Arbor Day Foundation to fund 50,000 trees for C Hill area

Efforts to replenish the forested area neighboring the Chadron State College campus have received a major boost from a grant by the Arbor Day Foundation.

District Forester Doak Nickerson of Chadron helped secure the $50,000 grant from the Arbor Day Foundation. It will fund 50,000 conservation grade seedlings to be planted in the C Hill area, which was scorched by the 2006 wildfire that approached CSC’s campus. The plantings, which will occur on portions of the 263 acres of college land near campus, was scheduled to begin this April.

Nickerson said the grant is unique because it requires no matching dollars. The Arbor Day Foundation has been working with the National Association of State Foresters this year to fund 3 million trees for reforestation efforts in 11 states.

“The shrubs will serve as a deer salad and hopefully give those baby trees a couple more years to get established.”

— Lucinda Mays

Chadron State College horticulturist Lucinda Mays leads freshmen during a fall 2008 planting. Volunteer help will play a vital role in planting many of the 50,000 trees this year. (Photo by Justin Haag)

Although such nurturing will not be feasible for a planting of this scale, many of the trees are expected to survive and make a major impact on the landscape. Plant selection also is playing a key role in the success.

“The shrubs will serve as a deer salad and hopefully give those baby trees a couple more years to get established,” Mays said.

Mays said the project is a collaborative effort between many parties.

The tree order is being prepared by Charlie Snook, wildlife habitat and tree program manager for the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District. The NRD also will provide machinery and assist the CSC grounds crew with many of the plantings. The effort will call upon college students, youth organizations and scores of other volunteers to plant by hand along slopes that are inaccessible by tractor and mechanical tree planter. CSC’s geosciences students, under the direction of Professor Mike Leite, will map the area with GPS to determine where tractors can safely travel, Mays said.

The hand planting efforts will come first, Nickerson said.

“It’s going to entail a lot of volunteers, a lot of elbow grease, a lot of willpower and a lot of sweat,” he said.

Nickerson, who earned a master’s degree from CSC in 1987, said the forest south of Chadron has always been integral to the community’s identity, and that the replanting is a vital part of the recovery process. The opportunity from the Arbor Day Foundation is an important step to rejuvenating that identity, he said.

“In a lot of situations like this, it’s just timing. When you see the window of opportunity, you jump at it,” he said. “My sense is that the community is ready to move on from the wildfires, and this is the big first step to recovery.”

Enrollment continues to grow

For the fourth consecutive semester, Chadron State College has encouraging news about its enrollment.

Five weeks into the term, CSC officials reported that 182 more students are taking courses this spring than during the same period in 2008. The 7.39 percent increase results in a headcount of 2,645 students. CSC’s full-time equivalency, based on total credit hours processed, also is on its way up with a 4.11 percent increase, or 78 students above the February 2008 total.

The figures were expected to continue growing as students sign up for course offerings that begin later in the semester.

Dr. Randy Rhine, CSC vice president for enrollment management, said the institution continues to be a popular choice for students and that a wide variety of factors are responsible for the increase. He also said the number of applications received for the fall 2009 semester is about double what it was last year at this time. CSC reported its third consecutive fall semester increase in August 2008.
Letter from the President

Dear Alumni,

I’m sure each of you has your own story to tell about the hardships caused by the weakened national economy. With the rising unemployment rate, housing crisis, and the declined value of stocks, the troubles have hit close to home for most Americans.

Chadron State College, along with postsecondary institutions and businesses throughout the nation, is not immune to the challenges posed by this predicament. By now, I’m sure you’ve noticed the article about our staff and program reductions.

Of course, the decisions about how to face this situation have been among the most difficult I have faced as a college administrator. We have taken the approach of vertical cuts in order to retain the strength of our most viable programs. While sure to be painful and unpopular at first, this action will ensure the most favorable result in the long run.

It is important to realize that the institution has weathered similar storms in the past, and will continue to do so long into the future. Although valued programs and employees have been lost, the core of the institution is still strong and opportunities abound for those seeking a higher education. The reductions account for just a small fraction of our study options, and CSC continues to offer almost 70 undergraduate degree programs or endorsements.

CSC and the other institutions of the Nebraska State College System play a vital role in times such as these. CSC’s highly reputable programs, faculty and affordability team up to provide the best value anywhere. A college education is a vital tool for citizens looking to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to combat today’s challenges and many others the future may hold.

Especially now, it is important to educate the citizenry. Through the knowledge and training afforded by education at all levels, we can hope to build on the successes of this great country and make the world a better place for future generations.

Sincerely,

Janie C. Park, Ph.D.
President
Chadron State College

The Alumni Newsletter is published three times a year by the Chadron State College Alumni Office.

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CSC is a proud member of the Nebraska State College System.

Alumni Gatherings

The Omaha Symphony and students from schools in Dawes and Sheridan counties perform a concert for the students’ parents March 5 at Memorial Hall in Chadron. The Omaha Symphony visited Chadron State College as part of the LinkUP tour, which encourages music partnerships in rural Nebraska. The event was sponsored by CSC’s Galaxy Series of cultural and fine arts events. (Photo by Daniel Binkard)

Some of those in attendance at a gathering hosted by Mark and Kay Mayer in Scottsdale, Ariz., Seated from left Jackie Bown, Lyle Bown, Kay Mayer. Second row: Kathy Baumann, Mark Mayer, Helen Heimbuck and Erwin Heimbuck. Others attending but not pictured were Jim and Becky Abbott and Xiaoming Lin and Yi Zhao.

Richard Myers, a longtime Chadron community leader and retired pharmacist, encouraged Chadron State College’s winter graduates to “give back” as they embark on the journey ahead. Myers was the speaker at commencement exercises Friday, Dec. 19, in Armstrong Gymnasium.

“During the holiday season, we hear a lot about giving, caring and sharing, and that’s wonderful. We need it,” Myers said. “But I think the true meaning of giving back is not seasonal. Giving back is the opportunity you have of being a Good Samaritan. Giving back is remembering your family and all the sacrifices that were made for you. Don’t forget your family, you need them and they need you.”

He also encouraged the graduates to give back by being community minded citizens. To make his point, he listed nearly a dozen examples of ways people can volunteer and become involved in their community.

“Communities of any size are always in need. It doesn’t matter if you end up in Denver, Dallas or Detroit, Hyannis, Hay Springs, or Hemingford, there is a need. And, as a college graduate, you are asked and looked upon to fill that need.”

Myers told the audience that people should not only give back with time, but also with their resources. The former director of the Chadron State Foundation made a plug for that cause. He told the graduates that by giving to the foundation, they will give students the same opportunities that they’ve been given.

“Giving back has so many opportunities. In fact, it’s limitless,” he said.

The ceremony also included moments of reflection by master’s degree recipient Melissa Ann Mitchell of Chadron and bachelor’s degree recipient Abby Christian of Gordon. Mitchell is CSC’s former assistant registrar who has helped organize many past commencements.

CSC conferred degrees to 162 graduates during the ceremony. Bachelor’s degrees were awarded to 120 of the candidates and the remaining 42 received master’s degrees. The list includes 44 students who completed degree requirements during CSC’s summer sessions.

The graduates represent the following states and nations: Nebraska 98, Wyoming 31, South Dakota 13, Colorado 4, California 2, Florida 2, South Carolina 2, New Mexico 2, Arizona 1, Iowa 1, Kansas 1, Maryland 1, Minnesota 1, West Virginia 1, Washington 1, Brazil 1.
Spotlight:
Dr. Charles Cressy

Spotlight is a feature of the Alumni News that explores the lives and careers of prominent people within the Chadron State College community. This edition’s Spotlight focuses on Dr. Charles Cressy, a business professor who has been teaching at Chadron State since 1970. A native of Morrill, Cressy earned his bachelor's degree from CSC in 1965. He also obtained a master's and a doctoral degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1969 and 1975. Following are the questions and his responses.

Please summarize your employment history at CSC: My employment at CSC began in academic year 1970, when I was hired to teach in the Business Department of CSC by then Chair Margo McCawley. I was hired, primarily, to teach the methods courses in business education, accounting and supervise student teachers. Over the years I was promoted from instructor to assistant professor, associate professor and professor. I currently serve as professor of business in the phased-retirement program where I am primarily responsible for the interns in our school and the school of education. I also continue to supervise the student teachers in the Department of Business. I served as dean of the School of Business and Applied Sciences for a year and after restructuring, went back to professor of business.

What jobs did you have before coming to CSC? After graduating from CSC in 1965, I took a teaching position in Humboldt, Neb. I taught all the business courses and it was there that I knew I had chosen the right profession for me. I really loved teaching and still do.

Why did you take a position at Chadron State? While teaching at Humboldt, I continued my education toward a master's degree. I knew that eventually I wanted to teach in a post-secondary institution. When Margo McCawley called me and asked if I was interested in applying for the position open at CSC, I was ecstatic. I not only would be achieving a goal to teach at the college level, but at my alma mater, and with some faculty I truly admired—Margo McCawley and Carl Horst.

What are the most profound changes you've noticed at Chadron State during your tenure? Much has changed in 40 years! The campus obviously has grown, buildings added, grounds beautified, administrative structure redesigned and redesigned again. But probably the most profound change I have observed and been involved with is the movement from the traditional classroom form of instruction to online instruction. Many think it is a great move, many don't. For one really miss the one-on-one, face-to-face getting to know the students classroom instruction.

What are your favorite courses to teach? I most enjoyed teaching the Methods of Business Education courses, Accounting Principles and Income Tax classes. Supervision of Student teachers is always so rewarding to see how they have grown and matured and learned to apply and explain and illustrate the knowledge they have attained over their years at CSC.

Please tell us about your most memorable moment at CSC: Certainly one the most was having been selected as the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award. It is the greatest honor to be recognized by your peers and those whom you are serving, students, in such a manner.

What programs and activities at CSC make you particularly proud? I was instrumental at the ground level in the development of the MBA program. It was truly an uphill battle, all the way to the Legislature. As a new program, it was a struggle; however, look at it now. It has truly blossomed and grown to one of our larger graduate programs. I was also instrumental, with the help of Wendy Waugh, in writing the grant to fund the internship program. It allowed this program to grow into what is an outstanding example which other institutions of higher education have emulated.

Who are some role models you've had during your career? We have truly had some great faculty and administrators over the years. From the on-set the two individuals who played the greatest part in my becoming a teacher were Margo McCawley and Carl Horst, both business teachers in my undergraduate program. I’ve also enjoyed working with professionals like Bill Taylor, CSC dean of business, Don Deselms, CSC vice president and Ed Nelson, president.

How would you summarize CSC to a potential student? A not so large college that has a broad range of programs, where the faculty truly cares about you and you can get an education by highly qualified faculty.


Tell us about a job or chore you had in your younger years? My parents owned a grocery store and I pretty much grew up there. I worked as a clerk and stocker from age 8. When I moved to Chadron I worked at Safeway full time and went to school full time. I also worked at the Eagle Bookstore and was CSC Intramural Student Director under Harry Simonton.

What hobbies do you most enjoy? My greatest hobby is watching my grandkids growing up. It’s exciting and sad, but so rewarding. Jan and I love to travel and do so every year, particularly in the summer.

What was your first vehicle? My first vehicle was a 1942 Ford Coupe. I still have this car, thanks to my Dad, and have completely restored it to its original condition.

Where is your favorite vacation spot? Anywhere with beaches. Probably the Cayman Islands.

Dr. Charles Cressy in his Burkhiser Technology Complex office. (Photo by Daniel Binkard/Chadron State College)
Program steers minority children toward college education

A collaborative effort between Chadron State College, the Bluffs Middle School and Roosevelt Elementary at Scottsbluff is helping minority children get on the path to a college education.

Dr. Bill Roweton, a CSC professor who serves as the institution’s director of sponsored research, and Nora Porupsky, Roosevelt Elementary School principal, teamed up to secure $70,000 of grant funding for the two-year project. The grant was awarded from the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant Program, which is administered by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education in Nebraska.

The project is aimed at getting students and families from Roosevelt’s fifth grade, who are primarily from Latino and American Indian backgrounds, sixth-grade students from the Bluffs Middle School, to value continuing education more. Students in fifth and sixth grades make campus visits and learn from enhanced curricula in mathematics, science and social studies.

Roweton began observing at Roosevelt Elementary more than three years ago and has worked with its teachers to write grants for specific needs. “I’ve seen a need for a number of years because I’ve had a building relationship with Roosevelt Elementary students,” Roweton said.

Roweton believes the elementary students will be more likely to pursue education if they begin to associate with CSC professionals and other Nebraska post-secondary educators at an early age. He said the students and their families cope with many physical, social and educational transitions, and the program helps to make this period more educationally positive.

Porupsky said the program is helping her students set goals. “It provides an excellent opportunity for our students to collaborate with the college,” she said. “And it’s important for parents to see that a college education is something their kids will be able to attain.”

Roosevelt’s fifth-graders and their families were scheduled to visit CSC in April for the second consecutive year. The visit includes a tour of the planetarium, participation in art projects and a tour of the Sandoz Center. CSC staff was paired with parents to answer questions about financial support for education, transfer of community college credits and the college application process.

Porupsky said the success of the first campus visit was encouraging. About 40 fifth-graders from the school visited the CSC campus during in April 2008.

“Some of our children, that trip to Chadron was the first they’d been out of the Valley,” she said. “It’s important for kids and families to know that they can even step on those college grounds.”

Chadron State graduate gets UNK honor

Lorene “Jake” Jacobsen, a 1991 graduate of Chadron State College, was honored as a Professor of the Year for 2008 at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Jacobsen shared the award with Mark Dalke, a mathematics professor, after they were selected by the student body. She also was chosen as an outstanding professor by the Mortar Board and by the Greek Community.

Jacobsen teaches in the Department of Communications at UNK. Her accomplishments include having students in her Fundamentals of Public Speaking course read to second-grade students in the Kearney Public Schools and developing one of the first, if not the first, online speech class in the nation.

But she said her primary emphasis in teaching is encouraging students that they can be much more than they think they can be.

Jacobsen was extremely active while attending Chadron State. She was a member of Serious Adult Students, the Constitutional Court of the Student Senate, the Business Games team and the Presidential Diplomats. She also was chairman of the Student Affairs Committee of the Student Senate and head of the Entertainment Committee of the Campus Activities Board.

In 1990, Jacobsen was the Ivy Day orator representing Cardinal Key National Honor Society and was the first recipient of the Platinum Eagle Award for the leadership she had provided both on- and off-campus. She is the daughter of Dr. Loren and Cleo Jacobsen of Broken Bow. During Chadron State’s 2008 Homecoming, Dr. Jacobsen received the college’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. Joel Hyer, assistant professor of history, teaches Roosevelt Elementary students about buffalo during a Dec. 5, 2008, visit to Roosevelt Elementary School in Scottsbluff, Neb.

Dr. Bill Roweton, professor of education and psychology, leads a campus tour during the Roosevelt Elementary student visit April 18, 2008.

Jake Jacobsen holds the plaque she received as an outstanding professor at UNK.
Weak economy leads to reductions

As the weakened economy has financially ravaged institutions of higher education across the nation, Chadron State College has found that it is not immune to some of its effects.

CSC President Janie Park in March announced a reduction of faculty, staff and academic programs because of the Nebraska State College System’s looming budget shortfall in the next biennium.

CSC will close its programs in museum studies, information science technology and the specialist’s in education degree. Also being eliminated are the stand-alone minor programs in sociology, humanities, Spanish, geography and political science. In addition, the Social Science Department will be combined with the Communication Arts Department and share a chairperson.

Park said that the reductions from the professional staff will result in two members being laid off, a one-year contract not renewed, and one vacant position eliminated. She said the support staff will suffer one layoff and the elimination of one full-time vacant position, two half-time positions, and one 0.63 full-time equivalency position. One support staff position will be moved to self-support, she said.

CSC will close its interactive television learning centers in Alliance and Sidney, each of which has experienced a decline in enrollment with the faculty.

Pell Grant recipients to pay no tuition

The Nebraska State College System is beginning a new program to improve student access.

The NSCS Advantage guarantees that first-time freshmen students who receive federal Pell Grants will pay no tuition at Chadron State, Peru State and Wayne State for the 2009-10 academic year.

The NSCS Board of Trustees approved the program during its board meeting at Peru State College on Friday, Feb. 27.

“The board asked the chancellor, his staff and the colleges to continue to find new ways to meet our system mission of providing access to high-quality educational opportunities,” said Bill Roskens of Omaha, chairman of the NSCS Board.

“With the recent economic downturn, access to college has become more challenging and this program will assist first-time freshmen in their pursuit of earning a degree.”

In addition to being a federal Pell Grant recipient, each participant must be a Nebraska resident, a first-time freshman for the 2009-10 year and enrolled in at least 12 on-campus credit hours.

NSCS Chancellor Stan Carpenter said about one-third of the system’s students qualify for Pell Grants, and that the new program is a way to remove financial barriers for those students.

More information about the NSCS Advantage, go to the NSCS Web site at www.nscs.edu. Click on the NSCS Advantage icon to read the most frequently asked questions and more. If additional information is needed, e-mail NSCS Associate Vice Chancellor Sheri Irwin-Gish at sirwin@nscs.edu.

Galaxy Series: Astronaut Fred Haise tells of ill-fated Apollo 13 mission

Astronaut Fred Haise of Houston, Texas, delivered a first-hand account of the ill-fated Apollo 13 lunar mission and his career in aeronautics during an appearance at Chadron State College’s Memorial Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

Haise’s appearance was sponsored by the CSC Galaxy Series of fine arts and cultural events.

Haise, 75, spoke to a crowd of about 300 for 1 ½ hours. More than half of the time was spent answering questions from inquisitive audience members.

During the presentation, Haise narrated 16 mm footage that he captured aboard the Apollo 13 mission of 1970. The story of the crew’s incredible hardships became familiarized to many in the audience by the 1995 blockbuster movie directed by Ron Howard, “Apollo 13.” Bill Paxton played the role of Haise in the movie.

Haise said it was terribly disappointing to learn of the mission’s crippling oxygen tank explosion, especially since two prior crews had completed successful missions to the moon.

“Right there, I had a sick feeling in my stomach,” he said. “I knew we lost the mission. I knew we weren’t going to land.”

He said the only other thing he’s had a similar feeling was upon accidentally slamming his son’s hand in a car door years earlier.

Haise also spoke briefly about scores of aircraft he has flown through the years, and showed images of his airplane crash that resulted in second- and third-degree burns over 65 percent of his body.
The size and diversity of Chadron State College’s international student body has had astronomical growth in recent years.

This spring, 45 international students are enrolled at CSC. That’s a 137 percent increase from the 19 who were taking classes in fall 2006. In addition, the students represent 18 countries.

The staff and faculty at CSC are working to gradually increase the number of students from other countries who are enrolled at CSC, said Carl Cousin, the student services counselor for CSC Extended Campus Programs who assists international students.

“This is great for CSC because it’s exposing a lot of the students to people from different countries,” he said. “Both the international students and students from nearby learn a lot from each other.”

The number of countries represented in the student body has grown from five to 18 since spring 2003. CSC continues to be a popular choice for students from Zimbabwe and Ethiopia, with seven and nine students, respectively. In recent years, eastern European countries have become a big draw for the institution. This fall, six students from Russia were enrolled. Other nationalities on the list are Australia, Armenia, Bahamas, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ecuador, Ghana, Germany, India, Jamaica, Japan, Turkmenistan and the Ukraine.

Cousin said one factor in getting more international students to enroll has been the decision to divide the pool of waiver money that’s available to them. In past years, CSC has awarded 20 full-tuition waivers to international students. The waivers have been split to create 40 half-tuition waivers.

He also said the college has taken a more active approach to attracting international students since Dr. Gary White was hired in fall 2006. White, who is dean for the School of Business, Applied and Mathematical Sciences, began encouraging faculty and staff to look into a number of programs for international studies soon after his arrival.

Five students this year are enrolled in the International Research and Exchanges program. IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. The students take courses in history and government to become familiar with the United States.

Other programs include the U.S. Department of State’s Junior Faculty Development Program, and IREX’s University Administration Support Program. CSC also has reaped benefits of recent partnerships with the National Agricultural University of Ukraine and Voronezh State University in Russia.

Some of the students come to CSC for athletic opportunities. The Eagles’ track and field team, for instance, recruited four student-athletes from Jamaica last year.

Cousin said one of the big factors in attracting potential international students to CSC is making timely responses to their inquiries. He said the enrollment process for international students can be challenging. For instance, verifying financial documents for one student was a challenge because she and others in her home country typically shy away from banking because of widespread corruption in the industry.

Cousin said that the program is not only a benefit to CSC, but the entire Chadron community. For example, he cited a popular student-led program this year that paired fifth-graders with pen pals in Turkmenistan. The children have been exchanging e-mails and videos with their counterparts overseas.

“Bringing these students to Chadron State can be difficult, but it’s a win-win for all of us when they get here,” he said.

Chadron State College International Club sponsor Frances Gonzalez, with microphone, gives recognition to the club’s two graduating members, Samuel Tetteh of Ghana and Melat Sileshi of Ethiopia, during its annual Food Tasting Party. The Food Tasting Party has long been one of CSC’s most popular community events. (Photo by Justin Haag)

More international students bringing diversity to Chadron State

Come join us for Homecoming
October 3, 2009
Alumni groups planning to return for Homecoming are:
Eagle Newspaper Staff Reunion
Celebrate Mrs. Dickinson’s years as advisor with the Eagle.

Justice Studies Reunion
Tour the Administration Building’s new mock trial courtroom and forensic lab.

Spring 2009
Professor presents study at Malta

A Chadron State College science professor, Dr. Joyce Hardy, gave a presentation recently during a conference on the Mediterranean island of Malta that was sponsored by the International Journal of Arts and Sciences.

The presentation, “Academic Program Assessment in Two Disciplines: Successes and Distresses,” grew out of a study Hardy and Dr. Laura Gaudet, CSC, professor of psychology, conducted for their disciplines.

About 80 educators from around the world, including approximately 12 from the United States, attended the conference.

Hardy said assessment has been taking place on college campuses for decades as professors sought to improve their courses and teaching methods, but usually the assessment was informal. It has only been within the last two decades that data has been formally collected and analyzed to help substantiate the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of the instructional process, she said.

“Assessment is something faculty members have struggled with for years, but now we record and differentiate our outcomes,” Hardy said. “In the past, no one made us substantiate our assessments, but now it is a point of emphasis. The goal is to help us develop the best programs available.

“We gather as much evidence as possible to validate the students’ learning and seek to determine where the program is strong, where it is not as strong and what we can do about it.”

As an example, the assessment conducted by Hardy and her colleagues in the CSC Science Department led to the development of a new course in evolution, she said.

“We were trying to integrate evolution into our science curriculum, but found that the students were not gaining a complete understanding with this method,” Hardy said.

Hardy added that she and Gaudet compared the assessment findings from their departments while preparing their proposals and found some common successes and frustrations that were incorporated into the presentation.

Last year, Chadron State joined the Higher Learning Commission Assessment Institute, which is designed to help colleges and universities improve their assessment processes and share their findings.

Besides the academic presentations, the conference included cultural and ecological tours of the two largest islands of Malta. Hardy said this made the trip special because it provided a chance for her to view the ecological concerns of Malta and also to hear participants from Africa, northern and eastern Europe, the Mediterranean and Japan share their concerns.

“This will allow me to bring first- and second-hand knowledge of environmental issues to my classes,” Hardy said. “It helped make the conference very worthwhile.”

Kim Madsen, director of the Chadron State College Early Childhood Conference, poses for a photo with this year’s keynote speaker, Roberto Dansie. (Photo by Justin Haag)

Early Childhood Conference celebrates 20th year

An event that has helped hundreds of people learn more about educating small children celebrated its 20th year in February.

Despite a snowstorm, this year’s Early Childhood Conference at Chadron State College was attended by more than 300 participants from four states.

Dr. Kim Madsen, the conference’s director, said the event has been helpful for students, child care providers and preschool teachers, elementary education instructors and families.

Madsen said the professional atmosphere helps the participants feel good about their work and careers.

The participants hear presentations from a wide range of speakers, some of them who have become internationally known for their methods.

“People can always stand to learn more about the development of children,” she said.

“That knowledge is critical to the future.”

Madsen said the conference gives early childhood education students at CSC an opportunity that they wouldn’t have otherwise.

“I want my students to have a professional model and they can’t afford to travel, so it’s nice we can bring the conference here.”

Professor’s insect research published in two books

Dr. Mathew Brust, Chadron State College assistant professor of biology, has co-authored two reference books about insects of the region that were published during the past year.

Brust co-wrote “The Grasshoppers of Nebraska” with W. Wyatt Holback, University of Nebraska at Kearney professor of biology, and Robert J. Wright, University of Nebraska extension entomology specialist.

The other book is “Tiger Beetles of South Dakota & Nebraska.” Stephen Spomer, Douglas Backlund and Scott Weins of the University of Nebraska Department of Entomology share credits on that piece.

In addition to the text, Brust provided much of the photography for the two publications.

Cindy Tusler, assistant professor of military science at Chadron State College, was promoted from the rank of major to lieutenant colonel during a March 2 ceremony in the Student Center. Tusler, who is an adjunct professor for CSC’s ROTC program, was joined at the ceremony by other officers and CSC’s ROTC cadets. They are, front row, from left, Capt. Raymond Phillips, Tusler and Lt. Col. Jon Hansen. Back row, Austin Smith, Mark Ludwick, Kevin Black, Wade Dubs, Matthew Thomas, Jesse Arbogast and Erin Hanson.

Joyce Hardy

Mathew Brust
Donations will help CSC health professions remain strong

In light of today’s weakened economy and intense competition from other institutions of higher education, the Chadron State College Health Professions Program and the Chadron State Foundation has begun seeking funds to ensure the health sciences remain among the college’s pinnacle success stories.

“One strategy for retaining and building on the quality is the implementation of a new fund named after the late Charles E. Ruff, the professor who taught biology 1946-1965 and pioneered CSC’s reputation for turning out quality health professions graduates. “Alumni have told me that when Charles Ruff called medical schools to tell them that he had a candidate for their program, they were almost always accepted,” said Connie Rasmussen, director of the Chadron State Foundation. “CSC’s health professions program has continued that incredible legacy by turning out successful health professionals year after year.”

Rasmussen said the new fund is being initiated to honor not only Ruff, but all of those who have been active in developing CSC’s Health Professions Program.

One such visionary is the late Jay Druecker, the CSC professor who was instrumental in starting the Rural Health Opportunities Program at Chadron. RHOP is the collaboration between CSC and the University of Nebraska Medical Center which addresses the needs of rural Nebraska by encouraging rural residents to pursue health care careers. If selected to the program, students obtain early admission into participating UNMC colleges upon completion of studies at Chadron State.

The story about how CSC is helping meet the high demand for health professionals in Nebraska’s small communities is not new. Of course, CSC often attracts students from rural backgrounds in all of its programs, and those students often aspire to have a career in a small-town setting.

A report from the CSC Health Professions Office shows that more than half of students who have completed the Rural Health Opportunities Program at CSC are taking jobs in rural communities after they complete their studies.

In all, 83 students are enrolled in RHOP at CSC, and about 460 more are studying health professions outside of the program. Thirty-seven students were inducted to CSC’s RHOP this spring. Of the program’s nine disciplines, however, only medical and dental students are guaranteed scholarship assistance.

CSC’s health professions students outside RHOP also have been highly successful. Statistics show 78 percent of that contingent has been accepted to professional school after completing studies at CSC.

Rasmussen said the Ruff fund will be used largely at the department’s discretion, including scholarships, student support, travel and equipment. Perpetual support will be given in the form of an endowment.

Dr. Twila Fickel, the CSC faculty member who directs the health professions program, said that recruiting pressure from other colleges and universities is becoming increasingly intense. Few other institutions, though, have developed a reputation like CSC’s, she said. In order to gain financial support, letters are being sent to CSC health professions alumni and community health professionals.

Rasmussen noted that the Ruff endowment isn’t the only opportunity for health professions alumni to contribute to the program that was instrumental to their success. She encourages people who wish to contribute financial assistance for the program to contact the Chadron State Foundation.

Almost 20 funds have been designated for health professions students.

Professor authors psychology book

Dr. Mary Jo Carnot, Chadron State College associate professor of psychology, has authored a new book, “The Role of Identical Component Information in Visual Tasks.”

The book, which was published in November 2008, was produced from Carnot’s doctoral dissertation research.

Outdoor exercise equipment to help people get fit

Chadron State College students and employees will be among those who benefit from seven new pieces of outdoor exercise equipment that is being installed near campus and in the community this year.

Four pieces of equipment arrived on campus this spring and will be installed on the Heritage Trail, the paved hiking and biking path that winds through the hilly region south of the central campus. The pieces consist of a four-person leg press, two-person crunch bench, two-person vertical chest press and a two-person lateral pull-down. There also will be a board for announcements.

The equipment was purchased with a $10,000 Health Advantage Wellness grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska. Mobius Communications of Hemingford also donated funds toward the project.

Three more pieces of equipment, purchased from Community Betterment Funds made possible by Legislative Bill 840, will be installed in Wilson Park. The three stations will be available for people to execute assisted rowing and push-ups, pull-ups and dips, and abdominal crunches and leg lifts.

The fitness equipment is part of an effort by Chadron’s Lifespan Wellness Team to develop the community’s offerings for walkers, cyclists and runners. Last year, the team called upon a Chadron High School class to measure the community’s popular walking routes. A CSC graphics design course used the information to create brochures that feature detailed maps of the routes.

Jay Sutliffe, a CSC assistant professor who teaches courses about nutrition and foods, serves as the Lifespan Wellness Team’s chairman and a number of other Chadron State College faculty and staff members serve on the ad hoc committee.
Spring is busy for wildlife management studies

Wildlife management students at Chadron State College have been busy this spring studying the animals that inhabit northwest Nebraska’s pine forests and grasslands.

In February, the students received the frozen carcass of a 97-pound female mountain lion that was killed near Chadron by a 16-year-old hunter during the fall. The 11 students of Dr. Teresa Zimmerman’s wildlife practicum class performed a necropsy on the big cat, which was killed when it reportedly came within 15 steps of the boy who was hunting on a game trail in November 2008. During the necropsy, the students studied the animal’s internal organs to determine the presence of intestinal parasites, its fat condition and reproductive status.

With funds from the Weedon Trust, the mountain lion will be mounted and placed in the program’s growing collection in the Burkhisier Complex. In addition, the skeleton will be reassembled by Chadron State students to be used for future studies.

Another one of the students’ research projects is helping the state collect data of the endangered swift fox.

The class situated scent stations in rural Dawes County to attract the foxes and other animals. The stations, which are 10 inches in diameter, consist of a mixture of vegetable oil, sand and canned mackerel. The students make routine checks of the stations to determine what tracks are present.

Also included in the practicum class projects was a visit by a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission representative who brought hundreds of wings of prairie grouse, prairie chickens and ringneck pheasants that were collected from hunters last year. The students learned how to determine age and sex of the birds by observing their wings.

CSC offers a minor in wildlife management as part of its range management program.

Representatives of CSC’s wildlife management studies were named to chairmanships by the Nebraska Chapter of the Wildlife Society during the organization’s February meeting in Lincoln.

CSC student Brooke Stewart of Waterbury, Neb., was selected chairwoman of the Student Chapter Committee. In addition, Zimmerman, assistant professor of applied science in agriculture, will lead the organization’s Legacy Committee. Each is a one-year appointment.

Grants awarded to outdoor classroom project

The Chadron State College Child Development Center has received a big financial boost for the construction of its Nature Explore Outdoor Learning Classroom.

The project is receiving funding from three grants—one each from the Nebraska Department of Roads, the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the National Gardening Association.

The largest of the three grants is $3,000 from the Nebraska Department of Roads’ Community Enhancement Program. The CEP, which is administered by the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, has awarded funding to 31 projects in 26 communities throughout the state.

The Nebraska Environmental Trust awarded $1,000 to the project in the form of an “Education MiniGrant.” The CDC is one of seven Nebraska projects to be awarded funds in the first quarter of 2009.

The National Gardening Association is donating an assortment of books for the children and a $500 gift card to purchase materials.

Kim Madsen, Child Development Center director, applied for the grants. The Nature Explore Classroom project broke ground in November 2008.

The designs incorporate elaborate landscaping with a blend of natural learning features and existing turf. Some of the features will include raised planting beds, a crushed stone pathway, rocks for climbing, a greenhouse and a stage for performances. Children will sit on log benches and seats made of tree stumps and will play in areas of grass, sand, dirt, water and mulch.

About a dozen Nature Explore Classrooms have been created across the United States, including three in Nebraska.
Rangeland Cup team makes history by winning national title

A Chadron State College trio topped 14 other teams in a national competition that tests problem solving and communication skills for rangeland ecology and management.

A three-person team from CSC won the Society for Range Management’s Rangeland Cup at Albuquerque, N.M., in February. The team ended Utah State University’s run as the only school to ever win the title.

The victory follows the CSC team’s first-place finish at the Wyoming SRM Section meeting in November 2008. This marks the first time ever that both cups have resided at the same school. Members of the winning team are Ericka Backes of Bushnell, Kassie Bales of Cody, Wyo., and Jamie Hornickel of Ord.

The Rangeland Cup competition is an activity to promote critical thinking and collaborative work on current and historical topics about rangeland ecology and management.

CSC’s winning team presented information about homesteading patterns of the past, present and future and their impacts on land management.

The three team members were among CSC’s contingent of 11 students who attended the SRM meeting, Feb. 7-12.

In addition to the Rangeland Cup, students competed in extemporaneous speaking, range plant identification and the undergraduate range management exam.

CSC student Shelley Miller of Scottsbluff received second place in extemporaneous speaking.

Also, Miller and Hornickel were elected to the International Student Conclave as officers. Miller will serve as the 2009-2010 president and Hornickel the 2009-2010 reporter.

The other CSC students who participated in the competitions are Peyton Bahe of Gothenberg, Andy Houser of Stockville, Austin Horn of Sidney, Kristy Kemp of Maywood, Alysia Towey of Sargent, Amy Tullis of Torrington, Wyo., Dan Ruterbories of Ord.

The group was led by CSC faculty members Dr. Chuck Butterfield and Dr. Georgia Younglove.

Course offered in horsemanship

Chadron State College is offering a course for people who want to improve their skills in horsemanship this semester.

In Equine Communication, students learn the fundamental nature of round penning young horses and building a solid foundation that begins with the training process.

Dustin Luper, who teaches the course and coaches CSC’s rodeo team, said the idea is to “make the right thing easy and the wrong thing difficult.”

Luper teaches students to evaluate horses through body language, personality, conformation and breed tendencies.

In the hands-on course, students work with young horses in the round pen which has been placed east of the Burkhiser Complex. After achieving the desired groundwork throughout the semester, they ride the horses for the first time.

The course filled up in a hurry and the offering has been popular among students.

“I think the class has been successful and popular due to the fact that this is a rural area where western livelihood and ranching is still a prevalent industry,” Luper said.

“The equine industry in this area is strong and many people are excited to learn more about horses and their versatility. There is a great deal of history in this area. This is one of the last places in the Midwest that cowboys can still make a living with a saddle and a rope.”
More than 300 people gathered in the Chadron State College Student Center on Saturday, Jan. 10, as CSC alumna Amy Amack of Chadron was coronated Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2009.

Amack, who was raised on a northwest Nebraska ranch, graduated from CSC in May 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with an option in agribusiness.

During her speech at the coronation, Amack expressed gratitude to those in the room for helping her achieve the crown.

“Without each one of you, I wouldn’t be here today, standing before you in my proudest moment to show you that all of your hard work in guiding me has paid off,” she said. “We are here today to celebrate together Miss Rodeo Nebraska 2009.”

Amack, who loved horses while growing up, said she began her journey of rodeo royalty when people encouraged her to compete for the title of queen at the Crawford’s Old West Trails Rodeo. Although she didn’t consider herself the queen type, she said the one-year tuition to CSC provided the incentive for her to apply.

After two years of being first-runner-up, and earning the title of Miss Rodeo Cherry County, Amack won the Old West Trails title in 2006 and the accompanying scholarship. She achieved several other honors before she was awarded the title of Miss Rodeo Nebraska June 18, 2008, at Nebraskaland Days in North Platte. She won personality, speech, written test, photogenic, appearance and the horsemanship award during the competition.

The coronation was attended by more than two dozen past Miss Rodeo Nebraska recipients and current titleholders of other royalty competitions throughout the state. It featured an auction and buffet dinner, in addition to entertainment by teenage country singer-songwriter Alexa Whipple of Arapahoe.

Funds raised from the ceremony are being used for Amack’s travels during her term.

Officials consider a recent project by Chadron State College students to be a big gift to Dawes County. CSC business students presented their findings about Slim Buttes Road during the Dawes County Commission meeting Wednesday, March 4.

The group updated and added to a 1990 study that was produced when commissioners were considering paving the gravel road connecting Chadron to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The report contains a wealth of economic and maintenance data.

Commissioner Don Blausey, who requested the study, said CSC’s eagerness to complete the project was a gift to taxpayers. He estimated that it would cost between $20,000 and $30,000 for a professional firm to do the work.

The commissioners expressed gratitude to the students, who produced the 120-page document in less than six weeks.

“The students went above and beyond my expectations,” Blausey said. “When I first met with the class, I wasn’t sure if they could do it and certainly didn’t know if they could do it in such a short time frame.”

CSC Associate Professor Tim Donahue said the project provided valuable “real world” experience for students in his eight-week business marketing and strategy course. Students enrolled in Professor Rick Koza’s strategic management course continued the study during the remainder of the semester.

The four group leaders who presented the information to the commissioners are Victoria Frey of Lincoln, Amy Fellhoelter of Broadwater, Brett Simons of Chadron and Doug Liewer of Butte. Other members of the class are Shane Dennehy of Lakewood, Colo., Bailey Lord of Hornick, Iowa, Amie McCracken of Fort Morgan, Colo., John Ritzen of Chadron, Kenneth Schumacher of Plainview, Isaac Stockton of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Tyler Watson of Riverton, Wyo.

Blaus ey said the students brought objectivity to the 1990 study, which he said was slanted in support of paving the road.

“These students looked at it from a realistic standpoint and didn’t sugarcoat it,” he said.

Donahue, who has experience working with American Indian reservations and small business development centers, said the study will be valuable not only for the commissioners’ decision-making, but also if the county decides to seek federal funding for improvements to the road.

Donahue encouraged people who want a digital copy of the report to send him a message at tdonahue@csc.edu.
Administration Building ready for academics in the fall semester

One of the largest building renovations in Chadron State College history is marking its completion this spring.

The $4.8 million project reached “substantial completion” status in late March, giving faculty members plenty of time to have the building ready prior to the fall semester. Through the project, the building’s role in housing administration has been discontinued. It has been transformed to a state-of-the-art learning facility for justice studies, social sciences, teacher education, communication arts, and English and humanities.

The Administration Building has been vacant since late 2007. The academic departments housed in that building have been operating at other locations on campus and the building’s administrative offices have moved to their new permanent offices in Sparks Hall.

The Administration Building will be accentuated by a plaza that is being constructed between it and Sparks Hall. In addition, a renovation of the parking lot south of the building is on CSC’s list of summer projects.

Dale Grant, CSC vice president for administration, said the parking lot is one of several sizable construction projects planned for the summer. He noted that funds for construction come from a different pool of resources than the institution’s general cash fund, which is experiencing a budget shortfall.

The projects include work on 12th Street, which runs east and west between the central campus and the athletic facilities. The project is designed to improve drainage, and feature a new retaining wall north of Elliott Field and lighting along the street.

New windows in Andrews Hall will add to the 650 windows that have been installed on campus during the past two years. CSC also will have the lighting updated in the Nelson Physical Activity Center arena and the Armstrong Gym and Swimming Pool.

Fan bus planned for Pittsburg State game

Football fans have the opportunity to travel by bus to see the Saturday, Sept. 5, match-up between two NCAA Division II powerhouse programs – the Chadron State College Eagles and the Pittsburg State Gorillas.

The bus will leave Chadron on Friday, Sept. 4, for the 767-mile trip and will pick up passengers along Interstate 80 from western Nebraska to Lincoln. The passengers will stay Friday night in Kansas City and drive 122 miles to Carnie Smith Stadium at Pittsburg, Kan., the morning of the game. The bus riders will be dropped off Sunday after staying the night in Lincoln.

Randy Bauer, president of the CSC Eagles Booster Club, said the trip will not only allow passengers to watch a great game in a spirited atmosphere, but will help CSC display its pride at what is regarded by many as the best football facility in NCAA II.

Blocks of rooms will be reserved for the two nights lodging, but passengers will be required to contact the hotels for their reservations. The cost of the bus ride will be similar to years past and passengers will be required to pay for their lodging, meals and game tickets.

For more information, contact Leslie Bargen, CSC alumni coordinator of special events, at lbargen@csc.edu or 308-432-6362.
Dear Alumni,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good health.

It’s hard to believe the spring is already upon us at Chadron State College. After successful fall seasons, the winter teams didn’t miss a beat as the basketball, wrestling and track and field teams provided the CSC faithful with many thrills.

Our men’s and women’s basketball teams were extremely competitive. Both squads improved their win totals from a year ago and there were some incredible moments at home. It was satisfying to see Sunni Busch go over 1,000 points—she’s just the ninth woman in CSC history to do that—in a close game against Nebraska-Kearney. I also enjoyed watching the men’s basketball team mature throughout the season, which included a game-winning shot from Tim McLaurin against Black Hills State.

In his third season, CSC men’s coach Brent Bargen has his young team heading in the right direction. I was also pleased to see the progress the Lady Eagles made under first-year coach Tim Connely. Tim is a Chadron native and I know many locals were proud of his efforts. I expect big things out of both programs in the near future.

Coach Scott Ritzen also had a successful wrestling season. In my opinion, he did a wonderful job rallying his team after an unfortunate car accident in December and four grapplers qualified for the national tournament.

The track and field team lost its longtime coach, John Reiners, but they were kept right on track under the direction of Willie Hoffman. In fact, Willie and his assistant coaches did a marvelous job hosting the RMAC Indoor Track and Field Championships in late February. While I was sad to see John leave CSC to coach at Black Hills State, I know he’ll be successful in whatever he does and the entire CSC athletic program is proud of him.

Spring sports are off to a good start. Rob Stack is in his second year of guiding the softball program and I look for his team to make strides on the field. Also, interim women’s golf coach Scott Simons is excited to lead his team in RMAC competition this April.

In February, I spoke about athletics and academics as part of the Dorset Graves Lecture Series on campus and it was exciting. Academics are truly the foundation of any successful team and here at CSC that is certainly the case. At the conclusion of the fall semester, 69 student-athletes were on the Dean’s List and another 16 made the President’s List. All of us can be proud of that accomplishment.

If you get the opportunity to see any CSC team compete, please take the time to do so.

Once again, thank you for supporting Chadron State College athletics. We look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

Yours in CSC Spirit,

Brad Smith
Director of Athletics

Director of Athletics
Brad Smith

HOUSTON — The storybook of Brett Hunter’s wrestling career just added another chapter, not to mention the perfect ending.

Hunter, who is the school’s all-time winningest wrestler with a 133-32 record, won his second national championship by claiming a 3-2 decision over Nebraska-Kearney’s Marty Usman during the 174-pound finals of the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships on March 14 in Houston.

“It feels amazing to be on top of that podium again,” Hunter, a senior from Rushville said. “This championship by far means so much more to me than the one two years ago because Usman beat me all year. And after not placing last year, I’m sure I had doubts. I knew if I got to the national championship, I’d wrestle my best and it was my time.

“To say I ended my career at CSC with two titles is very special. There have been a lot of great wrestlers to come through this program and to be mentioned with them is an honor. Nineteen years of wrestling has paid off.”

The victory was especially sweet since Usman had defeated Hunter three times this season leading up to Saturday’s match.

Hunter is the first two-time national champion in CSC history.

As a team, the Eagles finished the national tournament in 11th place. The finish marks the third straight year CSC has finished as one of the top 11 teams in the country.

Josh Majerus, a national champion in 2008, also earned All-American honors by finishing in fourth place. It was the third consecutive year the senior from Albion garnered elite status.

Majerus finishes his career with a record of 117-43, which is the second most victories in school history. Majerus, a senior from Rushville said. “This is the second most victories in school history.

Since his second straight year, the senior just added another chapter. There have been a lot of teams that have come through the program and to be remembered with them is an honor.

As a team, the Eagles finished the national tournament in 11th place. The finish marks the third straight year CSC has finished as one of the top 11 teams in the country.

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Chadron State’s Devlon Webb and Jimmy Savala also qualified for the national tourney.

The Eagles ended the dual season with a record of 7-6-1 and a 4-3-1 mark in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

CSC Results at the National Championships


174 — Brett Hunter, CSC, dec. Justin Ferguson, Ashland, 5-0.

Hunter, major dec. Christopher Barrick, Shippensburg, 13-3.


Majerus, major dec. Pat Mahan, Minnesota State-Mankato, 8-0.

Majerus, dec. Tyler Copsey, Augustana, 4-1. Majerus technical fall, Luke McPeek, New Mexico Highlands, 15-0.


Chadron State’s Josh Majerus, top, tries to pin Mesa State’s Luke Laurita during their match at 197 pounds on Feb. 12 at the Nelson Physical Activity Center. Majerus, a senior from Albion, earned All-American laurels for the third straight season in 2009. (Photo by Alex Helmbrecht)
The 2009 indoor track and field season came to an abrupt end for both of Chadron State College's national qualifiers during the first day of competition at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships in Houston in mid-March.

Julia Bayer, a junior from Stuttgart, Germany, was unable to qualify for the finals in the long jump, and Ackeeem Smith, a freshman from St. Catherine, Jamaica, was disqualified in the preliminaries of the 60-meter hurdles after hitting a hurdle once he lost his balance at the beginning of the race.

Bayer's best jump of the day was 17 feet, 3 ½ inches. Heading into the national meet, Bayer was ranked 10th among the 14 entries with a jump of 19 feet, 1 ½ inches.

Smith, who had run the second-fastest qualifying time in the 60 hurdles with a mark of 8.01, got off to an unfortunate start by losing his balance near the beginning of the race and once he hit a hurdle with his hand he was disqualified.

A third Chadron State athlete, Stacy Girard of Alliance, qualified for the national meet at the UNL Tune-up Meet in Lincoln on Feb. 13. Girard's mark of 4:54.20 would have been the fifth-fastest entering the national race, but she has a stress fracture in her foot and cannot compete in Houston.

Four indoor school records were set during the season. Girard set the record in the mile with her time at the Lincoln meet and Smith set two records in the hurdles. He ran the 55 hurdles in 7.66 and the 60 hurdles in 8.03. Barbara Goe set the other CSC record in the 200 meters with a time of 25.33.

The Eagles hosted the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships in late February. In the team standings, the CSC women placed fourth with 75.5 points and the men were fifth with 60.

Chadron State’s Julia Bayer triple jumps during the Eagle Twilight Indoor Track and Field Meet on Jan. 30 at the Nelson Physical Activity Center. Bayer, a junior from Stuttgart, Germany, qualified for the NCAA Division II National Championships in the long jump. (Photo by Alex Helmbrecht)

CSC Eagle logo now a registered trademark

In late 2008, the Chadron State College Eagles’ logo was registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The design of an eagle emerging from the letter “C” is now a registered service mark of the Board of Trustees, Nebraska State College System.

“We are very satisfied having our logo registered,” said CSC President, Dr. Janie Park. “It was a long process, but it was handled effectively and the logo makes Chadron State College and its athletic program unique.”

The logo, which was designed by Logo Design Works, a Columbus, Ohio, design company, was adopted by the college in August of 2006. Since the Eagles’ logo is now registered, it distinguishes Chadron State from other colleges, it serves as a guarantee of consistency of quality, and it helps to advertise the school in its sports marketing efforts. When properly used, a trademark is an effective tool that creates a one-name, one-brand image that is invaluable, according to a memo from Rembolt Ludtke LLP.

Prior to adopting the new logo, the school used a logo that too closely resembled that of the Philadelphia Eagles of the NFL. After modifications were made to CSC’s previous logo, the Philadelphia Eagles still argued the logo was too similar.

“At that point, we knew we had to make a dramatic change to the logo,” Park said. “It was a long process that actually started before I became president four years ago. Now we have our own logo and so we won’t have problems from Philadelphia or any other entity claiming we can’t use what we have in place. It’s ours and the trademark ensures us that we can keep it.”

Longtime CSC track and field coach resigns; Hoffman takes over program on interim basis

John Reiners, the Chadron State College track and field coach for the past 11 years resigned in January to become an assistant football coach at Black Hills State University in Spearfish. He’ll coach the quarterbacks and wide receivers, while also coordinating the passing game.

Willie Hoffman, Reiners’ longtime assistant, is now the interim head track and field coach.

Hoffman, a native of Alliance, has been the Eagles’ main assistant coach the last seven years and was in charge of off-season workouts. He also coached the jumpers and multi events while handling much of recruiting.

“Willie’s going to do a great job,” CSC athletic director Brad Smith said. “He’s played a major role in the track program and the success it has had. He’s run the off-season programs while John was involved with football and I know the student-athletes will respond well to him.”

Hoffman earned his master’s degree in secondary education from CSC in December 2004 and works as an instructor in the HPER Department.

During Reiners’ tenure as head track and field coach at CSC, 78 school records in events generally held have been set and the Eagles have earned All-American honors 37 times, including three in 2008. He is the longest serving head track and field coach at Chadron State.

Including his time as a student-athlete, Reiners has spent the last 20 seasons involved in CSC athletics.

“It was an incredibly difficult decision to leave Chadron State,” Reiners said. “You don’t spend 20 plus years at a place and expect it to be easy, and it was a hard decision for me and my family. Spearfish is a lot like Chadron. It’s not too big, it’s a great community, and the Black Hills State campus reminds me of Chadron’s. “Track has been good to me and I enjoyed my time here, but I wanted to focus on football. I have no regrets about the shape the program is in and the kids and coaches here will continue to excel. It will only get better.”

Willie Hoffman

John Reiners

Spring 2009
Eagle men improve victory total for third consecutive season

For the third straight year, the Chadron State men's basketball team improved its seasonal record and the Eagles were highly competitive in a number of games.

Chadron State finished the 2008-09 campaign with an 8-19 record but the Eagles were close in a majority of contests, losing 12 games by less than 10 points. Add to that CSC's inexperience – seven of the 11 players were freshmen – and it's easy to see why head coach Brent Bargen is excited for the future.

“We had a very young team and we were very competitive,” the third-year coach said. “I'm excited about this team and the program and we'll continue to move forward with what we learned this season.”

Tim McLaurin, a sophomore from Compton, Calif., led the Eagles in points (18.2), rebounds (5.4) and assists (3.7) and he was named to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference East Division First Team. He was the team's high scorer in 17 games and reached double-digit points in 25 of 27 games played.

For the season, McLaurin shot 42 percent from the field (166-394) and 79 percent from the foul line (125-157).

McLaurin also recorded just the second triple double in CSC men's basketball history against Augustana to open the 2008-09 season. In that game he scored 23 points, hauled in 11 rebounds and dished out 10 assists. He is the first CSC men's player to be recognized on an RMAC first team since both Kwemada King and Otis Frazier earned all-conference nods in 2000.

The men's team loses just one senior – Marco DeSouza – and Bargen said he expects all his players to return next season. Those players returning next season include McLaurin, Kevin McClelland, who was second on the team in scoring at 10.2 points a game, Tyler Coffman, Moala Tautuaa, Stacy McAlister, Christian McGhee, David Downey, Julian Pettway, Robert Martin IV, and Jordan Lisco.

Bargen also said he likes the progression of redshirts Donté Archie and Jelany White and both should help add depth next season.

Chadron State women's hoops team made big strides under first-year head coach

The Chadron State women's basketball team had a successful season, posting an 11-16 record to finish with the most wins since the 2002-03 squad won 13 games.

The Eagles found their niche under first-year coach Tim Connealy and his free-flowing motion offense, CSC averaged 70.4 points a game, which is 10 more points than the 2007-08 team averaged.

The Eagles were also lethal from beyond the arc by shattering the school record for most 3-pointers made in a season by knocking down 261 treys. The old record was 205 set in 2000-01.

The Eagles also led all of NCAA Division II with 3-pointers made per game with 9.7.

A pair of junior guards led the Eagles and for their efforts they were placed on the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference All-Conference teams.

Suni Busch was named to the East Division Second Team, and Alyssa Lyman earned a spot on the third team.

Busch scored 15.6 points and grabbed 9.4 rebounds a game to lead the Eagles in both categories. She also handed out 3.4 assists a game and collected 41 steals. Busch tied for the RMAC lead with 12 double-doubles and became the ninth woman in CSC history to score over 1,000 points.

Busch has scored 1,067 points in her career to rank ninth all-time at CSC and she's the fourth-leading rebounder in school history with 587.

Lyman was second on the team in scoring with 14 points a game and she set a school record by making 81 3-pointers. Lyman reached double figures in 20 of 27 games played and scored at least 20 points for a four-game stretch. She also averaged 4.4 rebounds a game.

Things should continue to get brighter for the CSC women's program. Connealy inked four standout high school players in the early signing period and the Eagles lose just three seniors from this year's team.

2009 Chadron State Football Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>University of Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>at Pittsburg State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Adams State (Family Day)</td>
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<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Colorado State-Pueblo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>at University of Nebraska-Kearney</td>
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<td>Oct. 3</td>
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<td>at Colorado School of Mines</td>
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<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Mesa State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>at Western State</td>
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Game times TBA

Chadron State's Chelsea DeHaven makes a move to the basket during the Eagles’ game against Metro State earlier this season. (Photo by Alex Helmbrecht)
Softball continuing to build in third year of competing at Division II level

According to second-year coach Rob Stack, the honeymoon is over for the Chadron State softball team.

The 2009 season marks the Eagles’ third at the Division II level and Stack is determined to help the team continue to progress.

“We’re not a new program anymore and I tell the players every day that we need to step up our game to show we belong,” he said, “and they’ve really responded to that. We played fairly well last season but all of us want to take the next leap forward and make some noise in the RMAC.”

The Eagles had a 20-23-1 record in 2008, which was a four-game improvement from the 2007 campaign. The Eagles have never won more than 12 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference games, though, and Stack said his team is focused on improving that mark this season.

Through 28 games in 2009, the Eagles own a 10-18 record. For the first time in school history, CSC also played in a spring break tournament, posting a 5-5 record against quality teams at the Rebel Spring Games in Kissimmee, Fla.

The Eagles have plenty of experience returning to the field. Eight starters return, including their top two pitchers. The Eagles also have depth for the first time, thanks to the return of three more letter winners and the addition of seven newcomers.

Last season, the Eagles showed considerable development from the batter’s box by raising the team average from .254 in 2007 to .297. CSC also averaged more than eight hits and five runs a game, bettering the marks set in 2007 by nearly a run and three hits a game.

Last season, the Eagles had their first-ever all-conference performers in junior Allison Hendricksen and senior Casey Williams. Seniors Blair McEndaffer and Erica Colbert earned honorable mention.

Hendricksen, who plays third base, led CSC in nearly every offensive category. She had a .385 batting average and at least one hit in 32 of the 44 games, including a 17-game hitting streak midway through the season.

During the streak, Hendricksen had a .537 batting average and 29 hits. She also drove in 18 runs and scored 12 more and 11 of 29 hits netted extra bases.

For the season, Hendricksen led the team in total hits (52), doubles (12), triples (2), total bases (86), slugging percentage (.637), on-base percentage (.449), sacrifice flies (4) and walks (19).

Williams, who was the Eagles’ No. 1 pitcher, became CSC’s all-time Division II era leader in wins and strikeouts last season. In 31 appearances, Williams had a 14-12 record with a 5.64 ERA and 172 strikeouts. She was also effective from the plate, batting .307. She was also named the RMAC Preseason Pitcher of the Year, recently.

McEndaffer, who’s been the starting catcher the past two years, will redshirt this season because of a nagging back injury.

Sophomore Jamie Mazankowski will take over McEndaffer’s spot behind the plate and Colbert will also catch. Colbert, who transferred to CSC from Mid-Plains Community College in the fall, provided the lineup with plenty of pop. She hit a team-high 11 home runs and drove in 37 runs while hitting .272 for the season. She also played solid defense in left field by having six assists and 37 putouts.

Other returning starters include a trio of juniors who helped start the program. Cassie Humphrey and Katelyn Moore, both Chadron natives, will start in the outfield, and Stephanie Hillman of Rapid City, S.D., will remain at first base. Humphrey is also the Eagles’ No. 2 pitcher.

2009 Chadron State Volleyball Schedule

August:
- 28-Augustana Tourney; 29-Augustana Tourney

September:
- 2-at Black Hills State; 7-at Wayne State;

October:
- 1-vs. Adams State; 2-Western State; 3-Colorado State-Pueblo; 9-at Western New Mexico; 10-at New Mexico Highlands; 16-at Fort Lewis; 17-at Mesa State; 23-vs. UC-Colorado Springs; 24-vs. Colorado Christian; 30-at Metro State; 31-at Regis

November:
- 3-vs. Colorado Mines; 6-at Nebraska-Kearney

Game times TBA

Scott Simons hired as interim women’s golf coach

Scott Simons has been hired as the interim women’s golf coach, Chadron State College athletic director Brad Smith announced in early February.

Simons replaces Michele Rickenbach, who resigned as golf coach at the end of 2008 after being promoted to interim assistant registrar at CSC. Rickenbach had been the coach since 2003.

Simons, a Chadron resident, is no stranger to golf. He played four years while attending Chadron High School and qualified for the Nebraska state tournament as a senior in 2002. He has also given golf lessons the last six years and helped coach junior golf programs at Ridgeview Country Club near Chadron.

In addition to his high school career, Simons has played in numerous tournaments.

“I really enjoy teaching the fundamentals of the game,” Simons said. “I love the game of golf and to help people enjoy it as much as I do is gratifying.”

Simons and Smith have finalized CSC’s spring golf schedule. The Eagles will play in the Regis Ranger Invitational on April 5-7 to open the season. CSC will also play at the Mesa State Invite on April 12-14 and the RMAC Conference Championship in Buckeye, Ariz., on April 18-20.

At the end of the fall schedule, the Eagles were in seventh place in the RMAC standings.
Information submitted during the Phonathon may or may not be in this issue. Papers were still being sorted at press time. Thank you for your patience.

Miscellaneous

'20s
Anna Sellers Peterson '28, Mitchell, celebrated her 100th birthday Dec. 16, 2008. Anna was selected as May Queen at CSC in 1928 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1964.

'30s
Doris Berggren '39, Scottsbluff, celebrated her 95th birthday Jan. 18, 2009.

'50s
Roy Williams '50 and his wife Peggy celebrated their 60th anniversary Feb. 20, 2009. They live in Alexandria, Va.


Nina Forthkamp '52, Wauneta, retired but is still substitute teaching in the public schools.


Dr. Gretchen Glode Berggren '54, Golden, Colo., was a speaker at the Plenary session for the Global Health Council in Washington, D.C., for the World Health Organization in May 2008.

'60s
Connie Madison '61 is a retired speech and drama teacher and currently judges speech and play productions throughout Nebraska. She lives in North Platte with her husband Herb Madison '61.

Ken Conner '62 and wife Karen have been traveling around the country volunteering their time and talents for a group call Methodist NOMADS. NOMADS focus on assisting with disaster response such as for floods, hurricanes and tornadoes. They live in Ashville, Ohio. Margaret and Richard Siewert '63 celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary Feb. 15, 2009. They live in Tiffin, Iowa. Dianne and Wayne Gardiner '65 retired in 2003 but have recently become part owners in the mountain golf course community, The Rock, at Jocassee, in Pickens, S.C., where they live.

John Bays '65 retired from Education Service Unit 13 in August 2008. He lives in Gering with his wife Peggy.

Dixie Lees '65 and her husband Jim have started a trail riding business called Ranch to Ranch. They live in Whitney.

Dan Hersh '66 retired from teaching at Ord Public Schools after 41 years. He and his wife Pam live in Ord.

'70s
Gary Varvel '71 was selected to the position of Fellow in Soil Science Society of America in Houston in the fall of 2008. He has served as an associate editor for "Soil Science Society of America" and "Agronomy Journal." He is a soil scientist with the USDA-ARS Agroecosystem Management Research Unit at Lincoln, located in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at the University of Nebraska. He lives in Lincoln with his wife Bonnie.

Ronald Hanshew '73 retired after 34 years as a UPS Driver. He lives in Scottsbluff with his wife Elizabeth '72.

Nancy Russell '72 BS, '92 MS was awarded a Certificate of Distinction for the 2009 Christa McAuliffe Prize for Courage and Excellence in Education by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Education and Human Sciences. Nancy is a reading resource teacher at Gordon Elementary.

Joy Greenwood '73 BS, '84 MS, retired from teaching in May 2008 after 34 years at Gering Public Schools.


Charles Fowler '72 retired from the Wyoming Department of Corrections in October 2008 but is now operating a US Postal contract.

He lives in Newcastle, Wyo.

Linda Redfern '73 has been promoted to Executive Director of Planning and Resource Development with the Region I Office of Human Development in Scottsbluff.

John Mathews '73, retired from Grant Union High School after 30 years of teaching. She lives in John Day, Ore., with her husband Larry.

Cynthia Beemer '78, recently completed work on an album titled "A Place Called Heaven" and sings with a trio called "In Light." She lives in Powell, Wyo., with her husband David '78, who is the athletic director for Big Horn County School District No. 1 and also a teacher and coach at Rocky Mountain High School in Byrom, Wyo.

Monica Rohde-Fulton '78 is a reference librarian and cataloger for the public library in Marshalltown, Iowa. They recently opened a newly constructed public library.

Lawrence Gibbs '78, Gering, is serving his 26th year on the Gering City Council, and is the council president. He was also elected president of the Panhandle Research Conservation and Development Board.

'80s
Gordon Bernhardt '80 has been recognized by Virginia Business magazine and the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants as a Super CPA for 2008. The winners are selected from their peers for either superior work or contributions to the industry.

Darlene Kampbell '80 retired in 2008 from her position as a Tech Director at Riverside High School. She lives in Basin, Wyo., with her husband Robert att '70.

Linda Buehler '81 has been appointed Chief Probation Officer for Probation District No. 12 in Gering. Linda began her employment with the Nebraska Probation System in 1995.

The Rev. William '82 MS and Kathryn Graham '86 are a special education teacher for the Alliance Public School District.

Tricia Lukawski '93 was named to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference All-Time Women's Basketball Team, announced by the conference in 2008. Tricia lives in St. John, Ind., where she is a health teacher in the Chicago school system.

Tiffany Wasserburger '95 was promoted to chief deputy of the Family Law Division at the Scotts Bluff County Attorney's Office. She is responsible for prosecuting domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse cases.

Jay '94 and Angela Rhoades '96 are teachers at Douglas High School in Wyoming. Jay also coaches football where the Bearcats won state in Class 4A Football in 2008.

Susan Cummings '95 was promoted to principal at Emerson Elementary School in Alliance, where she lives with her husband Thomas.

Perry Holmes '75 BS, '88 MA, '96 Sp Coun retired from Helper Middle School as its counselor. He lives in Hot Springs, S.D.

Brant Luebbe '97 is practicing surgery with the Surgery Group of Grand Island, where he lives with his wife Jeanne and their son, Wen.

Dan O'Donnell '99, Chesterfield, Mo., has been chosen to lead the US Army All American West Team through game preparation for its game in January 2009. Dan is the general manager of Acceleration, which offers research-based, sport specific acceleration training programs, using proprietary equipment unavailable at any other performance sports training facility. Dan lives in O'Fallon, Mo.

Lloyd Lim '99, Fremont, Calif., has started a news business, smartrentonline.com, which offers rent solutions for landlords and tenants.

Nicole Buchanan '99 earned her master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Sinte Gleska University in Mission, S.D. Nicole is an early childhood special education and K-8 special education teacher with Educational Service Unit No. 17, and her husband Michael '95 is a teacher at Keya Paha County Schools in Springview, where they reside.

'00s
Sommer (Tremain) Pieper '00 received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Kansas State University in 2008 and works in Torrington, Wyo. Her husband Jeffery Pieper '02 is employed with Pinnacle...
Bank and the couple lives in Mitchell.

Jay Long '01 has been named the head coach of the Black Hills State University football team. He was previously the offensive coordinator. Jay lives in Spearfish, S.D. with his wife Kresi and two daughters.

Dan Bruner ’03 was promoted to store manager at Wal-mart in Shenandoah, Iowa, where he lives with his wife Jeannine (Mueller) ’02 and two children, Natalee and Owen.

Jennifer Green ’04 received the University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2009 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, where she is a graduate student. Jennifer and her husband Joe ’04 live in Lincoln.

Heather Pickering ’08 wrote and directed a mixed ability piece titled “Flutter”, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. The piece was performed by The Suzie Cappa Players at the Black Hills Workshop in Rapid City, S.D., in July 2008. The making of the piece was also filmed for a short documentary and received a community award. Heather currently teaches freshmen at Central High School in Rapid City.

Births

‘90s


Daniel to Cheryl and Patrick Havermann ’92, Omaha, May, 2008.


Will Thomas to Carrie (Failla) ’93 and Alex Cox ’93, North Platte, July 3, 2008. They live in Rapid City.


Gayn Huntley to Vance and Yukki (Rice) Krager ’95, Nebraska City, Dec. 19, 2008.

Devaney to Tara and Brandon Roord ’95, Cheyenne, Wyo., Aug. 31, 2008.

Brennan True to Lauri (Nickerson) ’95 and Jeffrey Lamm ’95, Torrington, Wyo., April 26, 2008.


Gabriel to Sean and Colleen (Haselhoff) Busch ’97, Alliance, July 9, 2008.

Addyson and Emily to Spring and Jeff Stutzman ’97, Sidney, Dec. 5, 2007.


Baby for the McCook Gazette area of southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas.


Jackson Dean to Aaron and Billie (Grant) Knifong ’00, Buffalo, Wyo., Dec. 8, 2008. They join step-siblings Justin and Kaitlyn.

Isa Mae to Brian and Andrea (Tines) Petersen att ’00, Durant, Iowa, Sept. 12, 2008.

Garrett Matthew to Sandy (Mathiesen) ’00 and Dustin Wilkie ’03, Grand Island, March 6, 2009. They join step-siblings Brecken and Brenna.


Cameron to Josh ’00 and Amber (Williams) McQuillian ’01, Joliet, Mont., Apr. 6, 2008. They join step-siblings Paxton, Ella Lynn to Erica and Ty Twarling ’01, Gretna, Dec. 9, 2008.


Alexander to Curtis and Emily (Bach) Lashley ’02, McCook, Sept. 27, 2007.


Ryder to Brent ’02 and Tonya (Heath) Beekman ’05, Genoa, Nov. 21, 2008. They join step-siblings Lilli.

Milissa to Chris and Jayme (Leever) Hallman ’03, Scottsbluff, July 1, 2008.


Cash Michael to Cory ’02 and Ashley (Grantbolstein) Johanson ’04, North Platte, Apr. 8, 2008.

Brenden Jonathan to John ’04 and Shila (Schneider) Iwanski ’04, Craig, Colo., Feb. 6, 2008. They join step-siblings Daniel.


Landon Alan to Jeffrey ’05 and Michele (Gipfelt) Schwindt ’05, Omaha, June 24, 2008. They join step-siblings Ashton and Bradon.


Kashyn Lee to Tami (Spahn) ’05 and Casey Fosher ’06, Wellington, Colo., June 18, 2008. They join step-siblings John.

Delilah to Tristaka and Trenton Munter ’06, Stillwater, Okla., Dec. 11, 2008.

Deaths

‘70s

Jerald VanBuskirk ’53, MS ’59, BS ’54, MS ’69, Spe ’85, Omaha, died Dec. 1, 2008.

Jenette Murphy MS ’78, Spe ’79, Kearney, died March 31, 2008.

‘90s

Holli (Kreman) Siegfried ’95, Scottsbluff, died March 2, 2008.

Obituaries

Friends


Wilbur F. Richards, Scottsbluff, died Nov. 27, 2008.


‘30s


‘40s

Edith "Jean" Tausan ’41, Sun City, Ariz., died Nov. 7, 2008.

Anna Laura Mallory ’41, Lyons, died Aug. 30, 2008.


Mary Sanderson ’43, Winner, S.D., died Nov. 19, 2008.

‘50s


Jerald VanBuskirk BS ’59, MS ’69, Spe ’85, Omaha, died Dec. 1, 2008.

‘70s

Orville Gaskins ’70, Dannebrog, died Jan. 21, 2009.

Jeanette Murphy MS ’78, Spe ’79, Kearney, died March 31, 2008.

Spring 2009

Keep an eye out for the alumni Facebook page is coming soon!
Living Legacy members want to help ‘their college’ thrive

The Living Legacy Society recognizes those who have made provisions for a future gift to Chadron State in their estate plans. We are pleased to have the opportunity to recognize these individuals, and thank them for their future gift during their lifetime!

Some of the newest members of the Chadron State Living Legacy Society have a long history and close relationship with the college.

Fred and Delores Fisher joined the program because, as Fred says, “It’s a wonderful way to help the college.”

Fred was born and raised in Chadron and has been attending activities at CSC all of his life. He graduated from the college before going to the University of Nebraska to earn a law degree. Delores, a native of Hot Springs, S.D., also lived in Chadron most of her adult life until the couple moved to Rapid City in 1985 after they had purchased a business there.

Between them, Fred and Delores have eight children. Six of them attended CSC and four of them are graduates. So are three of their children’s spouses. A grandson is now enrolled.

“Chadron will always be our ‘home.’ It’s where all of our kids grew up,” said Delores. “And, Chadron State is our ‘college.’ It’s a wonderful college and a great place to get a good education. We often attend events at Chadron State. There’s always something going on that we like to see.”

The Fishers, who spend their winters in Arizona, also have attended several of the Chadron Area Reunions that CSC sponsored in the Phoenix area each February. In fact, that’s where the picture that accompanies this story was taken.

The Living Legacy Society is an organization that honors and thanks alumni and friends for including Chadron State in their estate plans.

His story is historical

Fred and Delores Fisher

Groups provide hurricane relief during spring break

Two groups from Chadron State College spent spring break assisting hurricane relief efforts on the Gulf Coast.

Deena Kennell, director of internships and career services, led a group of 41 students on a mission to Galveston, Texas, where Hurricane Ike battered the region in September 2008.

Sarah Polak, director of the Sandoz Center, led eight students to New Orleans to assist an effort to restore the region’s cultural heritage after Hurricane Katrina. The students helped move cultural objects from temporary storage to new storage, and helped design new permanent storage facilities. The students also studied the history and culture of New Orleans at the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Chadron State’s Brett Hunter celebrates his 174-pound national championship during the NCAA Division II Wrestling National Championships in Houston. Hunter defeated Nebraska-Kearney’s Marty Usman, 3-2. To read the full story, see page 11. (Copyright/NCAA Photos)

Chadron State College students are among those working to remove a tree from the top of a Galveston, Texas, garage it destroyed during Hurricane Ike. The group moved to another job because it did not have the proper tools to do the job safely and without causing further damage to the neighbor’s home and fence. (Contributed photo)