

FUN News

for

People, Recognition, Enthusiasm, Communication

Panhandle District Monthly News

Volume 2 Number 6

June, 2006

Welcoming Newcomers

At this time each year, many new faces start appearing at the Panhandle Research & Extension Center. We want to extend a special welcome to the summer staff as part of the "family". We will be introducing them in a future newsletter, but until then -- introduce yourself if you see someone new in the hallway.

Elements of an Effective Orientation

New hires are often nervous and overwhelmed during their first days on the job. An effective orientation program can help them get over their jitters and off on the right foot. Here are some useful guidelines:

- ▶ At the beginning. Review information about parking, security procedures, dress code, start time and where to report on arrival each day.
- ▶ Spread the word. A surprising number of organizations forget to tell existing staff ahead of time that they've hired a new employee. Take time to introduce people.
- ▶ Avoid information overload. Rather than bury the new employee in an avalanche of information all at once, spread it out over several days or a week. However, don't forget to discuss the company culture, mission, history, as well as how the new employee fits in.
- ▶ Take nothing for granted. Even if the person has held several other jobs, take time to review unique policies, such as rules about use of the internet and email, timesheets, use of company supplies, etc.
- ▶ Think of how you felt the first day on the job!! Provide the answers to all those questions you remember having that first day.

Adapted from "New Hires Benefit From Good Orientation Programs: Joshua Warborg,, Puget Sound Business Journal

My Daddy When I Was Four

When I was:

4 years old: My daddy can do anything.

5 years old: My daddy knows a whole lot.

6 years old: My dad is smarter than your dad.

8 years old: My dad doesn't know exactly everything.

10 years old: In the olden days, when my dad grew up, things were sure different.

12 years old: Oh, well, naturally, Dad doesn't know anything about that. He is too old to remember his childhood.

14 years old: Don't pay any attention to my dad. He is so old-fashioned.

21 years old: Him? He's hopelessly out-of-date.

25 years old: Dad knows about it, but then he should, because he has been around so long.

30 years old: Maybe we should ask Dad what he thinks. After all, he's had a lot of experience.

35 years old: I'm not doing a single thing until I talk to Dad.

40 years old: I wonder how Dad would have handled it. He was so wise.

50 years old: I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him. Too bad I didn't appreciate how smart he was. I could have learned a lot from him.

Ann Landers Column for Father's Day in 1999.

Author unknown.



Happy Father's Day!

Dads, enjoy your special day. For those of you who are not dads, take a moment to reflect on a memory of your own father or someone special in your life.

(Sadly, I'm in the 50 year old bracket - however, I did appreciate my Dad very much.... Sharon.)

Farewell



Dillon Feuz, ag economist, and his family were honored Friday, May 19th at a farewell picnic. He is moving from the Panhandle to Utah to be closer to family and to take a position at Utah State. Dillon and his family will be greatly missed by the Center and also the community.

This is an exciting time for Dillon's family and we wish them Best Wishes always!



Tech Tip

How to avoid eye strain when working with computers.

Give yourself a brief break every 20 minutes or so and blink your eyes a few times rapidly, then take a deep breath and stretch your neck from side to side. Try looking at an object 20 or so feet away for 10 seconds.

Provided by Carol Laurent



Panhandle Trivia

In 1916, what small town in the Panhandle was an important shipping point?

What commodity was shipped from this town?
Hint: If Ivan tells you it was beef that's an incorrect answer.



Graduations

Today I lost a friend,
Oh, she did not pass away;
She had to move on,
She simply could not stay!

Today I lost that trust;
She knew it was not a game.
I know about writing letters,
But it just will not be the same!

Today I lost half of my wardrobe;
I could not start to claim as mine.
Our fights about that contained more than our own
two cents,
Closer to a dime!

Today I lost her smile;
That beam she always had on her face.
I will always have a picture,
But it just can not take her place!

I am sure you almost caught my drift;
It is hard to make it clear.
Five hours is a long way to go,
She will always seem farther away than near!

Today I lost my sister,
Of course we often fought;
But no one ever can or will take away
All of the great memories that she brought!

To Shea With Love, Cassy

A poem written by Cassy Holman just finishing 8th grade when Shea left for college at UNK.

Printed with permission .

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Laura Boeckner graduated from University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. She is currently a Peace Corps Trainee for a sustainable agriculture assignment in Panama which includes technical, language and cultural training.



Sara Bordeaux graduated from Gering High School and has been accepted into the NU PATHS program in physical therapy at Lincoln. This means she will begin her studies in August 2006 in Lincoln and has been pre-admitted to continue at UNMC in August 2010. Sara is the daughter of Ed and Sandy Bordeaux, and niece of Pat Martin.



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Cole Coplen graduated from Gering High School and has been accepted to study Music Performance (percussion) at the University of Wyoming on a Good Neighbor Scholarship. He coordinated the "Avenue of Flags" that will be displayed on Avenue I between 27th Street and Home Depot in Scottsbluff on Memorial Day, and will be recognized at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor this summer. Cole is the son of Tim Coplen and Val Rexus, also the nephew of Pat Martin.



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Rob Eirich graduated on May 6th from UNL with his MS degree in Ag Leadership Education. He has been working on this degree while employed with UNL Extension and will continue this employment as Extension Associate in Deuel and Garden counties.



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Cassy Holman graduated from UNMC with a degree in Medical Technology. She is employed at the Physician's Laboratory in Omaha. Cassy will continue her Master's studies in Forensic Science at Nebraska Wesleyan this fall. Cassy is the daughter of Tom and Sharon Holman.

Shea Holman received her White Coat on May 8 from Pacific University-College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Oregon. The white coat ceremony signifies the start of her Clinical year. After completing one more year of studies and a year of rotations she will graduate in May 2008. Shea is the daughter of Tom and Sharon Holman.

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Nathan McKinney, son of Glen and Lynn McKinney, of Potter graduated May 13 from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mining Engineering and a minor in Geology. Nate will be moving to Elko, NV to work for the Newmont Gold Mine.



Amanda, Lodan, Nate, Lynn & Glen McKinney

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Nicole Leigh Nielsen, daughter of Kathy and Kim Nielsen, graduated this semester from the South Dakota School of Mining and Technology with a bachelor's degree in geological engineering. She has been offered a research assistantship in civil engineering from the South Dakota School of Mining and Technology and will begin work on her Master's degree this summer. She is also working part time at Herberger's in Rapid City to help with college expenses.

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Chad Pearman, son of Don and Sue Pearman of Mullen, was Valedictorian of his graduating class from Mullen High School. Chad will be attending the University of Nebraska-Kearney next year where he is majoring in Business Management. He received a Chancellor's Scholarship and a Dean's Scholarship from UNK. While in high school Chad was involved in many activities. He went out for football, basketball, track, speech and One-Act for all four years of high school. The Mullen football team made it to State Finals two of those years, so they all had the experience of playing.....or at least dressing and warming up in Memorial Stadium. He has played on the varsity golf team as a Junior and Senior and the team has qualified for State both years. His Oral-Interpretation of Drama team has also

Shea (6)



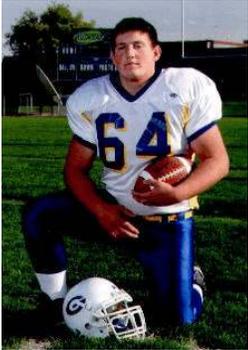
Cassy (2)

Early years of education with Teddy Ruxpin.

qualified for State Speech the last two years. Chad also was involved in Methodist Youth Fellowship, FCCLA, Mullen-Turner Youth Initiative, Sandhills Leadership and of course 4-H.

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Andrew Reifschneider graduated from Gering High School, May 21st. His plans after graduation are to attend the University of Wyoming. He has not yet decided on a major. Andrew will be working for David Baltensperger this summer. He is the son of Doug and Cathy Reifschneider and brother of Jenny Larsen.



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Travis Yonts graduated May 6th from the University of Nebraska with a Masters degree in Agricultural Engineering. His thesis title was " Modeling and Monitoring the Hydrology of Conservation Terrace Systems ." The focus of the work was in the Republican river basin. He is currently working for the Agricultural Research Service on a summer project while he contemplates the opportunities for a permanent position. Travis is the son of Dean and Kathy Yonts.



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Chelsey Zimmerman graduated from high school this year. She will be attending the Pratt Kansas Community College to start her studies for nursing. She is going on a full-ride rodeo scholarship. Chelsey is a cousin of Aaron Cross.



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A Schlothauer update. . . .

Although we don't have graduations, as such, our children have moved forward in their careers and we are very proud of them.

George Matthew has been teaching at Gering Junior High for the past 4 years and he has just accepted a position as principal of Lincoln Elementary in Gering.

Mark and Karen have moved to Gering and Mark will be completing his four years in the US Air Force as a dentist in June and will begin work at Panhandle Community Services in Gering where he will be the senior dentist in charge of the Dental Clinic, the Dental Hygiene Program, and the senior dental students from UNMC College of Dentistry who will rotate through the Center for their preceptorships. He will be employed by the UNMC College of Dentistry.

John has taken a new job with First State Bank in the past two months as a loan officer and continues his work with insurance, as well, through the bank.

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There are two definitions for the word "graduation". One is "the receipt of an academic degree marking completion of studies", the other is "an arrangement in or division into stages". Both definitions apply to these graduates . . . they have accomplished the requirements that were expected of them and now they are ready to move to the next stage in their lives. -- Congratulations to each of them and their families!!

There were other graduates among our District families and we would like to include them at any time if you wish to share that information. Please send to Sharon Holman, sholman1@unl.edu.



Employee in the Know



Clay Carlson, Research Technologist
PREC Plant Pathology Lab

I was born in Scottsbluff, and am the oldest of three children. I have two sisters. My parents farmed near Lyman until I was in the third grade. We moved to a farm north of Mitchell in 1959. I attended

and graduated from Sunflower School (a rural K-12 school that closed over 20 years ago). Following high school, I attended Hiram Scott College until it closed. From there, I transferred to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture. Following graduation, I moved back to the Panhandle and worked for my father who owned a construction business. I began working at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in March of 1975. I worked first with Dave Nuland, then Eric Kerr, and am currently working for Bob Harveson.

I met Deb (Harsin) in 1977 and we were married in July of 1978. She began working at the Scottsbluff Public Library after graduating from college in 1977. Deb is still employed at the library, where she is the Children's Librarian and Supervisor of Public Services. We have two children, Wade and Tonya. Wade is attending UNL, where he is majoring in Natural Resources. He will be leaving on June 5th to participate in a Study Abroad Program in Queretaro, Mexico for six weeks. Tonya is finishing her junior year at Scottsbluff High School where she is active in Soccer, Show Choir, DECA, FCA, Key Club, National Honor Society, and the list continues. She recently played "Ado Annie" in the SHS musical performance of "Oklahoma". (Obviously she gets her flair for drama from me!)

My 30 years at the PREC have certainly passed quickly. It is a great place to work!

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Life History of Dave Christian
PREC Research Technologist

Disclaimer: The following remarks do not necessarily represent the views of the University of Nebraska. The author vouches for the accuracy of all statements contained in this document. At least 75 percent of what I wrote was at least half true the last time I checked.

I was born on the northeast corner of 18th Street and Broadway in Scottsbluff. I grew up in Gering as a spoiled town kid and did not become an aggie until much later in my life. I went to school in Gering and attended Jr. High in the vacant lot on the northeast corner of 9th and Q Streets. It was during my education that I was first exposed to many things which would later become important in my life, such as wrestling, football, Hank Kimball, Star Trek, showers, literature, verbs, motorcycles, friends, girls, awesome teachers, cafeteria food, snowballs, and principal's offices. These items are

listed in no particular order.

After graduation from Gering High School (Go Bulldogs, Boo Bearcats!), I attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha to continue my education and my wrestling career. After considerable trauma in Omaha, I transferred to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, graduating with degrees in Biology, History, and Education, and doing O.K. in wrestling.

My Dad was glad that I was finally out of college. My career as a teacher started when he suggested that I should seek some sort of employment. I taught and coached at Kimball High School for 7 years, starting in the fall of 1982 in Social Studies, and ending up as a Biology and Earth Science teacher. When they found out that I was breathing, they made me the wrestling coach. I was also a freshman football coach. I had built up my pain tolerance for teaching through my summer jobs. One part-time job had always been as a beekeeper, first with my grandfather, then as a summer job through college. I began keeping my own bees while I was teaching.

I married the love of my life, Kris Scriptor, on July 30th, 1983, during my second year of teaching at Kimball. My oldest daughter Molly was born 16 months later. We had lots of fun in Kimball, but in 1989 we moved back to Gering and I went to work for Western Sugar. Mandy, my younger daughter, was born in Scottsbluff in November of 1990.

I worked on a seasonal basis in the R.F.A. (Rapid Flow Analyzer) lab, tare lab, and Scottsbluff sugar factory. I expanded my honey business and worked at several other jobs until Western Sugar put me on full time. I worked in quality control, helped manage the R.F.A. lab, and began working with the research committee on the variety trials for new sugar beet varieties. I ended up helping design plots, working with disease nurseries, running planting and harvest crews, and being involved in several special research projects. I got to be so good at my job that they took me out of it and made me into an agriculturist. I worked as a field man out of the Scottsbluff office until the end of harvest in 2002, when I lost my job due to the acquisition of the Torrington facility and closing of the Bayard facility by Western Sugar.

I began my job here at PHREC on January 3rd, 2003. I was hired to work on the Integrated Area-Wide Pest Management for Wheat project with Drew, Dillon, the Entomology Department, and Paul. I work mostly on the economic portion of the study with Paul and Sean Keenan from Oklahoma State, gathering data from 141 farmers in 6 states and crunching numbers. I really enjoy working with the farmers and all of the people here, and continuing my learning.

My wife Kris works at Co-Op Pharmacy as a pharmacy tech. Molly is a sophomore at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and is one of the captains of the track team. My younger daughter Mandy is just finishing her freshman year in high school. She enjoys basketball, motocross racing, and has just started working at Gering Bakery. My Dad, Paul still has his photography studio in downtown Scottsbluff. I went off of the Gering Board of Education in January of 2005, after 10 years on the job.

Activities, people and things that I most enjoy spending time with are Jesus, family, church activities, friends, bees, refereeing wrestling, old Kawasaki motorcycles, aviation and military history, antiques, Jack Bauer, camping, and Jeeps. I also enjoy the Three Stooges and German shepherds. I don't know how all of this shakes out if you are trying to psychoanalyze me from what I have written. I have way too many hobbies and projects right now. My goals include growing in faith, successful completion of the AWPM project, getting my daughter(s) through college, making my wife happy, and maybe someday finding my sanity or having a coherent thought.

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Alexander Pavlista
Crop Physiologist and Potato Specialist
Professor in Agronomy and Horticulture

My story begins before I was born. In 1943, my father (Dimitri), then in his 20s, and younger brother (Lubos) were taken by the Gestapo in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) and held in a forced labor camp (think the movie Schindler's List). They were liberated by the US Army under General Patton in 1945. My parents were married shortly thereafter and not long after that I was born in Praha (Prague). After WWII, my father was a lawyer and politician in the Christian Democratic Party. After the withdrawal of Patton's Army, the Red Army of the USSR remained unchallenged and the Communist Party began to move to overthrow the Czechoslovak government. In the fall of 1948, my father was called in to appear at the Ministry of Justice and was offered a judgeship but he refused to become a member of the Communist Party. That night at 2 am, four unidentified men in black long trench coats came to our house and took my father away. He disappeared without a trace for three weeks. Upon release, that night we packed up, took a train to southern Bohemia, were met by an agent of the OSS

(now the CIA) and taken through the forest into Austria. My uncle had already escaped using a different route. In Vienna, my father worked for the OSS screening for potential Russian spies. After several months in Austria then Germany and two years in Paris, France, the US government invited us to immigrate to the USA. In the fall of 1951, we steamed into New York Harbor on the 'Liberte' and I first saw the grandest Lady that ever was or will be, the Statue of Liberty. And, last March 20, I celebrated 50 years as a US citizen.

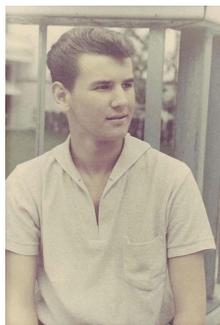
I grew up on the streets of New York City, specifically in Jackson Heights, Queens where LaGuardia Airport is located. We lived in an apartment building on the fifth floor of six. The apartment house had, as best as I can remember, 168 apartments. Across the street and viewed from my window was my grammar school, St. Joan of Arc (Sisters of the Sacred Heart). From the roof of the building, I can see far around with a beautiful view of the Empire State and Chrysler Buildings. (The World Trade Center did not exist then.) My father worked for the airlines, and my mother, Veroslava, was a model and an actress doing television commercials under the stage name Vera Paul. As a kid, I sometimes accompanied her and on occasion modeled when the photographer needed a young boy. (However, I was too stiff to be a success.)

I went to Archbishop Molloy High School (Marist Brothers) in Kew Gardens, Queens where I became interested in science and math, in chess, dancing etc. I worked in Mary Immaculate Hospital as a volunteer (candy striper) for a couple of years as a member of the Sodality. Thought about being a teaching Brother for a short time. High school was a wonderful experience for me and set me on my road. After reading a biography of Louis Pasteur and a novel 'Arrowsmith' by Sinclair Lewis, I decided that I wanted to do research in Biology. In 1963, the Czechoslovak government declared an amnesty for pre-1951 escapees and as my father was working for Air France, I made my first visit meeting relatives whom I only had heard about. I returned every summer for the next nine years. In 1963 and 1964, I also went to summer school in France (Grenoble and St. Malo), living with French families. From High School, I went to Manhattan College (Christian Brothers) where I majored in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Theology. In 1968, I was in Czechoslovakia and left five days before the tanks entered Praha. My father had been invited to visit the Dubcek government to discuss democratization. While driving north from Vienna, he heard about the invasion on the radio, made a left turn

and went to Strasbourg. He did not visit until the 1990s.

After college, I went to Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Tenn. as a National Institute of Health Trainee and began doing research on leukemia in the Biology Division at Plant Y-12. My research there gave me an Occupational Defermit draft status (2A). My curriculum was weighted in biochemistry and molecular genetics. After two years I decided to go into plant physiology and returned to NYC, entering the Ph.D. program at City Univ. of NY in Biology majoring in plant physiology. During my stay there I taught General Biology at H.H. Lehman College, a college at CUNY, for six years. My Ph.D. research was on cellulase enzymes' activity during lettuce seed germination. In 1977, I graduated and took a Research Associate position funded by the USDA at North Carolina State Univ in the Weed Science section of the Crop Science Dept. and received my first exposure to agriculture. There I worked on a parasite of corn called witchweed (*Striga asiatica*). Two years later, American Cyanamid Co. offered me a position as Research Biologist in their Plant Growth Regulation Dept. in Princeton, NJ where I was the corn specialist (1979-1985) and then soybean specialist (1985-1988), but was allowed to explore many crops and follow chemical activity. I began doing research in potato as early as 1980 because of an interesting family of compounds that were later patented with me as the inventor. I stayed for nine years after which I wanted to return to academia. I saw the UNL Potato Specialist position advertized and contacted Paul Read who was Head of the Dept of Horticulture. I had known him since 1981 when we hired him as a consultant and so he knew the kind of research that I was doing. He encouraged me to apply; I did, and have been here since 1988. The rest you probably already know. Come next January, I will celebrate 40 years of continuous biological research.

Victoria, my wife, and I have been married since our school days and have one daughter, Jacqueline, who is married to Mark Hartman, a physician having a practice at Regional West Medical Center. We have a granddaughter, Keeley, (3 yr) and a grandson, Greggery, (1 yr). They live next to us with our land abutting. Victoria was born and raised in Turkey but is from Dutch and Italian descent. Jacqueline was born and raised in the US. We have cats, dogs and horses, and the property is home to rabbits, owls, deer, etc. as well as roses, lilacs, pines and an apple tree. I enjoy reading, skiing, swimming, chess, and 'Grand Theft Auto' video games.



Alex in 1963.



Trivia Answers

In 1916 the North Platte Valley Cooperative Turkey Marketing was started. It put Henry on the map as an important shipping point and developed an annual market of \$200,000 in turkey and eggs. During the 1939 season, 33 carloads of dressed turkeys-- 45,000 birds valued at \$130,000 -- were loaded in Burlington cars and shipped to eastern cities. The plant at Henry was a year-round proposition. It had one of the finest refrigerator systems in the west.

(Ivan: The source doesn't say "everyone" was eating turkey -- certainly beef was consumed as well.)



Remember to share your news!!

Please send to: sholman1@unl.edu