

Spring 2020

CHADRON STATE MAGAZINE





Dr. Randy Rhine
President of Chadron State College

Greetings from the PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good spirits and health. This has certainly been a trying time for all of us.

As you may be aware, in March the Chadron State College administration consulted with the Nebraska State College System and regional health officials to make the difficult decision to move classes to remote delivery because of the imminent spread of COVID-19.

Our faculty adapted and overcame this enormous challenge, in one week, to move their curriculum to distance-delivery modalities, allowing students to complete the semester's work from their residences.

Our students, faculty, and staff have demonstrated that time and again as they have adapted, adjusted, and complied with numerous directives to do our part to shorten this episode in our history.

I want to thank our students for being patient with us as we worked through the obstacle presented in moving the last half of the spring semester to a distance-delivery format. To our recent graduates, especially, we admire you for completing your academic career with determination and grit.

Our faculty demonstrated their commitment to ensuring that our students have the opportunity to achieve learning objectives. Academic advisors, START office representatives, and our counseling staff assisted students to create a smooth ending to a somewhat chaotic and unprecedented semester.

I would also like to thank all those who helped the college's first virtual spring commencement become a reality. It was a fitting tribute to honor our graduates. As soon as we have an indication that gathering size restrictions contained in Governor Ricketts's Directed Health Measure have lifted, we will reschedule commencement so our graduates, their families, and friends can continue the time-honored tradition of celebrating their academic achievements.

This summer, I encourage all of you to take care of yourselves, your family, and please heed the advice of our health professionals.

We are at our best when we are challenged. We come together, we work to find solutions, we support each other, and we evolve. When this episode comes to an end, and it will end, we will be better prepared for the future and what it holds in store for us, our students, and our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Randy Rhine
President

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

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Issues of the Alumni Magazine can be found at www.csc.edu/alumni

On the Cover:

Coronation for Homecoming 1966 was held in the Armstrong Gym. Queen Jan Hass addresses the crowd. (Historical Photo)

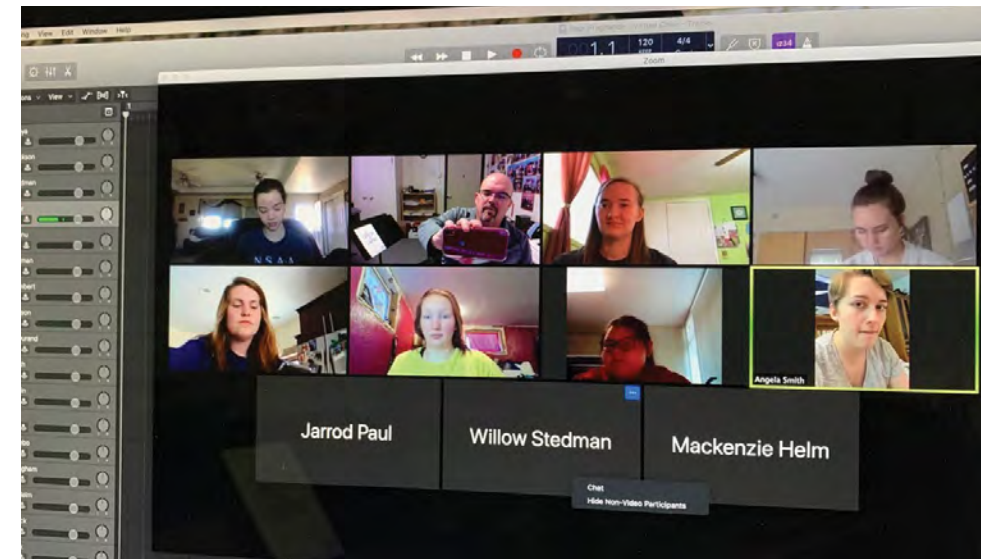
Scenes from the spring semester



Beau Beckman, senior of Wray, Colorado, collects his lunch-to-go from Food Service Director Stewart Lavender and Chef Dane Jensen April 15. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)



Chadron State College student Brendan Fangmeier of Hebron, Nebraska, poses for a photo while studying. Fangmeier moved back home for the final half of the Spring 2020 semester due to the decision to move academic courses to remote delivery. (Courtesy Photo)



A virtual office hour March 30, 2020, in Dr. Joel Schreuder's Memorial Hall office. Schreuder, second from left in top row, is answering questions from students enrolled in Concert Choir. (Photo by Joel Schreuder)



Chadron State College Art Professor Laura Bentz transfers a design to a collaborative print using a screen stencil and ink April 16, 2020, in Memorial Hall. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)



Dr. Joyce Hardy, left, and Katie Diehl, right, pose with custodial staff members in Sparks Hall May 7, 2020. Hardy and Diehl have sewn dozens of fabric masks for CSC employees. Back row, from left, Rose Fankhauser, Kim Clark, Tara Medigovich, Barb Bohnenkamp, Kelly Overshiner and Brooke Petersen. Front Row, from left, Brandon Bannan, Kyle Denham, and George Simmons. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)



Alyssa Wingler of Hot Springs, S.D., received the Young Eagle award as part of the 2020 Rising Sophomore Awards. The award recognizes a rising sophomore who has made significant accomplishments as a leader who has positively affected change on campus. (Courtesy Photo)

COLLEGE RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES, 11 SET TO RETIRE

By CSC College Relations

Chadron State College recently recognized its employees for the Teaching Excellence Award and the Eagle Impact Award, and recognized those who are retiring and have reached milestone years of service. The college plans an in-person employee recognition luncheon later this fall.

Dr. Beth Wentworth was recognized as the recipient of the Chadron State College's Teaching Excellence Award recipient. Other nominees were Dr. Dawn Brammer and Dr. Kimberly Cox. Wentworth also received the Nebraska State College System Teaching Excellence Award.

The 2020 winners of the Eagle Impact Award are Markus Jones, Assistant Professor of English; LaWayne Zeller, Director of Field Experiences and Certification Officer in the Education Program; and Kristavia Strotheide, Office Assistant II in Human Resources. The Eagle Impact Award provides students the opportunity to honor and acknowledge the employees who have positively impacted them during their time at CSC based on three criteria: inspiring, supporting, and empowering. One winner was chosen by students comprising the Eagle Impact Committee for each of the three employee groups.

Dr. Patti Blundell Professor of Education

A career in education has taken Chadron State College Education Professor Dr. Patti Blundell from teaching in a one-room country school to instructing graduate students in the intricacies of curriculum, assessment, and school law via the internet.

A native of Dawes County, Blundell earned a bachelor's degree in family and consumer science education from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. She then took a job as a K-8 country school teacher for a few years.

After taking a break from outside employment while her own children were young, Blundell started work at CSC in 1986 as a vocational education assistant. She later earned her PhD in curriculum instruction and administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Retirement plans for Blundell and her husband, Pete Romenenko, include a move to Rapid City, where her daughter Joy and family live, visits to her other daughter, Angie and family in Harrisburg, South Dakota, and more international travel.

Dr. August Bruehlman Professor of Business

For the past 15 years the practical knowledge from Dr. August Bruehlman's earlier career in business has helped enrich the educational experience of students in Chadron State College's Business Academy.



Bringing firsthand knowledge and experience to business classes, and helping MBA students develop personally and professionally have been highlights of teaching at CSC, said Bruehlman, who is retiring this year.

Bruehlman completed his bachelor's degree in Industrial Education at the University of Wisconsin Platteville, and masters and doctorates at Colorado State University. Before joining the CSC faculty in 2005, he had executive positions at an electronics manufacturing company in Colorado.

Bruehlman's wife, Maggie Smith-Bruehlman, the director of CSC's Upward Bound program for the past decade, is also retiring this year. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Bruehlman's future plans are to live the adventure life in the mountains of Colorado.

Bryan Enos Maintenance Repair Worker II

Bryan Enos started as a Maintenance Repair Worker II at Chadron State College Aug. 1, 2005. He retired July 5, 2019, and moved to California to be near his elderly mother.



Enos was well-respected by his colleagues. Maintenance Manager Todd Baumann said Enos was friendly, conscientious and helpful. Maintenance Repair Worker IV Silas Kern said Enos was well-liked, a hard worker, and proud to be part of the CSC community.

Grounds Supervisor Lucinda Mays said Enos took a real interest in campus horticulture. She said he planted, pruned, and cared for plantings across campus. He helped with preparing the planting beds at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center in 2006 by removing blue grass sod to make room for native plant collections. He repaired and installed irrigation systems throughout the landscape for many years, and spent several years taking care of the college softball field and surrounding area, according to Mays.

Janet Hartman Office Assistant III

Janet Hartman, Office Assistant III in Internship and Career Services, is retiring June 30 after working more than 25 years at Chadron State College.



As part of her duties, Hartman organized and helped host Teacher Interview Day and two Career Fairs each year. She also is the point of contact for schools and businesses interested in hiring CSC graduates.

Hartman started her employment with Chadron State College working with the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs involving a grant program. Later, she worked for Career Services. She compiled and maintained credential files, mainly for education majors. She also surveyed students for the college's annual Placement Report, and composed the Vacancy Bulletin.

Hartman plans to spend time during retirement with her family and traveling, along with gardening and possibly treasure hunting.

Con Marshall Information Services Officer

Con Marshall served as Chadron State College's director of information services and sports information for nearly four decades before retiring the first time in 2007. Following that career change, Marshall worked as an Information Services Officer in a part time role, before retiring the second time at the end of 2019.



Although Marshall has stepped down, he plans to volunteer and stay involved with the activities on campus while working on several larger projects.

During his career, he has produced volumes of news stories and photographs, in addition to frequently serving as a resource for anyone looking for information about CSC.

In the late 1990s, Chadron State named the Elliott Field press box in Marshall's honor. He has been honored with the college's Distinguished Service Award, spoken at commencement, and is a member of several athletic halls of fame.

Marshall and his wife, Peggy, have three adult children and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Hank McCallum Associate Professor of Education

As Dr. Hank McCallum, an associate professor who will retire in May after 11 years at CSC reflects on his 41 years as a professional educator, he is content that his career aligned with his love for students.



McCallum earned his bachelor's degree in recreation and master's in special education from Lynchburg College in Virginia. He completed additional graduate studies in education at the University of Virginia and earned his doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado.

McCallum and his wife, Janice, plan to retire in Virginia. McCallum would like to return to working with at-risk teens. He is also interested in motorcycle ministries. Their youngest son, Greg, graduated from CSC in May and will be commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Their older son, Doug, is stationed in Fairbanks, on his third tour in the military after serving in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Dr. Maggie Smith-Bruehlman Director of Upward Bound

Dr. Maggie Smith-Bruehlman is retiring after 11 years as Director of Chadron State College's Upward Bound program. The federally funded TRiO program is designed to support low-income, first-generation teenagers with academic advising, ACT test preparation, tutoring, and a residential, four-week summer program at CSC.



Throughout the year, students take trips to Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado college campuses and cultural sites. At the conclusion of the summer program, Smith-Bruehlman and other chaperones, including summer faculty and CSC student leaders accompany the group.

Her retirement plans include teaching yoga when she returns to Colorado with her husband, Dr. Augie Bruehlman, who is also retiring from the Business Academy faculty.

Dr. Charles Snare Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Charles Snare, Chadron State College's former Vice President for Academic Affairs, retired in January 2020.



Snare came to CSC in 2006 and was a Dean for six years. In January 2012, he was named the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. In July of that year, his interim tag was removed.

Snare's primary role as the college's senior academic administrator positioned him well to lead the college's 2017 reaffirmation through the Higher Learning Commission. Snare was involved with the institution's strategic planning, orchestrating the Master Academic Plan as the centerpiece of the college's strategic plan, fostering a transformation of the King Library to a learning commons, and facilitating the development of the Teaching and Learning Center and Essential Studies Program. Snare also chaired many committees at the college dedicated to improving collaboration, communication, and leadership development.

Snare, a native of Ohio, said he and his wife, Karen, plan to travel extensively in retirement.

Dee Dee Turman Custodian

In a 41-year career at Chadron State College that has included stints as groundskeeper, painter, and custodian, Dee Dee Turman, has gotten to know the campus and its buildings inside and out.



Turman said the thing she'll remember best after retiring at the end of July will be the connections she made with CSC athletes and coaches.

Turman started her career at Chadron State as a groundskeeper, but about 20 years ago, she transferred to the position of custodian for the athletic department in Armstrong.

Turman's retirement plans include playing golf, more travel in the camper with her husband Jerry, who is already retired, and visits to their son Jerry Jr. in Hay Springs and daughters Jamie, in Cambridge, and Barb, in Sidney. The couple have seven grandchildren to keep track of as well.

Dr. Beth Wentworth Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Beth Wentworth, a North Dakota native with a doctorate from the University of Minnesota, joined the CSC faculty in 2004. She earned a master's degree in 1998 from Northern State University and a bachelor's in elementary math education from Minot State University in 1972.



Wentworth's reputation at CSC is in part linked to the outreach programs she helped establish for elementary and middle school students. In 2010, she proposed a collaborative program with Chadron Public Schools and since then CSC students majoring in elementary and middle school math education have been helping area youth strengthen their math skills during the school day and after school.

In 2018, Wentworth's innovative teaching techniques, devotion and commitment to her career were recognized by her peers when she received the Milton W. Beckman Lifetime Achievement Award at the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics annual conference.

LaWayne Zeller Director of Field Experiences/ Certification Officer

After more than a decade of service to Chadron State College, Director of Field Experience LaWayne Zeller will retire at the beginning of July. She has worked in Chadron State College's Education Department since 2009, as the Certification Officer since 2010, and most recently as the Director of Field Experience.



Zeller graduated from Chadron State with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree in 1980 and a Master of Science in Education Administration in 1992.

As a Certification Officer, Zeller was heavily involved with education accrediting bodies.

Retirement plans include moving to Iowa with her husband, Doug, to be closer to their grandchildren. She said she plans to watch many sunrises with a cup of coffee as she plans for the day. She also wants to raise a garden and get in the kitchen to pursue her love of cooking.

CSC CELEBRATES 315 GRADUATES

By Tena L. Cook

Chadron State College honored 315 graduates, 89 earning master's degrees and 226 earning bachelor's degrees, with the institution's first virtual commencement May 9.

Master's degree graduates Taylor Osmotherly of Crawford, and Kelsey Brummels of Ewing, presented the opening and closing moments of reflection.

Dr. Beth Wentworth was recognized as the recipient of the Nebraska State College System Teaching Excellence Award by Gary Bieganski, who represented the NSCS Board of Trustees. Wentworth returned the CS Foundation cash awards she received and asked that they be earmarked for the Math Science renovation project. She received \$3,000 for the system award and \$1,000 for the CSC award.

Several ROTC cadets were recognized for commissioning as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

Chasidy Horton of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Ordnance Branch (Active Duty); Samuel Klammer of Juniata, Nebraska, Military Intelligence Branch (Active Duty); Mason Marsh of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Transportation Branch (Colorado National Guard); Gregory McCallum of Chadron, Transportation Branch (Active Duty); Demetrius McFadden of Pahokee, Florida, Quartermaster Branch (Army Reserves); Mitchell Parish of North Platte, Nebraska, Infantry Branch (Active Duty); Shae Weber of Rapid City, South Dakota, Quartermaster Branch (South Dakota National Guard).

Dr. Kurt Kinbacher, Professor of History, addressed the graduates. He reminded the



Ashtyn Faehnrich of Rapid City, South Dakota, poses next to an image of her undergraduate degree during Chadron State College's virtual commencement May 9. (Courtesy Photo)

graduates to read the portion of their diplomas stating they are entitled to the rights, privileges, and honors that accompany their degree.

"It's a pretty big deal. It might not feel like it today, but you've been becoming this graduate for the entire time you've been here. Let that sink in," Kinbacher said.

"It's a pretty big deal. It might not feel like it today, but you've been becoming this graduate for the entire time you've been here. Let that sink in."

— Dr. Kurt Kinbacher

Kinbacher advised the graduates to be generous. He said the admonishment came from Dr. Carol Levin, a senior professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, when he was completing his doctorate.

"Sometimes people just need a leg up. Being generous costs very little and the rewards can be really great. It has served me well," Kinbacher said.

Next, Kinbacher referred to President John F. Kennedy's famous challenge: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but

ask what you can do for your country."

"It might seem kind of grandiose, but you can scale this for wherever you are in your life right now. It can be, 'ask what you can do for family, for your ranch, for your business, for your community, for your planet.' This COVID-19 is fundamentally unfair. But there will be a silver lining to this," Kinbacher said. "Here is my hope. Langston Hughes, the American Poet, who wrote in 1935 at a time of great racial intolerance and economic depression, 'Let America be America again. Let it be the dream it used to be.'"

Kinbacher concluded with his assertion that the U.S. will rebound from current trials.

"Once this blows through, we have work to do. America and Americans lead. We lead the world. Americans believe in truth. We believe in science. We believe in stable institutions. We're coming through a hard time. We'll get to the end of it. We can recover from this," Kinbacher said.



The Chicoine Center prepares to host undergraduate commencement in May 2019. Due to directed health measures, the ceremony in 2020 was postponed. The college plans to conduct an in-person ceremony in the future. (Photo by Dewayne Gimeson)

WENTWORTH EARNS NSCS TEACHING HONOR

By Judi Yorges, NSCS

The Nebraska State Colleges Board of Trustees selected Dr. Beth Wentworth as the 2020 Teaching Excellence Award recipient for the Nebraska State College System. Wentworth, a Professor of Mathematics, was honored during the virtual spring commencement ceremony May 9.

"Dr. Wentworth is not only an excellent educator, but a great mentor, advisor, and advocate for our students and their success. Her dedication to students reflects the core values, mission and vision of Chadron State College and the Nebraska State College System," said Chancellor Paul Turman of the Nebraska State College System. "She is a fantastic role model for future educators. She holds her students to the highest standard and provides the tools and support to help them succeed."

Each year the NSCS recognizes a faculty member from one of the three state colleges with the Teaching Excellence Award. A nominee from each college is submitted for consideration



Beth Wentworth

after being selected as the college-level Teaching Excellence Award recipient. The award is given in recognition of superior teaching and advising, innovative instructional practice, high educational standards, and engaging learning environments that inspire and motivate students.

Wentworth excels in preparing future elementary and secondary math teachers. Her passion for improving math education in Nebraska shines brightest through the outreach programs she has implemented. Family Math Nights and after school programs allow her students to make math fun and help elementary and middle school students appreciate and retain enthusiasm for the subject.

"My greatest desire has always been to help develop effective and successful teachers."

— Dr. Beth Wentworth

"Dr. Wentworth is an outstanding example of the Nebraska State College System professor. She focuses on providing the highest student-centered instruction, motivating students to perform to their potential. She continues to grow professionally, actively participating in service to the mathematics and education programs on campus. She is the ultimate team player on campus, consistently collaborating with staff from

other departments across campus and beyond," said Dr. Robert Stack, Chair of the Mathematical and Natural Sciences Department at Chadron State College.

"I have dedicated my teaching career to creating better elementary math teachers. My greatest desire has always been to help develop effective and successful teachers. I feel I am rewarded for my dedication and effort every time I hear a positive report from a former student or administrator. As I wind down my professional career, I am proud of the impact I have had on Chadron State College

Education graduates and their students," said Wentworth. "It is truly an honor to be recognized as the 2020 NSCS Teaching Excellence Award winner. I can't think of a better ending to my career."

Wentworth earned a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction, Mathematics Education from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree from Northern State University, and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Minot State University.

Virtual commencement honors grads, shows collaboration

By CSC College Relations

When Chadron State College announced it was moving all classes to remote delivery and that campus was closed to the public, the need to recognize the institution's 2020 graduates became even greater.

What followed was the college's first virtual commencement project. It came together in a short amount of time. In early April, CSC announced it would not host commencement ceremonies on campus because of the Governor's directed health measures, but later that month, administrators collaborated with College Relations to create the event in order to provide graduates some recognition.

The project went smoothly. Director of College Relations Alex Helmbrecht worked with Registrar Melissa Mitchell to determine the order of events, and Digital Graphic Designer Daniel Binkard filmed the speakers and edited the production. Publication Specialist Craig Conway assisted Binkard with graphics, including the diploma graphics that showcase each graduate's name.

"I was pleased with how smoothly the plans for the virtual commencement came together," Binkard said. "We were able to include many short congratulatory messages to the graduates from various faculty and staff. It really showcases the personal connection CSC provides when employees are able to send their own positive wishes to the students."



Dr. Kurt Kinbacher, associate professor, right, prepares to deliver his message to the graduating class on April 30, while Daniel Binkard, digital graphic designer in College Relations, adjusts the camera. Graduate Assistant John Murphy holds a diffuser over Kinbacher to soften shadows from the sun. Binkard recorded speakers and edited CSC's virtual commencement video, which premiered May 9. (Photo by Dewayne Gimeson)

An on-campus commencement ceremony will occur at an appropriate time in the fu-

ture. The virtual commencement is available to watch on the college's YouTube channel or by visiting csc.edu/commencement2020.

EDUCATOR'S ESTATE PLAN CREATES SCHOLARSHIP

By George Ledbetter

A Nebraska Panhandle music educator with three degrees from Chadron State College and deep family ties to the institution has established a scholarship for Education students as a key part of her estate plan.

Sherri Marie Sides said creating the Thoendel Sides Education scholarship at CSC in memory of her parents, Wayne and Virginia Thoendel Sides, was the natural thing to do because of the four generations of educators in her family and her own positive experiences at CSC.

"I come from a family devoted to the process of education and education of youth. I wanted that to continue as a legacy in my family and part of my legacy," Sides said.

Sides was born in Chadron while her father was completing his degree in industrial technology education at CSC. A wing of the Burkhiser building is named for her grandfather, Frank Thoendel, who was a professor. Her grandmother, Ruth Thoendel, once ran the campus bookstore. Sides' mother,

two brothers, four uncles, an aunt, and two cousins also have degrees from Chadron State, and many family members have gone into education, Sides said.

When Sides' father got a job as an industrial tech teacher with Gering Public Schools the family moved to the Scottsbluff area, where she grew up and graduated from high school. Sides had an early affinity for music and was studying at Western Nebraska Community College when her vocal chords began to show damage that a doctor said would keep her from ever singing again. She was recruited to CSC's music program by Dr. Alfred Blinde, who, along with Dr.

Leonard Paulson, prescribed a regimen of rest and retraining that restored her vocal abilities.

"Those two men saved my voice," she said.

Graduating in 1983 with a degree in vocal and instrumental music, Sides followed the family tradition and became an elementary music teacher for Gering Public Schools, a job she had for 23 years. In 1997 she completed a master's degree in education at CSC and returned to the college again in 2002 for a K-12 education administration endorsement.

Dr. Margaret Crouse and Dr. Lee Moeller were powerful influences during her graduate school experience at CSC, said Sides.

"I come from a family devoted to the process of education and education of youth. I wanted that to continue as a legacy in my family and part of my legacy."

— Sherri Marie Sides

The last seven years of Sides' teaching career were spent in an Omaha Public Schools elementary fine arts magnet school. Teaching students from an inner-city cultural background was a new and rewarding experience, she said.

After a health issue led Sides to retire from public school teaching she moved back to the Scottsbluff area and began giving private lessons in guitar and voice. In 2017, shortly before her father died, Sides acceded to his insistence that she try publishing and performing music on her own.

Following a year spent researching the intricacies of commercial music business, Sides released her first single, "It's Legion Park." The song was quickly accepted by several music streaming platforms, which encouraged her to record other pieces. Now five of Sides' songs can now be found on various internet music services, another is



Sherri Marie Sides

coming soon, and she is inspired to continue composing and performing.

"I did it because of a promise I made to my father. Now it's become an exciting passion," she said.

Sides said when her medical issues surfaced, she began thinking about estate planning, and was inspired by her family's heritage and her parents' example of caring for each individual student to create a scholarship for education majors.

"I want that to continue. I want educators out there who take care of the entire child," she said. "What better way for my estate to go than to a scholarship for educators?"

Creating the scholarship at her alma mater was a natural decision, Sides said. And she hopes her example can inspire others to make similar arrangements.

"In this day and age children are struggling to go to college," she said. "If someone has the opportunity, as I did, to assist someone in getting their degree, I think it's a moral responsibility."

WNCC, CSC partner to offer shared services to Panhandle communities

By WNCC and CSC

In January, Western Nebraska Community College and Chadron State College signed a collaborative partnership, known as the Panhandle Advantage, to better serve the communities of western Nebraska.

The partnership provides seamless transfer opportunities for students in select academic programs, as well as shared advising efforts, and scholarship opportunities. Currently, students pursuing degrees in Elementary Education and Business Administration are already ensured an easy transfer process from WNCC to CSC through the Panhandle Advantage.

"By working together, WNCC and CSC are able to support students with a clear pathway and, because of the workforce connection, this collaboration is especially meaningful for our communities," WNCC President Dr. Carmen Simone said. "There are great careers available in the Panhandle for graduates of these first two programs, which is exactly why business administration and elementary education were chosen."

With the use of online, interactive video, and face-to-face classes, WNCC students can secure their associate's degree at any of its three campuses. At CSC, a bachelor's degree can be almost entirely completed using the same blended technologies, with the exception of the student-teaching component for Education degree seekers.

"The Panhandle Advantage provides unprecedented access to high-quality, affordable, and accessible educational opportunities from Western Nebraska Community College and Chadron State throughout our region and beyond," said Chadron State College President Dr. Randy Rhine. "Learners can obtain the education they desire and maintain the advantages they



Officials of Chadron State College and Western Nebraska Community College pose at the Feb. 7, 2020, signing of the Panhandle Advantage agreement at CSC. Back row, from left, Interim Dean of Professional Studies and Applied Sciences Dr. Margaret Crouse, WCCA Board of Governors At-Large Representative Dr. Thomas Perkins, and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State College System Gary Bieganski. Front row, from left, WNCC Interim Executive Vice President John Marrin, President of WNCC Dr. Carmen Simone, and President of CSC Dr. Randy Rhine. (Photo by Tena L. Cook)

"Learners can obtain the education they desire and maintain the advantages they have come to enjoy by living in the Nebraska Panhandle."

— Dr. Randy Rhine

have come to enjoy by living in the Nebraska Panhandle."

Over the course of the next year, CSC and WNCC will continue to use the model in place for the two existing programs, Elementary Education and Business Administration, to expand the list of academic programs offered through the Panhandle Advantage. Additionally, the two colleges will seek other ways to partner through shared resources, as well as work-

force and economic development initiatives with the ultimate goal of keeping Nebraska students within Nebraska.

The Panhandle Advantage allows a student to receive a high-quality education here in the Panhandle for a fraction of the price at other institutions.

For more information, visit csc.edu/advantage or go to wncc.edu/advantage.

There are also opportunities to back this venture through financial support. If you're interested in donating to either the WNCC Foundation or the Chadron State Foundation, visit wncc.edu/community/foundation/give-to-wncc or csc.edu/foundation/donate.csc.

Interest growing for Eagle Electronic Sports club

By John Murphy

A student-driven initiative to start an esports club at Chadron State College functioned as a social distancing support group, according to the club's co-adviser Stephanie Alfred. Although the group of about 18 did not meet face-to-face, they chatted online, shared jokes, and played online games.

"Many of our students focused on their studies since converting to online (March 23) and I am most certainly giving them the space and time they need to adjust to this new way of learning," Alfred said.

Also known as electronic sports, esports is a form of video game competition. While the number of potential games for esports is

large, the Eagle eSports club has shown interest in Overwatch, Apex Legends, and League of Legends.

"The great thing about video games is you don't always need a space to practice because it's all virtual," Alfred said. "There are so many different games available and that gives more opportunities to students to find their spot to shine as a competitor. Students really wanted to see a dedicated club that would foster the spirit of competition and form a community around video games."

The discussion of an esports club has been taking place for a couple years, according to Business professor and club co-adviser, Chris McCarthy.

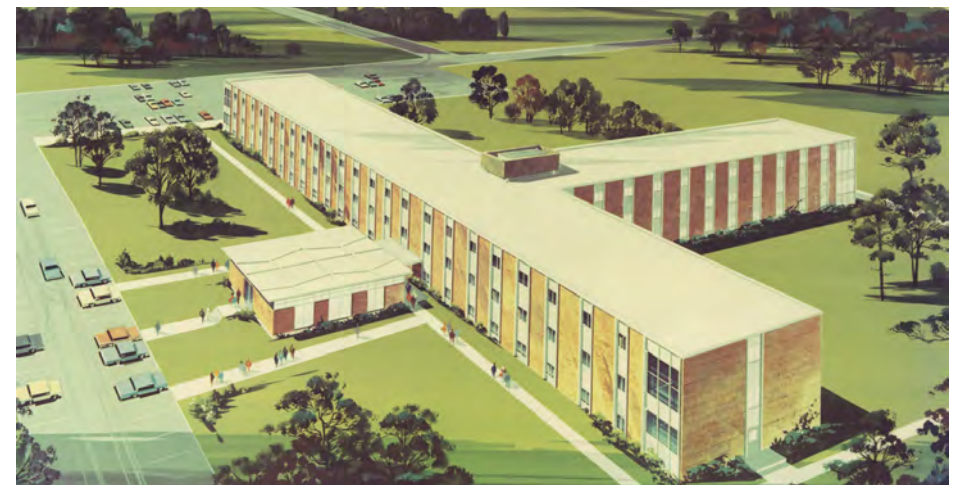
"When I taught here a few years ago, I had some brief discussions with our administration about the idea of possibly starting an esports club or team," he said. "They seemed interested and other students seemed quite keen about the idea."

McCarthy left Chadron for two years before returning this fall, when he found the Eagle eSports club was already under way.

"I found out Stephanie was the adviser of the club and scheduled a meeting with her and the students already involved," McCarthy said. "Now we both co-sponsor the club with plans to see how things go this year and then forming an official esports team for the 2021-22 academic year."

Request for Kent Hall Memories

If the walls could talk, imagine all the stories of students and residence life. Kent Hall has witnessed a lot of history at CSC. Please share your memories, stories, or photos about the Kent Hall via email to alumni@csc.edu or mail to the Alumni Office, 1000 Main St., Chadron, NE 69337.



CSC students research Mars rocks, MRSA infection controls

By George Ledbetter

While much of the world's attention was focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, two Chadron State College students were thinking about the possibility of life on Mars, and a third student was looking at a possible avenue for stopping dangerous infections that resist treatment with conventional medicines.

The scientific research projects were funded by NASA Nebraska Space Grant fellowships.

For their NASA fellowships, senior geoscience major Brittany Lovett and Kinsley Mason, a graduate student in physical science education, conducted separate research projects that could help determine if the rocks examined by NASA's Mars rovers hold evidence that simple life forms once existed on the planet.

Senior chemistry major Joe Keating's NASA fellowship funded his laboratory studies of potential substances that might inhibit enzymes produced by MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus), a bacterium that is resistant to many different antibiotics.

All three students are excited about participating in research projects that have real-world implications.

"This research could be used as a starting point to produce a new way to treat MRSA infections, which kill thousands of Americans every year," Keating said.

"My work could be applicable to mission objectives of the Mars 2020 rover," Mason said.

"Finding life on Mars will require many different lines of evidence from many different scientific fields," Lovett said. "Perhaps I can contribute to at least one line of that evidence."

Chadron State faculty encourage science students who are eager to learn and willing to get dirty to apply for NASA Nebraska fellowships which give them the opportunity to apply their knowledge, conduct original research, and build problem-solving skills, said Dr. Mike Leite, professor of physical and life sciences.

The fellowships provide a stipend, burnish their résumés, and demonstrate skills that are



CSC senior geoscience student Brittany Lovett, left, holding her son Bobby, poses with NASA astrobiologist Dr. Michael Tuite and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory scientist Greg Peters, a Chadron State alumnus, at the Mojave Desert site in California. Lovett collected rock specimens at the site for a research project that could help determine if similar rocks on Mars might have been biologically formed. Lovett's research is funded by a NASA Nebraska fellowship grant. (Photo courtesy Brittany Lovett)

transferrable to good jobs in science and technical fields, said Leite, who is the adviser for Mason's project on possible bacterial influences in formation of the iron oxide found in abundance in Martian rocks.

Collaborating with NASA scientists is a valuable opportunity for students to engage with science professionals, build networks, and try things others may not think are possible, according to Tawny Tibbits, assistant professor of physical and life sciences.

"This opens them to thinking beyond our own planet and push barriers themselves," Tibbits said.

Tibbits is the adviser for Lovett's research, which concerns the use of x-ray spectroscopy to differentiate between organically and inorganically formed rocks on Earth that are similar to rocks found on Mars. The project involved collecting samples of two types of rocks in the Mojave Desert in California and analyzing their composition with a portable x-ray spectroscope (pXRF), Lovett said.

Lovett's NASA fellowship gave her the opportunity to see the newest Mars rover, which has

a special pXRF device on its robotic arm, before its launch in July 2019.

"That was really neat to see the rover up close," she said.

She was also able to consult with CSC alumnus Greg Peters, who works for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and meet some of the scientists who are working on the Mars 2020 mission. The research and experience gained through the NASA fellowship will further her career goal of becoming a licensed geologist and eventually setting up a geotechnical consulting firm in Oregon, Lovett said.

Mason said the NASA fellowship research could be the start of a dissertation as she advances toward her goal of a doctorate in astrobiology and eventually working for NASA.

"It helps build a stronger résumé for my PhD since the fellowship gives experience in research, grant writing, and a publication," Mason said.

"This project has deepened my understanding of how research is done," said Keating, who will start medical school in Washington this fall. That "will help me keep up to date with science throughout my career."

Sandoz Center part of Nebraska Passport program

By CSC College Relations

The Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College will be included among the 70 attractions in Nebraska Tourism's 2020 Nebraska Passport program. The program encourages tourists to travel throughout the state collecting stamps to earn prizes, while also supporting Nebraska's tourist destinations.

The program runs from May 23 to Oct. 31 this year. Because of the rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the start and end dates are subject to change.

John Ricks, Nebraska Tourism Commission executive director, is excited about the program.

"The Nebraska Passport program has a huge positive economic impact and we're excited to encourage traveling to hidden gems throughout the state when the program launches," Ricks said.

Passports are at participating stops starting May 23 or can be pre-ordered at NebraskaPassport.com. Participants are also encouraged to download the Nebraska Passport app, which will be updated May 23, and get digital stamps, supplementing the printed booklet. Those who used the 2019 mobile app will need to download the new app, by searching for "NE Passport 2020" in the Apple App Store or Google Play App Store.

MINERAL NAMED FOR ALUMNA

By George Ledbetter

A newly discovered species of the tourmaline mineral group has been given the name dutrowite in honor of Chadron State College graduate Barb Dutrow.



Barb Dutrow

The honor is particularly notable because only a handful of about 5,500 recognized mineral species are named for individuals.

"Only two percent are named after women. A higher percentage are named after men," Dutrow said. "Overall it is uncommon, yet a wonderful honor."

The group of international crystallographers who discovered dutrowite in the Italian Alps named the mineral in recognition of Dutrow's contributions to mineral science and crystal chemistry. She has been a Professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Louisiana State University for 28 years, and is co-author of a mineralogy teaching textbook.

Dutrowite was formed about 20 million years ago when a volcanic rock called rhyolite was heated, altered by fluids, and compressed by tectonic forces into a metamorphic rock. The species designation and name was accepted by the International Mineralogical Association's Committee on Minerals and New Mineral Names in December 2019.

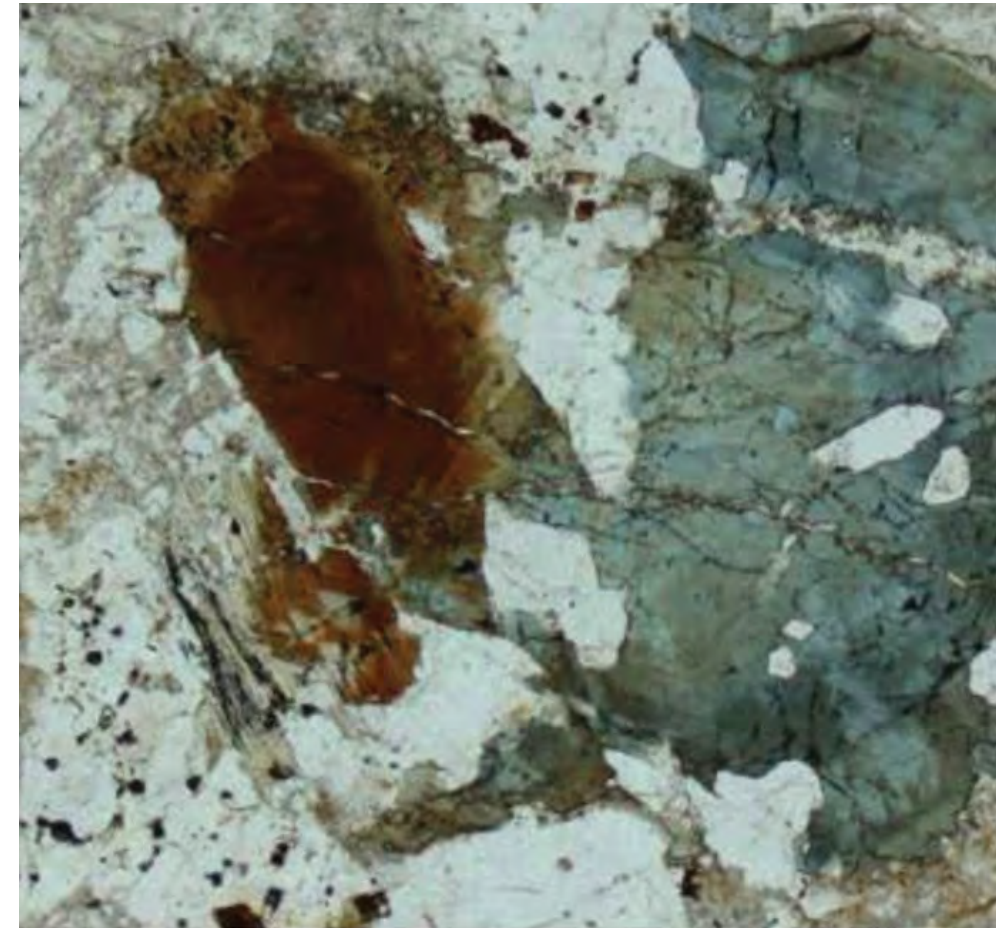
Dutrow's scientific career has included extensive research on tourmaline and staurolite. Tourmaline is a mineral that occurs in a variety of colors and is frequently used in jewelry. Staurolite is an index mineral geologists use to estimate the temperature, depth, and pressure at which a rock undergoes metamorphism.

Dutrowite is a shiny black opaque mineral with more titanium content than other tourmalines, said Dutrow, whose scientific work has focused on the use of minerals in recording the chemical signatures of geologic processes.

"A lifelong passion has been to discover and decode the geologic information embedded in tourmaline," she said. "This recognition is a highlight of our discoveries."

Although dutrowite isn't translucent or as colorful as the better-known gem species of tourmaline, Dutrow is having a necklace made of the mineral that now carries her name.

Dutrow moved to Chadron with her family at the age of six. Traveling with her father on hunting and fishing trips, she developed a love of the outdoors and an earth science class inspired her decision to pursue a career in geology. She graduated from Chadron



Dutrowite, a newly discovered species of the tourmaline mineral group, is named in honor of CSC alumna Dr. Barb Dutrow. In this photo of a microscopic view of a crystal about 2 mm in size, dutrowite is the brown crystal in the top left. (Courtesy Photo)

High School in 1974 and attended CSC with the help of scholarships from the Board of Trustees and local organizations, graduating with a major in earth science and a minor in chemistry.

"Minerals...not only can be sculptural and works of art, but they are steeped in information."

— Dr. Barb Dutrow

Dutrow said the opportunity to engage in research and field studies under Professor Larry Agenbroad while at CSC inspired her with the thrill of scientific discovery and helped her prepare for graduate work.

It also led to a presentation that won a Best Student Paper award at a meeting of the Geological Society of America. Next year, she will take over as president of the 20,000-member organization.

Contacts developed through CSC research experience helped Dutrow gain a spot in the graduate program at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where she completed a master's degree in geology with a specialty in vertebrate paleontology. But after realizing that she wasn't skilled at the biology needed for paleontology work, she returned to the study of minerals for her doctoral studies at SMU.

Her scientific career has taken her on field studies around the world and to research in top geological laboratories, including two years at a university in Germany, and work at the Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico.

In addition to her work on minerals, Dutrow conducts research on teaching mineralogy, with particular interest in spatial and three-dimensional visualization. She has contributed many online resources that explore various components of teaching.

"I am fortunate to have a career in an area about which I am passionate," Dutrow said. "Minerals...not only can be sculptural and works of art, but they are steeped in information. Mineralogy and geology are a perfect integrative science using chemistry, physics, and math. It is exciting to teach how to read the rock record."

Dutrow said the encouragement she received from Agenbroad and other members of CSC's science faculty to conduct research, give presentations and participate in professional associations has been important in her career.

Dutrow's sister, Mary Lecher, is also a Chadron State graduate, and worked for many years in the college development office.

"Of course we all support CSC," Dutrow said.



ARMSTRONG GYMNASIUM

A durable home

By George Ledbetter

Physical education and athletics have played an important role at Chadron State College ever since the college's 1911 founding. The school had a football team the first year it opened, and by 1920, when the college had 350 students, it opened a \$100,000 gymnasium.

Although heralded at its opening as the finest gym in the region, the building, later named Miller Hall in honor of respected physical education instructor Adelaide Miller, had numerous shortcomings, particularly limited seating. Problems with the first college gym were evident as early as 1933, according to Ross Armstrong, who came to the school to start a PE division and coached teams in four sports over his five decades at CSC.

"The old gym was inadequate when I came here. In fact it was inadequate when it was built due to lack of seating capacity in the gymnasium area," Armstrong told "The Eagle" in 1964 while construction was underway for a new gym.

Initial hopes for a better gym had taken a backseat for years to higher priority items, including dormitories, classrooms, and a library, and the first structures completed to accommodate the post-WWII enrollment boom were a fine arts building and a men's dorm.

But by the 1950s the college basketball team was playing games in the Chadron High School community building and the need for a new gym became obvious. In 1955 President Barton Kline advanced an ambitious 10-year building plan that included \$600,000 for a new field house and gym and remodeling Miller Hall.

Kline's proposals were highlighted in a 1958 story in "The Eagle" that featured a scale model of the fast-developing campus, complete with a new gym.

The gym took a backseat once again in 1959, when students petitioned for a student center that would be financed by fees rather than state taxes. The Kline Campus Center opened



An architectural rendering of the proposed Armstrong Gym prior to the start of construction in 1963. (Historical Photo)

in 1961, but by then Governor Frank Morrison had approved state funding for the new gym, with the \$600,000 that had earlier been set aside for the project.

The decision was not without controversy. Chadron physician Dr. Eric DeFlon thought a new library was a higher priority, but he failed to derail plans for the gym. Two years later, the Nebraska legislature approved funding for the library.

In March 1962, President Clark Elkins, who had taken over from Kline less than a year before, detailed for "The Eagle" plans for construction of the new gym and a National Guard Armory, both located east of Elliott Field. The college agricultural program barn, built in 1915 with bricks from the Congregational Academy, was demolished to make room for the facility.

Key components of the 35,000-square-foot building included a gym with seating for 2,100, expandable to 3,200 seats, and a swimming pool. The vaulted concrete roof construction of the building, although popular in Europe, was unique in the U.S. at the time, "The Eagle" reported.

"(The building's) primary importance is for men's physical education program, but it will also give Chadron State a home intercollegiate athletic plant and provide more adequate facilities for intramural sports and a complete PE program," Chadron businessman and State Normal Board member Henry Freed told "The Eagle."

James Gorsup of the Kirkham Michael and Associates firm of Omaha designed both the armory and the gym and specified brick facing to fit in with other campus structures.

Construction of the armory, with its own gymnasium that would be available for college use, went first and was complete by 1963, when college enrollment first went over 1,000 students.

By February 1964, workers from Fullen Construction of Scottsbluff had nearly completed the new building. In addition to a 94- by 50-foot gym floor, the structure included space

on the balcony for gymnastics equipment, a 42- by 75-foot pool, six offices, a large classroom, 11 showers for men and five for women, 60 varsity lockers and 480 for other students, a laundry, trophy cases, and a concession stand.

Although not ready in time to host commencement ceremonies in May 1964 as planned, the new gym began hosting practices and games that fall. In December 1965 the building was named for Ross Armstrong, in recognition of his distinguished role in promoting college athletics and mentoring student-athletes.

For the next 48 years, Armstrong Gym was the home to basketball and volleyball matches, swim meets, high school graduations, and community events. It was a venue for musical groups and notable public speakers, and headquarters for the multi-school Christmas high school basketball tournament that Chadron hosted for many years, said longtime CSC information director Con Marshall.

"It was the biggest and best gym in western Nebraska at the time it was built," Marshall said. "We had concerts and everything in there. The Harlem Globetrotters played there. We played donkey basketball in there."

The Armstrong pool also saw extensive use for years, primarily for swimming classes and PE training, but also for swim meets hosted by college and community swim teams.

Although designed for the men's PE program and limited use by female students, the Armstrong building soon became home to women's sports teams the college added in the 1970s.

That decade also saw development of serious structural problems in both the armory and the Armstrong building, which were constructed near the confluence of two drainage areas that had been filled in with uncompacted soil years before. In 1974, subsidence caused by water flowing under the building led to the replacement of Armstrong's roof and releveling of the gym floor at a cost of \$136,000. A year later the roof still had leaks and the gym floor continued to shrink, according to a 1979



Chadron State College's Undergraduate Commencement in Armstrong Gym on May 7, 2011. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

report. The report was prepared after some 4.5 million gallons of water had leaked from the swimming pool into the underground drainage, causing enough damage to force emergency closure of the southern building of the Kline Campus Center, located slightly lower in the former water course.

The unforeseen drainage issues eventually led to demolition of the Kline Center buildings, but repairs to the Armstrong building proved successful and the gym continued to see sports action for another 35 years. Use of the pool continued until 2012, when it was filled and that portion of the building converted to a state-of-the-art strength training facility as part of a comprehensive plan to update the college's athletic facilities.

In late 2014, the first events took place in the new \$17 million Chicoine Center adjacent to Armstrong. The Chicoine Center now hosts CSC sporting events in its 1,800 seat arena and Armstrong provides additional locker rooms and practice space for student-athletes, as well as offices.

Construction of the new arena didn't spell the end of the Armstrong building story, however. Workouts and practices still take place in the Armstrong gym, a large classroom remains in use, trophy cases in the lobby showcase the many honors CSC teams have earned, and athletes working out in the building's weight room enjoy a commanding view of Don Beebe Stadium, which was renovated in 2018.

In his speech at a 2015 dedication ceremony for the Chicoine Center, President Randy Rhine recognized the place that the Armstrong building holds in college history.

"No doubt about it, Armstrong has served Chadron State well," he said.



Armstrong Gym has been an active building on campus since it opened in 1964 and a hub for students, student-athletes, fans, and the community. Top, Armstrong Gym hosted many swim meets during its heyday. Middle, Armstrong Gym also had an educational component to it, shown here by this classroom. Bottom, students test their strength during a game with Colorado State. (Historical Photos)



The Armstrong Gym construction rises out of the ground in 1963. (Historical Photo)

Alumni Memories: Armstrong Gym

Martin K. Fleming, '84

I first came to Armstrong as an 18-year-old high school graduate entering my first full-time job. I had moved over 1,200 miles from home to Chadron to work. I had realized that I was not ready to enter college. After some bumps and experiences, I was hired to work at the college in the grounds and maintenance department. Gordon "Fuzz" Watts assigned me to work the second shift at the gym and introduced me to my immediate supervisor. He clearly told me in his distinct way that I was to view "Miss Lydia as the sun coming up in the east and her word was gold to me." So, I worked afternoons and evenings and got to see my share of intramural events, basketball games, and wrestling matches. I also had the opportunity to learn how to scrub floors, clean bathrooms, pick up broken glass, and scrape gum wads off bleachers and the gym floor. After a year of such hands-on education and hard labors they inspired a realization in me: the value of getting a college education (in the classroom). I started part-time in the spring semester at Chadron State and a year later I started full-time back in Ohio. After earning a bachelor's degree and working as a school counselor and teacher I came back to Chadron to attend graduate classes. Then a year as a graduate assistant at CSC and another year teaching, and I came back to complete my master's in School Counseling.

Thus, my last memory of Armstrong Gym was to be in the graduation exercise for a master's degree nine years after I started there as a custodian scraping gum off the same floor. Graduate school had been a challenge and once I walked across the stage and sat back down with my diploma I was a bit misty eyed and happy with some emotion. Well, since they had the graduates sit by the degree they earned I was met by others who just earned a counseling degree. I was met with classmates feeling empowered as certified counselors, so a flood of questions and expressions about letting my feelings out and "can we talk about it," et cetera. It was a happy day and a fond memory as I reflected on the first memory and now the last. Since then I have only been able to visit the campus three or four times and I have not entered the Armstrong building. Sometimes it is best to enjoy and cherish the memories instead of going back and seeing the changes and reality of the building's current status. I appreciate the education I received on the floor of the Armstrong Gym at Chadron State.



The Chadron State men's basketball team celebrates with a crowd of spectators following the Eagles' victory over the University of Nebraska-Kearney in Chadron, February 25, 2012. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

Gwen Reed '87

I attended CSC from 1970-74. I played basketball and volleyball. I remember playing basketball in the Armstrong building when the ceiling was leaking from the rain. We had a couple of buckets on the floor and had a couple of people to watch for wet spots, so nobody would slip and fall. We got through the games with no injuries, thanks to the volunteer moppers and the referees' watchful eyes.

I have many good memories from the Armstrong building. I am glad you have a new facility now.

Steve Armstrong, '70

The Armstrong Gymnasium was named after my uncle, Ross Armstrong. Ross was an institution at Chadron State and I remember how proud he was to have the gym named after him. My fondest memories of the gym are the nights watching the basketball teams play. They usually weren't powerhouses, but always had some great talent like Jim Rhodes and Mike Kinnaird. A summer visit from California to visit Ross's family gave me the opportunity to see Chadron State College and the beautiful Armstrong Gymnasium. It definitely helped with my decision to go out-of-state and attend Chadron State College.

Ellwyn (Skip) Thompson, '76

One of the memories I have from my days as a student at CSC was playing baseball for Coach Mack Payton. When I was a sophomore in 1966, we were having early spring practice. When the weather was not very good outside, we would "practice" in the Armstrong Gym.

The memory that has lasted me a lifetime happened when Coach Payton decided that the basketball goal at the north end of the gym might be in danger from a flying baseball. He asked me to get the heavy industrial half-inch electric drill with a six foot Shepard's hook attached to it and to wind up the goal. I got the drill and hooked it up to the goal-winding mechanism and began to crank up the goal. The drill had a side handle that helped the user overcome the drill's torque. I was holding the handle with my left hand and the drill was pushing against it. After

some time, my left hand was getting tired from pushing against the drill, so I decided to switch the side handle to my right hand. Well, now the handle was not pushing against my right hand but pulling away from it. I pushed the switch on the drill and it flew out of my right hand, twisted and broke off my two front teeth. Thus, the memory that has lasted a lifetime.

Dr. Keith Thomas, a neighbor on Bordeaux Street and a local dentist, repaired the damage with a bridge and two new front teeth which lasted for many years.

I also have many memories of living and growing up next to Ross "Army" and Ruby Armstrong on Bordeaux Street. I had only a block to go to get to classes, but never seemed to be able to get to Mrs. Briggs's 8 a.m. Differential Equations class on time.

James Sutton, '69

I attended and graduated from Chadron State College 1965-69. My attendance was three pre-summer school classes, three summer school classes, three post-summer classes, and four years of two-semester education. From there I worked on my master's degree through correspondence classes with CSC and Kearney State College summer classes. My majors were business administration, history, and social science.

My work was as a teacher for seven years. I was a buyer for Pfizer for fifteen years, and then a regional manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska.

What I remember about the Armstrong Gym during those years was primarily swimming and diving for physical education credit.

Also, in 1968, I organized a boxing club and had all of our practices under the hot and steamy swimming pool. We easily controlled our weight, built our stamina, and developed our boxing skills weaving and running around.

We had two matches and lost both to the Alliance Boxing Club and Chadron Job Corps. My sparring partner substituted for me and was the only individual to bring home trophies. I attended night courses both times and prepared for a business class in which my presentation at the time was on airport controllers.

Armstrong left rich legacy

By George Ledbetter

If one were to seek a legendary individual in the story of Chadron State College's athletic program, the top candidate would be Ross Armstrong.

For more than a half-century at CSC, Armstrong's positions included head coach for football, basketball, and track, director of athletics, physical education department chair, coach of the college's first swim team, director of housing, dean of men, and executive secretary of the Chadron State Foundation.

As a coach, Armstrong mentored hundreds of Chadron State student athletes. As head football coach from 1938 to 1953, Armstrong's teams posted a record of 51 wins, 52 losses and three ties. From 1935 to 1950 the basketball teams he led had 157 wins and 76 losses.

Armstrong's leadership in collegiate sports earned him chairmanship of a four-state district of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and a spot in its Hall of Fame.

In addition to working as a coach and administrator, Armstrong taught classes in anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, athletic administration, and health education. During WWII, he directed the physical education program for the Naval Flight program at CSC. He was involved in community affairs as a member and president of the Chadron Rotary Club, president of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Elks Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, and the Chadron City Council.

Armstrong and his wife of 56 years, Ruby, had two sons who went on to careers in education. For many years the couple welcomed CSC student-athletes who could not afford dorm fees into their home. Several of his former mentees named sons for Armstrong.

In 1982 Armstrong received the CSC Distinguished Service Award. That year, longtime college information director Con Marshall, who knew Armstrong, compiled a book of stories about his life and coaching career.

"Nobody was better known than Ross Armstrong," Marshall said. "He was that kind of guy that everybody knew and liked."

Born to a farming family in Iowa on Feb. 4, 1905, Armstrong played football and basketball in high school and at the University of Iowa, where he studied dentistry for two years before switching to major in physical education and psychology.

A year after graduating in 1927, Armstrong took a job as a teacher and coach in Montana. He had moved to a similar position in a small Iowa town in 1933 when he was recruited by CSC president Robert Elliott to start a physical education department at the college, and to fill positions as assistant coach for football and basketball.



Ross and Ruby Armstrong stand in front of the Armstrong Health and Physical Education Building, which opened in 1964 and was named in his honor. He was associated with the college for 57 years, beginning in 1933 and until his death in January 1990 at age 84. She managed the campus book store for many years. (Photo by Con Marshall)

Hired days before the start of the 1933 fall term, Armstrong arrived in Chadron with Ruby and their two sons at the height of the Great Depression. His starting salary of \$1,680 was less than he had made in Montana, but better than his Iowa school was able to offer.

Though initially intending to remain in Chadron for a couple of years, the Armstrongs found the college and community welcoming.

"We had several opportunities to leave, but I'm glad we didn't," Armstrong said in 1989. "I've sure made a lot of friends here. If we'd have moved it probably would have been to a bigger town and I'd rather live in a small town."

Armstrong had close relationships with all five CSC presidents he worked for, Marshall said. In a letter supporting his NAIA Hall of Fame nomination, former President Clark Elkins wrote: "I know of no faculty member who is more respected or has contributed more to this college than Ross Armstrong. His honesty, integrity, and professionalism are known, admired, and respected."

The high regard for Armstrong in the college and community was on full display on Feb. 13, 1965, which Chadron proclaimed Ross Armstrong Appreciation Day. At a ceremony during halftime of a CSC-Peru State football game, Armstrong was presented with gifts, including a shotgun from the CSC faculty, a diamond ring from the C Club and former CSC athletes, and a TV set from the citizens of Chadron.

According to an article in "The Eagle," the gifts were given "in honor of a man who has devoted the major part of his life to coaching and developing skills and athletic abilities in all young men who have had the opportunity to learn under him."

In 1970, state age restrictions led Armstrong to relinquish his positions as athletic director and chair of the physical education division. To mark the occasion a group of several hundred friends and former athletes chipped in to give the Armstrongs a trip to Hawaii.

Armstrong officially retired from CSC in 1973, but remained a fixture on campus in his position as executive secretary of the Chadron State Foundation with an office in Crites Hall.

Personal tragedy struck Armstrong in mid-1984, when Ruby and the couple's son, Ross Jr., died within months of each other. Armstrong said his work for the Foundation and his many friends in the community helped him get over his loss.

Still active late in his life, Armstrong enjoyed golf, fishing, having coffee with his many friends, attending CSC sporting events, and fulfilling duties for the Foundation.

On Jan. 3, 1990, Armstrong had just landed at the Chadron airport after visiting his son Bob in Arizona, when he had a heart attack and died suddenly. He was 84 years old.

"He was the best goodwill ambassador that Chadron State College ever had, by far," Marshall said. "He had a jolly good personality, like Santa Claus. He was terrific."

SPORTS

Senior softball player sees silver lining in lost season

By Kaleb Center

Ellie Owens was a sophomore, and Head Coach Kaley Ness brand new to her position, the last time the Chadron State College softball team qualified to compete at the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships.

The annual tournament would have begun May 7, had the league not announced on March 13 that it was canceling the regular season and postseason championships for all spring sports. The decision came as Owens and her team were about to board a bus to Metro State-Denver for a regular season conference series with the RMAC leader.

“At first,” Owens said, “everyone was obviously disappointed and in shock, because we had such momentum, and everything just stopped.”

The senior outfielder from Longmont, Colorado, had started 155 of her 170 career games and played in all but nine for the Eagles. Owens was a central part of the 2017 team had the school’s winningest season. The also made the postseason championships that year, earning a third-place finish. Owens was one of two CSC players named to the All-Tournament Team.

When the authorities called the season off, the abrupt changes left many student-athletes, including Owens, wondering whether they would ever play college sports again. The NCAA stepped in later that day to restore a season of eligibility to all athletes in spring sports.

Owens’s positivity never wavered.

“I didn’t have any bad feelings or doubts that this was my absolute last time to ever play softball. I just trusted that and waited it out,” Owens said. “Then Coach did give us the official word that they were offering that extra year, and I knew right away that it was all going to work out, and that I wasn’t done yet.”

Owens, who is studying to be a veterinarian, was not familiar with online classes. Some professors decided to hold class at the regular time with video conferencing, so students could interact in real time. Others preferred to deliver slideshow lessons with voiceovers, and students worked on their own time. Most of Owens’s instructors still quizzed and tested at regular times.

Regarding remote learning, Owens thinks she caught on.

“I’m doing pretty well, actually,” she said. “It was definitely a shocker to transition into this, all of a sudden. It was very unexpected, but I think that everyone in Chadron is handling it very well. The transition to online classes has been great.”



Senior outfielder Ellie Owens takes notes from Head Softball Coach Kaley Ness at third base, and she smiles as the go-ahead run crosses home plate in a 3-2 Eagles win over Regis at home on February 29. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

An unseen benefit for Owens comes in the form of additional athletic aid to be able to finish her bachelor’s degree, which was going to take another year of studies, regardless of her softball career. With her newfound eligibility, she can remain on a scholarship with the athletics department through her fifth year as she moves toward graduation in Spring 2021.

“At first, everyone was obviously disappointed and in shock, because we had such momentum, and everything just stopped.”

— Ellie Owens

“I planned on applying to vet schools this summer,” Owens said, “so if this was my actual senior year, then that was my plan – to apply to vet school, finish my classes, work a little bit, and spend all of next year preparing to take that next step in my education. I’m guessing that most people who are taking the extra year have the same scenario as me.”

When it comes to softball, nobody is certain when sports will resume. Owens said Ness is being extra cautious when it comes to NCAA rules around organized activities, which are evolving rapidly. Owens respects the approach, and is working to get back on the field whenever that becomes an option. In addition to her daily walks, she received a “quarantine workout” prescribed by the CSC strength and conditioning staff, which she can do at home. All of the training, including batting practice, she says, is voluntary by NCAA requirement, and each student-athlete must participate on their own.

Coaches are limited in their authority to conduct physical training, but they still have the opportunity to organize academic-related meetings and social functions in virtual settings on the internet.

“My coach is handling everything very well,” Owens said. “It was hard at first, but then Coach Ness took it the right way, and decided to move forward, rather than to spend too much time dwelling on what could have been.”

Men’s basketball struggles, Reed resigns after season

By Kaleb Center

At the beginning of the school year, Chadron State College Head Men’s Basketball Coach Houston Reed had high expectations for the 2019-20 season.

Unfortunately, the Eagles struggled to find wins and finished with an overall record of 4-24.

Chadron State got its first win December 1 in its home opener, as the team downed Presentation College 83-53, and followed five days later with a 79-60 victory over Colorado Christian on the opening night of Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference play. Throughout the season, the Eagles had multiple close brushes with victory, but by the season’s end, CSC had six games decided either in overtime or by three or fewer points. All were losses.

Two seniors, forward Brian Rodriguez-Flores and point guard Colby Jackson, both received recognition from the conference’s head coaches when they were named all-conference honorable mention selections following the season.

Jackson, a Las Vegas native, finished his career with 140 assists, the most by a CSC player in the NCAA Division II era, and 10 shy of the school record set in 1986-87. He averaged nearly 10 points and 2.6 rebounds per game, and led the team with 26 steals.

Rodriguez-Flores was CSC’s leading scorer and fourth in the conference at 17.4 points per game. He shot 40 percent from three-point range and 46 percent overall, and he led the team with 94 free throws. Rodriguez-Flores finished his senior year as the No. 24 single-season scorer in program history, with 487 points on the year.

Following the season, Reed resigned as the Eagles’ head coach. He followed former college teammate Steve Smiley to the staff at the University of Northern Colorado.



Rodriguez – Senior forward Brian Rodriguez-Flores dribbles toward the basket from the three-point line, in an 82-73 Eagles win over CSU-Pueblo on February 21, as classmate Michael Sparks remains posted on the perimeter. (Photo by Emma Jurewicz)

Roden has impressive indoor season

By Con Marshall

Like everything else pertaining to athletics, the 2020 track and field season at Chadron State College was brought to a halt by the coronavirus pandemic, but numerous highlights occurred before that. A school record was set and several other marks from the shortened season are now high on the Eagles’ indoor record board.

Sophomore Brodie Roden of Riverton, Wyoming, was the team’s pacesetter. He broke the school’s 200-meter dash record and also posted the Eagles’ second fastest 400-meter time this winter. He won both events at the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Indoor Championships while also claiming the Outstanding Male Athlete of the Meet award.

Roden set the 200 record on Feb. 15 when he ran the event in 21.59 seconds at the South Dakota State Classic in Brookings. The old record belonged to Joel Duffield, who ran the 200 in 21.76 seconds in 2006.

Roden had also been striving to catch Duffield at the top of the 400-meter record board. Duffield established the record at a time of 47.22. Roden started seriously challenging Duffield’s 400 mark this winter when he hit 48.13. The next week, he ran 47.69 while taking runner-up honors at the Nebraska Tune-up Meet in Lincoln. Roden dipped below 48 seconds again while winning the 400 at the RMAC Championships in Colorado Springs on Feb. 29. His time of 47.93 was fast enough to break Duffield’s conference record of 48.40 that again dated back to 2006.

Roden earned another medal at the conference meet when he teamed up with twins Osvaldo and Osiel Cano of Oshkosh and Harley Rhoades of Douglas, Wyoming, to finish third in the 4x400 relay. Their time of

3:22.07 is eighth best in team history.

The men’s triple jump is another event that has new names high on the list of all-time top performances. Freshmen Naushaun Jernigan of Springfield, Massachusetts, and Derrick Nwagwu of Aurora, Colorado, now rank second and third, respectively, with leaps of 49-3 and 48-11, both at the RMAC Championships on Feb. 29.

They also placed second and third in the triple jump at the RMAC meet. Both cut loose with their best jumps at the right time. Jernigan’s silver medal mark was 33 1/2 inches farther than his previous best and Nwagwu’s bronze was the result of a personal best measuring 18-6 1/2 longer than before.

Like Roden in the 400, Jernigan qualified for nationals in the triple jump. He also placed second in the long jump at the RMAC Meet by going 23-3 1/2.

The only senior among either the CSC men or women this season, Javan Lanier,



Sophomore Brodie Roden competes in one of his two sprinting events at the 2020 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships, where he won gold medals in both the 200 and 400 meter dashes. Roden not only set a new meet record in the 400 meters, but he was awarded the RMAC Male Athlete of the Meet for his performances. (Photo by Eric Mason, UCCS)

finished his career ranked among the top 10 all-time in two events. His time of 6.80 seconds puts him seventh on the 60-meter list and his 23-10 1/2 long jump is No. 10.

Women’s golf continues improvement, makes most of shortened year

By CSC Sports Information

Since the NCAA women’s golf season allows competition in the fall and spring semesters, two-thirds of the CSC team’s schedule at was complete when the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference canceled its remaining tournaments.

In the six that the team was able to play, it turned in some of the program’s finest golf in its history.

The team set a new single-round team record in its first outing of the season, firing 317 at CSU-Pueblo. In doing so, newcomer Brooke Kramer put her name in the record books with the best performance by an individual in a single round. The freshman from Aurora, Colorado, carded a 73 in her first 18 holes of collegiate competition, undercutting a 74 by sophomore Alpine Hickstein last season, as well as Ally Malzahn in 2007.

The Eagles continued improving through the

fall, making trips to Marshall, Minnesota; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Amarillo, Texas.

The team showcased its improvement upon return from its annual winter break when it took a trip to Las Vegas for two events hosted by Minot State University and Winona State University.

In the Minot meet, freshman Kenzey Kanno shot her lowest round to date, and Hickstein tied for third individually, as the CSC team earned a runner-up trophy.

The CSC women had their breakthrough performance in what would be their last meet of the season, when three freshmen joined Hickstein in the top 20 of the leaderboard at the Winona State tourney. Led by Hickstein’s second consecutive top-five placing, Chadron State landed among the top three teams for the second time in a weekend, shooting 324-321-645, and taking third place. That effort earned the 2019-20

Eagles another school record, beating a 2018 team tourney score at Colorado Mesa by one stroke.

Hickstein claimed another pair of records over the course of the season, with her career and season stroke averages. She is the first Eagle golfer to shoot an average of fewer than 80 strokes over the course of the season. Now the owner of the two lowest season averages on record at CSC, her career average of 80.1 is also the best ever.

All members of the team return next season without losing a year of eligibility, as the NCAA bestowed an extra season on all spring student-athletes who had not completed the championship segment of their seasons.

For 2020-21, incoming freshman Josie Rush of Philip, South Dakota, is set to join a roster that will include five freshmen and four sophomores.

Foxen named second team all-conference

By John Murphy

The CSC women's basketball team overcame a slow start to finish the 2019-20 season with a 7-24 overall record, including a 5-17 record in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, placing them No. 14 out of 16 teams in the league standings.

As a team, the Eagles shot 38 percent for the year, compared to their opponents' 42 percent. They were 30 percent from the three-point line and 70 percent for free throws.

CSC averaged 35.7 rebounds and 10.7 assists per game, but had 17.5 turnovers per game, compared to 5.9 steals.

For the second straight season, junior Taryn Foxen led the Eagles in scoring. She finished fifth in the conference with 16.3 points per game. Foxen also led the team in field goal percentage (43%) and three-point percentage (36%).

After scoring 20 or more points nine times, Foxen, who was named Second Team All-

RMAC, surpassed 1,000 career points during a home game against CSU-Pueblo Feb. 21. She finished with a triumphant final three outings, closing with a 31-point game and a career-high 35-point effort in the season finale.

CSC's second leading scorer was sophomore guard, Jori Peters, at 8.9 points per game. She led the team in assists with 4.3 per game and was second on the team with 5.1 rebounds per game. Peters had a season-high 24 points in the win against Regis and was named All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Senior transfer Melisa Kadic appeared in all but one game for CSC. She averaged 8.5 points per game and shot 32 percent from long range.

A freshman who made an impact for the Eagles was forward Jordan Morris. Morris averaged 6.2 points and a team-high 6.1 rebounds.

Next season, CSC returns 10 players from the 2019-20 team, including seven who saw substantial playing time.



Junior Taryn Foxen was the Eagles women's basketball team's leading scorer, averaging 16.3 points per game and shooting 43 percent from the field. She finished the season strong on offense, becoming the first CSC player since 2014 to eclipse 1,000 career points and netting 88 points in the final three games of the season. (Photo by Emma Jurewicz)

Despite tough ending, wrestling had plenty of bright spots

By Con Marshall

Like the other winter sports that spilled over into mid-March, the Chadron State College wrestling season hadn't been completed before it was ended by the coronavirus pandemic. Thus, three senior wrestlers – Chase Clasen of Moses Lake, Washington, Wade French of Harriman, Utah, and junior Tate Allison of Moorcroft, Wyoming – were left in limbo, and will never know how they might have finished at the NCAA Division II National Championships. The trio were about 18 hours away from taking the mat when the national meet was canceled by the NCAA as a precautionary measure.

The three wrestlers placed among the top three in their weight classes at the Super Region 6 Tournament in Kearney on Feb. 29. French was first, Clasen second, and Allison third.

French was the 197-pound National Junior College Tournament champion while competing for Western Wyoming College at Rock Springs in 2018, then transferred to Chadron State. He finished with a 19-9 record a year ago and was 23-3 this season. He won the Super 6 Regional Tournament titles twice and advanced to the national tournament both times.

Clasen won the Super 6 Region 149-pound championship a year ago, but competed at 157 this year before losing weight to be at 149 near the end of the season. He finished his senior season with a 17-7 record. His only loss at his new weight was by a 2-0 score in the Region 6 finals.

When Clasen chose to lose weight and return to 149, Allison followed suit and dropped from 165 to 157. He lost his opening match



Chase Clasen – Senior wrestler Chase Clasen, then wrestling at 157 pounds, flips an opponent from NCAA No. 2 Nebraska-Kearney in a home dual meet on December 12. (Photo by Con Marshall)

at the Super Regional, but claimed victory in his next four bouts, including a 10-2 major decision that decided third place.

Like French, both Clasen and Allison were difficult to put on their backs. Clasen finished with a 14-3 margin and Allison at 11-4 in near falls during the season.

Several other Eagles had excellent seasons.

Senior Brandon Kile of Hasting, competing at 133 pounds, finished with a 16-10 record

and was among the 10 grapplers named to the RMAC All-Academic First-Team by the league's sports information directors.

Two redshirt freshmen also gave the Eagles clout at heavyweight this winter. Mason Watt of Broomfield, Colorado, filled the varsity slot and went 20-9 while primarily battling upperclassmen. In addition, Eli Hinojosa of Imperial compiled an 18-5 record while competing at open tournaments.

Public health crisis impacts coaches, athletic department

By Kaleb Center

In Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Head Wrestling Coach Brett Hunter sat three of his student-athletes down on the afternoon of March 12 to deliver somber news: The NCAA had canceled its championships for the remainder of the year, including the one the wrestlers were set to compete in the next day.

"Wrestling is the most demanding sport there is," Hunter said. "Weight control, wrestling practice, and your academics all demand a high amount of discipline. Tate (Allison), Chase (Clasen) and Wade (French) did all the right things to get to the NCAA tournament and it was taken from them along with 180 others."

Simultaneously, in Birmingham, Alabama, two track and field student-athletes who were prepping for their first NCAA meet lost out on the opportunity. Head Coach Riley Northrup was frustrated on behalf of his charges, freshman Naishaun Jernigan and sophomore Brodie Roden.

"It's definitely hard to put that much time into something," Northrup said, "only to have it taken away so abruptly."

The two championships were not the only casualties. All spring sports, most of which were already underway in mid-March, had their regular seasons canceled. The fall sports, including football, lost the ability to conduct spring practices as state health guidelines, plus emergency measures by athletics' governing bodies, prohibited organized activities.

With the loss of competition, practice, and travel, coaches and student-athletes had to adapt new ways of learning, communicating, fundraising and recruiting as they used videoconferencing and social media to recover productivity.

One of the most productive online efforts raised more than \$12,000 from CSC alumni and football supporters. Head Football Coach Jay Long put out a call in April to help his



Three CSC wrestlers and three of their coaches were ready for the NCAA championships in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the day before the tournament was cancelled (from left: senior Chase Clasen, coaching assistant Joey Dozier, senior Wade French, head coach Brett Hunter, junior Tate Allison, and coaching assistant Andy Szalwinski). (Photo by Kaleb Center)

program purchase online playbook software for teaching schemes to student-athletes.

In conjunction with the crowdfunding effort, he used a series of fan polls to drive traffic to the donation form, using the polls to determine the "greatest Eagles football team of all time." The fans decided that the 2008 CSC squad was supreme, but they also showed their passion for the program by donating. More than 100 individuals contributed, and thousands voted.

Moving into the summer months, most student-athletes remain at home, scattered across the country. Like most of the coaches at CSC, Long coordinates with his team using methods such as the Snapchat phone app, Zoom web conferencing service and podcasting.

While some coaches have been comfortable continuing to come to their offices in the Chicoine Center, others, like Head Women's Basketball Coach Janet Raymer, have found work-from-home arrangements suit them best.

"I've worked from home in the past," Raymer said, "and I find that I'm more efficient and I get a lot more done."

For Northrup, the stay-at-home period became serendipitous.

"With the birth of my first son, Ryker," Northrup said, "it's been a blessing in disguise for my family. There would have been a conflict between the day he was born and our outdoor conference championships, but the cancellation allowed me to be home."

The coaches at CSC agreed that recruiting without competitions and travel has been a challenge. In the case of spring sports, some must rely on highlight videos and athletic accomplishments that are up to a year old. They face NCAA policies that are evolving almost daily. The lack of in-person contact can be a deal-breaker for some high school recruits.

"Like everyone else," said Head Softball Coach Kaley Ness, "we're navigating through rules and regulations that are continuously changing. The summer months are a heavy recruiting period for us, and right now, it's very different from the past. Potential student-athletes are doing a great job sending updated video and adjusting to taking virtual tours of our campus."

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308-432-6366 for more
information.**

BUDWEISER LABEL FEATURES DESIGN BY CSC GRADUATE

By George Ledbetter

In February, Chadron State College graduate Marty Lastovica watched the television advertising extravaganza of Super Bowl LIV carefully for a Budweiser beer ad.

Lastovica's interest came from more than just an affinity for beer; the 60-second ad was the official unveiling of a new label and packaging design for Budweiser's worldwide product line that he had a major role in creating.

Lastovica works in St. Louis, Missouri, where he heads a graphic design team for AB-InBev, the Belgium-based company that owns Budweiser.

Lastovica and his team worked for more than six months to redesign the bottle, can, and packaging labels for Budweiser's entire global operation.

"It was a long process; a lot of late nights and back and forth emails," he said. "I know we did over 30 designs and revisions."

The project started from a vintage-style design Lastovica created for the planned 50th anniversary of the Woodstock music festival in August 2019.

"Woodstock was canceled, but the cans were still printed," Lastovica said.

Despite the cancellation, Lastovica's vintage design drew attention from the company's brand team, which led to the idea of redesigning all of Budweiser's packaging.

"This turned to what if we redo the entire look," he said. "They turned to us and the project was handed to me. It grew and grew and grew."

"It was a long process; a lot of late nights and back and forth emails, I know we did over 30 designs and revisions."

— Marty Lastovica

After months of work with variations of typography, colors, and wording, Lastovica's design was passed to a global design agency for some final revisions.

"They did some tweaks to it, to kind of make it more global," he said. "We took it 90 percent of the way and this agency tweaked it that 10 percent."

Lastovica, who graduated from CSC in 2013 with a degree in graphic arts, said his time at Chadron was instrumental in getting him to the position he has now.

"The art department was extremely helpful in building all these skills like screen printing, wood block, graphic design, ceramics, and glass blowing," he said. "Richard Bird (former chair of the Art Department) was the one who kept pushing me to do better. Laura (Bentz) and Mary (Donahue) pushed me even further. They were great instructors."

The small size of CSC art classes was particularly valuable, because each student had the opportunity for intense critique sessions, which helped Lastovica realize the importance of critiques in improving his work.

"It really helps in the environment I'm in now," he said.

Lastovica said the experience he gained by working with Craig Conway and Bruce Huckfeldt at the CSC Print Shop broadened his knowledge of how digital images are transferred to different materials and helped him land his first job in St. Louis with a printing press. That led to a production and design job at commercial real estate company and even-



Marty Lastovica

tually to his designer position with Anheuser-Busch.

The diversity of activities available to CSC students led to a broad range of experiences, said Lastovica, whose college career included helping organize campus variety shows, working in theatre productions, and hosting open mic nights.

"What I really like about Chadron is the size. It's a nice community and very welcoming. If you want to try something, people are willing to give you a shot," he said.

And Chadron State's small size proved valuable, because it fostered face-to-face communication with professors, administrators, and other students, Lastovica said.

"The small college was great for me. The biggest thing I took from Chadron was going up to people and talking to them."

ALUMNI GATHERINGS



Chandler, Arizona, back row, from left: Amber Oplinger, Chris and Louon Carlisle, Tammy and Steve Carlisle, Jack Mitchell, Larry Miller, Nelson Foster, Larry Moody, and Wes Cain. Front row, from left: Curt Lecher, Ben Watson, Jean Mitchell, Karen Miller, Cheryl Moody, and Vicki Cain.



Mesa, Arizona, from left: Ben Watson, Vicki Hoff, Larry and Pat Ruzicka, Dorothy and John Kaus.



Omaha, back row, from left: Errol Fitts, Paul Phillips, Tony Peterson, Tammie Phillips, Theresa Peterson, Jim and Deb Bohaboj, Larry Ruzicka, Zella Rathbun, Rick Watson, Hillary Catron, Hugh Fugleberg, President Randy Rhine, Mitch Bean, James Sutton, Ben Watson, Will Pope, Larry Gold, Jeff Liggett, and Tim Turman. Front row, from left: Debbie Jamieson, Wyoma Mathis, Kris Mathis, Pat Watson, Dianne Turman, Susan Gold, Darlene Fitts, Pamela Graves, and Samantha Graves.



Scottsdale, Arizona, from left: Lyle Bown, Jackie Bown, Gayle Hytrek, Ben Watson, and Jack Hytrek. Also in attendance was John Winter.

Foundation Board pledges \$50,000 to Eagles Rise Fund

By CS Foundation

In response to COVID-19, the federal government signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in late March. More than \$2 trillion was allocated for economic relief for workers, families, small businesses, and state and local governments. The CARES Act included financial relief for students enrolled in colleges and universities across the country who had their semesters dramatically altered by the pandemic. Chadron State College distributed \$537,665 in student aid directly to students impacted by the coronavirus. The CARES Act funds for student relief were intended to cover increased home technology costs, food insecurity, travel expenses, health care, and child care.

Sherry Douglas, associate vice president of student services, said 450 students received

checks or had their student account credited. According to Douglas, not all students were eligible for CARES funds from the federal government. In response, leadership at The Chadron State Foundation created the Eagles Rise Student Relief Fund to help students achieve their academic goals throughout the crisis and unknown future.

The Foundation Board of Directors has committed up to \$50,000 to create a matching fund that will be used to offset hardships faced by students, especially those with needs not covered by the federal CARES Act, said Foundation Chief Executive Officer Ben Watson. More than \$11,000 in private donations has been awarded to students in need.

"There are some students who are facing challenges that the CARES Act doesn't ad-

dress or can't address. That's where we want to be able to help," Watson said. "The Eagles Rise fund came together to work along with the CARES Act to help our students who are in need and impacted by the coronavirus pandemic."

Once funded, the Eagles Rise Fund will create \$100,000 to offset some of those needs.

"For many people the immediate response to any natural disaster or other calamitous event is 'How can I help?'" Watson said. "The Eagles Rise fund is for those who are able and feel Chadron State is the place they would like to help. This gives them an opportunity."

Donations to the Eagles Rise Student Relief Fund can be made at csc.edu/foundation/eaglesrise.



Sun City, Arizona, back row, from left: Donna and Dan Contonis, Carolyn and Burt McDonald, Cash Franklin, Harold Mundschenk, Vallie Mason, and Ben Watson. Front row, from left: Cheryl Kennedy, Deanna Franklin, Liz Kinsella, Janice McLain, Joan Van Sant Shoop, and Karen Pope.



Tucson, Arizona, back row, from left: Brad Smith, Ben Watson, and Karen Pope. Front row, from left: Gary and Linda Howery, Judy and Bill Wickham.

— HOMECOMING 2020 —



Friday, September 25

- 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Registration in Alumni Office: Sparks Hall
- Noon Eagles Luncheon, visit with President Rhine: Bordeaux Room, Student Center
- 2–3:30 p.m. Campus Tours: Student Center
- 5–7 p.m. Homecoming Huddle: Lewellen Hospitality Room, Don Beebe Stadium
Open to all CSC alumni and friends

Saturday, September 26

- 8–9 a.m. Alumni Coffee & Registration: Lobby, Student Center
- 9:30 a.m. Parade: Main Street
- 11 a.m. Homecoming Luncheon: Ballroom, Student Center
Recognition of Family Tree and Award Recipients
- 1 p.m. CSC Football vs. Colorado Mesa University: Elliott Field
- 4 p.m. Postgame Reception: Country Kitchen
- 6 p.m. Reunion Group Social and Dinner
Chi Omega Reunion*

Homecoming Registration

See the website for details about events.

Please save, this will be the only notice. Deadline is September 18, 2020. Return with your paid reservations to: CSC Alumni Office, PO Box 1210, Chadron, NE 69337 or call 308-432-6366. You can also register and pay online at csc.edu/alumni/events/homecoming.csc

Name _____
 Grad year _____ Spouse/Guest _____
 Grad year _____ Additional Guest(s) _____
 Address _____
 City, State Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Contact E-mail _____

Friday, September 25:

Eagles Luncheon	\$12/person	# _____	\$ _____	
Homecoming Huddle	\$11/person	# _____	\$ _____	
				Total \$ _____

Saturday, September 26:

Homecoming Luncheon				
	\$17.50/adult	# _____	\$ _____	
	\$8/12 & under	# _____	\$ _____	
	5 & under are free	# _____		
				Total \$ _____
				Grand Total \$ _____

Please watch our website for possible changes regarding Homecoming 2020 due to potential health directives.



This is undoubtedly the first aerial photo taken of what evolved into Chadron State College. It was taken after 1921, when the new gymnasium opened. The small dots behind the gym are apparently people ice skating where Elliott Field is now located. —Con Marshall (Chadron State College Historical Photo)

*A specific RSVP for Chi Omega will be mailed to members with details for the weekend.
 For details about Homecoming, visit csc.edu/alumni/events or Chadron State Alumni on Facebook.