Eric Fowler is one of seven graduates of Chadron State College who will be receiving special alumni honors during the institution's homecoming festivities this weekend.

The list includes five recipients of the institution's Distinguished Alumni Award and two recipients of the Distinguished Young Alumni Award. The awards, along with CSC's Athletic Hall of Fame inductions, will be presented during a luncheon in the Student Center on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Fowler is one of two recipients of the Distinguished Young Alumni Award

He has become known throughout Nebraska and beyond for his stories and photographs about the state's great outdoors.

Since 2001 Fowler has been a regional editor for NEBRASKAland magazine, the monthly publication known for its breathtaking images and features. His love of the outdoors and his work in nature photography blossomed in the Pine Ridge and elsewhere in the Panhandle, where he hunted, fished and explored.

Prior to joining NEBRASKAland Fowler spent six years as a newspaper reporter and photographer, first at the Chadron Record and then the Scottsbluff Star-Herald. He joined the staff at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as publications editor before moving to the magazine.

He has won several awards for his photography and writing at both newspapers and NEBRASKAland, where he covers any topic related to the outdoors, including recreation, wildlife and conservation. He also owns and operates a successful youth sports photography business.

Fowler is a 1988 graduate of Ogallala High School. His interest in photojournalism began during his freshman year at CSC, when he was given his first camera by his father, Dave, a studio photographer in Ogallala.

He credits two prominent CSC journalism figures, longtime sports information director and director of information Con Marshall and journalism adviser LaVida Dickinson, for providing opportunities and encouragement early in his career.

He completed many photography assignments for Marshall, and Dickinson encouraged him to complement his photography skills by exploring the writing side of journalism. He served the Eagle newspaper staff three years, including two as photo editor.

While at CSC, Fowler coordinated the annual Phonathon fundraising effort while completing an internship in the Alumni Office. He also served as in intern for the CSC Media Center, where he documented college activities and photographed the Oregon and California Gold trails from the air for professors documenting the nation's pioneer trails.

After changing majors twice, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in industrial management with an emphasis on graphic arts and business administration.

Fowler lives in Lincoln with his nine-year-old son, Mace.

The awards are presented to graduates who have shown exceptional service to the college, their career or their community.

The award for young alumni is presented to those who are under age 40 or have been graduates for less than 20 years.