

Many from '02 still living, working here

More than one-fourth of class live in area

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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As the movement to bring graduates back to town gains ground, Decatur Community High's Class of 2002 can boast that more than 25 percent of their class lives in the community, 10 years after graduation.

Many went away to school and/or work but returned and some just liked it here and never left. Several are also married to people, who graduated from school here.

• **Clay Anderson** drove to Colby Community College for a year to take agriculture classes but knew he wanted to stay in rural Oberlin and work on the family farm.

Born and reared in Rawlins County, just one-fourth mile from the Decatur County line, he attended school in Oberlin for 12 years.

His wife is Jennie (Swart) Anderson, class of 2003. They have two children, Cowen, 3, and Grant 1. Jennie

attended Colby Community College and works as a registered nurse at the Decatur County Hospital.

• **Bridget Corcoran** got a bachelors degree in physical science and a masters degree in counseling and student development from Kansas State University and returned to Oberlin to work at the Good Samaritan Center, where she is a certified nurse aide and the quality assurance coordinator. She is planning to start nursing school in Norton through the Colby Community College in July.

She said she returned home when she couldn't find a decent job due to a poor economy.

• **Brandon Metcalf** went to Manhattan for a year or so and worked on a ranch there. He then returned to Oberlin to work on the family farm. He also works for Timmerman feed yard near Colby.

He said he returned because this is where he feels comfortable and

his family and roots are in Decatur County.

• **Brent Olson** has a bachelors of science in agronomy from Fort Hays State University and returned home about five years ago to farm land owned by Herschel and Jodi Betts. On July 14, he plans to marry Molly Coleman, class of 2005. Molly is just starting a job in Norton teaching nursing students in a Colby Community College outreach program.

Brent said he returned to Oberlin because he wanted to farm and the opportunity to rent the Betts' land came up.

• **Aaron Ploussard** attended Northwest Vocational Technical College in Goodland and got a degree in automotive technology. He came back to Oberlin and works on the trash truck for Decatur County Landfill, Inc., He is married to Ashley (Huntley), class of 2008. They are the parents of a son Kent, 2.

Aaron said he returned to Oberlin because he likes the town and has family here. He is also a volunteer fireman.

• **Curtis Richards** attended Northwest Kansas Vocational Technical College and Colby Community Col-

lege but wanted to live in Oberlin because this is where his family is.

He is married to Jessica Koeperich and the couple is expecting a child in August.

After returning to Oberlin, he first worked for the Decatur County Weed Department. He now works with his father Barry Richards at Stellar Auto Sales.

• **Jessica (Stanley) Townsend** attended Fort Hays State and Colby Community College and got a degree as a physical therapy assistant. She is married to Trent Townsend, class of 1985.

After college, she worked in Greenville, Miss., at a hospital before marrying and moving back to Oberlin. She works at the Decatur County Hospital as a physical therapy assistant and a kinesio taping practitioner.

She said that she moved back because there was a job opening here and that was better than her husband moving to Mississippi.

• **Kari (Stanley) Williby** is married to Josh Williby, class of 2000. She is a registered nurse at McCook Community Hospital and the dialysis center. They are the parents of Gage, 3, and are expecting a second child.

• **Kricket (Steinmetz) Ketterl** attended Sterling College and received a bachelor's in elementary education and she specializes in early childhood. She just finished a course of study in early childhood development at Fort Hays State University.

She teaches preschool and special education at Oberlin Elementary School. She is married to Spencer Ketterl, class of 1996. He works as a lineman for Prairie Land Electric. She has two step-children Ryan, 8, and Taylor, 6.

After college, she worked in Lenora at the grade school for two years before a job opening came up in Oberlin.

• **Paul Tally** stayed at home after graduation and is a farmer and rancher in Decatur County.

• **Timmarie (Walters) Sporn** attended Northwest Kansas Vocational Technical College and returned to Oberlin to work as a cosmetologist with her mother and grandmother.

She attended school in Oberlin for 12 years and is married to David Sporn, who works for the Oberlin water department. She has two step-children Aubrey, 12, and Alissa, 10.



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