Penton lands career in energy exploration

Also in this issue
- Schopen revolutionizes Buddhist history
- Robinson hits the jackpot in casino management
- Swarm week updates
- Classnotes
- Alumni gatherings photos

Black Hills State University
1200 University Unit 9506
Spearfish, SD 57799-9506
Flickema presents Spirit of BH award

Dr. Thomas Flickema, president of Black Hills State University, presents Megan Wyett with the Spirit of BH award to honor her leadership in a number of student organizations and her participation in volunteer activities throughout the community.

Wyett has been actively involved in a variety of student organizations since she first came to campus as a freshman in the fall of 2001. She is currently president of the Student Senate, a past president and member of the BHSU Student Ambassadors, and vice-president of the University Programming Team. She has co-chaired and chaired the annual Swarm Days homecoming week committee, was elected vice-president of awards for the BHSU Reading Council, is currently serving as the president of Chi Theta Xi Sorority and is a member of the search and screen committee for retention. She has also volunteered as a New Student Days group leader and as a student athletic trainer.

The Spirit of BH award is given annually by the BHSU Alumni Association to honor a student who has made significant contributions that reflect favorably on the university and larger community.

Dr. Thomas O. Flickema
BHSU President

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BHSU Alumni Magazine

Fall 2005

The Alumni Magazine is published twice a year by the Black Hills State University Alumni Association. 13,910 copies were printed at a cost of 48.7 cents each.

Send address corrections and alumni news to: BHSU, 1200 University, Unit 9506, Spearfish, SD 57799-9506 or call 605-642-6446. Your comments are welcome. Please email alumni@bhsu.edu.
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The three Cs

T
im says he can trace his success in life to his parents, who both chal-
enged him to reach out and do whatever he was interested in. “My parents let me believe that I could be whatever I wanted to be. That was the biggest catalyst for me. They gave me the confidence I needed,” Tim says. Now, as a parent, Tim tries to instill that confidence in his own children. He recently had the honor of speaking to his daughter’s gradu-
ating high school class. In his address, he outlined the importance and value of three key attributes: commitment, caring, and confidence. Tim’s philosophy on living and learning is based on these attributes, or what could be termed the three Cs.

Confidence

Tim knows the confidence his parents instilled in him was empowering through-
out his education and career. He encour-
ages young people to “set goals you can’t achieve because otherwise you won’t know what you can do.” He also reminds students of all ages that “it’s up to you to have the confidence to demonstrate leadership.”

Caring

Tim points out the importance of caring with the simple example of asking if the stu-
dents remembered who won medals or awards in sports 10 years ago. Then he asked the students to think about who has been instrumental in caring about them. Tim says it’s those people and the memo-
ries you have of these people that matter most in your life.

Commitment

Tim praises the unparalleled commit-
tment of teachers he’s known and worked with throughout the years. He also advises that if you can’t demonstrate 100 percent commitment to what you are doing, go find something else to do.

Energy businessman

Education advocate

Family man

Tim Penton

Waiting a year to begin college turned out to be a good decision for Tim because the following year, Gene Schlekey, who was then head football coach at BHSU, called and asked Tim and a high school teammate to join the Yellow Jacket football team. Tim remem-
bers that call from the football coach and considers it a pivotal point that offered him a positive direction in his life. “That was a very fortunate call. I was just finishing up a job, and at the time, I thought it sounded better than any other options I had,” Tim says. While at BHSU, Tim also participated with the rodeo club and as a member of the track team.

Tim remembers many instrumental and influential professors at BHSU, but one, Fred Heidrich, stands out in particu-
lar. Tim remembers that Heidrich, who recently retired as a business administrator, would begin each class with the statement that if at the end of the class the students hadn’t learned anything, they should let the professors know “because I’m not going to teach you that way.”

“He held himself accountable for what we learned in the classroom. No one ever stood forward with that complaint in any of my classes,” Tim says.

Tim feels that the education he received at BHSU was excellent. Early in his career, just out of college, Tim applied with the fourth-largest energy company in the nation and was successful in being chosen for the job. “I was competing with applicants from Harvard, Dartmouth, and others like that. The key is how well the school teaches you to develop yourself afterward by implant-
ing the ability to learn,” Tim says. “If you think you’ve done with education when you’re through with college, you’re not going to succeed. You continue to learn all of your life.”

Living in Venezuela, Tim Penton’s interest in world politics has been a high school student, Tim Penton, Class of ’88, began work-
ing in the oil fields near his home-
town of Casper, Wyo. That was the begin-
inning of what would become a long and successful energy career that has included assignments in the western part of the U.S. as well as in some international locations. Tim oversaw the Venezuela, South America, operations.

Energy has been Tim’s business; how-
ever, he has maintained a strong interest and an active role in education, an occupa-
tion he once considered in college. Even as Tim continues to rise in the international energy field, he has stayed active in educa-
tion on many levels.

When Tim graduated from high school in the fall of 1974, he was in no hurry to begin college. “I decided to take a year off and explore the world,” Tim says. As it turned out, Tim did get the opportunity to explore the world but not until after he completed a business degree from BHSU and began working in the oil industry once again.

On the cover Tim Penton catches a nice peacock bass at his favorite get-away in Venezuela.
Gregory Schopen, a leading scholar of Indian Buddhism, works in Royce Hall on the UCLA campus. Modeled after Milan, Italy’s, San Ambrogio Church, which was constructed in the tenth and eleventh centuries, the structure was built in 1929 as one of the first campus buildings and its profile is incorporated into the UCLA logo. Its unique Romanesque architecture prompted the California State Historic Preservation Office to select it for restoration to its original design. The building has been used by film studios for exterior shots in several movies.

Gregory Schopen, a leading scholar of Indian Buddhism and department chair of Asian Languages & Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), describes Buddhism from an archaeological and art-historical perspective. Gregory earned a master’s degree in Religious Studies at McMaster University in Ontario and a Ph.D. in South Asian and Buddhist Studies at Australian National University. After earning these degrees, his first job was as a night watchman at a sawmill in Newcastle, Wyo. Although Gregory said he enjoyed this job and it allowed his young family to be closer to relatives, he could not pass up an opportunity to do post-doctoral work in Japan at the International University of Japan. Gregory later worked at Black Hills State University and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. That was the first of many stops around the world as he began a career of research and teaching.

For the next 20 years, Gregory enjoyed his nomadic life of teaching around the world at universities in Europe, Japan, New Zealand and the United States. However, in 1999, he decided to settle down. At that time, both Stanford University and UCLA were recruiting him. Gregory found that the diversity at the public institution of UCLA suited him. He and his wife, who is a researcher in biology at UCLA, have also discovered they like the diversity of Los Angeles itself.

“We both came to Los Angeles prepared to thoroughly dislike it, but we’ve settled into a neighborhood close to the campus and enjoy being part of this diverse community that offers great weather and everything we need within walking distance,” Gregory says.

Gregory enjoys teaching both undergraduate and graduate students, and in fact, one of the conditions of his accepting his current position at UCLA was that he could continue to teach undergraduates.

“Teaching undergraduates gives me a fresh perspective in my teaching," Gregory says. "I decided I would spend a year at each place and then decide where I wanted to stay.”

“However,” Gregory said, “I think it’s because no one else wanted to be chair.”

While Gregory may be understanding his abilities, others certainly had confidence in his abilities and accomplishments as evidenced by the fact that he received the MacArthur Fellowship Award in 1985. This grant, which provided more than $600,000 over a five-year period, allowed him to pursue research of any kind. To this day, Gregory does not know who nominated him or why he was chosen for this prestigious fellowship.

“It’s an amazing grant with five years of support with no strings attached. Its intentions are to free people to pursue whatever creative interests they want. I did end up teaching for the time because I love teaching and it gave me an anchor to the real world,” Gregory said.

Reflecting on the course of his life, Gregory said, “I had no idea that I would end up teaching Asian religions. It was the furthest thing from my mind, but I’ve always followed what interested me, which is what my parents encouraged me to do. The best part of it is that I paid well to do something I enjoy.”

Gregory Schopen's study revolutionizes Buddhist history

As a young boy growing up in Deadwood, Gregory Schopen, Class of '70, would often visit the local museum and was fascinated by the Asian artifacts. He also explored Mt. Moriah cemetery, located just above his family home, and remembers wondering what the Chinese inscriptions on the tombstones meant.

Now a leading scholar of Indian Buddhism and department chair of Asian Languages & Cultures at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Gregory has spent his adult life studying a culture that piqued his interest as a child. The simple wonderment of his childhood has evolved into a life of research, worldwide travel and teaching about Asian religions.

Gregory is an historian of Buddhism who has written numerous articles and books on the subject. A 2004 article published in the Taipei Times describes Gregory as a specialist in a very restricted academic world of Indian Buddhist studies and credits him as having revolutionized the study of Indian Buddhism.

Because Gregory studies Buddhism from an archaeological and art-historical perspective as well as studying sacred texts, his research has revealed a detailed picture of early Indian tradition that is far different from previously held beliefs. He says that archaeologists find that archaeological findings paint a different picture than the texts do, and he suggests that the art and architecture are more realistic while the texts probably reflect an ideal to live up to rather than actual historical practices. His work overturned the field's long-held beliefs that monks and nuns were free of material possessions and had little or no contact with money. Gregory's writings report that archeological findings of donation records as well as evidence that monks actually minted coins show that monks and nuns were actually active business people.

In high school Gregory was formally introduced to Asia through a World Civilizations class taught by Dorothy (Dottie) Williams, also a BHSU graduate, Class of '58. He notes that Williams’ positive influence led him to what has become a lifetime of learning about cultures around the world.

“She encouraged her students to better their lives by learning more about the world,” Gregory said. “She promoted the notion that the more you know about the world in which you live, the better off you are.”

At BH, Gregory majored in English literature because there was not a major in Asia or religions.

“At the time, I was already interested in Asia and religions, but there was not a degree offered in that area, so I chose to major in English. I did take every history course I could and remember Sever Eubank who was an excellent professor. I was also able to take a World Religions course taught by Dr. Jonas. At the time, I had to make an appointment with him to get permission to take this class as a freshman,” Gregory said.

After graduating from BH, Gregory earned a master’s degree in Religious Studies at McMaster University in Ontario and a Ph.D. in South Asian and Buddhist Studies at Australian National University. After earning these degrees, his first job was as a night watchman at a sawmill in Newcastle, Wyo. Although Gregory said he enjoyed this job and it allowed his young family to be closer to relatives, he could not pass up an opportunity to do post-doctoral work in Japan at the International University of Japan. Gregory later worked at Black Hills State University and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. That was the first of many stops around the world as he began a career of research and teaching.

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Ryan Robinson, Class of ’93, who now is chief financial officer at Pechanga Resort and Casino in southern California, knows what it takes to be successful. He says motivation is the key, and his advice to aspiring business people is to stay motivated and be open to change.

Ryan, who was recruited for his current position while working in a similar position as controller at the First Gold Hotel and Casino in Deadwood, feels that his experience at a smaller casino combined with the knowledge gained from earning a college degree prepared him for his current position.

“Because I was involved in a small operation, I learned about nearly every aspect of the business,” Ryan says. He now incorporates that knowledge and experience every day as he oversees the financial department at Pechanga.

Although Ryan says he learned much of his job on the job, he knows he would never have had the opportunity to go into the career without a college diploma.

“It may be just a piece of paper, but that piece of paper got me into the job,” Ryan says.

Ryan earned an accounting degree from BHSU and graduated with honors. He said when he began school, he didn’t really have a long-term plan.

“I don’t think there was a method to my madness then,” he laughs. He was serious about his classes and was considering a career as a certified public accountant someday. Looking back he knows that earning a college degree helped him hone some valuable reasoning skills that would become vital to his success in the business world.

“You learn to be analytical and to write properly. I learned how to read into information, how to interpret information,” Ryan says.

As with nearly every business person, Ryan continues to face difficulties in the industry and relies on his experience and knowledge to overcome obstacles.

“I like to think of problems as challenges to overcome,” Ryan said. “There are many big challenges with big casinos.”

Ryan noted that Pechanga Resort and Casino is on the cutting edge of many new technologies and that other people in the industry look to them to see what the trends are in the business.

“We were completely revolutionizing the industry with new innovative technology. It’s very exciting,” Ryan says. He notes that Pechanga serves as a beta site for new technology and is testing many ideas that have the potential to change the face of gaming.

“We are the first casino of our size to be completely coinless,” Ryan says. “It’s pretty amazing stuff!”

Pechanga, which is the largest casino in California, employs more than 4,500 people. Through experience Ryan has found that, perhaps, the most important aspect of running a business is having the right people on your staff.

Ryan says his success, and for that matter, the success of any business person, is dependent on having good people on your team. With more than 500 people in his department, Ryan knows the importance of choosing and promoting the right people.

“No matter how knowledgeable or innovative you are, your success depends on the quality of the people working for you. If you don’t have the right people working for you, it’s not going to work,” Ryan says. “It’s because of the people that you become successful.”

Ryan continues to recruit employees from the Midwest area and notes that another BHSU graduate, Tom Trump, Class of ’93, also works at the casino.

He encourages all business people to look to the future and be ready to speak up for their ideas.

“Change is a good thing. Don’t be afraid to step up and voice your ideas and opinions. Your concepts can change how the business is run,” Ryan says.

Since relocating to southern California, Ryan has learned to love the climate and recreational opportunities afforded by his location in what has been dubbed “the tourists’ secret paradise,” is just 20 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and in the midst of California wine country. Ryan loves the area and has learned to sail and also spends some time golfing.

“Snow, sand and water, all within an hour,” Ryan says of what is his ideal location. “It’s an hour from the beach, the mountains and the desert.”

“I’ve sacrificed a lot. Eighty-hour work weeks are common. I don’t have weekends or holidays,” Ryan says. “I work hard and have been very motivated to get to where I am.”

While Ryan enjoys the challenges in his career, the long hours and constant demands have him eyeing early retirement so he can be “sitting on the beach in Mexico before long.” Recently, he has developed an interest in the legal aspects of the business and said he may consider attending law school in the future.
Alumni News

Kudos & Announcements

The 60s
Lowell Amiote, Class of ’65, Rapid City, is the director for the Center for American Indian Studies at BHSU. He held this position earlier in his career, and after gaining a wealth of experience across the state, he returned to BHSU.

Lawrence Lavin, attended ’65-75, Spearfish, survived an accident in 1970 in which over 87 percent of his body was burned. He now talks to people about his burn experience and fire safety. He has spoken to over 680,000 people, including nearly 400,000 kids from kindergartens through 12th grade.

Bill Long, Class of ’65, Newberry, S.C., was named the ’2005 Professor of the Year’ at Newberry College for his dedication to the students and his ability to inspire future leaders. He previously received this award in 2002.

Alumni Association holds second annual Native American gathering

The second annual Native American alumni gathering was held this spring in conjunction with the Lakota Omniclue powwow. Attendees were: back row, left to right, Walt Swan, Class of ’80, Rapid City, William McCloskey, Class of ’71, Mission, right, and Bob McCloskey, Class of ’71, Mission, right, and Clinton Spotted Bull, Class of ’80, Ogalla. Lowell Amiote, Class of ’64, Rapid City, Calvin Jumping Bull, Class of ’80, Ogalla, with his daughter, Jennifer, Class of ’83. St. Francis: Albert White Hat, attended ’74-83, St. Francis: Albert White Hat, attended ’74-83, and Charles Grignon, Class of ’87, St. Francis: Charles Grignon, Class of ’87. Both Albert White Hat and Charles Grignon were recently appointed co-chairman of the Black Hills Service Task Force, which helps enhance airline service, increase demand and reduce passenger fares into Rapid City Regional Airport.

The 70s
Michael Beng, Class of ’72, Grand Forks, N.D., has been coaching for 33 years, the last 26 of which he has spent as the head football coach for Grand Forks Central. He is second in longevity among Class AAAA coaches in North Dakota. Central has gone to the state playoffs 15 of the last 17 years and was the runner-up in both the 1996 and 2004 N.D. State Class AAAA Championships.

Charita Brunner, Class of ’79, Edgemont, served as the deputy county auditor for Butte County in Belle Fourche from 2000-03. She NOW serves as clerk/treasurer for the City of Newcastle, Wyo.

Pete Cappa, Class of ’74, Rapid City, and Kurt Cappa, right, were recently appointed co-chairman of the Black Hills Service Task Force, which helps enhance airline service, increase demand and reduce passenger fares into Rapid City Regional Airport.

Donald Erdahl, Class of ’71, Sioux Falls, has retired after a long career in education. He was a teacher, high school principal, and superintendent in Minnesota before moving to San Diego, where he was a college teacher in the Mineral County School System.

Michael Haug, Class of ’71, Casper, Wyoming, retired from the S.D. Humanities Council in 2001 after 25 years of service—the last six of which he served as executive director. In 2002, he was hired as an adjunct instructor in the Mineral County School System. He now serves as clerk/treasurer for the City of Newcastle, Wyo.

Priscilla Romkema, Class of ’79, Spearfish, associate professor at BHSU, is serving as president-elect of the National Association for Business Teacher Education (NABTE) Board of 2005-07. The following term, 2007-09, she will assume the role of NABTE president. In April, Priscilla and her husband, Fred, competed in the 109th Boston Marathon.

Kudos & Announcements

BHSU will no longer maintain credential files for graduates

Recent changes in the credential file system at BHSU, have made old paper copies of credential files obsolete as the Career Center at BHSU will be following out all of those files.

If you have questions, call the Career Center at 605-642-6277.
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Kudos & Announcements

Former DJs meet at KBHU reunion

KBHU, Black Hills State University's student-run radio station, hosted a reunion this spring for current and former disc jockeys and staff members. The two-day event included tours of the radio station, a banquet and an all-day music festival at the city park. Cody Oliver, current BHSU student and general manager of KBHU, said more than 50 people attended the banquet and many more attended the music festival. Buzzfest.

Former students and instructors who returned to BHSU for the 30th anniversary celebration included: front row, left to right, Art Propter, ceremony chairman, Spearfish; Andrew Ward, Class of '91, Rapid City; Dan Reisch, Spearfish; Towray, communications faculty member; and Jennifer Walker, Class of '93, Belle Fourche. Jimmy Cypher, Class of '78, Webster City, Iowa; Jennifer Walker, Class of '93, Belle Fourche; Kevin Schubert, Class of '97, Spearfish; and Dave Thum, Class of '86, '98, Rapid City; Tom Weston, Class of '87, Spearfish; and Dave Thum, Class of '86, '98. They all returned to KBHU.

For more information about KBHU visit <bhsu.edu/studentlife/organizations/kbhu>.

Kerry Roll, Class of '83, Belle Fourche, was inducted into the 2005 Spearfish High School Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the BHSU Athletic Hall of Fame. Kerry works as a guidance counselor at Spearfish Middle School.

Allen Benoist, Class of '84, Eagle Butte, just completed his 20th year of coaching boy's basketball. In honor of this, he received a 20-year coaching award from the South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association. Allen coached three years at Crazy Horse High School in Wambee and has spent the last 17 years as an assistant and head coach at Cheyenne Eagle Butte High School.

Bill Cisell, Class of '80, Sturgis, was recently named editor of the Meade County Times- Tribune and the Black Hills Press when Lee Enterprises purchased the two Sturgis newspapers and several other Northern Hills newspapers.

Cari Frasier, Class of '92, Sturgis, was one of three teachers named 2005 Teacher of the Year for the Meade 46-1 School District, where she teaches second grade at Sturgis Elementary.

Carole Gore, Class of '80, Stone Mountain, Ga., recently joined Gonzaga Business School at Emory University in Atlanta as editor in the organization and management area. She is also the author of two books and recently sold her first free-lance piece to a national magazine.

Tom Tolo, Class of '86, Sioux Falls, graduated from the University of Sioux Falls in December 2004 with a bachelor of arts in English. He and his wife, Desiree, have one daughter, Allison (3).

Linda Van Pett, Class of '87, Council Bluffs, Iowa, recently graduated from Bellevue University with a bachelor of science in human resource management. She is the human resource manager for The Home Depot.

Ethan Dschak, Class of '97, Spearfish, has been named the new Sturgis Scoopers boy's basketball head coach for the 2005-06 school year. He is also the assistant principal at Sturgis William Middle School. Prior to that, he was the head boy's basketball coach at Belle Fourche.

William (Bill) Hoffman, Class of '67, Aberdeen, was hired as the commercial short-fed department manager for Midstates Printing, Inc. Quality Quick Print. He brings more than five years of management experience to the company.

Melanie Hurley, Class of '99, Rapid City, received the 10th annual Teacher of the Year Award from the Rapid City Public School Foundation. She is a Knollwood Elementary literacy teacher. She is also pursuing her master's degree in reading leadership.

Hewitt receives Young Alumni Award

Dr. Thomas Flickema, president of Black Hills State University, presents the Young Alumni Achievement Award to Stephanie Hewitt. She is a 1995 BHSU graduate who now has her own law firm. Hewitt, who attended BHSU on a volleyball scholarship, earned a business administration degree from BHSU and went on to earn a law degree. While at BHSU, Hewitt was involved in various organizations including the student senate and student ambassadors. She is also remembered for her volleyball accomplishments, including once serving seven aces in one match.

After working in the public defender’s office in Casper, Wyo., Hewitt began doing contract legal work for various law firms and for the government. She later accepted a position at the public defender’s office in Greeley, Colo.

“This was her return to doing the type of legal work that I love, criminal defense,” Hewitt says. Since then she has established her own law practice in which she specializes in criminal defense.

The BHSU Alumni Association annually presents this award to honor alumni who have distinguished themselves with outstanding achievements, contributions and service to society, the community and Black Hills State University.

Anti-Tobacco Advertisements. She was also honored with the kappa Tau Alpha research award at the conference.

Jason Steinek, attended '94-96, Evergreen, Colo., recently authored Upload Experience: Quartile Solutions, which is based in, on his uncertainty after graduating from college. Jason also hosts his own radio and TV talk show, The Stimie Show, and is the director of Health and Harmony Chiropractic and Wellness Center.
Viva Las Vegas

A group of BHSU alumni gathered in Las Vegas this spring. Attendees included, back row, left to right, Chris Eastman, Class of ‘85, Las Vegas, Nev.; Dan and Carol Hall, Class of ‘00, Rapid City; and Eric Petro, Class of ‘01, Rapid City. Front row, left to right, Steven Schiebel, Class of ’64, Las Vegas, Nev.; Leonard Petoske, Class of ’72, Las Vegas, Nev.; Tim Christofferson, Class of ’03, Rapid City, married Jason Nardi April 1, 2005. Sean is a production director for KEVN Fox 7. The couple lives in Rapid City.

The 90s

Richard Cross, Class of ’97, was named one of three Teachers of the Year for 2005 in the Meade 46 School District. She teaches third grade at Whitewood School.

Wendy Jarvis, Class of ’03, Powell, Wyo., has been accepted into the graduate program at Iowa State University, where she will pursue a master’s degree in family and consumer sciences. She is employed as an ESE teacher at the Children’s Resource Center.

Tricia McCubbb McCleary, Class of ’00, is living in Germany until May 2007 with her husband, Clyde, who is in the military. They have two young daughters. After graduating from BHSU, Tricia attended school for nursing and graduated in 2002. Before moving overseas, she worked in the mother/baby unit at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Wash.

Nicole Smith, Class of ’02, and Ryan Ogan, Class of ’03, are living in Pierre, where Nicole works for the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and is involved in the new Made in South Dakota program (www.madein-southdakota.com). Ryan is employed with the South Dakota Board of Regents Information Systems.

Ryan Ryth, Class of ’10, Scottsdale, Ariz., began at High Tech Institute as a Student Services advisor. In less than a year, he was promoted to director of Student Services with a staff of four advisors who oversee more than 850 students. Ryan is responsible for all operations of the Student Services Department.

Melissa Sandy, Class of ’04, Rapid City, has been named to the National Dean’s List. Only one percent of college graduates are nominated for this award. She is the K-3 production leader teacher at Canyon Lake Elementary School and plans to pursue a master’s degree in curriculum this fall.

Hunter Schurrer, Class of ’04, Spearfish, was named an All-American 2005 Strength and Conditioning Athlete of the Year by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) for his achievements in the development of improved athletic performance through total conditioning. Hunter is pursuing a master’s degree in exercise science at the University of Virginia.

Natalie (Daffara- Larose), Class of ’13, and Paul Thoreson, Class of ’12, currently live in Lancaster, Wis., where Paul works for the University of Wisconsin Extension as a community resource development agent and an assistant professor in the Department of Community Natural Resources and Economic Development.

Former faculty

William Hughes, Class of ’68, Spearfish, was named the Knight of Columbus John F. Kennedy Knight of the Year at the South Dakota state Knights convention in May. This lifetime achievement award was presented to Hughes in recognition of his efforts and accomplishments as a Knight in the community.

Johnson rides the Rockies

Daryl Johnson, Class of ’68, Spearfish, achieved his goal of completing the 2005 Ride the Rockies bicycle tour this summer. The annual bicycle trek takes more than 2,000 cyclists on a week-long ride through Colorado’s Rocky Mountains including several challenging mountain passes. The ride, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, included participants from every state in the union and numerous foreign countries.

Engagements & Marriages

Richard Cross, Class of ’97, married Yanzi Liang, April 23, 2005, Richard is a facility operations manager for Green Tree Servicing. The couple resides in Rapid City.

Tim Christofferson, Class of ’98, Rapid City, married Tina Jimenez, attending, June 18, 2005. Tim is the retail advertising manager at the Rapid City Journal, and Tina is a classified ad taker at the Rapid City Journal.

Monica Dryden, Class of ’97, married Jason Nardi April 1, 2005. Monica is an employment specialist for the state of South Dakota. The couple lives in Rapid City.

Brandon Haslip, Class of ’96, Rapid City, married Mark Weisshaar May 28, 2005. She is an elementary teacher.

Chad Sayles, Class of ’98, Rapid City, married Shannan Barker June 6, 2005. Chad is employed by the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks.


The Tiitanie Barnett, Class of ’00, Rapid City, and Eric Petro were married April 23, 2005. She is a service receptionist at Accenture America.


Sean Bradley, Class of ’01, married Quinton Smith, Class of ’00, Rapid City, married June 24, 2004. They are a professional couple. The couple lives in Rapid City.

Shirley (Medeiros) Smith, Class of ’04, married David Enriquez, June 5, 2005. She is a claims representative for the Social Security Administration.

Shelly Gibson, Class of ’02, married Andy Walsh, Class of ’03, married July 24, 2004. They are in Rapid City.

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Ontario. They will be married May 29, 2005. Nicole is an independent sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics. Michael is a Second Lieutenant in the Army National Guard. The couple lives in Rapid City.

Rebecca Wolfe, Class of 94, and Scott Linquist, Class of 98, Vermillion, were married July 26, 2005. Rebecca will attend the University of South Dakota (USD). Medical School, and Scott is pursuing a master’s degree at USD. He is also a computer specialist and helicopter pilot for the S.D. Army National Guard.

Jami Williams, Class of 115, Sturgis, and Chad Anderson were married July 9, 2005. Jami received her teaching degree this spring.

Jill Winters, Class of 94, McLaughlin, and James Pierce, were married July 8, 2005. Jill is a fourth-grade teacher with the McLaughlin Public School System.

Walt Dansby Jr., Class of 79, 99, and 04, Rapid City, and his wife, Tiffany, had a son, Caryn Walker, June 26, 2003. He joins three brothers and three sisters. Walt was recently promoted to teacher at Minga Job Corps in Puxico, Mo.

Mary (Stransky), Class of 79, and Ray Wilson, Class of 86, Lincoln, Neb., adopted a baby girl, Teresa.

Marie, Born May 21, 2005, Teresa weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20½” long. Teresa joins her brother, John Paul. Roy is the president of infrareds for Landscapes Unlimited.

Leona White Hat, shown receiving her BHSU diploma in 2002, was recently chosen to serve a five-year term on the national board for the Corporation for National and Community Service. Leona currently teaches English at the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, N.D. Leona was nominated for the position by the Senate. She is George W. Bush and approved by the Senate. According to their father, the children all had the mindset of going to college and BHSU was a natural choice.

The siblings, Bob Julius, Class of 80, Gillette, Wyo.; Gogie (Julius) Enstad, Class of 86, Rapid City; Tona (Julius) Tribby, Class of 81, Rapid City; and John Julius, Class of 88, Rapid City, all chose to attend BHSU, the alma mater of their father.

Bob Julius, who earned a business administration degree in 1980, is currently a foreman with the Burlington Northern Railroad in Gillette, Wyo.

John Julius, Class of ’88, earned a degree in physical science and is now the assistant principal at Stevens High School in Rapid City.

Tona (Julius) Tribby, Class of ’81, earned an elementary education degree and is now a literacy teacher at Robinsdale School for the Upward Bound Program and served as an English tutor at BHSU.

The children of Robert Julius (back right) all earned degrees from Black Hills State University. Pictures are (front), front, left to right, Tona, Gogie and Sherry.

Following in their father’s footsteps

G raduation day at Black Hills State University is a family tradition for the Julius family. Robert Julius, Class of ’86 and ’70, has a family of BHSU graduates. All of his children have earned degrees at BHSU.

The siblings, Bob Julius, Class of ’80, Gillette, Wyo.; Gogie (Julius) Enstad, Class of ’86, Rapid City; Tona (Julius) Tribby, Class of ’81, Rapid City; Sherry (Julius) Frease, Class of ’83, Rapid City, and John Julius, Class of ’88, Rapid City, all chose to attend BHSU, the alma mater of their father.

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Their father Robert came to BHSU after serving in the armed forces. He relied on the GI Bill and a job at a local implement shop to finance his education. Robert earned a teaching degree in 1960 with a minor in speech. He later returned to earn a master’s degree in 1970. Robert, a longtime sportscaster who was named South Dakota Sportscaster of the Year in 2001 and again in 2003, says his minor in speech was the catalyst for his long and successful broadcasting career.

Robert began his sportscasting career at KDSJ in 1966. He later moved on to K9BH/K3KS in Sturgis where he remained for 27 years. Recently, Robert has broadcast games for K9BS in Belle Fourche. In all, Robert estimates he has broadcast more than 1,400 high school games, some of which were played at BHSU. He has received many awards throughout this broadcasting career, including the Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota High School Activities Association. His wife, Bernice, who is the mother of the five graduates, has a degree from Auburn University in Alabama, and is now the dietary manager for the Sturgis Community Health Care Center.

Engagements & Marriages

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Ruth worked in the Registrar’s Office at BHSU. She also worked for the Spearfish Soil Conservation Office and operated the store and campground at Iron Creek Lake. Ruth (Moore) Sleep, Spearfish, died March 15, 2005. She was born Jan. 16, 1925, in Rapid City, S.D., a daughter of Elmer and Mary (Ham) Moore. She married William Sleep on June 11, 1949, in Rapid City. They had two children, Mark and Janice. She was active in the First United Methodist Church in Spearfish and was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at Sanford Health. She was also a member of the Sertoma Club and the Red Cross. She enjoyed reading and gardening. She is survived by her husband, William; her brother, Gene Moore; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Shirley Kalt; and her brother, John Moore. Services were held on March 18, 2005, at the First United Methodist Church in Spearfish. The Rev. Donald B. Raines officiated. Burial was in Spearfish Cemetery.

Lindauer was actively involved in community and area service. At BHSU, he coordinated the athletic booster club, the Green and Gold Club, and was active in the alumni association. In the fall of 1989, he organized the “New Green and Gold Campaign” in the later year for his contributions and leadership. He was elected to the board of directors of the “Year for Your Contributions and Leadership.” He was a member of the BHSU Alumni Association as president. He was a great candidate for the BHSU Alumni Association of '67, served three separate terms, was Outstanding Alumnus in 1973, and served in the spring of 1975. He served in the spring of 1975. He served in the spring of 1975. He served in the spring of 1975. He served in the spring of 1975.

Calling all BHSU alumni

The Alumni Association relies on student callers to contact BHSU alumni for scholarship gifts. Because the federal government giving is essential for campuses to cover unmet tuition costs and other enhancements, universities are exempt from the BHSU Alumni Association.

Class of 2023?

Jacob Theodore, Jan. 12, 2005. He weighed 9 lbs. 3 oz. and was 22” long. Kim and her husband, Thomas, had a baby boy, Carter Thomas, Dec. 30, 2004. Carter joins big brother, Eade (4). Lori is a teacher at Sioux City Community School.

Lisa (Box) Hamilton, Class of ‘93, Ft. Collins, Colo., had a baby girl, Ireland Abigail, June 10, 2005. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20½” long. Iowa had her first child, a baby girl, July 4, 2004. Rebecca owns Scribbles N Giggles Daycare.

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Class of ‘55 meets for reunion

The Class of ‘55 wore caps and gowns and participated in the May 2005 commencement ceremony on campus. The group was also inducted into the 50-year club, which meets annually in Spearfish during May commencement. Attendees included: back row, left to right: Ida Holst, Dale Hejde, Belle Fourche; Lorne Rowland, Billings, Mont.; Steve Gomez, Pierre; Harold Baker, Rapid City; Feme Freiberg, Casper, Wyo.; Charlotte Boner, Casper, Wyo.; Everett Follette, Spearfish; Charles Swanson, Fremont, Calif.; front row, left to right: Forrest Left, Casper, Wyo.; Howard Owens, Spearfish; Ann Hejde, Belle Fourche; Jane Tanner, Casper, Wyo.; Jose San Nicolas, Hagatna, Guam; and Bev Carr, Spearfish.

Below left: Robert Lang, Class of ’53, entertained as a George Burns impersonator.

Bottom center: Jose San Nicolas, from Hagatna, Guam, participates in the magic show presented by Kirk Kokinos.

Charles and his wife, Betty Swanson, make some final touches before the commencement ceremony. Festivities included a banquet and inauguration into the 50-year club. Plans are being made for the Class of ’56 reunion next spring. For information contact Jodi at 642-6446.
Bellman honored for arts patronage

Black Hills State University recently hosted a reception to honor Dr. Wanda Bellman, emeritus professor, for her significant contributions to the university, especially in the area of the arts.

Dick Termes, Spearfish artist and Termesphere creator, described Bellman and her late husband, Stewart, as true patrons of the arts due to their lifelong willingness to support art endeavors for others to enjoy. Termes noted that many people purchase art for their own enjoyment, but the Bellmans, as true patrons of the arts, also purchased art to share with others. Jean Helmer, director of United Ministries at BHSU, said the Bellmans shared a love for mentoring artists. She said they believed that “art is to be enjoyed, performed, and made public — for art exists for and within a community.” Living according to that philosophy, Bellman recently donated “The Carousel,” a Termesphere from her private collection, to the BHSU Student Union. “The Carousel” is now hanging above the staircase in the Student Union. Others who spoke at the reception were: Steve Meeker, vice president of institutional advancement, Art Prosper, BHSU emeritus professor, and Jane Klug, director of the Student Union.

It adds up

Durgin endowment will provide funds for future students

A scholarship established by a former BHSU mathematics professor will provide funds for future students.

Max Durgin, Class of ’62, spent 37 years instructing BHSU students as he prepared them for careers that would help better their lives. Although Durgin retired in 2002, his influence on BH students remains through the Durgin Mathematics Scholarship.

Durgin established the scholarship in 2002 and has been making contributions to the fund since. He recently reached the level of funding needed for an endowed scholarship fund and the first scholarship will be awarded in 2006.

The Durgin Mathematics Scholarship will be awarded to sophomores, juniors or seniors majoring in mathematics who demonstrate financial need. Other criteria to be met include an ACT composite score of 24 or better and a minimum freshman GPA of 3.0.

Durgin explained that he felt there was a real need for scholarships in the area of mathematics and science and that’s the reason he felt compelled to establish this scholarship.

During his 37 years in the classroom, Durgin witnessed vast changes in teaching—from blackboards and chalk to computers and graphing calculators. His dedication to teaching mathematics will be perpetuated through the Max Durgin Mathematics Scholarship.

Golf tournaments raise scholarships funds

Recent golf tournaments have added nearly $32,000 to the Yellow Jacket Foundation scholarship fund.

The 15th annual Old Baldy Golf tournament in Saratoga, Wyo., coordinated by the institutional advancement office at BHSU, raised more than $16,000 that will be designated for Yellow Jacket Athletic scholarships. A record number of golfers, 80, participated in the tournament which raised more funds than any of the previous tournaments. The Old Baldy Golf champions were Chris Telkamp, Roger Tellinghuisen, Ken Shultz, and Floyd Rummel, Jr.

The 15th annual Gold Dust Yellow Jacket Golf Classic, designed to raise money to support the Yellow Jacket athletics, this summer have raised more than $35,000 for scholarships.

Gary Muie Deer was one of 144 golfers who took part in the annual Gold Dust Yellow Jacket Golf Classic. Golf tournament, this summer have raised more than $35,000 for scholarships.

Following a golf tournament held in his memory, the family and friends of Mark Larscheid donated an additional $3,100 to a scholarship through the Black Hills State University Yellow Jacket Foundation. The fund total is now $15,671.

To celebrate Larscheid’s life and preserve his memory, the family sponsors an annual memorial golf tournament which includes a silent auction, dinner and dance. The proceeds are contributed to a track athlete scholarship fund at BHSU in Larscheid’s name.

Larscheid, a former teacher and coach at Williams Middle School in Sturgis for 27 years, died in an automobile accident in 2000. He also taught and coached in Spearfish and Wall.

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The estate of Freeda Summers Schroeder bequeathed an additional $30,000 to Black Hills State University in March. This was in addition to a previous $10,000 certificate of deposit donated to the university through her estate.

Fredda, Class of ’45 graduate, worked at BHSU for 30 years retiring in 1979. She had grown up in Spearfish and taught English in Belle Fourche before joining the university staff. Freeda loved books and reading and believed in young people and the power of education. She died Oct. 6, 2004.

In 1996 she created the Freeda Summers Schroeder Scholarship fund for education major. Over the years, she made additional contributions to build the fund and add to the scholarship fund in 1999 for English majors. With the addition of $40,000 from her estate, the endowed scholarship fund has grown to nearly $50,000. Her scholarship and commitment to education will continue in perpetuity as yearly scholarship awards are made from earnings of the fund.

For additional information about creating an endowed scholarship fund at BHSU contact Terri Wells at 605-442-6832 or email TerriWells@bhsu.edu.
Alumni will be honored during Swarm Week!

Order BHSU merchandise online!

The University Bookstore has a great selection of BHSU merchandise including alumni items.

Access the bookstore at www.bhsubookstore.com or through the link on the BHSU homepage.
**Yellow Jacket Hall of Fame**

Seven individuals are being inducted into the Yellow Jacket Hall of Fame during a banquet Friday, Sept. 23.

- Inducted as athletes are: Michele (Cliff) Batz, Class of ’81; Joe Divis, Class of ’95; Greg Deville, Class of ’77; and Ron Erion, Class of ’75.
- John Nicholas, Class of ’82, is being inducted as a coach.
- Bob and Linda Albert, Class of ’72 and ’82, are being inducted as contributors.

**Athletes**

**Joe Divis**  
Joe Divis, Class of ’91, had an extraordinary basketball career at BHSU, finishing with 1,590 points, 745 rebounds and 363 blocked shots, an NAIA record for blocks. The NAIA All-American center was named newcomer of the year in 1990-91. He was also named to the all-conference second team his freshman year. The following three years he was named to the all-conference first team. In 1992-93 he was named to the NAIA All Dist 12 team. He was named the team’s most valuable player and SDIC player of the year in 1992-93. He also earned NAIA Division two, third team All-American status.

**Michele Batz**  
Michele Batz attended BHSU from 1977-1981 and graduated with a degree in physical education. She was a four-year lettermen in volleyball as well as track and field. Michele received all-conference honors all four years in volleyball as a setter and helped her team compile a record of 25-1 during her junior year. According to Michele, the highlight that year was being crowned South Dakota State Volleyball Champions in 1980. Her senior year brought a first place finish in the conference tournament, a record of 35-14 and a second place finish in the state tournament.

**Ron Erion**  
Ron Erion, Class of ’75, is being inducted as a baseball player. He was named to the ALL-SDIC first team in 1973 and 1974 as an outfielder. In 1974 he had 54 hits and 10 doubles. He had a batting average of .365 in 1974. In 1973 he batted .385, which was third in individual batting in the SDIC.

After graduating from BHSU, Ron stayed in Spearfish for a few years and managed a bowling alley. He then moved to southern Ohio where he coached and taught for four years. He later returned to Spearfish as a high school teacher and coach. He stayed with the Spearfish School district for 14 years and spent the last five years there as athletic director and assistant principal. He also coached the BHSU baseball team in 1982. In 1995, Ron moved to Casper, Wyo., to take a position as associate commissioner for the Wyoming High School Activities Association. In January of this year, Ron resigned from that job and is now working as an independent insurance adjuster.

In addition to his degree from BHSU, Ron also completed a master’s degree in education and an athletic administration certificate.

**Greg Deville**  
Greg Deville, Class of ’77, was the starting catcher all four years he spent at BHSU. In 1977, Greg earned the top spot in the SDIC in batting average with a .314 batting average.

**John Nicholas**  
John Nicholas, Class of ’62, is being inducted as a coach.

**Inductees named**

**Athlete**  

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**Coach**  

- **John Nicholas**  
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**Contributors**  

- **Bob and Linda Albert**  
Bob and Linda Albert are being inducted as contributors. The couple has been consistent and generous supporters of Yellow Jacket athletics. In the past six years they have contributed more than $25,000 to athletic scholarships.

Bob and Linda both attended BHSU in the late 60s and early 70s. Bob earned an education degree in 1976 and Linda returned to BHSU to earn her degree in 1982. After teaching and coaching for several years, Bob and Linda relocated to the Denver, Colo., area where they now own and operate Greenleaf Construction and Timbertec Manufacturing.

The Alberts are involved in many community and charitable activities including participating in Habitat for Humanity, the Children’s Hospital, the BHSU Foundation, Volunteers of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and other groups.

**Linda and Bob Albert**  
Joe Divis, Class of ’91, had an extraordinary basketball career at BHSU, finishing with 1,590 points, 745 rebounds and 363 blocked shots, an NAIA record for blocks. The NAIA All-American center was named newcomer of the year in 1990-91. He was also named to the all-conference second team his freshman year. The following three years he was named to the all-conference first team. In 1992-93 he was named to the NAIA All Dist 12 team. He was named the team’s most valuable player and SDIC player of the year in 1992-93. He also earned NAIA Division two, third team All-American status.

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**Hall of Fame nominations**

Every year the Yellow Jacket Hall of Fame inducts several new members. The Yellow Jacket Hall of Fame began inducting members in 1983. To nominate someone for Hall of Fame nominations, contact Steve Moeder, vice president of institutional advancement, at 605-642-4628.
**BHSU people in the news**

**Pearce named director of enrollment services**

As director of enrollment services, Rachel Hall carries the title that reflects her role in attracting and retaining students. Under her leadership, the office has seen significant growth, with a focus on expanding the university’s reach and enhancing the student experience. Hall’s dedication to creating a welcoming environment for prospective students has been key to the university’s success. Her efforts have contributed to increasing enrollment and diversifying the student body, reflecting the university’s commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. Hall’s leadership has also been characterized by her passion for community engagement, fostering partnerships that enrich the educational experience for students. Her appointment highlights the university’s commitment to excellence in enrollment management and the importance of her role in shaping the future of the institution.

**Hall named dean of the College of Education**

D r. Nancy Hall, former vice president at Minot State University, was recently named the new dean of the College of Education at BHSU. Hall, who has been at Minot State University (MSU) since 1994, previously served as principal for a Rapid City elementary school and at Douglas High School near Ellsworth Air Force Base. Hall completed her doctoral in educational administration at South Dakota in 1991. Since then she has continued with formal and informal training in the assessment of learning, accreditation, community leadership and selecting and developing leaders. She recently attended the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota for an immersion program in educational leadership. Hall has a master’s degree in education administration as well as endorsements for elementary principal, reading specialist and gifted education from South Dakota State University. She earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Minnesota.

**Tim Penton**

Continued from page 3

"It's total peace and quiet and a great stress reliever. No cell phones, no interruptions," says Tim. He is also a member of the Venezuela American Friendship Association and works with the Venezuela/Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Recently, Tim has taken an active role in the Wun-ke-fum Foundation, which supports education. Living in Venezuela, where he has an up-close look at an evolving political system, Tim’s interest in world politics has intensified. He was part of a group that established a democracy fairly recently in 1959, has the oldest democracy in Latin America, but has endured civil unrest, massive rallies and strikes. He says that an opposition protest march last summer, which included more than one million people, shows the maturity of passion that exists in the country. "It is amazing to see. It’s a great opportunity to be through and find out firsthand how fragile a democracy is. It’s really interesting," Tim says. "We, as Americans, need to be more open to developing the world. We need to look outside our yard and help others. As the world evolves, we have to evolve with it."

Tim is looking forward to several more years of international assignments with Williams which will cap off his interesting and successful career. Tim knows that the energy industry is going to change and looks forward to the changes with anticipation and respect for the unknown. With a career that has mandated many moves, Tim is looking forward to putting down roots in the Black Hills area, a location he remembers fondly from his college days. Tim and his wife now have a house in Spearfish and plan to be active in the community when they retire here. "When I was in college, I never would have envisioned this,” Tim says looking back. "I always had summer jobs working in oil fields while I figured out what I wanted to do. It was doing turned out to be what he would continue to do and evolved into a career that has led him to some interesting and faraway places.

**BHSU students in the news**

**Student interns at Mayo Clinic**

Sisters Lindsay and Lacy Schaeffer, who say “they couldn’t be much more different,” have at least one thing in common. They both share an affinity for Black Hills State University.

Lindsay, the elder of the siblings, recently completed two years of study at BHSU before transferring to a nursing program in Rapid City. This summer she was selected for an internship at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Lacy, the younger sister, is looking forward to her second year at BHSU. She is pursuing a degree in mass communications with an emphasis in photography and works part-time in the enrollment center on campus.

Lindsay, who says she always knew she wanted to work in the healthcare field, is excited about her future as a nurse and is pleased she could complete much of the program at BHSU.

"I toured other schools, but when I came to BHSU, I just fell in love with the Hills and the people here. It’s been great for me,” Lindsay says.

"At Mayo Clinic, Lindsay is participating in a 10-week internship in the orthopedic sports injury department. Lindsay successfully completed an intensive selection process at Mayo Clinic before she was chosen for the internship program. She credits the excellent science program at BHSU for her success in being chosen.

"My preparation at BHSU was outstanding. My education gave me the work ethic needed to be selected for this internship. There’s an outstanding biology/chemistry program here. Dr. Lamb and other faculty members expect a lot, but in the long run, it’s good,” Lindsay says.

The sisters, who grew up in Winner, both say once they visited the BHSU campus, they knew they wanted to attend college here.

"I asked my parents if they could take a tour. I just fell in love with the Hills and the people here. It’s been great for me,” Lindsay says.

Lindsay plans to return to classes this fall in Rapid City and will graduate with a nursing degree from South Dakota State University in May. Then her options and plans are wide open because she knows having an internship with the Mayo Clinic has the potential to open other doors for her in the future. She noted that many students who complete internships at the clinic are eventually hired there as well. She is interested in working for one of the satellite clinics operated by Mayo.

**Pearce**

Continued from page 3

with a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of South Dakota. Pearce recently served as president of the faculty senate and is an active member of several other university committees and boards. She is also a member of many professional and academic associations. Pearce served as director of the Bush Grant for faculty development at BHSU from 1993-1997 and coordinated the recent teacher education accreditation renewal. She has also served as coordinator of the master’s degree in curriculum and instruction at BHSU.

Pearce joined the BHSU faculty in 1992. She holds a master’s degree in counseling and a general sense of imagination to think outside of the box. In a time when the number of high school graduates in the region are declining, Pearce says she will look at several options, including increasing the number of international students and increasing the number of traditional students, to bolster enrollment at BHSU.

Lindsey and Lacy Schaeffer
BHSU in the news

BHSU hosts summer opera program

Nationally-known opera directors and conductors were on the campus of BHSU this summer to teach a vocal arts and opera school as part of the Black Hills Summer Institute of the Arts. The unusual two-week workshop, which is in its seventh year, is the brainchild of world-renowned opera star Johanna Meier. The school brings nationally-known opera conductors and directors to Spearfish to work with participants of the workshop. Several public performances are scheduled every year.

Johanna Meier, who presently resides in Spearfish and runs the Black Hills Passion Play, believes the Vocal Arts and Opera Theatre School is a natural for this area because the beauty of the Black Hills makes it an ideal location for summer arts festivals. Several of Meier’s friends in the professional opera world travel to Spearfish to coach aspiring opera singers in opera scenes and other vocal performances.

Bruce Donnell, this year’s stage director, is known for his stage direction at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City as well as the Santa Fe Opera. Music director Richard Nechamkin is well known in New York as an opera conductor and vocal coach, he is also music director of the Natchez Music Festival. Experienced vocal coach and accompanist Tony Bellomy also comes from New York. Conductor John Stewart is a former opera star who now teaches voice and opera at the University of St. Louis.

Students from the Vocal Arts and Opera Theatre School presented several public performances. The Vocal Arts and Opera Theatre School resides in the new Clare and Joseph Meier Hall on the BHSU campus. This building is the namesake of Johanna Meier’s parents, who were the original founders of the Black Hills Passion Play. Specially selected opera students from all over the United States and Canada participate in the school. This year, students from California, New York, Arizona, and Sweden, as well as a few “home grown” talents, took part in the school.

Hesson honored as distinguished faculty member

D r. James Hesson, BHSU professor of kinesiology in the division of physical education and health since 1980, was chosen as one of the ten recipients of the prestigious Distinguished Faculty Award. Hesson was recognized during the spring convocation ceremony.

Hesson, a lifelong promoter of health and wellness, is a natural at his chosen profession because his goal in life is reflected by what he does everyday. As a health professional, Hesson may have found the perfect outlet for what he describes as his “purpose in life.”

“First and foremost, my purpose in life is to motivate and inspire others to achieve success,” Hesson says. “What I enjoy most about my position here is the opportunity every day to inspire someone to motivate and inspire students to achieve success.”

Hesson makes the most of his ongoing opportunities to motivate and inspire students by not only providing information for the students but also serving as a role model for students by being physically active and healthy himself.

A colleague who nominated Hesson for the award says that he teaches with enthusiasm and enjoyment and that students respond to and appreciate his efforts.

“I teach the benefits of exercise; my students see me exercise every day, and they see me enjoying the positive benefits of exercise.”

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“Dr. Hesson serves as a role model to our students in the classroom and in modeling a healthy lifestyle. He treats everyone with courtesy, respect and dignity. He is always professional and is dedicated to the students and to Black Hills State University,” according to the nomination letter.

A member of 10 professional organizations, Hesson has authored, co-authored or contributed to more than 30 textbooks since 1984. He has written several books on nutrition, weight training and other fitness activities and served as a contributing author and research resource for Equine magazine in 1996. Hesson averages two publications per year including textbooks, textbook chapters, instructors’ manuals and test banks. He also reviews new textbooks for several publishing companies.

Hesson remains humble about his accomplishments noting that the BHSU community has a large number of extremely dedicated and hardworking members.

“The fact that I was chosen for this award at BHSU, where I know there are so many deserving recipients, makes the award an even greater honor,” Hesson says.

Through his lifetime, Hesson has seen major shifts in his field and has been at the forefront of several exercise and fitness changes. Hesson, who began advocating weightlifting as a lifetime fitness activity long before it was accepted as such, noted that he has taken a lot of abuse for his recommendations and ideas.

He recalls being on a high school football team which had a rule against weightlifting for team members. He has been gratifying for him to witness the changes and see weightlifting recognized as a valuable part of mainstream exercise guidelines.

“When I played football in high school, if athletes were caught weightlifting, they were kicked off the team,” Hesson says. “At the 70s, Hesson notes that weightlifting had become more acceptable, at least for athletes. By the 80s, Hesson says that many teams required weightlifting, which was a complete reversal from earlier years. “Now team members who don’t lift weights face expulsion from the team,” Hesson says. “I recognized the benefits of weightlifting and lifetime fitness. That’s why I published books on the subject.”

Hesson began weight training 20 years before authoring a book on the subject. He continues to promote weight training and fitness as a lifetime activity.

Hesson is active in many on-campus and community organizations. He also serves on many campus committees, as many as 14 every year. He has served as the original member of the BHSU strategic planning committee and currently is serving his third three-year term on the faculty senate.

Hesson presents health and fitness information several times a year to local schools, churches and service organizations as well as giving professional presentations at state, regional and national conferences. He is a member of the Spearfish Lions Club and volunteers to help at track meets, cross country meets and many other events.

Hesson worked every summer for 10 years, beginning in 1993, at the United States Olympic Training Center (USOC) in Colorado Springs, Colo. He worked with world-class athletes and the latest training and conditioning techniques.

Hesson earned his doctoral degree in scientific basis of human motion from Brigham Young University in 1980 where he graduated as valedictorian. Hesson earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in physical education, health, and athletic coaching from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He has also earned three of the highest and most difficult certifications in his field and is believed to be the only person teaching in South Dakota who has earned all three of these certifications.

Before joining the BHSU faculty, Hesson served as a professor and coach at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss. He also taught and coached at Rice University in Houston, Texas, Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, Colorado Technical School in Australia; the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, and in Lincoln Public Schools.
Peterson says he ‘doesn’t have a clue’ what he’ll do when he retires; however, a brief discussion with him reveals a variety of interests and it’s easy to see that he’ll rely on his ‘free spirit persona’ to keep life interesting. Dan is a world-wide traveler who has been around the globe before and is ready to go again.

“I figure 28 years is enough. I decided it was time to give someone else an opportunity to teach these classes,” Peterson says.

Peterson started teaching as a part-time economist and part-time sociology professor and chair of the department of social sciences. "Dan is patient, non-judgmental and a friend," says longtime colleague Dr. George Earley, who shared an office with Peterson for many years. "When describing Dan as a free spirit, I mean someone who is easy-going, slow to anger, and more concerned about content than format."

Dr. Dan Peterson
Sociology professor and chair of the department of social sciences

Peterson, who has bachelors and masters degrees in music, first began his education career as a junior high and high school teacher, but decided to become a librarian because he saw it as an opportunity to ‘improve the quality of instruction for all kids and have a chance to make an impact for students studying a variety of subjects.’

During his time at BHSU, R. Peterson served as Faculty senate president, chair of the department and has spent time on numerous faculty committees including the Case Library Committee, the Facilities and Safety Committee and the Chisman Committee.

R. Peterson
Sociology professor and chair of the department of social sciences

Barbara Erickson
Director of the E.Y. Berry Library-Learning Center and education professor

Erickson says that although ten years ago some people were predicting the end of an era for libraries, he sees a bright future for both libraries and the people who staff them.

“Technology is going to continue to change, and the future of libraries is good. There is a lot of information out there, but someone has to organize it and format it so that it will continue to be available through their services,” Erickson says. “People sometimes need assistance to translate information into usable data. It takes trained people to do that.”

Erickson is looking forward to retirement as a time to travel and visit friends and relatives as well as other libraries and friends across the country and overseas. He plans to stay involved in several professional organizations including Phi Delta Kappa, for which he currently serves as coordinator. He will also remain active volunteering for Destination Imagination, a creative competition for elementary students that he has been involved with for many years.

Erickson has been active in a variety of community groups as well holding officer positions for the school board, several service groups and his church. Erickson has two sons who are both in the final stages of Ph.D. programs in science.

Retirees

BHSU faculty and who retired this year were: Dr. Ed Erickson, director of the E.Y. Berry Library-Learning Center, who is retiring following 33 years; Dr. Riley Chrisman, history professor, who taught for 26 years; Barbara Erickson, librarian and associate library science professor, who is retiring after 26 years of service; Ann Chastain, secretary who retired after 32 years; and Dr. Dan Peterson, sociology professor, who is retiring after 28 years.

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‘A good library is needed to support academics. That has always been my goal,’” Erickson says. Erickson, who has bachelors and masters degrees in music, first began his education career as a band director but decided to become a librarian because he saw it as an opportunity to ‘improve the quality of instruction for all kids and have a chance to make an impact for students studying a variety of subjects.’

When Erickson came to BHSU, his first task was to oversee completion of the library building. In the 33 years since then, he has been given many other tasks and, looking back, he feels a sense of accomplishment for his achievements.

He was responsible for bringing the audio visual and computing services into the library setting and was instrumental in establishing the campus radio station, KBHU, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary this spring.

Erickson is often referred to as the ‘father of the South Dakota Library Network (SDLN)’ for his work writing a grant proposal that set up the statewide library system in 1993. Erickson received the honor of being named state librarian of the year by the S.D. Library Association. Just recently the library converted to a new system which Erickson feels will provide enhanced services for library users well into the future.

“It’s nice to retire knowing that you’ve left a new system for others that has tremendous potential for the future.” Erickson says.

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Barbara Chrisman
Librarian and Associate professor

R. Chrisman
History professor

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The BHSU track and field team broke three Yellow Jacket records and two South Dakota collegiate records as well as winning an individual national championship title at the NIAA National Track Meet in Louisville, Ky., this spring. The BHSU women’s 4x800-meter relay team, which included Jamie Hahn, Spearfish; Liz Woodruff, Chamberlain; Wesleigh Hardy; and Angi Axman, Rottenburg, Germany, earned All-American honors with a fifth-place finish in a time of 9 minutes 2.30 seconds in the finals. The Yellow Jacket squad broke the school record in the preliminary race.

Axman went on to earn a national championship title in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Axman’s time shattered her own school record and also broke the state record. Axman won the finals and just missed the national record by a little over a second. Senior Cassie Knutson from Fort Collins, Colo., also received All-American honors in the marathon with a sixth place finish. Knutson’s time was the second best ever for a BHSU athlete, behind Nikki Sather’s record which won the marathon in 2004.

Senior Kristal Keffler, Faith, claimed All-American recognition in the discus and became a three-time All-American winner in the event. Keffler placed fifth. She also competed in the shot put.

Senior Summer Davidson, Sheridan, Wyo., placed eighth nationally and broke the school record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.76.

Hardy, a member of the winning relay team, also placed ninth in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:42.46. Crystal Hostetter competed in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and was able to better her personal best mark by 14 seconds.

The Yellow Jackets also had two men competing at the national meet. Junior Brandon Bertram, from Fargo, N.D., and J.R. Grabinger, a sophomore from Jamesto, N.D., ran the marathon. Bertram placed 14th with a time of 2:35.02 and Grabinger was 17th with a time of 2:37.20.

BHSU to add women’s softball

BHSU will add women’s softball, not women’s soccer as previously announced. According to Steve Meeker, athletic director at BHSU, the university decided to cover sports because recent changes in the Dakota Athletic Conference (DAC) would make scheduling soccer games more difficult.

Last spring when BHSU announced plans to begin a women’s soccer program, four other universities, St. John’s-Huron University, University of Mary, Jamestown University and Maryville State University, in the conference had women’s soccer teams. In addition, Dakota State University had four other universities, Si Tanaka-Huron University, University of Mary, Jamestown University and Maryville State University, in the conference had women’s soccer teams. In addition, Dakota State University had plans to add soccer.

Since then, St. John’s has closed amid financial difficulties, and the University of Mary in Bismark, N.D., left the DAC for the NCAA Division II Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. Dakota State is no longer considering adding women’s soccer which would mean only two schools in the current eight-team conference would offer women’s soccer.

The addition of women’s softball is one of several changes planned following a statewide Title IX review. BHSU will begin their first year of women’s golf competition this fall. Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 is the landmark legislation that bans sex discrimination in schools both in academics and athletics. Since it was passed, Title IX has influenced athletic programs at the high school and college level.
Another look

Iron Creek Lake, a short drive from campus, is a popular place for BHSU students to enjoy the Black Hills.