Nov. 19, 2014

News from President Tom Jackson, Jr.

BHSU Inaugurates Dr. Tom Jackson, Jr., as President

The faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of BHSU celebrated the inauguration of President Jackson on Nov. 15. Delegates, dignitaries, students, family, and friends congratulated President Jackson and pledged their support in his new leadership role.

The inauguration ceremony included greetings to the President from the Dean Krogman, president of the South Dakota Board of Regents; Dana Boke, mayor of Spearfish; Dr. Parthasarathi Nag, Faculty Senate president; and Chase Vogel, president of the BHSU Student Senate.

The inauguration theme, “Spirit of the Hills” was ever-present throughout inauguration day with evergreen trees lining the stage, a historical reflection on the Black Hills prepared by Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Dr. David Wolff, and presentation of the star quilt symbolizing understanding and honor.

Being a university president is an honor. Every day I wake up and have the chance to work with the smartest, kindest, most ambitious, most humble people on the planet.

I get to work with scientists, and future scientists; teachers, and future teachers; business leaders, and future business leaders; and artists in all fields.

Inauguration day was a celebration of the Spirit of the Hills and a celebration of you - the individuals who invest time, talent, and treasure in BHSU. The inauguration week raised awareness for scholarships, our history, and the importance of education.

Thank you for your support as we continue this journey together.

Rosie Sprague (left) shakes hands with President Jackson after presentation of the star quilt. Dr. Urla Marcus speaks about the significance of the star quilt and Jace DeCory (right) assists in the star quilt presentation.

Spirit of the Hills on Social Media

In honor of the inauguration theme, “Spirit of the Hills,” the BHSU community was invited to share what they love about the Black Hills on Facebook and Twitter. Here’s a few of the President’s favorites:

“A place I call home in my heart...many of my family are alumni grads including myself and husband. Always feel at home when I drive down Jackson.” - Kathy Nicholas

“Coming to Spearfish was the best thing I’ve done when it comes to my post-secondary education. The best live in the west, and I know my new home is found inside of BHSU’s walls.”

- Gavin Daniel Brucklacher

“A place to grow, explore, love, learn, and live! The Black Hills are in my heart and in my soul.” - Kaitie Louise Schneider

Watch the Spirit of the Hills Video

Inauguration Events Raise Funds for Student Scholarships

Several events were held to celebrate President Jackson’s Inauguration and to raise funds for student scholarships. Approximately $11,500 in scholarship funds was raised through generous support of BHSU faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.
Sanford Underground Lab Welcomes BHSU Student Intern

Adam Gomez (right), a mass communication and graphic design major from Spearfish, works 4,850 feet below ground in Sanford Lab’s Majorana Clean Room. Gomez is interning with the Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead this school year creating videos for the new Visitors Center.

“The internship is a great opportunity to get invaluable real world experience before I graduate in May,” said Gomez. “And getting to go underground is way cool!”

BHSU Student Wins International Business Scholarship

Samantha Johnson, business administration major from Spearfish, received a $7,000 Women in Business Scholarship from Zonta International. Johnson is one of 12 women worldwide to receive this honor.

Dr. Priscilla Romkema, dean of the College of Business and Natural Sciences, said the award is a huge recognition of Johnson’s academic abilities, leadership skills, and her future possibilities. Johnson plans to pursue her Ph.D. in economics next fall.

BHSU Professor Gives Equivalent of 19 Years’ Salary for ‘Make a Difference’ Scholarship Initiative

Dr. James Hess, professor of psychology and chair of the School of Behavioral Sciences at BHSU, recently pledged a $1 million gift to establish the School of Behavioral Sciences Make a Difference Initiative. In exchange for scholarship funds, students will be challenged to lead sustainable community projects designed to make a difference in the lives of others.

“Even while they’re receiving funds from the Initiative, I want our scholarship recipients to engage and make a difference in the lives of others,” said Hess. “I want the students to remember their experience years from now, changing their attitude and encouraging them to continue giving back.”