

Foundation NEWS

Issue 7

March 2012

Activities entrance receives facelift with Foundation items

Students, district patrons, and visitors to East Butler have undoubtedly noticed a change to the activities entrance. The Foundation was allocated the east wall (across from the athletic Wall of Fame) as a location for plaques and other promotional items. A header with the new slogan "Helping our students achieve their goals" was installed above the donation/memorial plaques, 4x4 Scholar Award, golf scramble champions plaque, and alumni basketball tournament winners plaque. A TV/DVD combo was also installed for the purpose of playing the Foundation video during school events. A few video segments



were updated, and the latest version can be found on the *Foundation* tab of the school's Web site: www.ebutlertigers.org

An additional plaque was created to recognize the contributions of Dean R. Rolfsmeier. To date, the Foundation has received and awarded **\$138,867** in scholarships from the Dean R. Rolfsmeier Estate to graduating seniors and alumni for further education. Donations—large and small—from individuals and trust funds have helped students of East Butler achieve their educational goals.

Branches of military and post-secondary institutions recognized

A pennant tree was installed to represent branches of the military and post-secondary institutions from which East Butler students have graduated. The Foundation thanks East Butler's art teacher, Mrs. Deanna Ebmeier, for her design and Mr. Bill Perk, retired teacher, for hand-crafting the tree. The post-secondary institutions listed will be recognized with a silver-plated pennant (see example to the right). This is not an exhaustive list. If your college or university is not listed, please E-mail us with the name and accompanying verification. We will gladly add your pennant!



U.S. Army, U.S. Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserves, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Air National Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Reserves, U.S. Navy, U.S. Naval Reserves, Bryan School of Nursing, Chadron State College, Central Commu-

nity College-Columbus, Central Community College-Grand Island, Central Community College-Hastings, Clarkson College, College of Hair Design-Lincoln, College of Saint Mary's, Concordia University, Cornell College, Creighton University, Doane College, Hamilton College, Hastings College, Highland Community College, Iowa State University, Joseph's College of Beauty, Lincoln School of Commerce, Midland Lutheran College, Morningside College, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Nebraska Methodist College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, North Carolina State, Northwest Missouri State, Peru State College, Rice University, Southeast Community College-Beatrice, Southeast Community College-Lincoln, Southeast Community College-Milford, Stanford University, University of Iowa, University of Florida, University of Nebraska-Kearney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of New Mexico, University of Wisconsin, University of Wyoming, Washington University, Wayne State College, and Wyoming Technical Institute.



Dean R. Rolfsmeier Memorial Alumni Scholarship application available

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Dean R. Rolfsmeier, the East Butler Foundation awarded almost \$15,000 in scholarship funds to alumni in 2011. In addition, over \$20,000 was awarded to the graduates of the Class of 2011.

Students who attend a two-year, four-year, or post-graduate college are eligible to apply for this scholarship in 2012. Scholarship amounts are to be determined.

RULES:

1. Applications must be completed and postmarked by April 2, 2012.
2. Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 G.P.A.
3. Scholarship will be paid to the student, with the amount to be determined. Funds will be distrib-

uted no later than April 1, 2013.

4. Proof of Enrollment must be included with your application. **Applications with no Proof of Enrollment will be disqualified.**

Access the application on the school's Web site under the *Foundation* tab: www.ebutlertigers.org. Print the application, include your proof of enrollment, and mail to:

East Butler Foundation
P.O. Box 54
Brainard, NE 68626

If you prefer, you may E-mail the application to ebutlerfoundation@hotmail.com and mail your proof of enrollment separately. **The scholarship application deadline is April 2, 2012.**

Alumni Spotlight: Ryan Pekarek



Ryan Pekarek graduated from East Butler in 2002 and enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While attending UNL, Ryan began Pekarek's Produce in 2004 and grew a quarter acre of vegetables during the summer months as a "summer job."

After completing his Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture, Ryan and his wife, Katie, moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, to attend North Carolina State University. He earned a Master's degree in Horticulture with an emphasis on weed control in vegetables. After

returning from North Carolina in 2009, the business expanded to three acres of vegetables.

In 2012, Ryan plans to produce about 12 acres of vegetables. Most of the crop is sold through three farmer's markets—two in Seward and the Haymarket in Lincoln. Other major markets include the Good Fresh Local program ran through UNL where fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, and other foods from Nebraska are served in the dining halls. Pekarek's Produce also supplies a large multi-farm CSA in Omaha (a pre-paid vegetable subscription.) He is planning to start his own CSA program in Seward this year. The final market is selling broccoli and cabbage through Super Saver in Lincoln. Ryan said, "Our biggest crops are tomatoes, broccoli, and potatoes. Having multiple markets and many crops is our form of crop insurance."

Ryan and his family recently moved into a new house and purchased a portion of the farm where he was raised. He said, "We've settled down in the district for the long haul. It was an easier decision knowing the kids would have a good school to attend. Without that, we would have been hard pressed to settle in this area. We need young people to stay or come back to the area for the future."



\$5,000 allocated for teacher grant program; recipient to be announced by May 1

The Foundation is a partner with the school district in striving toward educational excellence. A *Teacher Grant Program*, sponsored by the Foundation, has been developed and presented to the teaching staff at East Butler for the 2012-2013 school year. The grant program is intended to stimulate development of projects that will improve curricular or instructional practices. Staff must submit applications on or before April 1, with approval of the selected applicant pro-

vided no later than May 1.

A maximum of \$5,000 will be provided to the grant recipient, with all purchases becoming property of East Butler. The Foundation board exists for the purpose of supporting education by providing financial and other resources to enhance our students' educational opportunities. It believes the staff is making a difference in lives and learning every day.

Thank you to our 2011 contributors!

Contributions in 2011 totaled \$11,105!

- Brick sales \$300
- Alumni basketball \$2,735
- Sale of championship banners \$275
- Golf scramble \$5,720
- General donations \$1,550
- Memorials \$525

Our goal is to be self-sufficient through the alumni. Types of gifts accepted are memorials, cash, securities, life insurance, and bequests.

If you are interested in giving to the Foundation and have specific ideas for your contribution, please contact a board member or E-mail Paige Glasshoff at ebutlerfoundation@hotmail.com. The Foundation is more than happy to work with you and help facilitate your requests!

Men's and Women's Alumni Basketball Tournaments: March 30-April 1

Mark your calendars! The alumni basketball tournaments are scheduled for **March 30-April 1**. We're looking to build on last year's initial success. The Coaches vs. Seniors game will kick off the tournament on Friday, March 30, at 5 p.m. Throughout the weekend, classrooms will be open for tours of the school, and the FFA Alumni group is working concessions.



NEW this year are shooting contests! A 30-second shooting challenge will be held in-between all games. On Saturday at Noon, youth and adult 3-point and free throw contests will be held. Prizes will be awarded to the winners!

Participants are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible so the brackets and teams can be set by March 15. Please contact Matt Buresh ('96) at lauraburesh@yahoo.com or Janet (Rezac) Finley ('97) at 402-499-3308 (phone or text) / janet.finley@bryanlgh.org to sign up and receive additional information. Hope to see you there!

4th Annual Foundation golf scramble scheduled for August 25

Make plans to join us on Saturday, August 25, for our 4th Annual East Butler Foundation Golf Tournament! The four-person scramble will be held at the Par IV Golf Club in David City.

Round up a four-person team; and remember, it is not a requirement to be an East Butler graduate. Team entry fee is \$200, which includes reception, meal, and flag prizes. Regardless of your skill level or gender, this is a FUN event! Contact Paige at 402-432-2392 or ebutlerfoundation@hotmail.com for more information and/or to reserve your team!

EAST BUTLER *Foundation*

HELPING OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

P.O. Box 54, Brainard, NE 68626

(402) 545-2081

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facebook.com/ebfoundation

“Buy a Brick” fundraiser to end; help launch the “Build a Base” Campaign!

Only a limited number of bricks are left to engrave! Once all bricks have been sold, the Foundation will end this fundraiser. Order forms can be obtained through the *Foundation* tab on the school's Web site: www.ebutlertigers.org.

Help launch the next fundraising campaign!

The Foundation is taking its fundraising efforts to a higher level. Help “Build a Base” for the new pennant tree (see Page 1). Masonry stone will be installed, and your name(s) can be engraved with a \$1,000 donation. This base will allow for 20 to 30 donor plaques.

With your gifts, the Foundation is helping our students achieve their goals. Please contact a board member for more information on this project!

In this Issue:

- Activities Entrance Update
- Pennant Tree
- Dean R. Rolfmeier Memorial Alumni Scholarship
- Alumni Spotlight: Ryan Pekarek
- 2012-2013 Teacher Grant Program
- 2011 Contributions
- Alumni Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament
- 2012 Golf Scramble