



Black Hills State University

Alumni Magazine



Taking chances

Mona Chancellor takes over oil and gas exploration business

Black Hills State University
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Welcome

One of my favorite duties as president of Black Hills State University is taking the opportunity to show others around our beautiful campus. As winter turns to spring, we are looking forward to the exciting time of commencement when a new group of BHSU students advance into the next stage of their lives and choose their paths, putting their classroom knowledge and experiences to work. The accomplishments and achievements of our students remain a source of great pride.

We at BHSU are excited about recent developments, including a collaboration with South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and the possibility of a national lab project right in our backyard, that have the potential to enhance educational opportunities for our students. Although our focus remains on educating students, BHSU continues to be involved in educational outreach activities, national grant projects and discussions with area business people to improve economic development in the region.

There have been many changes on the BHSU campus. We are very proud of the new state-of-the-art music and academic building, Clare and Josef Meier Hall, which will be put to good use this summer during the annual Summer Institute of the Arts.

I hope you have the opportunity to visit our campus to see why we remain so optimistic about BHSU's role in the future of the state and region.

Dr. Thomas O. Flickema

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Flickema, shown at the gateway of the stairway (created by a Class of '22 gift) leading to Ida Henton Park, welcome alumni and friends to visit the campus.



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Black Hills State University, founded in 1883 as a teacher preparatory institution, has grown to become the state's third largest university with nearly 3,900 students. BHSU has expanded its curriculum and now offers more than 80 majors and minors through three colleges - the College of Education, the College of Business and Technology and the College of Arts and Sciences. To find out more see www.bhsu.edu.

BHSU Alumni Magazine Spring 2004

The Alumni Magazine is published twice a year by the Black Hills State University Alumni Association. 13,600 copies were printed at a cost of 57.4 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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Mona Chancellor, BHSU alumna, teacher, world traveler and oil exploration business owner

Taking chances

At a time in her life when many of her classmates are thinking about retiring, Mona Chancellor, 65, is actively managing a gas and oil exploration company, a profession she never envisioned.

Growing up in an era when Mona says that women were told they had three occupational choices: be a nurse, a teacher or a secretary; Mona originally took the teacher route but now has a vastly different career that extends far from the boundaries of her original choices. Mona is currently the operator of an oil and gas exploration company near Denver, Colo.

Mona, who grew up in the far eastern part of South Dakota, began college with the goal of becoming a teacher. She earned her teaching degree and went on to enjoy the challenges and satisfaction of her profession. She applied at a school in Littleton, Colo., because it provided an opportunity for her to be near her sister. She feels her BH diploma served her well as her application was chosen from a stack of many applications in a tough job market at the time.

A single mother, Mona taught in South Dakota, Texas, Florida and Colorado for a total 20 years while raising her children. She also took the initiative during this time to earn a master's degree in reading, her specialty area.

However, all that changed when she married Charles E. (Chance) Chancellor, a Denver area businessman who had followed his father into the oil business. Mona then decided to quit teaching as she became involved in the oil business, and she and her husband took advantage of the opportunity they had to travel around the world, which was a lifelong dream for Mona.

"I remember getting my *Weekly Reader* in grade school and even then I knew I wanted to see those places," Mona said. She and her husband spent 20 years traveling throughout the world. Mona, a history buff, reveled in the excitement of seeing many of the places she had read and studied about.

"I'm glad I traveled as much as I did then," Mona said. "It was amazing to visit far away places and meet people from around the world."

When her husband died suddenly, Mona was

thrust to the forefront of the business and took on the new challenge of running the gas and oil exploration company. Ironically, Mona said that she was minimally involved in the business while her husband was alive. She occasionally went along to meetings, but more in a social role than in a business sense. She remembers meeting and entertaining business people from around the world.

Her husband, Chance, however, did discuss some business details with her and she has relied on those bits of wisdom and his business intuition as she has taken on the everyday operation of the businesses.

"The first year was really tough," Mona said. "You couldn't just stop the business. These leases had to be taken care of, so I did it."

Mona notes that the oil and gas industry remains a very speculative business. She remembers her husband fondly talking about the romance appeal of the oil company but knows that it takes a lot of work and the ability to handle the risk factor as well.

She remembers that Chance used to say 'You have to have more guts than a high diver to be in this business,' and Mona agrees the risks remains high and it sometimes takes your breath away.

Looking back, Mona is glad that she took a chance and accepted the professional challenge of running the business. She notes that "you never know what changes your life will bring." Although she never anticipated this profession, she now enjoys it.

Mona explained that her business actually consists of two gas and oil exploration companies. People in the business work with those who used to be known as "wildcatters." These people get together to talk about potential investors. The investing companies get a percentage of the deal and costs are paid according to a previously agreed upon percentage. She outlined the process explaining that potential properties are identified and evaluated and then she must make the decision whether

to take the chance and invest.

Knowing that this is a very high-risk business, Mona relies primarily on contractors rather than employees for her company. Mona admits that the whole process is very complex and that she relies on the advice of lawyers, contractors, geologists and other people in the business. However, she must make the final decisions on the leases. For more than five years, Mona has been making these decisions, something that she never thought she would be doing.

There are many schools of thought for the "mom and pop" companies in this business. Mona explains that each investor must weigh the risk against the return as they select properties and make decisions.

She then signs a division order, and contracts with a "landman" to make sure that the leases are all okay. After receiving and reviewing production reports and other documents, the lease progresses and "if all goes well - the ultimate reward for the entire process is the royalties."

"If the well hits, that's really good news because many times they don't hit," Mona said. She estimates that nine out of 10 times the wells don't hit and the gamble falls through, something she has learned to accept as part of the business.

Mona foresees major changes ahead in the business. She explains that new technology, which relies on seismic testing, will continue to improve the ability to predict hits, and that as three-dimensional testing improves, the predictability rate will also increase. That will encourage more scientific estimates rather than relying on the hunch of a geologist, something Mona and her husband gambled with for years.

Mona said that her late husband was trying to downsize before he died, and that, although she continues to downsize, the business still demands much of her time and attention. When she isn't working, Mona is active in the Denver area. She is an avid sports fan and enjoys her season tickets for both the Colorado Rockies baseball games and the Denver Broncos football

games. She was also an active skier and enjoyed the skiing opportunities in the region until a knee injury slowed her down.

She now enjoys spending time with her family and travels with them often. She enjoys planning trips with her grandchildren when she can. She also enjoys summer visits with relatives in her hometown of Rosholt and with college friends in the Spearfish area. She is making plans for her 50-year high school class reunion this summer.

Mona sometimes considers retirement but isn't quite ready to take that step.

"I think in another five years, I'll be ready to retire," Mona said. "Then I'll be 70, and I think that will be the time to slow down."

Even now, Mona recalls her time spent at BH as some of the best years of her life.

"I loved being in college," Mona said. "If it were up to me, I'd still be in college." Mona has dedicated her life to learning which has given her the ability to adapt to the many changes throughout her life.

Attending BHSU in the late 1950s, Mona remembers visiting friends in Vetsville, a temporary on-campus mobile home park designed to accommodate the large number of married veterans who were enrolled at that time. (See photo on page 35.)

She noted that after growing up in the far eastern part of South Dakota, she immediately appreciated the warmer climate and scenic landscape in the Black Hills region.

Mona earned a teaching degree but history was always her special interest. She took enough history courses that she could also have had a history major. Mona actually began teaching the semester before she got her degree, so she considers herself a 1959 graduate although she received her degree the following semester in 1960.

For now Mona continues to take chances doing what she has learned to love and her experiences have taught her that taking chances is sometimes the best way to live.



Mona Chancellor looks over one of many geology reports that she receives as a part of her oil and gas exploration business. Mona, who earned a teaching degree at BHSU taught for many years, then spent time traveling the world, before taking a chance on running the oil and gas exploration businesses.

DELIBERATE ACTIONS



"My education prepared me, not only for law school, but for life."

Douglas McCalla was drawn to pursue a legal profession as a high school freshman after being intrigued by 60s police and law-related television dramas. Beginning then, Doug took deliberate actions in his life that led to a future as an attorney who has made a difference in the lives of many people.

Doug is now often in the center of real-life courtroom dramas as a partner with the prestigious Spence Law Firm. He also serves as a faculty member of the Trial Lawyers College teaching other lawyers enhanced communication skills.

His first appointment, as a municipal lawyer in Cheyenne, Wyo., was a far cry from the 'exciting' dramas that led Doug to his profession.

"We did a lot of municipal cases, misdemeanors, barking dogs, that kind of thing," Doug remembers.

Looking back, he now sees that was a necessary first step on his way to a fulfilling an exciting legal career in which he has achieved an "AV" rating, the highest rating possible through the peer-based, nationally-recognized Martin Dale Hubble organization.

"The rating is an honor because it is determined by your



peers through an organization that all lawyers look to," Doug said.

Doug is one of nine partners with Spence, Moriarity and Shockey, LLC, in Jackson, Wyo. He joined the firm in 1982 and has played a major part in its success since then. Gerry Spence, the founding partner of the firm, is nationally known for his appearances on MSNBC, as well as his commentaries on many high profile cases, including the O.J. Simpson trial.

The Spence Law Firm, founded 30 years ago, represents people who have experienced serious personal injury, the wrongful death of a family member, medical malpractice, unjust criminal charges, or violation of their civil rights. Doug now tries primarily civil cases and feels a great deal of satisfaction from his work because he knows that what he and the others in the firm do makes a difference in the world and in the lives of their clients.

He cites just a few examples (see inset) of cases he has tried that have had a lasting effect and even changed the way future cases will be tried.

Doug personally has appeared at trials in nearly 40 states, as far away as Alaska, Hawaii, and Florida, while the law firm has had cases in all 50 states.

He doesn't deny that his career is a lot of work and that he works hard at it.

"I've had to sacrifice in some other areas of my life, but I love it," Doug said. "I work hard and I enjoy it. There's nothing

wrong with that. I wouldn't trade my experience being a lawyer for anything. If you love what you do, it's a wonderful way to make a living. It's more like play than work to me."

Doug, who still works long hours and is dedicated to his profession, also worked his way through college at BHSU and then joined the Coast Guard to help finance his law degree.

Doug recalls his undergraduate college years at BHSU as a time of hard work and an essential learning experience both in and out of the classroom. He chose to get a liberal arts education that later served as a great foundation when he entered law school and ultimately for his future.

"My education prepared me, not just for law school, but for life," Doug said. "[My education] proved to be the right course for me. I'd advise students today to do the same."

He encourages pre-law students to take a variety of courses from across the disciplines.

"Learn about people, study geography, learn about the world, where we've been, get a sense of history, learn about economics, take a drama class. These are all things that will serve you well in whatever you do."

While attending BHSU, Doug worked many evenings after classes at Bimbos, which was probably Spearfish's first fast food restaurant.

"I learned a lot there and we had fun," Doug remembers. "I learned about people."

Weekends, he returned to his hometown, Gillette, Wyo., where he worked as a supervisor of a survey crew.

The drama of the courtroom still intrigues Doug, and although he found the reality a bit different from the television dramas he remembers, he has built a successful and rewarding career winning civil cases and training other lawyers in the art of communication.

*Artwork by Amanda Tucker,
a BHSU freshman communication arts
student from Madison*

TRIAL LAWYERS COLLEGE

Doug serves as a faculty member of the Trial Lawyers College, a school founded by Gerry Spence in 1994, to teach lawyers communication skills and to train them to be better advocates for people.

"They don't teach this at law school," Doug said. "Lawyers need to know how to communicate with juries and understand effective communication skills. Lawyers who go through the school have a new understanding and appreciation for themselves and for what they can do."

The Trial Lawyers College is an intensive summer course in which lawyers learn by practicing under the direction of the faculty. Enrollment is limited to plaintiff's civil lawyers and criminal defense attorneys who have tried at least three cases to a jury. Lawyers who serve as corporate attorneys, prosecutors or attorneys who principally represent civil defendants, corporations or the government are not admitted. The goal is to train lawyers to represent people.

MAKING THE CASES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

These cases are some of the reasons Douglas McCalla feels a sense of satisfaction with his decision to dedicate his life to his profession as a lawyer. "I'm doing this because I know it's helping people who need help," Doug said. "It gives me a lot of satisfaction. The system fails a lot of folks."

- Exonerating a client who had been on death row for 18 years for a crime he didn't commit.
- Winning a civil case for a worker who became a paraplegic as the result of a man-lift accident. "Our case clarified a part of the law," Doug said. He notes that this case had a significant impact. The lawsuit, which went to the Supreme Court, actually resulted in a change in a workman's compensation law.
- Trying a case that ultimately changed the way people, who don't have the ability to pay, are now represented. The case re-defined the duties and responsibilities of public defenders.

L.A.W.

Doug is especially proud of the law firm's establishment of the Lawyers and Advocates

for Wyoming (L.A.W.), a public interest law firm that does trials on a pro-bono basis.

L.A.W., which was started in 1991, provides quality legal representation in the public's interest on substantive issues of health, safety, consumer rights, and civil liberties. The service is available to Wyoming citizens who are unable to secure a lawyer due to the nature of the controversy or financial inability.

"We basically take cases that no one else wants. They are typically small cases. All of the partners work with them," Doug said. "It's a great thing. We all volunteer our time in a unique model that I don't think anyone else has."

Doug notes that the legal profession, as nearly everything else, is driven by economic incentive; however, L.A.W. provides services to people who are unable to pay.

"We take these cases and we've successfully recovered for people that otherwise would not have had representation."

L.A.W. is not-for-profit. It strives to support itself by reinvesting fees earned from cases into the firm and using the money to fund future cases.

Changing the landscape

A bronze larger-than-life sculpture, which rises from the horizon like an enormous pictograph drawn in the sky, is now part of the landscape at the historic Little Bighorn Battlefield. The sculpture, which was created by Colleen Cutschall, marks a change in view from the vast Montana horizon, a change that the artist, and many others, believe is long overdue.

Colleen hopes that it will also mark a change in the way people remember the historic battle and honor Native American warriors. Colleen's work as a professional artist and her work with aspiring artists at Brandon University in Manitoba, Canada, is also making changes in the way people view and appreciate Aboriginal artwork.

Colleen, who grew up on the Pine Ridge reservation and in the Black Hills area, was chosen to design and oversee construction and installation of the sculpture, "Spirit Warriors."

After visiting the site this winter, Colleen discussed her experience creating the sculpture and the historical significance of the site.

Colleen, Oglala-Sicangu Lakota, knew that designing and overseeing the creation of this sculpture would be controversial and raise political ire from many different

people, but she also knew it was a project she wanted to do.

"I knew it was going to be hard. It's so close to home, so political, and so charged," Colleen said, "but it was too exciting to pass it by."

"The design itself was intended to have an impact," Colleen said. The original design called for "three Plains Indians on horseback." Throughout the design and installation process Colleen says there was a lot of tension and that the design had to be changed many times. Colleen recommended the design include a woman and noted that the woman now seems to be the favorite of visitors.

"People really like her, she's covered with offerings and jewelry. That makes me feel good."

"Spirit Warriors," after going through many revisions and design changes, was installed last April.

Colleen said the monument was designed to honor Native American warriors for their traditions, for their fighting and for their on-going strong patriotism.

"This sculpture is an effort to recognize Aboriginal veterans who fought for their land and freedom. In historic issues we are not thought of as veterans," Colleen said. "Indians are the largest enrolled minority group in the service and, among that group, the Lakota people have the highest enrollment."

Her own daughter, who is currently a mechanic with the Navy, is carrying on a third-generation tradition of service with the Seabees.

Colleen was in junior high school when she discovered that she had a certain amount of natural artistic talent and knew that she wanted to be an artist.

"I knew then that I wanted to study art and be employed as an Indian artist," Colleen said.

She wanted to learn more about art, so she took some summer art classes where she learned from many artists, including longtime BHSU art professor Dick DuBois. In the 1960s she trained with well-known painter Oscar Howe.

Colleen noted that she was not exposed to the world of art, and that growing up on the reservation and in the Hills region had a huge influence on her.

Colleen earned a bachelor's degree in art, then later took part in a special nationwide Teacher Corp program that was designed to train teachers to work in inner cities. She earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from BHSU through the Teacher Corp program.

She spent more than a decade of her life moving around the United States, from Arizona, Utah, Oregon and New Mexico, working in various aspects of the art world.

As she moved about and changed jobs, Colleen learned many things about people, art and other tribes that would prove to be vital in her future work as a professional artist down the road.

"I met people from other tribes, tiny tribes, that brought up a lot of questions for me. It taught me a lot about the cultural racism in the world," Colleen said.

While in Portland, Colleen became immersed in an elementary education program working with teachers to develop a curriculum based on tribal creation myths.

"That began my interest in myth," Colleen said, "and it has influenced my work since then."

As one of the few people who had an advanced degree in education with a specialty in curriculum, Colleen soon found herself involved in a Native American education program designed to re-introduce Sioux traditions in school.

"It [working as an educator] put bread and butter on the table for my daughter and I for many years," Colleen said.

After more than a decade of mostly temporary jobs located throughout the Midwest, West and Southwest areas of the U.S., Colleen knew she was looking for a more permanent job, which she found through longtime friend and colleague Arthur Amiotte, who was just leaving Brandon University.

Colleen began in the Native Studies department and later took a position in visual arts. Colleen immediately began working to add an Aboriginal art minor which she said was fairly quickly established. For the past three years, she has worked to add a bachelor's degree in fine arts. Just last year, the university began awarding two new degrees in fine arts.

"I spent the last three years working on getting the bachelor of

fine arts, so my work is cut out for me until I retire," Colleen said. "The whole advancement of arts in the present has been my focus. Advancing Aboriginal art has been one of my goals. I want to make opportunities for the future."

She notes that the Aboriginal art field is growing at a faster rate in Canada and feels that the United States is long overdue for an advancement of Aboriginal artwork.

In the early 80s, Colleen and a partner opened an art gallery in South Dakota marketing both traditional and contemporary Aboriginal artwork.

"At that stage in my life, the gallery was a wonderful affirmation for me," Colleen said. "It allowed me to market our work and visit area shows."

During that time, Colleen was involved in a legal dispute concerning materials used in the artwork.

"That changed my life. It took five years to get through the legal stuff," she said. The stress of the legal concerns changed the way she now teaches art.

"I try to prepare students, so they better understand what the real art world is like," Colleen said. "There are many issues surrounding Aboriginal art. Sometimes being an artist sounds so glamorous, so romantic. It's not. There are serious issues concerning copyrights, boundaries, materials and other concerns. I try to make students aware of these issues."

Colleen is somewhat vague about her future plans, although it's apparent she will continue to advance Aboriginal art through her artwork and her influence on students at Brandon University.

She is currently working on a tabletop bronze of "Spirit Warriors" and is compiling photos and documentation describing her experience creating and installing the sculpture.

She also has many ideas and plans for future exhibits. She is currently working via the Internet on a project with a museum in Italy which is planning a Lakota exhibit. She is also tentatively planning a European art exhibit.

"This will be the first (international exhibit), I'd like to be more involved in international projects," Colleen said.

The exhibit in Italy is a collection of artifacts that an admiral gathered in his travels in the 1800s. Individual items are being interpreted from the perspective of their people according to Colleen.

Colleen notes that "Spirit Warriors" has been on site for less than a year and she believes that as the natural vegetation grows, it will start to look like it's supposed to and become a permanent part of the landscape.



Who is Sister Wolf?

Colleen Cutschall, sculptural designer for the Little Bighorn Aboriginal Memorial, is an artist and professor of visual art and Aboriginal art at Brandon University, Manitoba, Canada.

Colleen, an Oglala-Sicangu Lakota, who grew up in the Pine Ridge and Black Hills region of South Dakota, knew at an early age that she wanted to be an artist.

She earned a master of science degree in curriculum and instruction from BHSU in 1976. She has an undergraduate degree in fine arts from Barat College of the Sacred Heart, Lake Forest, Ill. In the 1960s she trained with well-known painter Oscar Howe.

Colleen spent more than a decade traveling across the western states working with schools to develop programs for Native education.

She first joined the faculty at Brandon University in 1985 as a lecturer. Since then she has moved through the ranks as assistant professor, been granted tenure, and promoted to associate professor. Colleen also serves as coordinator of the visual/Aboriginal arts program.



What is Spirit Warriors?

"Spirit Warriors" is a 35- by 12-foot metal sculpture, resembling a pictograph in the sky, that was installed at the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn last year. Colleen was selected to oversee the creation and installation of the sculpture from a design chosen by the National Park Service. The memorial is meant to honor Native Americans who fought and died more than 125 years ago.

Where is the Battle of the Little Bighorn?

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, formerly known as Custer's Last Stand, is the site of the June 25, 1876, battle between the U.S. Army's seventh cavalry, guided by Crow and Arikara scouts, and several bands of Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho.

The site was dedicated as a national cemetery Jan. 29, 1879, and as a national monument March 22, 1946.

Little Bighorn Battlefield is a fee area with a \$10 fee per private vehicle and a \$5 fee for pedestrians. There is no charge for visiting the national cemetery. Contact the visitor center at 406-638-2621.

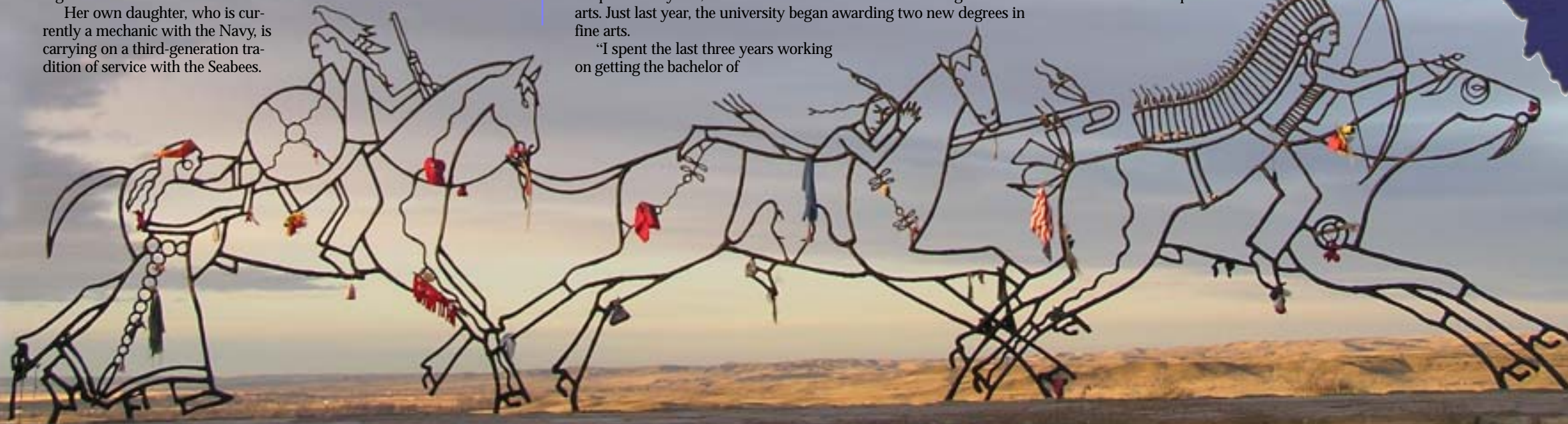
Getting there

By plane - Billings Logan International Airport (65 miles northwest) or Sheridan, Wyo., airport (73 miles south).

By car - take exit 510 from Interstate 90 (approximately 260 miles from Spearfish).



Cutschall



Sharpe shooter



When dee Welsch goes to a Denver Broncos football game, she gets up close and personal with some of the biggest names in the NFL.

From her location on the sidelines of the stadium, dee has a view like no other, capturing images of the game through the view finder of her camera. And thanks to her "day job" as a marketing communications graphics coordinator for a major camera manufacturer, dee is always equipped with the best photographic equipment.

dee, who began shooting professional football games more than a decade ago, remains one of very few women who shoot professional sports.

"At first when I noticed I was the only woman on the field, I began to wonder," dee said, but she has since

become comfortable working in the male-dominated field and feels fortunate to be a part of the unique group of people who shoot professional sports photos.

dee says she's never been run over while working the sidelines, but her photographic images have been a hit. dee's images of football greats including John Elway, Shannon Sharpe and others, have been published on calendars, Super Bowl programs, advertisements, books and regional and national trading cards.

dee earned a mass communications degree from BHSU in 1982. In college, she was a four-year letter winner in volleyball, while taking a full load of classes. She divided her time between academics, traveling with the team and working with the campus news-

paper and yearbook.

"I cherish the knowledge I gained at Black Hills State," dee said. "What I learned in my art classes, design classes and especially Ben Dar's photography classes have made it possible to do what I'm doing now. That background knowledge was key and I can rely on that even as the business continues to change."

After graduating from college, dee briefly worked at the local newspaper in Spearfish but soon realized it was time to move on.

"My time in Spearfish was so positive, but I had to make that leap to expand my horizons," dee said.

She moved to the West Coast and attended Brooks Institute of Photography in Los Angeles. That's also when she got her first shot at pro-

fessional sports photography when she was selected as a student intern with Fuji Film at the Olympics in 1984. She later worked as a customer service manager and sales representative for one of the largest custom photographic facilities west of the Mississippi.

"I have seen photographic and printing technology evolve into the digital world. At this photo lab, I was able to view images from many professional photographers, entertainment and aerospace companies," dee said.

She later made a move to Denver where she made it a priority to update her skills by learning more about the emerging desktop publishing field and became proficient with several different graphic software programs.

Looking back, dee realizes that her active participation in the mass communications department eased her transition to computer-aided design.

"My education and my experience with the BHSU newspaper and yearbook staff helped me understand how to put things

together and create designs," dee said.

The Torrington, Wyo., native feels her educational experience combined with many opportunities for hands-on learning with the campus publications improved her marketability.

"Working with the publications department was a blast," dee said. "I remember working at the newspaper late at night. I also served as kind of the official photographer for the theatre department. At BHSU, I was able to, because of the small class sizes, get a more well-rounded experience in the whole production of the newspaper and yearbook. I was able to assist in all areas so I understood it from start to finish. I've been fortunate and found it very easy to get a good job."

When she's not making memorable images of NFL action, dee works in the marketing department for PENTAX. She is an in-house designer, coordinates photo shoots, designs logos and works on literature, packaging and tradeshow graphics.

"I have a great job at PENTAX," dee said. "They provide the tools I need to be

successful and give me the opportunity to utilize my skills. Whenever new gear comes out, I get to try it out."

She now shoots exclusively with PENTAX digital products. dee notes that the switch to digital from traditional film cameras was daunting at first but now she relies on the advantages of the digital platform.

"I've found I have more control by manipulating images, cropping and retouching," dee said. "I like that I have instant review of the images on each play."

Now she shoots the game, views the images, deletes those she doesn't like and after editing the photos on a laptop, forwards the images directly to the NFL. As a freelance photographer for the NFL, her photographs are put into their stock library for future use.

The next time you're watching a Denver Broncos game, check the sidelines for dee, who most likely will be there capturing the action through the view finder of the latest digital camera.



Dee Welsch

dee, after learning the importance of her signature on her photographs, began using her nickname, without the usual capital letter, so that her signature would stand out as "something different and be more likely to be remembered."

Kudos & Announcements

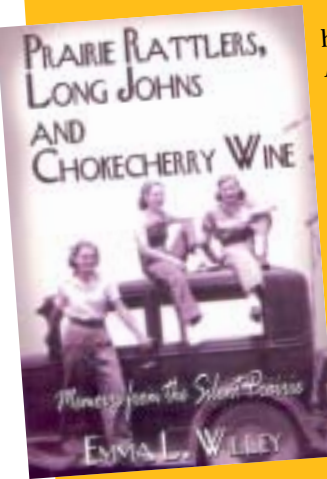
The 50s **Art Hill**, Class of '52, physical education, Casper, Wyo., received the 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wyoming Sports Hall of Fame. He has also been inducted into the BHSU Hall of Fame, Wyoming Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Wyoming Sports Officials Association Hall of Fame and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Bill McRann, Class of '52, biology, Mesa, Ariz., was recently honored by the Powell High School Alumni Association as the 14th person to receive honorary alumni status. McRann taught art from 1956 to 1974 at the Powell, Wyo., high school. Many of his former art students produced an art show in his honor, which was on display during the alumni banquet. Previous recipients of this alumni award include another BHSU alumnus, **Charles**

Little sod house on the prairie

Emma Willey, who attended BHSU in the late 30s, recently published her first book, *Prairie Rattlers, Long Johns and Chokecherry Wine*, a memoir of her childhood experiences growing up in a sod house in north central South Dakota.

Emma, who describes herself as "a young lady of 83," attended a one-room country school, earned a teaching certificate from Spearfish Normal and later joined the Army. After receiving her first grade certificate in 1939, she taught at the Beck School, a one-room country school near Imogene for several years. Emma has been writing most of her life, but only seriously began writing her memoirs 15 years before *Prairie Rattlers* was published.



"The more I wrote, the more I remembered," she said. Emma describes her first published book as a true-life story, comparable to *The Waltons* and *Little House on the Prairie*. In the book, she shares her memories as the 11th of 12 children raised in a sod house that her father built on his homestead near Zeona in Perkins County in 1910.

"Papa and Mama worked hard during the Depression to put food in our mouths and clothes on our backs," Willey said. Emma remembers her time at BHSU as busy. She said, "I remember mostly that we had tough professors, and we crammed in a lot in that school year to get ready to teach. Lots of homework and not much time for recreation."

Today, Emma lives in Roseburg, Ore., with Orman, her husband of 60 years. A latecomer to the publishing world, Emma has plans to write several more books. She is currently working on the sequel to *Prairie Rattlers*, titled *Beyond the Silent Prairie* about her experiences in the Army during World War II, and another book, *Dakota Cowboy*, which tells the story of her husband's



Willey

Peyton, Class of '50, education, Powell, Wyo.

The 60s **Jim Mead**, Class of '66, speech, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, retired in June 2000 after 35

years of teaching, the last 25 of which were at Linn Mar High School.

Roger Merriman, Class of '67, history, was named the Executive Director for the Lead Chamber of

Commerce in November 2003.

Robert Phillips, Class of '61, physical education, Lead, was one of 1,400 volunteers at The International PGA Golf Tournament in Castle Rock, Colo., this past summer.

Addie Boyd Weyer, Class of '66, education, was one of four women educators across South Dakota who were inducted into the Honored Women Educators of South Dakota in October 2003.

The 70s **Rosalie Aslesen**, Class of '78, speech,

Spearfish, was recently elected to the South Dakota Democratic Party's executive board.

Betty Belkham, Class of '76, elementary education, Flandreau, was recently chosen as the Indian Educator of the Year. She is in her fourth year as Flandreau Indian School superintendent.

Marv Bohnet, Class of '75, history, Hazel, was recently elected president-elect of the South Dakota High School Coaches Association.

Sculptures made by **Tony "T.R." Chytka**, Class of '77, art, Belle Fourche, will be awarded during the

Black Hills Stock Show in Rapid City in January and February 2003. Two other bronzes were used at the 2003 National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas as awards for the Announcer of the Year and the Coors

Man in the Can Award.
Walt L. Dansby, Jr., Class of '79, physical education/sociology, and Class of '99, human services, Rapid City, was recently

hired at Box Elder Job Corps in Nemo. Previously he was employed by Rapid City Regional Hospital as an activities coordinator/director.

Dr. Randall G. Hansen, Class of '71, history, was recently appointed the Academic Director of Park University, Palo Verde Campus in

Blythe, Calif. He is also the school psychologist at Palo Verde Elementary School and Palo Verde High School.

Family affair - eight of nine siblings choose BHSU

A reunion of the Johnson family is somewhat of a BHSU reunion as well. Eight of the nine Johnson siblings attended BHSU, and nearly all of them went on to have long, successful careers in education.

Their parents homesteaded near Gregory and the land is still in the family. Their father had the equivalent of an eighth grade education, four years in Sweden and four years here. Their mother only completed fifth grade before going to work to help support her family and siblings in the early 1900s. Although she didn't have a formal education, Martha was a lifetime believer in the importance of education and hard work and encouraged all of her children to continue their education.

The Johnson siblings were raised near Gregory, where at least one member of the family was in attendance at the high school from 1936 until 1959. Glenice was the first of the children to attend BHSU when she began in the summer of 1948. She fell in love with the Black Hills and provided the push for the rest of siblings to attend. At times there were three or four of the Johnsons in school at the same time, living in an apartment near campus.

Barb Mattson writes that she and her siblings have great memories of their time at BHSU, especially the baseball and basketball games, Friday night dances at the Pavilion and their classroom and student teaching experiences. "Probably most of all, we remember the great people who attended BHSU at that time," Barb said. "Meeting friends for coffee in the Student Union between classes or after the library closed at night was the best. We had a few dreaded classes and instructors, but also some wonderful experiences."

The siblings established a scholarship in their mother's name, Martha V. (Mrs. Elmer) Johnson, when she passed away in 1990, to ensure that students in the future will have access to the great education opportunities that they remember at BHSU. Twins, Barbara and Berle, are both Class of 1963 graduates. Barbara has 32 years of teaching experience in South Dakota and Idaho. Berle, who is currently superintendent of schools in White Lake, has 40 years experience teaching, counseling, coaching and in education administration.

Bob, Class of 1963, has 38 years teaching experience in South Dakota, North Dakota, Michigan and overseas with the Department of Defense. Cecil, Class of 1961 and Class of 1968 with a master's degree in education, is currently teaching in Presho and has 43 years of teaching experience. He has been recognized many times for his outstanding contributions to the education of South Dakota students. Glenice enrolled in 1948 earned a teaching certificate. Glenice was the first Johnson to attend BHSU and encouraged her siblings to follow her lead. She taught in rural South Dakota schools. Lorin (Dean) attended in 1957 and had ten years of teaching experience before his death in 1968. Lorraine, Class of 1969, has 29 years of teaching experience in Montana and South Dakota. Virgil, Class of 1958, who has 30 years of teaching and counseling experience in Mountain Home, Idaho, has encouraged many students to attend BHSU. Derald, a doctor of veterinary medicine, has some 40 years of practice and still volunteers with the Humane Society.



Johnson & Johnson, Johnson & Johnson

Eight of the nine Johnson siblings attended BHSU throughout the years. Pictured, youngest to oldest, (left to right) are Barbara and Berle, twins, Bob, Cecil, Glenice, Lorraine, Virgil and Derald. Between the Johnson siblings there is a total of 226 years of teaching and more than 45 years in higher education.

Plan now for the 50-year reunion

Members from the Class of '54 are invited to a gathering May 7-8 as they are inducted into the 50-Year Club. Every year classmates from the 50-year class gather at the Spearfish campus to celebrate the anniversary of their graduation. Members from graduating classes prior to the 50th are also invited to a banquet in honor of the class celebrating its 50th.

The group will meet at the Holiday Inn Friday, May 7 at 6 p.m. Events on Saturday include a breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Young Center, followed by commencement at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at the 7 Grill Club Room in Spearfish at 12:45 p.m. If you, or someone you know, has not received a registration letter, please contact the Alumni office at 605-642-6446 or email TerriWells@bhsu.edu.

Kudos & Announcements



Thanksgiving day surprise

Second Lt. Allen Godsell poses with National Security Advisor Condoleza Rice during a surprise visit to Iraq by President George Bush and several of his top aides. Godsell, Class of '01, was among the 600 soldiers serving in Iraq who were pleasantly surprised by the secret Thanksgiving visit. Godsell, who served as student senate president while attending BHSU, is a platoon leader with South Dakota's 842nd National Guard Engineering Company. He said the visit inspired the troops.

"When President Bush first came out, I couldn't believe how loud the group got," Godsell said. According to Godsell, the President spoke to the crowd and made it a point to shake every soldier's hand and thank them for their efforts.

The 842nd, with units in Spearfish, Sturgis and Belle Fourche, is about half way through its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Coram, N.Y., is currently the chair of the department of political science at Dowling College. In 2002-03 he was named Club Advisor of the Year for advising the Pre-law Society. He also published

Conceptions of and Corrections to Majoritarian Tyranny. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was named teacher of

the Year at Doane College in Lincoln, Neb., in 2001.

Jennifer (Leber) Gabriel, Class of '88, business, Whitewood, was recently selected as Executive Director of the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dave Hohenthal, Class of '87, history, Jefferson City, Mont., was named the Montana Coaches Association B-C Coach of the Year in 2003. He led the girl's tennis team to their last three Class B-C State Championships (2001, 2002, 2003). The team also went undefeated in dual matches during that stretch (32-0). In addition, he has been teaching in Montana the past 16 years.

The 80s Marla (Hershey) Barnard, Class of '81, speech, Houston, Texas, was named vice president of human resources at Time Warner Cable in May 2003. She previously worked for Duke Energy and spent an "interesting" four years working at Enron.

Donald Beahm, Class of '80, political science,

Cliff Janke, Class of '77, speech, Fairmont, Minn., has been named the 2003-04 Teacher of the Year by the Fairmont Education Association.

Bruce Krug, Class of '76, business, Gillette, Wyo., is a breeder of German shorthair pointers and bred winners of six major GSP championships in 2003-04 including the 2002 #1 all-age gun dog in America.

Duane "Spike" Millslagle, Class of '73, physical education, Duluth, Minn., is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota in Duluth. He is the motor

Renee (Youngbluth) McAmis, Class of '82, business, Belle Fourche, and her husband, Steve, were awarded the "Dick Reder Young Rancher Family Award" at the 19th annual Belle Fourche Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Banquet in September 2003.

The Black Hills Advertising Federation has named its executive board for 2003-04. Members include three BHSU alumni: **Deb (Roth) Reynolds**, Class of '88, business, Western Dakota Technical Institute, past president; **Sherri (Anderson) Cribbs**, Class of '98, mass communications, Black Hills FiberCom, is vice president; and **Natalie (Wyatt) Marsh**, Class of '97, communications, E & J Specialties.

Christle (Honadel) Robinson, Class of '82, art, and Class of '02, master's curriculum & instruction, Central City, received National Board Certification in 2003 from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Phil Schmidt, Class of '82, accounting, Casper, is currently president of the Casper Public Utilities Advisory Board and chairman of the Wyoming Medical Center Board. He is owner of Greiner Ford Lincoln Mercury.

Todd Spargur, Class of

'88, business, Spearfish, was recently hired as a real estate loan officer for Great Western Bank.

Steven Thum, Class of '89, communications - journalism, Vermillion, is the television traffic manager at South Dakota Public Broadcasting and serves on the national PBS Traffic Advisory Committee. He is also a sportscaster, not only for SDPB, but also for WNAX radio in Yankton.

The 90s Branden Ackerman, Class of '98, history, Belle Fourche, currently teaches and coaches in the Crook County School District in Wyoming. He was named the NE 2A Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2002.

Todd Buchheim, Class of '92, business, recently completed his masters of environmental management from Webster University.

Debi Caskey, Class of '90, elementary and special education, and Class of '97, masters in curriculum and instruction, and **Ric Caskey**, Class of '99, elementary education, teach at the American School of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Ric recently took a group of eighth graders to Northern Thailand for a week-long adventure safari. They have also taken school trips to Egypt, Kuwait, Turkey,

Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman.

Jesse Dana, Class of '97, biology, recently started an orthodontist practice in Spearfish. He attended dental school at the University of Nebraska and Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

Christopher Davidson, Class of '98, psychology, graduated in spring 2003 from the University of South Dakota with a Doctor of Medicine degree and the Outstanding Psychiatric Student Award. He is currently continuing his educa-

tion at the University of South Dakota in Sioux Falls in the psychiatry program.

Monica Mooney-Denny, Class of '96, technology, Ft. Lewis, Wash., is married to Sgt. Les Denny, United States Army, and has two children, Anthony, 12, and Austin, 5. She is currently a stay-at-home mom.

Dan Dittmer, Class of '92, communication arts, Hopkins, Minn., is a tattoo artist at Electric Dragonland Tattoo Studio. He and Missy Dellwo were married in Honolulu in 2001.

Tamara Hermstad, Class of '92, accounting, Gillette, Wyo., became a partner with the CPA firm Shuck, Bennett & Weber in July 2003.

Jonna (Wheaton) Lorenz, Class of '97, mass communications, was named 2003 employee of the year for Sun Publications in Kansas City. She is the associate editor for the *Johnson County Sun*.

Shawn Madison, Class of '92, biology, Moberidge, was recently named South Dakota's National Wild Turkey Federation Conservation Officer of

the Year for his extensive work toward turkey management in north-central South Dakota.

Julie (Dodson) Mathiesen, Class of '94, biology, and Class of '00, master's in curriculum and instruction, Sturgis, received a Bush Leadership Fellowship in 2003 and is currently pursuing her doctorate in education technology at Pepperdine University. She also serves on the Rapid City Arts Council Board of Directors.

Kenneth Mertens, Class of '92, social science, Lead, began work as a police officer with the Rapid City Police Department in August 2003.

Lori Neuhauser, Class of '95, tourism, Phoenix, Ariz., is employed as a certified technical trainer for Reynolds University.

Aaron Nida, Class of '93, social science, Spearfish, was named head track and field coach at Spearfish High School in June 2003.

Talking to the animals

Jodie Massie, Class of '01, and Ben Blake, a BHSU student who will graduate this year, have found a place that provides them an opportunity to put their classroom knowledge to work and do what they love at the Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary near Spearfish. The couple takes care of many duties at the sanctuary including feeding the animals, giving tours, habitat construction, landscaping, writing grants and caring for the animals.

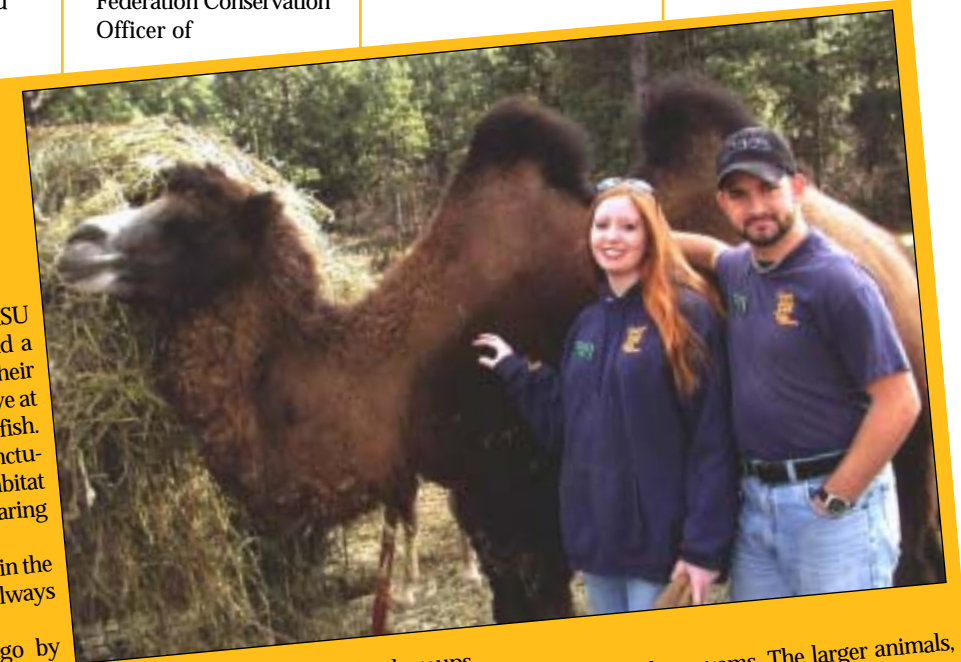
"I love that I'm able to use my degree and stay in the area," Jodie said. "I grew up on a ranch and always knew I wanted to work with animals."

The sanctuary, established several years ago by Mike A. Welchynski, provides a safe place for the rehabilitation of wildlife while offering year-round tours and educational programs for school groups. With more than 250 animals, including 40 different species, the sanctuary places a high priority on educational programs. The larger animals, including a lion, bobcats, mountain lions, panther and a bear, are located in pens stretched out among the Black Hills pine trees.

"The sanctuary was built for the animals a home, but we've found that the sanctuary is also an excellent teaching tool," Ben said. The guides customize the tours to the age range of the group and discuss a variety of topics including biology, conservation, zoology and ecology.

Jodie and Ben met at Black Hills State University, became engaged while attending school, and plan to be married at the site this summer. "This place is so much a part of our lives, we wanted to get married right here," Ben said. It looks like a match made in heaven as the couple has many things in common including their educational interests, participation in research grants, a love for animals and their dedication to the wildlife sanctuary. Interestingly their choice of majors is similar as well. Jodie has a biology degree with a minor in psychology; while Ben is just finishing a psychology degree with a minor in biology.

The sanctuary, which is open for tours year round, is seeking further financial support from grants and has also received many donations from the local region. Members of the BHSU football team recently spent a long day onsite building pens for the animals. Jodie noted that support is needed and encourages interested people to contact the sanctuary at 642-2907.



Kudos & Announcements

Gene Slouka, Class of '97, accounting, is currently a technology officer for Great Western Bank and **Samantha (Rieckman) Slouka**, Class of '97, tourism, is a team leader for Verifications, Inc. in Watertown. They have a two-year old daughter named Sydney Grace.

Jason Smiley, Class of '99, social science, Rapid City, has joined the law firm of Gunderson, Palmer, Goodsell & Nelson, LLP, as an associate in the practice of law.

Darrell Stewart, Class of '93, business, Arvada, Colo., received the 2003 Rookie of the Year title at the Colorado National Speedway in the Legends Car Division.

Melissa Swearingen, Class of '94, business, Cheyenne, Wyo., the assistant attorney gen-



Come on alumni, show us your BHSU wear

Kristina, the daughter of Dr. Sharon (Perry) Rana, Class of '95, shows her Jacket pride. Sharon is now an assistant professor at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Her husband, Rico, is an entomologist. Sharon, the daughter of retired professor Howard Perry and his wife Elaine, competed in track and cross country when she attended BHSU. BHSU apparel is available at the University Bookstore, to access the bookstore online, visit <www.bhsu bookstore.com>.

eral in Wyoming Attorney General's Criminal Division, represents the state in death penalty appeals and post-conviction litigations.

Scott Wince, Class of '93, education, Newell, is currently serving in Iraq with the 200th Engineering Company of the South Dakota National Guard and will return in April 2004.

The 00s Jim Coon, Class of '03, business, Vail, Colo., recently attended the Houston Astros training camp in Kissimmee, Fla., to become a professional baseball umpire.

Linn Derrick, Class of '02, business, Sturgis, recently passed the Series 6, 63, 65 financial, life and health tests and currently works for Western Dakota Insurors. He and **Anya Olverson**, Class of '02, mass communications, were married in Las Vegas in June 2002.

Amanda Weber, Class of '01, special education/English, Eagle Butte, has been teaching at the Tiospaye Tapa School since August 2000 as an Exceptional Education Teacher for grades 7-12.

Odle honored with national award for public affairs with the National Guard

Michael Odle, Class of '01, recently received the national Colonel Robert V. Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year Award for his outstanding service with the National Guard. Michael, who works for the South Dakota wing of the Air Force Auxiliary in a position usually assigned to a more senior officer, has excelled as the chief of public affairs for the South Dakota wing. He coordinates a staff of 12 and provides guidance and oversight to wing public affairs staff and squadron public affairs officers. He also oversees programs throughout the wing and is the primary advisor to the wing commander. The award is presented annually to the officer who manages the most effective program for the wing's previous year. Although Michael's colleagues were not surprised that he was the recipient of the award because of the extra effort he puts into his work, Michael was surprised. "It was something I was determined to get, but much further down the road," Michael said. Michael's wing commander praised him for his accomplishments and commitment. "Michael handles the public affairs program like he handles life, he attacks it with enthusiasm," Colonel Mary Donely said.



Michael Odle

Engagements & Marriages

The 70s Diann McVey Mead, Class of '71, secretarial, Lewistown, Pa., married Maurice Villano April 26, 2003. She has an MBA from Pennsylvania State University and her career has included positions as program manager of the Goodyear Blimp project and financial and market analyst for Fresno Community Hospital in Fresno, Calif.

The 80s Scott Amundson, Class of '84, business, Sturgis, married Deni Shupick at the Chapel in the Hills Sept. 26, 2003. Scott is employed at Wells Fargo as a personal banking officer.

Ace Gallagher, Class of '87, political science, Rapid City, married Tim Crawford Oct. 11, 2003. She is the West River director for Sen. Tom Daschle.

The 90s Jodi Alcorn, Class of '99, business administration and human resource management, Shakopee, Minn., was married to Dave Addy July 26, 2003.

Lisa Albers, Class of '98, communications, Rapid City, married Jerred Koppman Dec. 6, 2003. She is an investment associate at US Bancorp-Piper Jaffray.

Michelle Casteel, Class of '98, psychology, married Adrian Laine, Aug. 30, 2003, in Denver, Colo.

Ethan Dschaak, Class of '97, physical education, and **Shanna Monahan**, Class of '00, elementary education, were married June 28, 2003. Both teach in Belle Fourche. Ethan is also the head basketball and baseball coach and assistant football coach at Belle Fourche High School.

Tonda Jacob, Class of '92, business, Sioux Falls, married Brian Ellis March 7, 2003.

Sharon Haley, Class of '96, general studies, Charlotte, N.C., has married Scott Callahan.

Lisa Box, Class of '96, elementary education, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was married to Jim Hamilton in October 2002. She is a kindergarten teacher for the Cedar Rapids Community School District.

Erin Hefner, Class of '99, physical education, Worland, Wyo., married L.J. Brown May 6, 2003. She is a range tech in fire for the Bureau of Land Management.

Moon Jarvis, Class of '99, wellness, Spearfish, married Cody Hemeyer, March 1, 2003.

Adam Kienast, Class of '99, business, Rapid City, married Sarah

Wooley Aug. 30, 2003. He is a project manager for United Rentals Highway Technologies.

Angie King, Class of '97, communications, and **Michael Trump**, Class of '90, history, were married Oct. 11, 2003.

Jen Moore (Morris), Class of '99, business, married

given for graduate research at the American Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication convention.

Kerri Severson, Class of '90, psychology, Rapid City, married Chris Stover June 21, 2003. She is currently the executive director for Big

The 00s JoLeen Adam, Class of '00, psychology, Sioux Falls, is engaged to marry Joshua Koth June 18, 2004. She is currently a graduate student in the counseling program at South Dakota State University.

Angie Becker, Class of '00, communication arts, and **Scott Duncan**, Class of '01, business, were married Aug. 29, 2003. Angie is employed as a graphic designer and Scott works in sales in Denver, Colo.

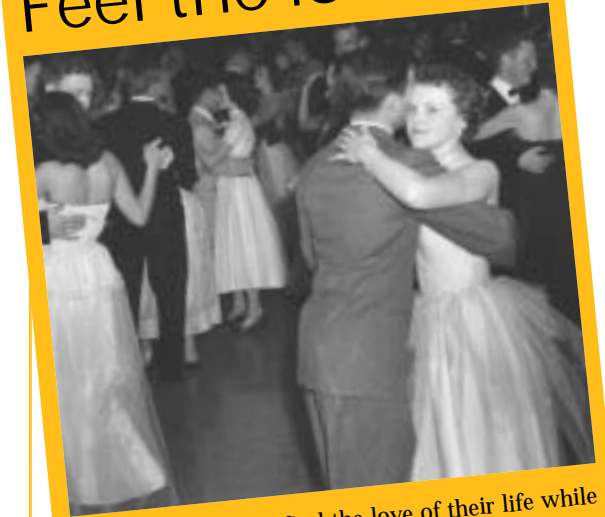
Amy Boke, Class of '03, history, Spearfish, married Michael Kern Aug. 16, 2003. She is employed as a travel consultant for RentVillas.com. The couple lives in California.

Jeb Bordewyk, Class of '02, business, is engaged to marry Jennifer Basche in June 2004.

Barbie Boyd, Class of '03, business, Mitchell, married Benjamin Dee May 29, 2003. She is a software support specialist for Martin Group.

Traci Cockrell, Class of '01, professional accountancy, Sturgis, married Chad Hanson July 5, 2003. She is employed as a CPA at Ketel Thorstenson, LLP, and Chad plans to graduate from BHSU in May 2004.

Feel the love



Many people find the love of their life while attending college. This photograph, from the 1954 yearbook, noted that "the highlight of the year's activities is the annual Valentine formal by Zeta Sigma." The Class of '54 will gather for their 50-year class reunion during commencement this May.

Did you, or someone you know, meet the love of their life at BHSU or have a wedding on the BHSU campus? The *Alumni Magazine* is seeking news and photographs about campus weddings for a future issue. Please send your campus wedding remembrances to CorinneHansen@bhsu.edu.

Matthew Copple July 5, 2003 in St. Paul, Minn. She plans to complete her Ph.D. in journalism and mass communications at the University of Missouri, and she recently won the Markham Award

Brothers Big Sisters in Rapid City. Prior to that she taught English at Central High School.

Tammi Trainor, Class of '97, general studies, married Joel Martin May 31, 2003.

Engagements, Marriages & Births

Tara Conlan, Class of '03, instrumental music, Gillette, Wyo., plans to marry Bret Dudley Dec. 20, 2003.

Heather Hansen, Class of '03, English, Spearfish, married Thomas Munro Sept. 14, 2003.

Tara Hicks, Class of '03, elementary/special education, and **Craig Knapp**, Class of '03, technology/drafting, both of Spearfish, were married July 11, 2003. They currently reside in Colorado.

Jodi Hill, Class of '03, mass communications, was married to Matthew Blake Oct. 25, 2003.

Dennis Hotchkin, Class of '00, entrepreneurial studies, and Vicki Wood were married Aug. 15, 2003. He is employed as a commercial loan officer at American National Bank in Buffalo, Wyo.

Jana Kuchenbecker, Class of '02, elementary education, and **Chris Kenzy**, Class of '99, technology, were married Aug. 23, 2003. Jana is a second-grade teacher in Rapid City and Chris is self-employed in construction and owns Blue Spruce Property Management.

Adam Lawson, Class of '03, music, Rapid City, married Katie Horn Aug. 16, 2003. He is a contemporary

worship leader at First United Methodist Church and a piano and voice instructor at Haggerty's Music Works.

Kate McKillop, Class of '03, elementary education, married Dusty Evenson July 4, 2003. She works in special education for the Mankato, Minn., area public schools, where the couple resides.

Joy Patton, Class of '02, elementary education, Gillette, Wyo., married J.R. Fox Sept. 27, 2003. Joy currently works for RAG Coal BelleAyr Mine and J.R. plans to graduate from BHSU in May.

Valerie Preston, Class of '03, outdoor education, married **Jack Baker**, Class of '03, technology/IT drafting, June 21, 2003. They both work for Pierce Pacific Manufacturing in Portland, Ore.

Sara Retrum, Class of '02 and '00, elementary education and outdoor education, married **Matt Nehl**, Class of '02, biology, Aug. 17, 2003. The couple lives in Lincoln, Neb., where Matt attends dental school at the University of Nebraska.

Susan Ricci, Class of '00, general studies, married Michael Fox Aug. 16, 2003. She is the project director for the Indigenous Diabetes Organization.

Laura Thomas, Class of '03, psychology, Rapid City, married Michael Benson Feb. 8, 2003.

Carissa Ulrich, Class of '03, elementary education, Fairfax, is engaged to marry Matt Naasz Aug. 7, 2004. She is a first grade teacher in the Bonesteel/Fairfax School District.

Jeff Williamson, Class of '02, mass communications, married Kristen Auer Dec. 27, 2003.

Births

The 80s **Kathy (Geis) Alosi**, Class of '87, business, Scottsdale, Ariz., and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their daughter, Ally, born July 22, 2003. Ally joins a brother, Austin, age two. Kathy is currently a senior finance officer at Axis Mortgage & Investments.

Dan Marrs, Class of '84, business, Whitewood, and his wife, Anna, announce the birth of their son, Matthew Ray, born Jan. 27, 2003.

The 90s **Carly (Fletcher) Davenport**, Class of '97, elementary education, Seattle, Wash., and her husband, Trevor, had a

baby girl, Hadley LaVee, April 11, 2003.

Ryan Fischer, Class of '98, elementary education, and **Becky (Gere) Fischer**, Class of '97, elementary education, Spearfish, announce the birth of their son, RyLee Dennis, born April 15, 2003. He joins his big brother, Joey RyDen, who was born Dec. 4, 2000.

Angela (Forbes) Foley, Class of '98, elementary education, and her husband, **Tim Foley**, Class of '95, elementary education, Casper, Wyo., announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Marie, born Aug. 5, 2003.

John Peterson, Class of '94, elementary education, Holbrook, Ariz., and his wife Angie, welcomed their first child, Karnie Faith Raychell, Aug. 2, 2003.

Kelly (Gaddis) Rhoderick, Class of '98, communications, Independence, Ky., and her husband Kyle announce the birth of a daughter, Molly Elizabeth, born Aug. 26, 2003. Kelly is a stay-at-home mom and also has a son, Aaron, born Aug. 16, 2000.

Lorrie (Schreiber) Schofield, Class of '97, music, and her husband, Rick, announce the birth of Danyelle Skylar Kay, born June 22, 2003. She has a

three-year-old brother, Zayne Albert.

Beth Tisher, Class of '97, wellness, and **Patrick Tisher**, Class of '95, history, Sioux City, Iowa, announce the birth of their son, Samuel Patrick, born May 7, 2003.

The OOs **Lisa (Reynolds) Bomengen**, Class of '00,

business, Thermopolis, Wyo., and her husband, Travis, announce the birth of their daughter, McKenna Jean, born in July 2003. Lisa is a billing/accounts payable clerk at a physician's office and started the successful cross country program at Thermopolis High School and Middle School.

We'll be calling on you

The Alumni Association relies on student callers to contact BHSU alumni for scholarship gifts. Because the federal government realizes that private giving is essential for campuses to cover unmet tuition costs and other enhancements, universities are exempt from the "Do Not Call Registry."

Obituaries

Genevieve Howard of Rapid City died Nov. 26, 2003. She attended Spearfish Normal School and taught rural school in Ziebach and Custer counties.

Angie (Carlson) Price of Spearfish died Oct. 31, 2003. She obtained her teaching certificate from Spearfish Normal School.

Pearl (Junek) Suiter passed away Dec. 2, 2003, in Spearfish. She graduated with a teaching degree from Black Hills Teachers College.

The 30s **Wilma (Rummans) Knutson**, Class of '37 and '66, education, Spearfish, died Dec. 31, 2003. She taught in country schools in South Dakota and Wyoming from 1937 to 1968. She then became a librarian in the

Sundance, Wyo., school system until she retired in 1978.

Lloyd Petersen, Spearfish, died Dec. 19, 2003. He attended Black Hills Teachers College from 1934 to 1939.

Clarence Weishar died Sept. 3, 2003. He attended Black Hills Teachers College in the late '30s/early '40s before enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942.

The 50s **Don Blewett**, Class of '59, physical education, Rapid City, died Nov. 23, 2003. While at BH, he earned nine varsity letters. He taught and coached in Rapid City until he retired in 1987.

Edna (Varland) Johns, Class of '56, elemen-

tary education, Lead, died Dec. 25, 2003.

The 60s **Gladys Haux**, Class of '69, education, died May 16, 2003.

Larry Liddell, Class of '67, social science, passed away Sept. 11, 2003.

Richard Stoll, Class of '68, English literature, Piedmont, died Oct. 28, 2003. He taught at BHSU for one year in 1972.

Phyllis Waring of Belle Fourche, died Oct. 18, 2003. She earned an education degree from BH in 1968 and taught special education in the Belle Fourche school district.

The 70s **Lloyd Carter**, Class of '72, ele-

mentary education, Mobridge, died Aug. 25, 2003.

Dennis L. Fippin, Class of '70, business, passed away Oct. 1, 2003.

Kathryn (Schnaible) Morrison, Class of '70, vocal music, died April 8, 2002, in Wheatland, Wyo. She taught school for several years before being diagnosed with MS. She was active in many community organizations and involved in the arts.

Wayne Musilek, Class of '73, masters in edu-

cation, Spearfish, died Sept. 13, 2003. During his career he served as principal of the rural schools of Meade County, the Whitewood school, and Piedmont/Stagebarn schools until his retirement five years ago.

Adrienne Price, Class of '70, elementary education, Pahrump, Nev., died Nov. 24, 2003. She had taught in South Dakota and Nevada.

The 90s **Lloyd Sorlie**, Class of '90, outdoor education, died Sept. 25, 2003.

Former faculty and staff

Raymond Fellows, Cobleskill, N.Y., died July 1, 2003. Throughout his life, Fellows served as an auditor for Ford Motor Company, assistant professor of accounting at Black Hills State, and assistant professor of accounting at SUNY Cobleskill.

Show your Yellow Jacket pride



Show your Yellow Jacket pride and help deserving students through a unique scholarship program at BHSU. Order your official Black Hills State University license plate decal with a \$25 start up fee and an annual royalty payment of \$10, both payable to the BHSU Foundation.

Money is used for scholarships. The \$25 start up fee (made payable to the BHSU Foundation) will be placed in the general scholarship fund. In addition, there will be an annual royalty fee of \$10, which will also be used for scholarships. This is a tax-deductible contribution to academic scholarships that may be listed as a charitable contribution if you itemize your federal tax return.

Fees and Plates - Once payment is received, you will be issued two BHSU logo decals. If you currently have South Dakota license plates you will be required to surrender the current plates and pay a \$10 organization plate fee to your county treasurer in addition to your regular licensing fees. Organizational license plates are available at your county treasurer's office. South Dakota residents who own a passenger vehicle or light truck registered in South Dakota are eligible for the BHSU organizational license plate.

If you have additional questions, contact the BHSU Alumni office at 605-642-6446 or email <TerriWells@bhsu.edu>.

For classnotes see www.bhsu.edu/alumni/classnotes

Alumni gatherings

Cheers!

Many former cheerleaders and dance team members gathered for their first-ever reunion this fall. The cheerleaders honored Louise Smock, longtime faculty member and advisor, during the Swarm Day game with a contribution to a scholarship in her name. Pictured are: Barb (Doyle) Croell, Class of '81; Kandy (Laramore) Sanders, Class of '78, Gillette, Wyo.; Linda (Morris) McKay, Class of '66, Belle Fourche; Louise Smock; xxx, xxxx; and Kathleen (Bertam) Nicholas, Class of '83.

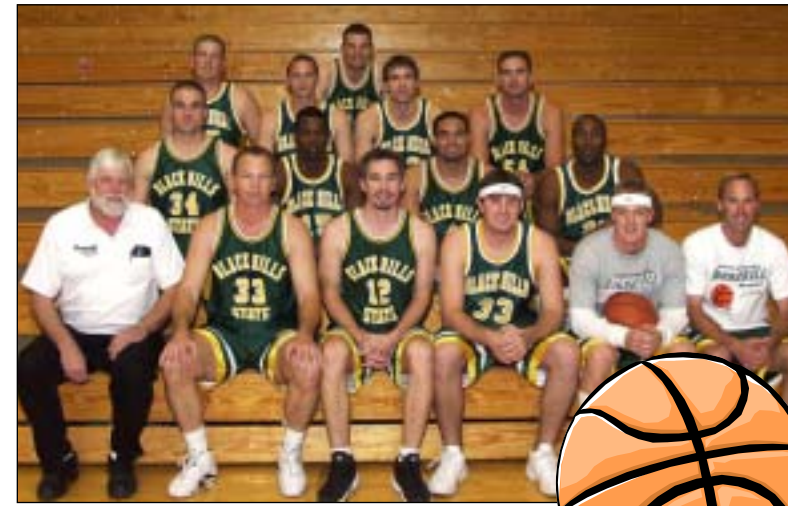


Annual roundball game and reunion

Former men's and women's basketball players returned to BHSU this fall to take part in the second annual Stadium Sports Grill Roundball Reunion.

More than 20 BHSU alumni players competed against the varsity men's and women's basketball teams in the games at the Young Center. Brian Sudrala received the award for most valuable player for the men's and Cori Engelhardt was named most valuable player for the women.

Bob Dermer, from Mesa, Ariz., and Janel VanDyke, from Logan, Utah, received plaques for traveling the farthest to attend the gathering.



Top: Members of the men's alumni basketball team were, front row, left to right, John Heck, Bob Dermer, Matt Burgess, Mike McCarty, Lonnie Gines, Mark Gould; second row, Josh Griffith, Aaron Valentine, Moe Terry, Derrick Yarber; third row, Tory Schwartz, Jesse Dana, Brant Miller, Brian Sudrala; and back row, Barry Van Dyke. Not pictured are honorary coaches, Curt Johnson and Clay Dunlap.

Right: Members of the women's alumni basketball team included, front row, left to right, Coleen (Herber) Letellier, Darcy Reinicke, Becky Schultz, Melissa Braegger, Janel Van Dyke, Cori (Ringwood) Engelhardt; middle row, Tobiann (Vanderpol) Andrews, Dawn (Batterman) Curl, Linn Jansson, Christa Authier, Katie McLaughlin; back row, Beth Bentley, Amanda Schelle, Phyllis Parkhurst.



Alumni gather in Rapid City



Alumni and friends met for a pre-game gathering in Rapid City, prior to the BH-Tech basketball game. Those attending were, back row left to right, Terry Matson, Jennifer Miller, Steve Meeker, John Miller, Bob Knapp, Bill Dunbar, Jerome Wickersham, Jennifer Renner, Justin Wickersham, Myrle Hanson, Gary Larson, Pete Cappa, Sandy Mattern and Ron Schoenthal; middle row left to right, Sheila Knapp, Ruth Herron, Jane Dunbar, Teri Royer, Jhett Albers, Terry Bell, Josh Sand and Coral Sand; front row, left to right, Mike Larson, Clyde Millslagle, Wayne Mundt, Roger Tellinghuisen, Carol Tellinghuisen, Patti Mundt, Terry Matson and Mickee Rarick.

Regents reinstate a revised child of alumni program

Ever wish your child could experience the exceptional learning and unique recreational opportunities and quality of life that you remember during your time at Black Hills State University?

The Children of Alumni Program, recently revised and reinstated by the South Dakota Board of Regents, gives alumni of South Dakota state universities the opportunity to send their children to their alma mater at a reduced out-of-state resident rate, even if their career has taken them out of the region.

The child of alumni undergraduate tuition rate is 150 percent of the resident rate, significantly lower than the full non-resident tuition rate, which is currently 318 percent of the resident rate.

The S.D. Board of Regents see this as an opportunity to encourage children of alumni to return to BHSU to get their education.

Kelly McGoldrick, a sophomore who grew up in Arizona, is following in her father's footsteps, pursuing an education degree at BHSU because she knew that her parents treasured their time at the university. Her father, Tom McGoldrick, served as residence hall supervisor and played on the soccer team when he attended in the 80s.

"I always wanted to be a teacher and I knew I wanted to go to BHSU," Kelly said. "I was here with my parents when I was three and knew I wanted to come back. I know BHSU has a great reputation for educating teachers so this was an obvious choice for me."

Kelly is a member of the Student Ambassadors and has served as a student caller for the academic phon-a-thon.



Kelly McGoldrick looks through a yearbook from the 80s that includes a photograph of her father playing soccer. Students who enroll at their parents' alma mater will now receive a discounted child of alumni tuition rate.

Bergland runs the race of his life

Dan Bergland wasn't the first runner in the Alumni Mile to cross the finish line, but for him the victory was sweeter than most.

Dan, Class of 1989, was among 30 alumni who returned to their alma mater for the annual Alumni Mile. For Dan it was more than a run; it was a milestone in his recovery from a serious car accident that left him near death just nine months before.

Dan is a survivor. He proved that when he was a student at BHSU. As a college student, he battled cancer, overcame the disease and went on to compete in cross country and earn a bachelor's degree in biology. He later earned a master's degree from SDSU, and, in 1992, began teaching high school science.

After teaching at a few different schools,

Dan settled in at Vermillion High School and thought his life was set, but in May of 2003 he was involved in a car accident that would once again force him to fight for his life. After being found on the side of the road in serious condition, Dan was flown to a hospital in Sioux City, Iowa, where he spent the next two and a half weeks in a drug-induced coma to help him recover from broken ribs and head and brain injuries. He was later transferred to Sioux Falls where he spent the next six weeks of his recovery.

After returning home to Beresford, Dan made three trips a week to Sioux Falls for rehabilitation. He once again relied on his attitude "to cope with it and move on" as he

worked to recover.

"It was time to go on to the next step," Dan said. He decided to make the Alumni Mile, something he participated in many times before, an internal goal for him as part of his recovery process.

In January 2004 retired BHSU track and cross country coach Dave Little watched with pride as Dan crossed the finish line. Little, who visited Dan several times in the hospital, was grateful that Dan was able to take part in the event and counted it as a major victory.

Dan was also grateful to be a participant and found that for this race, winning wasn't the objective; running and finishing was.

"You needed a calendar to clock my time, I was so slow," Dan joked. But his victory in reaching another milestone in his recovery, as he proved once again that he is a survivor, was more important than any recorded time.



Bergland

Alumni mile



Thirty runners participated in the 12th annual BHSU Alumni Mile which was held during the Dave Little Invitational. Tim Bishop finished first in the race. This year's runners included, front row (left to right), Chris Bohall, Rob Welo, Brian Harms, Scott Walkinshaw, Dave Little, Jim Glazer, Yellow Jacket Mascot and Wayne Mundt; middle row (left to right), Tera (Gerk) Linafelter, Steve Hayes, Rob Marney, John Humke, Cal Corey, Lisa (Reynolds) Bomengen, Scott Kieper, and Frank Davis; and back row (left to right), Travis Shoults, Jack Kirtley, Scott Bohall, Brent Stille, Al Finch, Claude McBroom, Dan Bergland, Phil Bjorneberg, Aaron Nida, Andre Reveling, Fred Romkema, Jim Meyer, and Darrell Stewart.

The music goes on with a scholarship

Darleen Young, a former business instructor at Black Hills State University, knows how important music has been, and continues to be, for her entire family so she has established a scholarship to encourage future students to make music a significant part of their lives.

Darleen, whose late husband Don was a professor and coach at BHSU for many years, knows that music has had a posi-

Popping a deal for funds

Pop some money in the vending machine, enjoy some microwave popcorn and help raise money for BHSU scholarships at the same time.

A new fundraising idea makes this possible with the assistance of Jeff and Linda Jacobs, owners of Southwest Specialty Foods, Inc., in Goodyear, Ariz. They contribute the microwave popcorn, which is packaged with a specially designed "Yellow Jacket" label and distributed in regional vending machines.

"Thanks to the Jacobs' generosity and their knowledge of the specialty food business we have been able to make this program work," said Steve Meeker, vice president for institutional advancement.

Jeff, a Pierre native, attended BHSU from 1980 to 1982. In 1986 he modified his grandfather's barbecue sauce to give it a Southwest flair, which became the basis of the business. The company now ships products to more than 3,000 specialty gift, gourmet, airport, upscale grocery and tourist shops in the United States and Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan, as well as servicing over 120,000 direct-mail customers and Internet customers.

tive influence on her children and now sees musical ability in her grandchildren as well.

"Music is such a good experience and my children have been able to use that musical experience throughout their lives," Darleen said. "I wanted to do something to support the wonderful music program here at Black Hills State."

The interest from the fully funded scholarship will be used to award a music scholarship to a student who is interested in piano.

Darleen, who played piano, said that all of her children have musical abilities and now the family is enjoying the musical talents of the grandchildren.

"We could have had an orchestra," Darleen said concerning the variety of musical instruments played by family members. "I can't think of anything that's been more important to our family than music."

The Young siblings, Pamela, Priscilla, Paul and Peter, began their musical instruction with piano lessons when they were children. Since then, Darleen says that each of them has continued to incorporate music into their lives. She notes that now her grandchildren are carrying on the musical tradition, as two grand-

daughters have chosen music majors.

Daughters Pamela Baum and Priscilla Romkema both studied piano at BHSU and have served as accom-

panists for many individuals and groups and as organists at various churches.

Priscilla, who is now a business professor at BHSU, majored in instrumental music at BHSU. While a student at BHSU, Priscilla was in the orchestra and was Dr. Janeen Larsen's first piano student. Larsen, who is now chair of the fine arts department, joined the BHSU faculty during Priscilla's senior year.

Pamela, who lives and teaches in Rapid City, participated in band and choir at BHSU and Augustana and performed in several musicals. She serves as an accompanist for the Rapid City Children's Chorus.

Sons Peter and Paul have also been active in musical activities. Paul, who is the fitness director at BHSU, was a member of the wind ensemble at BHSU when he was a student and currently performs frequently with a local group and as a soloist.

"I wanted to do something for the music department here at BHSU," Darleen said.

The scholarship, established in Don and Darleen Young's name, will first be awarded this fall to an aspiring musician as the music goes on.



Mother and daughter, Darleen Young (back) and Priscilla Romkema, are part of a family dedicated to music. Darleen recently established a piano scholarship at BHSU to encourage others to make music a significant part of their lives.

Jacobsen scholarship established

An endowed scholarship, bequested through the will of Harry A. Jacobsen, has been established at Black Hills State University.

Jacobsen grew up in North Dakota and then served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953. He served in Austria and was a veteran of the Korean War. He later enrolled at BHSU and earned a business degree in 1967. After spending many years employed by the civil service, Jacobsen retired to Rapid City, where he lived until his

death in 2001 at the age of 71.

Nick Hortol, longtime friend who met Jacobsen while they were both attending BHSU, said Jacobsen chose the university as his beneficiary in remembrance of his enjoyable learning experiences and the good times he had while attending the university. Jacobsen especially enjoyed science, algebra and tax law classes.

Jacobsen's gift is an endowed scholarship that will be awarded every year.

High ambitions Strong roots

Like father, like son



John is following the legacy of his father and grandfather who were both attorneys that put down roots in the state and made South Dakota their home.

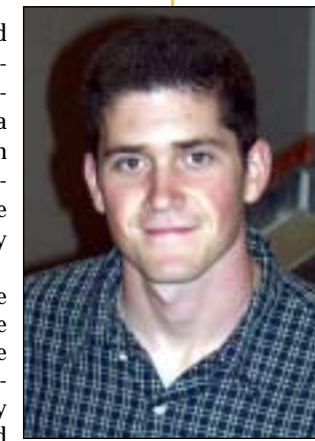
John relates the story of his grandfather, an attorney in Boston, Mass., who was relocated to Colorado as a part of the witness protection program after being threatened. His grandfather later traveled to South Dakota to take care of claims after the 1972 floods and then decided to make the Black Hills his home. He and his family relocated to the Black Hills where he raised his family and served as Rapid City circuit judge. John's father, who is now state's attorney in Lawrence County, graduated from BHSU in 1977 and then earned a law degree. He has been the chief prosecutor for Lawrence County since 1995. Before that, he was Butte County's prosecutor from 1981 to 1995. John and his father have much in common including the fact that they both served a stint as student president at BHSU.

currently enjoying the challenge of being Student Senate president. Attending BHSU is somewhat of a family affair. His father earned a bachelor's degree from BHSU and his two sisters are currently attending BHSU.

As John continues to plant trees and pursue his education, he is looking ahead to the future with a sense of pride and feeling of optimism. The tree-planting student is putting in roots that could have far-reaching and long-lasting effects on the future of the state as well.



It's obvious that tree planting has become a passion for the young man, and if John's tree-growing experience has taught him anything, it may be persistence, an attribute that will surely be important as he embarks on his lifetime goals which include earning a law degree and entering the political arena.



Fitzgerald

"I like the idea of making this area of South Dakota better for generations to come. I know planting trees will make a difference in the future and improve the area that we live in," John said. "I hope I can make a difference in the future of the state with my career as well. I'd like to be governor, senator or even president of the United

States." Currently he is working on a bachelor's degree at BHSU. He then plans to go to law school, probably at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. John, who attended high school in Belle Fourche, and considered going 'away' to college found that BHSU presented excellent educational and leadership opportunities. "College is a whole different world. After one semester at BHSU, I realized that this is where I wanted to be and decided to get my degree here," John said. "My education at BHSU is as good as I could get anywhere." He has been involved with the Student Senate since he was a freshman and is

John Fitzgerald Jr., a junior at Black Hills State University, is finding ways to improve the environment and has hopes for a career that will have positive impacts on the state political environment as well.

John, a history and English major who is currently Student Senate president at BHSU, has had a long-standing interest in planting trees. He remembers planting his first tree when he was an elementary student.

"They gave out little pine trees at school. I went home and planted it. It died," he recalls. His next tree-planting experience was not any more successful. He talked his father into buying a tree which they planted in the yard and it was accidentally destroyed by a neighbor building a fence.

However, John's interest in trees has continued to grow, and many of the trees he now plants are growing as well. Five years ago, he began planting trees, lots of trees, including many burr oak and green ash trees, on the 70-acres of rolling hills near St. Onge where he lives with his family. He estimates that he has planted more than 1,000 trees.

John notes that "the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the second best time is now." With that philosophy, John has been planting trees that he knows will improve the state in the future.



Music faculty members Janeen Larsen, Randy Royer and Steve Parker are among nearly 60 people who have "purchased" chairs in the new recital hall.

Faculty take a seat for scholarships

Music faculty, alumni and friends of BHSU have taken a seat in support of the recital hall chair campaign to raise scholarship dollars for music students.

With the \$300 "purchase" of a chair, a brass plate, engraved with a name or message, will be permanently affixed to a recital hall chair in the new Clare and Josef Meier Hall.

According to Steve Meeker, vice president for institutional advancement, all proceeds will benefit the music scholarship fund.

"I encourage alumni, friends of the university and supporters of the arts to participate in the next stage of BHSU's music history by making a

gift to name a seat in the recital hall," Meeker said.

Meier Hall, a long-awaited music and academic building which opened this fall, provides state-of-the-art music facilities in addition to the 278-seat recital hall.

"I think this is a wonderful way to show our support for the music department," Dr. Janeen Larsen, music professor and chair of the department of fine and applied arts, said.

Dr. Randy Royer, music faculty member, added that he sees the chair campaign as an excellent way to honor people who are supporters of the arts. Royer, and his wife Teri, each

purchased a chair and also purchased one in honor of his parents, who were music teachers for many years in the eastern part of the state.

Longtime music faculty member Steve Parker said, "I've been teaching at Black Hills State for 25 years and I see this as an opportunity to give something back. We all take great pride in this new building and are proud to be a part in creating a legacy for future music students."

To "purchase" a chair contact the institutional advancement office at 642-6446 or email TerriWells@bhsu.edu. Details are also available on the website at <www.bhsu.edu/alumni/>.

Double Queened

Erica Littlewolf and Andrea Farr were merely acquaintances during their high school years at Colstrip, Mont. Since then their shared experiences, as students on the campus of Black Hills State University and as volunteers across the country and even overseas, have brought these two closer than they ever imagined.

Erica and Andrea, who are now roommates, have dedicated their college careers to learning and volunteering. Both women are members of the campus Habitat for Humanity Club and spent spring break last year building houses in Oklahoma City. The two traveled with a missionary group on a recent summer trip to Africa and joined the cast of Disney's movie *Hidalgo* as extras when it was filmed in South Dakota.

The students, who will both graduate this May, also work as information specialists at the BHSU Student Union and are active members of several student groups including Lakota Omniciye, the University Programming Team, Campus Ventures, Bacchus and Gamma and have served as leaders for new student days. Both girls grew up in southeast Montana and are members of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Tribe. They enjoy hiking, biking and sightseeing in the northern Black Hills area.



Andrea Farr and Erica Littlewolf traveled together from the prairie of Montana to the vast open spaces of Africa. This was one of many exciting adventures the students have shared while attending BHSU.

The BHSU seniors also share another unique experience. Both Erica and Andrea were selected to serve as homecoming queen at BHSU, a title that neither sought, but now consider an honor and a privilege.

Last year, when Erica, who describes herself as an anti-conformist, was chosen as Swarm Day queen, she at first resisted, due to what she considered a negative stigma sometimes associated with homecoming royalty. However, after think-

ing it over, she decided that serving as homecoming queen was a way for her to present a positive Native American role.

"I consider it an honor to represent Native Americans," Erica said. "It shows others that we are capable of doing anything."

The following year, Andrea was nominated and selected as homecoming queen by her peers.

"Being homecoming queen was quite an honor and it was fun," Andrea said. "I met a lot of wonderful people and participated in many activities."

This summer the two eagerly accepted an opportunity to travel to Africa as part of a mission group. The three-week trip, their first-ever overseas experience, was an eye-opener for both girls.

"When the opportunity presented itself, I knew I wanted to go," Erica said. She noted that the experience has increased her interest in traveling and she is looking forward to future expeditions.

Andrea, who has had an interest in Africa ever since she was a child, was excited to visit the far-away place although her extended family, especially her grandmothers,

expressed concerns for her safety.

After an 18-hour flight, they arrived in South Africa and visited many areas including Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and Johannesburg. They also had the opportunity to go on a couple safaris and visit with a tribal village, which was a highlight for the BHSU seniors.

"They [the tribal village residents] were so happy to see us," Erica said. The girls laughed as they recalled their visit to the tribal village and noted that "they even slaughtered a goat for us!"

Erica noticed many similarities between the African tribal culture and her own culture and said the experience makes her more appreciative of her life.

"I felt like we had a lot in common. Family is so important and cousins grow up more like brothers and sisters," Erica said. "The people were so happy although they seemed to have so little. It gives me a whole new perspective and makes me appreciate the things I have."

The African adventure wasn't the first traveling mission for the two students. During spring break last year, Erica and Andrea took part in a successful and enlightening trip to Oklahoma as a part of the Habitat for Humanity group which builds houses for needy people. The girls are considering participating in another spring break trip this year and recently helped with a build in the Rapid City community.

"It was a good feeling to help build in Rapid City," Erica said. "Since this home is in the community we can watch the progress."

The two have their own claim to movie fame after participating as extras, among a cast of more than 100 people, in the Disney movie *Hidalgo* which premiered in March. The movie, which is set in the 1860s, was partially filmed on the Wild Horse Sanctuary near Hot Springs.

Erica, who doesn't consider herself an actress, conceded that, for her, the appearance was "not glamorous by any means" and that she

was "in it for the money."

Andrea is more of a performer and enjoyed the opportunity to "be a part of a movie." Both girls agreed the highlight was the opportunity to meet Viggo Mortensen, star of the movie and known for his role in the Lord of the Rings movies.

The girls agree that their college years have presented lots of opportunities to do amazing things. It's likely that these two outstanding students will continue to find opportunities to do amazing things in the future.



Erica Littlewolf and Andrea Farr both had the honor of being named homecoming queen at Black Hills State University. The students, who are roommates, will graduate this spring.

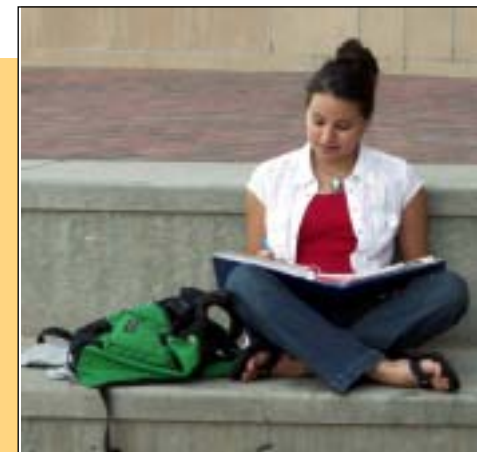


Andrea Farr

- Will graduate in May with a degree in music.
- Received the Williams and Ree Scholarship for two years.
- Performs with the theatre department, the concert choir, the concert band and the Black Hills Gold Singers and is now making plans for her senior recital.
- Would like to attend graduate school to study ethnomusicology.

Erica Littlewolf

- Will graduate in May with degrees in psychology and American Indian studies and plans to attend graduate school
- Received the Watts Scholarship, the Whirlwind Horse Scholarship and academic achievement scholarships.
- Developing and planning the first ever Youth Day in conjunction with the annual BHSU wacipi.
- Wants to dedicate her life to working with adolescents.



BHSU in the news

BHSU and Tech announce plans for collaboration

Black Hills State University and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, the two state-supported higher educational institutions in west river South Dakota, have announced plans to increase their level of collaboration and coordinate all higher educational offerings in the region.

The presidents of the two universities made the announcement at a press conference in January after months of study concerning potential efficiencies, a west river needs assessment and coordination of services by officials from both universities and the South Dakota Board of Regents. The two universities will form a West River Consortium to oversee all Regental higher education course offerings in the west river region of the state.

The plan also calls for the establishment of a "one-stop" center which will provide a convenient location to increase access for all regional residents.

BHSU President Thomas Flickema noted that, although many people recall

the longstanding and ongoing sports rivalry between the two schools, there has been and continues to



The president of BHSU, Dr. Thomas Flickema, and the president of S.D. Tech, Dr. Charles Ruch, announce a plan to better serve the west river region. The plan, which recognizes the large degree of cooperation between the two state universities, calls for ongoing and increasing coordination of higher education.

be an enormous amount of cooperation between BHSU and S.D. Tech in academics as well as student life areas.

"We [BHSU and S.D. Tech] have a pretty good record of working together. When we looked at this, I was even surprised at the amount of collaboration that is taking place," Flickema said.

"This is an exciting and important step," BHSU President Dr. Thomas Flickema and S.D. Tech President Dr. Charles Ruch said. "We believe this plan will help us meet the higher education needs of West River and make sure universities are helping make West River an even better place to live."

"Some of these strategies will be visible and some will not," Flickema and Ruch said. "Either way, they all will help higher education reach its full potential in helping people reach their goals and in helping create economic opportunities in South Dakota."

BHSU to host summer arts institute

The annual Black Hills Summer Institute of the Arts will be held June 11-26 on the BHSU campus.

The summer institute includes an arts education institute, a vocal arts and opera theatre school, a dance workshop and a lecture series.

Several public performances are scheduled during the institute. The Young Performers competition is Friday, June 11 and the Gala opening is June 12. A night of song and dance, a formal recital, is set for June 25 and the annual "Evening at the Opera" is June 26 with a picnic and pre-performance opera lecture.

For more information see <www.bhsu.edu/arts/>.



Staking hopes on a future lab



Black Hills State University is poised to make the most of a proposed national underground laboratory at the now-vacant Homestake gold mine in Lead just 20 miles away.

The state, through the efforts of Gov. Mike Rounds, state legislators and top officials, is working with the National Science Foundation to advance the plan to establish an underground laboratory at the site of the non-operating mine.

Dr. Thomas Flickema, president of BHSU, notes that BHSU will have a pivotal role as the lab is developed and sees unlimited possibilities for students and the region.

"The lab will provide tremendous opportunities for our students to get involved," Flickema said. "I see it as a great opportunity and an exciting prospect."

He noted that the NSF has indicated that the lab will have a strong science education program and public service component from the beginning and feels that BHSU will play a strong role as the lab project emerges. Beyond the scientific research opportunities, Flickema notes the potential for public service opportunities, science education outreach, tourism research and spin-off businesses.

Homestake Gold Mine, which ceased operations in 2001, has been praised by leading scientists as an ideal location for a national laboratory. Nobel Prize winning physicist Ray Davis used the location for his study of subatomic particles known as neutrinos. Because the granite at the site filters out other particles, the former mine site is an excellent choice for future physics studies. Scientists from other disciplines are interested in the lab as well.

BHSU people in the news

Lamb conducts neurobiology research in Japanese lab

Dr. Charles Lamb, associate professor in the science department at BHSU, spent the fall 2003 semester in Kagoshima, Japan, where he conducted on-going research concerning how fish detect chemicals in the water.

Lamb worked with Professor Sadao Kiyohara at Kagoshima

University on the research to study brain pathways in several species of Japanese fish that are specialized for tasting chemicals. Lamb said he chose this location for his study because Kiyohara has a lab dedicated to this type of research.

Lamb is currently planning ways to get BHSU students involved in the international research project.

Lamb, who first studied in Japan 17 years ago, noted that the internet has reduced the feeling of isolation that was so profound then. Even from 5,000 miles away, Lamb remained active at BHSU through email correspondence with faculty and students.

Lamb and his wife, Judy, a certified elementary school teacher, have three children.

The family experienced a completely

different culture in Kagoshima, which is in the southern-most part of Japan. One of the largest Japanese cities, Kagoshima, has a population of 600,000. The children attended a Japanese elementary school and, according to

Lamb, enjoyed themselves beyond their expectations.

"The Japanese children, their parents and their teachers were all excited to have the opportunity to interact so directly with research.

"It is very difficult to list all of the things that we enjoyed about our trip," Lamb said. "These are four months we will never forget."

Lamb joined the BHSU faculty in 1995. He has published a number of papers in internationally recognized journals and has a published book chapter on the neural control of feeding behavior in fishes. He has also conducted collaborative research projects in Salt Lake City; Denver; and Seward, Alaska.



Dr. Charles Lamb and his family recently spent four months in Japan where he conducted neurobiology research.

At BHSU Lamb teaches biology, anatomy and neurology courses. He also supervises the campus health sciences student organization and serves as the pre-medical advisor.

Lamb received his bachelor's degree in zoology from Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., and a master's degree as well as a doctorate degree in physiology from Louisiana State University.

Wolff book published

Dr. David Wolff, assistant history professor at BHSU, recently authored a book detailing events that shaped the Western coal industry.

The book, *Industrializing the Rockies: Growth, Competition, and Turmoil in the Coalfields of Colorado and Wyoming, 1868-1914*, is a part of the Mining the American West Series published by the University Press of Colorado.

In the book, Wolff places two defining moments of Western coalfield labor relations, Wyoming's Rock Springs Massacre of 1885 and Colorado's Ludlow Massacre of 1914, in the context of the Western coal industry. He studies the emergence of coalfield labor relations and gives a general overview of the role of coal mining in the American West.



Wolff

Theisz authors book about Lakota song

Dr. Ronnie Theisz, English professor and chair of the Department of Humanities at BHSU, has just published a book entitled *Sharing the Gift of Lakota Song*.

In this monograph, published through Dog Soldier Press of Taos, N.M., Theisz addresses oral performance, cultural contexts, and an analysis of formal elements of traditional Lakota oral song. The book is a continuation of his research in the area of Native American verbal art.

Theisz was also recently awarded the Lifetime Service in the Humanities Award, presented annually by the South Dakota Humanities Council.



Theisz

Center for the Conservation of Biological Resources will provide research opportunities

The Center for the Conservation of Biological Resources at Black Hills State University, which was established as the result of a \$640,000 Congressional earmark, is operational and expanding.

BHSU is using a \$118,594 grant from the National Science Foundation to equip an ecological genomics laboratory that will support research and training in this emerging field of biology. The new ecological genomics laboratory will greatly expand the research and teaching capabilities at BHSU.

The center was designated as the core facility for DNA sequencing and DNA fingerprinting for the state of South Dakota.

According to Dr. Dan Farrington, vice president for academic affairs, the center will provide opportunities for cross-disciplinary research and collaboration and provide students with unique access

to equipment and training.

This project is under the direction of BHSU faculty members Shane Sarver, associate professor; Cynthia Anderson,



BHSU students, Brandon Jiriden, a biology major from Ashland, Ky.; Jennifer Jensen, a biology major from Belle Fourche; Dr. Cynthia Anderson, who is a BHSU research assistant; and Bob McIntosh, a biology major from Moorcroft, Wyo.; check out some of the new equipment purchased with a \$118,000 National Science Foundation grant.

research associate; David Siemens, assistant professor; and David Bergmann, assistant professor.

Over the past four years the department of science at BHSU has equipped a molecular genetics laboratory that supports research in conservation genetics, molecular systematics, molecular ecology and basic genetic research using DNA sequencing and DNA fingerprinting technology. The new ecological genomics laboratory is an important addition to the existing molecular genetics laboratory and the Center for the Conservation Biological Resources.

In addition to serving university research needs, BHSU now serves other public and private organizations, such as the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department and regional private ranchers. The center also serves as a training center for undergraduate students in genetics, cell biology and microbiology.

Enrollment increases at BHSU

The number of students enrolled at BHSU increased by 4.8 percent to 3,873 this fall. This was an increase of 179 students compared to the fall semester last year.

"The enrollment increase at Black Hills State was remarkable, considering the ongoing decline in the number of students graduating from area high schools," according to Steve Ochsner, BHSU dean of the enrollment center. Last fall 3,694 students were enrolled.

The increase was evident in several different categories of students. First, the number of new freshmen attending BHSU increased from 601 in fall 2002 to 697 students in fall 2003. Additionally, there was an 82-student increase in the number of new transfer students. The new transfer students were primarily

from South Dakota.

Bolstering the enrollment increase was the enhanced retention of first-year students. In fall 2003, the retention rate for the first-time full-time students who began in the fall of 2002, increased by seven percent.

"We have made retention a priority at BHSU, and we believe this increase is a good start in improving the overall retention rate," said Thomas Flickema, BHSU president.

The final component of the overall increase in enrollment at BHSU was the growth in the number of students who enrolled in off-campus and distance delivery courses. Currently more than 1,000 students are taking BHSU classes at

one of three sites in Rapid City, including Ellsworth Air Force Base. BHSU also had an increase in the number of students enrolled through alternate delivery options such as the Internet.

BHSU offers many courses and several complete bachelor degrees at three on-site locations in Rapid City as well as offering classes via the Internet and at other off-campus locations. Students are responding by taking advantage of these convenient locations and by choosing distance delivery options.

Many of the courses required for the two BHSU master's degree programs in education and business are offered via the Internet. In fact, the graduate degree in curriculum and instruction can be earned entirely online. Students, primarily active teachers who are seeking an advanced degree, enroll in the MSCI program in groups and advance through the requirements on a consistent timeline. Currently there are five cohorts in the MSCI program, including three site-based groups (Rapid City, Gillette, Wyo., and the Northern Hills) and two online cohorts.

Majors with the highest enrollments

Business 801

Elementary Education 463

Biology 393



Program will encourage teacher certification

A unique working and learning agreement between Black Hills State University and the Rapid City School District will provide prospective teachers, who already have a college degree, a fast track to a teaching certificate while gaining valuable firsthand experience and providing much needed assistance in culturally diverse schools.

The program, known as Project SELECT, "Secondary Education Learners Engaged in Constructivist Teaching," is a new accelerated teacher certification program through BHSU that will allow college graduates with a content major (i.e. math, science, English) or undergraduates in their final year, with a content teaching major, to take a fast track to teacher certification and ultimately a teaching career.

According to Karen Mortimer, project coordinator, the College of Education at BHSU developed this program to strengthen and expand teacher preparation training, while responding to the need for teachers and supporting educational reform in the K-16 environment.

Mortimer notes that students in the program could complete their certifica-

tion, including practicum and student teaching, in a 10-month time frame with this alternate route to teacher education certification. She said the alternate teacher certification program is the only one of its kind in the state.

According to Mortimer, the partnership with the Rapid City schools will be mutually beneficial in addressing educational goals related to high quality educational opportunities for K-16 students, and supporting educational reform as well as the professional development of teachers in service.

"Building the teaching profession can be a shared responsibility between both parties, while

providing increased communication and understanding and simultaneously raising the bar in terms of student achievement and professional growth," Mortimer said. "This kind of partnership just doesn't exist."

Applications are currently being accepted and the program is scheduled to begin in August. For more information contact Mortimer at 642-6831 or by email at <KarenMortimer@bhsu.edu>.



Nearly 200 graduate

Averie Bohls, an education major, was one of 189 students who received diplomas at the 146th commencement ceremony in December. Graduates included 28 master's degrees, three bachelor of arts degrees, one bachelor of applied technical science degree, 112 bachelor of science degrees, 39 bachelor of science in education degrees, and six associate degrees.

Youth Day and 10K run scheduled in conjunction with annual wacipi

The 22nd annual Lakota Omniciye Wacipi, one of the largest powwows in the region, will be held April 17 and 18 on the campus of Black Hills State University. The first-ever Youth Day and the annual Kevin Whirlwind Horse Run will be held in conjunction with the powwow.

Youth Day, hosted by the BHSU Center for Indian Studies, will provide a day of learning for regional high school students. Youth Day is Friday, April 16.

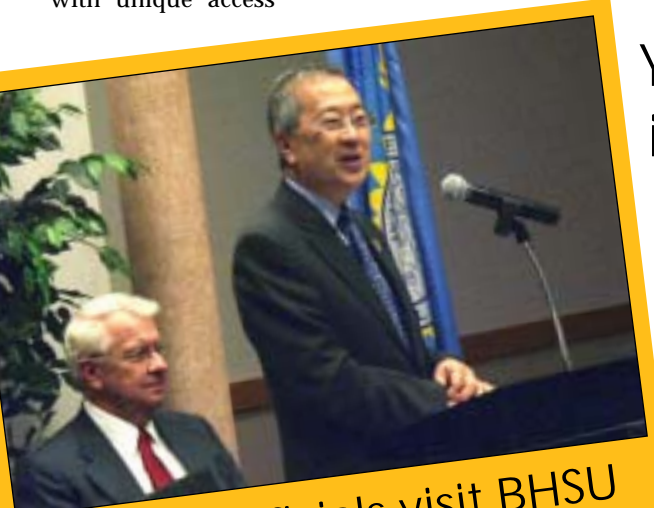
The Kevin Whirlwind Horse Run is held every year in memory of a former BHSU student who was killed in an automobile accident. The run begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 17.

Grand entries for the two-day powwow are scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. For more information contact the Center for Indian Studies at BHSU at 642-6578.



See the BH bookstore online

The BHSU bookstore has items featuring the new Yellow Jacket mascot. To view these and other items access the bookstore online from the BHSU homepage at <www.bhsu bookstore.com>



Thailand officials visit BHSU

His Excellency Sakthip Krairiksh, Thailand ambassador to the U.S., addresses a group of students, faculty and business leaders at Black Hills State University. Also shown is Dr. Thomas Flickema, BHSU president. The ambassador and a group of high-ranking officials made a two-day stop in the Black Hills as part of trip to the Midwest. They chose to visit this area to learn more about the region and discuss opportunities for increased economic and tourism ties. The Thailand ambassador gave a brief overview of Thai-U.S. relations.

Meeker named athletic director

Two BHSU graduates, Steve Meeker and Jhett Albers, will lead the athletic department.

Meeker, vice president for institutional advancement at BHSU, has been named athletic director. Albers, head volleyball coach, is assistant athletic director.

Meeker takes on the athletic director duties in addition to continuing in his position as vice president for institutional advancement

at the university.

"Steve brings a tremendous amount of knowledge and strong fundraising abilities to the position at a time when those skills are crucial," BHSU president Thomas Flickema said.

Meeker is looking forward to continuing his work in development as he takes on the athletic director position.

"My focus for the overall fundraising efforts for the university won't change," Meeker said. "It's important to maintain

our fundraising efforts for the entire campus and I'm dedicated to doing that."

Albers will continue to serve as head volleyball coach in addition to serving as assistant athletic director.



Volleyball team reaches final four

The BHSU volleyball team had its best DAC-10 finish this year. After a slow start, the Yellow Jackets finished with an 8-5 DAC-10 record and fourth place in the DAC-10 conference. The team went on to qualify for their first-ever appearance in the Final Four NAIA Region III Tournament.

"We had a rough start at 2-8," commented fifth-year head coach Jhett Albers, "but we started gelling the fourth week of the season and put together a 13-3 run during a seven-week stretch. That gained momentum heading into the final two weeks of the season and playoffs."

The fourth overall finish in the DAC-10 qualified the team for a home playoff match-up versus number five seed Jamestown College. Following a loss to Jamestown, the BHSU volleyball team was down, but not out, as their 8-5 conference record and 16-13 overall record ranked them fifth in the NAIA Region III and qualified them for a berth in the post-season playoffs.

After losing the first game 25-30, the Lady Jackets won game two by the narrowest of margins, 31-29, and kept rolling through the next two games, 30-26 and 30-22. The Lady Yellow Jackets never looked back in taking their game to a higher level and moving on to qualify for the Final Four of the NAIA Region III Tournament.

As the fourth seed in the final four tournament the BHSU Lady Yellow Jackets now prepared for the toughest challenge as they were seeded against the number one team in the nation and defending NAIA National Champion, National American University of Rapid City, coached by BHSU alumni Todd Lowrey, Class of '00. The games were close, 26-30, 23-30, 27-30, but the power and experience of NAU prevailed.

The 2003 Lady Yellow Jackets had an outstanding season with a strong finish, earning them their best conference finish in four seasons, an overall record and DAC-10 finish that earned them a chance in the NAIA Region III playoffs, and a first-round win in the NAIA Region III playoffs.

"We have made a statement with this season, and now it is up to the coaching staff, the returning players, and the new recruits to accept the challenge of not just maintaining this level of success, but stepping up to the next level and accomplishing more," said Albers.

Senior Jen Shelton helped lead the volleyball team to a record season and an opportunity to play in the Region III playoffs.

Cross country teams place at nationals

The men's and women's cross country teams at BHSU both finished in the top eight at the national NAIA cross country meet. The men's team finished second, losing out to DAC-10 foe Minot State, while the women's team placed eighth in the nation.

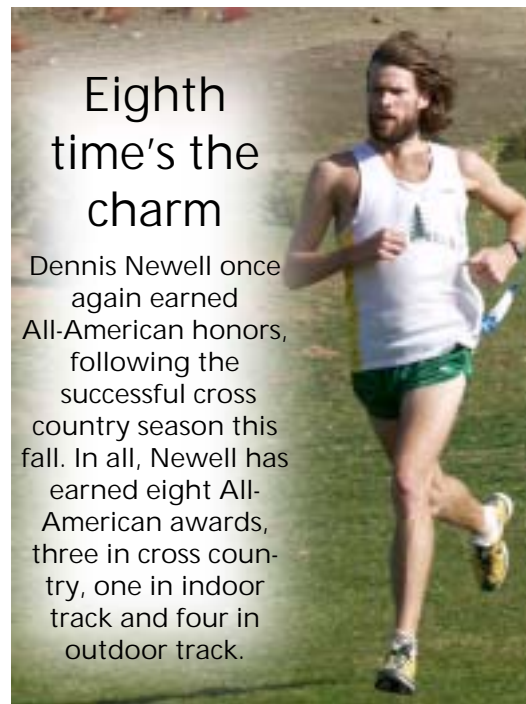
Four BHSU runners had the honor of being named All-American this season. Dennis Newell, a senior wellness management major from Billings, Mont., who finished third with a time of 24:40.7, received All-American status for the fourth year. Others who earned the All-American designation were Dan Van Engen, a freshman business administration major from Orange City, Iowa; Kristi Knudsen, a junior wellness management major from Kenai, Alaska; and Crystal Hostetter, a sophomore pre-med major from Thermopolis, Wyo.

Coach Scott Walkinshaw, who was named DAC-10 coach of the year, was pleased with the team this year.

"It's been a privilege to coach these kids," Walkinshaw said. "They're special to be around. This is a group that was willing to make a commitment and work as hard as they could."

Walkinshaw noted that both the men's and women's cross country teams have finished in the top nine for the last three years and he was glad they once again finished that high.

The cross country teams advanced to the national meet after winning the DAC-10 and Region III meets.



Eighth time's the charm

Dennis Newell once again earned All-American honors, following the successful cross country season this fall. In all, Newell has earned eight All-American awards, three in cross country, one in indoor track and four in outdoor track.

Walkinshaw named coach of the year

Coach Scott Walkinshaw was named DAC-10 and Region III men's and women's coach of the year following another outstanding season. Walkinshaw was also named college coach of the year by the South Dakota cross country and track coaches' association.



Since he joined the BHSU coaching staff in 1998, Walkinshaw has been named conference coach of the year seven times in cross country - four women's team coaching honors and three men's team coaching honors. He was also named college coach of the year by the South Dakota Sportswriters Association in 2001 and South Dakota cross country/track and field coaches Association and 2000.

Football team sees turnaround



Quarterback Josh Gerik hands off the ball to Clayton Bryan.

The Yellow Jacket football team, under first-year coach John Scott, surpassed expectations this fall, as they achieved their first winning season in nearly a decade.

Scott noted that the Jacket offense ranked in the top half of the league in all offensive categories as they ended the year with a five and four record and a fourth-place finish in the DAC-10 Conference.

Five BHSU football players were named all-conference, including Josh Gerik, a senior quarterback from Big Piney, Wyo.; Dale Query, a sophomore tight end from Basin, Wyo.; Craig Tcshetter, a freshman defensive back from Spearfish; Scott Muir, a sophomore wide receiver from Rawlins, Wyo., and Cody Smith, a sophomore from Gillette, Wyo.

With a good group of recruits, including many top high school seniors as well as several key transfer players, the Jackets are looking forward to the fall 2004 season with high expectations.



Join us for the 14th annual



Yellow Jacket Golf Classic

Featuring a \$250,000 shoot-out

Saturday, July 10, 2004
Spearfish Canyon Country Club

For more information call (605) 642-6385 or email SteveMeeker@bhsu.edu.



The welcome addition of a new music and academic building, Clare and Josef Meier Hall, has changed the layout of campus and created a new enlarged campus green area.

Looking ahead

Alumni and friends gathering in Rapid City

April 1, 5-7 p.m.
Murphy Bar and Restaurant in Rapid City
Hosted by BHSU Alumni Association and BHSU art professors:
Dick DuBois, Class of '64, and Jim Knutson, Class of '72.

Lakota Omniciye Wacipi

April 17-18
Donald E. Young Sports and Fitness Center
A special Youth Day is also being planned for Friday, April 16
Kevin Whirlwind Horse Run, April 17 at 10 a.m.
Powwow grand entry, April 17 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., April 18 at 1 p.m.

50-year Club Reunion

May 7 & 8
Class of 1954 gathering held during commencement weekend

Gold Dust Yellow Jacket Golf Classic and Auction

July 10
Spearfish Canyon Country Club

BHSU events

See www.bhsu.edu then choose Campus Calendar from the quick links menu for a complete list of campus activities.

For athletic information see www.bhsu.edu/athletics.



Changing housing

Times have changed since this housing arrangement. BHSU alumni who attended in the 40s and 50s remember Vetsville, a college-owned and operated trailer park, built in 1946 to provide cheap housing for married veterans after World War II. The college purchased 15 trailer homes which were set up where the Student Union now stands. The trailers were rented for about \$20 a month. Members of the Class of '54, and others who attended during that time frame, are encouraged to attend an alumni gathering during commencement.

Update alumni news

Name _____
Graduation year _____ Major _____
Spouse's name _____ A BHSU graduate? _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Employment _____
Note or news items _____

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

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



Outlook at Mt. Roosevelt

Living in the Black Hills has many advantages. BHSU's location, in the heart of the Northern Hills, provides variety of recreational opportunities for students including this popular hiking trail at nearby Mt. Roosevelt.