DSU IS RISING!
Major gift announced at grand opening celebration

ENROLLMENT
DSU enrollment on the rise

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS
Smith honored as DSU’s Outstanding Alumnus

ATHLETICS
Garner’s Gang and Trojan Athletic Club
Greetings Alumni

What a year it has been, and promises to be for Dakota State University! The university’s new theme of “Rising” captures a profound upswing in advances across the institution, moving DSU into a new era of progress and impact. Already this fall we have seen inspiring new funding and record-breaking enrollment, and are planning remarkable academic program expansion and historic campus improvements. To support these goals, we are amplifying our R&D endeavors to dynamically energizing our local, regional and state engagement and economic development outreach. DSU is rising.

Likely the biggest party ever was held on DSU’s campus this past August. We celebrated the opening of the historic Beacom Institute of Technology, the re-naming of our flourishing College of Computing to the Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences, and transformative new funding. The “Rising gift” combines generous commitments from multiple sources: gifts from Miles and Lisa Beacom and Denny Sanford; South Dakota state funding facilitated by Governor Daugaard; and South Dakota’s congressional delegation leadership to assist DSU in competitively acquiring federal monies.

I encourage you to take the time to read this issue of our magazine from cover to cover and learn about this event and other newsworthy accomplishments. The publication highlights the impressive long-term commitment by so many DSU alumni to maintain, sustain and advance this institution, especially financially.

Relatively small in number but “loyal to blue,” our donors have kept alive a flame of support for this university through strong winds of change and challenges that at times threatened the institution’s very existence. Recognizing the powerful impact of the extended community of Dakota State University’s students, faculty, staff and supporters, they have put their money where their mouths are.

We are grateful for the culture of philanthropy at Dakota State University that has been kept alive by so many of you. Years of loyalty and investment are coming together to raise your university to new heights of accomplishment and contribution.

Now is a time when your gift to DSU will have more impact and go farther than ever before. We are working hard to squeeze two dimes out of every nickel so that we will be able to take advantage of multiple new opportunities coming our way. Please join us in moving DSU forward. I hope you will make sure DSU is on your holiday gift list this year. Be a part of the Rising.

Warmly,

Dr. José-Marie Griffiths
President, Dakota State University
Meet Your New Alumni President

DSU Alumni Board President Adam Hafner, ’04, pictured with one of the original Travelin’ Trojans during an alumni gathering at a Sioux Falls Stampede game.

I have the great privilege of serving as your Alumni Association president for the next two years. As a volunteer for the association, I will be actively working with the leadership of this great institution to increase the connections between all our alumni and the university. While we are an association that is made up of graduates with a variety of backgrounds and interests, our association reaches out to serve each member. It is our mission to build and maintain relationships with our entire alumni community.

We have a particularly active and engaged alumni board and this makes for an exciting time to be involved with the association. We meet monthly in Sioux Falls for Third Thursdays, a time to network and share ideas in a casual, after work atmosphere. Join our DSU Alumni Facebook group for more information. We also have an alumni ambassador group which helps host events.

I hope to meet as many of you as possible. Please make time to attend an alumni event in your area. Help us schedule one if there is not a regular one already in place. We love to travel! Connect with us on Facebook or LinkedIn. Send us an email, or post on Instagram. Let us know how you are.

I am a graduate of the College of Business and Information Systems, and am looking forward to connecting to alumni from the other colleges. We all share a common bond—a degree from our alma mater DSU. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Alumni Association president. I am excited about the next two years and what it holds for us as we partner to strengthen and grow our Alumni Association.

Adam Hafner, ’04
Loyal to Blue

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CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

December
1.......Discover DSU Day
9.......Fall Commencement
No Third Thursday

January
18.....Third Thursday
20.....Discover DSU Day
*Alumni Service Activity

February
7.......Program Preview Day
9.......DSU Gala
14.....Trojan True Love
15.....Third Thursday
16.....Discover DSU Day

March
2.......Discover DSU Day
15.....Third Thursday
21.....DSU Research Symposium
27.....Black Hills Alumni Social

April
7.......Discover DSU Day/Program Preview Day
19....Third Thursday
*Alumni Service Activity
*watch for updates on when/where

Lynne Angle, ’17, graduated with a degree in exercise science and is currently in graduate school in St. Louis, working toward a degree in occupational therapy. She is pictured with her mother, Cheryl Knutson Halgerson Angle, ’93, and her god-mother, Beth Gunderson Hoebelheinrich, ’77.
DSU IS RISING . . .
These adjectives were used repeatedly at Dakota State University’s grand opening celebration for the Beacom Institute of Technology on August 20.

All were appropriate to describe the completion of three construction projects on the Madison campus, the new Beacom building, the remodeled Trojan Center, and the renovated Courtyard Hall and Learning Engagement Center.

The words were also appropriate for the surprise announcement made at the conclusion of the grand opening ceremony, when DSU President José-Marie Griffiths revealed that philanthropists Miles (’81) and Lisa Beacom and Denny Sanford were donating $30 million to Dakota State.

“This gift will lift DSU to its next level of accomplishment,” Griffiths told the estimated 8,000 people attending the celebration, making DSU “the nation’s leading institution in cyber-enabled world.”

The donation will allow for the construction of an $18 million, 40,000-square-foot research and development building for the Madison Cyber Labs, or MadLabs. The funds will also provide for additional scholarships, new program development and the hiring of more faculty and staff. It will also support the university’s intent to bring 5G network capabilities to the Madison and Sioux Falls area, and eventually the nation.

In addition, South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard pledged $10 million to Dakota State, monies from the research and development Future Fund.

U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) pledged to help Dakota State earn $20 million in federal funds to advance DSU’s mission in cyber.

David Link, former senior executive vice president and chief strategy officer at Sanford Health, has been hired to manage this $60 million initiative, which is called DSU Rising.

The gifts are much appreciated, said Board of Regents President Bob Sutton, as “the capital needs of our campuses are increasingly dependent on public/private partnerships.”

This historic day marked an “investment in brilliant students and faculty who will change the world, and make it a better and safer place,” Sutton said. He also announced the renaming of DSU’s College of Computing as the Beacom College of Computing and Cyber Sciences.

“DSU is now armed with a bolder vision, and a stronger resolve,” said Griffiths. “Because of this gift, DSU is rising, rising to the challenge of new possibilities, of new opportunities, of new futures.”

“It is the dawn of a new era for DSU.”
The 31,000-square-foot Beacom Institute of Technology is the first new academic building on campus in 30 years.

Dignitaries at the August grand opening celebration included: BOR President Bob Sutton (back left), Lisa Beacom, Gov. Dennis Daugaard; Miles Beacom (front left), DSU President Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, and Denny Sanford.
An estimated 8,000 people attended festivities for the grand opening celebration, including an opening ceremony, tours of the recent construction projects, a free barbecue meal and entertainment for all ages.

The $11.4M Beacom Institute will be the first LEED version 4 building in South Dakota. Construction materials include: 600 tons of concrete block; 5,400 sq. ft. of wood carpentry finish; 25.23 miles of data/cabling; 22.73 miles of power wiring; 14,000 sq. ft. of glass.

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Guests including Dennis Daugaard (upper left) and Lisa Beacom (lower left) were able to see special features of the Beacom Institute firsthand, including the computer game design suite, animation lab, and the academic server in the network and security administration lab (right).

DSU alumna Shantel Krebs (right) and her husband Mitch (left), along with Mike and Roxann Jamison, attended the pre-celebration meal in the building’s Collaboration Center. The open space has hosted several meetings since, including the Board of Regents’ meeting and a Senate roundtable with Sen. John Thune.
Country music singer Hunter Phelps entertained the crowd at the free concert after the grand opening ceremony.

Jake Owen, an award-winning country music star, was the headliner for the evening’s entertainment on the East Hall lawn.

The grand opening celebration was made possible by the efforts of many volunteers, contractors, support service personnel, donors and sponsors First PREMIER Bank and PREMIER Bankcard.
The Trojan Center’s new addition (top photo) houses DSU’s new “living room,” complete with a fireplace and game area (below left). A second new addition houses the kitchen and serving area (below right). The retail businesses have been relocated to the old kitchen area just off Washington Avenue. Customers now have easy access to Einstein’s Bros. Bagels, the c-store and Trojan Zone (bookstore).
The Learning Engagement Center (in the lower level of the former hospital building) houses Student Services departments including tutoring services (below right). New landscaping has been installed on the site of the former Madison clinic.
The former Madison hospital has been renovated into a residence hall with 109 beds, some of which are individual or suite-style rooms. All have privatized bathrooms. Other features include game rooms (below left), community laundry, kitchen and lounge (far below), and the namesake courtyard (below right).
DAKOTA STATE’S ENROLLMENT NUMBERS ON THE RISE

To say that enrollment at Dakota State University is on the rise is an understatement.

Fall 2017 numbers are up in numerous categories – overall headcount, freshmen and transfer students, online and on-campus students, and credit hours taken. These increases contrast the national trend for colleges and universities. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, as of 2017, U.S. postsecondary colleges and universities have about 1.5 million fewer students than in 2014, an eight percent drop in enrollment.

The South Dakota data, released by the Board of Regents on Sept. 20, show a four percent increase in DSU’s headcount numbers, from 3,190 in the fall of 2016 to 3,307 for fall of 2017. Of those, 345 are graduate students. These numbers include both full-time and part-time students.

These students are taking an increasing number of credit hours, up to 29,364 for Fall 2017, which results in a five percent increase in DSU’s full-time equivalent (FTE) number, a statistic based on the total credit hours generated by all students within an institution.

Not only is this an increase in quantity, there is an increase in quality as well. The ACT scores of DSU freshmen with an ACT score of 25 or better has gone up nine percentage points since fall, 2013.

PODHRADSKY NAMED NEW AMERICA CYBERSECURITY FELLOW

Dr. Ashley Podhradsky, associate professor of digital forensics and information assurance, is one of 30 chosen from across the country to be a policy fellow for the New America Cybersecurity program. New America is a non-partisan think tank based in Washington, D.C. The 2017-2018 cohort includes a diverse, selective group of academics, technologists, practitioners and others who will elevate voices that would otherwise go unheard in important policy circles. Their purpose is to provide guidance to policy makers on emerging topics within cyber security.

“This puts me in a community with policy makers at the corporate level and the government level, and I hope am able to provide some guidance in that process and have an impact” she said. The honor will be beneficial for Dakota State, as it “gets DSU visibility at the table, and improved opportunities for our students.”

Podhradsky’s one-year fellowship began in October.

BERRY CHOSEN FOR SD CHANGE NETWORK COHORT

Stacey Berry, associate professor of English for new media at Dakota State University, has been chosen as a fellow with the South Dakota Change Network, part of a new program created by the Bush Foundation. This program offers a cohort of 15 forward-thinking South Dakotans an opportunity to build their self-awareness, leadership abilities and systems-change skill sets.

“This fellowship appeals to me personally and professionally,” Berry said, as it “provides a chance to learn about the kinds of things a person can do to create effective change and create networks,” she explained. At the conclusion of the year-long fellowship, the members will also be able to apply individually for $5,000 grants.

Berry’s cohort includes members in a variety of professions from across the state, a finance manager, public defender, journalist, economic developer, youth director, tribal representatives. Dr. Judy Dittman is her DSU mentor for this project. Dittman, associate vice president for academic affairs/director of student retention at DSU, “is an important and inspirational figure to me at DSU and in the community,” Berry said.

THUNE HOSTS SENATE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT DSU

U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, hosted a roundtable with cybersecurity experts on Friday, October 13, 2017 in the Beacom Institute of Technology. The roundtable served as an opportunity to highlight the cybersecurity challenges facing U.S. companies, as well as relevant academic and research initiatives at DSU.

Participants included Mark Ryland from Amazon Web Services; Rick Nath from Citibank, N.A.; David Lieber from Google; Chris Murphy from General Motors; Sen. John Thune; DSU President José Marie Griffiths; Rodney Peterson from the National Institute of Standards and Technology; Bill Wright from Symantec; Sunil Seshadri from Visa, Inc.
NEW AUTISM PROGRAM
SPECTRUM STRONG RECEIVES NATIONAL ATTENTION

On August 28, 2017, the national publication “The Chronicle of Higher Education” featured Dakota State University’s new autism program, Spectrum STRONG. The Paul Basken article was titled “Colleges Are Trying a Broad Approach to Autistic Students. What Will That Cost?”

The number of college students on the autism spectrum is increasing nationwide. As future employees, they all have unique abilities which can give companies a competitive advantage, but those businesses may not see the value of employing such workers, something of an “attitude mismatch,” the article states.

To develop “soft skills” important for job readiness, the program will utilize a comprehensive set of targeted supports and accommodations such as counseling, academic advising, life coaching, structured mentorship, and seminar courses centered around social and career skills.

Using these skills, students can succeed in college and beyond, as they will not only be able to complete their degrees, but thrive in their careers and live a contributing, full life.

Spectrum STRONG activities could also be leveraged and expanded to serve other DSU students who have similar needs.

Neurotypical students can benefit from this campus program as well, as working with ASD students gives them the chance to learn to interact with others of different perspectives and perceptions. These are important skills in the new global working world.

Jordan Schuh has been hired as the program coordinator, and will be the central liaison for students with ASD, faculty and staff. He also participates with other members of the Student Success team to assess and make recommendations for university-wide adaptations or accommodations to support student and career success for all DSU students.

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DAKOTA STATE LOSES TWO FORMER PRESIDENTS

Dr. Doug Knowlton

Former Dakota State President Doug Knowlton died unexpectedly at a Fargo, N.D. hospital on July 5, 2017. He served DSU, the Madison area community and the state with distinction from 2004-2012.

He is remembered for his personal management style, referred to by one former student as “the people’s president.”

Knowlton’s tenure saw growth of academic programs with the addition of DSU’s first doctor of science programs, and designations as Centers of Academic Excellence. Enrollment during his last academic year reached 3,102. The physical campus saw improvements with upgrades to residence halls and the Habeger Science Center, and a renovation to Beadle Hall which unveiled stained glass windows.

Knowlton’s seven-year strategic plan united faculty, staff and students in efforts to improve recruitment, research, visibility and education outreach. Dakota State honored his contributions to continuous quality improvement (CQI) this fall by announcing a new award, the Doug Knowlton Excellence in Quality Award, to be given annually to the team or department judged to have produced the best CQI project.

Knowlton was a leader in implementing CQI at DSU, and Ethelle Bean, former director of the Mundt Library, remembered his commitment to improvement at the university. “Naming this award after Dr. Knowlton is incredibly special,” she commented.

The first award will be presented in fall, 2018.

Most recently, Knowlton had been associate provost for student success at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, and two sons and their families.

Dr. Harry Pitkin Bowes

Dr. Harry Pitkin Bowes, president of DSU from 1967 to 1971, died on June 20 after an extended illness.

At 31 years of age, Bowes was the youngest college president in the nation. During his time in Madison, the institution’s name changed from General Beadle State College to Dakota State College.

Much construction took place during Bowes’ time in office, including four residence halls, the Trojan Center, the Tyrrell Physical Plant and Trojan Field facilities. The Mundt Library was also built, and President Nixon attended the building’s grand opening. It was Nixon’s first presidential speech outside of Washington, D.C.

Despite record enrollment increases of 400 percent from 1959-1969, a commission of higher education master plan suggested turning DSC into a junior college, which Bowes successfully fought against.

He went on to serve as president of the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, and as executive director and CEO of Colorado Counties, Inc., an agency which provided training and support to 63 Colorado counties.

He is survived by his brother William, wife Dana, three children and their families.
We Thank You.

As an alumnus, donor or friend, there’s never been a better time to express your commitment to the goals and mission of Dakota State University. Planned giving is a strategic way to build for the future of Dakota State. It is a way to communicate your values to the next generation, and to ensure the mission of this place you hold dear is carried into perpetuity.

You can make a profound statement of your commitment to Dakota State University through the intentional sharing of assets you have accumulated over a lifetime. Once you have provided for loved ones in your will, you may want to include a gift of money, stock, land or property to DSU. Or you may want to explore another strategic giving option that will fit your retirement needs now and in later years.

In the weeks to come, we will be reaching out to you to discuss the ways you can solidify your commitment to DSU by making a thoughtful and farsighted gift to our university.

Thank you for your continued support of Dakota State, our mission and the students we serve. We are Dakota State…and we are rising!

With warmest regards…
Mark Johnston,  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

The DSU Phonathon is in full swing again with 12 student callers and two student supervisors. Our students represent a variety of majors across campus and include several student athletes. We have seen great success already this fall and are excited to see what the spring semester will bring. To those who have taken the time to visit with our students and given them the unique experience of connecting with alumni, thank you very much. We appreciate all you do for DSU and our deserving students.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

The Dakota State University Workforce Development Alliance is a program that allows participating companies to secure their future workforce by investing in a current DSU student.

The WDA is applicable across a range of industries and DSU academic programs. When employers are challenged by the lack of a qualified labor pool and escalating recruitment and training expenses, the WDA allows them to select and participate in training a DSU student to be a future employee for their company.

In return for the financial assistance with his/her educational costs, the sponsored student agrees to post-grad employment with the company for a term equal to the number of academic years provided by the company.

For more information on how your company can get involved with WDA, contact Mark Gerhardt at mark.gerhardt@dsu.edu or call 605-256-5008.
EMERITUS FACULTY COME TOGETHER AGAIN TO SPEARHEAD FUNDRAISER

After the South Dakota legislature changed DSU’s mission in 1984 to include computer education, three DSU faculty rose to the challenge. Alongside their colleagues, they began to build the changes to the curriculum that led to the technology-centric Dakota State University of today.

Tom Farrell, Bruce White, and Lynette Molstad Gorder went back to school themselves to learn the skills they would need as DSU moved through the transformation from a teacher-training institute to a university focused on computer integration across the entire curriculum.

To recognize the work done by faculty and alumni involved in the mission change, Molstad Gorder, White, and Farrell have come together in support of a campaign by the DSU Foundation to raise $500,000 for scholarships. A letter went out to graduates of the mission change era last month, and to date, over $100,000 has been pledged toward the effort.

A plaque recognizing gifts to this Legacy Campaign will be placed in the Beacom Institute of Technology Building on the DSU campus.

Gifts can be made in pledges over time at various levels:

- Platinum: $50,000 +
- Gold: $30,000 – $49,999
- Silver: $15,000 – $29,999
- Bronze: $1 – $14,999

Three decades after the mission change, Dakota State continues to distinguish itself for the quality of its alumni, and the promise of an even bright future in the in computing, networking, and cyber arenas. DSU has also remained true to its legacy mission of teacher training, continuing to send educators to school districts in South Dakota and beyond.

For information on the Legacy Campaign, contact:
Jill Molstad Ruhd, ’07 | jill.ruhd@dsu.edu | 605-256-5650

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AT SPRING 2017 COMMENCEMENT

Frederick J. Smith was honored as the Dakota State University 2017 Distinguished Alumnus at commencement in May. He and wife Donna were unable to attend the ceremony, so DSU President José-Marie Griffiths presented Smith with the award when he visited campus this summer.

Frederick Smith came to Dakota State University (General Beadle State College) as a non-traditional student, having spent five years serving in the United States Army. He graduated in 1967 with an education degree and took a job teaching English in Canton, S.D. for one year. In the fall of 1968, he was accepted into the master’s program for speech and mass communication at South Dakota State University. While there he taught speech and was the director of forensics. Following his graduation from SDSU, he was hired by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and assigned to the high school in Eagle Butte. In 1973, Fred moved to the Panama Canal Zone, where he taught at Cristobal High School. He also taught American literature and speech to military and embassy students.

In 1974, Fred moved back to the Cheyenne–Eagle Butte, S.D. school system for a little over two years. In 1977, he was assigned to the Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota, where he remained as a teacher until his retirement in 1997.

In the fall of 1997, Fred began his second career when he was hired by the Emergency Management Agency as an equal rights specialist. From 1997 through 2005, he was assigned to over 60 natural disaster declaration sites throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Fred retired once again in 2015, and now spends his time volunteering in the Flandreau community.

Fred is married to fellow General Beadle State College alumna Donna Frick Smith, Class of 1968. Together they have two sons, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
MEET OUR PEOPLE

VASSALOTTI NAMED HEAD STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH

Stephen Vassalotti is the new head strength and conditioning coach for the Dakota State University Athletic Department. Vassalotti has worked with wellness facilities, schools and a Tier 1 junior ice hockey team as a strength and conditioning coach, developing training plans for multi-sport athletes, programming and demonstrating the skills needed in all major strength movements, speed, agilities, movement patterns and general body awareness.

He earned his bachelor of science degree in health, wellness and recreation from the University of Dubuque in 2013, and his master's degree in business administration from Dubuque in 2015. As a collegiate athlete, Vassalotti earned All-Conference honors as a member of the University of Dubuque football team, where he started 41 games from 2009-13.

SEE THE NEW DSU ATHLETICS’ WALL OF FAME

A walk down the hallway at the DSU Fieldhouse is literally a walk through time. The new athletics Wall of Fame timeline recognizes the accomplishments for each sport from basketball to volleyball, noting winning seasons, long-standing athletic records and Trojan standout athletes. The careers of four coaches – Joel Swisher, Judy Dittman, Buzz Stevenson and Jeff Dittman – are also highlighted.

IHLER PROMOTED TO DSU HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER

Matt Ihler is the new Dakota State University head athletic trainer. He has been the assistant athletic trainer for the past three years.

Ihler is a DSU alumnus, having earned a bachelor’s degree in exercise science in 2009. He continued his education at South Dakota State University, where he received his master’s degree in athletic training. He received his certification in functional capacity assessment and basic nerve conduction velocity in 2013.

Prior to coming to Dakota State, he worked at Sandhill Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Clinic in Garden City, Kansas.

MOE BECOMES DSU LADY T’S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

David Moe is the new head coach for Lady T’s basketball team. Moe replaced Jeff Dittman, who has taken on a full-time role as DSU’s athletic director.

Moe came to DSU from Mayville State (N.D.), where he was the assistant women’s basketball coach for the last ten years. His job responsibilities with the Comets included coordinating recruiting, opponents’ scouting and game preparations, skill development with perimeter players and summer camps.

He helped lead the Comets to multiple trips to the NAIA Division II Women’s Basketball National Tournament and Top 20 national rankings, and he recruited All-American, All-Conference and All-Academic athletes to the Mayville State women’s basketball team. Along with coaching at Mayville State, he was an instructor in the health, physical education and recreation division.

Moe is originally from Barnesville, Minn. He graduated from Mayville State in 2009 with a bachelor of science in exercise science and sports management. He received his Master of Science in Recreation and Sport Sciences from Ohio University in 2015. Moe and his wife Sheena have three daughters; Kinsley (5), Jocey (3) and Addi (7 months).

DSU JOB LINK

Employers looking to hire DSU graduates, or alumni looking for their next career can look at the DSU Job link. Jobs are posted daily.

Register @ dsu.edu/student-life/career-services
The Trojan Athletic Club (TAC) began with the leadership of Russell Olson in February of 2015. Russell felt that the DSU Athletic Department needed to have a group of business people, alumni and fans who would help build DSU athletics.

The TAC’s mission was to be the “team behind the teams,” whose primary goals were to: increase support for Trojan and Lady T’s events; enhance the game-day experience for DSU athletes and fans; and increase the athletic scholarship dollars available to the coaches so they could be competitive when recruiting local and regional student-athletes.

After initial organization meetings to develop a constitution and by-laws, the first Trojan Athletic Club meeting was held in August of 2015. A large group of Madison business people and DSU supporters gathered to learn more about Russell’s vision. Twenty-six months later, the Trojan Athletic Club membership has grown to over 250 members. To reach the goal of enhancing the game day experience, a DSU football game now has a robust crowd of fans tailgating before each game. Ag Bowl 2017 brought to Trojan Stadium the largest crowd to ever attend a DSU athletic event, as well as the first TV broadcast and the largest tailgate in DSU history. In addition to ag, we have game day sponsorships with the manufacturing community as well.

TAC members enjoy hospitality rooms at men’s basketball, women’s basketball and volleyball games. We had our first tailgate at a cross country meet this fall when DSU hosted the Herb Blakely Invitational in September. The Wild Game Feed, the Frozen Trojan Ice Fishing Tournament, Selection Sunday Sweepstakes and golf tournaments continue to grow and provide opportunities for DSU fans to enjoy great events and provide financial support to the athletic scholarship program.

Attendance is up; enthusiasm is up; sponsorships are up; giving has increased and membership continues to grow. In a little over two years, the Trojan Athletic Club has raised over $160,000 for the DSU athletic department. This money has made a significant impact on the DSU athletic teams. A look at the rosters of each sport shows the number of local athletes playing for the Trojans and Lady T’s.

These athletes are making significant contributions to the success that DSU is experiencing:

- DSU football: three consecutive winning seasons for the first time since the 1970s.
- DSU men’s cross country: third place finish in the North Star Conference Meet last year, and three of the top four runners were freshmen.
- DSU men’s basketball: four national tournament appearances in the past six years.
- DSU men’s track: second place finish in North Star Conference Meet last spring.
- Seven programs named NAIA All-Scholar teams (team GPA is 3.00 or higher).
- DSU finished first in the North Star Conference in the NAIA Champions of Character Program for the fourth consecutive year.

The TAC has made a significant difference to DSU athletics and the men and women who represent us. We can’t thank Russell Olson enough for his vision and commitment to growing this group. We also want to thank Casey Crabtree, who became the new president this past year and is working every day to help TAC grow. Lee Threadgold, Tyler Ruhd and Lexi Sattler have all been part of the leadership group that provided many hours of work to support the TAC.

We need your support as we continue to make Trojan and Lady T athletics a source of pride for the alumni and fans, the university and the community. If you are interested in learning more about the Trojan Athletic Club or how to become a member, please contact me, DSU Athletic Director Jeff Dittman, at 605-256-5229, or e-mail me at jeff.dittman@dsu.edu. There is also information on the DSU Athletics website under “Inside Athletics.”

Jeff Dittman, DSU Athletic Director

Doane (Neb.) head men’s basketball coach Ian McKeithen (left) posed for a picture with DSU head coach Gary Garner prior to the match-up between the teams on October 29. (DSU won 68-62). McKeithen is a 2007 DSU graduate and a former Trojan player/assistant coach. He and others wished Garner well in his fight against pancreatic cancer. Many purchased purple “Garner’s Gang” t-shirts, with proceeds going to cancer research.
1950s

Cortland Carnes, '59 (Education), was inducted into the Watchdog Hall of Fame for Distinguished Service. Cortland served for 32 years as a school administrator in South Dakota, 22 of them in the Beresford School District. He was heavily involved in high school sports, serving for 50 years as track and field meet starter in both Beresford and Chester. He was also the meet director for the preliminary session of the SDHSAA State Track Meet on six occasions. He served as an official at many other athletic, music, and speech-related activities for SDHSAA over the years. Cortland was honored as Distinguished Alumnus at DSU in 1990, and received the Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota School Superintendents' Association in 1995. The Watchdog Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Beresford School District.

1960s

Dan Bohl, '67 (Education), retired in 2000 after teaching high school English and coaching in Rutland, Hoven and Chester. In 2016 he was inducted into the South Dakota Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame. In 1986 and 1987, he coached the Chester combined cross country team to State B Championships, and was named state cross country coach of the year. His teams took the combined championships again in 1997 and 1999. Dan also advised oral interp teams for 21 years and the yearbook for 32 years. He and wife, Judy Hyink Bohl, had three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Both of Dan's parents, Phyllis, '61, and Gordon, '63 were General Beadle grads, as was daughter Emily Bohl Rohloff, '94.

Jim Costlow '67 (Education), and his wife Jeri, were visiting Madison from Rapid City this fall and took a tour of the DSU campus. They stopped for a photo in front of the new Beacom Institute of Technology building. Jim went to school for all of his 16 years on the DSU campus; Beadle Campus School, Beadle High School, and General Beadle State Teachers College.

Wayne Beisel, '67 (Education), retired after a 50-year career of teaching civics and history, 43 of them in Lewiston, Iowa. Wayne's long career meant he eventually taught his own children and his grandchildren in his classroom. In addition, he was the football coach at Lewiston High School for 16 years, and for the last 18 years he has been a defensive line coach at Winona Senior High School. He also coached basketball for 43 years, and track for 17 years. Wayne intends to stay involved with education by substitute teaching and as an assistant coach with the Winona football team.

1970s

Tom Farrell, '70 (Education), has been re-elected to the Associated School Boards of South Dakota Board of Directors. Tom represents the Southeast Region member districts. He has served on the board since 2014, and is the current first vice president, which is a position on the leadership team known as the Executive Committee. A member of the Madison Central School Board since 2010, Tom has been elected to serve as that group’s president six times. He is an associate professor emeritus with Dakota State.

Larry Holland, '70 (Education), retired this year after 47 years with the Howard school district as a history and government teacher. He also served as the school's guidance counselor, tutor, coach and bus driver. He was an assistant wrestling coach for 33 years, and coached junior high football for nine years.

Albert Pellecchia, Jr., '72 (Education), retired in 2007 from the Somerville, Mass. Public Schools after serving for 35 years, many as the assistant principal. He and his wife of 36 years, Paula, spend winters in Palm City, Fla. and their summers in Maine and Cape Cod. They have three grandchildren.

Greg Sherman, '74 (Education), was named Teacher of the Year by the Colome School District, where he served as 7 – 12 grade social studies teacher for 43 years.

Tom Souvignier, '76 (Business), was named to the 2017 South Dakota Auctioneers Association Hall of Fame. He is a second generation auctioneer in his hometown of Canton, S.D.

Tony Simons, '78 (Education), received the South Dakota Tennis Achievement Award at the South Dakota Adult Open Tennis Tournament in Sioux Falls in July. While at DSU, Tony was the conference singles champion twice, doubles champion once, and was selected the all-conference team in 1977 and 1978. He led the 1977 team to its only conference championship. In 2016, Tony and other members of the 1977 tennis team were inducted into the DSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

1980s

Dr. Brett Bradfield, '80 (Education), is the president of the University of Sioux Falls. He came to the university in 2000 as the director of graduate programs, before moving into the position of vice president for professional studies and eventually taking on the role of the provost and vice president for academic affairs.
James Bakke, ‘81 (Education), retired in May from the South Dakota Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Services after a career of over 35 years in service to the citizens of South Dakota. He was stationed in Watertown.

Mary Kay Young Black ‘83 (Education), ‘07 (MS – Educational Technology) was recently recognized as South Dakota Fine Arts Coach of the Year for Oral Interpretation, Debate and One-Act Play. Mary Kay taught business courses in the Florence School District for 25 years, and is now the district technology coordinator. She is also the longtime junior and senior high oral interpretation advisor for the Florence School District. She has been employed in the same school district for 34 years.

Chris Giles, ‘89 (English Information Systems), was appointed by Governor Dennis Daugaard as circuit court judge in South Dakota First Circuit Court. The First Circuit includes Aurora, Bon Homme, Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson, McCook, Turner, Union and Yankton counties. Giles previously served as a magistrate judge in the Third Circuit, a position he held since 2015, operating the Brookings County Drug Court. Prior to that, Giles served as Lake County state’s attorney from 1997 to 2005, and again from 2013 to 2015. Giles worked in private legal practice in Madison from 1992 to 1998 and from 2009 to 2013. From 2005 to 2009, he was the CEO and director of development for the Dakota State University Foundation. Giles also served on the Lake County Commission from 2008 to 2013. Giles is a 1992 graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Law.

1990s

Al Wiese, ‘90 (Math Education), was named Teacher of the Year for the Howard School District. He has been with the school district for 26 years, teaching high school, and serving as the boys’ and girls’ golf coach.

Changes in Chester coaching staff

Brad Benson, ‘95 (Education), retired from his coaching position at Chester Area High School to focus on his latest business venture, Signature Realty. Benson had been the head football coach for the Flyers for 16 years. Ken Prorok, ‘04 (Exercise Science) will take over Benson’s post as the head football coach. Eric Knight, ‘04 (Education), left Chester to take the superintendent position at Centerville. Knight was Chester’s head boys’ basketball coach for eight years.

Rachelle Lengkeek Debeer, ‘97 (Math), coaches girl’s track at Deubrook Area Schools. Her team won the 2017 Class B Girls Track and Field State Championship. Rachelle is in her seventh year as head coach and 19th year overall as head track coach. She is also the head volleyball coach. She teaches junior and senior high math at Deubrook. Rachelle was a four-year member of both the DSU track and volleyball teams from 1994-1997. She is married to Brad Debeer, ‘97 (Elementary Education).

2000s

Jeremy Wiebersick, ‘02 (Health Physical Education), was named the Middle School Coach of the Year by the Sioux Falls School District. Jeremy is a teacher and coach at Whittier Middle School in Sioux Falls. His wife Jane Cleveland Wiebersick, ‘03 (Math Information Systems) is a technical specialist at CITI. They live in Montrose with their four children, Makarie, Ben, Jacob and Mataya.

Kara Damm, ‘03 (Computer Education), is a technology integration specialist at Southwest West Central Service Cooperative. She is one of seven across the state of Minnesota to become certified as a Google for Education Certified Trainer. Google Certification for Educators provides teachers training and skills to better integrate Google tools in the classroom.

Kyle Herges, ‘04 (Computer Information Systems), was promoted to associate professor of digital media and design and granted tenure at Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell. He is also chairman of the department of digital media and design at DWU. He has been full-time with DWU since 2012.

Brian Siemonsma, ‘05 (Computer Information Systems) has been promoted to a project director position at MetaBank in Sioux Falls. He and his wife Katherine live in Garretson.

Nicole Schuurmans Pick, ‘07 (Computer and Network Security), has joined MetaBank in Sioux Falls as a test engineer.

Daren Anderson, ‘09 (MS – Information Systems), was named SCORE Volunteer of the Year by the Sioux Falls chapter of SCORE during Small Business Week. As a SCORE volunteer, Daren works as a mentor for entrepreneurs starting small business. Daren owns Big D Technology Solutions.

Kaitlyn Kramer Killoran, ‘11 (Education), along with her mother and sister, have expanded their popular online and pop-up store, Persona Clothing Co., to a location in downtown Slayton, Minn. The store offers clothing that appeals to women of all ages. https://www.personaclothingco.com/

Timothy James, ‘13 (Cert-Info Systems Business Analytics), was recently promoted to staff technical solutions consultation at Google.
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Five DSU alumni were honored with the annual Outstanding Alumni Awards during Homecoming week this fall. Award recipients are nominated by their peers: the Dakota State Alumni Association Board of Directors reviews and approves the nominations. The 2017 honorees are:

AMY DOCKENDORF, CLASS OF 1992, AND AMY CRISSINGER, CLASS OF 1992
SERVICE TO ALMA MATER
Two alumni, Amy Dockendorf and Amy Crissinger, are being honored for their exceptional service to the university and/or the alumni association.

Dockendorf has worked in the DSU business office since graduating with her business administration degree in 1992; she has been controller since 2000. Dockendorf is also very active in the community. She is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Daughters, is on the East River Federal Credit Union supervisory committee, a board member and volunteer with Junior Achievement, and past leader and officer with 4-H. Dockendorf is involved in volleyball and softball recreational leagues as well, and is an assistant softball coach. She and her husband, Tim, have two daughters, Karli, a junior in college, and Lindsey, a junior in high school.

Crissinger began her career at DSU as an admissions counselor after earning her business degree in 1992. In 1999, she was promoted to director of admissions, and in 2011 was named associate vice president of enrollment management. Throughout her 25 years with DSU, Crissinger has also been involved with projects related to strategic planning, accreditation, institutional effectiveness, continuous quality improvement and student success.

TREVOR NASH-KELLER, CLASS OF 2007
YOUNG ALUMNUS
Nash-Keller was chosen as the 2017 Young Alumnus honoree because of the leadership capabilities he has demonstrated, and his commitment to the service of others in the 10 years since his graduation. With his degree in e-commerce and computer security, he founded Nash-Keller Media, a digital marketing agency which specializes in scaling businesses online. Nash-Keller uses data-driven methods to spot trends, and develop and implement cutting-edge strategies to explode the overall growth of local, national and international brands.

Nash-Keller is also chair of the Due Diligence Committee of the Falls Angel Fund. Through this work, he oversees and investigates possible investments in early-stage, high-growth companies in South Dakota and surrounding states. He and his family live in Sioux Falls.

BEV MADER, CLASS OF 1992
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD
This award recognizes a commitment to service through volunteer service. Mader has been a volunteer at Prairie Village since 2002, first helping with the Prairie Village Pageant, later as pageant director and opera house entertainment director. In 2015, she took on a paid position as office administrator and gift shop and campground manager. She also works at Always Your Design, a quilt shop in Dell Rapids.

Mader graduated from Dakota State in 1992 with a degree in business administration. She and her husband, Jack, together have eight children, 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

ALUMNI COACH OF THE YEAR
Max Hodgen teaches math and science at Madison High School, and is also the head coach for the Bulldogs football team. Hodgen has guided the team to five consecutive State Class 11A championship games, bringing home state titles in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

In the DSU classroom, Hodgen earned bachelor’s degrees in technology management and physics education, and a master’s degree in technology. On the field at DSU, Hodgen was a four-time South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference (SDIC) All-Conference selection, a three-time NAIA Football All-American, three-time team captain and was the team’s Most Valuable Player from 1993-95. He is married to DSU alum Suzy Collignon, and they reside in Sioux Falls, S.D.
Senator John Thune recently met with current members of the General Beadle Honors Program. The purpose of this program is to provide high-achieving students with provocative and stimulating coursework, an academic peer group, and opportunities to build a professional network.

More information is available at DSU.edu/Beadle-Honors.

These members of the Class of 1967 attended the DSU 2017 Spring Commencement, 50 years after participating in their own graduation ceremony. These alumni were awarded a special diploma President Griffiths.

Members of the DSU Alumni Association and faculty and staff from the Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences participated in a quarterly service activity at Feeding South Dakota in October.

2017 Trojan Days Parade - DSU Alumni Association

Nineteen alumni, students and friends of DSU traveled to IndoChina in July of 2017.
For the first time in its 30-year history, the DSU Gala will be held in Sioux Falls, on February 9.

Details on entertainment, auction items and how you can be part of this event are available at:

dsu.edu/gala