

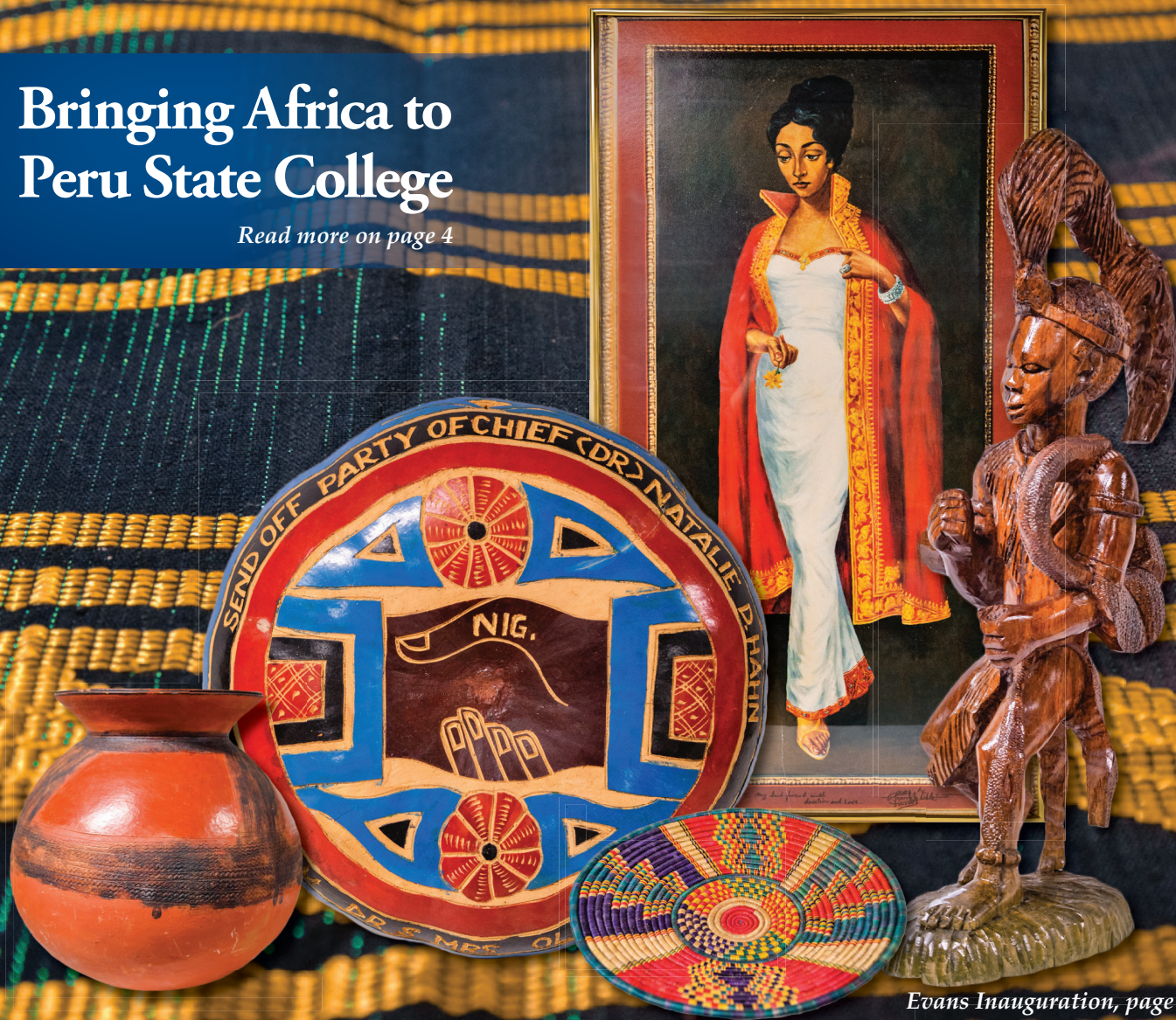
The Peru Stater



Spring 2022 Vol. 67, No. 1

Bringing Africa to Peru State College

Read more on page 4



Evans Inauguration, page 7

BRINGING THE ART OF AFRICA TO PERU STATE COLLEGE

An Incredible Gift of Art Will Transform the Campus of A Thousand Oaks



Dr. Natalie Hahn - a long-time traveler, supporter of the arts at home and abroad, and after a 38-year career with the United Nations - has given Peru State College more than 150 pieces of African Art.

The Dr. Natalie Hahn African Art Collection will be displayed in every academic building on campus, on the campus grounds, and in the Administration Building.

Hahn writes, "I adore Peru State College for it's an important part of Nebraska heritage having been founded 150 years ago and the first college in our beloved state. The Campus of A Thousand Oaks, nestled in a beautiful park and garden, was perfect for my outdoor African sculptures."

Honoring a request to display these works outside a typical gallery, the College is working to create individual exhibitions in at least eight academic buildings. This means that as students, faculty, staff, and visitors walk around campus, they will be surrounded by incredible works of African art and culture.

This collection, visible and accessible across campus, will bolster student (and visitor) global awareness. It will also well serve the College's mission to provide students of all backgrounds access to engaging educational experiences to strengthen and enrich communities, Nebraska and the world.

Hahn continues, "I am most impressed with the leadership of President Michael Evans and the devoted staff who are coordinating the displays—Jason Hogue, Brandi Hull and Lily Ellis. At last, my African Art has found a perfect home."

About Dr. Natalie Hahn

Natalie Hahn, a life-long Nebraskan, served 38 years with the United Nations. A native of Polk, Nebraska, Hahn credits her global career to serving as a 4-H International Farm Youth Exchangee to New Zealand and to receiving Rotary International Fellowship to India.

With the United Nations, Hahn initiated programs for rural youth in East and Southern Africa and organized programs empowering women with access to savings and bank loans. In Nigeria, Hahn also worked with agronomic teams to introduce improved and more nutritious food crops to rural families. For this success, the Yoruba Peoples honored Hahn with a chieftaincy and bestowed the title, Balogun Iyalaje, meaning "the person who empowers."

As UNICEF Representative to Malawi, Hahn organized the campaign, Democracy Is Good for Children. Prior to the campaign, school fees and uniforms had kept countless children out of school as families could not afford the costs. Through UNICEF's campaign, school enrollment jumped from 1.2 million to 3.2 million children. With World Bank assistance, Hahn organized a project to install water pumps in Ndirande, Malawi. Managed by women, the initiative benefited 300,000 people.

Her determination to serve her home state of Nebraska by giving back became evident in 1998 when she launched the Malaika Foundation to enhance global education initiatives in Nebraska schools and universities. Since then, more than 2,500 teachers have attended global education workshops.

Humanities Nebraska named Natalie Hahn the 2020 Sower Award recipient. The Sower award is presented annually to an individual who has made "a significant contribution to public understanding of the humanities of Nebraska."

Natalie earned bachelor's degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Ohio State University before going on to earn a Master of Public Administration and a Doctor of Education from Harvard University. She has received honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Nebraska Wesleyan University.



Dr. Natalie Hahn as Chief Folashade Arike, the "Balogun Iyalaje" meaning the "person who empowers."

The chieftaincy title was bestowed by the Yoruba Tribe of Western Nigeria to honor Natalie. She worked with an agronomic team and introduced soybeans, a new crop for Nigeria to thousands of rural women. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture IIT, Ibadan, Nigeria, 1987.

