Framed with success

BHSU alumnus Bob Albert builds a successful construction company in Colorado

Also in this issue

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Swarm Day schedule
Alumni classnotes
Meier Hall opens
Welcome

I hope you enjoy this recently redesigned issue of the BHSU Alumni Magazine. The magazine will give you a glimpse of what is going on at your alma mater while providing updates on the many accomplishments and achievements of our alumni. We are proud of BHSU alumni and excited to share new items about recent changes and improvements at the university.

We hope this magazine will renew your interest in BHSU and, perhaps, also rekindle memories of your BHSU experience. Please keep in touch and let us know how BHSU remains a part of who you are today.

Dr. Thomas O. Flickema
BHSU President

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Flickema are shown in front of the BHSU president’s residence that is owned by the BHSU Foundation. In 1981, the home and designated furnishings were donated to the foundation by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dickey. Three years later, Dr. & Mrs. J. Hause took up residence in the house and each university president since then has resided there. The Flickemas take great pride in the historic home and host many social gatherings there.
Bob Albert, Class of ’76, and his wife Linda, Class of ’82, have built a successful and growing home construction business in the Denver, Colo., area, but their roots and their hearts remain in South Dakota.

Bob attributes his success to luck but it’s apparent that more than luck has been involved. Throughout the region he is known for his hard work. “I’ve been lucky and I’ve worked hard,” Albert said. “I decided a long time ago that I may not be able to outthink the others, but I can out work them.”

His wife Linda, who as business manager is an integral part of the business, knows there’s more to his success than luck and even hard work.

“A lot of people see in him (Bob) what I see. He’s a visionary and a hard worker,” Linda said. She credits his long-range thinking combined with an exceptional work ethic for his success.

“I saw a need and found a way to make this work,” Bob said. He said his company, which includes Greenleaf Construction and Timberco Manufacturing, is located in Frederick, Colo., just east of Denver.

After graduating from BHSU, Bob taught at Sheridan, Wyo., and Linda finished her BHSU business degree through extension courses. Although Bob enjoyed teaching, he desired more time with his family than teaching and coaching would allow. Bob went to the Denver area to do framing work one summer and that was the beginning of what would become a successful construction business.

“I’ve always enjoyed being outside and like to be creating things,” he said. “I like building things. It’s fun.”

In the process of building and creating houses, the Alberts have built a successful construction company that is in great demand in the Denver area. In fact, their company, which employs more than 90 people, had gross sales of $24 million last year.

Bob said they primarily build homes for first- and second-time home buyers in the Denver front range region. Currently he has about 22 projects going, ranging from the Ft. Collins area, to the Castle Rock region and even reaching into the Laramie, Wyo., area.

The Timberco Manufacturing part of the business produces pre-built stairways and walls which are then taken to the jobsite so that houses can be finished quickly.

Family members are directly involved in the business. Their daughter, Nichole, 27, is now an engineer, but has worked with the family business. Their son, Brock, 23, is now finishing up a communications degree at the University of Northern Colorado, and works in the business. Even their three-year-old grandson, Chase, likes to spend time at the office.

Linda earned a business degree in 1982. After the couple moved to the Denver area, Linda began working as a typist at General Electric and moved up very quickly to the human resources department. She eventually became a part of the esteemed GE Pinnacle Club which included a two-week trip to Spain. After 12 years with GE, Linda joined her husband in their business and that’s when the business really began to grow.

“When I convinced her to join us, that’s when things really took off,” Bob said. He noted that having Linda in charge of the office and personnel side of the business allows him to expand the business into other areas.

The business grew dramatically and continues to be in great demand.

“We went from building 250 houses a year to 1,200 a year,” Bob said. Even as the construction industry has slowed down somewhat in the region, Greenleaf Construction continues to grow and Bob says that sales have remained strong.

The couple believes that their college education was vital to their success.

“Earning a degree teaches you the discipline to stay with something,” Bob said. “Employers want to know that you had the discipline to go to school and that you took the time to learn.”

He notes that Dr. David B. Miller (the namesake of the BHSU Student Union) provided the initial spark of interest in history that has had a lasting influence.

“Dr. Miller got me started (with history) and I’ll never forgive him,” Bob said with a laugh. Bob continues to read historic books and many of the family vacations are planned around visiting historic sites in the region and around the world.

Linda concurs on the importance of an education and notes that “the skills you learn are transferable no matter what you decide to do.”

Bob’s office at Greenleaf Construction is adorned with photos and artwork representing the region that he still considers his home - the Black Hills. He confided that he keeps photos of his cabin in Spearfish Canyon and other favorite Black Hills scenic sites in his desk drawer.

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Bob and Linda are involved in many community and charitable activities including participating in Habitat for Humanity, the Children’s Hospital, BHSU Foundation, the Yellow Jacket Foundation, Volunteers of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and helping out at a construction school in Denver.

Watching Bob in the shop, it’s obvious that he loves what he does and that his work continues to be fun for him.

“I didn’t do anything for the money. I do it because I like it.”
Mercer, who is originally from Spearfish, spent six weeks in “the frozen continent” studying the dry valleys that are believed to be the one place on Earth that may be most like the planet Mars.

“Antarctica contains over 90 percent of the planet’s fresh water, despite being a desert environment,” Mercer said. Ironically it is also quite possible to die from dehydration if you don’t have the tools to thaw the plentiful water.

Mercer is studying organic compounds in the dry valleys of Antarctica to figure out where this organic carbon that supports the modern-day ecosystems originally comes from.

At first glance it seems that there is no life anywhere in Antarctica, in fact, the morphology has been compared to that of the planet Mars. However, there is a very interesting microscopic community where a nematode (a microscopic worm) is the king of the food chain. It is unclear where the organic material that supports the ecosystem originated. I can extract the organic compounds from the soils and look for signals from ancient plants that have been eroded out of rocks by the glaciers, or signals from algae, oceanic material and particles from dust that may have blown over from other continents,” Mercer explained her work.

She is currently involved in a project which focuses on the collection and study of three species of this microscopic worm. The project is part of a Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program and is under the direction of Dr. Diana Wall at Colorado State University and Dr. Ross Virginia at Dartmouth College.

“Nematodes are everywhere on the planet, even in all plants and animals. Yes, each of you has nematodes in your body, and you can’t deny it... you even have several species,” Mercer writes. She explained that one form of nematode that most people recognize is the heartworm, which is a less desirable form.

The nematodes are dormant in the soil until the conditions are warm or moist enough, then they wake up and feed according to Mercer. “So, we just collect big bags of soil and bring them back to the lab. Then we put some water on the soil and wake the worms up. When we put them under the microscope, they are moving around and feeding on whatever there is first. They are quite cute under a microscope,” she said.

Spearfish, spent six weeks in “the frozen continent” studying the dry valleys that are believed to be the one place on Earth that may be most like the planet Mars. However, there is a very interesting microscopic community where a nematode (a microscopic worm) is the king of the food chain. It is unclear where the organic material that supports the ecosystem originated. I can extract the organic compounds from the soils and look for signals from ancient plants that

Jennifer Mercer, a 1997 graduate of Black Hills State University who recently earned her Ph.D. in earth sciences with a focus in organic geochemistry, from Dartmouth, is now doing post-doctoral research in Antarctica. Her latest travel adventures spanned many far away sites she has visited to do research including the South China Sea and Hawaii, as well as other sites in the United States. She once spent a month on a French vessel collecting ocean sediment along the western Pacific margin (in the areas of Taiwan, Japan, China and Russia).

“Antarctica is one of the best places I’ve ever seen anywhere. They far surpass the quality of my Ivy League professors in graduate school,” Mercer said.

“I’ve always felt that my education at BHSU was an integral part of my success. I had professors in the arts and sciences who were phenomenal in the classroom and supportive of students’ interests. Faculty at BHSU are among the best professors I’ve seen anywhere. They far surpass the quality of my Ivy League professors in graduate school.”

“...I was very cold at first but after changing into dry clothes and eating a ‘bumber bar,’ she was nice and toasty the rest of the night. ‘A bumber bar’ is some sort of New Zealand concoction like a power bar, but the first ingredient is butter, followed by several types of sugar...it’s pure energy. To stay warm you have to eat and drink constantly so that your metabolism has something to burn and so that you’re properly hydrated,” Mercer explained.

Mercer returned to her alma mater last semester to speak to Anderson’s geology students before heading to Antarctica. She has plans to continue this research, eventually extend her studies to the Arctic, and is looking at the possibility of teaching college courses in the near future.

Mercer said she always enjoyed science classes as an elementary student and became especially interested in geology in the eighth grade. However, she started BHSU with plans for a journalism major.

“I was during the spring of my freshman year when I realized that I should really become a scientist,” Mercer said. She was taking Dr. Steve Anderson’s physical geology class at the time and after a period of serious consideration, she changed her major and the course of her life.

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Recently re-established Newman Club seeks information from former members

The BHSU Newman Club, which is working to establish the organization, is seeking information from former members. According to Sarah Veskrna, BHSU Newman Club president, club members have developed a constitution, elected officers, formed a core group, hosted campus activities, and developed plans for next year. Since they do not have records of past members they are requesting help from Newman Club alumni.

Send information to: Veskrna by email at sveskmh@smail.bhsu.edu or contact Doug Daumen at 605-226-4502 (Ext. 169). Your response and help in locating past Newman Club alumni is greatly appreciated.

Randall L. Macy, Class of 77, physical education, Belle Fourche, took the oath of office and was inducted as a magistrate judge Nov. 27, 2002.

Randy Morris, Class of 74, masters in education, Spearfish, was recently honored by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the 2002 South Dakota Outstanding Financial Services Advocate.

Betty Musilek, Class of ’77, education, Sturgis, was recently presented the Kids Voting South Dakota 2002 Educator of the Year.

Floyd A. Rummel III, Class of ’79, business, Lead, was named 2003 NAJA Shrine Potentate.

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Darlene (Richardson) Thompson, Class of ’70, math, Spearfish, was honored for 10 years of service to the Spearfish School District.

Jim Thompson, Class of ’70, biology, Sturgis, retired after 32 years of teaching in the Meade School District.

Renee (Petersen) Trautman, Class of ’77, elementary education, Spearfish, received a 25-year long-time service award from the Spearfish School District.

The 80s

Kerry Bell, Class of 83, physical education, Belle Fourche, was recently honored at an awards ceremony hosted by the South Dakota Coalition for Children for his work with the youth. He is the law-related educator for adjudicated and diversionary youth in Meade County. He teaches character and law-related classes to elementary students.

Avery Holmstead, Class of ’96, business, Spearfish, took first place for the best headline in the 2003 Spirit of Spearfish Award at the 49th annual Spearfish Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Debra (Shervington) Moncur, Class of ’82, business administration, Belle Fourche, has been promoted to trust operations officer at Pioneer Bank and Trust.

Randy Nicholas, Class of ’87, elementary education, Belle Fourche, was selected as a finalist for Belle Fourche School District Teacher of the Year.

Rhonda (Neumiller) Schults, Class of ’88, Belle Fourche, teaching aide, was named the 2003 district employee of the year in the Belle Fourche School District.

Valerie Valski, Class of ’80, accounting, Rapid City, Del., earned a doctorate in education from the University of Delaware. His executive position was for the Black Hills Press.

Doug Hughes, Class of ’87, physical education, Spearfish, was named the National Federation High School Activities Association Active Wreath-Writing Official of the Year for South Dakota.

Mary Maher, Class of ’89, elementary education, and ’12, masters curriculum and instruction, Sturgis, was recently honored as a teacher at Meade School District Teacher of the Year.

Joe Gutierrez, Class of ’89, sociology, Sturgis, was recently honored at an awards ceremony hosted by the South Dakota Coalition for Children for his work with the youth. He is an employment specialist at Northern Hills One-Stop Career Center.

The 90s

Colleen Charnell, Class of ’97, journalism, Spearfish, recently joined the staff of the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial Society of Membership and events coordinator.

Ray Corndorf, Class of ’97, general studies, Rapid City, has been promoted to lieutenant and assigned to the administrative division of the Rapid City Police Department.

Diane Olson, Class of ’92, mass communications, Austin, Texas, recently received a grant for $10,000 to design and implement a program to teach entrepreneurial skills to at-risk youth in east Austin. She is the executive director of the Texas Center for Women’s Business.

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Ted Norman, Class of ’90, business, Rapid City, financial consultant and certified financial planner at A.G. Edwards & Sons in Rapid City, has attained the additional designation of retirement planning consultant.

The 90s

The Carrie (Eberhardt) Bailey, Class of ’93, social science, was awarded a professional development grant by Epsilon Sigma Phi to support her pursuit of a masters of educational and professional development. She works for the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension as the Buffalo County 4-H youth development educator.

Kay Cox, Class of ’87, sociology, Spearfish, was recently honored at an awards ceremony hosted by the South Dakota Coalition for Children for her work with the youth. She has worked with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program for 15 years. For three years she was a home-based social worker with Child Protection Services in Deadwood. She is an employment specialist at Northern Hills One-Stop Career Center.

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Alumni News

Kudos & Announcements

Alumni Magazine

Black Hills State University

BHSU alum has Wild America and politics covered

Stephanie Rieder Christopherson, a 1995 graduate of BHSU, who is now the current affairs producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB), has recently been nominated for two regional Emmy Awards.

Rieder Christopherson, who has been with SDPB for the past six years, has gained national exposure with a few of her broadcast specials. This fall, she is planning to do a national broadcast of a special children’s program about Lewis and Clark.

A former BHSU Gold Rush dance team member and campus radio personality, Rieder Christopherson has found her calling covering statewide political issues. She currently hosts a daily children’s program about Lewis and Clark.

Rieder Christopherson said she is glad she made that decision. She cites the program as an example of how to keep her in touch with what is happening in the state.

“Covering politics helps me better understand why the laws are the way they are,” Rieder Christopherson said.

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Tonya (Raysoy) Mullaney. Class of ’97, elementary special education and ’02 masters curriculum and instruction, Spearfish, was part of a People to People ambassadors group that traveled to China. Members participated in conferences and toured Chinese universities.

Suzanne Phillips, Class of ’93, elementary and special education, Spearfish, was named the 2003 Classified Employee of the Year in the Spearfish School District. She currently serves as the learning center coordinator.

Judith L. (Esperance) Paini, Class of ’90, elementary special education, Newcastle, Wyo., is one of 10 Wyoming teachers to receive a 2003 Arch Coal Coal Teacher of Achievement Award.

Patty Roadilder, Class of ’95, travel, Spearfish, was recently installed as director on the Spearfish Zonta Club board.

Lance Russell, Class of ’92, political science, Hot Springs, has been named to the South Dakota Lottery Commission.

Ken Steiner, Class of ’94, biology, Box Elder, has been named to the board of Heartland GMAC Real Estate in Rapid City. He has over 27 years of experience in real estate.

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Michael Trump. Class of ’90, history, Spearfish, accepted a three-year contract as the Butte County public defender in January 2003. He had previously been the Butte County deputy state’s attorney.

Kristi (Hansen) Turman, Class of ’96, political science, Fort Pierre, is the newly-appointed director of the South Dakota Division of Emergency Management.

Barry Van Sickle, Class of ’92, business, Belle Fourche, was honored as the top part-time service advisor in the nation by Ford Motor Co. He works for South Dakota Motors.

Stacy (Winter) Wollman, Class of ’94, human services, Rapid City, is a community organizer with S.D. Tobacco-Free Kids Network/American Cancer Society. She graduated from Leadership Rapid City in 2002.

Nikki (Schulte) Wondt, Class of ’95, elementary education, Belle Fourche, has been named an inaugural member of the Rural Teacher’s Rural Faculty, a select group of rural teachers, administrators, students, and community members who have been trained to teach others about place-based education and the use of student portfolios to document learning.

Shawn Wenko, Class of ’99, tourism, Spearfish, joined the staff at Black Hills Foods and Lakes Association as a sales and service representative in February 2003.

Chris West, Class of ’96, physical education, Spearfish, was honored this spring as a Meade School District Teacher of the Year. Third-grade teacher, Julie (Johnson) Reimert, Class of ’00, masters curriculum and instruction, Spearfish, was named the 2003 Teachers’ Choice Teacher of the Year Award.

Ashley (Cholicyse) Olsen, Class of ’02, psychology, Gregory, joined Catholic Social Services in Rapid City as an intern in the Child Welfare Programs.

Althea Rosah, Class of ’00, tourism, Columbus, Ohio, is currently a Holmes County community development program assistant with the Ohio State University Extension. She specializes in heritage tourism and city and regional planning.

Ryan Speed, Class of ’00, business, Black Hawk, is in his fourth season in the Indoor Football League. He has been on the Red Dogs’ roster since the NIFL was founded in 2001 and spent one year with the Black Hills Machine.

Bill Buchholz, attended, Spearfish, was inducted into the Spearfish High School Hall of Fame in 2003.

Chuck Whitlock, attended, Spearfish, was inducted into the Spearfish High School Hall of Fame in 2003.

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Wetherill commands attention as first woman in charge of National Guard unit

Kayce Rostek, Class of ’02, accounting, recently joined the accounting and auditing department of Casey, Peterson and Associates in Rapid City.

Wendy Schambler, Class of ’03, mathematics, Lead, recently completed the Advanced Placement Calculus Institute for high school teachers.

Ken Steiner, Class of ’96, history, Spearfish, accepted a three-year contract as the Butte County public defender in January 2003. He had previously been the Butte County deputy state’s attorney.

The award recognized him for his outstanding service. Odle is now eligible for the National Officer of the Year Award.

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Your degree is closer than it appears.

Black Hills State University offers a variety courses via distance education. Consider taking an online, teleconference, correspondence, or extension course through BHSU.

BHSU offers master’s degrees in business and education. Both of these degrees are available via distance learning options.

The Black Hills State University bookstore has items featuring the new Yellow Jacket logo. To view these and other items access the bookstore online from the BHSU homepage at www.bhsu.edu and choose Current Students then bookstore.

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The 70s


The 90s
Delton Hanson, Class of ’97, English, Portland, Ore., and Jonathan Gaust were married May 24, 2003. Annalyn graduated in May 2003 from Multnomah Seminary with a master of arts in pastoral studies with an emphasis in women’s ministry. The couple will make their home in Long Island, N.Y., where her husband teaches at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Kevin Weich, Class of ’96, IT-drafting, Bozeman, Mont., is engaged to marry Somer Campbell Dec. 27, 2003. Weich is currently enrolled in the mechanical engineering program at Montana State University.

The Toni 00s
Abeloth, Class of ’02, business, and Justin Feickert, Class of ’03, human resources, are engaged to marry.

Patricia Ruth (Triish) Schaefer, Class of ’93, communications art, Houston, Texas, will marry Brian Robert Montgomery April 4, 2004.

Angie King, Class of ’97, communications, and Mark Troup, Class of ’98, history, both of Spearfish, are engaged to marry in October 2003.

Mark LaBeau, Class of ’96, technology, Rapid City, married Anni Wickersham April 26, 2003.

Annalong Long, Class of ’97, English, Portland, Ore., and Jonathan Gaust were married May 24, 2003. Annalyn graduated in May 2003 from Multnomah Seminary with a master of arts in pastoral studies with an emphasis in women’s ministry. The couple will make their home in Long Island, N.Y., where her husband teaches at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

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Nicole Nachtigal, Class of ’98, political science, married Aaron Emerson May 27, 2004. Nachtigal is an associate attorney with the law firm of Lynn, Schultz & Lebrun, P.C. The couple will reside in Sioux Falls.

Michelle Jones, Class of ’98, elementary education, Kadoka, is engaged to marry.

The late Tony Schaefer, former BHSU instructor and head wrestling coach, was killed in an accident involving a tractor-trailer on Interstate 90 west of Huron, April 13, 2003.

The 80s

Jodi Hill, Class of ’80, mass communications, Gillette, Wyo., will marry Matthew Blake May 4, 2003. She works for First Premier Bankcard in Spearfish.

Melanie Griewold, Class of ’81, human resources, Casper, Wyo., married Parker Ruby in May 2003. She works in human resources at Hilltop National Bank in Casper.

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Births
Jill (Horber) Andersen, Class of ’80, elementary education, and Chris Andersen, Class of ’93, physical education, Spearfish, announce the birth of their son, Maximus, July 2, 2002.

Born July 2, 2002, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The couple reside in California as where her elementary teacher.

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Michelle Fleck, Class of ’82, elementary education, and Beau Vinatieri, Class of ’83, mass communications, were married June 30, 2003 in Rapid City. The couple are currently employed in and live in Colorado.

Tina (Wood) Garsh, Class of ’02, network administration, Belle Fourche, married Darce Noziska June 14, 2003. The couple reside in Rapid City.


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BHSU alumni gather across the nation

Alumni News

Anaheim
Front row, left, Ryan Robinson, Class of '93; Robert Temple, Class of '57; Janice (Pollard) Temple, Class of '58; and Tom Trump, Class of '93. Standing, left, Steve Meeker, Class of '84; and Michelle Hoffman, Class of '94.

Las Vegas
Front row, left, Greg Goeken, Class of '88; Debbie (Brimmer) Dartois, Class of '87; Julie (Heasman) Brown, Class of '86; Kristen (Anderson) Boyle, Class of '78; Leon Petoske, Class of '61; and Steve Meeker, Class of '84. Back row, Kevin Porter, Class of '99; Mark Kronschnabel, Class of '85; Todd booth, Class of '90; Amy (Baldwin) Ashmore, Class of '88; and Terry Nagel, Class of '73; Alan Nagel, Class of '72; Dyan Rothmeyer. Attended '70s; Dan Paulsen, Class of '89; Michelle Hoffman, Class of '94; and Chris Eastman, Class of '85.

Seattle
Left to right, Gene Farrens, Class of '75; Jeff Planchon, Class of '86; Steve Meeker, Class of '84; and Michelle Hoffman, Class of '94.

Phoenix
Front row, left to right, Steve Meeker, Class of '84, Mark Graybeal, attended '70s; Loretta Engelhardt, Class of '76, and Paul Vercoor, Class of '61. Back row, Michelle Hoffman, Class of '94; Gene Bovee, Class of '59; Bob Dermer, Class of '81; Colleen Anseth, Class of '84; Scott Bohall, attended '90s; and Dan Iversen, Class of '79.

Alumni News

Alumni mile
Rob Welo, Aurora, Colo., won the 11th annual Black Hills State University Alumni Mile, with a time of 5:02. This was Welo's sixth win for the event. Twenty-two runners competed in the mile run which was held during the BHSU Winter Invitational at the Donald E. Young Sports and Fitness Center. Alumni Mile competitors included, front row, left to right, the late Dan Crain, Class of '89; Rob Welo, Class of '92; Aaron Nida, Class of '93; Jim Glazer, Class of '96; John Humke, Class of '88; Al Finch, Class of '79; Brian Harms; and Dave Little, former coach. Back row, left to right, Travis Shoults; Keith Moon, Class of '95; Dan Sorensen; Class of '94; Marcia Moon; Steve Hayes, Class of '92; Claude McBroom, Class of '94; Mary Kate Guifoye; Travis Thorn; Jack Kirtley, Class of '93; Gerald Collogan, Class of '74; Fred Romkema; Priscilla Romkema, Class of '70; Scott Kieper, Class of '95; and Randy Mink, Class of '70. Not pictured is Scott Underwood.
CDs coming due? Dividends down? Investing in BHSU's stock is the answer.

With a Black Hills State University charitable gift annuity you can:
- Lock in a fixed rate for life
- Reduce your capital gain
- Claim a charitable tax deduction
- Make a gift to Black Hills State University

Example: $25,000 Charitable Gift Annuity (one annuitant)

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Rates effective July 1, 2003. Minimum gift is $10,000. Rates range from 6.5% for ages 70+ to 4.0% for ages 85+. Please contact Black Hills State University at 605-671-5200 for more details.

For more information contact Steve Meekle at (605) 671-5200 or email steve.meekle@bhsu.edu

Mann Scholarship

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ick Mann, a 1957 BHSU graduate from Hamilton, Mont., left $25,400 to his alma mater’s scholarship program. He made the Dick Mann Memorial Scholarship Fund was established at his request to assist deserving BHSU students in their quest to reach their educational goals.

He served in the U. S. Air Force and after graduating from BHSU taught school at Lone Rock, Mont. He later moved to Montana and worked for the city of Hamilton.

Mann was co-founder of the Hamilton Symphony Orchestra. He taught music in the area who taught her students, children and young people to enjoy a lifetime love of music. This service will be selected by the enrollment center at BHSU beginning in the fall of 2004.

Mann’s dedication to education throughout his lifetime will be extended in perpetuity as students at BHSU continue to receive assistance for their education through this scholarship,” said Steve Meekle, vice president of institutional advancement at BHSU. He noted that a gift to the BHSU Foundation through a will be a favorable option for many people, as it does not reduce current income, yet provides substantial future support for the university.

Lynn Scholarship

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The Gay Lynn Scholarship was recently established at Black Hills State University by emeritus professor Bill Lynn and his wife Gay. The couple donated more than $17,000 to the BHSU Foundation through the contribution of stocks and cash to establish the scholarship fund. The corpus of this fund will be permanently preserved and the earnings will be used for the management and distribution of the fund.

It is an opportunity for the former teacher, who earned her degree at BHSU, to have a positive influence on the education careers of potential future teachers.

New scholarships established

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Keeping up with the Nelsons

The latest recipient of the Joseph F. and Martha P. Nelson Scholarship at BHSU, Nicole Henriksen, joins an elite group of students and graduates who have received the prestigious scholarship, including two recent graduates who have gone on to medical school.

Henriksson, a 2003 graduate of Lyman High School, says his BSU experience prepared him for medical school. “I can assure you that all the sciences and math were extremely helpful,” he said.

Recent graduates who received the Nelson scholarship to fund their education and graduated with honors from BHSU include: Kirk Steen, a biology major from Spearfish; Tyler Steen, a senior math major from Sturgis, and Daniel Miller, a senior pre-medicine major from Parker.

An anonymous $1 million donation sets the stage for a new theatre

A n anonymous $1 million donation to the Black Hills State University Foundation has invigorated the longstanding vision of adding a campus theatre building. The major gift by donors who are committed to preserving and expanding the arts is greatly appreciated by the university,” said Dr. Thomas Flickema, BHSU president. “This gift is an investment in the arts for the university and the entire region. The educational and cultural environment will be dramatically enhanced with the addition of a theatre building.”

For gift comes at a time when the university is in the final stages of construction of the new $8.25 million Clare and Josef Meier Hall set to open this fall. The new music/academic building and the possibility of a new theatre as a way for BHSU to have a positive effect on how the arts are delivered in the future.

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An anonymous $1 million donation sets the stage for a new theatre

The Nelson scholarship, the largest endowment ever received by the university, was established when Joseph and Martha Nelson bequeathed nearly $1 million dollars to BHSU.

Current BHSU undergraduate students who are receiving the Nelson scholarship include: Kirk Steen, a sophomore biology major from Spearfish; Tyler Steen, a senior math major from Sturgis, and Daniel Miller, a senior pre-medicine major from Parker.

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This major gift will initiate a campaign to fund a facility that will benefit the campus as well as the entire community.

BHSU officials were recently notified of the $1 million donation in honor of former teachers Ida and Martha Nelson attended BHSU when it was known as Spearfish Normal School in the 20s.

Martha was selected as a Swarm Day Queen in 1927 and earned a teaching certificate. After his death in 1995, at the age of 95, money from his estate was bequeathed to BHSU to establish the scholarship. The Nelsons chose to create this endowment in honor of former teachers Ida and Martha Nelson.

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The newest building on the BHSU campus has been named the Clare and Josef Meier Hall in honor of the founders of the Black Hills Passion Play. Meier Hall, located in the center of the campus, is an $8.25 million, 4,979 square-foot building which includes a 280-seat recital hall, choir and band rooms, faculty studios, classrooms, soundproof practice rooms, conference rooms, instrument storage areas, key-board, listening and piano labs and faculty offices.

BHSU President Thomas Flickema praised the Meier family for their arts leadership in the Black Hills, the state and the region.

"What could be more fitting than to name this new building after a couple who played such a powerful role in promoting the arts for six decades," Flickema said. "What better way to preserve the rich heritage of what these two people have accomplished. From this point forward the building will be known as the Clare and Josef Meier Hall, a place of student performances and learning, a place where the public will come to enjoy the continuation of the heritage the Meiers were so instrumental in preserving."

Josef Meier, who was born in Germany and emigrated to America, brought the Passion Play to the Black Hills in 1932 and it has been in continuous production ever since, giving performances all over the United States and Canada. Six generations of his family participated in the Passion Play that dates to 1242. He began his acting career as a youngster portraying the baby Jesus and later as the adult Christ.

The first local performance of the Passion Play was held in Woodburn Auditorium on the campus during the summer of 1938. The cast included Black Hills area actors including E.C. Woodburn, the college president. The performance, which faithfully reconstructs the dramatic events in the last seven days of the life of Christ, played for five weeks that first summer. Working with Black Hills area businessmen, an outdoor amphitheater was constructed and the Passion Play found a permanent home in Spearfish in 1939 and became a major force in regional tourism development at a time when Mt. Rushmore was being constructed.

Flickema said. "This building is a key element in our effort to enhance the role of the fine arts in enriching the cultural life of our region."

Janean Larsen, music professor and chair of the department of fine and applied arts, is excited about many of the features of the new building. She said that the music faculty have actively participated in the planning process for this building from the size of the stage, to the design of the practice rooms and office studios, right down to the placement of electrical outlets. Larsen cites the recital hall and the soundproof practice rooms as two especially appealing features of the new building.

"The recital hall will be wonderful. It's perfect for senior recitals, faculty recitals and student recitals," she said. She also indicated that the recital hall will be used for performances by other groups, and during the summer, the Summer Institute of the Arts opera workshops will be held there.

Larsen says the building will be an excellent draw to attract additional students interested in majoring in music to the university. High school students from a five-state area participate in a regional Jazz Festival every year at the university and Larsen expects that as these students see the improved facilities at BHSU, they will be excited about the opportunity to attend classes here.

Members of the College of Business faculty will relocate their office to the upper level of the building. Gary Meek, dean of the College of Business and Technology, said that most of the faculty offices will be located in Meier Hall. Faculty offices from members of the Department of Humanities within the College of Arts and Sciences will also be located in the new building.

Construction of the new building in the center of campus is driving other changes as well and will have a dramatic affect on the overall layout of the campus. When construction is complete an enlarged campus green area will emerge. Many landscaping improvements are scheduled for this area that enhance the campus.

Tours of Meier Hall will be given during Swarm weekend Oct. 3 from 2 to 7 p.m. Contact Steve Meeker at 642-6385 for more information.

If you are not able to visit the campus, check the BHSU web page (www.bhsu.edu/multimedia) for a future virtual tour of the building.

You are invited to participate in Black Hills State music history by making a gift to permanently name a seat in the recital hall of the new Clare and Josef Meier Hall. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit the music scholarship fund at BHSU. For a $300 donation a brass-like plate will be affixed to the chair of your choice. This is a rare opportunity to leave a lasting impact on the future of BHSU’s music program. Call (605) 642-6228.

This building provides music faculty, for the first time in the century plus history of this institution, with first-class facilities for instruction and performance.

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University News

Take a tour

Hills are alive with the sound of music from the new Clare and Josef Meier Hall

That was then, this is now.
Retiring to a new way of life

Black Hills State lost a century and a half of teaching experience when five long-time faculty members retired this spring. The five, Dr. Tom Hills, Mr. Fred Heidrich, Dr. Mark Gabel, Mr. Richard Hicks, Dr. Don Chastain, are all looking forward to retirement with mixed emotions and planning to continue being involved in their teaching area in one way or another.

My heart is with this university.” These words, spoken by Dr. Tom Hills, are perhaps the best explanation for the guiding force behind the dedication, loyalty and integrity shown in the actions of the longtime BHSU political science professor.

Hills, 63, who is also a graduate of BHSU, was recently honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award and has retired after 34 years at the university.

A dedicated professor, an inspirational and encouraging advisor to students, a trusted colleague and friend to many, as one fellow professor at the Vets’ Club advisor, has earned the title of Outstanding Student Advisor in the 80s students respond to his dedication and chose him as the Student Senate Outstanding Teacher.

Hills enjoyed teaching a variety of politics and government classes and may be best remembered by a generation of students for his world politics class, which was a general education requirement for all graduates for many years. He especially enjoyed the challenge of teaching those general education students who many times were not, at first, especially interested in the subject matter.

“My goal was to make students aware of, and hopefully, interested in what is going on in the world today,” Hills said.

Hills’ long-term interest in politics and government may move from teaching to actual participation as he is considering some form of political service in the future. He would like to do some international travel and also plans to put some miles on his new Harley Davidson motorcycle.

As Hills made arrangements to leave the university those who spoke by Dr. Tom Hills, are perhaps the best explanation for the guiding force behind the dedication, loyalty and integrity shown in the actions of the longtime BHSU political science professor.

Recent to a new way of life

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One of the highlights of service for Hills has been involve-ment in the student Legislative intern program, and he was commended last year for his 25 years of serving as coordinator of the program. Hills received a Fulbright Scholar Award for Academic Administrators to go to Germany and Czechoslovakia in 1992. He also spoke at the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar on Diplomacy at Sarah Lawrence in 1976, presented at the U.S. Department of State Diplomat Seminar in 1981, and attended the summer seminar on national elections in Germany in June of 1999.

Hills’ decision to retire from his faculty position was a difficult one for him, as he’s been at the university since 1970 with an undergraduatedegree in business, he remembers making the statement that he hoped he would have the faculty opportunity to “change some things I didn’t like.” His tenure of nearly three decades of teaching as well as service on many committees and as interim dean have given him that opportunity, and he is proud of the developments at BHSU. He says one of his favorite classes is the “long-term work relationship” with fellow longtime BHSU art professors Dick Dubois and Jim Krutsot.

“Three of us get along well and that makes everything better.” Hicks joined the university in 1970 with a bachelor’s degree in art from Albion College and a master’s of fine arts from the University of Iowa.

He is looking forward to retirement as a time to continue doing artwork as well as working with artists in the volunteer activities he loves. Last fall, Hicks taught an art class for troubled teens at the Canyon Hills Lutheran Center. That experience has inspired him to look at additional volunteer opportunities when he retires this spring. He has plans to do volunteer work with inner city children and is considering giving tennis lessons for the city. He also plans to take a German class and continue singing with his choir.

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Retiring to a new way of life

Black Hills State University

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R

esearch has been the key to Dr. Mark Gabel’s teaching success at BHSU for 28 years. He views professional design as a vital component for faculty to stay current in their field and feels that “involving undergraduates in research opportunities is probably the best form of teaching there is.”

Gabel, 52, sees research as a vital component for faculty to stay current in their field and feels that “involving undergraduates in research opportunities is probably the best form of teaching there is.”

Gabel should know. He has provided this ultimate form of teaching for science students at BHSU for decades. Gabel expressed great satisfaction in working with the many quality students who go through the science program and feels a sense of accomplishment when some of these students later come back to thank him for the “extra effort that he made as their professor,” Smith said. “Gabel’s influence on my own education and continuing scientific research.”

Dr. Gabel gave me my first taste of biological research as a junior at BHSU and I have not turned back since then. Gabel’s dedication to biological research and uncom-plaining attitude has been an inspiration to me to pursue the improved campus environment.

Gabel taught me how to use the scientific method and encouraged me to pursue my degree in biology and take advantage of the many opportunities at BHSU. He has given me a clear understanding of the importance of research and its role in the scientific community.

Professor Fred Heidrich, who has been at the core of the political science program at BHSU for 28 years, in addition to teaching, found his new classroom was anything but boring, and his new classes turned out to be an ongoing challenge especially with the advent of computers and constant changes in technology.

Dr. Edwards brought in a Hewlett Packard computer and said this is how you turn it on, after that, it was up to me to figure out the rest. It has been anything but boring for him. It’s a challenge.

Chastain pointed out that the technology staff must learn new software on a regular basis since they change programs frequently. He also pointed out that he has not agreed to teach part-time next year and is also coordinating the TTL session on campus this summer. He thinks it has been helpful to him in adjusting to retirement. He also has plans for many other activities including helping his wife with her business.

Retirement might be a misnomer for Chastain as he has already agreed to teach part-time next year and is also coordinat-ing the TTL session on campus this summer. He thinks those activities may help him adjust to retirement. He also has plans for many other activities including helping his wife with her business.
BHSU people in the news

Ochse and Bryan honored by Regents

BHSU professors, Roger Ochse and Lisa Bryan, were among twelve faculty members from South Dakota’s public university system who were presented awards for delivering high-quality instruction via technology.

“These awards honor faculty for creative accomplishments on behalf of students, as well as acknowledging the universities commitment to support for faculty development and technology innovation,” said Lesia Turchen, the Regent’s chief academic officer. “The high quality of the courses submitted for this year’s competition attests to the talent and expertise in our public universities.”

Ochse and Bryan were honored for their course, Joint Venture Creation/Technical Communication (BADM 316, ENGL 379). Reviewers singled out the course for utilizing various delivery methods, collaborating across disciplines, and interactive syllabus.

Hemmingson named assistant grants director

Sharon Hemmingson, Class of ’84, has been named assistant director of grants and special projects office at BHSU.

“Sharon’s experience in working with faculty and students and her success in writing and administering a series of federal TRIO grants will bring important new capabilities to the grants office and help ensure its continued success,” Dr. Dan Farrington, director of grants and special projects, said. He also noted that her experience with student success programs would strengthen the external funding efforts in that area.

Hemmingson was previously director of student support services at BHSU. She has a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from BHSU. Hemmingson joined the BHSU staff in 1986.

Farrington named academic affairs VP

Dr. Dan Farrington, director of grants and special projects at Black Hills State University, has been named interim vice president for academic affairs.

“Sharon’s experience in working with faculty and students and her success in writing and administering a series of federal TRIO grants will bring important new capabilities to the grants office and help ensure its continued success,” Dr. Dan Farrington, director of grants and special projects, said. He also noted that her experience with student success programs would strengthen the external funding efforts in that area.

Farrington arrived at BHSU to lead an increased effort on finding and utilizing external funding sources which has netted a dramatic increase in grant funding from $300,000 in fiscal year 1997 to an expected $2.6 million in fiscal year 2003.

Farrington, who has a doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) from Colorado State University (CSU) and a Ph.D. in microbiology and preventive medicine from Iowa State University (ISU), has had responsibility for all animal science research manpower and facilities for the conduct and monitoring of clinical trials at Merk.

Farrington spent several years as a tenured associate professor of veterinary microbiology at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, where he conducted research in animal respiratory diseases. Farrington’s research has led to three patents for antimicrobial and biological agents.

Farrington and his wife, Judy, have three grown daughters: Mary, a physician; Jennifer, a pharmacist, and Sarah, a registered dietitian.

BHSU receives two accreditation approvals

Black Hills State University recently received notification of two important accreditation approvals.

The university received formal notifications of continued accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which approves the university’s North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. In addition the College of Education recently received accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The accreditation approval from HLC indicated that BHSU made great improvements in several areas and is ready to face the challenges in the next decade.

“The accreditation team’s comments are a testament to the outstanding accomplishments of the university over the past decade,” said Thomas Flickema, BHSU president. “The combination made great strides and looks forward to the future with much optimism.”

Tourism Research Center established at BHSU

A Center for Tourism Research has been established at BHSU which will conduct tourism market research for the entire state. BHSU, which offers tourism opportunities in the state by helping the state’s tourism industry locate new markets. The center, which will be located on campus, was established with a $1.4 million Congressional earmark last year through the efforts of Sen. Tom Daschle.

The center will work with all segments of the state tourism industry including those in rural areas and reservations to conduct tourism market research for the entire state. BHSU, which offers tourism opportunities in the state by helping the state’s tourism industry locate new markets. The center, which will be located on campus, was established with a $1.4 million Congressional earmark last year through the efforts of Sen. Tom Daschle.

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Students present at conference

Two BHSU psychology students recently presented their research at a national research conference for undergraduate students.

Ben Blake, a junior from Spearfish presented research on the trailing ability of rats and 25 compared rats and 25 controls in an experiment to determine the effects of different environments on rat behavior. He also conducted a study on the effects of stress and anxiety on the learning ability of rats.

The group’s research has led to three patents for antimicrobial and biological agents.

Farrington joined the BHSU staff in 1986.

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The center’s continued need for unity through diversity.

BH hosts Summer Institute of the arts

The College of Arts and Sciences at BHSU once again hosted the Summer Institute of the Arts.

The summer institute brings performers and spectators from around the nation together for an art education institute, a vocal arts and opera theatre school, young performers competition, a dance workshop, and lecture series.

According to Holly Downing, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the event was very successful and the students evaluating the program were generally very positive about their experience.

Plans are already underway for the 2004 Summer Institute which will be held June 11-26. For the first time, many of the events will be held in the new Crane and Josef Meier Hall next year.

Billy Mills visits during powwow

BHSU students Maria Barrera (left) and Erica Littlewolf present a blanket to honor Billy Mills, Mills was one of four people honored at BHSU’s 2004 Summer Institute of the Arts.

Mills was also noted that her experience with student success programs would strengthen the external funding efforts in that area.

For information contact the center at (605) 642-6435.

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For information contact the center at (605) 642-6435.
Alum designs a new BHSU mascot

A redesigned Yellow Jacket mascot to represent BHSU athletic teams was unveiled at the BHSU vs. Tech basketball game this winter.

The new look for the Yellow Jacket graphic was designed by Brian Busch, a 1984 BHSU alumnus, now president/CEO of So Square Advertising in Rapid City.

"Mr. Yellow Jacket," as the director, said, "The new Yellow Jacket logo incorporates the traditions synonymous with BHSU athletics and symbolizes the outstanding qualities of our students, athletes and the university."

BHSU changed the mascot after notification by Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta, Ga., that the Yellow Jacket graphic used by BHSU too closely resembled the copyrighted mascot used at Georgia Tech.

The use of a Yellow Jacket as a mascot has a long tradition at Black Hills State, dating back to the late 1920s. An article in the centennial edition of the BHSU Echoia gives one explanation of the adoption of this name for the BH athletic teams. According to the story the name was first used during an October 1927 football game when one of the fans jumped to her feet and yelled, 'Go you yellow jackets, go!' in reference to the yellow-colored jackets the team wore. The crowd began to repeat the cheer throughout the game and the 'Yellow Jacket' name continued to be used.

Another account in the centennial yearbook relates the football team had been known as the Yellow Jackets, a name that appears to have derived from the horizontally striped socks worn by team members which gave them the appearance of wasp-like yellow jackets.

Over the years, the school has used a variety of graphic representations of the Yellow Jacket. The new design builds on that tradition and looks forward to the next century by strengthening the university's visual identity with a design that captures the essence of Yellow Jacket athletics.

Traveling science lab provides high-tech learning opportunities

Science is on the move at BHSU, literally, with the addition of two semi-trailer traveling science labs that will take high tech science to students across the state. The labs, especially designed and built by the traveling science lab with nearly $100,000 worth of equipment, are one of two operated under the auspices of the Center for Advancement of Math and Science Education at BHSU.

According to Jerry Oglesby, coordinator of Science on the Move, the lab has 12 workstations equipped with state-of-the-art science equipment that very few South Dakota schools have and will provide inquiry-based science learning developed to create more interest and exposure to science for the state's students.

The traveling lab was the brainchild of several university professors in South Dakota who envisioned a way to get high tech science equipment that very few South Dakota schools have and will provide inquiry-based science learning developed to create more interest and exposure to science for the state's students.

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The traveling lab was outfitted in nine months with more than 6,000 hours of inmate labor with a unique science lab that is now being made available to students throughout the state.

Erica Littlewolf receives Spirit of BH award

Johanna T. Meier and Guido S. Della-Vecchia became the 12th and 13th recipients in the history of BHSU to receive honorary doctorate degrees at the May commencement ceremony.

Della-Vecchia and Meier received the special recognition on the recommendation of the BHSU music faculty, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the commencement awards committee, the faculty senate, and the vice president for academic affairs. The South Dakota Board of Regents of Education confirmed granting the honorary doctorate degrees.

"Mr. Guido Della-Vecchia and Ms. Johanna Meier were chosen for this honor in recognition of the achieved distinction within their profession and the outstanding contributions to the people of South Dakota. The couple's distinguished professional careers, their contributions to the community of Spearfish, and their dedication to the advancement of the arts make them important and outstanding role models for the people of South Dakota," Thomas Flickema, BHSU president, said. "The two have had an important positive influence on the arts in this community as well as the entire state of South Dakota. These honorary doctorate bestowed upon Mr. Della-Vecchia and Ms. Meier the recognition they so richly deserve."

BHSU has awarded only 11 honorary doctorates in its history, and this is the first time in nearly 20 years that an honorary doctorate has been awarded. Josef Meier, Johanna's father, received an honorary doctorate in 1972. After Della-Vecchia retired from his career as a classical singer in 1980, he and Meier made Spearfish their permanent home in 1984. In 1991, the couple assumed ownership of the Passion Play, where Della-Vecchia continues to sing as the official Passion Play soloist. Della-Vecchia also performs frequently in the community and region.

Meier assumed the role of CEO and director of the Black Hills Passion Play in 1991. The play was brought to America from Germany by her father, Josef in 1952 and has been in continuous production ever since, giving performances all over the United States and Canada. The first local performance of the Passion Play was held in Woodburn Auditorium on the BHSU campus during the summer of 1938. The production played for five weeks that first summer. Working with Black Hills area businessmen, an outdoor amphitheater was constructed and the Passion Play found a permanent home in Spearfish in 1939. For years the Passion Play had two permanent amphitheaters, one in Spearfish and one in Lake Wales, Fla. The Passion Play retains a permanent amphitheater in Spearfish, where it is a powerful cultural experience and a major tourist destination.
Scott named football coach

The Yellow Jacket football team is preparing for the fall 2003 season under the new head coach John A. Scott, who comes to BHSU from Silver Creek High School in Longmont, Colo.

Persuasion, Scott was the head football coach in Gillette, Wyo. Over five years tenure at Campbell County High School, Scott's teams earned 55 wins and three conference championships with a 24-5 record, while running up championship another year.

Scott served as assistant and tight end coach for the University of Wyoming in 1990-1992 under former head football coach and Bbil alumna Paul Prep. Scott played at the University of Idaho (1982-1985) where he earned a degree in health and physical education. He also earned a master’s degree in professional education and athletic administra- tion under a grant in counselling from the University of North Dakota in 1985. He also completed the graduate work at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyo.

Originally from Kemmerer, Wyo., Scott returned to his hometown as assistant coach and athletic director, leading the team to two consecutive NCAA Division II championships in 1993 and 1994 and compiled a 24-5 record. In 1993, Scott was named the national coach of the year for Wyoming and served as the Wyoming Shrine Bowl All-Star High School Football Coach in 1999 and 2000.

Scott will lead Lady Jackets

Mark Nore, a former defensive standout for the Yellow Jackets who served as interim coach for the BHSU women's basketball team, is the new head women's basketball coach. Nore takes the place of Kevin Dobbs who resigned in November 2002.

"The Black Hills State community is delighted to welcome Mark Nore to Spearfish. He is an individual who exemplifies so many of the great things about the campus and about the athletic program,” said BHSU President Thomas Flickema.

Nore brings with him a wealth of experience. From 1993-1997 he played basket- ball at BHSU under former Coach Mike Olson, helping the team record 77 wins and earn two trips to the national tournament.

Nore is eager to work with the cam- eras and editing equipment and hopefully earn the privilege of doing her own interview with an athlete, an honor Brown was awarded at the end of his internship.

Underwood is, of course, excited at the opportunity she has with this intern- ship to discover firsthand if sports broadcasting is what she wants to do for a career. Her history as a child gymnast and adult runner makes those her favorite sports, but she is interested in all sports. Surprisingly, if she could inter- view anybody in the world, her first pick would not be an athlete but a television personality. Underwood would choose Lezza Calabrese, whom she has always admired.

"I like to see successful women who are awesome at what they do,” she said. "My mom taught me that.” Underwood is well along the path of becoming just that type of woman.
Fidler Alumni Magazine
Black Hills State University

The BHSU Alumni Association will honor four individuals for their service and achievements during an awards breakfast Saturday, Oct. 4, at 8:30 a.m., in the David B. Miller Yellow Jacket Student Union Jacket Legacy Room.

Individuals being recognized are Beth (Gallity) Finaly opened the prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award; John Fidler, Palm Dale, Calif., Special Achievement Award; Linda (Morris) McKay, Belle Fourche, Excellence in Education Award; and Jim Benning, Spearfish, Special Service Award.

Beth Benning, a 1973 summa cum laude graduate with a degree in business administration, was recently named 2003 South Dakota Financial Aid Director of the Year. In 1973 Beth became the assistant finance officer for the city of Spearfish and was promoted to municipal finance officer in 1979. She has served as District 10 chairman and president for the South Dakota Municipal League, as a member of the Governor’s Tax Advisory Commission, and received the Excellence in Municipal Government Award in 1997.

Beth’s other honors include being selected Community Woman of Achievement by Business and Professional Women, receiving the BHSU Outstanding Alumni Award for the business division and the Spirit of Spearfish Award in 1989, and being named one of the Argus Leader’s “Leaders of Tomorrow.”

Beth is a member of many community organizations. She also remained involved with her alma mater as a member of the BHSU Foundation Board of Directors and as a member and past president of the BHSU Alumni Association. She and her husband, Jim, have four children.

John Fidler, a former hospital administrator who now serves as a senior consultant for M.L. Schwartz and Associates, says BHSU was the right choice to prepare him for success throughout his career in the healthcare field.

Lindy Kennedy, a 1955 graduate with a degree in chemistry, began his career in track and field during his college career at BHSU. An almost unheard of achievement, he earned 11 letters in three different sports. In football, Tom played defensive end, tight end and offensive tackle during his junior and senior years. He was honorably mention all-American in 1979. Career highs for Kevin were 61 hits and 58 RBIs in one season, and he held for a while the career home run record at BHSU with 19. In 1980 he became the first winner of the Cliff Papik Scholarship.

Kevin Nowotny, Class of ‘80, Adrian, Minn.; Jylann (Soulek-Barham) Ewer, Class of ‘92, Olivet; and Tom Olson, Class of ‘81, Norfolk, Neb. Dave Little, Spearfish, will be inducted as a contributor.

John received his degree in chemistry from BHSU in 1960. A four-year letterman in football and all-conference center and mid- dle linebacker who was active in Science Club, Phi Mu Beta, and choir, John was named “Joe College 1959” by BHSU faculty, and was one of 13 seniors selected for “Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities.”

Throughout his career as CEO of several major hospitals in California and Missouri, John has been a healthcare leader with expertise in developing new services, resulting in increased market share, higher profits, improved productivity and quality.

Linda McKay, a 1966 graduate with a degree in business education who was recently named Belle Fourche Teacher of the Year and South Dakota Teacher of the Year, is the recipient of the excellence in education award.

Linda taught in Idaho and Oregon before returning to South Dakota, where she has held various teaching positions in the Lead-Deadwood, Meade, and Belle Fourche school districts. Since 1989 she has worked for the Belle Fourche School District, where she teaches business and computers to high school students. She is also involved in career preparation and the school-to-career program and serves as business department chairperson.

Linda has received the South Dakota State Director’s Award for Innovation and Excellence, from the Office of Adult, Vocational, and Technical Education and is a member of Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

Jim Benning, owner and manager of Ainsworth-Benning in Spearfish, will receive the special service award. After managing the commercial side of Ainsworth Builders, Jim purchased the company in 1974. Today the business has approximately $15 million a year in gross sales and provides employment for 65 to 130 people, including many BHSU students, through its multi-state operations.

Ainsworth-Benning has worked on many prominent projects including Lookout Memorial Hospital, the Spearfish Convention Center, and the Complex Fine Arts Theater in Gillette, Wyo. Their work also includes the BHSU Student Union and current landscaping projects.

Jim, as well as many of his employees, is an active supporter of BHSU.

“Jim Benning and his crew have been incredibly supportive of Black Hills State,” said Steve Meeker, vice president for institutional advancement. “Jim works with us each year to construct a parade float, pulls the float in the parade and even provides a trailer for our use.”

Recently Jim purchased a restored pickup with a flatbed for the sole purpose of letting the alumni association use it for their float. He donated the labor to install the new flag-pole at Lyle Hare Stadium as well as the labor to renovate the Institutional Advancement Office.

During the 70s and early 80s his prominence at Myles Kennedy was known to provide watermelon to the football team and spaghetti and lasagna feeds to the volleyball and cross country teams. He is known as the “true man” as he often cooks the barbeque at the pre-game tailgate parties for home football games.

Myles Kennedy has been president of the Yellow Jacket Foundation and Green and Gold Booster Club since 1999. Since then the club has raised over three quarters of a million dollars for athletic scholarships at BHSU under Myles’ leadership. Scholarships to students have nearly doubled in this short period of time.

Myles has purchased chairs for the cross country and volleyball teams, travel bags for the basketball teams and has been known to provide watermelon to the football team and spaghetti and lasagna feeds to the volleyball and cross country teams.

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Home of Hall of Fame inductees named

T

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Update alumni news

Name ____________________________
Graduation year _______ Major  _____________________
Spouse's name____________________________ A BHSU graduate? ____________
Address ________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone __________________________________________________________________

Employment ______________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Note or news items ________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Send to: BHSU Alumni Magazine, Unit 9506, 1200 University, Spearfish, SD  57799-9506
or submit news items online at www.bhsu.edu/alumni.

Please help us find lost alumni

Check out the lost alumni list at www.bhsu.edu/alumni.
If you or someone you know is on the list, please let us know where they are so we can update the list.

Looking ahead

Swarm Week Homecoming Activities
Sept. 29 - Oct. 4
Swarm Week activities include honoring distinguished alumni, inducting new Hall of Fame members, the annual parade and football game. This year there will be two special reunions during Swarm Week, the Dale Hardy Reunion and the Cheerleader/Dance Team Reunion. Tours of the Clare and Josef Meier Hall will also be available. See complete schedule on page 30.

2003 Annual Alumni Art Show
Sept. 29 – Oct. 22
Alumni artwork will be featured at the Ruddell Gallery. For information contact Shannon Alcorn at 642-6385.

Stadium Sports Grill Second Annual Roundball Reunion
Oct. 24 & 25
The weekend begins with a social reception Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Stadium Sports Grill. Men’s and women’s alumni basketball games will start at 6 and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25. Following the men’s game, there will be a post-game reception at the Stadium Sports Grill. Money raised during the weekend will support the basketball endowments. Former men’s and women’s basketball players should contact Terri Wells at 642-6446 or by email at TerriWells@bhsu.edu.

50-year Reunion
May 7 & 8, 2004
Class of 1954 50th Reunion during commencement weekend

Yellow Jacket Golf and Auction
July 10, 2004
Spearfish Canyon Country Club

BHSU events
See www.bhsu.edu then choose Campus Calendar for a complete list of campus activities.
For athletic competition information see www.bhsu.edu/athletics.

Cheers!
Former BHSU cheerleaders and dance team members will hold a reunion as a part of the Swarm Week festivities this year. These 1970 cheerleaders are Betty (Frei) Fahey, Class of ’72, physical education major; Jan (Jones) major; Sherry (Hicks) Hirsch, Class of ’71, speech major; Jan (Jones) major; Mardell Catron, Class of ’72, elementary and special education major; Mardell Catron, Class of ’72, elementary and special education major; Lorinda (McCright) Olson, Class of ’70, physical education; Lorinda (Vinburg) Allmendinger, Class of ’72, elementary education major.
The beauty of the Black Hills, unmatched in any season, is a cherished memory of many BHSU alumni. Bob Albert, echoed the sentiments of many others, as he said, “The Black Hills is a special place and will always be home to us.”