

Summer 2024

CHADRON STATE MAGAZINE





Dear Alumni and Friends of Chadron State College,

As the first year of my Presidency draws to a close at Chadron State College, I have begun to reflect on the numerous accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. And, what a great year it has been! More than 700 students were on the Dean's or President's lists, 80 student-athletes had a 4.0 GPA, the Eagle Esports team won the 2023 Rocket League Championship, men's wrestling claimed a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championship, art students created graphics for a guitar ensemble in the planetarium, CSC entered into two more academic partnerships, and added a master's degree program in athletic training. That brief list highlights only a few of the achievements we shared in last year, but trust me, this letter could be much longer. I truly believe progress requires effort and I am so thankful to all those connected with Chadron State College who embody that shared vision.

The accomplishments this past year at CSC were not mine alone. Like the anecdote I shared in my investiture speech this past spring about a turtle on top of the fencepost, I also did not arrive here alone. There are so many capable people at Chadron State College and within the community who have helped me daily as we work together to ensure CSC continues to be a first-choice college for students in western Nebraska.

Chadron State College provides a high-quality education at an affordable cost, while having a critical role in the region's cultural and economic development. CSC is a college you can be proud of because the values of hard work, integrity, and community are embedded in the curriculum. Those same values are demonstrated in the conversations we're having on campus as we seek to determine priorities for our strategic vision and academic programs. We are also seeking to provide additional leadership opportunities for students, demonstrate increased fiscal responsibility and development, and improve communication and community relations.

Now is the right time for CSC and its leaders to seek various ways to focus our efforts on enhancing the academic experience, encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, galvanize an educated and committed workforce, provide excellent service, and engage the community. We are not only producing graduates. Rather, we are producing graduates who become leaders, advocates, and volunteers within their communities, and every city, state, and country they end up calling home will benefit from having them as a resident. This past year, we launched several strategic initiatives designed to foster energy, innovation, and transparency in pursuing the college's mission and vision and we will continue to produce graduates you can all be proud of.

As we continue to move forward in this next academic year, we remain dedicated to CSC's mission and vision, continuously striving to enhance the educational experience and outcomes for our students and community.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our institution. Your contributions of your time, talent, and treasures are essential to our ongoing success.

Soar Eagles,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron K. Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" being particularly prominent.

Ron K. Patterson, President



Dear Treasured CSC Alumni,

For nearly two years it has been my pleasure to serve as the Director of Alumni and Development. I have sincerely enjoyed meeting you all and hearing about your time as an on-campus, commuter, online, or graduate student. Your passion and dedication in continuing to serve and sustain the life of current and future CSC students is truly inspiring. We've seen some wonderful changes and more to come. When I think about CSC, our students, alumni, and recent additions to our beloved alma mater, one word comes to mind: impactful.

Over the years we have navigated and celebrated many changes; through those changes one thing has remained the same. You! Our impactful, supportive, loyal, and amazing alumni. Thank you for continuing to share your stories, memories, connections, and commitment to CSC. As you read the stories in this edition of the alumni magazine, I hope you feel compelled to nominate a friend, classmate, or fellow alum to be highlighted in the magazine.

As we continue to celebrate and uphold the traditions of our beloved alma mater, I look forward to increased engagement, outreach, and further collaboration with each of you. The impact you provide throughout our alumni network is vital. I welcome the opportunity to work with you to continue making a positive, intentional impact for our alumni, current, and future CSC students. Please mark our All Alumni Reunion date on your calendar. It would be wonderful to welcome you home for the Homecoming and All Alumni Reunion celebration.

Soar Eagles,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Digmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Digmann, Director - Alumni and Development

Cover photo

Campus and community members gather on C-Hill to celebrate the campus landmark's centennial in April. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)



Paddock-O'Reilly named Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly has been named Chadron State College's next Vice President for Academic Affairs, President Ron K. Patterson announced May 8. She will replace Dr. Jim Powell, who will retire June 30. Paddock-O'Reilly's first day at CSC is July 1.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Kimberly Paddock-O'Reilly to the Eagle family," Patterson said. "I look forward to working closely with her to advance access and affordability for students, both inside and outside the classroom. Her scholarly record as an educator, researcher, and leader makes her an ideal person to drive our student-focused mission at Chadron State College."

Paddock-O'Reilly brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise as Chadron State's top academic officer. She has most recently worked as an executive coach at KPL Coaching, a firm she co-founded, but prior to her personal business, Paddock-O'Reilly served as an administrator for eight years at Logan University in Chesterfield, Missouri. At Logan University, she was the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor, and finally Provost and Professor.

Paddock-O'Reilly said her coaching skills, combined with her professional experiences, including her service as a peer reviewer, put her in a position to positively impact CSC.

"I truly believe that having the experience of working with organizations outside of higher education allows for innovation and outside the box thinking within higher education," she said. "Getting to see all the ways organizations have had success and continue to grow their success provides us with a framework and that is good information to have as we continuously improve our offerings to best serve our students."

Paddock-O'Reilly has excelled with her professional leadership opportunities. She was the Dean of Online Education and the Associate Vice President for New Programs at Salem University from 2012-14, the Dean and Associate Professor for the



College of Health Sciences, a Vice Dean and Associate Professor, and an Associate Dean at A.T. Still University. Paddock-O'Reilly was also responsible for training and hiring new faculty as the Associate Dean at ITT Technical Institute in Carmel, Indiana, and she was also the Academic Success Coordinator.

"I am a servant leader and one who wants to put the organization and the people first," she said. "CSC is my priority, not myself. I want to be as inclusive and transparent as possible with how I make decisions, and I plan to be present and visible at college events and within the community. I will be connected to the students, the faculty and staff because I want to make their experiences better."

Paddock-O'Reilly earned a Bachelor of Arts from Purdue University, a Master of Social Work from Indiana University School of Social Work, an MBA from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and a Master of Science degree in marriage and family studies from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. Her Doctor of Health Education is from A.T. Still University.

Paddock-O'Reilly said she took the job at CSC because the opportunity will allow her to grow.

"There are so many things about Chadron State that align with what I'm already good at, but CSC is also a place where I feel like I'll have a great opportunity to learn and grow as a leader and administrator," she said. "From my short time on

campus and within the community, I can tell the people are genuine and welcoming. CSC feels like a place where we can work together easily, and when we do that, we'll have great outcomes. It is important to me that I keep growing and learning in my profession, and that will be easy to do with the atmosphere at CSC, as well as with the leadership of President Patterson."

At CSC, Paddock-O'Reilly will supervise the college's three academic schools, Institutional Effectiveness, the Office of Academic Success, Instructional Design, Internship and Career Services, the library and its various services to students, Upward Bound, and Project Strive/TRIO.

By Alex Helmbrecht

Chadron State celebrates faculty, staff retirees at annual luncheon

Becky Bolze

Bolze worked for 10 years as an Office Assistant III within Admissions and Enrollment Management. She said she enjoyed working with incoming students, answering their questions, and helping them prepare for enrollment. She also enjoyed working with the Admissions' Call Center student workers.



"That has been a huge highlight. It was enjoyable developing relationships, both with the parents and the students, and it's been fun to stay in touch with a lot of them," she said. "My very favorite part of the whole job was all of the personal connections and working with mainly incoming freshman students and their parents. It was really fulfilling watching those students succeed."

Although Bolze is an Ohio native, she loves Chadron. She said that she and her husband, Ron, look forward to spending more time with their grandchildren and watching more western Nebraska sunsets and sunrises.

Scott Cavin

Cavin started in the Chadron State College Theatre Department in 1996. He taught theatre design, theatre



history, play script analysis, and designed sets and lights for more than 130 productions. Cavin has also directed 16 productions. The performances Cavin brought to CSC were popular, but also challenging.

"Extremities' was uncomfortable for so many different reasons. But it was also a very popular and very powerful

performance," he said. "'Vampire Cowboy Trilogy,' 'Extremities,' and 'The Play About the Baby' all allowed me to work with the students through all the elements of a theatrical production."

"The Evil Dead" set was designed by alumni Leo Haselhorst who is the Technical Director at Sky Light Musical Theatre in Milwaukee. In his final note of thanks to Cavin for his internship, Haselhorst thanked Cavin for mentoring him and acknowledged Cavin's encouragement opened many doors for him.

Dave "Fred" Hunn

Hunn started at Chadron State College in 2014 as a Maintenance Worker III. He



describes his work as repairing and replacing flooring and drywall in campus buildings.

"I'm really glad I came to work here. I've made a lot of new friends. They are great to work with," he said.

Before joining the CSC staff, Hunn was a self-employed horseshoeing professional for 31 years. He and his wife, Lorie, who is a professor in the Family and Consumer Sciences department, moved to Chadron in 2003, along with their children, Sheyenne and Slade.

Slade works at Pine Ridge Job Corps and details cars. Sheyenne and her husband, Mike Sandstrom, are teachers in Chadron. They have two sons, Roman and Lukah.

Kristal Kuhnel

Kuhnel worked at Chadron State College for three decades before retiring in 2024. In 2004, Kuhnel became the assistant to the interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Kathy Bahr. Following



a reorganization, Kuhnel was named the Director of the Graduate program and worked closely with the late Dr. Margaret Crouse, the dean responsible for graduate studies, for five years.

Kuhnel spent nine years as Director of Health Professions. She recruited students to the program, worked to help them stay on track to progress toward graduate school requirements, and worked on many other projects for the program.

She now works at the Pine Ridge Job Corps near Chadron. She and her husband, Lorin, who works in maintenance, plan to spend more time with their grandchildren, daughter in North Dakota, and son in South Dakota.

Dr. Michael Leite

When Leite was hired at Chadron State College in 1996, he worked to



re-establish the Eleanor Barbour Cook Museum of Geology, an endeavor that revitalized the college's geology museum and opened its exhibits to the public.

In 2013, he worked on redesigning the Geoscience program to offer it in a predominantly online format, supplemented by immersive summer field camps.

Leite is committed to the role community engagement with science can play in environmental stewardship. He piloted ongoing monitoring of water resources in the Chadron Creek watershed, leading to funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

and participation of a student team in a design competition in Washington, D.C. He has served on the board of the Mammoth Site in Hot Springs, South Dakota, for 27 years.

Leite received the Teaching Excellence Award from Chadron State College and the Nebraska State Colleges Teaching Excellence Award. His mentorship spawned numerous student internships and research projects with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Dr. Jim Powell

Powell, Vice President for Academic Affairs since 2020, retired at the end of June. He joined CSC as a Dean in 2015,



helped shepherd the institution through its successful four-year affirmation review through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), worked to

establish the college's Quality Initiative for HLC, and assisted with programmatic accreditation.

Powell supported the development of several new programs, expansion of the para-professional teacher certification, an educational leadership program in Alaska, and the creation of an unmanned aerial systems certificate.

He had just started as vice president when the college pivoted to remote instruction during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and was instrumental in helping facilitate the change in course delivery.

"I had the amazing chance to work with a lot of talented people," Powell said.

Powell and his wife, Karla, have two adult sons and four grandchildren.

Joel R. Smith

Smith served as Athletic Director for more than a decade before retiring

in early 2024. Smith oversaw the construction of the Chicoine Center, outdoor Track and Field Complex, and Beebe Stadium renovation.



Smith spent his entire career in athletics. He was the commissioner of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference for 12 years before joining CSC, director of athletics at Fort

Lewis College, assistant athletic director at Metropolitan State University of Denver, and was active in the National College Athletics Association (NCAA), serving on regional advisory and championship committees.

While Smith was at Metro State, he met and married his wife, Catherine, who grew up in the Denver area. They have six children: Timothy, Hannah, Andrew, Daniel, Sara, and Joshua.

NOBODY KNOWS THE VALUE OF CSC LIKE YOU DO.

Your experience and success at Chadron State College make you an excellent ambassador for our future students. Help the Admissions Office identify students who would thrive with CSC's high-quality education, dedicated faculty and staff and vibrant community.

Recommend these future students today!

**Contact Tracy Welsh | 308-432-7030 | twelsh@csc.edu
csc.edu/admissions**



Recent graduate praises multi-faceted experience on campus

Participation in extra-curricular activities and personal connections with professors helped create a successful Chadron State College experience for Mississippi native Adeline Beason.

Beason, who graduated in May, majored in communication arts and history.

"I don't think I could have picked a better launchpad for my professional future than Chadron State College," Beason said. "I can't speak highly enough of Chadron State."

After early graduation from high school in Clinton, Mississippi, Beason began searching for an affordable college that would prepare her for entry to law school.

"The prices were so high, and in-state (college) wasn't cheaper, so I was researching cost-effective out-of-state schools and Chadron appeared," she said. "I did a virtual tour and talked to some alumni and thought Chadron would be a good fit. It turned out to be a good decision."

Initially intending to study communication and legal studies, Beason said a First Year Inquiry course convinced her to take history as a second major. That led to a connection with history professor Kurt Kinbacher, one of the instructors who most influenced her college career.

"He was most encouraging in my path, both academic and professional," she said. "He really fostered a wonderful academic experience."

As a freshman, Beason joined the staff of *The Eagle*, CSC's student newspaper. After working one year as

a reporter and a columnist for three years, she became editor in her final semester and faced the challenge of being almost solely responsible for producing the weekly eight-page publication. Beason said she knew little about newspaper production early in her career and learned graphic design and several computer programs, along with making many CSC connections.

"I saw all these unique and interesting opportunities that were available through journalism and enjoyed covering campus news," she said. "I think that was the best part."

Working with journalism instructor Mike Kennedy for three years taught her valuable lessons, Beason said.

"He instilled quality work and strong academic and professional values," she said.

An instrumental musician with experience playing bassoon and oboe, Beason also joined the college symphonic band.

"It was something outside of my usual course and workload. It gave me a chance to connect with the music department at CSC, which I normally wouldn't have," she said.

Although she had no theatre experience, encouragement from her freshman roommate led Beason to try acting. That landed her major parts in two CSC productions and a connection with theatre professor Scott Cavin.

Acting broadened her horizons even more.

"(Theatre) put me in touch with a whole different department and also gave me another creative outlet...

beyond the classroom," Beason said.

An internship with CSC's College Relations department provided more valuable lessons. College Relations director Alex Helmbrecht helped hone Beason's professional writing skills and gave practical lessons in leadership, she said.

"I'm grateful for that," she said.

A tinge of homesickness after Beason's sophomore year led her to contemplate returning to Mississippi to complete her studies. But the application process at Mississippi State left her feeling treated like a number, not an individual.

"I remember thinking...that this would never be that way at Chadron," she said. "At Chadron I would be working with real people who were interested in me, not just my bank account, and committed to help me through my education."

After taking a gap year off from school, Beason now plans to fulfill her plan for law school and is considering several East Coast schools, as well as the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

She knows Chadron State College has prepared her well for what lies ahead.

"The people I met, the professors I worked under, the staff I worked with have taught me the best life lessons I could have learned," she said. "I'm so excited to take what I learned at Chadron, the high professional standards, the attitudes and lessons, to the workforce."

*By George Ledbetter
Photo by Daniel Binkard*



“I don’t think I could have picked a better launchpad for my professional future than Chadron State College. I can’t speak highly enough of Chadron State.”

— Adeline Beason



After a 30-year hiatus, a student-created annual concert is making a long-awaited return to Chadron State this fall.

The tradition of Slim Days returns to Chadron during CSC's Homecoming weekend, Oct. 18-19. Slim Days Reloaded will be Oct. 19 at the Dawes County Fairgrounds following the Homecoming football game and post-game festivities. The event will feature musical performances by Flannel Sunday, Dick Burns, Live Animals, and Judd Hoos.

Slim Days began in 1994 with a band playing in a basement, according to Ben Ehlers, a representative of the group organizing the reunion celebration. Over the next three years, it turned into five more concerts, culminating in 1997 with an all-day event featuring 11 bands, a celebrity D.J., and thousands of dollars donated to charity, organizers said.

All the friends and former classmates involved in creating Slim Days worked to organize this 30th anniversary show.

"What began as a couple of old friends reminiscing began to gather momentum as a reunion of all of our old friends, and the thought that maybe there would be interest in, literally, getting the band back together," Vince Ryan said. "We thought that if we could put together a Slim Days reunion, we could get some of the original bands to play and a few people would show up. Ultimately, we wanted an excuse to bring our CSC friends back together for a good time

and in doing so, we can support a good cause."

Proceeds from Slim Days Reloaded will fund scholarships through the Chadron State Foundation.

"As proud CSC alumni, we want to create a legacy in scholarship form," Ryan said. "It appeals to the better angels of our collective nature to think that a scholarship recipient at CSC is supported by the ties of friendships made in the late 1990s. Moreover, we want to assist future students on their path to creating their own circle of lifelong friends and memories at CSC."

Slim Days Reloaded is being made possible by sponsors, including Security First Bank and Casey Petersen LTD/Vince Ryan CPA, of Chadron; Koltiska Distillery, of Sheridan, Wyoming; Distinct Health Solutions with Dr. Josef Planansky, of Fort Collins, Colorado; Vector Crush, of Stanton, Nebraska; and Perfect Wave Productions and How to Grow, of Rapid City, South Dakota.

Slim Days Reloaded is partnering with the Chadron State Alumni and Foundation Office to organize the reunion show.

"Slim Days was a remarkable annual student-led concert that brought students together," said Katie Digmann, director of alumni and development at the Chadron State Alumni & Foundation. "We hope that Slim Days Reloaded can bring together Eagle alumni across generations over Homecoming."

Distinguished Alumni invited to All Alumni Reunion

For the second year, a new set of Chadron State Distinguished Alumni Award honorees will be able to connect with past honorees while reconnecting with the campus during the Distinguished Alumni Reunion, which takes place as part of the All Alumni Reunion, Oct. 18-19.

The Distinguished Alumni Reunion, hosted by the Chadron State Alumni and Foundation office during CSC's Homecoming weekend, will feature exclusive events for those honored as Distinguished Alumni or Distinguished Young Alumni, both past and present.

Last year, past honorees joined the 2023 award winners at a networking event with current students of the Student Alumni Council, a dinner with CSC President Ron K. Patterson, and campus tours. Reunion attendees met with current CSC students during an exclusive luncheon and watched the Eagle's Homecoming football game.

If you have been honored as a Distinguished Alum or Distinguished Young Alum at Chadron State College, we invite you to return to campus during the 2024 All Alumni Reunion for the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Reunion. Look for registration information this fall on our website and in your mailbox. To pre-register, contact the Alumni and Foundation office at 308-432-6366.

ALL ALUMNI REUNION



WEEKEND

October 18-19, 2024

Reconnect with campus during All Alumni Reunion

Bring back your memories of homecoming as a Chadron State student: the thrill of the game and the excitement of the festivities. For the second year, the Chadron State Alumni and Foundation office will host the All Alumni Reunion, Oct. 18-19.

The Alumni and Foundation office website will have announcements and detailed information as the event approaches. You won't want to miss any updates on this unforgettable weekend.

The All Alumni Reunion allows alumni to reconnect with the memories and friends they made while at CSC. You can come alone, with family, with friends from your college days, or even plan a class reunion around that date. However you choose to come, the All Alumni Reunion features events to connect you to campus over Homecoming weekend.

Last year's All Alumni Reunion featured Karaoke at Wild's in downtown Chadron, CSC's annual Homecoming parade on

Main Street, a tailgate party before kickoff, a football game, and more.

Hortensia Soto was one of the many alumni who attended last year's event. She said she's returned to campus about a dozen times since graduating with her master's degree in mathematics education in 1989.

"It always brings back special memories because this is where I got to spread my wings," she said. In addition to the events of the All Alumni Reunion, Soto saw her niece, Jayden Kanno, honored as a member of the 2023 Homecoming Court and watched the Homecoming football game with her sister. Jayden is a CSC student majoring in Elementary Education.

Distinguished Alumni honoree Marilyn Moulds was motivated to attend the first All Alumni Reunion to see her friend Jennie May Donnell awarded the Distinguished Alumni honor. Moulds didn't arrive in Chadron until midnight the night before the festivities, but she said the late hour of her arrival was well worth it.

"It was great," Moulds said. "I am so glad the college is doing it again this year."

In 2024, the All Alumni Reunion promises to deliver another exciting, meaningful weekend to bring you back to the CSC community. We hope you'll choose to attend and share in building the All Alumni Reunion tradition at Chadron State.

If you'd like to be an ambassador for a group and organize a reunion during the All Alumni Reunion, please reach out. Whether you're looking to arrange for a whole class, just your college friends, or maybe your old team, the Chadron State Alumni and Foundation office can help you with items like finding contacts and other co-ambassadors who might be interested in helping you out. Even if you can't attend this year, we hope we can inspire you to plan for future All Alumni Reunions.



Distinguished Alumni and members of Student Alumni Council mingle during a social hour held at the Bean Broker Bar & Pub during the 2023 All Alumni Reunion, hosted by the Chadron State Alumni and Foundation Office, in Chadron, Nebraska. (Photo by Brandon Davenport)

Graduate develops Europe's first robotic ice cream stand

Taking back to her home in the Czech Republic lessons from the business courses she completed at Chadron State College, Dominika (Senkerikova) Konickova has gone into business with a robotic self-serve ice cream machine that was built using her ideas and designs. Now in its fourth summer of successful operation in her hometown, Konickova believes she has the only automated ice cream stand in Europe.

Developing and running a robotic ice cream server is just one of the things that have kept Konickova busy since 2020, when she graduated from CSC with a master's degree in business administration. Along with working as an international corporate banker in Prague, Konickova has a massage studio and commutes every weekend to be with her husband in their home in a small city in Moravia.

Konickova first came to the United States in 2011 as a high school exchange student in Oregon, where she played volleyball on a state championship team. She later attended a junior college in Florida on a volleyball scholarship and transferred to Chadron State. After earning her bachelor's degree in 2018, Konickova stayed to complete a graduate program while also working as a CSC ambassador for international students, a graduate assistant for the athletic department, a volleyball coach at Chadron High School, and at Security First Bank.

Returning home in 2020, Konickova's CSC credentials and bank experience helped her land a job as executive assistant to directors of the bank in Prague, a four-hour train ride from her home. She also returned with the idea of setting up a side business in addition to the job.

"I was always interested in starting a business and (my CSC professors) motivated me," she said.

Soft-serve ice cream is a popular summer treat in Moravia and Konickova came up with the idea of an automated machine that would accept an ice cream order, fill a cone and deliver it to the customer.

Connections made through her husband, David, who has a business with suppliers in Taiwan, led to contacts with manufacturers able to transform the idea into reality.

Investing the money she had saved, Konickova worked with Chinese engineers to build the machine with an attractive exterior design and using specialized software. The process took more than a year.

By the time the machine arrived in Czechia, Konickova decided to place it on the street. To see how it worked, she would stand nearby and watch as people placed an order. Using an internet connection and phone calls, she would tell engineers of needed changes, which included the addition of a camera that allows her to monitor its operations remotely.

"It was the exact business situation we were taught in school. You create something, but you need to test it," Konickova said.

"I was always interested in starting a business and (my CSC professors) motivated me."

— Dominika Konickova

The machine began to return a profit in its second year of operation, Konickova said. Customers are attracted by the machine's unique platform on an old Italian Piaggio truck and by watching the robotic hand as the cone is filled. It is also in service when other shops are shuttered.

"I sell more ice cream from 6 p.m. to midnight as other ice cream shops are closed," she said.





An ice cream machine developed by Dominika Konickova uses robotics to deliver three types of ice cream, chocolate, vanilla, and a twist of the two flavors, to customers in Czechia. (Contributed Photo)

But even the competitive advantage of no labor costs and the high margins on ice cream sales don't make it easy to run her business, Konickova said. The machine has to be cleaned and refilled every two days, tasks that added a four-hour midweek trip for her.

The stress of working as executive assistant to bank directors and as a deep tissue masseuse in Prague while running the ice cream business for three summers eventually caught up with Konickova. In February 2023, she became ill and had to take six months off to recover.

Mindful of the need to slow down, but unwilling to completely give up her ice cream business, Konickova has leased the device to an ice cream vendor from another Moravian town.

"I could not sell my machine because it was like my baby," she said.

Getting sick because of stress and overwork taught lessons about staying healthy and work-life balance, Konickova said.

"It's okay to be motivated and want to do better. It's not okay taking from your body and not giving back as much as you take," she said. "Understand that everybody is replaceable because no matter how hard you work in corporate you are just a number."

Konickova said she is grateful for the support she received from faculty and staff at CSC, including business instructors Rick Koza and Terrie Wood, former volleyball coach Riann Mullis, and staff members Deena Kennell and Angie Camerlinck. Personal connections with Tracy and Craig Nobile, Willie Uhing, and Jason Carnahan also shaped the Chadron experience, she said.

"Chadron offers so many opportunities and with a loving and supporting culture there is no limit to do what we desire to," she said. "Chadron has my heart forever."

*By George Ledbetter
Photo by Vendula Zitterbartová*



Patterson pledges to lead CSC, honor its legacy, listen to stakeholders

Several speakers noted the excitement and energy in the air during the investiture of Chadron State College's twelfth president, Ron K. Patterson, April 5 in Memorial Hall. Others mentioned the celebration marked a time for renewal. Music by CSC students and an inaugural poem written and performed by Distinguished Young Alumni recipient Jovan Mays punctuated the event.

Patterson came to CSC from the University of North Alabama in Florence. His six-year administrative progression at the University of North Alabama included service as associate vice president for enrollment management, chief enrollment officer, and chief enrollment officer and special assistant to the president for diversity and inclusion with responsibility for both enrollment management,

academic programs and centers, and diversity and inclusion.

Dr. Paul Turman, Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System (NSCS), said Patterson is deeply committed to academic excellence and community engagement and understands the challenges facing colleges by demonstrating an exceptional blend of vision, passion, and dedication.

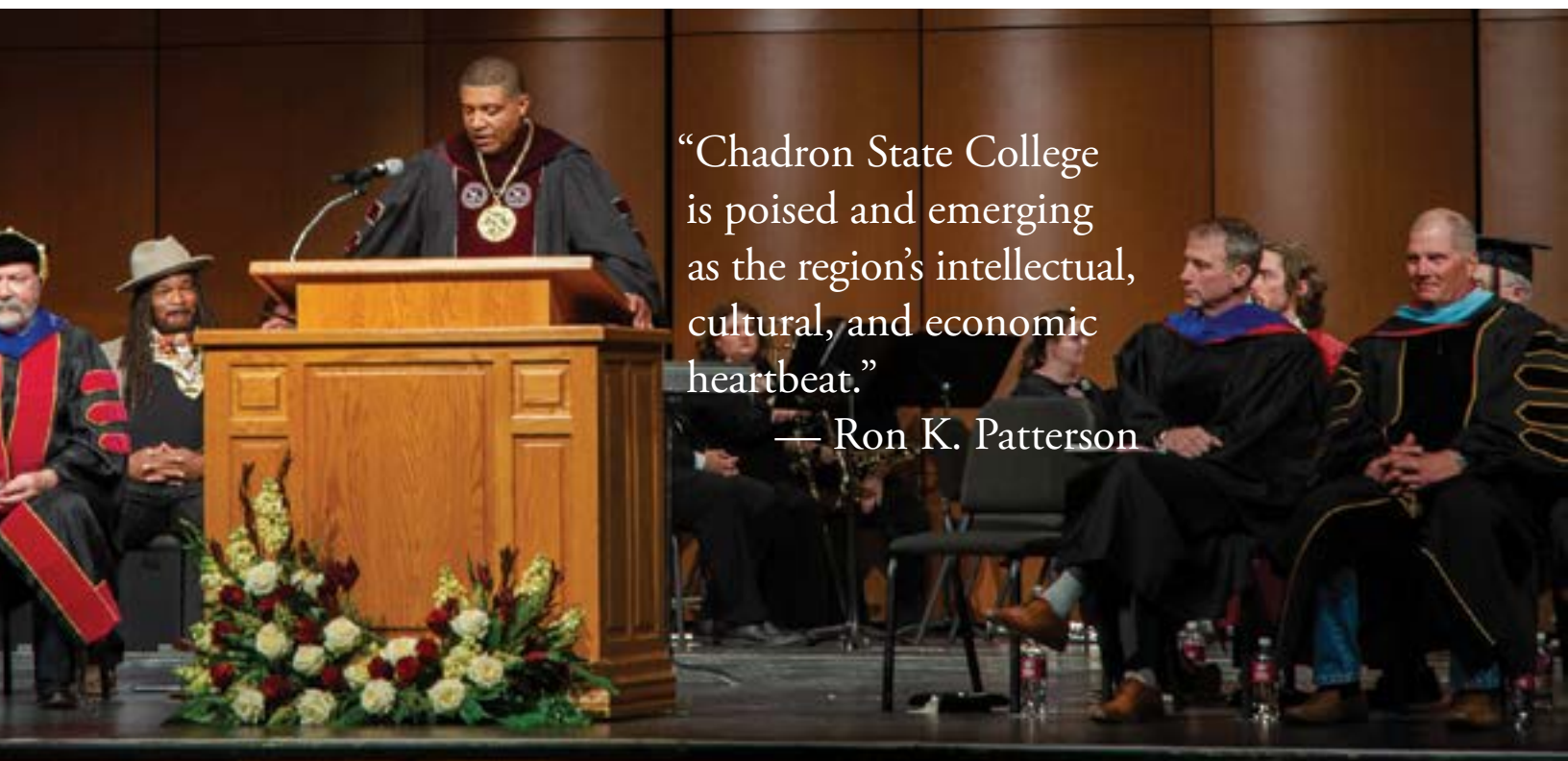
"He takes a transparent approach to leadership and recognizes the importance of innovation and adaptability in addressing enrollment challenges. We've found a champion with outstanding qualities who understands the challenges low-income and first-generation students face, firmly believing that education and successful pathways to a degree should be accessible to all, regardless of

background or circumstance," Turman said.

In his keynote address, Dr. James Pruett shed some light on Patterson as a young professional. Pruett said he met Patterson 20 years ago at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's College of Nursing and was his supervisor for about three years in the Office of Student Affairs.

"I was near the tail end of my professional career. Ron was the eager-to-learn, determined-to-succeed, young professional. He was a hard worker and a quick study. He was absolutely pivotal in everything we did to completely turn that office around," Pruett said.

Pruett said each of Patterson's associates he spoke to while preparing his remarks told him of Patterson's basic goodness and determination to succeed.



“Chadron State College is poised and emerging as the region’s intellectual, cultural, and economic heartbeat.”

— Ron K. Patterson

“He’s decisive and can make tough decisions,” Pruet said. “He handled complex issues appropriately and with respect. Ron is able to communicate at the heart level in a personal and persuasive way.”

Pruett reviewed Patterson’s lifelong work ethic sharing a story about Patterson working in a grocery store as a young teenager to help with family finances.

“Ron did his best, had high goals, and strived to be an example for others. He was a dedicated student, a wonderful athlete, and a terrific basketball player. He was named the Mississippi high school Co-Player of the Year with Lorenzen Wright who went on to play 14 years in the NBA,” Pruet said.

After speaking with three of Patterson’s coaches, Pruet said they all described him as unselfish and a leader on and off the court.

“Ron Patterson is a special human being. He is now and always has been loved and respected by many,” Pruet said.

Pruett praised CSC for its long and successful history and said he feels the stars have aligned with Patterson’s arrival.

“We have the right person in the right place at the right time,” Pruet said.

In his address, Patterson told the audience he was honored by the NSCS’s trust in him to lead the historic institution and thanked Turman for his wisdom and support.

He acknowledged members of CSC’s leadership team, faculty, staff, and students for their dedication, abilities, and confidence in him. Patterson thanked his family, friends, and mentors who helped him through his career and education.

“Like the turtle on the fence post, I did not get here on my own,” he said. “My family gave me strong support and

laid the foundation of my core values. The core values of trusting God in everything I do, hard work, individual responsibility, integrity, hope, respect for others, and humility have guided me throughout my life.”

He acknowledged work by his predecessors and the faculty and staff they hired.

“Because of their excellent leadership, Chadron State College is poised and emerging as the region’s intellectual, cultural, and economic heartbeat,” Patterson said. “As we reflect on the collective commitment to teaching, innovation, excellence, and scholarship, we all have benefited from others’ hard work and dedication. This legacy reflects a strong sense of community, institutional resiliency, and citizens rooted with a clear sense of serving people, purpose, and place,” Patterson said.



Aubree Quast speaks during the Investiture ceremony for Chadron State College's twelfth President Dr. Ron Patterson in Memorial Hall April 5, 2024. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

Patterson shared how his fall presidential listening tour with 22 stops in eastern Colorado, eastern Wyoming, and southwest South Dakota, provided him with a sense of excitement about CSC.

Patterson praised the faculty as the engine and energy that propels the college.

"The recognition our faculty have brought to the institution speaks to the quality and excellence of their teaching, grants, research, scholarly and creative activities, and community engagement," Patterson said.

He reassured students that his thoughts, actions, and decisions revolve around their success.

"Your unique stories are the feathers of an eagles' wing that allow us to soar higher than we can imagine," Patterson said. "As we face challenges and opportunities to build our future together, my commitment is to do my best to lead CSC to advance its impact on every life we touch. There's no place I'd rather be."

In closing, Patterson announced the launch of the President's Innovation and Entrepreneurship initiative.

The fund is a strategic response to the critical needs of the region, providing agile resources for program development, addressing workforce demands, forging strategic public-private partnerships, and enhancing curriculum development.

Brief welcomes were offered by Dr. Mathew Brust, president-elect of the CSC Faculty Senate, and former state Senator John Stinner, who also shared greetings from state Senator Tom Brewer, who was unable to attend. Mayor George Klein extended his congratulations and support from the City of Chadron.

Dr. JoAnne Owens-Nauslar, president of the Chadron State Foundation Board, said she looks forward to working with Patterson.

"We are excited to continue promoting, creating, maintaining, and expanding opportunities that encourage future and current students to come to the nest and alumni to return to the nest," she said.

Clayton Riesen, president of the Chadron State Alumni Board, said he appreciates Patterson's positive attitude and friendly demeanor.

Kate Pope, president of the Professional Staff Association, said the ceremony symbolized the renewal of the campus' collective commitment to the ideals of academic excellence, community engagement, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Brianna Smith, president of the Campus Activity Board, said the event was a time to reflect on the legacy of CSC, embrace the present, and look earnestly toward the future. She said Patterson has been present and encouraging with activities and clubs across campus.

"Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful for all that you do," she said.

Aubree Quast, president of the Student Senate, said when she met Patterson, she knew he was the leader CSC needed.

"As students, we were looking for a president who is active on campus, listens to us, and will lead us to a bright future. The work and energy Dr. Patterson has brought to our campus so far has been incredible. Students can see how willing he is to work with everyone and how he loves to help us find solutions to any issues," she said.

Student Trustee Cooper Reichman said when he met Patterson, the candidate's mindfulness and intentional energy were apparent.

"Whether it was a simple but meaningful handshake or a barrage of sophisticated questions. This has continued in every speech, decision he's made, or casual conversation I have witnessed. Knowing how decisive Dr. Patterson is and how he chose to come to CSC shows his commitment to our institution," Reichman said.

The President's
**INNOVATION &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
Fund

**CHADRON STATE RECOGNIZES ITS
PIVOTAL ROLE IN DRIVING PROGRESS AND
SUSTAINABILITY IN RURAL NEBRASKA.**

**CONTRIBUTIONS WILL DRIVE PROGRAM
DEVELOPMENT, FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS,
AND ENHANCE CURRICULUM.**

**YOUR SUPPORT IS AN INVESTMENT
IN THE CONTINUED VIBRANCY OF OUR
CAMPUS COMMUNITY, CHADRON,
AND THE ENTIRE REGION.**

YOUR DONATION IS WELCOME.



Alumna combines work as flight attendant with box office job

For nine months each year Alex Wallace spends her working hours thousands of feet off the ground as a flight attendant for United Airlines, a job she landed after graduating from Chadron State College in 2015.

But for Wallace and her husband, Ken Phillips, the start of summer means it's time for a return to northwest Nebraska and the Post Playhouse at Fort Robinson State Park.

It's no coincidence that Wallace found a job involving frequent travel. Her grandfather worked for Boeing, her mother was a flight attendant, and while growing up the family moved to cities along the U.S. West Coast.

Returning to the Playhouse every summer since she first volunteered there in 2014 is also not coincidental. That first summer, Wallace met Phillips, who was working as a stage manager.

"That first summer another girl and I were on stage while there were still patrons in the seats," she said. "We weren't supposed to be there and he was up there (in the director's box) telling us to leave."

The relationship that developed with Phillips, a theatre professor in Arizona and the artistic director at the Playhouse, blossomed, and they married in 2019. They have returned to the Post Playhouse each year since.

When she arrived at CSC as a transfer student from a junior college in California, Wallace was interested in the college's museum curator course. Because the museum degree program

was discontinued, she graduated with a degree in history. She enjoyed the studies and is still in touch with friends she made in the program.

"All my history professors were amazing," she said.

After seeing a Post Playhouse production of "Guys and Dolls" in 2014, Wallace asked the managing director if she could volunteer, and quickly found her niche helping out with the many tasks needed to keep the theatre running smoothly.

Now the box office and promotions manager, Wallace has multiple duties.

"I do everything involved with customers: answer phones, take ticket inquiries and do the social media outreach program," she said. "It keeps me busy and my brain working. I don't like standing still."

The job isn't that much different from being a flight attendant, which involves keeping pilots, crew members, and two hundred or so passengers happy, Wallace said.

She has also been expanding use of social media to publicize the Post Playhouse. Wallace has created short videos taking a character from the SpongeBob musical to different local settings and posted them online.

"It's getting views. It's getting talked about," she said.

Because she has a flexible schedule with United, Wallace is able to spend most of her summer at the Post Playhouse, with only occasional trips to her home in Tucson, Arizona. This

summer her parents, retirees who live in Phoenix, came along to help out when Wallace has flight duties.

In the years Wallace has been working at the Playhouse, she has seen noticeable improvements in the productions, particularly in the sound and light technology available to enhance the shows.

"Pretty much everything you see is on Broadway level," she said. "People come from all over the country. Some (stay to) see all five shows in one week."

The longstanding connections with Chadron State's theatre program have always been important for the Playhouse, according to Wallace. CSC instructors have worked there and theatre students often get jobs both on- and off-stage, she said.

"A lot of things wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for our close relationship with Chadron State," she said.

Returning to northwest Nebraska and the Post Playhouse every summer reminds Wallace of some of the things she most enjoyed about her time at Chadron State.

"It was nice coming from the West Coast to a small town where you care about your neighbor. Everyone was super helpful, the people and the professors," she said. "It's fun coming back here every summer. It's nice coming to what feels like home to us."

*By George Ledbetter
Photo by Daniel Binkard*



“Pretty much everything you see is on Broadway level. People come from all over the country. Some (stay to) see all five shows in one week.”

— Alex Wallace

In October, you can contribute to a quality, affordable education at Chadron State College.

Support the dreams and aspirations of CSC students through your generosity during the **Fall Fund Drive** and **Inspire: One Day for CSC**.

In 2023, the Fall Fund Drive and Inspire: One Day for CSC raised more than \$100,000 for CSC students, from mostly small-dollar gifts. Be a part of making an even bigger impact in 2024.

Each fall, Chadron State College faculty and staff, along with the Chadron community, give generously to programs and scholarships through CSC's annual **Fall Fund Drive**. For those of you living outside the CSC community, you can participate in this fall tradition by giving a gift during **Inspire: One Day for CSC**, our annual 24-hour online giving day. Stay tuned to the CSC and Chadron State Foundation websites and our social media for details.

Fall 
Fund
Drive



Woodhead named to 2024 College Football Hall of Fame Class

Danny Woodhead, a Chadron State College running back from 2004-07, was selected as a member of the 2024 College Football Hall of Fame Class in January 2024, according to The National Football Foundation and ESPN. Woodhead is the first Chadron State football player going into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Woodhead was 5-8, 185 pounds when he arrived at Chadron State in the fall of 2004. As a senior at North Platte High School, he rushed for 2,037 yards and 31 touchdowns, was the Nebraska Gatorade Football Player of the Year, offensive captain of both the Omaha World-Herald's and Lincoln Journal Star's all-class, all-state football teams, and Huskerland Report's Player of the Year.

Woodhead's parents, Mark and Annette, were Chadron State graduates and his older brother Ben was a senior wide receiver on the team.

He didn't start the first game his freshman year, but he clinched the starting job in the third game when he rushed for a school-record 306 yards and scored five touchdowns. He would rush for 300-plus yards three more times, set the NCAA II record for most 200-yard or more games (19), score touchdowns in 38 consecutive games, and go at least 50 yards to the end zone 21 times.

He became college football's all-time leading rusher with 7,962 yards, had 9,480 all-purpose yards, and scored 109 touchdowns (tying for the most in college football annals), helping him win two Harlon Hill Trophies, which go to Division II's outstanding player.

In addition, Woodhead was NCAA Division II's National Scholar-Athlete as a senior in 2007 and graduated with a 3.72 GPA as a health and physical education and math major. Two years later, he was voted the RMAC's All-Time Outstanding

Offensive Player when its All-Century Team was selected. He was inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 2018.

Although not drafted in the spring of 2008, he ended up having a 10-year career in the National Football League.

After playing in 11 games for the New York Jets before being released, he joined the Patriots and played for them the next three years, rushing for 547 yards and five touchdowns in 2010, and catching a touchdown pass from Tom Brady in Super Bowl XLVI in 2012.

The next four years he was an all-purpose back for the San Diego (now Los Angeles) Chargers. He caught 76 passes for 605 yards and six touchdowns his first year there in 2013.

After missing most of the 2014 season, he returned in 2015, grabbing 80 passes for 755 yards and 6 touchdowns, and rushing for 336 yards and three more scores. An injury in the second game ended his 2016 season.

The following winter, he signed a three-year contract with Baltimore, but injuries allowed him to play only eight games for the Ravens, and he retired in early 2018. During his NFL career, he played in 101 games, rushed 517 times for 2,238 yards, caught 300



Danny Woodhead runs upfield during the November 24, 2007, game against Abilene Christian University. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

passes for 2,698 yards, and scored 32 touchdowns.

During his farewell message, the media reported that Woodhead thanked God, his family, his agent, his former coaches, his former teammates, and the medical personnel who had helped him.

Woodhead, who was inducted into CSC's Hall of Fame this year, will officially be inducted into the 2024 College Football Hall of Fame Class on December 10, 2024 at the 66th National Football Foundation Annual Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada.

CLASS NOTES

'50s

Harold "Rex" Jones BA '59 MA '66 and **Sharon (Franey) Jones '72**, Wichita, Kansas, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary March 27.

'60s

Dr. M. Martin "Marty" Ramirez '67, Lincoln, hosted "The Nebraska Latino Vote will Count" for Las Voces Nebraska Virtual Summit.

'70s

Rick Samuels '75, Lincoln, Illinois, was inducted into the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame. He served as head men's basketball coach at Eastern Illinois University for 25 years.

Jack Gutierrez '76, Columbus, was inducted into the Central Community College Athletics Hall of Fame where he served as athletic director, men's basketball coach, and softball coach.

'80s

Jason Deselms '80, Platteville, Colorado, retired Jan. 31 after 25 years with Pinnacle Bankcorp/Pinnacle Bank/Bank of Colorado.

Kevin Barta '82, Niobrara, is in his 26th year of working for the Knox County Road Department after 16 years in the geology field.

Lori Liggett '84, Gordon, was selected to fill the District 1 Western Community College Area Board of Governors vacancy.

Jerry Wiggins '87, Gothenburg, retired after 37 years in education and coaching. In the last 26 years he was a counselor, football coach, and wrestling coach at Gothenburg High School.

'90s

Mick Downing '93, Chadron, joined the Chadron Police Department after retiring from the Nebraska State Patrol, where he worked for 25 years.

Dana (Weiss) Nachtigall '93, Hot Springs, South Dakota, was inducted into the South Dakota Gymnastics Hall of Fame. She has coached gymnastics for more than three decades in Hot Springs and Rapid City, South Dakota.

Jason Nickal '94, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was named head wrestling coach at State College Area High School.

Heath Tuttle '95, Lincoln, was named vice president and chief information officer at the University of Buffalo.

Casey Beran '99, Sargent, was chosen for the Nebraska Sports Hall of Fame.

Tony Neider '99, Cheyenne, Wyoming, was promoted to deputy administrator of

programs and contracts in the prison division by the Wyoming Department of Corrections.

Seth Ryker BA '99 MA '03, Gothenburg, was named 2024 High School Principal of the Year by the Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals.

'00s

Darren Wells '02, Scottsbluff, received a Master of Health Professions Teaching & Technology in August 2023. He is the clinical coordinator and a didactic instructor for Regional West Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology.

Tyler Pribbeno '07, Imperial, was elected to the Nebraska Community Foundation Board of Directors. He is the city administrator and community development director for Imperial.

Jordan Colwell '08, Scottsbluff, was elected to the OpenSky Policy Board of Directors. He is the chief nursing officer at Box Butte General Hospital.

Danny Woodhead '08, Elkhorn, has been selected as a member of the 2024 College Football Hall of Fame.

'10s

Jamie (Pittam) Perry '11, North Platte, earned the NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award for her commitment and contributions to higher education by Mid-Plaines Community College, where she is a medical laboratory technician instructor.

Jon Marquez '13, Lincoln, was on the judging panel for the Miss Indiana pageant, and was named to the Miss Nebraska Board of Directors.

Dr. TJ Thomson '13, Camp Hill, Queensland, Australia, interviewed newsroom personnel in Europe about how they perceive and use AI tools, in support of research being undertaken by RMIT University where he is a senior lecturer in the School of Media and Communications.

Kegan Carwin '14, Sidney, was named finance director for the city of Sidney.

Dr. Leo Caires MBA '14, Kula, Hawaii, is the chief of staff for the County of Maui. He owns a winery and distillery as well as a farm and ranch retail business.

Tyler McFarland '14, Caldwell, Idaho, signed with the Idaho Horsemen professional indoor football team to play defensive back. He is a middle school teacher and coach at Heritage Community Charter School.

John Thayer MS '15, Spearfish, South Dakota, was named head boys' wrestling coach at Spearfish High School where he is also a school counselor.

Andrea Westlake '15, Belle Fourche, South Dakota, received the Early Career Rangeland

Conservationist Award during the Society for Range Management's 77th annual meeting.

Alex Ferdinand '16, Rapid City, South Dakota, was named head coach of the Douglas High School football team in Box Elder.

Broc Anderson '17, Kearney, was named the director historic sites for History Nebraska. He recently presented information from the newly rediscovered Red Shirt Winter Count from the Sheridan County Historical Society as part of the Brown Bag Lecture Series at the Kearney Public Library.

Zach Smith '17, Gering, was named assistant coach for the Western Nebraska Pioneers baseball club.

Bryar DeSanti '18, Bethany, West Virginia, was named offensive coordinator for the Bethany College football team.

Anthony "AJ" Wilson MA '19, Great Falls, Montana, was hired as the football coach at Charles M. Russell High School.

'20s

Mickenzie Brennan '20, Alliance, is the head girls' basketball coach at Alliance High School.

Jordan Mills '20, Alliance, is the head boys' basketball coach at Alliance High School.

Kylin Munger '21, Chadron, was named the extension assistant for Dawes County 4-H.

Haley Holmes '22, Gillette, Wyoming, is the head girls' basketball coach Thunder Basin High School.

Whitley Reder '23, Fruitdale, South Dakota, completed an internship with the Cowboy Channel covering the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Allie Tyree '24, Alliance, was named the Alliance Campus director by Western Nebraska Community College.

MARRIAGES

'00s

Dallas Hacker '00, Byers, Colorado, married Meranda Gibson June 12, 2022.

Amber Ginter '09, Chambers, married Steven Marcellus Aug. 12, 2023.

'10s

Makenzy Petty '19, Rapid City, South Dakota, married Alexander Westerbuhr Nov. 11, 2023.

FUTURE EAGLES

'00s

Demi Jane to **Dallas Hacker '00** and Meranda, Byers, Colorado, July 7, 2023.

Sullivan Rex to **Trevor '07** and **Kerri (Adkins) Foulk '09**, Bennington, Feb. 20.

'10s

Beckham Brent to **Zac Barga BA '14 MBA '16** and Courtney, Benton, Kansas, Jan. 3.

Sylvie Bley to **Angela (Christensen) Osborn '15** and Trevor, Gillette, Wyoming, March 13. She joins sisters Adalyn and Evaline.

Alexandra Evelyn to **Cole '17** and **Melissa (VanDerslice) Kayton '18**, Burwell, Nov. 13, 2023.

Beauden to **Karson (Langley) Roach BA '18 MA '22** and Brenan, Sidney, Aug. 3, 2023. He joins sister Langley.

OBITUARIES

Former Faculty

Dr. Margaret Crouse, Chadron, died March 12.

Dr. Thomas Detwiler, Chadron, died Jan. 4.

Dr. Merlyn Gramberg, Chadron, died Jan. 8.

Dr. Anthony Kochenash, Wayne, died March 14.

Dr. James O'Rourke, Chadron, died March 5.

'50s

Ross Rash '50, Winfield, Kansas, died April 17.

Sidney Phelps '53, Spearfish, South Dakota, died July 26, 2023.

Avis (Dover) Pittman '53, Omaha, died April 7.

Robert Evans '57, Kearney, died May 24.

Geraldine "Jeri" Coryell-Alloway '58, Surprise, Arizona, died Dec. 7, 2023.

Charles Huff '58, Kimball, died May 5.

Richard Boness MS '59 MBA '67, Alliance, died Feb. 2.

Joyce (Engel) Carr Colven BA '59 SE '63 SE '80, Ainsworth, died Jan. 31.

'60s

Henry Applegarth '60, Chadron, died March 27.

Robert Olson '61, Alliance, died Jan. 1.

Mary (Bayer) Novak '63, Lincoln, died March 6.

Marlena Richardson '63, Chadron, March 16.

Joanne Magorien-Dreesen '63, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, died June 29, 2023.

Maxine (Reifschneider) Dunsmore '64, Auburn, California, died March 15.

Sheila (Headden) Aiken '67, Underhill, Vermont, died March 5, 2023.

Melvin Laeger '64, Bayard, died March 7.

Alan Hafer '65, Arvada, Colorado, died Dec. 31, 2023.

Coleen (Guest) Keep '65, Henry, died March 31.

James Bamsey BS '66 MS '68, Norfolk, April 22.

Linda DeCastro '66, Tucson, Arizona, died Dec. 24, 2023.

Mary (Patterson) Deines '67, Scottsbluff, died May 14.

Nina Hallett '67, Imperial, died May 6.

Ronald Parker '67, Tucson, Arizona, died Dec. 19, 2023.

Virginia (Kane) Jones '68, Omaha, died Feb. 19.

Edward "Dick" Whiting '68, Catlett, Virginia, died Jan. 5.

Paul Hickman '69, Fremont, died Aug. 25, 2023.

Arlliss (Emley) Moreland '69, San Marcos, Texas, died Nov. 17, 2023.

'70s

Robert W. Brown BS '72 MS '76, Omaha, died March 15.

Beverly (Iverson) Zwiebel '72, Rosholt, South Dakota, died Oct. 31, 2023.

Lynn Reber '74, Knoxville, Tennessee, died April 18.

Jan (Norman) Johnson '75, Casper, Wyoming, died Jan. 3.

Philip Marton '75, Haines, Oregon, died Jan. 15.

Florence Nickens '75, Alliance, died April 9.

Paula Tyler '75, Chadron, died April 23.

Kelly, wife of **Jack Gutierrez '76**, Columbus, died Feb. 3.

Patrick Krantz '76, Rapid City, South Dakota, died June 1, 2023.

Dale Kyser '76, Oshkosh, died Dec. 29, 2023.

Larry Martinson '77, Crawford died Jan. 21.

Gary Lawrence '79, Alliance, died Dec. 22, 2023.

'80s

Tracy (Pratt) Morehead '81, North Platte, died Feb. 3.

Don Babbitt III '83, Laramie, Wyoming, died Jan. 19.

Eva (Ogier) Westover '83, Ashby, died Jan. 14.

Craig Witte '83, Kalispell, Montana, died Jan. 31.

Donna (Wiesner) Giebler '85, Scottsbluff, died April 22.

Steven Lehi '86, Hot Springs, South Dakota, died Nov. 29, 2023.

Lucinda (Houser) Porter '87, Alliance, died Feb. 7.

Judy Pack '85, Worthington, Ohio, died Feb. 18.

Diana (Fulton) Neeley '87, Gordon, died April 16.

Shannon (Ream) Bishop '89, Terrytown, died March 10.

'90s

Laurie (Baker) Reutner '90, Elko, Nevada, died Jan. 28.

Michael Rolland '97, Blair, died Jan. 6.

'00s

Terry Helmer '00, Gillette, Wyoming, died Jan. 30.

George Dagnino '01, Blythe, California, died Jan. 11.

Janelle (Johnson) Wages '01, Thornton, Colorado, died Jan. 11.

Angie (Johnson) O'Bryan '05, Chadron, died May 18.

Maury Kramer '08, Amherst, Colorado, died Oct. 2, 2023.

Jeromy Naslund '09, Lusk, Wyoming, died April 7.

'10s

Brett Klopp '17, Rapid City, South Dakota, died April 2.

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

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JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Chadron State College is excited to invite all alumni to be part of the historic 2024 All Alumni Reunion during Homecoming this October. This extraordinary event aims to bring together graduates from all classes, but we extend a special invitation to those celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, and 50th year class reunions.

The All Alumni Reunion will be a weekend filled with cherished memories, exciting activities, and opportunities to reconnect with old friends. Attendees will have the chance to reminisce and create new memories while rediscovering the vibrant campus that shaped their lives.

Whether it's been five years or 60 years, be part of the 2024 All Alumni Reunion during Homecoming this October at CSC.

*For info and to register go to
csc.edu/alumni/events
or call (308) 432-6366*