

power of higher education and campaigned to bring the new institution to his community. Scholte, a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, sealed the deal for Pella by donating land and money to the new school.

The new Central University of Iowa opened its doors on October 8, 1854, with 37 students in a rented building on Washington Street. From a humble beginning, Central College has grown into a state-of-the-art liberal arts college with 1,700 students. The college offers degrees in 36 disciplines and is well known for its ambitious study abroad program.

The study abroad program began in the summer of 1962 when a group of Central students ventured to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. The program also sent students to Paris, France the following summer and was expanded to a full year of study in 1965. The popularity of the program and the number of foreign locations has increased and now includes England, Wales, Austria, Spain, Holland, China and Kenya. Today, approximately half of Central students spend at least one semester aboard.

Central College alumni, students, staff and Pella residents have participated in a variety of special events over the past several months. The sesquicentennial celebration has showcased the strong liberal arts tradition of the college with special performances, lectures, exhibits and social events. As the college community comes together for the Happy Birthday Dear Central Gala, I offer my heartfelt congratulations on 150 years of excellence in the education and my best wishes to Central College for the next 150 years.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LADY PANTHERS OF DRURY UNIVERSITY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the Drury University Lady Panthers basketball team on their fantastic march to the NCAA Division II championship game in St. Joseph, MO, on March 27, 2004. Fans and alumni in Southwest Missouri and across the country are justifiably proud of the Lady Panthers.

For years fans from the great State of Missouri have enjoyed watching some of America's most outstanding sports legends. The Lady Panthers are continuing this tradition of excellence, ending their year with an enviable record of 36-2. In an amazing performance, the Drury team battled until the end for the NCAA Division II National Championship. In the words of Coach Nyla Milleson, it was a tremendous journey.

What makes this story remarkable is the fact that the Lady Panthers basketball team was established just 4 years ago under the direction of the late Dr. Bruce Harger, Drury's athletic director for 15 years. Many teams work for years to gain preeminence and respect in their sport. Thanks to the bril-

liant coaching of Nyla Milleson and her staff, along with the team's strong commitment and hard work, the Lady Panthers were able to achieve this distinction in a very short time.

Coach Milleson skillfully assembled a group of talented young women, many from southwest Missouri where basketball takes center stage in most communities during the winter months. The women's team played their first game in 2000, joining a Drury men's team that is rich in tradition. With strong support from the University and its boosters, the Lady Panthers enjoyed immediate success, culminating in their championship appearance this March.

Long known for academics, Drury University can now add women's basketball to its list of nationally recognized sports programs, continuing its tradition of excellence. There is no doubt that the Drury Lady Panthers are poised to compete in many more games. I congratulate Coach Milleson and all the Lady Panthers team members, coaches and supporters who worked hard to turn their dreams into reality.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. TOM DIBELLO

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to pay tribute to Mr. Tom DiBello of Covington, KY who has served with great distinction as the Executive Director of the Covington Community Center since 1995.

Tom has strong roots in Covington, KY, even though he first came to the community as a 1-year VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, worker. Mr. DiBello then worked his way through the Covington Community as an outreach worker, community organizer and program director. As he rose through the ranks, his dedication to the community and list of achievements only grew.

Some of Mr. DiBello's early accomplishments include organizing grassroots efforts for welfare reform and developing the Covington Neighborhood Action Coalition, now known as the Covington Neighborhood Collaborative.

Mr. DiBello is responsible for marked growth of the Community Center, transforming it from a small organization on the west side of Covington to a truly city-wide support and development organization. From developing partnerships to running a capital campaign, Tom's leadership has been integral to the success of the Covington Community Center.

Congratulations again, Mr. DiBello, on your dedicated service to the Covington Community Center. You are an inspiration for all of us throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We look forward to your continued success and achievement.●

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALEC BRINDLE

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to offer a tribute to a very significant figure in one of my State's largest industries: seafood processing. This man is Alec Brindle, who was for many years with Wards Cove Packing Company, and who has now entered retirement. In addition to having played an important role in the development of Alaska's salmon industry, Alec has also been a friend of mine, and of my family, for many years. It seems to me that anyone with the stamina and perseverance to work in the fish business for 50 years deserves some recognition.

Although Alec was born in the Seattle area, his life has long been tied to Alaska's fisheries. Almost his entire extended family has been involved in Alaskan fisheries since well before Alaskan statehood. As a young boy he spent summers in Ketchikan, at first playing around the cannery, and then, at age 13, he began his career as an employee of the family salmon packing operation. This was the beginning of a career, and a commitment, that would last for 50 years. Alec is one of those people about whom you can say, "He has truly seen it all". At various points in his long career fish prices for red salmon have varied from pennies a pound to a point in the late 1980's when a single fish was worth more than a barrel of North Slope crude oil. As Alec himself has pointed out, the fish business is one where at the beginning of the season the processor doesn't know how much fish he will be able to buy, what price he will pay, or at what price he will be able to sell the finished product. Needless to say, trying to craft and maintain a business plan under such circumstances is not an easy task. But Alec, to his great credit, was able to maintain his grace and charm in the face of all these challenges. He was a true gentleman in a very tough business.

Alec did take enough time off from the family business to obtain a law degree. He spent a year clerking for well known Alaska Supreme Court Justice John Dimond. Since Alaska had only recently been granted statehood, these were exciting times for our young State as we sorted through the growing pains of creating a judicial system. As a young attorney Alec contributed to this process.

Most people outside of Alaska aren't aware that the fishing industry has traditionally been my State's largest private employer. Each year, thousands of fishermen and other workers come to Alaska to help in the harvesting and processing of the amazing variety of fishery resources of my State. Although most of Alec's career was spent in the salmon business, he and his family have also been involved in the crab, herring and groundfish sectors. Many fishermen and processing workers have spent their entire careers enjoying an association with Alec and other members of the Brindle family.