

# Blue Dragon

## Alumni & Friends Newsletter

# Chat



Issue #7 May 2023



## 2023 Alumni of the Year

Tradition, family and community is what comes to mind when you hear the names Rod and Pam Calhoun. Hutchinson Community College Alumni & Friends is pleased to announce the 2023 Alumni of the Year and first couple to receive this award.

Rod Calhoun was born in Goessel, Kansas and moved to Hutchinson at a young age. He attended Hutchinson High School, graduating in 1969, and decided that Hutchinson Community College was the logical choice. He could work to pay for school and live at home to save money. After attending three semesters, he married the love of his life, Pam Showalter, and then joined the United States Navy Reserves during the Vietnam War. He was stationed on the aircraft carrier USS Midway and served from 1971 to 1973. He was a 3rd Class Petty Officer working as a Disbursing Clerk, handling payroll records for the ship officers. Rod returned from the war and began attending Washburn University where he graduated with his Bachelor of Business Administration

specializing in Accounting in 1976. The Calhoun family then headed home to Hutchinson where Rod began working at Cessna as an employment interviewer. In 1977 Rod wanted to seek additional knowledge about the manufacturing industry he was a part of, and enrolled in evening classes for the MET Program (Manufacturing Engineering Technology) at Hutchinson Community College. He graduated with his AA degree in 1979 and later began teaching part-time classes and summer sessions for the MET program along with other business related classes. He also received his MBA from Wichita State in 1993 and started a job at Mid American Credit Union where he was the CFO and Vice President of Finance for 35 years.

Rod's advice to current and future HutchCC students is... "Force yourself to get involved in things that are uncomfortable for you. If you don't speak well in front of groups of people, put yourself in that position. Stay out of debt. Take a little longer to finish a degree if you need to work to pay as you go. Work experience along with an education is important. Learn to work with all types of people and when you are in a position of leadership, remember your job is to help those you are leading to succeed."

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Rod is currently a Hutchinson Community College Board of Trustee, AMBUCS member and sits on the Hutchinson Planning Commission. He enjoys woodworking and working on his trucks.

Pam (Showalter) Calhoun, was not your traditional student. After graduating from Hutchinson High School, Pam moved with her family to Wichita due to her dad's job. She enrolled at Wichita State University deciding that the Nursing Program was what she wanted to do. After Pam and Rod were married in March of 1971, life happened, Vietnam happened, kids happened and nursing was put on the back burner. After having several jobs, Pam began to work at WIBW Channel 13 television station in Topeka for the accounting department. The station paid the tuition for her to enroll in accounting classes. After taking those courses she knew this was the path she would take instead of nursing.



In 1976, when they moved back home to Hutchinson, Pam was a stay at home mom for a while. Later she went to work for Cessna. She began to notice that people around her were doing the same job but making more money due to having a college degree. Cessna offered a tuition reimbursement program, so she enrolled in classes at HutchCC. After being one of the 700 as part of the layoff at Cessna Corporation in 1980, Pam decided to continue her degree in accounting and graduated in 1981 from Hutchinson Community College. She then went on to receive her BA in Business from WSU in 1984. Pam went on to work in several accounting positions over the years, but retired from DCI in 2014 after 23 years of service to the company. She also taught classes as continuing education at HutchCC and also at the prison. In Pam's spare time she loves to quilt and spend time with family.



"My favorite class was Kansas History, taught by Barbara Pierce. Rod and I took that class together. HCC allowed me to take night classes after working all day and the small class sizes were a plus. My favorite memory was of graduation. I was the first member of my immediate family to get a 2-year degree and then a bachelor's degree." Pam said.

Rod and Pam have two daughters, Amy Taylor and April Calhoun, both of Hutchinson and HutchCC Alumni. Along with one grandchild, Bryce Calhoun, also a Blue Dragon. The Calhoun's have been married for 52 years and longtime members of their local church. They love attending sporting events at the college and are members of the Club 1928, the HutchCC Quarterback Club, HutchCC Gridiron Club and generous supporters to the HCCEA Scholarship Program. Their philanthropy through out the college and community is truly inspirational.



## Bob & Marsha Moeder

Alumna Marsha Moeder, class of 1978 and husband Robert Moeder are true blue supporters and generous donors to the HutchCC Presidential and Leadership Scholarship Program. Marsha began her education at BartonCC and also attended Wichita State University but transferred to Hutchinson Community College in 1977. She was the first to complete the Legal Assistant Program, graduating with her Associate's Degree in 1978. While at HutchCC her favorite instructor was Roy Broxterman.

She began working for John Schmidt Attorney at Law while attending HutchCC until 1986 where she began a job in the Trust Department at Commerce Bank, retiring in 2006 as the Senior Vice President and Trust Officer. Marsha has served on the Hutchinson Community College Endowment Board and the Finance Committee.

Robert's job with Dillon Companies transferred him to Hutchinson and then to Carmel, Indiana for 10 years, then back to Hutch, retiring from Dillons Companies/Kroger in 2013. He was the Division President of the Central Division supermarkets in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio.

In 2020 the Moeder's moved to Haslet, Texas north of Fort Worth near their son, Christopher and family. They have a 2½ year old grandson named Hollis and enjoy babysitting him. They still have a cabin at Kanopolis Lake and enjoy spending as much time there as they can. They love to travel to see friends from Hutchinson and Indiana.

During their time in Hutchinson, they enjoyed attending Blue Dragon Basketball games. Even traveling out of town on weeknights. They followed the team to Mesa, Arizona several times for tournaments and enjoyed HutchCC football games. They were extremely active in the Quarterback Club where Robert served as President for many years. The couple also enjoyed attending the NJCAA Men's Basketball Tournament each year. The Moeder's have great memories of HutchCC coaches like Sam Butterfield, Gene Keady and many more.

Robert said, "We personally appreciate the leadership at the College and its Presidents Dr. Jim Stringer, Dr. Ed Berger and Dr. Carter File. The value that HCC brings to Hutchinson is extraordinary."



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT



## Meet the Lau Family

Alumni Christopher and wife Maura (Horton) Lau have extra special memories of Hutchinson Community College and their time here. It is not only where they received their associate degrees, but where they found each other.

Christopher attended HutchCC from 2001 to 2003, graduating with an Associate of Science Degree. He then transferred, earning a Bachelor of Science in Sociology/Psychology from Northwest Missouri State University in 2005. In 2007 he received his Master of Science Degree in Family Therapy from Friends

“My favorite professors while attending Hutch included Jim Schinstock, Dr. Tricia Paramore, Dr. Larry Boyer and Chuck Fann, each for different reasons. Mr. Schinstock recognized my drive for perfection and taught me that it was okay to take it easy now and again. Dr. Paramore welcomed me to the College and shared her passion of Biology with me. Dr. Boyer challenged me, debated with me and seemed genuinely interested in helping me learn the value of these skills in education. Mr. Fann made the topics he taught approachable and entertaining.”



University. “Hutchinson Community College is where I began my higher education journey. I chose HutchCC because it was affordable and I had people in my family attend and had positive experiences. I learned how to be a leader at HutchCC, to develop strong interpersonal relationships, and learned more about what career path I wanted to pursue,” stated Christopher.

While at HutchCC he was able to be involved in concert band, pep band, concert choir, men’s chorale ensemble and jazz ensemble. He also participated on the Academic Excellent Team and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He had on-campus jobs in the Fine Arts Library and in Student Support Services.

In August of 2008, Christopher came back to HutchCC, not as a student but as an employee. He began his Career as the Coordinator of Advising, Career Development and Counseling Service. In 2021, Lau was promoted to Vice President of Student Service of HutchCC.

Christopher states, “I have so many special memories of HutchCC. I met my wife Maura, in bowling class. I took classes from professors that I now work with as colleagues. I thoroughly enjoyed my classroom and extracurricular experiences. I met lifelong friends during my time at Hutch and made connections that are still important to me today.”

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Maura Lau attended Hutchinson Community College, graduating with her Associate of Arts Degree in 2002. She then headed to Northwest Missouri State University earning her Bachelor of Science in Broadcasting and Speech Communication. Later returning to HutchCC receiving an Associate of Science degree through the Physical Therapist Assistant Program in 2011. During her time at Hutch she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a Leadership Scholar. She was always a Blue Dragon at heart due to parents being employees of HutchCC. Her Mom, Loretta Horton was the Co-Chair of the Allied Health Department from 1993 to 2015 and her Dad, still teaches Medical Terminology online for the College.

"I chose HutchCC for the smaller class sizes and for an affordable education. My Mom encouraged me to enroll here before transferring to a 4-year university.

I loved the classroom experiences in the PTA Program and had several great internships while in that program, making many professional contacts along the way," Some of my favorite instructors were Travis Booe and Danna Douglas. They kept the courses engaging and fun, but also calmed the stresses of passing state boards. They were great," stated Maura.

Maura is employed with Fee Insurance Group located in Hutchinson as their Business Account Manager. The couple have been married for almost 19 years. They have two children, Noah (15) and Amelia (9). They enjoy spending time together as a family and keep very busy attending the kid's academic, sporting and fine arts events. They love to travel as a family to Yellowstone, Glacier and Custer State Park along with enjoying HutchCC and KU games.



**HUTCHINSON**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT**

**Andrea Schale**  
Clinical Research Associate

*"The information I learned at HutchCC allowed me to excel once I transferred to another school and today in my career."*

Class of 2017

When reflecting on her time at HutchCC, 2017 Alumna, Andrea Schale shares, "HutchCC was beneficial to me financially, socially and academically. I found that smaller class sizes and personalized attention from teachers was really helpful."

In addition to a busy academic career, she was also active on campus. She shares, "I was very involved in many clubs and social events at HutchCC and making lifelong friendships during my time there."

After earning her Associate of Science degree at

Hutchinson Community College she headed to The University of Kansas to study Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology. Andrea now lives in Wichita, Kansas and works as a Clinical Research Associate. Her job includes traveling across the United States to access clinical research sites on behalf of pharmaceutical companies.

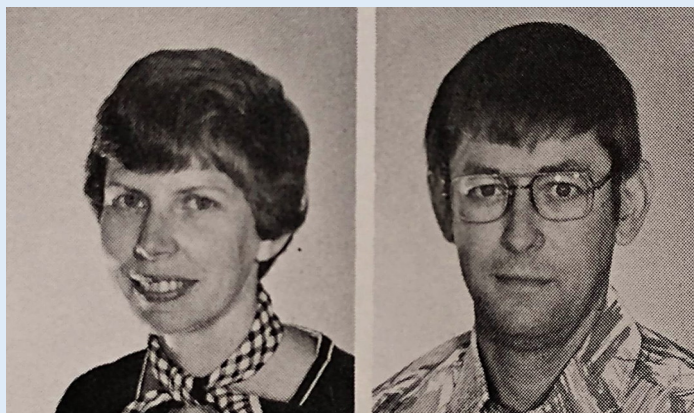
"The information I learned at HutchCC allowed me to excel once I transferred to another school and today in my career."

## RETIREE SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Ron & Anita Pfister

Dedicated, passionate and committed. These are words that come to mind when you think of retired HutchCC faculty Dr. Ron and Anita Pfister. With over 61 years of dedicated service to Hutchinson Community College and our students. The Pfister's have always been advocates for learning and spent many wonderful years at the College.

Dr. Pfister began his teaching career at HutchCC in 1972. He has degrees from Kansas State University, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University and Western State University. During his span of 33 years he taught Chemistry I and Chemistry II, Honors Chemistry I and Chemistry II, General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.

Ron just didn't teach he was also a part of campus life. He was an academic advisor, a Natural Science and Mathematics Department Chair for 8 years, authored lab manuals for General Chemistry and Chemistry I and II courses, was honored with the Golden Dragon Award and was the recipient of the Dragon Educator of the Year Award twice, along with the NISOD Excellence Award.



When Dr. Pfister was asked what some of his favorite memories were of HutchCC, he stated, "My favorite memories are the many students I had the privilege to work with and to follow the successes they have achieved in their careers. It is a great pleasure when former students stay in touch or come up to say hi." Ron also recalls an embarrassing moment in time in the classroom. "I was demonstrating the proper use of a fire extinguisher in class and accidentally set it off, covering the entire lecture room with fine powder. After class was over, we were frantically cleaning up the room to get it ready for the next class when I notice one student had written in the dust on the desktop, "You Dummy!", enough said."

He also had advice for college students, "Do your best and forget the rest. Seek out instructors and counselors for career guidance. If you are seeking a degree in education



become knowledgeable as you can about the subject matter. Learn as much as you can about teaching skills and methods and improving teaching skills. For a career in teaching, plan on getting a Master's Degree or higher."

Anita Pfister began her journey HutchCC in 1976. She taught Individualized Reading Classes, Reading and Study Skills, Phonics and Spelling, Speed Reading, Human Relations, Student Orientation and Academic Success Seminars. She has degrees from Baker University, Emporia State University and Wichita State University.

Besides being in the classroom, Anita was an academic advisor and presented Academic Success Seminars on note taking, reading faster and improving memory. She also wrote grants for a variety of projects to help students get involved on campus and in the community. Her classes worked with Science Club, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government, local Hutchinson businesses and HutchCC Facilities Department. They planted 26 trees across campus and students then could adopt a tree. She also volunteered to read to students in Reno County Schools. Anita was a member of HNFA (Hutchinson National Faculty Association) and served in many rolls including Membership ➡



Chairman, Vice President and President. She was the representative at National Conference for 3 years and was on the Negotiating Team.

One of Anita's fond memories was helping Ralph, a 92-year-old student fill out his graduation application. He had only needed 2 more credit hour to graduate but he had to leave to go serve his country and never came back to school. Ralph took Recreational Piano at HutchCC and finished his degree. At graduation the College President introduced Ralph and told his story. As he walked across the stage, he took off his graduation cap off and made a low bow as the crowd gave him a standing ovation.

Mrs. Pfister's advice for college students includes, "Be organized. Have all things ready for the next day before you go to bed at night. Get a calendar. Write your tests days down for each class. Get to know your teachers. Stop by their office during the first week of the semester. If the class is difficult for

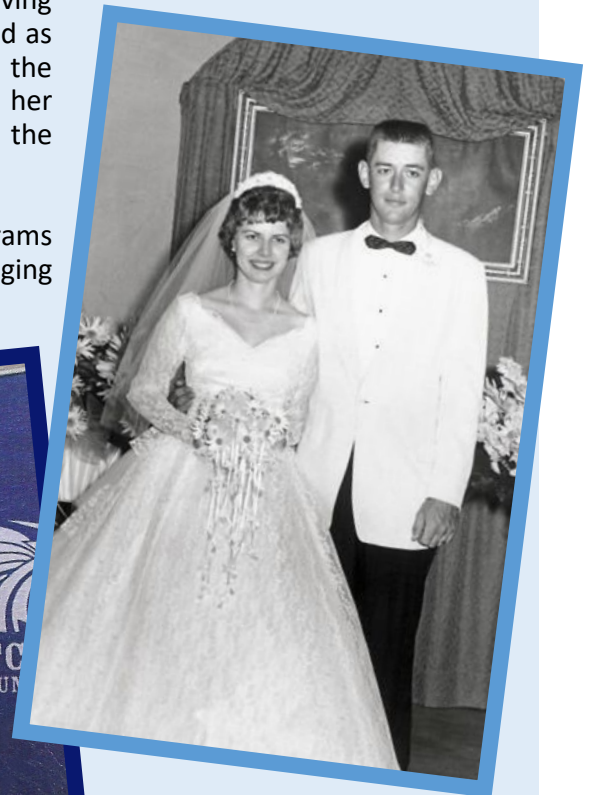
you, read the first line and the last line of each paragraph out loud. That's where authors put the most important information. Find supplement instruction or a study buddy and don't get discouraged."

Anita retired in 2004 and Ron in 2005. They have been married 61 years in July. Their two sons, a daughter-in-law and grandchildren are all proud Blue Dragons. They have enjoyed traveling to Alaska and a cruise through the Panama Canal. The couple keep busy with volunteering in the community. Anita is involved with the General Federation of Women's Club which is dedicated to community improvements through volunteer service. They help libraries, veteran causes, environmental causes, scholarship programs, encourage healthy living and much more. Anita has served as State President and Assistant to the International President allowing her to travel many places across the United States for the club.

Ron helps seniors enroll in programs through the Department of Aging

and also volunteers doing income taxes through the VITA program. He serves on the Hutchinson Community College Endowment Board and is on both the scholarship and finance committees. After retirement he took up cycling which he really enjoys.

Dr. and Anita Pfister are generous supporters of scholarships at HutchCC. The Pfister Family Scholarship was established for students enrolled in a science-related field of study. They continue to be incredible advocates of Hutchinson Community College and education.





**HUTCHINSON**  
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## SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

# Dr. Greyson Barger

Class of 1999



*"Little did I know that I would value my time at Hutch more than I did at the four-year university I moved on to"*

Dr. Greyson Barger grew up in Sedgwick, Kansas and came to HutchCC in 1997 following in the footsteps of his brother, a Blue Dragon Track and Field athlete. After Hutch he received his Bachelors of Science from Bethel College and earned his Doctorate of Optometry from the Illinois College of Optometry located in Chicago, Illinois.

"While I did not have a defined major at the time, I made the choice to attend HCC to take health and science related courses. Little did I know that I would value my time at Hutch more than I did the four-year university I moved on to, after receiving my AA." Dr. Barger shares. "The health and science department were top notch in my opinion. The faculty and staff were very influential on the person I am today. I was lucky to have professors like Dr. Tricia Paramore, Dale Kauffman and Dr. Ron Pfister that really cared and guided me along the way. I am very proud to be a Blue Dragon!"

Dr. Barger is the founder and optometrist at Opticology Eyecare in Wichita, KS. In his free time he enjoys spending time with his wife, Shelley, two children, Landrey and Harrison. He also enjoys golf, weight lifting, softball and biking. We are very proud of our Alumni. Congratulations to Greyson and his continued success.



# ALUMNI

## PRESIDENTIAL & LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



#### DR. JASON PAINE

VETERINARIAN

Apline Veterinary Hospital  
Monte Vista, Colorado

Hutchinson Community College, AS 2016

Kansas State University, BS 2018

Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine,  
DVM 2022



#### PEYTON STROBEL

TAX ACCOUNTANT

Adams Brown

Hutchinson, Kansas

Hutchinson Community College, AA 2019

Kansas State University BBA, Accounting 2020

Kansas State University MA, Accounting 2021



#### LODY BLACK

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

USDA-NRCS

Pretty Prairie, Kansas

Hutchinson Community College, AA 2016

Fort Hays State University BS, Biology Sciences 2018

CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY. IMPACTING THE FUTURE.

**HUTCHINSON**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT**

# Ashley Shogren, PharmD



Class of 2010

*"I recommend HutchCC to anyone starting their career path – especially any student looking at a science based career."*

This Alumnus spotlight is on Ashley Shogren who attended HutchCC from 2008-2010 and studied Pre-Professional Pharmacy and thrived in her academics.

"Personally, I thrived in a small environment where my professors knew my name, career goals and were invested in my success. Not only was I able to grow in the science program, I was heavily involved in student campus activities. I served as a resident assistant, was on student government and was the President of Phi Theta Kappa," Ashley shares.

After graduating from HutchCC, Ashley transferred on, eventually graduating from the University of Kansas. "Words cannot describe how crucial HutchCC has been to my career as a pharmacist. Academically, the Hutchinson Community College Science Department (Dr. Paramore, Dr. Buller, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Gaeddart) helped me jumpstart my academic career by giving me the building blocks required to be successful at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. The science department was my home for two years and I learned many valuable lessons from how to study/learn to how to interact with professors and students," Shogren shares.

Ashley now works as a pharmacist at Dandurand West Drugstore in Wichita, Kansas.



Dr. Matthew Vermillion graduated with an Associate of Science degree from HutchCC in the Spring of 2010. He transferred on to Wichita State University where he earned his Doctorate in Physical Therapy degree.

While reflecting on his time at Hutch, he shares, "I thoroughly enjoyed HutchCC . I grew up in a small town and the transition to HCC was seamless because of that. The smaller class sizes were very beneficial. I felt like I mattered to the staff at HCC and I wasn't just a number. HutchCC gave me the opportunity to maximize my learning and be able to ask questions and communicate directly with my teachers. Another great benefit was the cost. It was affordable and the scholarship opportunities were great at HCC."

Dr. Vermillion has just begun to see patients at his own practice in Moundridge, Kansas. He also works at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center PRN multiple days per week, including weekends. He provides home health services with Angel Arms Home Health out of McPherson and assessment and treatment to injuries at Moundridge High School to student athletes.

"I feel like HutchCC really prepared me for physical therapy school at WSU. I am very appreciative to the foundations and knowledge gained in my classes. My instructors helped me improve my study habits and made me a better student, Vermillion stated.



**HUTCHINSON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT**

**Dr. Matthew  
Vermillion, DPT**



*"HutchCC gave me the opportunity to maximize my learning and be able to ask questions and communicate directly with my teachers."*

Class of 2010

BECOME A MEMBER

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthday: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Alumni & Friends Membership Levels

YEARLY \_\_\_\_\_ \$25  
LIFETIME \$300  
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Circle your size (for lifetime membership only)

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Attn: Alumni & Friends  
1300 N. Plum  
Hutchinson, KS 67501  
or call 620-665-3565



ALUMNI & FRIENDS  
Membership Packages

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

- Membership includes \$25 per year
  - Alumni Car Decal
  - Blue Dragon Chat Newsletter
  - Exclusive Invitation to Alumni Events
  - 20% Alumni Discount at the HutchCC Campus Store
- Annual Memberships will renew in June of each year.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP:

- Membership includes \$300 for life
- Alumni T-shirt
- Alumni Car Decal
- Blue Dragon Chat Newsletter
- Exclusive Invitation to Alumni Events
- 20% Alumni Discount at the HutchCC Campus Store



We happen to think that Hutchinson Community College alumni are the greatest.  
We're extremely proud of all our graduates and the positive impact they continue to have on their careers and communities. Join now and stay connected.  
**We are BLUE DRAGON PROUD!**