

Summer 2021

CHADRON STATE MAGAZINE



Greetings from the PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is easy for us to reflect on the previous year because of the numerous ways the pandemic interrupted our lives and changed how we conduct classes and activities on campus. However, instead of remembering the year that was, I want to focus on Chadron State College's bright future. As part of CSC's exciting future, I am pleased to report construction is progressing well on the Math Science Center of Innovative Learning (COIL).

Structural steel on the north addition is complete. In the existing building, drywall is complete in the east and west wings on the second floor. On the main floor, framing is complete and dry-wall is in progress. In the basement, framing is 60 percent complete for the Anatomy and Physiology lab, Eleanor Barbour Cook Museum, High Plains Herbarium, and gross anatomy lab.

South of the building, excavation is continuing for a steam vault to tie into the existing line. Two of three rooftop air conditioning units have been installed. Interior finish work will continue throughout the fall and winter.

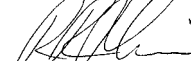
The COIL will truly be a center of innovation in math and science in western Nebraska. Your support of this center is greatly appreciated and will reward all future CSC students.

You are invited to watch the webcam on the work site to view the project. You can access it on the Chadron State College YouTube channel.

Another exciting program at CSC will have a new instructor at the helm. Dr. Cassandra Ritzen will be the new director of the Rural Business Leadership Initiative (RBLI) as Dr. Gary Dusek returns to his duties helping business owners access various aid programs to recover from the economic effects of the pandemic.

As you make plans this summer, I hope you can return to some semblance of normal, safely visit loved ones, and return to your favorite recreational activities. Please visit campus if you are traveling in this direction. As always, the grounds crew has our trees and plants in top condition. Take a walk around Briggs Pond and enjoy the view following the removal of Russian Olive trees, or enjoy some centering time walking in the labyrinth in the hills above Briggs Pond.

Be well,


President Randy Rhine



Chadron State College President Dr. Randy Rhine, left, congratulates Alisha Huynh of Scottsbluff, Neb., during CSC's Undergraduate Commencement in the Chicoine Center May 8. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



The Rising Sophomore Ceremony 2020-21 Young Eagle Award winner Olivia Waufler (left) of Thornton, Colo., and the 2019-20 Young Eagle Award winner Alyssa Wingler of Hot Springs, S.D. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)



The drum line performs in Memorial Hall in March. From left, Ben Jones, Austin Pfeiffer, Izzy Middleton, and Lily Alexander. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)



Staff and students pose during the January Nebraska State College System Leadership Conference in the Student Center. Back row, from left, Olivia Bryant of Anselmo, Neb., and Chioma Asielue of Galadimawa Abuja, Nigeria. Front row, Jennifer Schaefer, director of TRiO, Feven Hailemariam of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Taylor Osmotherly, associate director of Residence Life. (Courtesy Photo)



The Don't Dump It - Donate It campaign during move out week at CSC (and community donations) raised \$4,658 for Northwest Community Action at its annual yard sale. Rachel Johnson with NCA said the funds will buy 1,000+ Meals on Wheels lunches for low-income seniors. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

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

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Nebraska State College System.*

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On the Cover: A student walks into King Library Sept. 1990. (CSC Historical Photo)



Child Development Center students learn about magnets from CSC student Madison Franklin of Alliance, Neb., to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Week of the Young Child in April 2021. (Photo by Olivia Bryant)



Artist in residence Rachel Brownlee, left, creates calligraphy in the Sandoz Center March 2021, while visitors Jennie and Jack Price of Chadron watch. Her work was on display in the Sandoz Center during the Spring semester. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)



A student wears a decorated mortarboard at the Graduate Commencement ceremony in the Chicoine Center May 8. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

IN-PERSON COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES RETURN WITH ADVICE FROM SPEAKERS

By Tena L. Cook

Both Chadron State College commencement speakers, Dr. Richard Koza and Dr. Merlin Butler, shared insights based on their experiences with students earning master's and bachelor's degrees at the Chicoine Center in two separate ceremonies May 8.

Butler said the unprecedented environment of the COVID-19 pandemic will likely add to making the event memorable.

"Other graduates in the past faced great concerns, too: polio outbreaks, world war, financial collapse, global flu, cold war and Middle East crisis and conflicts. In spite of those external events, or perhaps heightened by them, those graduates will always remember their graduation day. As will you. It is an important milestone on your life's journey," Butler said.

In fourth grade, Butler experienced what he now recognizes as an important milestone.

"I checked out a book on the discovery of insulin during our once-a-month school trip with our teacher to the town's library. After reading and re-reading every page, I decided, then and there, to become a scientist," Butler said.

His foundation of learning and dedication as a student continued at CSC.

"I received excellent guidance about a career in research and biology with mentoring from my CSC biology professors. During my time at CSC, I participated as a teaching and research assistant in biology and laboratory research. I was able to present findings on the classification and genetics of native plants from the Pine Ridge at scientific meetings and publish in scientific journals — opportunities that most undergraduate students would not have had at other colleges or universities," Butler said.

Koza, a retiring CSC business professor, related seven "Bs" of advice.

"Be a continuous learner. Learning should never stop. One of my early memories is being in Boy Scouts. Our motto was 'Be Prepared.' That is a very powerful statement. Are you ready to perform any task in any situa-

tion? Being prepared sets the stage for your day and your life," Koza said.

His next suggestion dealt with punctuality and he went on to emphasize the importance of communicating well.

"When a person comes to you with a problem or concern, don't interrupt or be too eager to speak first. Make eye contact, listen so you can understand their problem," Koza said.

He told the graduates they can learn from many different, and sometimes unexpected, sources.

"Something I learned from watching my children raise their kids was when they were trying to get their attention. They told their kids, 'tell my eyes.' By making eye contact, you get the person's attention. This makes it easier for them to listen and understand you. Making good eye contact with students in my class was even more important during COVID-19 because of the masks, all I could see were my student's eyes," Koza said.



Rick Koza

HOMECOMING CELEBRATED IN APRIL



Above: Chadron State College Homecoming Royalty at Coronation in the Chicoine Center April 2021. From left, Attendants Brendan Fangmeier, Josslyn Linse, Caleb Haskell, Myles Mendell, King Damien Zuniga, Queen Emily Hansen, Attendants Ruth Mencia, Emily Hand, Annaliese Werner, and Carissa Radtke. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)



Left: The Chadron State College Homecoming Queen Emily Hansen of Hemingford, Neb., poses with her mother, Janelle Visser of Hemingford. Visser was the CSC Homecoming Queen in 1988. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

Briggs Pond clean up reveals state champion peachleaf willow tree

By George Ledbetter

A project aimed at removing Russian olive trees from the area around Briggs Pond southwest of campus unexpectedly revealed the presence of a possible Nebraska State Champion Tree on the Chadron State Foundation's 50 acre-plus Thompson Natural History Preserve.

CSC grounds and maintenance workers spent about six weeks in late 2020 working to remove thick stands of Russian olive, an invasive tree that crowds out desirable native plant species, said Lucinda Mays, CSC horticulturist. Workers also removed deadfalls and other storm damage around the two ponds, which are fed by runoff and overflow from the Chadron water treatment plant.

The work opened up the view into areas that had been hidden by thick brush, making the beauty of the ponds more immediately apparent, Mays said.

The new landscape also disclosed the presence of plants that she had not realized were present. One tree species in particular, a peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*), stood out to Mays.

"While peachleaf willows aren't rare, most of us just hadn't seen these tall trees for all the brush," she said.

After measuring one of the willow's height (50 feet) and girth (about 23.25 feet), and checking state records, Mays concluded it might qualify as the largest of its kind in the state. An application for State Champion Tree status was approved in April by the Nebraska Forest Service.

The willow, a native Nebraska species, was likely a volunteer, not planted deliberately by humans, but thriving in an area where moisture is plentiful, Mays said. Thinning the Russian olives will increase the diversity of native species like the willow and benefit the area's wildlife, she said.

The thinning project may be just the first part of work on the preserve, said Ben Watson, CEO of the Chadron State Foundation.

"Like most people who have spent time on the trails or looked at the water resources of Briggs Pond, I've daydreamed about the potential for development of the preserve as an educational asset to Chadron State, and opportunities to benefit the campus and local community," Watson said. "We don't want to lose the momentum started with the thinning and have started engaging stakeholders about what the future of the preserve could look like."



The state champion peachleaf willow at Briggs Pond in May 2021. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

CSC RECOGNIZES RETIREES, EMPLOYEES FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Chadron State College honored 2020 and 2021 employees who have retired or plan to, as well as those who have reached milestones in years of service during a lunch ceremony in April. The Teaching Excellence Award nominees, Eagle Impact Award winners, and Student Organization Advisor Award recipient were also recognized.

Retirees from 2021 include Office Assistant II Melody Carnahan, Office Assistant II Joanne Downs, Professor of Psychological Sciences and Counseling Dr. Laura Gaudet, Professor of Education Dr. Don King, Business Professor Dr. Richard Koza, Instructional Technology and Design Specialist Elizabeth Ledbetter, Professor of Business Dr. Barb Limbach, and Professor of Psychological Sciences and Counseling Dr. William Roweton.

2021 Teaching Excellence Award nominees were Dr. Gary Dusek, Dr. Shaunda French-Collins, and Cassandra Ritzen. French-Collins received the award.

French-Collins received her bachelor's in public relations from Northwest Missouri State University in 2006. In 2009 she earned her master's in speech communication from the University of Central Missouri and attained her doctorate of philosophy in communication studies from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2015.

Currently she is an associate professor of communication and the department chair for Communication, Arts, and Theater. She has presented at several conferences including the National Association of Listening and One Big Day conferences and served as the faculty advisor for the 2020 One Big Thanks Conference.

Dusek came to CSC in 2016 and is currently an associate professor of marketing and entrepreneurship as well as the marketing and entrepreneurship option chair.

Ritzen is currently the Business Academy Visit Coordinator and Chair of the interdepartmental Recruitment and Retention Committee. She is a member of the Online Standards, Research Institute, and Student Conduct Appeal committees, the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan's Retention Team, and the Faculty in Residence Program.

The 2021 Eagle Impact Award recipients were Dr. Dawn Brammer, faculty; Tena Cook, professional staff; and Fred Hunn, support staff.

The 2020 winners of the Eagle Impact Award were Markus Jones, faculty; LaWayne Zeller, professional staff; and Kristavia Strotheide, support staff.

The Eagle Impact Award provides CSC students the opportunity to honor and acknowledge the employees who have positively

impacted them during their time at CSC based on three criteria: Inspiring, Supporting, and Empowering. One winner was chosen by students comprising the Eagle Impact Committee for each of the three employee groups.

The Outstanding Student Organization Adviser was Dr. Brooks Hafey, associate professor of music.

2021 RETIREES

Melody Carnahan started her career at Chadron State College in 1996 when she joined the Housing Office as an office assistant. She was employed in that office for 18 years and is thankful for many memories.



Melody Carnahan

When she started in Housing, High Rise had female freshmen and Kent Hall housed male freshmen. High Rise later

converted to coed housing by suite and Kent Hall to coed by floor. Sparks Hall transitioned from family housing apartments to office space in the 2000s. The demolition of the West Court apartments was also a major change.

Carnahan said the Host Parent Program was a great benefit to CSC for retention and recruitment. She became friends with many students as her family participated in the program. She said her years working in Student Services were some of the most rewarding at CSC.

She still has contact with many students and some will stop by during the year and bring their families to visit her.

After leaving the Housing Office, Carnahan transferred to the Office of Market Development for a couple years before going to work for the Conferencing Office.

She said she will miss working with students and faculty, but is looking forward to joining her husband, Brian, in retirement. They plan to follow grandchildren in their events, and do more camping, gardening, hunting and fishing.

Joanne Downs started at CSC as an Office Assistant II in 2001. She said in spite of it being the first day of school and her nervous feelings, her co-workers made her feel welcomed and at ease.



Joanne Downs

As an OA II, she assisted faculty in the Health Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) department her entire career. New duties were added along the way, including administrative support for the faculty of Family and

Consumer Sciences and Rangeland.

Several years ago, she became qualified as a proctor for the Praxis pre-professional test for pre-service teachers. Since then, she has been part of a cadre of proctors who administer the test twice a month. As such, she sets up the room, announces instructions, observes students, and assists students with computer issues.

Downs also worked closely with Assessment and Accreditation Coordinator Joy Omelanuk scheduling and uploading student course evaluations for all departments.

She said her fondest memories are watching students come in as nervous freshmen and graduate as confident adults. One in particular who stands out is Willie Hoffman. He was a student coach her first day and now he is Dr. Hoffman, a colleague and friend in the HPER department.

She plans to spend time with her grandchildren and summers at the lake. Her last day at CSC will be July 20.

Prior to joining the faculty as a professor of Psychological Sciences and Counseling, **Dr. Laura Gaudet** taught at colleges in Colorado and Wisconsin, and was a special education teacher of elementary and junior high students in Texas. Additionally, she was a learning specialist at a rehabilitation center and a therapist at a mental health center.



Laura Gaudet

Gaudet has been chair of the Counseling, Psychological Sciences, and Social Work Department for 15 years, and taught 11 graduate counseling courses and 12 undergraduate psychology courses. Her area of specialization is traumatic brain injury (TBI), and she has advocated awareness and accommodations for those who have brain injuries. Several members of her family have been affected by TBI so her quest for knowledge is personal and professional.

In 2015, Gaudet, board certified as a forensic traumatologist and an expert in traumatic stress, presented at Neuro-Talk in China. The trip was to a familiar area for Gaudet who lived with her family in Taiwan for three years when her father was stationed there during his military assignment. A year later, she returned to China and presented a talk about the effectiveness of a brief educational intervention on perceptions of those with TBI.

In 2017 she presented on the Implementation and Evaluation of Screencast Videos for Graduate Online Counseling Courses in

Greece and Vancouver. She shared her research about gender-related traits of persons with and without TBI in Spain the same year.

Gaudet will retire to Monterey, California, where she will be closer to family. She hopes to walk her dogs on the Carmel Dog Beach and continue to teach as an adjunct for CSC.

Dr. Don King began his Chadron State College career in 1993. He started as an assistant



Don King

to the dean and advanced from assistant to associate professor in the Education Department. In 2001, he was promoted to professor and became chair of the Education Department.

Before coming to CSC, King earned master's degrees in agriculture from California Polytechnic State University and education from the University of California-Davis. He earned a doctorate from Iowa State University in Agricultural and Extension Education in 1991.

In addition to teaching, advising, and duties as chair, King wrote a number of proposals and grants.

He has served twice in capacities related to accreditation renewal for the Education program.

For nearly 10 years, King coordinated secondary education and the secondary alternative teacher certification program. While in these roles, he co-authored handbooks for student teachers and cooperating schools that host teacher interns.

King was instrumental in designing a successful year-long student teaching pilot program at partner school districts in Chadron, Scottsbluff, and Sidney. The collaboration paved the way for the Education program to expand the new format to additional schools. He described the format as a win-win situation for CSC and its partner schools.

"School districts can reduce their faculty workload, energize the work environment, receive in-service from CSC faculty, and choose from applicants they trained when positions open. Meanwhile, our students serve as a working part of the school's faculty and staff, and improve their skills and knowledge so they can move seamlessly into their first year of teaching as a professional," King said.

In his retirement, he plans to further enjoy his mountain biking pursuits, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Dr. Rick Koza's long association with CSC has included playing football for the Eagles, earning a bachelor's and two graduate degrees



Rick Koza

and teaching courses, serving as chair of the Business Academy, several years as faculty athletic representative, and receiving the 2006 Teacher Excellence Award.

In addition to those connections with CSC, Koza, who is retiring this year, has owned and operated a local real estate business and an insurance agency and taken an active role in community affairs.

Born in Portsmouth, Virginia, and brought up in Florida before moving to Wyoming as an eighth grader, Koza graduated from Torrington High School. He attended Eastern Wyoming College for two years, then transferred to Chadron State, where he played football and completed his bachelor of science in education with a coaching endorsement in 1973.

Upon returning to Chadron in 1978, he earned licenses in real estate, appraising and insurance, became part owner of Associated Brokers Real Estate and purchased Larson Insurance Agency.

The return to Chadron also included resumption of Koza's academic education at CSC. He earned master's degrees in education and business administration and in 1996 completed a Ph.D. at the University of Wyoming.

In the early 1980s, Koza had his first college teaching experience as an instructor of Chadron State's off-campus real estate classes. A one-year contract to teach marketing for the college in 1996 led a couple years later to a full-time position. Through the years he has taught a variety of business courses, with his focus most recently on finance and strategic management.

During Koza's time at Chadron State, the Business Academy has received specialized accreditation with the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, changed from a traditional semester format to an eight-week course structure, implemented an online master of business administration course, and began to offer undergraduate courses online and face-to-face.

Koza's has sponsored the Students in Free Enterprise club, co-sponsored Blue Key, and served on the Homecoming committee, as well as Faculty Senate, academic review, and promotion and tenure committees.

As a teacher, Koza said he has enjoyed seeing the energy and excitement that new and returning students bring to the campus and community each year, and the collaboration and friendships with other faculty members. He singled out Dr. Margaret Crouse and Dr.

Charles Cressy as faculty mentors and is appreciative of the opportunities Chadron State has provided to publish papers and present at academic conferences.

Koza and his wife, Kris, have three children, all with degrees from Chadron State, and six grandchildren. Koza said his retirement plans include playing golf, fishing, and relaxing.

Elizabeth Ledbetter is retiring after 16 years at Chadron State College.

Her first position was working in the Instructional Resource Center (IRC) and she has fond memories working in the Kline Center with Dr. Robin Smith.

"Robin was a wonderful mentor, and Kline was a hub of activity in the center of campus. At one point or another, everyone had a reason to call on services offered by the IRC, Print Shop, Tutoring Center, College Relations, Alumni and Foundation, or Information Services," she said. "I met so many campus and community members in that building with its rolling terrazzo tile floors and cool '60s architecture."

As the Distance Learning Coordinator, Ledbetter assisted with the data migration process when Sakai was selected as the learning management system for CSC Online.

Most recently, she served as CSC's instructional technology and design specialist in the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC). She values the relationships she has formed with new faculty and veteran faculty members through co-facilitating the New Faculty Orientation program and TLC programs focused on professional development opportunities for instructors.

Ledbetter was pleased to see the culmination of a collaborative endeavor with colleagues Mary Donahue and Lucinda Mays and several CSC students on an outdoor project in November of 2020. A 7-circuit, classical labyrinth is now located in a former water cistern just off the walking paths to the west of C-Hill. Walking the labyrinth offers a way to reflect, reduce stress, and regain perspective, Ledbetter said. She hopes CSC and community residents can spend time there and use it as a tool to nurture self-care and healing, inspire creative thinking, and foster mindfulness.

Ledbetter and her husband, George, have three adult children, Tara, Kailas, and Geoffrey. George writes articles for the CSC Alumni Magazine and College Relations since retiring as the editor and

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CSC Recognizes Retirees

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publisher of The Chadron Record.

In retirement, Ledbetter looks forward to pursuing her artistic and creative interests, cross-country skiing, yoga, travel, and bicycling all over the world with George.

When **Dr. Barb Limbach** retired in the fall of 2020, it marked the end of a higher education career that spanned more than four decades, included teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses, reviewing textbooks and journal articles, and four years as registrar.

A native of Crawford, Limbach earned her bachelor's degree from CSC in 1979, then managed a bank in Crawford and sold real estate, before returning to complete a master's in business education in 1985.

Limbach began her CSC career as an instructor in the business department in 1987 and a year later became registrar, a position she had until 1992. While serving as registrar, she led the implementation of a software package that automated the college's student information system.

In 1992, Limbach added a Specialist in Education Administration master's degree to her credentials and returned to classroom instruction for the college. She completed an educa-

tion Ph.D. in applied science and technology from the University of Wyoming in 1994.

Limbach said receiving cards and letters of appreciation from former students who were able to apply the lessons learned in class to their careers was the most rewarding part of her teaching career.

"Being able to make a positive difference in students' lives is a good feeling," she said.

Limbach's retirement plans include continued involvement in education through publishing and by serving as an article and textbook reviewer.

Limbach's children include sons Zach, the activities director at Lincoln East High School, and Zane, senior vice president at Sandhills State Bank in Valentine, and daughter Zalie Prosser, who is in administrative assistant at Daktronics in Brookings, South Dakota.

Dr. Bill Roweton, who retired in December 2020, has the distinction of having worked under more than half of the presidents in Chadron State College history. Roweton joined the faculty in 1984 and taught under six presidents.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he met his wife, Marilyn. He taught at Indiana State University and James Madison University in Virginia before coming to CSC.

He filled many roles at CSC, including professor, chair of the Psychology Department, director of Institutional Research, and assistant to the president. He transitioned from presenting traditional classroom lectures to online.

Associating with dedicated and motivated students has been a rewarding aspect of his work.

"I don't teach classes. I teach individuals. Our lives are complicated and so are theirs," Roweton said.

Roweton speaks highly of all the services offered by the information technology department and appreciates services like the inter-library loan. It may seem like a normal service today, but before it existed, conducting research meant Roweton had to travel to Boulder or Fort Collins to access library materials.

For more than 25 years, he served many times as a consultant evaluator on a team of peer reviewers for the Higher Learning Commission, an experience he found rewarding.

Roweton co-wrote and produced a video biography about Dawes County native and female educational pioneer Leta Stetter Hollingworth that was presented at an international conference in Lincoln. His curiosity about other distinguished psychologists from Nebraska led Roweton to research supported by the Nebraska Humanities Council in which he documented the five American Psychology Association's presidents from Nebraska, including J. McVicker Hunt a native of Scottsbluff.

His plans for retirement involve living near his daughter, Susan, in Boulder County, Colorado. The Rowetons plan to explore miles of biking and walking trails.

Kaiser credits Geoscience professor for career in natural resources

By George Ledbetter

As a sophomore at Chadron State College in 2005, Craig Kaiser hadn't yet settled on a major, and wasn't even sure he would stay in Chadron, when a geoscience class with Dr. Mike Leite lit the spark that has led him to an entrepreneurial career in the natural resource industry.

A high school football standout in his hometown of Merino, Colorado, Kaiser attended

CSC football camps where he attracted the attention of former defensive coach Todd Auer, who recruited him. Kaiser originally didn't plan to remain at the college for long.

"My intention wasn't even to stay in Chadron. I was going to go to the Air Force," Kaiser said. "But I met some good friends and went back for the second year."

It was in a physical science class that year when Leite noticed Kaiser hadn't chosen a major, and encouraged him to consider geoscience.

"I had taken one of his courses earlier and I did well there, and Dr. Leite is the one who talked me into being a geoscience major," Kaiser said.

After graduating from CSC in 2008, Kaiser enrolled in a petroleum geology master's program at Colorado School of Mines, where his CSC background proved useful.

"My first semester in graduate school, I ended up working in West Africa by myself," Kaiser said.

His job in the forests in Sierra Leone involved looking for deposits of pegmatite rocks similar to those he had learned to identify during CSC geology field camps in the Black Hills. Kaiser was able to locate a significant deposit of coltan, a type of rock containing the rare-earth metal tantalum, used in mobile phones, computers, and other electronic devices.

Research papers about coltan and tantalum that Leite had provided were helpful in identifying the ore, Kaiser said.



Craig Kaiser



Craig Kaiser looks to the sidelines during the Eagles' game at Western State in 2007. (Photo by Alex Helmbrecht)

Following the completion of his master's degree, Kaiser went to work for Anadarko Petroleum. During his six years with the company, he worked on developing exploration concepts in the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and the Niobrara-Denver-Julesburg Basin in Colorado. He next joined with an operations engineer he had worked with at Andarko and started an oil and gas exploration company. The Denver-based firm obtained financial backing for a development, but wasn't able to bring the project to fruition.

Taking a different approach to the natural resource field, Kaiser and business partner Yoann Hispa started LandGate, the company where he now serves as president. LandGate provides services for owners of land and mineral rights, including valuing the natural resources they own and connecting them with potential buyers.

Initially focused exclusively on oil and gas rights, LandGate has expanded into other

resources, including hard rock minerals, solar, wind, and water rights.

In the five years since it started, LandGate has grown and now has 16 employees.

"We have people all across the country that work for us. It's been interesting to see what we can accomplish over five years working solely remotely," he said.

Kaiser said his experience at Chadron State illustrates a valuable aspect of the college's physical science curriculum, which exposes students to a range of subjects, giving them the opportunity to find out what they enjoy and are good at.

"The reason I'm in the position I am in I decided to accept a scholarship thrown at me by coach Todd Auer and then Dr. Leite convinced me to quit messing around and actually get a degree," he said. "I ended up getting a degree in geoscience, went on to the Colorado School of Mines to get my master's and here I am working as a career geologist. I have Dr. Leite to thank for that."

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Business Academy offers MBA focus areas

By Tena L. Cook

Chadron State College's Business Academy has developed three new focus areas in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program: Accounting, Digital Marketing, and Healthcare Management. Each of the focus areas will be offered entirely online.

The focus areas were created to prepare students for areas with predicted employment growth, according to Dr. Wendy Waugh, dean of Graduate Studies and the School of Business, Mathematics, and Science.

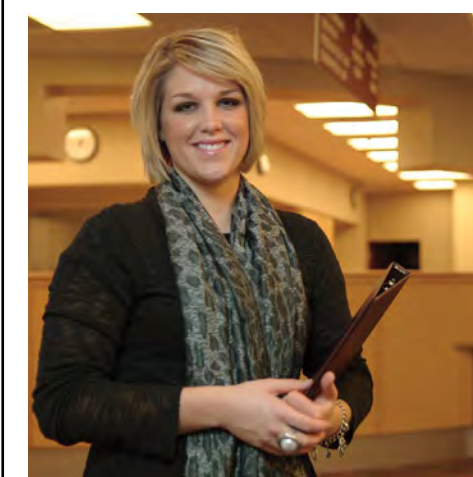
Waugh said the faculty are uniquely qualified to highlight rural topics, while teaching

courses built to respond to career fields with high demand.

She is pleased that \$1,000 scholarships will be offered to new, full-time students enrolling in six hours in one of the new focus areas during the Fall 2021 semester.

The general track MBA program is still available for students who want a broad background in business administration for promotion or more advanced knowledge.

For more information about the MBA focus areas, visit csc.edu/mba.



Ivy Day recognizes honor graduates, Platinum Eagle recipients

The college resumed its tradition of Ivy Day, a ceremony co-hosted by the Blue Key and Cardinal Key national honor societies to recognize outstanding graduating undergraduates. Last year, the event was suspended because of COVID-19. The event took place in the Chicoine Center May 7.

The Platinum Eagle awards for 2020 were awarded to Sadie Sheppard and Lukas Klueber of Rapid City. The 2021 Platinum Eagle awards were earned by Konery Klueber and Lelisse "Lily" Umata.

Royalty from the membership of Cardinal Key and Blue Key are: Queen Emily Hansen of Hemingford, Nebraska, and King Konery Klueber of Rapid City, South Dakota. Queen's attendants are Kelvana Demeritte of Nassau, Bahamas, Jennifer Campos of Alliance, Nebraska, Alisha Huynh of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and Bailee Steiner of Morrill, Nebraska. King's attendants are Vincent La Barca of Chadron, Gunnar Buchhammer of Scottsbluff, Noah Bruner of Scottsbluff, and Jack Birky of Hastings, Nebraska.

The winners of the royalty competition and Platinum Eagle were just some of the



Chadron State College Ivy Day royalty, from left, attendants Vincent La Barca, Noah Bruner, Gunnar Buchhammer, Jack Birky, King Konery Klueber, Queen Emily Hansen, attendants Kelvana Demeritte, Jennifer Campos, Bailee Steiner, and Alisha Huynh. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

winter 2020 and spring 2021 graduates who received accolades. Many students were acknowledged for outstanding accomplishments in their primary fields of study. Stu-

dents who graduated with one of three honor designations, summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude, were recognized at the ceremony.

Chappell farmer's endowment provides scholarships for students

By George Ledbetter

A scholarship fund created almost 20 years ago with a gift from Clifford L. Johnson, a farmer in the Chappell, Nebraska, area has helped 95 Chadron State College students reach their educational goals, including 18 who received scholarships from the endowment in the 2020-21 school year.

Johnson was born near Chappell in 1921, attended a one-room country school for elementary education, and graduated from Deuel County High School in 1939.

He lived on the family farm for 50 years, growing primarily wheat, millet, oats and sunflowers. At age 89, Johnson moved to an assisted living facility in Lewellen. He died July 30, 2018.

A lifelong member of the Berea Lutheran Church near his farm, Johnson was a generous donor over the years to many church-affiliated organizations and received the National Spirit of Giving Award from the Association of Lutheran Development Executives in 2006.

Johnson began donations to the Chadron State Foundation in 1994 with a gift of mutual funds worth about \$23,000. He was honored at the CSC President's Luncheon that year in what may have been his only visit to the campus.

Johnson's donation created an endowed scholarship in his name to be awarded to students with a 3.0 grade point average or better who graduated from high schools in Cheyenne, Garden, Deuel, or Keith counties in Nebraska, with a preference for students in

the education program. The first scholarships from the endowment were awarded in 1995.

Johnson's regular contributions to the scholarship fund continued in the years before his passing, said Ben Watson, CEO of the Chadron State Foundation, and he left an additional donation in his estate. The endowment now includes more than \$700,000 in principal, with a total value of more than \$830,000.

Scholarships provided from the earnings generated by Johnson's endowment have made a significant difference for many Chadron State students.

"You have helped ease my financial worry, which will allow me to focus more on my studies. Your generosity and kindness have inspired me to want to help others and give back to my community," a recent scholarship recipient wrote.

"By awarding me the Cliff Johnson endowed scholarship you have alleviated some financial pressure, allowing me to focus more on education," another student said.

Other recipients have noted the how receiving a scholarship from the Johnson endowment has helped advance their career goals.

"My dream is to become a kindergarten teacher and with the help of your scholarship, my dream will become reality," a 2006 recipient said.

A separate bequest from Johnson's estate gave the Chadron State Foundation an interest in his farm corporation, which allowed creation of a quasi-endowment worth some \$270,000. That fund will primarily be used to generate money for scholarships, but could be used for other college needs, Watson said.



Clifford Johnson, left, takes a campus tour with Margie Samp, Mary Lecher, and Connie Rasmussen in this undated photo. (CSC Historical Photo)

"It's nice to have this fund to support the mission of Chadron State College when needed," he said, also noting that Johnson's example shows the long-term effect of continued giving.

"He gradually funded (the endowment). It grew and grew and grew," Watson said. "Estate gifts over the years have been very transformative. Even small gifts really make a difference."

While the foundation doesn't always receive notification from individuals who have included it in their estate plans, Watson encouraged donors to provide that information.

"If Chadron State is included in an estate plan, please contact the Chadron State Foundation so we can formally include you in the Living Legacy Society and recognize your contribution, if desired," he said.

Advanced English Studies major provides opportunities for writers

By George Ledbetter

Following the theme of "Find Your Story," a variety of new courses and a new major have been added for students of English and Humanities at Chadron State College.

Approval this fall of an Advanced English Studies major, and revisions to the Literature major, represent the culmination of developments over the past several years, and provide a wider variety of approaches to English studies, said Dr. Matt Evertson, Chair of the department of Justice Studies, Social Sciences, and English.

"The changes to our major will allow students to chart a variety of paths: To find their stories in creative writing, certainly, but also in literature, philosophy, and interdisciplinary studies," Evertson said.

According to Evertson, Chadron State's English and Humanities curriculum began changing several years ago, when instructors took note of increased interest in creative writing courses at colleges across the country and the department hired its first full-time writing specialist. From offering a single creative writing class in 2014, the college now has creative writing courses in non-fiction, fiction, poetry, seminars in narrative theory and poetics, and a minor in creative writing.

In adding the new courses, CSC has been following standards recommended by the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, a non-profit organization of colleges, universities, and writers that fosters writing programs and promotes writing conferences around the country, Evertson said.

The new writing courses are already showing results.

"We went from very few writing minors to more than 30 in a short time frame and the program continues to grow," Evertson said.

"We went from very few writing minors to more than 30 in a short time frame and the program continues to grow."

— Dr. Matt Evertson



Dr. Matt Evertson speaks to students. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

Students are given the opportunity to hone their writing skills by submitting pieces to the college literary journal, 10th Street Miscellany, presenting at the Sigma Tau Delta honor society conference, and participating in the annual Story Catcher writing workshop.

Revisions to the department's curriculum have come in part from the need to provide students working on a major in English a guided pathway, based around a core set of courses with a strong

foundation in literature, Evertson said. The changes will make class scheduling more predictable and consistent, and help the English program grow, he said.

The changes also incorporate nationwide trends in English studies toward a more general exploration of literature and integration of greater emphasis on writing as part of the degree. Future evolution of the program will likely include courses on professional and technical writing, and writing for new genres such as social media and gaming, Evertson said.

All of the developments help students recognize the impact literature has on people and culture, by allowing readers to live in worlds they would otherwise be unfamiliar with.

Share Your High Rise Memories

High Rise towers over the CSC campus and will be the featured building in the winter edition of the Chadron State Magazine. Do you remember riding the elevator, decorating the lobbies on each floor for Homecoming, watching campus activities from the windows, and joining late night games with your suitemates? Please share your memories, stories, or photos about High Rise. Email alumni@csc.edu or mail to the Alumni Office, 1000 Main St., Chadron, NE 69337.



KING LIBRARY ADAPTS TO CHANGING NEEDS

By George Ledbetter

With an inset base that creates the impression of floating above the ground and a double row of narrow hexagonal windows flanked by white cement panels, the Reta E. King library contrasts markedly with the collection of traditionally styled red brick buildings that make up the core of campus.

When Chadron State was founded in 1911, its library was housed in a third-floor room of Old Admin. The room had seats for 60 and was a center of student activity at a time when textbooks were expensive and in limited supply.

The demand for more books and additional study area led in 1929 to construction of the first dedicated college library building (now the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center), with a Carnegie-style layout that boasted reading room seating for more than 200 and shelf capacity for some 60,000 volumes.

By the late 1950s, with enrollment growing rapidly and education standards becoming more stringent, the need for more library space was evident. A 1961 report on higher education in Nebraska for the state legislature was particularly critical of the library at Chadron State, citing its low rankings in number of books, periodicals received, and annual rate of growth.

Although the library was considered a priority for the college, recently installed college president Clark Elkins elected to first move forward with construction of a new Physical Education building which had already received an appropriation from the state legislature. That decision drew criticism, but Elkins thought it best to use the money as authorized and seek state funding later for the library.



Reta E. King library from July 2009. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

Eager to meet accreditation standards, the State Normal Board agreed in 1962 to set aside \$600,000 for construction of a new library and approved preliminary plans for the building.

Meanwhile, to ease congestion Elkins had the library's reference and periodicals collections moved into a former student cafeteria in Memorial Hall.

Elkins' gambit paid off a year later when the Nebraska Unicameral approved spending \$630,000 for the new library. That didn't end the saga, however, because later in 1963, Congress passed the Higher Education Facilities Act, opening the possibility of additional funds for the building. Elkins again decided to delay construction in hopes of garnering more money for the building, and was rewarded in 1964 with the appropriation of an additional

\$315,000 in federal funds for the library.

Designed by James Gorsup of the Omaha firm of Kirkham Micheal and Associates, the three-level, \$945,000 building boasted 28,000 square feet of floor space, compared to 8,600 in the 1929 building, and space for some 200,000 volumes. A native Nebraskan, Gorsup designed six other campus buildings, including three dormitories, the Armstrong building, and the second half of the Kline Student Center.

In the fall of 1965, a construction contract for the library was awarded to Fullen Construction of Scottsbluff.

By spring of 1967, when the building was nearing completion, Elkins had resigned and Edwin C. Nelson had assumed the post of college president. The building was formally dedicated and opened for use that May.

Under the guidance of library director Reta E. King, the push to acquire more books that began under Elkins continued. When King retired in 1980 the collection had nearly tripled in size.

King was frequently described as a traditional librarian, but by the time she retired technology had begun to change the way that libraries operated, said Sally Zahn, who was on the CSC library staff from 1974 until 2010.

Under its new director, Terry Brennan, the nascent move into computerization accelerated. Computerization also changed how faculty members used the library, according to Zahn.

"The faculty was less interested in buying books than investing in data bases," she said. "We had a lot of classes come to the library to learn how to use data bases."

Meanwhile the library building itself was changing. The concrete stairway at the main entrance, which had experienced sinking and problems with icing in winter, was replaced with an entryway with an elevator and en-

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Library honors long-serving director

By George Ledbetter

The distinctive, three-level building that has served the library needs of Chadron State College students and faculty for the past 55 years bears the name of Reta E. King, whose 24 years as CSC's library director saw the library triple its collection size, relocate from what is now the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, and begin to implement computerized online cataloging.

King was born on November 3, 1914, in Edgar, Nebraska, the third of four children of John D. and Pearl E. (Hattan) King, who farmed just south of the rural community. Her mother died in 1932, about the time King began her studies at Peru State College. After receiving her bachelor's degree, King worked as librarian and administrator at North Platte High School. Her father died in a farm accident in 1952 and shortly afterward she entered graduate school at the University of Denver.

In September 1956, fresh from completing her master's degree, King took the position of Chadron State College co-librarian with Stanley Swanson. At the time students were only allowed into the library's

main floor reading room and had to request books that staff members brought up from shelves in the basement via a dumbwaiter. Soon after taking the post, King and Swanson talked the college president into opening both floors for students, a policy that angered some faculty members, who felt students would steal books.

King took over as library director after Swanson left in 1962. Among the few women in college leadership positions at the time,

she had a reputation for being strict. Her rules included forbidding jeans in the library, recalled alumni Don Anderson and his wife, Jo Baldauf Anderson, who both earned degrees in the 1960s.

"We remember her red lips, bobbed hair and strict nature," they wrote in a 2017 letter to the Alumni Office.

"She had her rules and you were expected to follow the rules and be professional," said Sally Zahn, who worked as a library cataloger under King for six years. "She was a pretty powerful woman on campus and well respected by male faculty."

King's experience as an educator sometimes came through at work, Zahn said. "We always smiled that sometimes we thought she treated us like fifth graders. It was always fun when we ordered new books for the juvenile collection.

"It was always fun when we ordered new books for the juvenile collection. As Reta would check them in, she would read them to us."

— Sally Zahn

As Reta would check them in, she would read them to us," Zahn said.

King was responsible for the policy, still in effect today, of allowing people from outside the college community

to access the library's resources if they had a public library card.

Chadron's need for a new library building had become evident by the 1960s and King was deeply involved in planning when funds for the structure were appropriated in 1963.

"The college was fortunate to have her expert service," said former CSC president Larry Tangeman.

She also supervised moving into the new building when it opened in 1967.

King Library adapts to changing needs *continued from page 10*

closed stairs. Bathrooms and other spaces were renovated to comply with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Over the years the library staff also had to deal with leaks from the building's flat roof, according to Zahn, but the incidents caused relatively little damage to the collection.

The collection size continued to increase under Brennan, and when he retired in 2004, the library housed some 200,000 printed volumes and had subscriptions to 600 periodicals

As use of the internet expanded in the early 21st century, librarians noticed more use of its public computer terminals, more students bringing their own computers into the library, and less reliance on printed materials.

In response to changing demands, the library began winnowing its print collection, and in-

creasing support for computer services. In 2013, the college formally celebrated the building's transformation into the Library Learning Commons, with relocated reference and circulation desks, an Information Technology help desk, individual and collaborative lounge spaces, a tutoring and writing center, and other innovative changes.

Changes have continued in recent years, with additions including a virtual reality center, a dedicated space for group study teleconferences, and a video production studio for both students and faculty. In addition to a collection of about 70,000 volumes and subscriptions to 124 periodicals, the library offers computer-equipped mediated classrooms, and 12 work stations with two computers each. The building is also home



The library was named in honor of Reta E. King in August 1983. She served as a college librarian for 24 years before retiring in 1980. (CSC Historical Photo)

King retired in 1980, three years after CSC joined the Ohio-based Online Computer Library Center, a consortium that led the process of online library cataloging.

In addition to directing CSC's library, King's career included 14 years on the Panhandle Library Advisory council and a term as president of the Nebraska Library Association. She also had leadership roles in Delta Kappa Gamma sorority in Chadron, the Nebraska branch of the American Association of University Women, Chadron Eastern Star, and was a member of P.E.O. and First Congregational Church in Chadron.

King returned to Chadron for a 1983 ceremony when the library building was dedicated in her name, and was honored by dozens of librarians from the region who attended, along with many women from the Chi Omega sorority she sponsored at CSC.

King died in Hastings on March 22, 1985, after a lengthy struggle with cancer. She was buried in the Edgar Cemetery where her parents are also interred.

to a variety of student-centered programs, including Career and Academic Services, Transitional Studies, and Project Strive/TRIO.

Since transforming into a Learning Commons, the space has seen an increase in circulation numbers over the past four years. Besides book checkout and access to the latest technology, the library is now used for research, group study sessions, and classes.

Looking back at her years of training and work as librarian, Zahn said she has some nostalgia for traditional library practices, but recognizes the value of the changes that have taken place in the King Library.

"If it's working for students and campus, that's great," she said. "It is what it needs to be."



The main level of the King Library includes the fiction section, computer workstations, and areas for patrons to study and relax, as seen in this 2019 photo. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

Patrons note library changes

“Wow! The library has changed so much!” This is a common sentiment expressed when alumni visit us.

One of the biggest changes to King Library, both physically and online, is the shift from print periodicals to online resources. Although we still subscribe to print journals and magazines, this number has steadily decreased over the past two decades. The benefits of online journals are multiple, with the major draws being space-saving, cost-effectiveness, remote accessibility, and increased searchability.



Christine Fullerton

In the 2010s, the library undertook a project to move the bound journals found on the main floor into compact shelving on the lower level. The continued emergence of quality online databases meant that students were not consulting these back issues regularly, as comparable or identical information could often be found in our online article databases.

This consolidation of journals into this single, smaller space allowed for a huge shift in the library’s feel on the main floor. We removed the stacks on the main floor, a process which significantly opened up the main floor of the library. Computer stations and comfortable furniture are available throughout. We also installed new bookshelves for the fiction section to give more of a modern bookstore feel, with lots of nooks for studying. This was one of the key steps in creating a Library Learning Commons.

Another major change is the envisioning of the library as a one-stop shop for lots of academic assistance. Numerous new units moved into the building, including Career Services, the Learning Lab, the IT Help Desk, Transitional Studies, and Project Strive/TRiO.

These physical and philosophical changes have ensured that the library is a bustling space for study and collaboration. Although the library has changed a lot over the years, our commitment to helping students, staff, and faculty with their information needs has remained unwavering. Stop in to see us next time you’re in town. We’d love to show you around!

Christine Fullerton is a Public Services Librarian. She can be reached at cfullerton@csc.edu



Students work at a table in the library in 1989. (CSC Historical Photo)



Carissa Rayburn, center, works with Zakaria Ben Cheikh, left, and Ben O'Banion at the Learning Center in the King Library. (Photo by Alex Coon)



King Library upper level in the 1960s. (CSC Historical Photo)



King Library main level in the 1960s. (CSC Historical Photo)



King Library work tables and stacks in the 1960s. (CSC Historical Photo)



Students relax by the periodicals on the library’s main level in 2019. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)



The circulation desk is the first point of contact students and employees have upon entering the library. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)



Seating and table space is available throughout the library’s upper level. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

Transitions are the norm

The first significant change was transitioning from a card catalog to an online catalog in the early 1990s. This involved manually attaching barcodes to the entire print collection. In 2010, with the support of Dr. Lois Veath, vice president of academic affairs, EBSCO Discovery Services (EDS) was purchased and implemented. Since most students (and library users) are familiar with the Google platform, our intention was to somehow duplicate that style, and at the same time, provide our users with proprietary vetted, scholarly information.



Shawn Hartman

In 2011, renovations to the main level of the library were in full swing. This involved relocating the bound periodicals to compact storage, relocating the young adult and juvenile collection (twice), relocating the fiction and biography collection, moving the circulation and reference desks, and adding group study rooms. In addition, computers were positioned around the pillars on the main and upper levels for student use.

During 2013-2016, the library was transformed into the Library Learning Commons. The IT Help Desk, Transitional Studies, Project Strive, and the Office of Academic Success were moved to the Library. A virtual reality room and media lab were added, along with a fully equipped computer lab in the basement (used frequently for classes, athletic study halls, and a testing facility for orientation and registration events). The center room in the basement of the library (which was at one time the audiovisual room, a book repair/work room, and later the biography and fiction collection) was changed to a faculty multi-use Room. This has become quite popular with the faculty and administration for meetings, workshops, and online conferences.

Throughout my 30-year career at the library, it’s been incredibly exciting to witness the changes and to see our student population use the library more frequently, (traffic has tripled) but the library has once again become a popular place to be –embracing the idea of an “intellectual living room” on campus. Adding the additional tenants was a brilliant move – making the Library Learning Commons somewhat of a “one-stop” building to readily serve not only our students, but campus staff, faculty, administration, and community user needs.

Libraries are certainly changing and it will be interesting to see what the future brings. If any alumni are on campus, stop by and I, or any of the library staff, will be happy to give you a tour!

Shawn Hartman is an Outreach Librarian. She can be reached at shartman@csc.edu

Men's basketball team makes big strides

By Con Marshall

The Chadron State College men's basketball team had a major accomplishment during the 2020-21 season when it qualified for the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference playoffs for the first time in nearly a decade.

"I didn't come here to be average or mediocre," new Head Coach Shane Paben said several times during the season. Paben said he hopes to add "a few more horses" to round out the roster for next season.

The Eagles played 13 games, about half the normal schedule. Eight contests were canceled because of COVID-19 issues. The team finished with a 5-8 record, one more win than CSC posted the previous year when a full schedule was played. Two of the setbacks occurred in overtime, one of them to Colorado Mesa, which emerged as the RMAC playoff winner.

The team suffered a setback when center Jacob Jefferson sustained a leg injury and missed the last half of the season. Jefferson was leading the Eagles in scoring at 15.4 points and rebounding at 5.7 when he was sidelined. He was shooting 61.5 percent from the field that included going 9-of-18 on 3-pointers.

Paben inherited forward Brady Delimont, but after Jefferson's injury, the Eagles got most of their clout from the guards Paben



Brady Delimont drives against a Black Hills State defender during a January game in the Chicoine Center. (Photo by Zach Carlson)

rounded up after being named the coach in June from among 140 applicants.

Paben came from Bellevue University, where he had a 275-100 record and saw 10 of his 11 teams win at least 20 games.

The team leaders included Teddy Parham, who averaged 14.8 points and scored 32 and 28 points in games down the stretch, and Marcus Jefferson, who was the primary ball-handler and the assist leader while averaging 10.2 points and 5.1 rebounds.

The Eagles made almost 37 percent of their

3-point shots while sinking 117 treys, 37 more than their opponents, but were outscored by 46 points at the free throw line, where CSC was 116 of 169 and the opponents were 162 of 233.

"We're not going to set low expectations and we're not going to be satisfied," Paben said after the Eagles dropped the playoff game at Mesa. "Getting back to the RMAC Tournament is the expectation going forward and even the NCAA Tournament. I think the Chadron community sees what we did this year and they're proud, but it's just the start."

Indoor track and field program adds All-America honor

By Kaleb Center

CSC indoor track and field added another All-America accolade to its historical list in 2020-21, and it came in the jumping events.

Naishaun Jernigan, a sophomore from Springfield, Massachusetts, leapt 7.27 meters (23', 10.25"), to take eighth in the long jump at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships in Birmingham, Alabama.

His performance marks the seventh consecutive indoor season that CSC jumpers have put their names on the All-America list. Others before him include Stachia Reuwsaat and Damarcus Simpson, in 2015 and 2016, Reuwsaat again in 2017, and Isaac Grimes in 2018 and 2019. Jernigan went to the national meet in 2020, just before it was canceled, but after returning home he was awarded All-America status by the national coaches' association.

Jernigan earned his way onto the national stage by going 7.39 meters (24', 3"), at the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships in February at Black Hills State University, where he won a silver medal. That mark had him ranked seventh nationally, headed into the NCAA meet.

Freshman Morgan Fawver ranked 14th nationally in the 60-meter dash, after running his best time of 6.8 seconds to take second at

the RMAC Championships. In a normal year, his provisional mark would have been good enough to make the field at nationals, however, only 10 were accepted this season.

A similar fate met Jernigan and teammate Derrick Nwagwu, a sophomore, in the triple jump, where both were tied for 13th and only 10 were admitted to the national meet.

At the RMAC meet, the CSC men finished 4th of 11 teams, and won seven medals total. The women's team finished 11th.

Nwagwu took silver in the triple jump with his national qualifying distance of 14.73 meters (48' 4").

Freshman Osvaldo Cano ran the 400-meter in 49.54 seconds, taking second place with an indoor career-best time.

Fawver was third in the 200-meter, adding a bronze to his 60-meter gold. He ran his fastest career race at that distance in 21.96 seconds.

Sophomore Pete Brown was third in the heptathlon, winning the high jump portion and finishing with a new career high of 4,463 points.

The 4x400-meter relay team took third, deploying a junior and three freshmen. Harley Rhoades, the only upperclassman, ran leg three of the relay, with twin brothers Osvaldo Cano and Osiel Cano making up the first two legs, and Greg Logsdon anchoring.



Naishaun Jernigan competes in the long jump during a February meet at Black Hills State. At the 2021 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Jernigan jumped 25-feet, 1 ¼ inches to claim third place and All-American honors. (Photo by Zach Carlson)

Hickstein sets scoring records, leads golf team to historic season

By Kaleb Center

The 2020-21 women's golf season at CSC was perhaps the finest on record in the 30 years since the program's 1991 reinstatement.

Sophomore Alpine Hickstein of Chadron set new records for best individual round and best individual tournament. CSC set new team records for the same marks. The team's season stroke average was the lowest it has ever been.

After a mulligan for the 2019-20 season, the CSC women returned seven of the team's eight players, and added Jordan Grasis, a transfer from West Texas A&M, and Josie Rush of Philip, South Dakota.

Citing financial considerations, the NCAA allowed women's golfers eight opportunities to compete this season, between September and April. That was more than the Eagles received in 2019-20, when the season was cut off after they had played six.

Hickstein, a third-year sophomore, led CSC in six of eight meets, including a team win in a matchup with South Dakota Mines and Black Hills State. At the RMAC Championship, the Eagles were ninth of 12 teams, after a prediction of eighth in the coaches' preseason poll.

In April at the spring tournament in Good-year, Arizona, the Eagles performed their best. Freshman Kenzey Kanno, of Mitchell, Nebraska, shot her two lowest rounds of the season to lead the team at 32nd place individually. On April 2, the team shot a school record of 314 strokes in round one. On April 3, it bested its own newly held record by three strokes to finish 314-311-625. The tournament score was also a program best.

Upstart wrestling team makes gains during shortened season

By Kaleb Center

A sparse competition schedule for the wrestling team made the 2020-21 season the first year since 1968 that the Eagles did not compete at a national championship meet.

The pandemic meant multi-team, bracketed tournaments during the regular season were off the table, and wrestling duals were the only form of competition. Across the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, several duals in November and December were postponed because of positive coronavirus tests.

The Eagles did not fare well at the start of the season, starting with No. 2-ranked Nebraska-Kearney. The homestanding Lopers won that matchup 43-3, and then Colorado Mesa won 34-12 in Chadron.

In the Kearney dual, Rowdy Pfeil, a true freshman, emerged as the top newcomer for the Eagles, recording an 8-5 decision over UNK's Terrell Garraway, who was ranked fourth in NCAA Division II at 174 pounds. Pfeil went on to establish himself as the Eagles' top option at that weight class, and one of the best wrestlers, pound-for-pound, on the team. He



Alpine Hickstein competes at the Swan Memorial Golf Tournament hosted by Colorado Christian University in September 2020. (Courtesy Photo)

then replaced Garraway in the number four slot nationally.

The Mesa dual represented the return of spectators to the Chicoine Center, for the first time in nearly 11 months. About 250 students, parents, and fans attended.

CSC returned to Kearney a week later for three dual meets in one day. The team faced 10th-ranked Adams State, falling 31-14, for its third consecutive defeat to open the season. The Eagles rebounded to take down No. 23 Newman University, 30-12, and Central Missouri, 42-6.

Pfeil and sophomore Eli Hinojosa both went 3-0 on the day.

The upstart CSC team, dominated by sophomores and featuring one senior, won its last two duals against CSU-Pueblo and Western Colorado to finish the regular season 4-3.

Sophomore Preston Renner scored a 3-2 decision over Pueblo's Jasiah Williams, who had been ranked, in previous seasons, as high as fifth nationally.

A scheduled dual meet with Colorado School of Mines was canceled, along with most other

led the team again, tying for a 17th place individual finish.

Following the season, all five of the Eagles' starting golfers were named to the RMAC Academic honor roll. They are Hickstein, Kanno, and freshmen Allison Acosta, Brooke Kramer, and Kinsey Smith. Their cumulative grade point averages ranged between 3.79 and 4.00.

The current team is expected to remain intact, grow, and develop for at least two more seasons.

duals around the league, as coaches began to eye the approaching NCAA Super Regional with hope for a successful conclusion to the season.

The conclusion wasn't what CSC Head Coach Brett Hunter was hoping for.

Typically, each Super Region sends the top three placers in each weight division, for a total of 30 national qualifiers. As many wrestling programs around the country had opted out of the season, the NCAA limited each region to 17 national qualifiers. That meant only the regional champ in each weight class, along with a handful of "wild card" selections, would attend.

When Hinojosa finished third at the regional tourney, he came up just short of keeping the CSC program's national qualifier streak alive.

Pfeil, CSC's top national tourney hopeful and the top-seeded wrestler in his regional bracket, came up short as well. He and junior Joe Ritzen both placed fourth.

Though the result at regionals was a letdown, the CSC wrestlers have much to look forward to, as all members of the team got valuable mat time without using a season of eligibility.

Volleyball team competes in spring following 10-month wait

By Brandon Laxson

After waiting more than 10 months to play since the end of the 2019 season, the CSC volleyball team was ready to get back into competition in January 2021.

The Eagles had seven home matches scheduled, but played three due to postponements brought on by Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference COVID-19 policy. After their sixth match of the season Feb. 26, the Eagles took to the road for the remaining eight matches.

The Eagles finished 4-10, with a 3-9 RMAC slate. The team came down to the final match of the season in contention for a postseason bid because of the RPI index used to determine the league's final standings.

Seniors Karli Noble and Chandler Hageman found success in their last season with the Eagles.

Noble, a libero, had a career-best 18 assists and was on pace to break her career record of 296 digs in 2019 had the season been played in its entirety.

Hageman, a middle hitter, added to the team's defensive efforts. She led with 14 solo blocks and assisted in 32 other blocks. Her average of 0.87 blocks per set was another team best.

Junior setters Breshawna Kelly and Kincaid Strain stepped up to the challenge of leadership in a new, dual-setter offensive system introduced by Head Volleyball Coach Jennifer Stadler this year.

A Sheridan College transfer, Kelly joined the program in 2020 and provided the Eagles



Members of the volleyball team celebrate after a point against South Dakota School of Mines in January. (Photo by Zach Carlson)

with a team-high of 285 assists. After playing in 51 of 53 sets, she averaged 5.59 assists per set, leading the team.

Strain followed Kelly's lead with 100 assists in only 30 sets played. The 2020 season looked rather similar to her 2019 effort in which she played 31 sets and managed 109 assists.

Looking to the future, the Eagles' under-

classmen show promise. Freshmen Olivia Moten-Schell and Rhiannon Nez, and sophomores Lexi Hurtado and Rylee Greiman all had big years for CSC. Moten-Schell and Hurtado were the team's top two contributors in terms of kills per set. Greiman led the team in reception percentage, at .940. Nez had more block assists than any of her teammates.

Women's basketball team weathers difficult season during pandemic

By Brandon Laxson

The Chadron State College women's basketball team finished the 2020-21 season with a record of 0-13. Seven of the scheduled 22 games were postponed and one was canceled.

The team's largest and narrowest losses came together at the beginning of the season. Game one came after three straight postponements, but the Eagles opened at home to No. 23 Colorado Mesa and were defeated, 28-78. In the following game, CSC reached its closest chance at victory, losing on the road to UCCS, 68-73.

While on the road at South Dakota Mines, Chadron State was hopeful for victory again but fell, 59-65.

The most telling sign of the season's fate was when senior guard Taryn Foxen and junior forward Hazel Fui, two of the team's top scorers, saw action in only 8 of the 13 games played. With the COVID-19 protocols in place, both players missed five games.

Through eight games, Foxen was able to put up a team-high 12.4 points per game. Going 12 for 30 on three pointers, Foxen made more threes than any of her teammates and held the highest average at 40 percent. Despite missing five contests, she still dished out the most assists, with 34. Defensively, she recorded team highs with 13 steals and seven blocks.

Fui averaged 7.1 points per game, and made 24 of 49 field goals, giving her a team-best shooting percentage of 49 percent.

Olivia Waufle, Rachel Henkle, and Brittini McCully played in every game during the season, and McCully started in each.

Sophomore forward Tatum Peterson shot 43.3 percent and blocked seven shots. She earned a career high 14 points against UCCS in the teams' second meeting.

Jori Peters had a solid season as the only other player, besides McCully, to start all 13 games. The junior guard averaged 35.3 minutes, totaled 124 points, and averaged 9.5 per game, second only to Foxen.

Bailey Brooks, a junior guard, played in 12 of the 13 games and started in six. In her season debut at UCCS, she recorded a double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Brooks led the Eagles for the season with 30 offensive rebounds and was second on the team with 56 total boards, putting her one behind Waufle, the team leader.

Freshman forward Ashayla Powers played in all 13 games, and was called up into the starting lineup three times. In the first of those starts, at home against UCCS, she went for a double-double scoring 10 points and grabbing 12 caroms. At 78.1 percent, she had her team's best free throw percentage.

As a team, the Eagles shot 35.6 percent on the year, compared to their opponents' 43.1 percent. They were 30 percent from three and 65.9 percent on free throws during the season.



Taryn Foxen shoots a contested layup against MSU-Denver in February 2020. (Photo by Emma Jurewicz)

Four standouts inducted into Chadron State Athletic Hall of Fame

Four former Chadron State College student-athletes were inducted into the CSC Athletic Hall of Fame on April 24 in Chadron.

The ceremony, initially scheduled for last fall, was postponed and followed the football scrimmage against Wayne State College. The Hall of Fame committee identified 10 former Eagles for induction, however six opted for a fall ceremony later this year.

The four inducted this spring were Jordan Johnson, Aric Lopez, Melissa Burke, and Michael Wahlstrom.

Johnson was a three-time national qualifier with the CSC wrestling team, going to the NCAA meet in each season from 2001-02 through 2003-04. As a senior in 2004, the

165-pounder claimed the NCAA Division II West Regional championship and went on to become an All-American. He finished that season with a record of 37-13, tying him for third all-time at CSC for most single-season wins. His 91 career wins rank him 15th in program history.

Jordan Johnson

From 2000 to 2002, Lopez played inside linebacker for the Eagles football team, starting for two Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championship teams. As a senior he earned All-America honorable mention from Don Hansen's Football Gazette and claimed All-West Region honors from three different organizations. He was an All-RMAC First Team selection. Lopez was a junior on the 2001 squad which became one of only three undefeated teams in the 2001 NCAA Division II regular season.



Aric Lopez



Melissa Burke

At the conclusion of her women's basketball career at CSC, Burke ranked ninth in program history for career points, with 956 from 1997-2001. She helped the Eagles to three straight

RMAC postseason berths, including two trips to the semifinals. As a sophomore, the Chadron native led the league in free throw percentage. She received All-RMAC honorable mention as a senior in 2001, and was named CSC's Clyde Bond Memorial Award winner that year as well.



Michael Wahlstrom

Wahlstrom was the top pass-catching target for the Eagles for two seasons. He earned first team all-conference in 2002, when he helped the Eagles claim back-to-back Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championships with 801 receiving yards on 64 catches. The receiver was particularly known for his toughness and battling through injuries. Wahlstrom's career figures still rank him among the top 10 all-time at CSC in every receiving category.

The others to be inducted at a later date are Elijah Collins, Rob Evans, Austin Forster, Marvin Jackson, Kelly Randle, and Alysia Wardyn Clark.

Travel to Puerto Rico with the Men's Basketball Team Thanksgiving Weekend – November 25-30, 2021



Tickets for three games and land transport included
Embassy Suites Hotel & Casino (breakfasts & evening receptions)
Six days, five nights - \$900 per person - *Airfare is not included
Contact the Alumni Office for more details

Partnership with Nebraska Methodist College launches

Chadron State College is partnering with Nebraska Methodist College to offer a new program in which students can earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences from Chadron State College and an Associate of Science degree in Respiratory Care from Nebraska Methodist College. The Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees approved the program in June 2020.

Dr. Wendy Waugh, Dean of the School of Business, Mathematics, and Science, said one major advantage of the partnership is that students will not need to leave Chadron to complete the degrees. Students can complete clinicals at Chadron Community Hospital, the Gordon Hospital, or Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance. If students would like to, they can blend rural clinicals with the Methodist Health System, as well as clinical sites in Omaha.

CSC students who declare a Health Sciences major will be advised by Dr. Ann Buchmann regarding the courses to complete the CSC degree program. The partnership requires students to apply at Nebraska Methodist College Respiratory Program their sophomore year.

After three years of CSC courses, students will take a blend of CSC courses and NMC Respiratory Profession courses advised by Dr. Lisa Fuchs, NMC Program Director. Students may take online courses if they choose to stay at CSC and attend clinicals in their own community. Once students earn an Associate of Science degree, they are prepared to sit for the national respiratory exam and become a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

Fuchs, Waugh, and former CSC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Charles Snare



Chadron State College is partnering with Nebraska Methodist College to offer a program in which students can earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences from CSC and an Associate of Science degree in Respiratory Care from Nebraska Methodist College. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

collaborated for more than a year to develop the program.

Fuchs said the demand for respiratory therapists results in students receiving impressive job offers and signing bonuses before they graduate.

Dr. Megan Schuckman, a Chadron physician who completed the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) at CSC, said respiratory therapists possess a special skill set that is in high demand.

“There is a shortage of respiratory therapists, especially in rural areas. The pandemic has made it glaringly apparent that they are necessary in rural Nebraska. Respiratory therapy is an integral arm of our health care team that often gets overlooked,” Schuckman said.

Schuckman said some COVID-19 survivors lose some lung function and respiratory therapists are the ideal professionals to help these patients.

Helmbrecht wins national Blue Key Advisor award

Alex Helmbrecht, CSC’s director of College Relations, received the national Blue Key Outstanding Advisor Award for 2021 during the organization’s virtual conference in January.

Alumnus John Murphy of Harrison, Nebraska, nominated Helmbrecht for the honor.

“During his career at CSC, he helped two students, both Blue Key members, receive national writing awards for blogs about their time as CSC football members,” Murphy wrote. “He has become another father figure to me and is someone I know I can look up to for any reason.”

Helmbrecht, a 2005 alum, served as CSC’s sports information director from 2007 to 2014 and was named the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Sports Information Director of the Year in 2013. Helmbrecht has been the director of College Relations since 2014. He is responsible for the management and operations of College Relations, and has a wide range of duties related to the successful design, implementation, and execution of marketing and communication plans.

“Serving as Blue Key’s advisor has given me so many rewarding experiences. I’m thankful to all the officers and students who have been actively involved with Blue Key over the years, as well as all the co-advisors. This award is as much theirs as it is mine,” Helmbrecht said. “I get to play a small part in these students’ lives, but I have no doubt they all go forward in their communities embodying Blue Key’s motto of ‘Serving I Live.’”

A number of other CSC employees wrote letters supporting Helmbrecht’s nomination, including Dr. Jim Powell, vice president for academic affairs, Megan Northrup, student activities coordinator, and Dr. Tracy Nobiling, professor of justice studies.

Blue Key is the oldest honor society on campus and its membership values leadership, service, scholastic achievements, citizenship, and an adherence to principles of faith. The organization assists with the annual Homecoming parade, hosts the Brain Bowl Quiz Bowl, assists Cardinal Key with blood drives,

Dr. Adam Wells, a 2006 CSC graduate and RHOP participant and Co-Medical Director of the NMC Respiratory Care Program thinks the partnership is an exceptional opportunity for future students.



Adam Wells

“It is a tremendous honor to be able to help give back to the area, community, and school that helped launch my career. I am excited to help the future generation of healthcare providers also launch theirs,” Wells said. “I received exceptional instruction, guidance, and mentorship. When starting professional school, I felt ahead of the curve in comparison to my peers thanks to the preparation I had received during my time at Chadron State.”



Alex Helmbrecht poses with his 2021 national Blue Key Honor Society Outstanding Advisor Award in February. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

serves as ushers for various events, and co-hosts Ivy Day with Cardinal Key each spring to recognize top students in each major.

SECOND-GEN RHOP STUDENTS FOLLOW PARENTS’ LEGACY

By Tena L. Cook

Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) students Logan Moravec and Will Hagge are carrying on the second generation of family traditions in healthcare.

Moravec, a sophomore from Scottsbluff, Nebraska, is studying pre-physical therapy. His mother, Lisa (Miller) Moravec, entered RHOP in 1998. Hagge is a pre-medicine freshman from Wausa, Nebraska, and his father, Regg Hagge, was in the second RHOP cohort in 1991.

Health Professions Director Kristal Kuhnelt said when parents of RHOP legacy students like Moravec and Hagge visit campus, she tries to connect them with their former professors who are still teaching.

“It is so enjoyable when parents accompany their children to campus for RHOP interviews and we spend time visiting about all their great memories at CSC,” Kuhnelt said. “Our faculty work hard and invest themselves into their students, so it is doubly rewarding for them to see their former students and know they are sending their children here, as well.”

Moravec said he appreciates the opportunity to participate in RHOP as a second-generation student.

“It is amazing to think that my mom was in the same program as me back when she was in school,” Moravec said. “It is also really nice to have students with similar

aspirations all working closely together. It provides a great sense of security.”

Lisa Moravec is the site director for the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s dental hygiene program in Gering. She said she had a positive and successful experience earning her prerequisites at CSC.

“While it can be challenging at times, RHOP truly helps prepare students for the rigor of professional school through the various health professions career pathways. It was a cornerstone in my educational foundation as a health care professional and I know it has been the same for numerous students,” Lisa Moravec said.

Lisa Moravec’s husband, Mike, is a physical therapist in Gering. They met at CSC and are proud of their son’s desire to pursue a health professions career through RHOP.

Hagge said being the second RHOP student in his family is an honor.

“To be in the same place my dad was almost 30 years ago is a cool feeling. I look forward to making my dad proud,” Hagge said. “Being in RHOP is like a family almost. All the RHOP participants and alternates work together. The older RHOP participants are friendly and want to help us younger ones succeed.”

He said he looks forward to practicing medicine and helping people.

“I’m happy to be a part of the RHOP program and to be at Chadron. My experiences



Chadron State College sophomore Logan Moravec of Scottsbluff, Neb., right, is a second generation Rural Health Professions Program student. His mother, Lisa (Miller) Moravec, left, entered RHOP at CSC in 1998. (Courtesy photo)

so far with the community and the college have been great,” he said.

Regg Hagge said he is proud his son is following in his footsteps.

“To this day, I still believe Chadron State College is one of the best values you can find in undergraduate education” he said. “My classmates and I did fine in medical school. We didn’t think we were anything great and we didn’t take anything for granted. Those are both good lessons for my career and life.”

International student earns full fellowship to UNMC doctoral program

By Tena L. Cook

Chadron State College senior Lelisse “Lily” Umeta of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has earned a full fellowship to the Cancer Research doctoral program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). She said she is grateful for the opportunity, especially in a competitive environment where graduate schools receive hundreds of applicants for a handful of fellowship offers.

Umeta said she feels well-prepared for graduate school beginning in August.

“Our CSC professors challenge us to be critical thinkers from the first class we take. My interest in cancer biology started early in my life, but developed in my immunology class when I learned the role of our immune system in cancer. Every class I took not only expanded my knowledge but intrigued me to ask more questions and dig deeper to understand the science behind cancer,” Umeta said.

Her acceptance to UNMC is the next step in realizing a goal from her youth.

“I am very excited to start my journey of becoming the person I dreamt of becoming as a little girl. Becoming a scientist is a dream many girls that look like me have and it is an honor to have this opportunity to make my dream come true. I recognize the challenges,

the hard work and dedication it takes, and I feel prepared for it,” Umeta said. “I came to CSC because I wanted to get good education with affordable price. As an international student, CSC provided me with international student scholarship and a supportive community.”



Lily Umeta

Her ultimate career goal is to become a cancer researcher and work in a translational clinical laboratory. Translational research includes laboratory experiments carried through clinical trials to the point-of-care for patients.

In addition to classes, Umeta is a research assistant to CSC Professor Dr. Ann Buchmann.

“In research, she is working on understanding the pathways that allow deadly breast cancers to grow out of control. Lily is a great student and a great leader on campus,” Buchmann said.

As another example of Umeta’s initiative, she revived the Rotaract Club on campus. She has also served in several different positions in Student Senate over the past three years.

She is a senior Resident Advisor in High Rise, a learning assistant in the Principles of Cell Systems class, a member of Beta Beta Beta, a biological honor society, the Health Professions Club, and the International Club.

Umeta is also a mentor for students in Dr. Rachele Rider’s Anatomy and Physiology class.

“Lelisse is an amazing person. She is a hard worker, always strives to do her best. She has the results to show for it. Yet, at the same time she doesn’t sweat all small things and (let) the stress get to her. She has a smile that lights up a room, and a warm and caring personality to match. I am so excited for her future,” Rider said.

Umeta’s adviser, Dr. Joyce Hardy, said she exemplifies what it is to be a scientist.

“She has the strong knowledge and skills, the dedication to working well with others to make a difference in this world, and the curiosity that continually pushes the boundaries of her own learning and understanding. She exhibits the capacity to bring information from multiple perspectives to understand the complexity behind breast cancer. She will be an amazing researcher, and I have no doubt we will be learning much from her future work,” Hardy said.

CLASS NOTES

'60s

Linda (Swigert) West '69 and husband **James West '70**, Chadron, recently celebrated their 51st anniversary. Their four children are also Chadron State alumni.

'70s

Bernice (Johnson) Crow '75, Arnold, retired after 34 years of teaching. She also coached 59 seasons of varsity volleyball, track, and basketball, and six seasons of drama and speech.

Randy Huryta '75, Omaha, retired after 26 years with First National Bank of Omaha.

Jerene (Johnson) Kruse '76, Albion, was awarded the Roscoe Shields Service Award in October 2020 for her dedication and commitment to art education. This is the highest honor awarded by the Nebraska Art Teachers Association.

Carol (Bachmann) Marxsen '76, Lincoln, retired Dec. 31, 2020, after 27 years with the Lincoln Medical Education Partnership/Family Practice Residency Program.

Marjean (Willnerd) Terrell '78, Hay Springs, was appointed to the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees.

Arthur Washut '79, Casper, Wyoming, was re-elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives and was sworn in Jan. 4, 2021. He was appointed to serve as the vice-chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and serves on the House Rules Committee.

'80s

Dr. Jamalee (Bussinger) Stone, Spearfish, South Dakota, is retiring after 15 years as an assistant/associate professor of mathematics education at Black Hills State University.

Stuart Simpson '82, North Platte, has been serving at North Platte Public Schools for 15 years. He is currently the executive director of finance.

David Licari '83, Columbus, is stepping down from coaching girls' basketball at Columbus High School after 23 seasons and seven trips to the state tournament.

E. John Kiss '85, Alliance, has retired after 31 years with the Alliance police department where he served as Chief of Police since 1999.

'90s

Kirk Kuxhausen MA '90, Mitchell, was recognized by the Nebraska Association of Elementary Schools and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators as Nebraska's 2020-2021 Distinguished Principal of the Year. He has served as principal at Mitchell Elementary for 17 years.

Dr. Karin Miller '94, Bentonville, Arkansas, successfully defended her dissertation, "A Qualitative Comparative Study of High School and College Teacher Perceptions of the Effectiveness of High School Writing Instruction." She is the assistant principal at Bentonville West High School.

Gus Brown BS '96 MS '02, Beatrice, is the new assistant principal and activities director for Beatrice Public Schools.

Archie Shipp '96, Brighton, Colorado, is the secondary principal for the Hayden Public Schools.

Richard "Rick" Hickstein, Jr. '99, Chadron, was named chief of police for the City of Chadron.

'00s

Eric Calkins '01, Chadron, was named head girls basketball coach at Chadron High School. He teaches social studies and science at Chadron Middle School.

Karen Valdes '01, Hastings, was recently named Hastings Public Schools Young Educator of the Year. She teaches 7th grade at Hastings Middle School.

Cameron Soester '03, Seward, accepted a position to become the 6-12 principal at Louisville Public Schools.

Melissa (Crunk) Soester '03, Seward, completed her Ph.D. in Health Sciences at the University of South Dakota.

Dr. Thomas Pratt '04, North Platte, celebrated ten years of private practice in dentistry in November 2020.

Erika Pritchard '04, Kearney, joined the University of Nebraska, Kearney Communications and Marketing Department as a digital content creator.

Audra (Liebig) West '08, Black Hawk, South Dakota, was named Teacher of the Year by the Rapid City Public Schools Foundation.

Craig Kaiser '09, Peyton, Colorado, is the president and co-founder of LandGate, a company providing services for owners of land and mineral rights including valuing the natural resources they own and connecting them with potential buyers.

'10s

Shawn Banzhaf '10, Phoenix, recently published his book "The 5 L's – A Practical Guide for Helping Loved Ones Heal After Trauma." He serves as the senior military advocate at the Pat Tillman Veteran Center at Arizona State University.

Stephen Crile '10, Alliance, is taking over as the new head girls' basketball coach at Alliance High School.

Anastazia (Bauer) Scheer MS '12, Arlington, was appointed to the ServeNebraska/Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission by Governor Ricketts.

Michael Sandstrom '13, Chadron, was selected to receive History Nebraska's Excellence in Teaching Award for 2021.

Mattaya (Thompson) Addison '14, Norfolk, was named director of Boone Beginnings new childcare and family development center in Albion.

Jonnathan McLain BS '14, MA '19, Chadron, stepped down as math and social science teacher and head girls' basketball coach at Chadron High School to accept a position at Boys Town in Omaha.

Collin Eisenman '17, Sheridan, Wyoming, has spent the last few years working as a shellfish technician for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Last year his assignments took him to the crab fishing boat the Lady Alaska one of the boats featured on the 2020 season of the television show Deadliest Catch.

Jalyne (Roberts) Schuster '17, Hershey, is serving as a credit analyst for Sandhills State Bank.

Alicia (Ehrlich) Davis '18, Lisco, purchased Buddaroo's Floral and Gift Shop in Oshkosh. It reopened in November as Ranch Daisies.

Blake Beebout MA '19, Valentine, has been selected as the next assistant principal/activities director for Valentine Community Schools.

Dawson Brunswick '19, Columbus, was named president of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ashley Goad '19, Pueblo West, Colorado, passed her nursing boards and will be starting her career as an emergency department nurse.

'20s

Brian Doll '20, Gering, will start teaching English in South Korea in the fall.

MARRIAGES

'00s

Amy (Amack) Fosheim '08, Gillette, Wyoming, married Jesse Fosheim June 20, 2020.

'10s

Valerie (Newman) Tromp '11, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, married Hunter Tromp Oct. 10, 2020.

Paige (Schartz) Wood '11, Box Elder, South Dakota, married Jake Wood Feb. 16, 2020.

Shelby (Bozner) Soderstrom '15, Thermopolis, Wyoming, married Steve Soderstrom July 11, 2020.

Tawny (Staab) Redwine '16, Cocoa, Florida, married Andrew Redwine Oct. 3, 2020.

Alicia (Ehrlich) Davis '18, Lisco, married Bryce Davis April 10, 2021.

Adalida (Dickmander) Warta '18, Lincoln, married Jacob Warta Aug. 8, 2019.

Matthew Reader '19 and **Lynda (Talady) Reader '19**, Greenville, Wisconsin, married Dec. 12, 2020.

FUTURE EAGLES

'00s

Twins Jancie and Landyn to **Amber Snyder '07**, Black Hawk, South Dakota, Feb. 6, 2020.

Rylen Michael to **Dr. Floyd "Jordan" Colwell '08**, and wife Tiann, Scottsbluff, Dec. 23, 2020.

Jayleigh Jane to **Joslynn (Simpson) Stauss '08**, and husband Jeffery Stauss, Waverly, May 3, 2021. She joins brother Jace.

Reid Daniel to **Loni (Hughes) Watson '08**, and husband Matt Watson, Chadron, May 20, 2021. He joins siblings Reese and Grant.

Collins Lynn to **Jenna (Foral) Hall '09**, and husband Judson Hall, Scottsbluff, May 3, 2021. She joins siblings Oakley, Baylor, and Banks.

Beau Anthony to **Kate (Cleveland) Hruska '09**, and husband Anthony Hruska, David City, April 21, 2021. He joins brothers Harrison and Henry.

'10s

Nora Eileen to **Stefani (Budler) Dreier '10**, and husband Justin Dreier, Bozeman, Montana, Nov. 6, 2020.

Bodhi Wayne adopted by **Mike '10** and **Shalee (Jones) Mamula '11**, Box Elder, South Dakota, born Jan. 21, 2021.

OBITUARIES

Former Faculty

Bill Taraschke, Norwalk, Ohio, died on April 7, 2021.

Thomas Swanke, Westmoreland, Kansas, died on May 16, 2021.

'40s

Lois (Evans) Putnam '43, Oelrichs, South Dakota, died Jan. 28, 2021.

Margaret "Meg" Pieper '48, Sam Bernadino, California, died Feb. 6, 2021.

'50s

Caryle (Fulcher) Colerick att., Spring, Texas, died April 1, 2020.

Barbara (Lynn) Sohr '51, Sparks, Nevada, died Jan. 1, 2021.

James Kannolt '54, Albuquerque, died Feb. 5, 2021.

Margaret (Parker) O'Leary '54, Alamosa, Colorado, died April 26, 2020.

Glen Wyatt '54, Sundance, Wyoming, died Jan. 13, 2021.

Betty Krave '56, Mullen, died March 7, 2020.

William Waxler '57, Hot Springs, South Dakota, died June 25, 2020.

Gerald "Jerry" Wrage '57, Lincoln, died Dec. 20, 2020.

Rodney Epp '58, Chadron, died March 21, 2021.

'60s

Delores (Cox) Irelan '60, Sterling, Colorado, died Jan. 26, 2021.

Jerald "Jerry" Ecklund '61, Minneapolis, died March 15, 2021.

Kenneth Hinman '61, Henderson, Nevada, died May 10, 2020.

Ray Snell '61, Jefferson City, Missouri, died Nov. 6, 2020.

Larry Fitzgibbon '62, Lincoln, died Dec. 5, 2020.

Arta "Jean" (Johnson) Kramer '62, Stapleton, died May 3, 2021.

Robert Weakly '62, Bonners Ferry, Idaho, died Feb. 1, 2021.

William Marchant '62, Alliance died May 16, 2021.

William Fulcher '63, Sutherland, died Sept. 8, 2019.

Bryan Brost '64, Lusk, Wyoming, died Dec. 14, 2020.

Wilma (Christiansen) Quelle att., Fairbury, died April 9, 2021.

Sharon (Hammon) Kluender '65, Lincoln, died Dec. 23, 2020.

Gene Snyder att. '65, Rushville, died Feb. 12, 2021.

Norman "Mark" Breen '66, Holdrege, died Oct. 24, 2020.

Thomas Groth '66, Piedmont, South Dakota, died Nov. 7, 2020.

Carol (Cooper) Bernhardt '67, Billings, Montana, died Feb. 4, 2021.

Larry Holz '67, Alliance, died May 10, 2020.

Myron "Bud" Jasnoch MS '67, Ogallala, died Jan. 23, 2021.

Dean Husted '68, Phoenix, Arizona, died May 4, 2021.

Jeannie Bailey wife of **Michael Bailey '69**, Watauga, South Dakota, died Feb. 23, 2021.

Nanette (Merrick) Sturgill '69, Salt Lake City, died Oct. 20, 2020.

Jarolyn "Jeri" (McNabb) Woznick att., Bridgeport, died Dec. 11, 2020.

Larry Yost '69, Wheatland, Wyoming, died Dec. 11, 2020.

Jane (Lovelace) Mancini '69, Saint Petersburg Beach, Fla., died Nov. 20, 2020.

'70s

Vernon Houser '70, Rapid City, South Dakota, died April 11, 2020.

Robert Rickenbach '70, Chadron, died Jan. 5, 2021.

Will Brennemann att. '70, Lincoln, died May 22, 2021.

Christine (Carlson) Webb att., Scottsbluff, died Feb. 5, 2021.

Ron Christensen '72, North Platte, died March 27, 2021.

James McVeigh att., Benicia, California, died Jan. 1, 2021.

Marvin Muirhead '73, South Sioux City, died Feb. 6, 2020.

Doug Fastenau '74, Sutherland, died April 2, 2021.

Terry Harper '74, Omaha, died Dec. 11, 2020.

Patrick O'Connor '74, Torrington, Wyoming, died Jan. 25, 2021.

John Salestrom '74, Lincoln, died April 9, 2021.

Mary (Williams) Bruce '74, Phoenix, died Dec. 25, 2020.

Marcia (Fletcher) Beal '77, Ericson, died Nov. 23, 2020.

Selen Cawiezel MS '77, Palm Bay, Florida, died Feb. 9, 2020.

Lorna (Roberts) Hansen '78, Brule, died Oct. 15, 2019.

Andrea (Isham) Voss att. '79, Chadron, died Dec. 23, 2020.

'80s

Margaret (Rischling) Peterson '80, Torrington, Wyoming, died April 27, 2021.

John Rupe '81, Valentine, died Oct. 9, 2020.

Loa (Moore) Snell '81, Jefferson City, Missouri, died Feb. 18, 2020.

Richard Schemm '82, Scottsbluff, died April 27, 2020.

Thomas Wlaschin MS '82, Rapid City, South Dakota, died Dec. 20, 2020.

Raymond Hoffman '83, Boulder City, Nevada, died Jan. 12, 2021.

Kelly (Paulsen) Reece '83, Oshkosh, died Nov. 5, 2020.

Charles "Chuck" Lliteras MS '86, Harrisonville, Missouri, died April 5, 2021.

Lonnie Sherlock MS '87, Columbus, died Oct. 12, 2020.

'90s

Lila (Weber) Ahrens '88, Hemingford, died May 19, 2021.

Amy (Dawe) Widener '90, Bridgeport, died April 8, 2020.

William Goodwin '91, Lincoln, died Jan. 1, 2021.

Mark Custer MS '93, Alliance, died Jan. 2, 2021.

Robert Zillig '93, Kansas City, Missouri, died April 22, 2021.

Curtis Deines '96, Chadron, died March 19, 2021.

James McGowan '97, Potter, died May 11, 2021.

James Duncan '99, Chadron, died Jan. 9, 2021.

'00s

Greg Alan Bruegger '08, Torrington, Wyoming, died Dec. 16, 2020.

'10s

Valorie (Gibb) Fankhauser '18, Gering, died Dec. 23, 2020.

Dr. Eugene M. Hughes

Dr. Eugene M. Hughes of Flagstaff, Arizona, died on March 10. Recognized as an outstanding



Eugene M. Hughes

mathematics professor at Chadron State College, Hughes began his career in higher education administration while at CSC and was the president of two major universities, Northern Arizona University and Wichita State, and the interim president of a third institution, Eastern Kentucky University.

Chadron State presented Hughes its Distinguished Service Award in 1982 and conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate Degree in 2003. After graduating from what was then Scottsbluff Junior College, he enrolled at Chadron State. He was named the college's outstanding senior majoring in mathematics and graduated in May 1956.

Hughes spent the following year working on a master's degree at Kansas State University, but returned in the fall of 1957 to teach math, gaining recognition as an exceptional mentor.

In 1962, he began working on his doctorate at the George Peabody College of Vanderbilt in Nashville. He returned to Chadron State in 1965 to again teach math and serve as director of research. His popularity as a math professor helped the department grow rapidly. Before long, CSC had more math majors than the other three state colleges combined and almost as many as the University of Nebraska.

In September 2011, Hughes returned to Chadron State for the Gene Hughes Math Reunion that was attended by 20 of his former students who had benefited from his teaching and leadership skills. He had introduced many of them to the coming computer age. A number of them used the information as a springboard to innovative and lucrative careers.

"The main reason we got together was to thank Dr. Hughes for what he did for all of us," said Stan Hoffman, one of the organizers of the reunion. "He was our leader and guiding light. We owe him a lot and are proud that we were taught by him."

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Ann, and six children and their families.



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HOMECOMING: OCT. 8-9, 2021

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 8

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|----------|---|
| 8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Registration at Alumni Office:
Sparks Hall | 5-7 p.m. | Homecoming Huddle:
Lewellen Hospitality Room,
Don Beebe Stadium |
| Noon | Eagles Luncheon, visit with
President Rhine: Bordeaux
Room, Student Center | | Open to all CSC alumni and
friends |
| 2-3:30 p.m. | Campus Tours: Student Center | 6 p.m. | CSC Volleyball vs. New
Mexico Highlands University,
Chicoine Center |

Homecoming Registration

Event details at csc.edu/alumni/events/homecoming.csc

Please save, this will be the only notice. Deadline is September 30, 2021. Return with your paid reservations to: CSC Alumni Office, PO Box 1210, Chadron, NE 69337 or call 308-432-6366. You can also register and pay online at csc.edu/alumni/events/homecoming.csc

Name _____

Grad year _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Grad year _____ Additional Guest(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone _____

Contact E-mail _____

Friday, Oct. 8

Eagles Luncheon: \$15/person # _____ \$ _____

Homecoming Huddle: \$15/person # _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Saturday, Oct. 9

Homecoming Luncheon

\$20/adult # _____ \$ _____

\$10/12 & under # _____ \$ _____

5 & under are free # _____

Total \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Saturday, Oct. 9

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 8-9 a.m. | Alumni Coffee & Registration:
Lobby, Student Center |
| 9:30 a.m. | Parade: Main Street |
| 11 a.m. | Homecoming Luncheon:
Ballroom, Student Center |
| | Recognition of Family Tree,
Alumni Award Recipients |
| 1 p.m. | CSC Football vs. Colorado
Mesa University: Don Beebe
Stadium |
| 4 p.m. | Postgame Reception: Country
Kitchen |
| 6 p.m. | Reunion Group Social and
Dinner |
| | Golden Era Reunion* |
| | Chi Omega Reunion* |
| | 70s Era Reunion* |
| 6 p.m. | CSC Volleyball vs. Adams
State University, Chicoine
Center |

*Watch for specific RSVP and event details in your mail for:

Golden Era Reunion: Classes of 1970 and 1971

Chi Omega

70s Era Reunion

Learn more at csc.edu/alumni/events or Chadron State Alumni on Facebook.