to Chadron. Living on the Great Plains sparked a desire to study rangeland science and botany, Stewart said, and after completing her master's degree at Chadron State in 2004 she joined the U.S. Forest Service. Most of her 10-year career with the Forest Service was spent as rangeland manager for the Oglala National Grasslands.

"The knowledge I gained at CSC enabled me to change my direction in life to enter an entirely different career and finish my working life doing something I really loved," Stewart said.

Rural Business Leadership Initiative gets boost from Nebraska bank

By George Ledbetter

A Chadron State College program aimed at developing qualified financial professionals for work in rural Nebraska will be able to expand the scope of leadership training opportunities it offers students thanks to a four-year \$100,000 grant from First National Bank of Omaha.

The Rural Business Leadership Initiative (RBLI), started in 2019 under the Business Academy at CSC, will use the grant to pay for conferences, seminars and regional business tours, fund two summer internships, and for promotional materials.

RBLI offers four-year tuition scholarships to students who are interested in working in banking, agribusiness, or accounting in rural Nebraska. The program's primary aim is to help graduates assume leadership roles in rural communities.

In addition to regular course work, participants take part in six monthly meetings each year, have summer internships in their junior and senior years, tour rural and urban businesses, attend conferences, and take part in job shadowing. The program is open to up to 15 undergraduates each year. Twenty-two students are currently participating.

RBLI grew out of a tour of rural Nebraska businesses by CSC President Randy Rhine that revealed the need for qualified employees in agriculture

and public accountability, said Dr. Wendy Waugh, Dean of the School of Business, Math, and Science. The program's focus stems from the importance of leadership skills in business success and community development, she said.

Two instructors, Dr. Chuck Butterfield and Dr. Ron Weedon, were particularly influential during her time at Chadron State. Butterfield instilled a love for the prairie ecosystem, she said, and Weedon was a mentor who helped guide her through a graduate assistant role to complete her degree.

Stewart said she had put off estate planning for years before she decided it was time to get serious and set up a trust that reflected her respect for the work that educational institutions do in preparing people of all ages to make the world better.

For Stewart, a belief in the value of education learned from her father goes beyond the value of preparing students to get jobs.

"I also believe in providing a liberal arts education to encourage students to question, to form their independent opinions, and have broad knowledge of the workings of the world," she said. "Including the Foundation in my estate planning is one way to support my beliefs."



Leslie Stewart

Stewart said she encourages others to support the Foundation.

"Periodic contributions to the college are certainly one way to contribute, and I do that as well," she said. "But larger gifts can help attain larger goals."



Business students, Spencer Rien, left and Robin Ferguson talk in the Rangeland Complex at Chadron State College in April 2019. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

"Serving as leaders in a rural community is very different from serving in a large metropolitan area," Waugh said. "Rural leadership is about serving the community, as well as the business."

CSC's commitment to the economic and social success of rural communities is behind

FNBO's decision to support RBLI, said Rob Bila, Community President of FNBO's Chadron office.

"Workforce and small business development are two critical components to local economic development," he said. "The Chadron State RBLI is addressing this rural workforce need by ensuring business students are equipped and inspired to take on the jobs in rural Nebraska."

In addition to financial support, FNBO will participate in RBLI tours, workshops, seminars, and will offer two internships over the next four years, with the idea of encouraging students who want to stay in rural areas, Bila said.

"The program is designed to keep skilled professionals in the rural communities, so that local small businesses can operate," he said. "This outcome is not only good for the bank, but our local economy."

The experiences that RBLI students have from visits with successful business people, participation in conferences, event planning, and internships will translate into graduates with well-developed leadership skills, Waugh said.

"We are excited to partner in a meaningful program that not only helps CSC students, but also benefits the rural communities they will be serving," Bila said. "Anytime a rural community can attract and retain talent, everybody wins."

"Workforce and small business development are two critical components to local economic development."
— Rob Bila



Junior running back Jalen Starks, who played two seasons at UCLA, high-steps as he plunges into the end zone for a touchdown during the Eagles' 37-22 win at South Dakota Mines. (Photo by Dede Long)

Football team ekes out an abbreviated season

By Kaleb Center

The pandemic caused nearly all NCAA Division II football teams to adjust. CSC scheduled six regular season contests this season, and was able to play four of them, getting experience for its incoming freshmen.

Following all protocols set forth by the NCAA for returning to play this fall, including weekly COVID-19 testing within 72 hours of gameday, routine symptom screening, and recording temperatures, CSC embarked in fall drills beginning in September.

Several student-athletes chose to opt out of playing, without penalty, and CSC accepted responsibility for any out-of-pocket medical expenses associated with COVID-19. All provisions were made for student-athlete welfare, on top of the campus's comprehensive infectious disease plan.

"We're all incredibly thankful to the people at the state level, and at the college level, who went to bat for us to be able to open up classes in person, and to be able to practice and play games," said CSC Head Football Coach Jay Long.

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"We're all incredibly thankful to the people at the state level, and at the college level, who went to bat for us to be able to open up classes in person, and to be able to practice and play games."

— Jay Long

Long. "The Chadron community and the college community really rallied behind us and we appreciate their support."

The four games were the Eagles' fewest in a fall season since 1945.

The 2020 Eagles went 2-2 with wins over their rival to the north, South Dakota School of Mines, and close losses to Colorado Mesa University and the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

CSC's offense chewed up yardage, showing flashes of a team that could be an RMAC contender in 2021. Most of the personnel on offense intends to return because of NCAA eligibility relief.

The season opened with a trip to Grand Junction, Colorado. On Oct. 10, the teams went

to a 0-0 halftime gridlock, which hadn't happened in a CSC game since at least the 1990s. A last-minute touchdown pass from senior Dalton Holst to freshman Jalon'e Rice, with 25 seconds remaining, was all that kept CSC from a shutout. With the game tied at seven points apiece in overtime, the Mavericks in-

tercepted a Holst pass from the Mavs' five-yard line, setting up a field goal to win 10-7.

Next, CSC played a home-and-away series with South Dakota Mines for the first time since 1922. Both games resulted in double-digit wins for the Eagles.

In the Oct. 17 matchup at Elliott Field, senior receiver Cole Thurness and junior Chad Mikelson put on a clinic. Thurness racked up 175 yards and two TDs, and Mikelson reached 166 yards and a touchdown. Jalen Starks, a newcomer with previous running back experience at UCLA, scored three times and CSC prevailed, 41-25.

Two weeks later, the Eagles jumped out in front and survived a flurry of fourth-quarter scoring. True freshman running back Jeydon Cox had a breakout game with 102 yards on the ground and a touchdown. Third-year freshman Jahani Wright, coming off a season-ending injury early in 2019, went up over a defender to pull down a touchdown pass in the third quarter, which put the Eagles up for good in a 37-22 victory.

Cox, a scatback from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, finished the season with 7.6 yards per carry.

At Kearney the following Saturday, the Eagles put up lots of yards and points, but were too slow to find an answer for the Lop-

ers' rushing quarterback TJ Davis. Davis carried 20 times for 252 yards, and UNK finished with 541 total yards on the ground en route to its 45-35 win.

Holst had strong chemistry with his receivers, and the Eagles added Wright to the mix along with junior college transfer Montel Gladney, who caught a 74-yard touchdown at Kearney.

Defensively, the linebacking corps picked up an assist from St. Cloud State transfer Jeremiah Makahununiu, who led the team in tackles with 37.

Another addition to the defense was junior college transfer Bobby Peele, who had pass interceptions in his first three games of the season.

Veteran linebackers Travis Wilson, Noah Kerchal, and Jeremiah Gutierrez were also integral to the Eagles defense.

CSC plans to hold a traditional spring football practice season, which may or may not include an outside scrimmage. If the Eagles are unable to arrange such an event, they will have their traditional spring game in April.

NUTRITION CENTER SUPPORTS STUDENT-ATHLETES

By Kaleb Center

Chadron State College athletics' strength and conditioning program received a boost in October, with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Thurness Family Nutrition Center in the Armstrong Gymnasium. Contributions from Brent and Shelly Thurness of Rapid City, S.D., made the construction of the nutrition center possible.

"My sons are third-generation college athletes," Brent Thurness said. "My father, Robert Thurness, who was my football coach, was the first in his family to go to college on an athletic scholarship. He valued education so highly, he earned a doctoral degree in educational administration. With the nutrition center, we wanted to support that tradition of scholarship and honor the role that athletics plays within the educational structure."

Thurness's sons Cole, a senior, and Chase, a junior, are members of the CSC football team.

The facility upgrade uses the former concession stand space in Armstrong. It provides additional equipment and infrastructure, which the strength and conditioning staff believes will enhance its ability to store, prepare, and distribute nutritional products to CSC student-athletes.

"The quality of our new Thurness Family Nutrition Center is phenomenal," said CSC Head Strength and Conditioning Coach E.J. Kreis. "The products and workmanship that went into its construction are the best of the best, as well as the consumable products that we'll distribute here and replenish on an ongoing basis."

Among the most visible additions to the nutrition center are a granite countertop and new



Head Football Coach Jay Long, left, talks with an official following a play during Chadron State College's game Oct. 17, 2020. (Photo by McKenna Jones)



The Thurness Family Nutrition Center was dedicated Oct. 17, 2020. Members of the Thurness family, from left, Amy, Cole, Chase, Brent, Shelly, Emma, and Sherry Hardesty. (Photo by Kaleb Center)

cabinetry, which were both sourced by Morford's Decorating in Chadron and installed by the CSC facilities staff.

The facility is equipped with an overhauled food sanitation system. This is comprised of refrigeration, plumbing, electrical wiring, and food storage, which will ensure compliance with safety standards.

Additional equipment includes four new blenders, which will be used to prepare protein smoothies.

The contribution for the nutrition center funds the initial construction project and provides ongoing support. Kreis says this will pro-

vide for supplements such as fruits, pre-made sandwiches, and chocolate milk protein.

"It's a big competitive edge for us to be on the forefront of everything," Kreis said, "with the latest nutritional science and the ability to apply it on a daily basis. Our strength and conditioning programs are maybe one or two hours of an athlete's day, but the recovery phase is when all the hard work pays off. Those other 22 or 23 hours are just as important as the workouts themselves. What we have now in that area gives us one leg up on the competition, and we hope it gives the student-athletes their best possible experience."

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2020 FALL SPORTS IN PHOTOS



Freshman kicker Alberto Perez, left, and junior defensive back Bobby Peele, right, pose for a photo during Chadron State College's game with South Dakota School of Mines Oct. 17, 2020. (Photo by McKenna Jones)



Sophomore Alpine Hickstein watches her putt roll towards the hole during the Yellow Jacket Fall Classic Sept. 28, 2020, at Spearfish Country Club in South Dakota. Hickstein won the individual tournament title to help the Eagles earn a first-place finish. Following the tournament, she was named the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Golfer of the Week. (Photo by Kaleb Center)



At CSC's home rodeo, on September 13 at the Dawes County Fairgrounds, senior Quincy Segelke won the breakaway roping contest. She finished the semester fourth in the region at roping and third at goat tying. (Photo by Kaleb Center)



The cross country program was able to host its annual open race on October 3. It was one of only three races the Eagles attended. True freshman Tukker Romey, shown here, was the top women's finisher for Chadron State, earning a silver medal. South Dakota Mines was CSC's only opponent. (Photo by Kaleb Center)

They Found a Way to Play the Game

"They Found a Way to Play the Game" is a compilation of two of Con Marshall's favorite topics: history and sports. The book chronicles the stories of 16 CSC football players who played for the Eagles from 1912 through 1958. In the introduction to the book Marshall writes, "(The players) weren't necessarily the best 16 during that period, but all were stalwarts who had interesting stories to tell."

There is no charge for the book upon request to the Chadron State Foundation, but it is suggested that a contribution to Eagle Athletics is made.



Blackbaud security notice

The Chadron State Foundation was alerted to a data security incident that may have involved your personal information. The Chadron State Foundation takes the protection and proper use of your information seriously. Please use the following information and the website address below to inform you about what happened and the steps we are taking to help protect your information and honor our relationship with you.

What information was involved?

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applicable), and alumni association records (if applicable) of our students, alumni, parents, and donors.

What information was not involved?

No financial information (bank accounts, credit card information, etc.) was compromised.

What you can do?

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For more information:

Go to csc.edu/foundation/security If you have any questions, please reach out to the Alumni & Foundation office at alumni@csc.edu or phone at 308-432-6366.

Norris named to Allstate AFCA Good Works Team

By Kaleb Center

Chadron State College senior football student-athlete Jake Norris, of Fort Morgan, Colorado, was named to the 2020 Allstate American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team in September.



Jake Norris

Twenty-two college football players are commended annually by the AFCA for their performance off the field and in their communities. Of those chosen, 11 are from the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision, and the remaining 11 come from the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision, Divisions II, III, and NAIA. One honorary head coach is also selected.

Norris was nominated by the CSC sports information office, and endorsed by CSC Vice President of Human Resources Anne DeMersseman, for his work in the Chadron community.

He created the Eagle Effort Award to acknowledge Chadron Primary School students who show academic improvement and demonstrate a "helping hand" attitude with their peers. In his award program, teachers vote for a student to be recognized at each home football game during the first media timeout.

Norris also created a volunteerism opportunity for his teammates at the CPS that includes tutoring, assisting in physical education, and supporting students seeking advice in the classroom.

He volunteers annually during The Big Event campus community service campaign, and he frequently volunteers for snow removal at CSC athletic fields.

"I'm honored to be part of a team whose focus is to better our communities," Norris said. "I plan on expanding the Eagle Effort Award to neighboring communities and schools to recognize more students who are taking the next step in their education. The Eagle Effort Award is something I hope will become a tradition here at CSC."

As a member of the Good Works Team, Norris receives national publicity at ESPN.com and will be invited to participate in a Zoom conference with current and former members of the team, including former two-time Heisman trophy winner Tim Tebow.

Additionally, Norris will be on a ballot to select a team captain, who is selected by voters nationwide in an online poll.

"I'm extremely proud of Jake for being selected to the Good Works Team," said CSC Head Football Coach Jay Long, who is also Norris's offensive line coach. "Of all the players I've coached, Jake is probably one of the top three people, in terms of character, I've ever had the pleasure of working with."

The Allstate AFCA Good Works Team was established in 1992 by the College Football Association to recognize extra efforts by players and student support staff off the field. AFCA became the governing body of the award in 1997 and continues to honor players who go the extra mile for those in need. Allstate became the presenting sponsor starting with the 2008 season.



Jake Norris talks with a student from the Chadron Primary School. He created the Eagle Effort Award to acknowledge students who show academic improvement and a good attitude. Norris was named to the 2020 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. (Courtesy photo)



CHADRON STATE COLLEGE 2021 Oral History Publication

The Alumni Office engagement campaign will compile a unique oral history archive, uniting Chadron State College alumni across generations, professions, geography, and life experiences.

We have partnered with Publishing Concepts (PCI) to help collect stories from as many alumni as possible and produce Eagle memories in a Chadron State College 2021 Oral History Publication.

By sharing your memory, you'll ensure that the rich history of Chadron State College will be preserved for generations to come.

PCI will soon be contacting you via mail, phone, and email asking you to participate and updating your contact information.

Thanks for your participation!



FOUNDATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Chadron State Foundation is governed by an 18-member board of directors. All members of the board also serve as trustees of the Foundation. Three new members joined the board at their October meeting.

Jennifer Barp

Jennifer Barp of Johnston, Iowa, earned her bachelor's degree in finance and economics, as well as an accounting minor in 1996. Later, she went on to receive her master's degree in business administration from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Barp is the worldwide vice president of finance for Kemin Industries, a global company where she is responsible for the financial information and systems. Barp joined the



Jennifer Barp

organization in 1998 as a financial accountant. She became the finance director of Kemin Agri-Foods North America before moving to her current role in 2004.

Barp and her husband, Eric, also a CSC graduate and recipient of the Distinguished Young Alumni Award,

have two children, Alexis and Tyler.

Lisa Carder

Lisa (Bartels) Carder of Albion, Nebraska, graduated from Chadron State College in



Lisa Carder

December 1980. She completed her master's degree at CSC in 1989.

Carder grew up in Chadron, where her father, Dr. G. Bruce Bartels, was a longtime faculty member. The family received the Family Tree Award from CSC in 2007, which recognized

Lisa, her mother, two brothers, and her daughter Andrea. Lisa retired from a career in education after 35 years of teaching. She taught business and family and consumer sciences at Petersburg Public Schools and Boone Central Schools. She now works as a substitute teacher. Carder enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and seven granddaughters.

Jim Gardner

Jim Gardner is a certified public accountant and managing partner of Gardner, Loutzenhiser & Ryan PC, an accounting firm with



Jim Gardner

offices in Chadron, Gordon, and Mullen. Jim graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a bachelor of science degree in business administration-accounting. Jim grew up in Colorado and moved to Nebraska when he began his accounting career. He is married to Amy, who has two bachelor's degrees from Chadron State in accounting and elementary education, and a master's degree in elementary education. Jim and Amy have two sons: Travis, who lives in Denver, Colorado, and Jeremy, who lives in Hoover, Alabama.

CSC Phonathon

February 8-18, 2021

Elmo hopes you answer the call when a Chadron State student reaches out to hear about your college experiences and to discuss how you can make a difference in the lives of current students.

Consider a gift to fund scholarships and campus services that help students reach their Next Horizon.