

# Alumni Magazine

Fall 2017



## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD: SCIENCE AT BHSU

Kathryn Johnson, '75  
*Owner/Principal of Johnson Environmental Concepts*

Campus Traditions

| 2017 Swarm Week

| Alumni Gatherings



Greetings BHSU Alumni,

There are many strong and positive traditions at BHSU connecting our past with our present. Maybe you were part of Props & Liners, the longest-running student organization on campus. Do you remember a certain athletic event or participating in the Feather Ceremony for American Indian majors and students?

We hope the traditions featured in this magazine inspire you to recall your own campus memories. And be sure to check out a few of the new traditions our students have started including the YJ Hand Signal and Sting in the Spring Week.

In the classroom, our tradition is to prepare our students to make a positive influence in our global world. From our enduring teacher preparation program to the in-demand field of exercise science, we are committed to academic quality.

Science requires near constant innovation. This summer our science labs were filled with high school and college students from BHSU and other universities working with our faculty on research. It's experiences like these that show students Anything is Possible at BHSU – from making nanoparticles in our labs to examining organisms found nearly a mile underground at the BHSU Underground Campus at Sanford Lab.

I look forward to seeing you during Swarm Week Sept. 5-9. Go Jackets!

Dr. Tom Jackson, Jr., President  
Black Hills State University



Runsong Liu, BHSU International Exchange Student  
from Zhuxi County, China

## SCIENCE: THEN & NOW

Follow this timeline to catch a glimpse of how Black Hills State University is responding to continuous advancements in science and an increase in the number of science majors on campus.



1968

Jonas Hall opens and becomes home to the sciences at Black Hills State College

1971

Microprocessor is invented, marking the start of the digital age

1977

NASA launches space probes Voyager 1 and 2 which still communicate with the Deep Space Network as the farthest spacecraft from Earth

1980

Over the next two decades, a group of new research-based faculty members are hired in the sciences at BHSU and science equipment is acquired to modernize teaching and research

1982

Mark Gabel, now emeritus professor, becomes curator of the campus Herbarium; BHSU will triple the number of specimens housed on campus used in teaching and research under his leadership



1983

Kary Mullis first conceptualizes the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), hailed as one of the most monumental scientific techniques of the 20th Century

1997

The Board of Regents establishes the Center for the Advancement of Math and Science Education (CAMSE) to provide opportunities for teachers to develop expertise in math and science; the Center moves to the BHSU campus in 2004

2000

International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium announces the production of a rough draft of the human genome sequence

2002

Ray Davis is awarded a share of the Nobel Prize for physics for his work counting neutrinos at Homestake Mine in Lead, S.D.

2005

The Center for the Conservation of Biological Resources (CCBR) at BHSU is established to support genetic and genomic research

2006

Barrick Gold donates the Homestake Mine property to the State of South Dakota for use as an underground lab. T. Denny Sanford donates \$70 million to the project while the state commits \$40 million and creates the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA) to run the site

2009

BHSU breaks ground on the Life Sciences Laboratory which officially opens in 2011, providing space for classrooms, research, teaching labs, and faculty offices to meet needs of the rapidly-increasing number of students pursuing science degrees

2015

Students begin using the BHSU Underground Campus at Sanford Lab to conduct multidisciplinary research using the cleanroom and adjoining workspace at the 4850 Level



2016

As a result of a \$2.5 million gift from philanthropist T. Denny Sanford, BHSU and Sanford Lab partner on a \$4.5 million project - the Sanford Science and Math Education Center to develop, test, and showcase model programs for preparing and inspiring the next generation of scientists and science educators



Interact with us. Read more online. Watch a video. Learn more online.

Watch for these icons throughout the magazine for extra online content!

## BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE - FALL 2017

The Alumni Magazine is published twice a year by the Black Hills State University Alumni Association for alumni and friends of BHSU. Your comments are welcome. Email us at Alumni@BHSU.edu.

### PRESIDENT

Dr. Tom Jackson, Jr.

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

James Mortenson, Class of '03

### UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Steve Meeker, Class of '84

Tom Wheaton, Class of '87

### MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Corinne Hansen, Class of '85

Kristen Kilmer, Class of '99

Kimberly Talcott

Isaac Hanson, Class of '15

Danielle Litaba, Class of '17

### ATHLETICS

Jhett Albers, Class of '87

Ryan Hilgemann





## THE NEXT STEP: BHSU ALUM ADVANCES OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Dr. Kathryn Johnson, '75, was sitting in her seventh grade rural country school classroom when she decided she wanted to become a chemist. Sputnik had been launched into orbit by the Soviet Union in 1957, inspiring the U.S. to transform science and math education at home. That education revolution soon made its way into Kathy's rural school.

"We didn't get new books in the classroom often, but that year I remember opening a brand new science book with a picture of the atom and electrons revolving around the nucleus," says Kathy. "I felt like I had x-ray vision being able to see the makeup of every little thing around us, every particle."

That moment led Kathy to eventually launch a successful environmental consultancy business, where she continues to serve as Owner/Principal after 27 years.

Kathy's intelligence and thoughtful approach has been noticed by leaders and policy makers who have appointed her to positions affecting education in South Dakota and throughout the nation. Her service to the South Dakota Board of Regents

and a Congressional Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering & Technology will continue to provide meaningful impact for generations of students.

### STEP 1: BLACK HILLS COLLEGE

Kathy grew up in northwest South Dakota in Perkins County. She went to country grade school in Reeder, N.D., the closest town to her family's farm/ranch. Graduating from high school in 1972, Kathy said the decision to attend Black Hills State College was an easy one as her sister, Luann Johnson Zuercher, '74, already attended the school in Spearfish.

At BH, Kathy declared her majors in chemistry and math. She says her work study job as a lab assistant for the chemistry labs was one of her most meaningful experiences in college.

"I helped professors prepare for experiments. I loved my job," says Kathy. "I got acquainted with students in higher level courses and learned about their plans after graduation."

Kathy says she is grateful for Dr. Gerald Shryock's chemistry oral

exams, which she hated at the time, because they taught her to collect her thoughts and practice public speaking. She credits Mr. Charles Berry with suggesting she go to grad school.

If there's one regret Kathy has of her time in college, she says it's that she didn't get more involved in campus activities. She graduated in just three years and was motivated to take heavy course loads in order to be in the best position to get a job.

As she progressed in her education at BH, Kathy remembers an advanced chemistry class and physics courses where she was the only female enrolled.

"Being one of the only females didn't bother me. I had a cadre of math and science kids I hung out with. But when I got to grad school, the lack of females hit me like a 2x4 between the eyes. We were a little isolated," says Kathy.

### STEP 2: ENTREPRENEURSHIP

While pursuing her Ph.D. at Iowa State, Kathy began to discern the types of research she enjoyed. After taking blood and tissue samples

from animals for veterinary-focused research, Kathy decided to pursue a different area of study.

She heard about a professor at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology who received funding from the Dept. of Energy for geochemistry research. Kathy returned to western South Dakota and pursued her Ph.D. at the School of Mines while working as the geochemist's graduate student. The purpose of their project was to study the remaining residue after the mining and milling of uranium.

That turning point began Kathy's pursuit of the business of science. While completing her Ph.D. in 1980 she started an environmental consulting business, GEGR, Inc. The company was later acquired by RE/SPEC, Inc. in Rapid City and Kathy continued to work with the company as a subsidiary.

"During that time I learned the importance of establishing good relationships with clients and customers," says Kathy.

Upon completion of her Ph.D. Kathy began working at Morrison Knudsen Environmental Services in Boise, Idaho, overseeing a geoscience group managing environmental cleanup and permitting. After four years with Morrison Knudsen she decided to return to Rapid City and pursue her own consulting business.

"I chose to create my own job," says Kathy. "I'd been out in the field, I knew people and I understood where the needs were."

Kathy's company, Johnson Environmental Concepts, is based in Rapid City and provides consultant services in geochemistry, geohydrology, and environmental science. Her clients have included the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Homestake Mining Company, Rand Corporation, and Burlington Northern Railroad.

"The best part of consulting is that no two days are the same. I have met many great individuals and companies, and feel good about solving real-life problems," says Kathy.

### STEP 3: SCIENCE OF SERVICE

In the late 1990s, Kathy remembers answering a phone call from a staff member with then-U.S. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle's office. Daschle knew of Kathy's experience in science and nominated her to be a member of the Congressional Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering & Technology.

"Dept. of Labor statistics showed if we didn't start tapping into the talents of those underrepresented in the STEM fields, we were going to have a serious shortage of workers. We developed best practices for universities and industry to improve participation of women and minorities," says Kathy.

In 2005 Kathy's expertise was once again noticed and needed, this time on the state level. Then-Governor

Mike Rounds appointed Kathy to the South Dakota Board of Regents. She served on the Board 12 years, including two years as President. Kathy retired from the Board in 2017.

Looking back on more than a decade of service to South Dakota higher education with the Board of Regents, Kathy says some of her most memorable moments include working through policies of online course delivery, the delivery of off-campus courses at the University Centers, and improving campus infrastructure.

"We took advantage of low interest rates and, along with the campuses, we got a lot of building done. Our campuses are now in better shape," says Kathy.

Kathy's support of students will continue. She and her husband Doyle Estes, attorney and real estate developer, recently pledged \$1 million to BHSU to create the Kathryn Johnson Science Scholarship. The funds will support students at BHSU majoring in the natural sciences or science education.

While Kathy invests in future students, she asks the students to invest in themselves.

"We often hear 'follow your passion, find the perfect job.' But there's an investment to make in yourself to get there. Take the long view and don't get too wrapped up in finding the perfect fit right away," says Kathy. "Look for the benefits in the next step."

 Hear more from Kathy at [BHSU.EDU/ALUMNI](https://www.bhsu.edu/alumni)



As a student at BHSU, Kathy worked as a lab assistant. Pictured here in a physics lab, Kathy uses a laser and mirrors to study the optical powers of light.

IN MY PHYSICS LAB AT BHSU I CLEARLY RECALL BUILDING A RADIO FROM SCRATCH STARTING FROM RESISTERS AND TRANSISTORS. BESIDES LEARNING HOW TO SOLDER EFFECTIVELY, WE WERE VERY EXCITED THE FIRST TIME WE TURNED THE DIAL AND HEARD THE BROADCAST FROM STURGIS AM RADIO.

“”





### Jorgensen reflects on lifetime commitment to entrepreneurship

Joe Jorgensen, '67 & '70, is developing Crow Peak Place in Spearfish, the city's first "pocket neighborhood," conveniently located near campus and downtown.

**Q: Entrepreneurship has become your trademark. Who inspired you?**

Growing up, watching my dad buy, sell and trade everything from horses to land taught me the value of hard work and possibility. The opportunity to help others and the challenge of adding value to Spearfish fueled my real estate efforts. Entrepreneurs must take risks to receive the reward of driving their own future.

**Q: Tell me about your latest real estate endeavor, Crow Peak Place.**

I started building townhomes in Spearfish in 1983. Born out of a deteriorating city block, the concept of Crow Peak Place seemed similar enough to townhomes, but with more opportunity for human connection and community. The homes are oriented around a no-maintenance, common green space. Crow Peak Place is close to BHSU, the hospital, the bike path and downtown, which I felt was the perfect footprint for busy doctors, mindful professors, students and forward thinkers.

**Q: This year you received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Spearfish Area Chamber of Commerce. What advice do you have for recent college graduates?**

I encourage college graduates to work a job they enjoy every day so that it doesn't feel like work. Risk and reward are essential to the entrepreneurial spirit!

ENTREPRENEURS MUST TAKE RISKS TO RECEIVE THE REWARD OF DRIVING THEIR OWN FUTURE.



### Couple uses degrees from BHSU to make international impact

Mitch, '15, and Sonja (Erickson) Kraft, '12, are working overseas to increase work opportunities for residents of the South Asian country of Nepal.

**Q: Tell me about the human rights organization you are working with? How did you get connected with them?**

We are working with Purnaa. They are an ethical garment manufacturing company. Their motto is "Fresh starts and fulfilled lives" because they focus on hiring marginalized people and survivors of exploitation and giving them a job with dignity and a living wage. Purnaa does contract manufacturing along with making their own clothing line. We met the owners of Purnaa during a short-term outreach trip to Nepal last year. We love their vision and what they do. When the owners found out what our degrees are in, they asked if we would want to come back and work long-term.

**Q: What kind of work are you doing in Nepal?**

**Mitch:** I'm using my business degree to help with logistics and sales. One of my main focuses is increasing the sales of the Purnaa line, which would in turn mean creating more jobs for Nepalis. I'm also training a Nepali to take over my job after our two-year commitment.

**Sonja:** I'm helping with communications and marketing. I'm promoting the Purnaa line and telling the story of the business by communicating what Purnaa does, interviewing employees and telling how Purnaa has changed their lives.

**Q: Why Nepal? What draws you to this country?**

Our first trip to Nepal lasted five months and the beauty of the people and the country really pulled on our hearts. The people are so friendly and welcoming that it took no time at all for us to feel accepted by them. The country has the Himalayas running right through it, so when you can see the mountains, it takes your breath away. Nepal has a 40 percent unemployment rate, so we also want to help create good jobs for the Nepali people.

**Q: How are you using what you learned at BHSU in this experience?**

First of all, we are both using our degrees that we earned from BHSU, so we are using the knowledge we learned from our professors and putting it into practice. Second, since BHSU is a smaller school, we quickly formed relationships with our professors and people we worked with. We were both a part of Campus Ventures, where we learned a lot about community, so we are using those same skills to form relationships with the employees of Purnaa.



## BHSU earns Tree Campus USA® recognition

Black Hills State University was honored recently with Tree Campus USA® recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for the University's commitment to planting and maintaining trees across campus.

Kathy Johnson, Vice President for Finance and Administration at BHSU, said the University has an online tree inventory developed by students in biology and global information systems classes who worked with BHSU Facilities Services.

"Earning the Tree Campus USA designation is a great honor. We have 21 genera of trees including 34 different species of trees on campus currently. About 50 percent of our campus trees are apple, ash, and spruce," said Johnson. "We're working to increase the diversity of species with plans to use a food forest landscaping design. We're incorporating more fruit-bearing trees and bushes to the campus landscape and will be planting several new varieties of trees this year."

Tree Campus USA is a national program created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. Black Hills State University achieved the title by meeting Tree Campus USA's five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated



BHSU was recently honored as a 2016 Tree Campus by the Arbor Day Foundation, noting the University's commitment to effective forest management.

annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and a student service-learning project with impact on the campus community.

To view the BHSU Campus Tree Inventory visit [BHSU.EDU/SUSTAIN](http://BHSU.EDU/SUSTAIN)

## President surprises rodeo graduates with diplomas

The Yellow Jackets Rodeo Team garnered a surprise visit from President Jackson while competing in the BlueHawk Stampede in Dickinson, N.D., in May. Jackson personally presented graduating seniors their diplomas as they could not attend graduation because of the rodeo competition.



Left to right: Lane Rossow, Jackson, Jake Herman, Madison Huber, Ava Rankin, and head coach Glen Lammers celebrate graduation a day early in Dickinson, N.D. Huber earned the women's All-Around title, leading the Yellow Jacket women to an overall team win at the BlueHawk Stampede.

## New Lakota name given to renovated hillside

Black Hills State University officially named the newly-renovated hillside on campus "Oyate Wicaka Wita," a Lakota name meaning People/Nation Gathering Place, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April.

The new sidewalk and landscaping has transformed the University entrance from St. Joe Street into a green space with a walk/bike path that leads directly to the campus green.

As the community arrived at the ceremony, relatives of Jace DeCory, assistant professor emeritus at BHSU, smudged and purified the area with sage in a traditional Lakota blessing. They also placed tobacco and water on the base of a tree on the hillside to represent life, thanksgiving, and blessings on the day of the ribbon-cutting.

"It's a special gift to get and give a name," said DeCory. "As the name Oyate Wicaka Wita (pronounced Ohyah'tay weecha'ka Weeta) is in reference to a place that pulls the people/nation to it, like a magnet and they feel good about being there, we hope this hillside will pull the people here to spend time at this University, and in this place," said DeCory.



Justin Logue, Student Senate president, and Jace DeCory, assistant professor emeritus, cut the ribbon during the naming ceremony, joined by BHSU President Tom Jackson and Spearfish Mayor Dana Boke.

## Grad personifies "Spirit of BH" in leadership and learning



Left to right, Elizabeth Williams, economics and finance and management major from Miles City, Mont., accepts the "Spirit of BH" award from James Mortenson, president of the BHSU Alumni Association. The award is given to a student who has made significant contributions to the University and community.

Elizabeth Williams, '17, found a school of peers at BHSU who, like her, were driven and academically-focused.

This spring Elizabeth received the "Spirit of BH" award, given to a student who has made significant contributions to the University and community. During her time at BHSU, Elizabeth served as President of the Honors Club, Vice President of Student Senate, and President of Beta Gamma Sigma, an honors society for business majors. She also tutored international students in the Academic English Language Preparation Program.

The economics and finance and management major from Miles City, Mont., recently began a full-time job as a commercial lender trainee in Billings.

## Students explore economic systems, history and geography in Italy during Spring Break

Students enrolled in the History and Geography of Food course at BHSU traveled and tasted their way through Italy during Spring Break. The students used food as a lens to study economic systems, history and geography.

Carrie Gray-Wood, instructor of geography, and Kelly Kirk, instructor of history, said the students prepared extensively for the experience by reading about the history of Italy, gender studies, and the Italian market.

Learning activities included a historical walking tour, cooking class, cultural lecture, vinegary tour, and visits to the Museums of Prosciutto and Parmigiano. Each student chose a specific area of research to study further while in Italy. Gray-Wood said topics included food in the Renaissance and the influence of Muslim culture on Italian cuisine.



Photo courtesy of Aris Karagiorgakis, BHSU faculty

A group of 11 BHSU students used food as a lens to study the economic systems, history and geography of Italy on a faculty-led international experience. The students were enrolled in the History and Geography of Food course at BHSU.



## Women's Rodeo places sixth at CNFR

For the second-straight year, the Black Hills State University Rodeo Team had a season for the ages. Both squads qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo. The Yellow Jackets parlayed their season-long success into a sixth place finish at the CNFR, their second-straight top-10 finish at the event.

Senior Samantha Jorgenson earned the Reserve All-Around Championship earning 143.3 points over the week-long national competition. She placed fifth in team roping and tied a facility record in breakaway roping, tallying a 1.9 on her third run in the event.

The Watford City, N.D., native proved herself to be one of the top cowgirls in the nation all year long having won the Great Plains Region Championship in the all-around, team roping and breakaway roping events. She entered the CNFR ranked No. 3 in the nation in the All-Around category.

Sophomore Carlee Johnston placed fourth in goat tying totaling 26.8 over four runs, including a 6.8 in the short-go to thrust herself up from seventh place. The Elm Springs native entered college rodeo's premier event as the Great Plains Region Champion in goat tying and ranked fourth in the nation.

Johnston's twin brother Carson also earned a top-10 finish at the CNFR



Nine BHSU rodeo athletes competed at the College National Finals Rodeo, the second-straight year both the men's and women's teams qualified for the national competition. The women's team placed sixth.

with perhaps the biggest climb of any competitor as he placed seventh in steer wrestling with a 25.1 over four runs. He placed fourth in the region in the event and was outside the top-25 in the nation leading into the CNFR. The sophomore tallied a 6.3 and 6.4 over his first two runs in the event and helped solidify himself as a national threat with a 5.4 in his third-go. He then tallied a 7.0 in the championship round to place himself seventh.

"It was a good season," head coach Glen Lammers said. "It was a great accomplishment to have both teams qualify for the CNFR, and we met a lot of goals throughout the season. To have the Reserve All-Around Champion and three

individuals place in the top seven, it was a strong finish."

The women's rodeo team dominated the Great Plains Region enroute to the championship while the men's team finished second. Overall, the women's team won eight of the 10 regular season rodeos while the men's team claimed two regular season titles.

"We are going to miss our seven seniors," Lammers said. "They helped shape our team as leaders, but on the other side we have great returning experience and talented recruits to help carry the momentum."

## Student-Athletes honored at SAAC awards

The Black Hills State University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) held its annual Awards Night honoring student-athletes both for academics and athletic excellence.

The Male Jacket of the Year honor went to Jonah Theisen, the 2016 National Champion in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

The Female Jacket of the Year went to volleyball's Lacy Stevens after she was named the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

The awards, voted on by SAAC, also awarded Faculty Mentor of the Year to Dr. John Dixon, associate professor of chemistry.

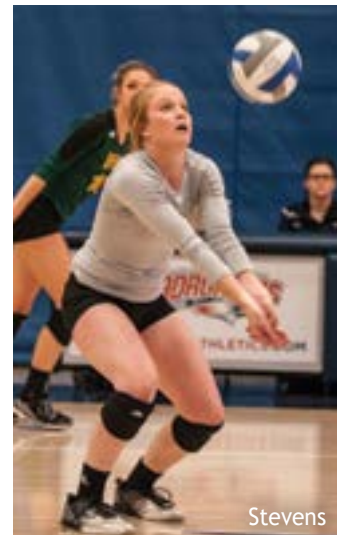
The ceremony featured the Schallenkamp Awards, given to the female and male student-athlete each year with the highest GPA. The 2017 winners were Taylor Trohkimoinen of the women's basketball team and Josh Davis of the cross country and track & field teams. The award is named after former BHSU President Dr. Kay Schallenkamp.

Along with the individual awards, a team award was given to the women's triathlon squad for maintaining BHSU Athletics' highest-GPA of 3.676, a new team-high for Black Hills State.

Overall, all BHSU teams combined for a 3.033 GPA, an increase for the third year.



Theisen



Stevens

Photos courtesy of dee Welsch, '82

## Inaugural Gold Rush Raffle raises funds for athletic scholarships



Left to right, athletes Garret Snook, Grace Baumgarten, and Katie Nielson hold a donated cutting board made by Scott Soderstrom, a BHSU alum, as they work the silent auction table at the inaugural Gold Rush Raffle.

Black Hills State University Athletics held its inaugural Gold Rush Reverse Raffle and Auction this spring, raising more than \$25,000 for student-athlete scholarships.

The event, hosted by the Yellow Jacket Club in conjunction with BHSU Athletics, sold all 300 tickets for the reverse raffle, which awarded a grand prize of \$5,000.

"We had an excellent turnout for this being our first year of this event, and I appreciate everyone's support," said Melissa Christensen, assistant athletic director of external operations.

"We had people from multiple states show up for the festivities, and we look forward to this being a mainstay event for years to come," said Ami Kerr, Yellow Jacket Club president.

During the event, BHSU Football's Ryan Hommel gave insight to being a student-athlete at BHSU, sharing stories from the road and thanking donors in attendance for supporting Yellow Jacket Athletics.

Silent and live auction items were bid on throughout the evening, grossing the highest total raised in connection with an auction.

"Thank you to A'viands and the Stadium Sports Grill for providing the food and beverage, as well as for all the other support they show to BHSU," Christensen added.

"We're looking forward to the second annual Gold Rush Reverse Raffle and Auction scheduled to be held April 28, 2018."

## Benne named College Male Athlete of the Year

Recent Black Hills State University graduate and football player Cody Benne was named the College Male Athlete of the Year at the 45th Annual Rapid City Sports Hall of Fame and Recognition Banquet in early May.

Benne, a graduate of Rapid City Stevens High School, earned the honor from the Rapid City Sports Officials after he was named Second Team All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference this past season. The defensive lineman tallied 76 tackles in 11 games as the Yellow Jackets went an NCAA-era best 7-4 in 2016. He also tallied a pair of interceptions on the season.

"It's a great honor for a very talented local product," head coach John Reiners said. "Cody was one of the best defensive linemen in the RMAC which was proven as he was voted All-Conference by the RMAC coaches after his senior season."

Over his four-year career, Benne played in all 44 possible games tallying 226 career tackles.



Benne

"It's awesome getting an award that people I've looked up to have received," Benne said the night of his honor. "It's an award I was up for in high school and didn't get but made me strive to want to get it later."

Black Hills State has a history of receiving Athletes of the Year awards from the Rapid City Sports Officials, the last being Chelsey Biegler following the 2014-15 women's basketball season.

## Paris named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar

Black Hills State University football student-athlete Phydell Paris has been recognized as a 2017 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar, as published by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine.

Paris, a senior from Thornton, Colo., has a 3.38 GPA while majoring in psychology. He owns every major rushing record at Black Hills State including career rushing yards, most yards gained in a season and most yards gained in a game.

Paris has been named to the BHSU Dean's List multiple semesters of his athletic career. He says BHSU has an "ideal learning environment" with professors who have experience in the field and a passion for teaching students.

Off the playing field, Paris volunteers with BHSU Student Support Services, Spearfish Zonta Club, and Special Olympics. He has also given several keynote addresses including at the Spearfish School District 5th Grade DARE Graduation.

Paris was listed Third Team Football of the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars, part of over 1,200 scholars nominated for the honor. As a scholar and an athlete, Ashe sought to expand opportunities for young people. In addition to athletic ability, students named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 and be active on their campuses or in their community.



Paris





# 2017 SWARM WEEK

To watch a video from the 2016 Swarm Days celebration, go to [BHSU.edu/SwarmWeek](http://BHSU.edu/SwarmWeek)

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS | [BHSU.EDU/SWARMDDAYS](http://BHSU.EDU/SWARMDDAYS)

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 7

7 p.m. | Coronation | Meier Recital Hall  
Directly following Coronation | Burning of the "BH" | Meier Circle

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

12 p.m. | Alumni Awards Luncheon\* | Joy Center  
3 p.m. | Hike to the "H" | Leaving from Student Union Atrium  
6 p.m. | Hall of Fame Banquet\* | Jacket Legacy Room

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

10 a.m. | Swarm Day Parade | Jackson Blvd. & Main Street  
11:15 a.m. | Tailgate Social | Joy Center Patio  
1 p.m. | BHSU Football Game | Lyle Hare Stadium

\*Tickets for the Alumni Awards Luncheon & Hall of Fame Banquet must be purchased in advance. Call (605) 642-6385 to purchase tickets or for more information.

## ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



Carpenter

**Special Achievement Major General (Ret.) Ray Carpenter**, '75, earned a bachelor's in business administration from BHSU. Ray served 44 years in the South Dakota Army National Guard, U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Navy including an in-

country tour in Vietnam. His last military assignment was serving as the Acting Director of the Army National Guard in D.C. as a Major General in a Lieutenant General position.

After military retirement, Ray served as Executive Director for the National Commission on the Future of the Army.

He currently serves as a member of a Homeland Defense Study Group for the Dept. of Defense and as a Senior Fellow for the Association of the U.S. Army. He is married to Mary (Jenks) Carpenter, '74. Ray's most prestigious awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.



Erickson

**Excellence in Education Connie (Morrissey) Erickson**, '69, received a bachelor of science in elementary education from BHSU. After teaching grades K-8 in South Dakota for more than 25 years, Connie embarked

on a prestigious career in leadership serving as principal at seven institutions throughout Colorado and Arizona. Connie is currently Principal of Senita Valley Elementary in Tucson, Ariz., and district elementary principal at Ventana Institute, a school for students with severe emotional disabilities. She completed 17 years at Civano Community School, serving in a dual principalship role with Senita Valley. Civano was recognized as

the Greenest School in America by Ellen DeGeneres. Connie has mentored students, teachers, and principals and has received many awards including Arizona National Distinguished Elementary Principal. She is married to Gerald "Jerry" Erickson, '71.



Little

**Special Service Dave Little** retired in 2002 as the most successful track and cross country coach in BHSU history. He began his collegiate coaching career at BHSU in 1968. His name became synonymous with winning South Dakota-Iowa

Conference (SDIC) cross-country and track titles - 17 cross-country titles and 30 track and field titles in men's and women's competition during his tenure as a Yellow Jacket head coach. Dave was named NAIA District 12 coach of the year 14 times, South Dakota Sports Writer's coach of the year in 1978, women's SDIC coach of the year in 1998, and was inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

Dave was twice selected as teacher of the year by the BHSU Student Senate. He twice served as the University's athletic director. Dave and his wife, Claudia, '78, served as parade marshals for the 2011 BHSU Swarm Day parade. Dave is a member of the Yellow Jacket Foundation Board of Directors and assists with numerous fundraising efforts, including establishing an athletic scholarship at BHSU and identifying BHSU as part of his estate.



Moravec

**Distinguished Alumnus Jim Moravec**, '79, earned a bachelor of science in physical education from BHSU. Jim ran cross country and track and competed on the 1976 team, the first Yellow Jacket cross country team to run

at Nationals. Upon graduation he began a career that included sales and marketing positions in several industries. After several years in the radio industry, Jim worked at Frontier Outdoor Advertising in Casper, Wyo.

In 1991 Jim and four partners purchased a small outdoor advertising company. Jim and his family moved to Chico, Calif., where he became the General Manager of that company, Stott Outdoor Advertising (SOA). Today SOA has outdoor and transit advertising interests in 25 California counties as well as Oregon and Nevada and is the largest independent outdoor company in California. Jim still runs regularly and bikes over 6,000 miles annually. He is married to Laura Moravec.



Wordeman

**Young Alumni Achievement Ryan Wordeman**, '07, graduated with a bachelor of science in management. During his time at BHSU, Ryan was actively involved in consulting with gaming manufacturers and operators in

Wyoming. He was also a partner in the Lodge at Deadwood and worked on design and preopening procedures up until selling interest in the company in the fall of 2009.

After graduating from BHSU, Ryan earned his real estate license and began working at the Real Estate Center in Spearfish, which led him in the direction of real estate development. Ryan and his wife, Whitney (Peterson) Wordeman, '07, have built and managed commercial, residential and storage unit rentals. Their most recent projects are Creekside Estates and the redevelopment of the Jackson Blvd. and Main St. commercial building. Ryan is also a partner in Dakota Title, a full service title company.

Ryan currently serves on the South Dakota Real Estate Commission and the Spearfish Economic Development Corporation board.

## YELLOW JACKET HALL OF FAME

Five athletes, two teams, and a coach will be inducted into the Yellow Jacket Hall of Fame during the 2017 Swarm Days celebration.



### 1980 Volleyball Team

The 1980 volleyball team ended the season with a 35-14 mark and at one point in the season were 30-3. The Jackets placed second in both the State AIAW and SDIC tournaments. Team members include: standing, left to right, head coach Lea Totton, Patty (Middleton) Gehrig, Susie (Seppala) Carr, Mary Kloefer, Michele (Conger) Schmidt, Chris Haines, and manager Marlene Kelly. Kneeling, left to right, Fay Wicks, Jodi (McIntire) Schmidt, Karen Russell, Janice (Hanson) Curry, Kathy Harju, Michele (Cliff) Batz, and dee Welsch.



### 1981 Volleyball Team

The 1981 volleyball team finished the season with an impressive 34-9 record and placed second in the state AIAW Division III Tournament. The Jackets were 14-0 in conference play and were SDIC Champions. Team members include: standing left to right, Karen Russell, Sharla (Dower) Douglas, Connie Mogensen, Marcia (Withey) Moon, Kathleen Regel, Chris Haines, Patty (Middleton) Gehrig, Kim Kahler, Janice (Hanson) Curry, and Rose Lopez. Kneeling, left to right, Nancy Booth, Lehtitia (Moilanen) Weiss, Kathy Harju, head coach Lea Totton, Susie (Seppala) Carr, Mary Kloefer, and Suzanne Schleper.



**Coach Leo (Chico) Her Many Horses**, '82 coached the Wyoming Indian cross country teams to 20 state championships in 1982, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1997, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.



Graves

Henkener

Mink



Palczewski-Longbrake



Wilson

**Randy Graves**, '72, won the high hurdles in the AAU State Championship in 1969. In 1971 and 1972 he won SDIC Championships in the high hurdles and won the 120 hurdles in 1972 with a conference record time of 14.3 which lasted until the conference disbanded in 2000. He also ran on the mile relay team for three years and the 4 x 100 relay team for four years which set a school record time of 42.2. The Jackets were SDIC team champions in 1970 and 1972.

**Matthew R. Henkener**, Attended, was a first team all-conference baseball player as a first baseman in 1979 and 1981 and honorable mention in 1980. He was 11th in batting average in the SDIC in 1980 with a .333 average and led the SDIC in 1981 with a batting average of .589. Matt was also a first team all-conference performer in football in 1980 and 1981 as an offensive guard and an honorable mention All-American in 1981.

**Randy Mink**, '70, had five individual outdoor track school records (440 yards intermediate hurdles, 330 yard intermediate hurdles, 400 meter, 800 meter and the mile), four indoor school records (400, 600, 880 and the mile relay), five outdoor relay records (400, 800, mile, mile medley and two mile), and the outdoor fall

decalathlon record with 6,556 points. He set a BHSU and state record in the 400 Intermediate Hurdles in 1970 with a time of 52.7.

**Jessie Palczewski-Longbrake**, '03, was a four-time individual All-American in indoor and outdoor track with her highest placing being second indoors in the 3000 meters in 2003. She finished third in the 10K in 2002, third in the 5000 and fifth in the 10k in 2003 (all outdoor). She was also on an All-American Distance Medley Relay team in 2003 and placed third in cross country individually in 2002. Jessie held five BHSU records (outdoor 5000 meter and steeplechase, indoor 3000 meter, mile run, and 5000 meter run). The Jackets placed third as a team in 2002 in cross country.

**Wade Wilson**, '85, rushed for 825 yards, scored seven touchdowns and averaged 94.5 yards per game in SDIC as a running back in 1983, leading the Jackets to a SDIC Championship. He was a First Team All-SDIC and a First Team All-District 12 football player in 1983 as well as an Honorable Mention All-American.



# ONCE A **YELLOW JACKET** ALWAYS A **YELLOW JACKET**

Students, alumni, and community members enjoy these time-honored traditions at BHSU.

## **YJ HAND SIGN**

Since 2015 the YJ Hand Sign has appeared at sporting events and student activities as Yellow Jackets display their school support. The YJ (Yellow Jacket) letters are formed by holding down your pinky and ring finger to form a Y and J with your hand.

## **HIKE TO THE "H"**

The Hike to the "H" continues each fall semester as new students are ushered into this tradition during the campus Welcome Week and Swarm Week.

## **SWARM WEEK**

Swarm Week is the annual homecoming week for BHSU. In the early years, the event was known as Pioneer Day, Paha Sapa Day and Gypsy Day. Activities throughout the years have included Coronation, the Homecoming Parade, and the Football Game.

## **BURNING OF THE "BH"**

Following Coronation during Swarm Week, the newly crowned Queen and King lead a processional outside where the "BH" letters light up the night on the eve of homecoming weekend.

## **STING IN THE SPRING**

Formerly known as Big 100 Week, Sting in the Spring is a week-long event celebrating the end of the semester. The week's activities have included a bonfire, Festival on the Green, and bicycle rides. Sting in the Spring is organized by the Jacket Pack, a student organization created with a mission to represent BHSU student school spirit.

## **MASCOT - YELLOW JACKET - STING**

According to an article in the centennial edition of the *Eochia*, the Yellow Jacket name was first used during a 1927 football game when a fan jumped to her feet and yelled, 'Go you yellow jackets, go!' in reference to the yellow-colored jackets the team wore. The Yellow Jacket mascot was officially named Sting in 2008 after students chose the name through a vote. Sting is always a popular draw at games and other events in the community.

## **FEATHER CEREMONY**

"Feast and Feathers" was started by assistant professor emeritus Jace DeCory to honor American Indian graduates and non-native American Indian Studies major and minor graduates. Each American Indian graduate receives an eagle feather (men receive a feather, women receive a plume) and each non-native AIS major and minor receives a medicine wheel.

## **YELLOW JACKET STAMPEDE RODEO**

Since 1962, the Yellow Jacket Stampede Rodeo has continued to embody the western heritage of the Black Hills. In 2017, the BHSU Rodeo Team swept the Will Lantis Yellow Jacket Stampede team titles winning men's and women's All-Around honors.



BURNING OF THE "BH"



YELLOW JACKET STAMPEDE RODEO



'48 SWARM DAY ROYALTY



STING IN THE SPRING

Here's to you, Black Hills Jackets  
and the colors green and gold.  
You're the pride of every student here.  
We are behind you firm and bold.  
And when we students get together,  
there's nothing that we cannot do  
for Dear Old B-H-S-U.  
Black Hills Jackets  
Here's to you! Here's to you!

**Chorus:**  
J-A-C-K-E-T-S Jackets  
Go-Fight-Win Jackets  
Go-Fight-Win Jackets  
Go Beat (name of opponent)

Listen to the BHSU Fight Song  
at [BHSU.EDU/TRADITIONS](https://www.bhsu.edu/traditions)



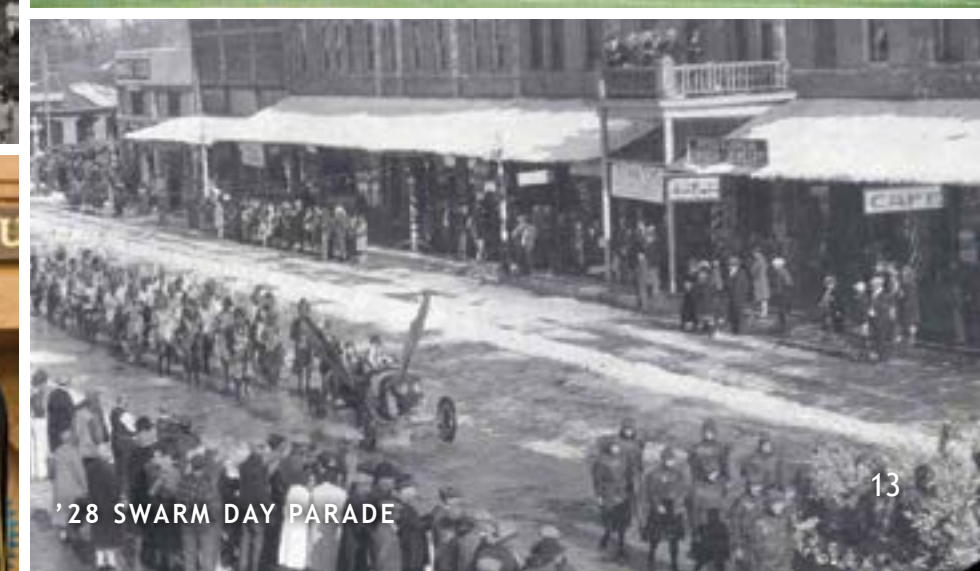
'60s - HIKE TO THE "H"



HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME



FEATHER CEREMONY



'28 SWARM DAY PARADE



## PAST ALUMNI GATHERINGS



1



2



3

### Yellow Jacket Round Ball Reunion

Former basketball alumni (photos 1 and 2) were invited back to campus in February for the Yellow Jacket Round Ball reunion. Alumni were recognized on center court at halftime of the women's and men's games. Special recognition was given to four teams: The men's 1986-87 team celebrating the 30th anniversary of their SDIC championship, the women's 1996-97 team celebrating the 20th anniversary of their SDIC championship, and the men's 1996-97 team celebrating their SDIC crown. The men's 1946-47 team celebrated the 70th anniversary of their SDIC championship and the Montana-Dakota Conference Championship. At the time, they belonged to two conferences and won both titles that year. Three members from that team are still with us today. Two of them (left to right in photo 3), Ed McLaughlin and Marv Evans, were in attendance.



4

### BHSU 50-Year Club

Each year, classmates from the 50-year class return to campus to celebrate the anniversary of their graduation (photo 4). Members from prior graduating classes are also invited to a banquet in honor of the 50-year class.



5

### Alumni and Friends gather in Denver

The Alumni Association hosted an alumni and friends pre-game gathering on the campus of Regis University in Denver (photo 5). That afternoon, the Yellow Jackets took on the Rangers from Regis University in women's and men's basketball action. Over forty alumni and friends gathered for the event.



## Alum returns to Spearfish nearly 90 years after graduation

At 103 years old, Berdelle Johanna Johnson Christiansen, '30, is living a fulfilling life with an accomplished teaching career and a loving family. She recently fulfilled another goal – returning to Spearfish to visit her alma mater.

The BHSU campus has certainly changed in the 88 years since Berdelle attended Spearfish Normal School in 1930. When Berdelle visited in May, she took a tour of the BHSU campus and Spearfish, dined with Dean of the College of Education Dr. Sharman Adams and three education graduate students, and attended a 50-Year Reunion banquet at the Joy Center. She was also introduced and received an emotional standing ovation at the 2017 Spring Commencement.

"I enjoyed all of it. I just enjoyed being at BHSU. It's nice to have the experience visiting an area or location where you came from," says Berdelle.

Berdelle was born on her family ranch near Ellingson in 1913 and grew up on the family homestead in South Dakota's Perkins County near the North Grand River. She graduated from Spearfish Normal School (Black Hills State University's original name) at the age of 17. She started her teaching career in Mud Butte School in the fall of 1930. After seven years of teaching in South Dakota, Berdelle moved to Seattle where she was married.

She returned to teaching when her children began to grow up. She later operated a Head-Start school on the local Quinault Indian Reservation. Teaching was her "true calling."

Berdelle worked in Washington for 19 years before she retired at the age of 65. Today, she still lives by herself in Tumwater, Wash., on a lot she bought when she was 83 years old.



Berdelle reflects on her time at her alma mater - [BHSU.EDU/ALUMNI](https://www.bhsu.edu/alumni)



### BHSU 50-Year Club inducts members from the Class of 1967

Ten graduates from the Class of 1967 gathered on campus during spring commencement to celebrate their induction into the 50-Year Club. Members from the Class of 1967 in attendance at commencement were (left to right): Myrna (Dayton) Nikont, Lemmon; Elaine (Glaeseman) Burns, Mesa, Ariz.; Duane K. Berke, Rapid City; Bonita (Mohler) Ley, Rapid City; Marion (Wilson) Case, Lead; Dixie (Kendrick) Boyd, Springs Branch, Texas; Michael T. Foley, Weston, Wisc.; Roger D. Merriman, Spearfish; Kenneth D. Knapp, Rapid City; and Joe B. Jorgensen, Spearfish.



## Dance class sparks Hanson Family's legacy at BHSU

Black Hills State University honored the descendants of Clifford "Cliff" Hanson, retired from Hubbard Milling Company, and Elsie (Hettich) Hanson, retired from Black Hills State University, as the 2017 Legacy Family.

The BHSU Legacy Family Award began in 2008 and honors families who have a tradition of attending BHSU. This year's Legacy Family includes three generations of students who attended or graduated from Black Hills State.

Cliff and Elsie Hanson were married when they attended dance classes at BHSU. Elsie also took a semester in class piano in the '90s.

"The college wasn't big when we attended. It seemed like we knew everyone there, and today we probably wouldn't from the size. It felt like one big family at BHSU," said Cliff.

Four of the Hanson's daughters attended BHSU: Lori (Hanson) Fiedler, '82, named the 1979 Swarm Days Queen; Lois (Hanson) Schuring, '82; Kristi (Hanson) Hoff, attended; and Tricia (Hanson) Sedevie, '92. A family legacy that started with a couple in a dance class on campus has now led to more than 15 family members attending BHSU. One of the Hanson's granddaughters, Kayla Schuring, '10, was named the 2009 Swarm Days Queen.

"We're proud to have four out of five daughters attend BHSU and four of their husbands and five grandkids," Elsie said.

For more information about the Legacy Family Award or to nominate a deserving family, contact Tom Wheaton, director of alumni relations at BHSU, at 605-642-6385 or Tom.Wheaton@BHSU.edu.



Black Hills State University honored the Clifford and Elsie Hanson family as the 2017 Legacy Family. Four out of five of the Hanson daughters attended BHSU.

## Romkema Running Scholarship established at BHSU

A new scholarship has been established at BHSU by two longtime community leaders, Fred Romkema and Dr. Priscilla Romkema.

The Romkema Running Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student at BHSU who is an active member of the BHSU Cross Country Team, with preference to students majoring in business or natural sciences.

Both Fred and Priscilla Romkema are avid runners, having competed in many marathons including the Boston and New York City Marathons.

"Priscilla and I are pleased and proud to assist aspiring students and athletes to complete their academic degrees and to excel at a lifetime sport, running," said Fred.

Fred served eight years in the South Dakota House of Representatives from 2009-16, including service on the House Appropriations Committee. He worked at the Northern Hills Training Center in Spearfish for more



A new scholarship has been established at BHSU by community leaders and avid runners Fred and Priscilla Romkema. The Romkema Running Scholarship will be awarded annually to a member of the BHSU Cross Country Team. Fred and Priscilla Romkema are pictured here after completing the 2016 Boulder Boulder Race.

than 38 years, serving as CEO of the organization he co-founded to provide quality residential and vocational options for adults with developmental disabilities. Fred served as Mayor of Spearfish (1987-96) and as a member

of the Spearfish City Council (1979-87). In the 70s, Fred served as a speech and hearing therapist in the Lead-Deadwood School District.

Priscilla served for 20 years at BHSU, her alma mater, as dean of the College of Business and Natural Sciences (10 years) and as a business faculty member, department chair, and center director (10 years). Past key leadership positions include serving as President of the National Business Education Association, as Zonta International District 12 Governor, and as a training advisor with the Environmental Policy and Technology Project in Russia in the early 90s. Priscilla recently accepted the position of President of the Regional Health Foundation and started her new position in late June 2017.

The first \$1,000 Romkema Running Scholarship will be awarded to a BHSU student this fall.

## Class of '70 establishes scholarship

The 1970 football team at BHSU recently endowed a \$10,000 scholarship for football athletes that will remain in perpetuity. The first scholarship was awarded to Trey Fleming, a Yellow Jacket wide receiver and exercise science major from Longmont, Colo.

Steve Meeker, Vice President for University Advancement, said this scholarship endowment is the first of its kind.

"To have a number of teammates accumulate their gifts to reach the \$10,000 mark to endow a scholarship in their team's name is tremendous," said Meeker. "In a friendly challenge, we encourage other teams to do the same."

The fund-raising effort was led by teammates Ken Richardt and Harvey Krautschun. Although the fund has reached the \$10,000 mark, teammates and fans are able to add finances to the fund at any time in the future to provide a larger scholarship annually.

Richardt says it was the lifelong friendships created through BHSU football that inspired the team to establish the scholarship.



Members of the 1970 football team at Black Hills State University gather to present a check to BHSU establishing a scholarship for student-athletes at BHSU. Left to right: Jhett Albers, director of athletics at BHSU; Bill Hughes, defensive coordinator; Dr. Tom Jackson, Jr., BHSU President; Harvey Krautschun; Gene Schlekeway, head coach; Ken Richardt, Ron Young, Lanny Swisher, Steve Meeker, Vice President for University Advancement at BHSU; Jim Holwegner; Bill Shell.

## Alum's political advocacy inspires new memorial scholarship at BHSU

Class of 1999 alum Mark Proctor was a passionate political leader and an advocate for children. In his memory, the Mark Proctor Democrat Scholarship will be awarded annually to both the president of the BHSU College Democrat Organization and to students serving as Democrat interns in the state legislature.

Mark's widow, Kayla Zirpel-Proctor, says the BHSU college experience was a "huge turning point" in Mark's life.

Kayla says Mark's membership in the College Democrats Club and

internships at the South Dakota legislative sessions reinforced his passion for social welfare.

Soon after Mark passed from colon cancer in 2016, Kayla found Mark's "Top 10 List: Why I Should Go to College Democrat Meetings." According to Kayla, "At the top of the list was that he wanted to help others and improve our country's future."

Mark's family, friends, and coworkers believe that he had succeeded in these goals during his lifetime leaving a great legacy.

## Music scholarship honors Myron and Margaret Sullivan



Myron Sullivan, II, presents a check in honor of his father and mother to Dr. Jonathan Nero, assistant professor of music, to establish the Myron and Margaret Sullivan Family Scholarship for vocal music majors at BHSU.

Black Hills State University will carry on the legacy of a local family's love for music through the Myron and Margaret Sullivan Family Scholarship, a memorial established to benefit vocal music majors with an emphasis in education.

The Sullivans' son, Myron II, who retired from BHSU after working in public safety for 13 years says he established the scholarship to honor his mother and father.

Margaret Sullivan, '63 & '65, graduated in 1947 from Lead High School and then attended Black Hills State. Margaret worked in Lead-Deadwood as a music and kindergarten teacher for more than 30 years. She also contributed her musical talents to church services in Lead.

Myron Sullivan grew up in Lead and served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Myron worked at the Homestake Mining Company in various jobs for 30 years, retiring as head of transportation.

The Sullivan family enjoyed music events at BHSU and a chair in Meier Hall on campus is dedicated in their name. Myron and Margaret met on Main Street in Lead, married in 1947 and had three children.

The first award from the Myron and Margaret Sullivan Family Scholarship will be made this fall.



A new scholarship has been established at BHSU in memory of Mark Proctor, '99, a passionate Democratic leader and an advocate for children. Mark is pictured with his wife, Kayla Zirpel-Proctor.



## KUDOS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The 70s

**Tom Brady**, Attended, Spearfish, and his wife, Cindy, received the Community Patron of the Year award during the Northern Hills Training Center's (NHTC) 41st annual Awards Banquet last April. The NHTC provides residential and vocational opportunities for adults with disabilities.

**Carol (Braxter) Gee**, '79 & '80, Stone Mountain, Ga., was featured, along with her husband Ronnie, in the February issue of *Essence Magazine*. In the article "Stand By His Health" Carol shared their story about Ronnie's health issues and the support she provided him during the process. Carol also published a Chicken Soup For the Soul piece, *Chicken Soup for Military Families*.

**Darrell Hardcastle**, '79, McKinney, Texas, published a fictional work titled *When It Rains*. The book is a result of Darrell's desire to help young people succeed through adversity.

**Cindy (Nolan) Nicholas Dickson**, '77, Glendale, Ariz., was honored as the 2016-2017 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member for her work as an instructor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. Cindy is an academic associate and teaches graduate-level courses for teachers who aspire to be school principals. She also serves as a one-on-one coach for graduate students.

**Priscilla (Young) Romkema**, '79, Spearfish, is now president of the Regional Health Foundation in Rapid City. This foundation acquires and stewards charitable gifts for the benefit of the patients and communities in which they serve. Priscilla served the past 20 years in a variety of positions at BHSU, the most recent as the dean of the College of Business and Natural Sciences.

### The 80s

**Scott Amundson**, '84, Langford, has accepted a position with the Governor's Office of Economic Development as community development representative for the State of South Dakota. Scott spent the last ten years in Britton and Marshall County as the executive director for Glacial Lakes Area Development, Inc. (GLAD), a regional community and economic development non-profit corporation.

**Bill Cissell**, '80, Sturgis, has taken his photography to a new level. Vida, a San Francisco company that represents more than 45,000 artists around the world, has accepted his Photoshop art. The company uses Bill's art in the design of more than 20 items of clothing and accessories including a number of scarfs, tote bags, and tees.

**Steve Harshman**, '86, Casper, Wyo., was named Speaker of the House in the Wyoming State Legislature. Steve will serve as Speaker for the 2017-18 legislative sessions. He has served in the legislature since 2003. Steve is a teacher and coach at Natrona County High School.

**John L. Kitchell, III**, '84, Beech Grove, Ind., has retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve after serving honorably for 31 years. John was last serving as reserve chief of intelligence with Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

**Ron Schuttler**, '85, Spearfish, was recognized during the 2nd annual American Legion Ball March 18 in Spearfish. Ron was presented with a certificate recognizing 50 years of continuous membership in the American Legion. Ron also helped sponsor the event in memory of his brother, Linfred. The event celebrated the 98th birthday of the veterans organization and brought together generations who have served in the military.

**Darin Shryock**, '86, Tempe, Ariz., was named the Arizona Music Educator of the Year by the Arizona Music Educators Association, the state chapter of NAFME (National Association for Music Educators). Darin currently serves as president of the Arizona Choral Educators. He previously served as vice president of Jazz/Show Choirs and Chair of the AZ Vocal Jazz Choirs. Darin has been director of Choral Activities at Marcos de Niza High School since 1992.

### The 90s

**Dan Cross**, '98 & '14, Spearfish, was named the executive director of Community Support Providers of South Dakota in Spearfish. Dan previously served as the director of human resources at the North Hills Training Center.

**Guy Gregory**, '98, Great Falls, Mont., took third place for his documentary video *Montana Co-ops 101: Introduction and History*, during the Cooperative Communicators

Association luncheon last June. Guy is a communications specialist for the Montana Cooperative Development Center.

**Kory Menken**, '90, Spearfish, was hired by the Spearfish Economic Development Corporation as its new executive director. Kory previously served as the director of Workforce Solutions for The Siouxland Initiative and the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce in Sioux City, Iowa.

**Jennifer Mercer**, '97, Lebanon, N.H., was selected as a 2017 Embassy Science Fellow. She will spend time as a science expert at the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen this fall. Jennifer will also be in Nuuk, Greenland, advising Greenland's Home Rule Government on research development and science education.

**Tina (Mailloux) Neiman**, '96, Spearfish, was the cover/feature story, with her husband Aaron and family, in the summer 2017 issue of *BH Parent* magazine "Riding the Wave." Tina and Aaron own and operate several coffeehouses in the Black Hills.

**Shawn J. Rost**, '90, Rapid City, was elected to a second term on the South Dakota Bankers Association (SDBA) Board of Directors. He started a three-year term on May 1, 2017. Shawn is the South Dakota Market president, First Interstate Bank, Rapid City.

**Frannie (Wagner) White**, '99, Rapid City, was the cover/feature story, with her husband Todd and family, in the spring 2017 issue of *BH Parent* magazine "Team Parenting 101." Frannie is a loan officer with Black Hills Community Economic Development Inc. in Rapid City.

### The 00s

**Ryan Aalbu**, '06, Spearfish, was hired as the Director of Human Resources at the Northern Hills Training Center in Spearfish.

**Amy (Jobgen) Bertram**, '09, Scenic, celebrated six years of service as an admissions specialist with Black Hills Surgical Hospital in Rapid City. The Black Hills Surgical Hospital ranks #6 of surgical hospitals in the nation.

**Michelle (Donlan) Blewett**, '05, Sioux Falls, was promoted to Director of Operations at Health Management Partners (HMP) in

Sioux Falls. Michelle has been with HMP for nine years and spent the last five years as Human Resources Director. HMP is an independent provider of innovative health management solutions and comprehensive wellness programs that are tailored to individuals and customized to companies.

**Michelle (Wenzel) DeNeui**, '01, Spearfish, received the professional certification of Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), which covers governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting at the federal, state, and local level. Michelle is the assistant finance officer for the City of Spearfish.

**April (Kleinschmidt) Hobert**, '06, Hoven, received the Special Contributions Award from the South Dakota Counseling Association during their annual banquet in Sioux Falls. April is the Special Education director and a teacher in the Hoven School District.

**Sara (Schafer) Hornick**, '07, Rapid City, is now the office manager for Thrive Acupuncture and Wellness in Rapid City. Sara previously served as the development director for the Rapid City Arts Council.

**Jodi (Hill) Howley**, '03, Gillette, Wyo., earned her master of science degree in human resource management from the University of Mary. Jodi is a human resource specialist for the Campbell County School District.

**Justin Koehler**, '03, Centennial, Colo., directed, produced and was the director of photography for the independent film *Floating Horses: The Life of Casey Tibbs*. The film won Best Documentary Feature at the Black Hills Film Festival. Justin was presented the award after their opening night screening at the Elks Theatre in Rapid City. This independent film tells the story of Casey Tibbs, a nine-time world champion cowboy from Mission Ridge. Over a decade of dominance followed as he brought national attention to rodeo. Justin is the director of photography/producer at Tipping Point Solutions in Denver, Colo.

**Jennifer Mollman**, '02, Spearfish, was named Municipal Office Manager of the Year by the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) during the organization's annual technical conference last January in Pierre. Jennifer is currently the utility billing coordinator for the (Spearfish) city's utility department.

**Brett Rauterkus**, '08, Spearfish, was promoted as Spearfish's recreation facility superintendent. Brett previously served as the rec and aquatics specialist for the Spearfish Rec and Aquatics Center.

## KUDOS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1883 - 2017

**Wendy Schamber**, '00 & '05, and **John Oleson**, '07, were two area teachers to receive the 2017 Teachers of Excellence award by *BH Parent* magazine and Rapid Chevrolet Cadillac in Rapid City. The two were featured in the spring 2017 issue of *BH Parent* magazine. Wendy is an 8th grade mathematics teacher at Lead-Deadwood Middle School. John is a 5th grade teacher at Vandenberg Elementary School in the Douglas School District.

Four alumni were honored during the 98th annual Spearfish Area Chamber of Commerce banquet and awards ceremony. Honorees include **Forrest Brady**, '72, Spirit of Spearfish; **Joe Jorgensen**, '67 & '70, Lifetime Achievement Award; **Katie (Campbell) Peterson**, '10, Young Professional Award; and **David Woodbury**, Attended, and Camp Native received the Metropolitan Award for their service, innovation, and expansion.

**Dan Hodgs**, '03, and **Pam (Haugen) Jacobs**, '07, Spearfish, were elected president and vice president, respectively, for the upcoming year to the Spearfish City Council. Dan (who represents Ward 1) and Pam (who represents Ward 3) both serve on the legal, finance, and public safety committee.

The *Black Hills Pioneer* and its staff members received numerous awards at the annual South Dakota Newspaper Association convention last April. Two alumni received awards: **Mark Watson**, '03, earned second place for the Best Spot News Photo for his entry "Type 2 team takes command of Crow Peak Fire." Mark also took second place for the Best Photo Series category with his entry "Crow Peak Air Attack." **Jami Albrecht**, '08, and Letti Lister took third place among all daily newspapers in the state for website.

Two alumni were honored during the annual Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce awards banquet. **Kayla Kinard**, '08, received the Going the Extra Mile Award, and **David Pummel**, '76, received the Business Lifetime Achievement Award.

Alumni honored by the Meade School District include retirees: **Connie (Bruce) Berg**, '83; **Kelly (Wold) Emme**, '84; **Paula Manley**, '79; **Lynn Tribby**, '89; and **Lora Wilson**, '81.

Alumni honored by the Meade School District for their years of service include: **Terri (Kammerer) Barry**, '81, (35 years); **Janice (Blaha) Guttierrez**, '94 & '02, (20 years); **Wanona (Dietrich) Manderfeld**, '82, (15 years); **Kim (Voelgeli) Sandler**, '87, (30 years); **Chris West**, '96 & '07, (20 years); and **Joan Wilson**, '84, (15 years).

Alumni honored by the Spearfish School District for their years of service include: **Laurie (Miller) Anglin**, '03, (5 years); **Mindy (Gooddale) Capp**, '02, (25 years); **Craig Crosswait**, '81, (15 years); (continued...)

**NOW OFFERING ONLINE GRADUATE COURSES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION!**

SHORT-TERM. 100% ONLINE.

Offered Each Summer > History • English

Learn more at [BHSU.EDU/GRADUATEPROGRAMS](http://BHSU.EDU/GRADUATEPROGRAMS)





# CONNECT WITH BHSU!



## IN MEMORY

### KUDOS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tricia Gaaney**, '90, (10 years); **Pat Gaaney**, '92, (25 years); **Shannon (Heilman) Gusso**, '04, (10 years); **Annie (Rossow) Heltzel**, '96 & '01, (20 years); **Karen Kissack**, '96, (20 years); **Danita (Bohn) Klinkel**, '79, (30 years); **Sandy (Sears) Nichols**, '02, (35 years); **Grace (Miller) O'Connor**, '10 & '12, (5 years); **Julie (Johnson) Reinert**, '00, (30 years); **Barb Schuler**, '07, (10 years); **Leslie (Wilson) Speirs**, '90, (25 years); **Bob Speirs**, '89 & '02, (25 years); **Tammie (Waggener) Wood**, '97,

(5 years); **Marilee (Marso) Woodard**, '82, (35 years); **Jenifer (Pawlowski) Zoller**, '02 & '12, (5 years); and **Jessica (Burns) Zwaschka**, '02, (20 years).

Alumni honored by the Spearfish School District include retirees: **Roxi (Hanson) Dobesh**, '84 (32 years); **Kathy (Marso) Ewing**, '76, (13 years); **Pam Gillespie**, '00, (14 years); **Jackie Kary**, '85, (29 years); and **Pam Ruhnnow**, '93, (19 years).

Alumni honored as Teachers of the Year by the Spearfish School District include: **Laurie (Crawford) Johnson**, '98, Mountain View Elementary School; **Amy (Coulter) Olness**, '95, West Elementary School; **Ashley (Uthe) Anderson**, '11, Creekside Elementary School; and **Jessica (Burns) Zwaschka**, '02, Spearfish High School, Spearfish School District and Region 7.

### ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

#### The 10s

**Cora Baldwin**, '12, married **Todd Pfitzer**, '99, Feb. 18, 2017. Cora is a retention coordinator at Sitting Bull College. Todd delivers for UPS in Mobridge. The couple resides in Glenham.

**Jason Himrich**, '10, will marry Makayla Leech, Sept. 23, 2017. Jason is an employment specialist with the SD Department of Labor and Regulation.

**Jenna Mullendore**, '16, married Ethan Burk, April 22, 2017. Jenna is currently the owner/certified personal trainer at Fun to be Fit Personal Training. The couple resides in Spearfish.

### BIRTHS

#### The 00s

**Melissa (Baldwin)**, '09, and husband Charles "Chas" Ihler, Everett, Wash., had a baby girl, Charlotte Lynn, Oct. 18, 2016. She joins big brother Charlie (2) and half-sister Natalie (14). Melissa operated a private practice for a couple of years and is now taking some time away to be a stay-at-home mom.

**John L. Williams**, '07, and wife Rebecca, Spearfish, had a baby boy, Reed Leone, Dec. 8, 2016. John and Rebecca own Leones' Creamery in Spearfish.

#### The 10s

**Heather (Serck)**, '10, and husband Shaun Banister, Carlsbad, N.M., had a baby girl, Bristol Ann, April 28, 2017. Bristol joins big brother Caleb (2). Heather is a stay-at-home mom.

**Nathan Hoogshagen**, '10 & '12, and wife Tracy (Franzen), had a baby boy, William James, Jan. 24, 2017. Nathan is a senior analyst with Fresh Start Convenience Stores in Spearfish.

**Kelsey (Britt)**, '15, and husband **Kurt Ludemann**, Attending, Upton, Wyo., had a baby girl, Davie Belle, May 17, 2017. Kelsey is a third grade teacher at Sundance Elementary School in Sundance, Wyo.

Kurt will begin his junior year this fall at BH; he is pursuing a degree in elementary education.

**Ashley (Jones)**, '11 & '16, and husband Shaun Skavang, Rapid City, had a baby girl, Spencer Rebecca June, April 12, 2017. Ashley is a third grade teacher at Corral Drive Elementary School in Rapid City.

**Hannah (Bucher)**, '10 and husband **Derek Steward**, '10, Spearfish, had a baby girl, Ada Joy, February 5, 2017. Ada joins big brother Isaac (3). Hanna works part time as a teller for Black Hills Community Bank in Spearfish. Derek works full time as an airframe and powerplant aviation mechanic for Black Hills Aero in Spearfish.



### WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Got a new job? Won an award? Had a baby? Send us your news and updates!

Graduation Year | Mailing Address | Phone Number  
Email Address | Spouse's Name

Tom.Wheaton@BHSU.edu | BHSU Alumni Magazine  
BHSU.edu/NewWithYou | 1200 University Street Unit 9506  
Spearfish, SD 57799-9506

Two BHSU graduates gather to celebrate the graduation of their third generation BHSU alum in May, left to right: Rosemary Glenn, '86, Lori Swick, '95, and Miranda Swick, '17. Rosemary Glenn's husband, Jennings Glenn, was the director of bands at BHSU from 1980-87.

#### Black Hills Teachers College 1941-1963

Lincoln Abraham, '47, Atwater, Calif.  
Dorothy L. (Bloom) Allen, '47, Choteau, Mont.  
Beverly A. (Chenoweth) Coons, Attended, Dickinson, N.D.  
Elaine E. (Pladsen) Cundy, '57, Madison  
Vera M. (Collins) Dutton, Attended, Spearfish  
Marge R. (Rawhouser) Elliott, '62, Newcastle, Wyo.  
Dixie A. (Raber) Evans, Attended, Spearfish  
Anna (Plentyholes) Firethunder, '59, '60 & '70, Martin  
Hank J. Frawley, Attended, Spearfish  
Jean J. (Berg) Friese, Attended, Belle Fourche  
Ed L. Houghton, '60, Ashland, Ore.  
Dennis E. Johnson, Attended, Rapid City  
Florence A. (Dutton) Kolb, Attended, Alexandria, Va.  
Jan K. (Allan) Lahti, '53, Riverton, Wyo.  
Kathleen K. (Brodsky) Martin, Attended, Fort Myers, Fla.  
Sharon R. (Feist) Maychrzak, '58 & '69, Bowman, N.D.  
Linda L. McGrath, Attended, Burlington, N.C.  
Mac L. McKinney, '60, Big Horn, Wyo.  
Erma E. (Lumm) Mikkelsen, '57, Rapid City  
Maxine D. (Lahti) Natvig, '50, Fort Collins, Colo.  
Alice M. (Gooby) Petranek, '61 & '71, Belle Fourche  
Clint R. Roberts, Attended, Fort Pierre  
Herdis I. (Anderson) Rudd, Attended, Huron  
Clara M. (Duren) Schmitz, '63 & '69, Rapid City  
Arlene J. (Horst) Shipman, Attended, Burke  
Sandra I. (Saari) Skovgard, Attended, Billings, Mont.  
George E. Smith, Attended, Milesville  
Jim H. Sprung, '55, Louisville, Colo.  
Bob J. Trankle, Attended, Morgantown, Ind.  
Luree Wacek, '57, White River  
Marcia M. (Roseth) West, '62 & '73, Philip

#### Black Hills State College 1964-1988

Lyle D. Blue Legs, Attended, Pine Ridge  
Lenny J. Clifford, Sr., '72, Pine Ridge  
Betty A. (Fees) Cracco, '71, Spearfish  
Ernie D. Cudmore, '74, Sturgis  
Joan E. (Bonsell) Egge, '70, Rapid City  
Mark E. Everett, Sr., Attended, Columbia, Mo.  
Clyde L. Fuller, '69, Casper, Wyo.  
Larry R. Geis, Attended, Belle Fourche  
Chuck A. Girardi, '67, Merced, Calif.  
Gary J. Gross, '75, Rapid City  
Scott M. Herreid, Attended, Brookings  
Mary A. (Chaloupka) Herring, '70, Sturgis  
Selah O. Hovland, '74, Rapid City  
Barry D. Iverson, Attended, Mandeville, Jamaica  
John J. Kirk, '85, Rapid City  
Keith J. Kocmick, Attended, Gayville  
Dudley R. LaPointe, '75 & '77, Rapid City  
Carol E. (Redden) Lynch, '68 & '73, Deadwood  
Dennis D. Magnuson, '68, Rock Springs, Wyo.  
Ken L. Martin, '66, Albuquerque, N.M.  
Mary E. (Zimmerman) McGuigan, Attended, Spearfish  
Carolyn C. (Bryan) McKee, Attended, Murdo  
Audrey R. (Howard) Meyer, '84, Wilmington, N.C.  
Donald W. Meyer, '83, Wilmington, N.C.  
Janie M. (Stang) Millett, Attended, Belle Fourche  
Larry E. Mintzlaff, '76, Rapid City

Dan D. Morris, Attended, Lead  
Pearl L. (Elmore) Offe, '70, Guernsey, Wyo.  
Larry E. Osborne, '73, Duncan Falls, Ohio  
Rayetta M. (Sorge) Perrett, Attended, Port Townsend, Wash.  
Wayne C. Pourier, Attended, Spearfish  
Phyllis A. (Smith) Raymond, '80, Helena, Mont.  
Michelle R. Skinner, Attended, Porcupine  
Steve A. Stewart, Attended, Vermillion  
Della J. (Kirkvold) Trankle, '69, Rapid City  
Ann C. Trask, '70, Rapid City  
Ralph D. Vojta, '67, Rapid City  
Randi S. Woeppel, '79, Bowman, N.D.  
Andrew Williford, '86, Amityville, N.Y.

#### Black Hills State University 1989-Present

Michael R. Kindt, Attended, Sturgis  
Laura R. (Weber) Patzkowsky, '91, Mountain Home, Idaho  
Larry R. Randolph, '15, Elko, Nev.  
Mike W. Volk, '97, Sioux Falls

#### Former Faculty/Staff

Mary E. (Retzloff) Brady, Spearfish  
Phyllis L. (Anderson) Gillson, Alamosa, Colo.  
John D. Maki, Spearfish  
Alma A. (Davis) Thompson, '68, Wessington Springs  
Debbie J. (Hunt) Turner, '02, Spearfish  
Matthew D. Wagner, Spearfish  
Al Weisbecker, Madison  
L. Keith Wilson, Salt Lake City, Utah



Floyd

**Elaine I. (Sever) Floyd** passed away Feb. 22, 2017 at the Dougherty Hospice Center in Sioux Falls. Elaine attended Black Hills State Teacher's College in the 1950s.

She taught in the Soliday one room school house south of Dupree and was one of very few remaining one room school teachers in South Dakota. Elaine was also employed by Sully County Bank, South Dakota Cable Television Co. in Deadwood,

and she founded and was sole owner of the J & E Cattle Co. LLC, a residential real estate company. She also worked as a recruiter at BHSU.

In 1980 she married Joe H. Floyd of Sioux Falls. Elaine has been honored over the years as Historian of the Year for Ziebach County Historical Society, Alumnus of the Year from Black Hills State University, and is listed on the National Register of Cable Television Pioneers for those working in the industry prior to 1970. She sponsored over 3,000 grade school children each year to attend the Butterfly House in Sioux Falls and under-wrote the Reading Bridge Program to improve the reading skills of 600 children during the summers in Sioux Falls, Harrisburg, Brandon and Tea. Elaine also established an endowment at BHSU that provides full scholarships for young women from farm and ranch backgrounds in South Dakota. She is survived by six children, 10 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Memorials can be sent to the BHSU Elaine Floyd Scholarship Fund or the Butterfly House Admission Assistance Program.



Black Hills State University  
1200 University Street Unit 9506  
Spearfish, SD 57799-9506

[BHSU.edu/Alumni](http://BHSU.edu/Alumni)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## LOOKING AHEAD

Sutton Bay Scholarship Fundraiser  
Aug. 14-16

BHSU Night at Downtown Friday Nights  
in Spearfish  
Aug. 18

Yellow Jacket Golf Classic  
presented by White's Canyon Motors  
Aug. 18

Swarm Week  
Sept. 5-9

Gage McSpadden Memorial Cross Country Inv.  
Sept. 8

Gage McSpadden Sheriff 5K Run/Walk  
Sept. 9

Yellow Jacket Preview Days  
Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Feb. 3, April 7

Jeep Wrangler Raffle Drawing  
Nov. 4

December Commencement  
Dec. 9

Gold Rush Reverse Raffle and Auction  
April 28

Dates are subject to change. Please check [BHSU.edu](http://BHSU.edu)  
for the most up-to-date information.

For athletic events, visit [BHSUAthletics.com](http://BHSUAthletics.com)



## LOOKING BACK

### DO YOU REMEMBER THIS PRANK?

Color slides from the estate of Lavina Humbert, instructor of expressions who taught at BH from 1919-57, were recently donated to Black Hills State University through the estate of Humbert's executor, Betty Bell, '50. In the photo above, former BHSU business manager Myrle Hansen's car was placed on Woodburn's steps by a group of students. Hansen was known for pranking people, but this time the prank was on him.

### SHARE YOUR CAMPUS MEMORIES WITH US!

Contact [Tom.Wheaton@BHSU.edu](mailto:Tom.Wheaton@BHSU.edu) or 605.642.6385  
to tell us about your celebrations and best BHSU memories.

They may be featured in an upcoming issue of the  
BHSU Alumni Magazine.