

CHADRON STATE MAGAZINE





Dear Alumni and Friends,

This time of year, despite the cold weather and blustery winds, is always a special time at Chadron State College. The conclusion of the fall semester is a joyous celebration for many at their Winter Commencement, but December also signals the end of the year, which means there is an opportunity for new beginnings around the corner. In case you have not heard, there will be a new beginning for me: I have given notice of my retirement to Nebraska State College System Chancellor Turman and the Board of Trustees from the Presidency of Chadron State College effective June 30, 2023.

When I wrote to campus about my decision to retire in early November, I mentioned that words are inadequate to describe how wonderful this journey has been for my wife, Ann, and I since we moved to Chadron in 2005. I truly mean that sentiment. Chadron has been the place we've called home for nearly two decades and working at the college has provided numerous opportunities for me to cultivate important relationships, forge new friendships and partnerships, and most of all, personify the mission of the college to all those who love and support it.

All of us have worked well together and achieved a great deal for Chadron State. For that, I am incredibly proud. When I see the positive changes that have occurred during my time as President, I am reminded of the commitment to excellence of all those who proudly wear a "C" upon their chest.

In announcing my retirement, I wrote the support the institution receives from our alums and the community of Chadron is exceptional. That is certainly true, and I am constantly amazed at the generosity and constant support CSC receives. One of the aspects of this position I will miss the most is getting to know our alums and listening to their stories. Hopefully, the Alumni and Foundation Office keeps me on their mailing list because this publication means a great deal to me, and I am looking forward to reading what our future students and alumni accomplish.

As we all know, good things must come to an end. But, much like the calendar flipping to another year, it is never truly an end, but rather a chance for a new beginning.

Be well,

President Randy Rhine

CSC graduate finds 'new normal' in life after gastrectomy

When her doctor suggested a cancer prescreening test as part of a routine physical, Chadron State College graduate Karissa Eifert agreed because she thought it might reveal if she had a genetic risk of developing the aggressive breast cancer that had taken her grandmother's life.

What turned up in the screening proved life altering for Eifert, a Rapid City, South Dakota, resident and business owner. Her test revealed a CDH1 genetic mutation that is related to a rare condition called Hereditary Diffuse Gastric Cancer (HDGC) syndrome. Although Eifert's mother had died from gastric cancer a few years earlier, the possibility of a familial genetic link to the disease had never been considered.

Detecting early-stage HDGC is difficult and the recommended treatment is complete removal of the stomach. Confronted with the test result, and statistics showing that a CDH1 mutation meant a high probability of developing an aggressive cancer, Eifert decided to have her stomach surgically removed even though she had no signs of the disease.

"I didn't know you could live without a stomach, but (decided) I'll figure it out, because what are the other options," she said.

Three years after the gastrectomy, Eifert is using her experience to help other people who have the condition, or have had a gastrectomy, and to encourage testing for genetic health risks.

"Any opportunity I have to talk about it, I do, for a number of reasons," Eifert said. "It's part of my life, obviously, and because it's really important figuring out what your (genetic) risks are."

Reverierising.com, a blog that Eifert maintains, details her decision to have a gastrectomy, the difficulty trying to persuade her insurer to cover the procedure, and how she was able to enroll in a National Institute of Health study that put her in the hands of specialists.

HDGC is difficult to detect until it is far advanced because it doesn't form large tumors. The NIH study is aimed at learning more about the disease and the connection to CDH1, a mutation that has been found in about 100 families of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Eifert's blog also describes the gastrectomy itself and her first year of recovery. Since her last blog post she has been sharing information through a Reverie Rising page on Facebook and short videos on social media channels directed toward people with HDGC or gastrectomies.

"I talk to people nearly every day," Eifert said. "It's a really small group of people worldwide and we rely on each other."

Eifert's commitment to sharing information about HDGC, CDH1, and living with a gastrectomy stems from her own experience confronting a rare medical condition unfamiliar to local practitioners.

"Social media has been a lifesaver for me," she said.

Eifert's career at Chadron State included serving as entertainment editor for The Eagle student newspaper and involvement with a Family and Consumer Sciences club. She graduated in 2006 with majors in journalism and design/merchandising, and worked as an assistant interior designer job until the recession cut demand for design projects. Eifert's communications degree from CSC helped her find work for non-profit organizations before she started her own interior design firm, Tiffany Interiors, in 2013.

"I have taken some different paths in my career," Eifert said. "All of (the CSC majors) have come in handy. It's been really beneficial in every single career path I have taken."

Three years after her gastrectomy, Eifert is still part of the NIH study and dealing with effects of her condition. Despite the continual challenges, Eifert is grateful to have learned about her condition when she did, and to have been accepted for the NIH study.

"If I didn't have this information, it could be wildly different, so I try to share my story," she said. "If I can help people know what their risks are, I want to do that."

Additional information about stomach cancer can be found at nostomachforcancer.org and mygutfeeling.ca.

Story by George Ledbetter

Photo by Daniel Binkard



"I didn't know you could live without a stomach, but (decided) I'll figure it out, because what are the other options."

— Karissa Eifert

CSC-trained art teachers and spouses enjoy sharing what they know



“My processes have to be extremely tactile. I want to touch and feel everything.”
— Whitney Tewahade

Teaching art to people of any age is rewarding, but the goal isn't to show them how to become artists.

That's an insight drawn from the experience of two Chadron State College graduates and spouses from different backgrounds who have made successful careers in art education.

“We both have the same philosophy of teaching and teaching art,” said Buff Tewahade, a native of Ethiopia who has been teaching art to K-12 students in Oelrichs, South Dakota, for the past 19 years. “The idea of teaching art... isn't to turn students into artists. It's more helping students think artistically, to solve visual problems.”

Buff and Whitney Tewahade, who have three children and live in Chadron, met and married while studying at CSC.

Buff found his career almost by chance. Growing up in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, he liked to draw at home, but had no formal art training. He came to Chadron State after learning about the college from his brother, who earned a degree at CSC after completing a two-year program in Oklahoma. With the help of a scholarship and a local sponsor, Buff was able to enroll in Chadron State's visual arts program as an international student in 1988.

Following graduation, he moved to Colorado and worked at various jobs before returning to Chadron in pursuit of master's degree in art. At a friend's suggestion he switched to art education, despite knowing little about the field.

While student teaching Buff accepted an invitation to substitute teach at the Oelrichs school, which at the time didn't have an instructor for art. After graduation, he responded to an invitation from the Oelrichs principal and became the school's art teacher.

Blending art and education in his teaching work suits Buff well.

“Twelve of my close family members have gone to the college. Chadron State has done so much for us . . .”

— Buff Tewahade



“Art is a passion I have always had,” he said. “What makes it more interesting is the teaching part. It's just sharing what you know.”

Inspired by a teacher at her Torrington, Wyoming, high school, Whitney had already decided to become an art teacher when she entered Chadron State.

“I really liked to be creative...but didn't want to make my living being an artist,” she said. “I like helping other people to do things.”

Whitney's first teaching job after graduation was a part-time position at Hay Springs, where she was the sole art instructor. She left the job to stay home with her growing family, then taught for a time at the Child Development Center.

Capitalizing on her skills in a variety of media, Whitney started giving private art lessons in 2006. A couple of years later, their purchase of a downtown building created an opportunity to teach private classes. She opened a retail store stocked with

materials for sewing, quilting, and weaving, her favored artistic media.

Now a middle school art teacher in Chadron, Whitney recently closed the store, but continues to work with fabric and explore other artistic interests, including book making.

“My processes have to be extremely tactile. I want to touch and feel everything,” she said.

In her career Whitney has taught art to students ranging from preschool age to 80-plus years, but the reaction to learning creative skills is similar for all ages, she said.

“It's just fun to see somebody learn something new and be excited about it and proud of what they are able to accomplish,” she said. “I just love sharing what I do and what I know.”

Buff and Whitney also pursue creative interests outside of teaching. Whitney creates her own clothing, often using parts of other garments. Buff spends much of his free time building a two-story straw-bale house in the hills east of Chadron.

Seeing students find joy in creating art is one of the rewards of teaching, Buff and Whitney agreed.

“I have students that started in the studio at (age) five or six and still taking classes,” said Whitney. “It's exciting to see them fall in love with it.”

The couple also share a positive view of their Chadron State College education. CSC not only helped Buff find a rewarding career, it created opportunities for other members of his family.

“Twelve of my close family members have gone to the college,” he said. “Chadron State has done so much for us. We support an endowment that goes to local students.”

The college has been supportive and welcoming from the time she enrolled, Whitney said.

“Chadron State College was fabulous for me,” she said. “I had a lot of good teachers.”

Story by George Ledbetter
Photos by Daniel Binkard



The Burkhiser Complex has been home to many educational programs, such as distance learning, early childhood education, industrial arts, and business.



Burkhiser Complex has seen many changes through the years

While the exterior of the Burkhiser Technology Complex remains as it was when constructed in 1971, a succession of interior alterations have allowed for multiple changes in Chadron State College programs and needs during the past 50 years.

Designed for the college's industrial arts and home economics programs, the two-level, 61,000-square-foot structure cost \$1.22 million to build, with another \$178,000 spent for industrial and home economics equipment. Robert Gay of Rapid City, South Dakota, designed the building, with advice from Don Burkhiser, vocational education division chair.

The steel-frame, brick-walled building is constructed on piers placed on bedrock with a loft-type design that allows easy reconfiguration of interior walls. The general contractor, Corner Construction of Rapid City, used acoustical block to isolate noisy shop areas on the south from classrooms on the north. The building officially

opened on Oct. 6, 1972, and was renamed for Burkhiser in 1980.

The ground level of the building initially housed large classrooms for drafting and electronics, along with rooms for graphic arts and driver-training classes. The south side of the upper level featured shops for building construction, auto mechanics, metal and woodworking courses, locker space for work clothes, and bathrooms with showers.

The northern side of the upper level had classrooms for nutrition, home management, clothing, and textiles. Students could practice cooking in 12 kitchen units, including one designed for handicapped access, make clothing on sewing machines, and practice interior design in dining/living spaces.

The east side of the building was designed for the Child Development Center, a teaching laboratory for CSC's elementary education classes. The self-funded center, a 1970s spinoff from the federal Head Start program,

has two activity rooms for children, a central observation room with one-way windows, and a separate kitchen.

Unlike the rest of the building, the CDC has seen few alterations over the years, although a 2009 project created a certified Nature Explore Outdoor Learning Laboratory at the entrance, giving children access to outdoor activities.

The many lab spaces in Burkhiser made it ideal for the hands-on learning method of vocational education, said Dr. Norma Nealeigh, emeritus faculty member in the Family and Consumer Sciences department.

Joining industrial programs and home economics in one building made sense, said Dr. Kevin Miller, who taught CSC industrial technology courses for 10 years.

Because of changes in enrollment, technology, and program offerings over the years, the interior spaces in Burkhiser have been transformed.

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Remodeling of the lower level took place when computers made large drafting tables obsolete, transistors replaced vacuum tubes, and desktop publishing took over in printing and graphic arts. Large classrooms were divided into smaller spaces, and the building became home for CSC's Business Academy and the Nebraska Business Development Center.

In response to declining interest in the 1990s, CSC reduced course offerings in industrial arts, which led to repurposing of Burkhiser's four industrial shops. The auto mechanics area was used for a time by art department sculpture and textile classes, and eventually became the print shop. The woodworking shop was taken over by stage builders in the Theatre program, and a portion of the metal shop was temporarily converted to science labs during remodeling of the Math Science Center of Innovative Learning.

Major alterations in the rooms on the north of Burkhiser's upper level accompanied changes in FCS course offerings. Offices and smaller classrooms have replaced kitchens, the sewing machine space, and a large library. Some of the rooms were used for agriculture courses before construction of the Rangeland Complex. Nursing courses offered by Western Nebraska Community College now use a lower-level classroom that had been transformed into a distance learning center in an earlier remodel.

Space in Burkhiser is still proving useful for a variety of purposes, including a computer lab and display of the college's trophy animal mount collection.

One of the most positive aspects of the Burkhiser Complex has been the longevity and professionalism of instructors in the FCS department, including Dr. Yvonne Moody, Kim

Madsen, and Dr. Margaret Crouse, Nealeigh said. The industrial arts program also had many long-serving faculty members, including Dr. Merlyn Gramberg, Ernie Hall, and Lee Moeller, said Jim Stokey, who taught in the department for 17 years.

The combination of programs in Burkhiser also promoted valuable connections among faculty and students, Miller said.

"We called it the Burkhiser family," Stokey said.

The many changes in Burkhiser have allowed Chadron State to fulfill the building's original purpose, Miller said.

"It was a definite intent to develop programs for the benefit of the people in our region," he said.

Story by George Ledbetter

*Photos by Daniel Binkard
and historical archive*

Chance start led to new beginnings

Longtime vocational educator Donald M. Burkhiser, namesake of the Burkhiser Technology Complex at Chadron State College, got started in industrial arts education almost by chance.

In a 1973 Chadron Record story about his retirement, Burkhiser, who arrived at Chadron State in 1945, explained that his 45-year career as a vocational educator started by "just happenstance."

Born January 2, 1905, in Missouri, Burkhiser was one of three children of Grant and Louisa Burkhiser. By 1910 the family had moved to Iowa, where his father worked for the railroad. Though discouraged from railroading by his father, after high school Burkhiser worked several railroad jobs, including as an apprentice machinist, before being sent to company headquarters in Milwaukee when his plans to repair a locomotive frame pleased his superiors. He quit that job a week later because he and a friend were sightseeing and impulsively decided to enlist in the Army.

Following two years in field artillery, Burkhiser was visiting friends at the University of Northern Iowa and decided to enroll in industrial arts because he knew something about the field.

While in college Burkhiser met and married Juanah Snitkey, another UNI student. After graduating, he taught industrial arts and coached in Iowa high schools for 17 years. He completed a master's degree at Iowa State University in 1942 and came to Chadron State College to become chairman of the Division of Applied Arts in 1945.

At CSC he also taught classes, including drafting, woodworking, leather work, and teaching techniques.



Donald M. Burkhiser

He served as CSC's faculty athletic representative for 22 years and as advisor to the Blue Key fraternity.

A tall and somewhat stoic person, Burkhiser "was passionate about education," said his granddaughter, Kim Madsen, a family and consumer science professor at CSC.

Active in civic affairs, Burkhiser served on the Chadron City Council and for two years as mayor, was a member of the Shriners, president of Rotary, and head of the building committee for his church. Outside of work, his hobbies included fishing, oil painting, raising rabbits, and growing prize roses. In 1973, one of the roses he developed was named National Rose of the Year.

Burkhiser helped plan the building constructed in 1970-71 to house Chadron State's industrial arts and home economics programs, and was present when the building was named in his honor in 1980.

Don and Juanah had three daughters and one son. Three of their children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren are CSC graduates. The family was recognized with the Family Tree award in 2021.

Burkhiser died Oct. 9, 1990, almost a year after his wife's death. He and Juanah are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Chadron.

Story by George Ledbetter



CSC provided solid foundation for UT Director of Sport Nutrition

Ethan Bauer, a 2015 graduate from Chadron State College with degrees in Justice Studies and Nutrition and Wellness, has been the Director of Sport Nutrition at the University of Tennessee since April 2021. Prior to that, Bauer, who is from Morse Bluff, Nebraska, worked at the University of Nebraska for five years. Bauer is a registered dietitian, and has affiliations with the Collegiate and Professional Sports Dietitians Association, Sports, Cardiovascular and Wellness Nutrition; the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; and the American Society for Nutrition. During his time at CSC, Bauer appeared in 22 games for the football team as a tight end and special teams player. His uncle, Randy, and cousin, Aaron, also played football for the Eagles.

What are some of your duties at the University of Tennessee?

I oversee nutrition for 18 athletic teams at the University of Tennessee. I also supervise three full time staffers who are dietitians. There are a lot of day-to-day logistics, as well as nutrition operations for the football program, while maintaining oversight of the athletic department's nutrition services.

Describe the nutrition services the University of Tennessee provides its student-athletes.

Nutrition services differ in-season and out-of-season for student-athletes. In-season planning includes meals for travel and home contests. For football games, I travel ahead of the team and create the pre-game menu. We provide one-on-one consultations with student-athletes where we learn more about their medical nutrition and needs. We also provide pre-practice, intra-practice, and post-practice nutrition. That occurs for contests at home and away. My office is responsible for conducting sweat tests and hydration tests to optimize dietary practices for training. A big role for my office is planning the menus for the athletic dining facility, which includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner on a four-week cycle. Honestly, a lot of what we do is educating student-athletes about building a performance plate. It's not complicated. You always need fruits and veggies with every meal. They serve a purpose — they help your immune system run at a high level.

How do you communicate that to the student-athletes you work with?

I tell them everything in moderation. I want consistency Monday through Friday, because there's structure there from our department. The meals are mandatory, and I ask them to

follow the 80-20 rule, which is 80 percent of the time try to eat for performance.

What else does your department provide?

We provide daily supplements based on student-athletes' bloodwork. We do a lot of education on supplements, especially with the Name, Image, Likeness movement. Do you really need it? Is it peer reviewed? Is it third-party tested and certified? It is difficult because anyone call themselves a nutritionist. You're constantly being referred to as a nutritionist and what people see on social media. I'm a registered dietitian. A big thing with this job is to get along with the population you work with. You want to get questions and have them listen to you. You have to engage them where they're at.

How did CSC help you with your career trajectory?

CSC provided my foundational knowledge thanks to classes in FCS, nutrition and wellness, and HPER. A lot of those classes provided me with a great base and helped me succeed at UNL where I did my dietetic internship. Once I completed my internship, I could sit for the national exam.

Did you always want to work with athletes and their nutrition?

I originally wanted to be a criminal investigator. I had so many great teachers in criminal justice, but then I got hurt in football for two years in a row. I wanted to continue playing, so I knew I needed to get another degree. At the time, we didn't have a coach in strength and conditioning, but I was interested in it because I kept getting hurt. I was scrawny, but had a lot of fat mass. I did a lot of reading and got really interested in the field of sports nutrition. I didn't know it was a job until my fourth year in FCS.

Who are the people who helped get you where you're at?

Yvonne Moody was my advisor and was great to work with. She had a lot of insight. Josh Ellis taught classes that really benefited me. I also worked closely as a sports dietitian with Dave Ellis, the director of sports nutrition at UNL. I learned a ton from him and he expedited my career. I still talk to him and if I have a question, I know he'll help. This field has grown really quickly and it takes a lot of skills. I felt I was ready for this job because I worked for him. It is important to utilize the resources you have because if you don't use them, then you're wasting your time. People want to help you succeed.

Story by Alex Helmbrecht

Photo by University of Tennessee Athletics



Kurtenbach celebrates a vision to reality

Senior Drew Kurtenbach is grateful Esports at CSC has become a reality. Early Esports discussions predated the pandemic, and former Project Coordinator Stephanie Alfred championed the first iteration of Esports with about 18 students involved during the second half of the Spring 2020 semester.

By 2021, the club had been recognized by the Campus Activities Board. Most students competed from their own rooms or apartments, which placed them at a disadvantage compared to other college teams that competed in the same space. Alfred and Assistant Professor of Business Chris McCarthy advocated for a dedicated space with more computers.

Today, about 30 Esports members have uniforms, 12 high-end computers, specialized seating, a dedicated space in Miller Hall, Kurtenbach as coach, and scholarships to help recruit for Fall 2023.

"It's been rewarding to have support from the CSC administration. Everyone in the program feels fortunate we have this opportunity," Kurtenbach said. "Being a coach in Esports has been great, seeing people achieve what they want to do and go further than they thought they could."

In early 2023, an Esports arena in Kent Hall should be complete, according to Kurtenbach. "We're super excited about it. We're definitely blessed to have the kind of program

we have right now and be moving forward," Kurtenbach said.

His plan is to continue as an Esports coach for a few more years.

"We'll see how it shakes out. If I detour away from coaching, I want to get into sports marketing in the future, working with teams and making their brand goals a reality," Kurtenbach said.

In addition to Esports, Kurtenbach, who is from Rapid City, South Dakota, has had other opportunities at CSC, including a year-long internship with the Business Academy when he worked on marketing materials and planning events for the Rural Business Leadership Initiative.

"That was a really good experience to use some textbook knowledge and apply it to a real-world project," Kurtenbach said.

Kurtenbach was a Resident Adviser for Housing, an announcer for men's and women's basketball games, and served as president of the Future Business Leaders of America club. He will graduate in May 2023 with a degree in Marketing and a minor in Public Relations.

"I've been able to learn new things in a variety of roles and had a lot of rewarding experiences getting to touch the lives of others and support them while they achieve what they wanted to," Kurtenbach said.

*Story by Tena L. Cook
Photo by Daniel Binkard*

Haertel plans career in music

Jacob Haertel is stacking up music teaching experiences to help his future career. The junior music education major of Hot Springs, South Dakota, has been a member of the Wind Symphony, Vocal Jazz, Drumline, and has been an officer in Concert Choir and Eagle Band.

He chose CSC, in part, because of the proximity to his five siblings.

"I love small towns, and Chadron State provided a unique opportunity to receive a high-level education in a cozy community," he said. "One-on-one opportunities with faculty have been very rewarding. I love asking questions, so having access to experts in my field of study has been a tremendous privilege."

He was selected as the expert for a special teaching opportunity at Chadron High School when he worked with the clarinet section of the band for 10 weeks.

"That was a good challenge because the students were struggling, and I was required to understand the struggle in order to help them overcome it," Haertel said.

Although Haertel has enjoyed making music with his fellow

students, having unplanned late-night conversations, and making spontaneous excursions, his most impactful experiences have been his involvement with campus ministries.

"I have found a supportive community that encourages me to become the man that God made me to be, and I have been given the chance to encourage them in the same way. Opportunities like being president of Campus Ventures have required me to take responsibility and act in a way that sets an example," Haertel said.

He recounts many positive interactions with members of his church.

"I have been blessed by so many people who have shown kindness to me by serving me in tangible ways with food, and also encouraging me, and giving me the chance to serve by helping with music," Haertel said.

Haertel will graduate in the Spring of 2024 and plans to pursue either a career as a music teacher or in professional music ministry.

*Story by Tena L. Cook
Photo by Daniel Binkard*



Two major athletic events at Chadron State this spring

Chadron State College will have the opportunity to showcase two of its facilities this spring when it hosts two large-scale athletic events.

The NCAA Super Region 6 Men's Wrestling Championships will take place in the Chicoine Center on Saturday, February 25, beginning at 10 a.m. The tournament will draw 10 teams from Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, California, and British Columbia for a one-day competition with national championship implications. Among the competition coming into town are defending national

champion Nebraska-Kearney, as well as four other teams in the top 20 at last year's national tournament.

From April 28-30, CSC will host 14 women's and 12 men's track and field squads at its new track and field complex for the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships. The field regularly consists of some of the top competition in NCAA Division II, with four of the league's men's teams, and two women's teams, finishing ranked in the top 25 in the nation in 2022.

CHADRON STATE



Super Region 6 Men's Wrestling Championships Feb. 25



RMAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships April 28-30



Title IX celebrated in October

Title IX, signed into federal law in 1972, provided the opportunity for the growth of women's sports at Chadron State College, but it was the hard work and perseverance of CSC's female athletes that paved — and continue to pave — the way for future generations of athletes. This fall, those athletes were honored as part of a nationwide celebration of 50 years since the passing of Title IX.

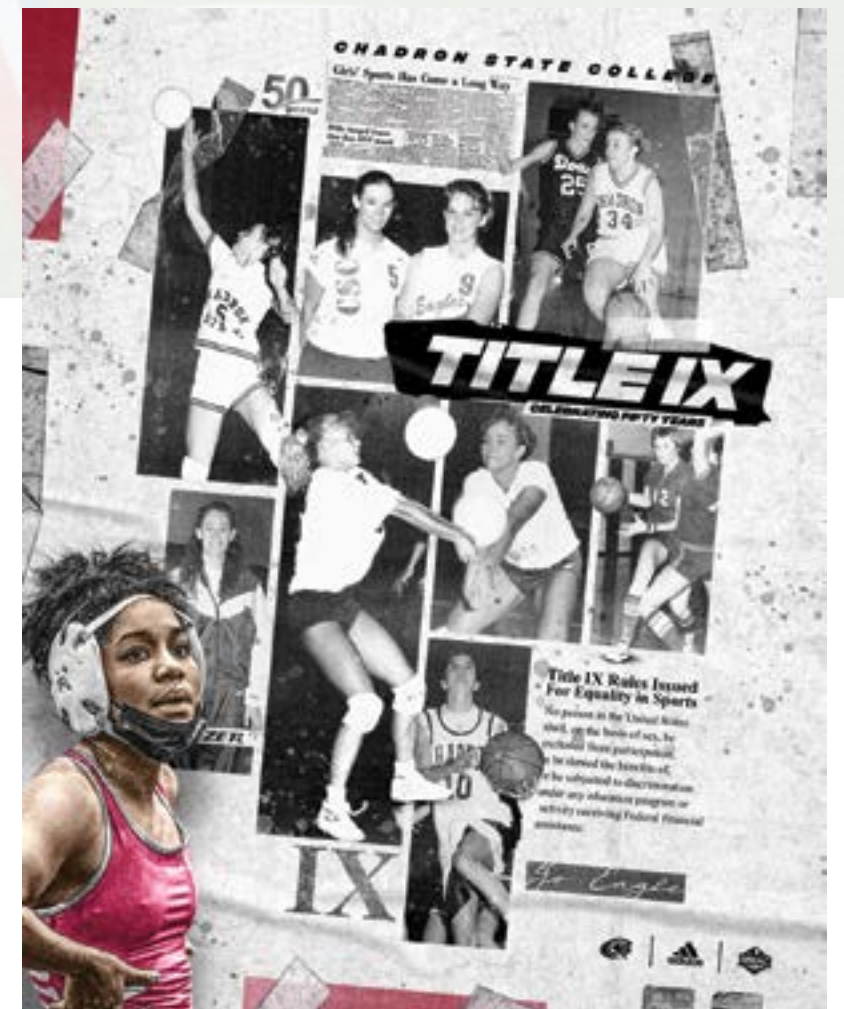
Several prominent women from CSC athletics returned to campus to be celebrated during Homecoming in October. They were recognized at halftime of the Homecoming football game, during a luncheon, and at the women's basketball game that evening.

The college hopes for a continued celebration of the outstanding character and determination of Chadron State's female athletes. 2025 will mark 50 years since the full implementation of Title IX at CSC.

Story by Brandon Davenport

Photo by Kamryn Kozisek

Graphic by Josh Mindemann



Pope retiring from CS Foundation

Karen Pope originally didn't want to be at Chadron State College. However, after nearly a 30-year professional career for the Chadron State Foundation and an undergraduate degree from the institution, she's glad she changed her mind all those years ago.

Pope, who retired as the Director of Alumni and Development for the Chadron State Foundation in January, grew up in Bridgeport, Nebraska, a short drive from Chadron, but admitted CSC was not in her college plans.

"I never wanted to go to CSC because my brother and brother-in-law were here," Pope said. "My brother, George (Watson), had just taken a teaching job here, but I'm so glad I made the decision to attend CSC. And, having my family members here wasn't that bad – in fact, it benefited me. George was my advisor and he got me done a semester early."

Pope graduated from CSC with a degree in social sciences in 1980. Once her children were old enough for school, Pope went back to work and became an Office Assistant in the Alumni and Foundation Office in 1995. Her title was changed to the Director of Alumni and Development in the early 2000s and she's been in that role ever since.

When she was hired, one of Pope's responsibilities was to put together an alumni newsletter. Without much of a background in publications and graphic design, Pope reached out to Dewayne Gimeson, a CSC publications specialist to learn more.

"She used to bring a little notebook for when we'd get together and she'd write down how to do different things in Photoshop," he said. "Later on, she'd call and explain her question to me, and by the time she got done explaining, she'd



"No one is successful by themselves, so continue to show those who helped you along the way that you appreciate them and their efforts."
— Karen Pope

figured it out. So, I didn't help that much, but maybe I'm a better listener."

The two continued to work together for more than 20 years on numerous projects, including all of the major Alumni and Foundation publications.

Another longtime colleague of Pope's was former Alumni and Foundation CEO Connie Rasmussen.

"She is one of the most creative people I ever worked with," Rasmussen said. "There isn't anything she can't do. She really brought the Foundation to the next level with the professional look of our publications. Her relationships with alums was genuine. She took an interest and loved working with them. They felt that and they loved working with her."

In addition to organizing alumni events and handling publications, Pope assisted with the Fall Fund Drive and helped with the annual phonathon. Pope said she always understood her job was centered around people, something she enjoyed.

"It is important to work with people and meet them where they are at. That is a big key to success. If you're respectful and reciprocate their trust, you're going to succeed," she said. "No one is successful by themselves, so continue to show those who helped you along the way that you appreciate them and their efforts."

By Alex Helmbrecht
Photo by Daniel Binkard

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“I’m a Special Education major and it’s really helping me develop the skills I will need as a teacher. In addition, I feel like the kids benefit from having positive role models in the classroom.”

— Katherine Hoeke

Child Development Center building relationships since 1972

Since 1972, the Child Development Center Laboratory has provided care for pre-school children and while doing so has created a space for students to test what they learn in early education courses. The CDC staff fosters a cross-section of relationships with campus departments, community schools, and residents.

Director Lona Downs said the staff embraces a teaching philosophy that allows children to actively construct their own learning through a variety of hands-on, exploratory, and age-

appropriate activities. The curriculum supports play-based learning designed to enhance the children’s cognitive, language, literacy, and physical skills.

“The Child Development Center is a fun and joyful place of learning. It’s an amazing facility that benefits every person who walks through the door,” Downs said.

Children up to age nine are enrolled at the CDC for activities after school and in the summer.

Each semester, about 15 CSC students work as teacher assistants.

Many of the students are working toward degrees in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, or Child and Family Studies.

Katherine Hoeke of Rapid City, South Dakota, said working at the CDC has been beneficial for her future career.

“I’m a Special Education major and it’s really helping me develop the skills I will need as a teacher. In addition, I feel like the kids benefit from having positive role models in the classroom,” Hoeke said.

Downs said the laboratory provides valuable real-world experience.

“Students have the opportunity to apply their teaching skills, theories, and strategies. This experience often either confirms or disproves a student’s choice to enter a career working with young children,” Downs said.

Downs said she and lead teacher, Kerri Ruff, receive positive feedback from the Chadron Public Schools kindergarten teachers, administrators, and special education team.

“The kindergarten staff often compliment the social-emotional and problem-solving skills of CDC

children. They thrive on routine, but are also flexible in their thinking. They are excited to learn and take on new challenges,” Downs said.

The CDC collaborates with Head Start, the Chadron Volunteer Fire Department, CAPWYN Dental, and a number of CSC academic programs.

A community collaboration spotlight is the annual Community Helpers Parade of trucks, tractors, firetrucks, and other large equipment.

“Everyone who participated said it was the best part of their day and they look forward to doing it again. Many parents were able to showcase

the important services they provide to the community, and the children were so excited to learn about each one,” Downs said.

All children are eligible to attend the CDC regardless of income status, race, religion, origin, cultural background, gender, residence, ability, or family status. The CDC is licensed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

Story by Tena L. Cook
Photo by Lona Downs

CLASS NOTES

'50s

Tom Southard att. '55, Kimball, will be inducted into the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame for his work as a sportswriter for the Western Nebraska Observer.

'70s

John Grint '71, wife Sheri, and daughter **Jeri (Grint) Anderson '00**, Chadron, were named to the Dawes County Ag Hall of Fame for their contributions to the horse industry.

Janet (Stoeger) Wilke BSE '76, MS '82, Kearney, retired after 34 years with the University of Nebraska-Kearney Calvin T. Ryan Library.

Curt Holmquist BSE '77 MS '83, Chadron, received the Ken Cook Award from the Nebraska Coaches Association for his contributions as a girls basketball coach.

'80s

Dennis Yost '80, Sterling, Colorado, retired after 42 years with the Wyoming Department of Health supporting individuals with disabilities.

Doug Messersmith '81, Palm Springs, California, retired after 40 years teaching second–sixth grades in the Palm Springs USD.

Robert Wahlstrom '82, Chadron, received national recognition for community service and industry accomplishment with his nomination for the 2023 TIME Dealer of the Year.

Chris Carlisle '85, Gilbert, Arizona, wrote “Move or Die.”

Jeff Barnett '86, Douglas, was inducted into the Wyoming Coaches Association Hall of Fame for his work coaching high school and middle school wrestling, track, and football.

'90s

Karen (Loghry) Eisenbarth '96, Bozeman, Montana, retired as the CEO of Northwest Community Action Partnership where she served for 14 years, nine as CEO.

'00s

Col. Josh McConkey '00 offers motivational speaking services for America’s youth and businesses.

Melissa Burke BA '01 MBA '02 MS '09, Terre Haute, Indiana, is NCAA compliance assistant director at Indiana State University.

Dr. Sarah Schmitt-Wilson '02, Bozeman, Montana, won the Best Research Award and the Outstanding Service Award from the National Rural Education Association for her rural education work.

Gordon Brooks '03, Box Elder, South Dakota, is a missionary for Kingdom Family Missions.

Lacey (Anders) Herring '04, Rawlings, Wyoming, is vice president for operations at the Bank of Commerce.

Mari Olson '04, Madison, Wisconsin, is director of tourism for Middleton, Wisconsin.

Heather (Wichert) Pearson '05, Chadron, joined Chadron Middle School as a special education teacher.

Kim Davis '09, Riverton, Wyoming, is head coach at Riverton High School.

Josh Digmann '09, Chadron, joined Chadron Middle School as a physical education teacher. He is also an assistant coach for the high school football and wrestling teams.

'10s

Shawn Banzhaf '10, Phoenix, is executive director for the Pat Tillman Veterans Center at Arizona State University.

Rebecca (Sullivan) Swedin '10, Eureka, California, is executive assistant to the forest supervisor at Six Rivers National Forest.

Christopher Zayas '10, Houston, was promoted to senior manager at Accenture.

Marty Lastovica '13, St. Louis, started as on-site client manager at SGK.

Jon Marquez '13, Lincoln, serves on the board of directors for Abendmusik.

Michael Sandstrom '13, Chadron, received the Nebraska State Council for the Social Studies 3rd Congressional District Outstanding Teacher Award for 2022.

Jazz Bozner '15, Seattle, is a business administrator at Azure Core at Microsoft.

Emma (Harris) Hageman '16, Chadron, joined Chadron Primary School as a resource teacher.

Lane Swedberg '16, North Platte, is the Teaching and Learning Coordinator at Educational Service Unit 16.

Broc Anderson '17, Kearney, presented “Wounded Knee & Impact on Northwest Nebraska” at the Knight Museum and Sandhills Center in October.

Rachel (Dowling) Gifford '18, Chadron, joined Chadron High School as an English teacher.

Brian Guerrero '18, Rohnert Park, California, joined the Santa Rosa Police department.

Phillip Duncan '19, Omaha, won the Chadron 5K Rotary Colter Run for the sixth time in the last nine years.

Samantha Merrill '19, Hot Springs, South Dakota, graduated summa cum laude and with sterling honors from the University of South Dakota with her juris doctorate.

Tristin (TD) Stein '19, Canyon, Texas, is the West Texas A&M football offensive graduate assistant for running backs.

'20s

Stevann Brown '20, Kingman, Arizona, is the Lee Williams High School head football coach.

Eli Goff '20, Chadron, is the Natural Resources Coordinator for the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District.

Katelyn Lambert '20, Chadron, was named Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant for the School of Communication at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and received the Top Thesis Award.

Dinema Mate '20, St. Paul, Minnesota, started as a mental health practitioner at RADIAS Health.

Lauren Collins '21, Chadron, joined Chadron Primary as a kindergarten teacher.

Megan Dormann '22, Grant, teaches fifth and sixth grade reading and English at Perkins County Schools.

MARRIAGES

'10s

Connor McGhehey '13 and **Hillary (Ibarra) McGhehey '18**, Omaha, married July 2, 2022.

Brandon Segelke '14 and **Sami (Schmit) Segelke '16**, Lincoln, married Oct. 16, 2021.

Amanda (Brill) Cozad '17 and Kirby Cozad, Scottsbluff, married June 4, 2022.

Holly (Real) Ricketts '18 and Nathaniel Ricketts, Wright, Wyoming, married April 24, 2021.

FUTURE EAGLES

'00s

Bode James to **Jessi (Moore) '06** and **Brandon Duke '07**, Norfolk, June 17, 2022. He joins brother Reed.

Porter Sumner to **Whitney (Campbell) Sumner** and Kyle, Lafayette, California, Sept. 8, 2022.

'10s

Isla Jo to **Riley Northrup '10** and Megan, Brookings, South Dakota, June 20, 2022. She joins brother Ryker.

Jaxtyn Troy to **Tracy (Witte) Sommerville '16** and Jason, Chadron, June 1, 2022.

Daxton Anthony to **Kaylee (Gaswick) BA '16 MBA '17 BSE '21** and **Taylor Summers '17**, Gunnison, Colorado, Nov. 16, 2022.

Jaydalee Marie to **Larissa (Hastings) White '17** and Zachary, Ogallala, Dec. 27, 2021.

'20s

Nekosivonh “Neko” to **Gabriele (Moody) Sayaloune '20** and **Vonsinh '20**, Vermillion, South Dakota, July 2020.

OBITUARIES

Friends

Gerry Fickel, Chadron, died Sept. 7, 2022.

'40s

Bertha (Barrett) Sandberg '40 Albin, Wyoming, died June 28, 2022.

'50s

Harold Mundschenk, husband of **Daisy (Shimek) Mundschenk '52**, Fayetteville, Georgia, died July 20, 2022.

Tom Stroud att. '52 Broomfield, died March 17, 2022.

James “Larry” Lochridge '53 Las Vegas, died June 24, 2022.

Marvin Lively att. '56 Buhl, Idaho, died April 29, 2022.

'60s

Charles “Chuck” Bruch '60, Lusk, Wyoming, July 29, 2022.

Neal “Stan” Custer '60, Columbus, died July 3, 2022.

Dr. George Hoffmann '60, Johnston, Iowa, died May 13, 2022.

Bill Mowry '60, Riverton, Wyoming, died Nov. 22, 2022.

Stanley Vasa '60, Lincoln, died July 17, 2022.

Roger Hengen '61, North Platte, died April 11, 2022.

Larry Vandel BSE '61 MS '65 SE '83, Idaho Falls, Idaho, died June 5, 2022.

Mildred (Eddy) Colwell att. '62, Gordon, died July 23, 2022.

Theodore Daigger '62, North Platte, died Oct. 14, 2022.

Bernadine (Littleton) Howarth '62, Sacramento, California, died April 20, 2022.

Dorothy (Frick) Reese '66, Ogallala, died June 17, 2022.

Kenneth Korte '68, Chadron, died Aug. 29, 2022.

Betty (Hoopengartner) McAleenan '69, Kinneer, Wyoming, died Oct. 1, 2022.

Betty Witte '69, Chadron, died Aug. 2, 2022.

Larry Gold '69, Council Bluffs, Iowa, died Oct. 6, 2022.

'70s

Rosalie Hastings, wife of **Gary Hastings BA '70 MS '72**, Gering, died Nov. 24, 2022.

Karen (Giles) Nance '70, North Platte, died July 14, 2022.

Janet (Harris) Russell, Sun City West, Arizona, died July 13, 2022.

Patricia Vinton '70, North Platte, died Aug. 11, 2022.

Donald Brown att. '72, Alliance, died July 31, 2022.

George Turechek III '72, Cody, Wyoming, died July 20, 2022.

Minnie (Meter) Carter '72, Gering, died May 9, 2022.

Robert Dotson '72, Chadron, died July 18, 2022.

Beonville “Bee” Bullock '73, Alliance, died Oct. 2, 2022.

Ralph Rhoads att. '73, Lincoln, died June 27, 2022.

Michael Grandstaff '74, Parker, Colorado, died Oct. 20, 2022.

Deborah (Proctor) Jorde att. '74, Towner, North Dakota, died Nov. 26, 2022.

Mark Bishop '75, Gering, died Oct. 29, 2022.

Galen “Gus” Meyer '75, Grand Island, died Oct. 9, 2022.

Nadine (Kampfe) Pollard '75, Denver, died June 15, 2022.

Wayne Blankenbiller BSE '76 MS '94, Rexburg, Idaho, died Aug. 15, 2022.

Celia (Irwin) Stacy '76, Chadron, died Nov. 14, 2022.

Leslie “Butch” Ouderkirk '76, Chadron, died May 25, 2022.

Krista (Olson) Moore '79, Chadron, died Nov. 4, 2022.

'80s

Marlene (DeWitt) Dykes '81, Chadron, died Aug. 10, 2022.

Evelyn (Cartwright) Geu '82, Sidney, died Sept.16, 2022.

Randal Emmons '85, Oxford, died July 11, 2022.

Wanda Goodrich '87, Burwell, died Oct. 19, 2021.

Glenn Schleve MA '87, Morrill, died July 11, 2022.

Pericles “Perry” Theros '87, Mitchell, died May 27, 2022.

Maria “Mimi” Wheeler-Groves '87, Chadron, died May 31, 2022.

Carol (Huber) Rogers MS '88, Scottsbluff, died May 31, 2022.

Karin (Miceli) Shaw '88, Kimball, died Nov. 6, 2022.

'90s

Elenore (Langston) Bolger '90, Pierre, South Dakota, died Nov. 14, 2021.

Mary (Wax) Haddix '90, Chadron, died June 7, 2022.

Daryl Dobry MS '92, Plattsmouth, died Nov. 21, 2022.

Michael Sorensen '93, Imperial, died Aug. 4, 2022.

Anna (Forsstrom) Schild '94, Rapid City, South Dakota, died May 4, 2022.

Jean (Coffee) Baker att. '96, Tucson, Arizona, died May 7, 2022.

Jacqueline (Snyder) Glaubitz att. '97, Sutherland, died Oct. 1, 2022.

Linda (Maley) McKenzie '97, Kent, Washington, died Feb. 1, 2022.

'10s

Taylor Ziolkowski '10, North Platte, died April 27, 2021.

'20s

William “Billy” Hall '22, Lincoln, died July 10, 2022.

2023 SPRING ALUMNI GATHERINGS

January 27: Tucson, Arizona; Chandler, Arizona

January 28: Mesa, Arizona; Scottsdale, Arizona

January 29: Sun City West, Arizona

April 1: Dallas, Texas

April 15: Casper, Wyoming; Riverton, Wyoming

April 20: Torrington, Wyoming

April 28: Norfolk, Nebraska; Des Moines, Iowa

Watch for details in your mailbox of on the CSC website at csc.edu/alumni/get-involved

We hope to see you soon!

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

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2023 Don Beebe Golf Classic

May 26: Reception and Shoot-Out

May 27-28: Tournament

Practice your swing, grab that new club you've been wanting, and keep an eye on the Foundation website for the chance to register for the 2023 Don Beebe Golf Classic!

csc.edu/foundation

*This winter, sleigh bells
won't be the only thing ringing...*



A Chadron State student will be calling to hear about your college experiences and to discuss how you can make a difference in the lives of current students. Consider a gift to fund scholarships and campus services that give students the tools to reach their full potential.

CSC Phonathon, February 6–23, 2023