

# DAKOTA STATE MAGAZINE

FALL 2019



**DAKOTA STATE**  
UNIVERSITY®

**FOR OUR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS**

This issue features The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences



## DEAR FELLOW FRIENDS OF DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

What an amazing time this is at Dakota State University -- #DSURising! Thank you for engaging with us to be part of our extended community of interest, innovation, knowledge-creation, and world impact.

This issue of our magazine reports on just a few of the impressive advances across the university as of this fall, and especially focuses on activities related to DSU's Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences.

The American inventor and futurist Ray Kurzweil once talked about the fact that we tend to think about the future as linear, something laid out in a straight line: if I take 30 steps, I move forward 30 steps. But cyber -- which is now the preferred term for all things involving technology of any form -- is exponential. That is, cyber makes it possible to

move in multiple directions simultaneously and my steps can move faster and faster: I can take 30 steps in 30 different directions at faster and faster speeds, and within milliseconds my 30 steps have turned into 30 billion or more.

At DSU we understand the power of cyber to exponentially advance and improve every endeavor and every life in the world. We are proud that our mission gives us a unique role, integrating cyber and continuous innovation, educating individuals to contribute to their communities -- South Dakota, the Plains region, our country, and the world -- in relevant, impactful, and meaningful roles. In this process DSU also involves our students in applied research, scholarship, and workforce development, with leading-edge advances in multiple disciplines.

# WE



# ARE RISING



I continue to be amazed at the rising expertise and professional caliber of the students, faculty, alumni, and partners of this institution. The synergy of all these skilled, engaged, forward-looking individuals working together is creating the impressive force that is #DSURising. You can read about a few of them in this magazine. You can also read about how DSU is exponentially rising in multiple directions and disciplines, from our visual identity to plans for improved athletics facilities, from new residential housing to accommodate our growing student body to advances in DSU's support of K-12 cyber education to expanding undergraduate research.

This magazine gives some powerful illustrations of how DSU has built on its long and rich legacy to become a dynamic and powerful force for cyber skills in all fields, as well as having become an acknowledged national leader in computer and

cyber sciences education, research, and workforce development. I like to say that DSU started out as the Little University on the Prairie. Now we're known as the Cyber Powerhouse of the Plains. #DSURising!

Warmly,

President José-Marie Griffiths  
Dakota State University

## DEAR FRIENDS OF DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY:

Greetings from The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences. The Beacom College is a nationally recognized and pioneering computer and cyber science program that emerged early in the technology era as the home of innovation, invention, entrepreneurship, and world-class scholarship and education.

My job is to help communicate the vision and goals of the college to student, community and professional constituencies and to seek public and private funds to help support the activities in the college.

The educational and service mission of The Beacom College consists of several important ideas. These are the parts of The Beacom College that demonstrate our priorities.

We seek to build and maintain a quality faculty, to provide an innovative undergraduate and graduate curriculum, and to earn and maintain peer and accreditation recognition. We seek to create and maintain meaningful partnerships with agencies and corporations, to experience success in extramural funding, and to support an integrated and interdisciplinary research and development. And lastly, and most importantly, we seek to provide an educational environment in which all our students experience success, now and in the future.

Among the new and exciting elements of computer and cyber sciences at DSU is the Fall 2019 opening of the Madison Cyberlabs. The “MadLabs,” as we refer to them, are a series of research and development clusters housed in a first-class facility specifically designed for innovate approaches to research . . . a facility unlike any in this region. The MadLabs will build on DSU’s academic and technological strength to establish a hub of cybersecurity and cyber

operations expertise, education, applied research and economic development. (see pages 20-21).

Multiple interdisciplinary research and development clusters in the MadLabs will act with centripetal-like force to draw into DSU and South Dakota cybersecurity students and professionals, in partnership with other Regental schools, government, business and industry, non-profits and international higher education.

Welcome to this fall’s university magazine. We in The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences are pleased to be featured in this issue. The Beacom College is Rising! Dakota State University is Rising! We hope you will check us out as we equip our students with a 21st century skillset, ensuring their success in assuming a responsible and productive place in our society.



Richard Hanson, Ph.D.  
Dean, The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences





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Send address updates and class notes to: [advancement@dsu.edu](mailto:advancement@dsu.edu) or DSU Alumni Office, 820 N Washington Ave, Madison SD 57042

# RISING

A hexagon with the letter D.  
Shades of blue.  
A strong and fierce Trojan.

The elements of Dakota State University's reimagined visual identity are evident across campus in Madison. They are along the interstate across the state. They cover tables at career and college fairs.

They're showing up in mailboxes of potential students and alumni. Since May 3, 2019, they've been showing up everywhere.

That's when Dakota State unveiled what it had been researching, developing, and testing for several years: a visual identity that matched the institution's solid organizational brand. Dakota State is a premier and comprehensive university with unique programs and contributions to the community, the state, the nation, and the world. And now the school has a visual brand to match.

## The Center of Everything

Over the past several years, across DSU, the school worked to better define and understand its character, nature, temperament, make-up, persona, traits, and unique qualities – all the things that make up that organizational brand.

The new visual identity features a logo which centers on the D of Dakota State. The school's name doesn't start with an "S" or an "N" – it starts with a "D" – indicative that the organization is focused on being dedicated, driven, disciplined, dynamic, determined, and distinctive.

Those words describe the school's programs, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters.

The new visual images for Dakota State University were unveiled at an all-campus event on May 3, 2019. Explaining the features of the new brand are: Kelli Koepsell, director of Marketing and Communications (left),



President José-Marie Griffiths, Mark Millage, vice president for Institutional Advancement, and Matt Hammer, consumer insights strategist from the marketing agency Lawrence & Schiller.



## Small but Mighty

The logo's next element – the hexagon. At first glance, it's a simple shape with six sides. However, you might be amazed as to how much more there is to it. It is, in fact, the most efficient, least wasteful, strongest shape found in nature – not just here on Earth, but in the entire universe.

Consider for a moment the bees' honeycomb. It's one of the most familiar hexagonal shaped objects. For centuries, scientists were consumed as to why the bees made their combs in hexagons, rather than circles or squares. What they discovered is that the hexagon is not only the most efficient shape – there are no unfilled spaces as there would be with circles – it is also the strongest shape. Hexagons are structurally stable; the regularity and evenness of shape allows them to repeat, and their near-circularity allows maximum perfect load distribution. A comb of hexagons is more than ten times stronger and more difficult to pull apart or crush than a comparable area made up of squares.

A small hexagonal grid is stronger and more cohesive than a square ten times its size. Many maintain the hexagon is the most spiritually powerful geometric shape – one that's been used as a symbol of harmony and balance for thousands of years.

In addition, hexagons have been used extensively in art and literature for centuries. Shakespeare built his first Globe theatre with six equal sides. The hexagon is a shape layered with meanings and significance that very much align with the missions and endeavors of DSU: strength, inclusion, and unity.



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A group of faculty, staff, and coaches showed off DSU's new colors and brand after the May 3 unveiling.

## Trojan Strength

Early in the rebranding process it was determined the university would keep the Trojans as the mascot. The symbol has been a part of the university's legacy for almost 100 years. But it goes beyond a recognizable figure or name.

In addition to a fresh new look, the university is moving away from the idea that a mascot represents only an athletics team or supporters. Everyone at Dakota State is a Trojan. Like their Trojan ancestors, our Trojans are powerful, smart, clever, and important.

The Trojans are best known for their war with Greece – something that was actually more of a 10-year siege than it was a war.

For over a decade, and long periods both before and after the Trojan War, the Trojans kept well-trained, well-equipped, multiple enemies at bay and continued to not only live, but thrive. The Trojans were able to live and thrive for all those years because they aggressively used and expanded the technologies of the day – something Dakota State parallels.

Trojan castles and fortresses were described as “magnificent” in terms of architectural design and fortifications. They figured out how to lean their walls in such a way, that it made it almost impossible for an enemy to scale them. In fact, in order to defeat the Trojans, the Greeks eventually had to resort to deceit.



The Trojan's city of Troy was centrally located in the ancient world. Another good parallel with DSU which proudly sits in South Dakota – in the center of the country. Troy was known for hundreds of years as a central hub for the military, for trade, and an innovation economy. From the beginning, Dakota State has spoken about its MadLabs (see pages 20-21) as a centralizing force, to draw cyber expertise and endeavors into the state. Again, brand elements that make sense and accurately reflect DSU's organizational identity.

Another strength of the Trojans was their long list of allies. They constantly worked to form partnerships and collaborations with other enterprises far and wide. A long-time priority for Dakota State is to be integrally involved with all relevant communities, from education to government, to business and industry. DSU recognizes it is most successful when contributing to the success of others.

And one final similarity between DSU and those ancient Trojans. It turns out, when archaeologists began excavating the city of Troy, they noticed something interesting. If you look at a map of the ruins, you'll see that the city of Troy was built in the shape of none other than the hexagon.

## DSU Rising

At the end of the day, colors, shapes, and letters are just that. Symbols. They mean little if they do not have authentic values, characteristics, and integrity behind them. beyond that, they represent people. The people who have a connection to Dakota State – whether it's a first-year student or a family with a connection for decades.

The institution is what it is, and is doing what it is doing, and is headed where it is headed, because of the people who choose to be a part of its endeavors – those who choose to rise with DSU.







English professor Dr. Justin Blessinger snaps a photo of the new Trojan logo at the May 3 unveiling event on campus.

## WHY THE TROJANS?

Over the course of its history, Dakota State University has had eight different names and a multitude of different branding. One thing that's stood the test of time and will continue to be a part of the school, however, is the mighty Trojan mascot.

But, just how did the Trojan become a part of DSU?

DSU was founded in 1881 as a school for teacher education. Now though, we are one of the most technologically advanced campuses in the Midwest. We have over 3,300 students, 151 faculty members, and 605 staff members, each one of them a Trojan.

Although we're now Trojans – and will be for time to come – that hasn't always been the case. When DSU was first established in 1881, we were known as Dakota State Normal School or Madison Normal School. With this, came the references of the "M.N.S" teams but alas, we had no mascot. In 1921, the school name changed again; this time, to Eastern State Normal School. Derived from the name, we became known as the "Easterners."

Easterners is a great name, but there was something missing. So, President E.C. Higbie – yes, like Higbie Hall – initiated a contest that would produce a mascot for our campus. Ray Kellogg, a student and gifted artist, came up



with the idea of the Trojan and won the contest. The Trojan name was officially dedicated to DSU in 1928 and now, almost 100 years later, the Trojan name lives on.

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**This new visual identity reflects the fact that Dakota State's path is built on the foundation of a legacy-rich past, an energized and creative present, and the opportunities of a transformational future.**

- Dakota State President, José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D.

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To accompany the Trojan, DSU students established the Trojan horse, but not until 1980, when they built a life-size Trojan horse replica. Sadly, this replica no longer exists. This is good as the Trojan horse was Greek, not Trojan.

With references to the Trojan and the Trojan horse, the city of Troy and their story might've come to mind. "Trojan" was first derived from its famous city, Troy, and those who lived there. The ancient Troy dates back to sometime between the 12th to 14th centuries, BCE.

They were particularly known for their advancements in technologies, wealth, activities, economy, peace, security, and unity.

At Dakota State, we share these similar characteristics with our fellow Trojans. With the hexagon as part of our new look, we represent strength, inclusion, and unity.

We are the Trojans. We are DSU. We are rising.



## CELEBRATE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



### NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR THE DAKOTA STATE ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME

As part of an initiative to bring greater visibility to scholarly work at DSU, the mission of the Academic Hall of Fame is to collect, preserve, and disseminate the intellectual work of DSU faculty, students, staff, and alumni.

**Nomination letters can be sent to** the Provost's Office, 820 N. Washington, Madison, SD 57042.



## 35 YEARS OF COMPUTING AT DAKOTA STATE

Talent, innovation, support are critical for the future

In the early 1980s, many people – including then South Dakota Governor Bill Janklow -- suspected that computers would be “the pens and pencils of the future,” as he called them.

A group of Madison-area residents, state business leaders, and the South Dakota Legislature worked to change Dakota State University’s mission to include a technology focus in 1984. This gave DSU the momentum to move into the future with both its heritage mission of education, and its new signature mission of computer technology.

No one predicted where the next 35 years would take Dakota State, as the university reimagined itself from a little college on the prairie into the technology powerhouse it has become.

Alumni from those formative years are the first to admit they had no idea what the future would bring.

Dakota State “is not just meeting expectations, they’re blowing away expectations,” said Jon Waldman (’04 B.S. Computer Information Systems, ’06 M.S. Information Assurance). He is

executive vice president and co-founder of SBS CyberSecurity, LLC, a cybersecurity consulting and audit firm based in Madison, S.D.

Waldman was one of DSU’s first graduate students; now Graduate Studies is a 20-year-old program, offering 10 graduate programs and five graduate certificates.

Fellow alumnus Mike Halverson has six degrees from DSU. He said it’s been phenomenal to see the level of programs now offered at Dakota State. “The curriculum being taught and the knowledge level of the instructors is unbelievable,” Halverson said. “They are subject matter experts, the best, and those are the people you want teaching classes.”

Now the director of technology at PREMIER Bankcard, he sees that DSU students have an understanding and can apply that knowledge in corporate America.

“Some have a better understanding of technology than others, and some embrace it more than others, but technology affects us all,” he said.



To help students stay on the leading edge of that technology, both Waldman and Halverson are serving on the Cyber Security Industry Advisory Board for Dakota State's Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences.

Sixteen members of the area's business community, many of whom often hire DSU graduates, meet periodically to hear about program updates and curriculum changes in cyber majors.

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## CYBER SECURITY INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD

Roger Musick, Innovative Systems

Andy Deiner, Vantage Point

Chris Raymond, Interstates

Dave Geiver, PREMIER Bankcard

Phil Egeberg, EROS

John Jorgensen, Black Hills Energy

Will Bushee, Bright Planet

Jon Waldman, SBS CyberSecurity

Dustin Schnabel, SD Matrix

Jesse Gauthier, Avera Health

Chris Kruel, First Bank & Trust

Rich Hintz, Daktronics

Nikki Gronli, SDN Communications

Mike Halverson, PREMIER Bankcard

Aaron Gamewell, SBS CyberSecurity

Amber Schwiesow, Midco

Dr. Richard Hanson, DSU

Dr. Ashley Podhradsky, DSU

Dr. Wayne Pauli, DSU

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This fall, the board heard about phenomenal student enrollment increases in the college, the importance of recruiting talented faculty, and new outreach programs such as the Sioux Falls Computer Science Academy from Dr. Richard Hanson, dean of The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences.

Hanson also touched on the need to remain nimble and innovative.

Two programs that will help these efforts include the proposed Cyber Cync Center, a self-sustaining tech-transfer, entrepreneurship, and business start-up center at DSU. If funded, the center will enhance economic development and research in cyber.

Another is DSUSoar, a 501 (c) 3 organization, designed to provide a flexible structure to meet workforce training needs. DSUSoar will offer a structure to work with non-credential educational experiences (such as badges) and economic development initiatives.



These members of the Cyber Security Industry Advisory Board attended a meeting this fall at DSU's MadLabs, including: John Jorgensen (second row left), Wayne Pauli, Roger Musick, Chris Kreul, Rich Hintz, Richard Hanson, (far back right); Amber Schwiesow (front left), Andy Deinert, Mike Halverson, Chris Raymond, Nikki Gronli, Will Bushee, Jon Waldman, Ashley Podhradsky, and Mackenzie Knapp.

The board members offer insight into current industry trends, such as third-party risk, cyber insurance and legal issues, vendor assessments, issues with remote employment, communication and soft skills, and knowledge of the corporate environment. This input is invaluable for leading-edge programs.

"Academic programs don't thrive alone," said Hanson. "We need interested parties and partners to help us remain competitive and forward thinking." With this support, he said "the future is full of tremendous potential."

It's exciting to be a part of The Beacom College's past, present, and future with technology, Waldman said.

"We can see the world is evolving from what business used to be to what it will be," he said, "but cyber security will be at the heart of it."



Governor Kristi Noem answers a question from one of the girls at the 2019 GenCyber girls camp.

## CYBER SECURITY IS ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

Governor, NSA representatives visit DSU cyber security camps

There is nothing in the world that doesn't deal with cyber, said Judith Emmel, director of State and Local Affairs at the National Security Agency (NSA).

From cars to sewing machines, there are cyber security issues involved with these devices, so "we need students who are cyber smart and understand principles like cyber ethics, the things that come with the profession," she said.

That is the purpose behind the NSA's GenCyber camps, to develop those interests in students of all ages. Sponsored by NSA grants, the camps are free to attendees. Funds were provided for 122 camps across the nation this year; there were only eight in 2014, and Dakota State was one of those original pilot camps. DSU's current camps for teachers, co-ed high school students, and middle school girls are among the largest residential GenCyber camps in the nation.

Students learn cyber principles, and to think in terms of safe online behavior.

"If we can relate it to their lives, the better they understand the need for security in the

cyber realm," said Tina Ladabouche, GenCyber Program Director with the NSA's College of Cyber. Emmel and Ladabouche visited Dakota State's co-ed high school camp this month.



TINA LADABOUCHE

**We need students who are cyber smart and understand principles like cyber ethics, the things that come with the profession.**

**- Judith Emmel**

Another GenCyber goal is workforce development.

“The jobs gap [in cybersecurity] is extensive and continues to grow,” said Emmel, “and we can’t keep up with the pace of what is needed by the country. The camps provide students with an experience and exposure that they might not get in their schools, and hopefully they will take that and continue in the career,” she stated.



Judith Emmel, director of State and Local Affairs for the National Security Agency, visited Dakota State for the GenCyber co-ed high school camp this summer. Student Mason Baer from Clear Lake, S.D., explained to her how the strings and attachments represent a computer network.

Diversity in that workforce is another goal. Particularly with females, it’s important to reach out to them and show them there are plenty of opportunities in the field, Ladabouche said. “There are many different job opportunities out there that anyone can get into.”

Governor Kristi Noem encouraged the 115 middle school girls attending the GenCyber Girls in Cyber Security camp to take advantage of these types of opportunities, when she spoke on campus June 26. Emmel noted that it is important to include elected officials in efforts to promote cyber security, and workforce diversity.

“It’s wonderful to see the state that has such advocates at that level,” said Emmel. “That makes a significant difference when your community supports the work that’s being done here.” She also pointed out that Noem and DSU President José-Marie Griffiths spoke at an NSA leadership forum in April.

This is what impresses Emmel about cyber, the “team spirit” of being completely collaborative. “People want to work together, and that will be key for really developing cyber security education. There’s such strength in that,” she stated.

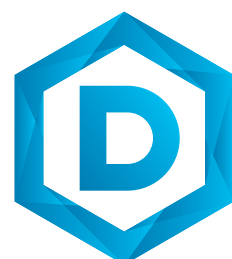
# CHILDREN *of alumni*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[dsu.edu.admissions](https://dsu.edu/admissions)

## IN-STATE TUITION FOR OUT-OF-STATE TROJANS

Children of Dakota State University alumni can pay in-state tuition for their undergraduate degrees regardless of where they live.

The program, approved by the South Dakota Board of Regents, is limited to incoming freshman or transfer students who attend the same university from which a parent or legal guardian received a degree.





# VISITING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS WORK TO MAKE IOT DEVICES SAFER

## REU student program part of NSF grant

As technology has evolved to make life easier, internet-connected devices “are getting really popular,” said Soukaina Assou, a senior computer science major at the University of Central Florida.

On the flip side, these Internet of Things (IoT) devices present security issues. “There are so many surfaces where data can be stored,” said Assou, a Casselberry, Florida native.

“There are always the privacy and security risks” with IoT devices, said Austin Priesel, a senior cyber security major at Montreat College (N.C.) but with devices such as doorbell cameras, the New York City native said, “people don’t care to know about the risks, people would rather have convenience.” Assou stated “That’s why it’s good to do research.”

These students are among 10 who spent the summer at Dakota State University conducting IoT research through National Science Foundation-sponsored internships called Research Experiences for Undergraduates, or REUs. They researched a variety of IoT issues, such as ethical hacking, malware analysis, device vulnerability, and user privacy. This was the first year of a three-year NSF grant awarded to DSU

this spring. Each team of REU researchers presented at the SD EPSCoR Undergraduate Research Symposium, July 30 at Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls.

“REU participants have the opportunities to conduct cutting-edge cybersecurity projects and gain valuable insights into cybersecurity through their research experiences in IoT,” said Dr. Yong Wang, associate research professor.

“This research helps give me a better understanding of where possible vulnerabilities are, so that when I’m developing scripts or apps I know what to look for,” said Tegan Chin, a cybersecurity and app development major from Maryville University (Mo.).

For Michael Jurkoic, a junior computer science major at University of Dallas, the hands-on projects are particularly good learning experiences. This REU “is definitely a résumé builder” but also “could be the beginning of a career path,” he stated.

The students worked with faculty members including Wang, and Drs. Ashley Podhradsky, Josh Stroschein, and Sulabh Bhattarai. DSU graduate student Kaushik Muthusamy Ragothaman also helped with the program.

The students came from nine states, from California to Florida. “It was great to work with people from across the nation with all the same interests,” said Chin, who is from St. Louis, Mo.



DSU REU researchers: Austin Priesel (back left), Malique Barksdale; Elliot Kjerstad (left row 3), Aaron Baker, Dr. Yong Wang; Michael Jurkoic (left row 2), Bailey Bellisario, Jonathan Schmitz; Tegan Chin (front left), Destiny Muldro, Kaushik Ragothaman, Soukaina Assou.





President José-Marie Griffiths explains details of a new pilot program to students at Sioux Falls' CTE Academy. The computer and cyber sciences pilot project is a partnership between DSU and the Sioux Falls School District.

## SDPASS ESTABLISHES FIRST PATHWAY WITH SIOUX FALLS DISTRICT

Dakota State University and the Sioux Falls School District announced in May a new Computer and Cyber Sciences Partnership pilot project. This is the first pathway launched through the workforce development program SDPaSS, a partnership established in 2017 between Dakota State University, Southeast Tech, Sioux Falls School District, and the South Dakota Department of Labor.

“The Sioux Falls School District is excited for this partnership which allows students to take university level computer and cyber sciences courses while in high school,” said Dr. Brian Maher, superintendent of the Sioux Falls School District. The eventual goal is to enable the student to complete a significant portion or all of their freshman year of college while still attending high school and at a substantial cost savings.”

Every year in the U.S., 40,000 information security analyst jobs go unfilled, and employers struggle to fill 200,000 related cyber security roles. “The demand for cyber security and computer science professionals is

on the rise and we are pleased to help students find their passion for this important work,” Maher said.

Students curious about pursuing a technology career can take university-level courses from Dakota State as dual-credit or concurrent credit. Three courses will be offered initially, with the potential of more being added throughout the three-year pilot. The program will be assessed and evaluated to determine decisions regarding future programs.

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**Dakota State University programs are designed to prepare graduates with the 21st century skills they will need in their careers.**

**- Dakota State President, José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D.**

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“By collaborating with institutions like the Sioux Falls School District on new programs such as this, we can provide students with the opportunity to glimpse the challenges and rewards of a career in computer and cyber sciences,” Dr. Griffiths said.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## Kyle Cronin, Ph.D.

Cronin teaches cellular and wireless courses, instructing students how cellphones communicate and what security risks are associated with those communications. He also teaches about WiFi, how it's managed, and risks associated with WiFi networks. Cronin believes that hands-on teaching is essential to applying any concept that is covered in class. Much of his classroom time is dedicated to working on projects with students, so they can take the theoretical knowledge they learn and apply it to real-world situations. This can range from setting up a small server environment to running a cell tower and seeing how calls are placed. He has a Ph.D. in cyber security from Capitol College; he also holds an M.S. and B.S. in Information Systems from DSU.



## Michael Ham, Ph.D.

Ham teaches software reverse engineering, routing and switching courses at the undergraduate level, and cyber operations courses in the doctoral program. He is also the director of DSU's Cyber Corps Scholarship for Service program. Ham wants his students to have their hands on the keyboard, breaking, programming, configuring,



troubleshooting, and experimenting. There are no substitutions for the lessons that are learned through experiential learning, for students and professors alike. Ham's research interests include large scale routing protocols such as BGP and associated security flaws, methods of malware propagation, and command and control capabilities throughout a network. Ham earned all his degrees at DSU, a D.Sc. in cyber security, master's degrees in information assurance and applied computer science, and a B.S. in computer and network security.

## Robert Honomichl

Honomichl teaches computer hardware, web programming, and technology methods. He has been involved with GenCyber camps for six years. Honomichl believes that hands-on teaching shows students how to apply information to real-world situations. Focusing on student success gives them the essential skills they need to continue to learn on their own. His research interests include focusing on the human element of technology and cyber security, and developing K-12 technology curriculum. Previously, he was computer instructor and technology director at Madison Central School District. He currently serves on the Madison Central School Board. Honomichl earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at DSU, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Technology Information Management with a cyber security specialization from Northcentral University.





## Andrew Kramer

Kramer teaches Computer Science I, Assembly Language, and Linux Administration. He believes



that a positive learning environment, in addition to hands-on learning and a sufficient number of examples are the keys to a successful classroom. Kramer's research interests include red teaming,

software exploitation, and cyber competitions. Kramer earned an M.S. in applied computer science and a B.S. in cyber operations at DSU, and also holds an associate degree in general education.

## Pam Rowland, Ph.D.

Rowland is director and co-founder of the CybHER Institute, Undergraduate Research Coordinator, and the Director of Excellence for Information Systems. She teaches undergraduate courses in cyber security and intro to computers; at the graduate level she teaches information assurance. Rowland utilizes different teaching methods, from inquiry-based learning to hands-on and interactive learning. She aspires to cultivate a positive learning environment where creative thinking and sharing are encouraged. Her research interests focus on effective ways to educate and inspire individuals to increase their knowledge of cyber security, including those 65 and older. She earned her doctoral degree from DSU, and also holds a Master of Science in Information Systems, and a B.S. in commercial economics.



## Cody Welu, Ph.D.

Welu teaches classes in offensive and defensive security, Windows administration, computer science.

He also advises the Defensive Security Club on campus. Welu believes the major thing that sets DSU's classrooms apart from other universities is the hands-on experiences students receive. Instead of



only discussing theories, faculty demonstrate it. He believes that a deep hands-on approach effectively prepares students for the workforce. His research interests are cyber security education and cyber defense. Welu was a DSU student himself, earning all his degrees at DSU, his Ph.D. in Cyber Operations in 2019, an M.S. in Applied Computer Science with a Cyber Operations specialization, and a B.S. in Computer and Network Security, with a Cyber Operations specialization.

## WHY DSU?

### IN-STATE TUITION

COLORADO

IOWA

MONTANA

NEBRASKA

NORTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA

WYOMING

**\$291**

PER CREDIT HOUR

### IN-STATE TUITION

MINNESOTA

**\$287**

PER CREDIT HOUR

**100%**

JOB PLACEMENT RATE  
FOR 24 MONTHS

**98%**

JOB PLACEMENT RATE  
FOR RECENT DSU GRADS

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Madison, SD

[dsu.edu/admissions/apply-now](https://dsu.edu/admissions/apply-now)



Former Governor Dennis Daugaard and his wife, Linda, unveiled the donor wall at the entrance to the Madison Cyber Labs, which features donors Miles and Lisa Beacom and Denny Sanford. Also pictured are: Dr. Josh Pauli (left), President Griffiths, and U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson.

## MADISON CYBER LABS RISES TO CHALLENGE OF CYBER RESEARCH

**'This project became owned  
by the faculty.' President  
José-Marie Griffiths**

The Madison Cyber Labs building is ready to rise to the challenge of cyber research.

A grand opening for the MadLabs, as the facility is called, took place on October 2, in conjunction with the Board of Regents' meeting. It was attended by invited guests, members of the Board of Regents, and area media.

The 38,500 sq. ft. facility has the capacity to house 250-300 researchers, including faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and staff from all four of DSU's colleges, working in several lab clusters and institutes. Public and private partners are also involved with many of the research projects. The goal of these research projects is to explore and advance technology

application, workforce development, business expansion, economic growth, and policy improvement across multiple disciplines and fields.

The MadLabs concept developed from discussions President José-Marie Griffiths had with faculty after she came to DSU in 2015.

With this support, faculty began to develop their research concepts into R&D clusters and

institutes, which were initially located in existing campus buildings.

"Progress at an institution isn't driven by the leadership," Griffiths said. "It's driven by the faculty who







The MadLabs features an open floor layout to encourage interaction between researchers.



The PATRIOT Lab studies Protection and Threat Research for the Internet of Things, items such as these on the table.



Chris Studer (right), chief member and public relations officer at East River Electric Cooperative, explains the partnership between East River and DSU's Smart Home Lab to former governor Dennis Daugaard (left), U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, and Linda Daugaard.

adopt ideas and move them forward themselves. That's the way it should be at an academic institution."

In 2017, a donation from DSU alumnus Miles Beacom and his wife Lisa, along with businessman and philanthropist Denny Sanford, made it possible for construction to begin on the dedicated research facility. With additional support from former Governor Dennis Daugaard, Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD), the South Dakota Board of Regents and South Dakota Legislature, work began in 2018.

President José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D., said at the grand opening that she is so grateful for faculty and the many others who have made this dream become a reality.

MadLabs consists of two portions, including a glass-fronted area which will house various research and development projects. Examples include: the AdapT

Lab, researching assistive technologies; DigForCE Lab, a regional resource for law enforcement training and research on cybercrime; PATRIOT Lab, researching the protection and threats of Internet of Things devices. Other institutes, CybHER and CLASSICS, concentrate on outreach, advocacy, and policy framing. The second portion of the building houses the Cyclops Lab, a secure environment for DSU faculty, students, and researchers to conduct research and development for public and private partners.

"Each MadLab cluster or institute is a testament to the expertise of faculty and the ideas they have, and their ability to identify problems and solve them," said Griffiths, "but what is happening now is faculty are coming together across sub-disciplines to work together on real-world problems." The open concept design helps to facilitate this synergy.

"Through research, collaboration, and leadership, we will achieve success in technology, cyber, innovation, and economic growth," said Griffiths. "We will redefine what it means to be a forward-thinking university, with the promise of a transformational future."



# INCREASED RESEARCH CAPACITY ENABLES DSU TO TAKE LARGER PART OF NSF GRANT



DR. JENNIFER NASH

A rising research environment at Dakota State is allowing the university to take on greater roles in collaborative research projects.

In September, the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced a five-year, \$20 million Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-1 grant to the South Dakota Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (SD EPSCoR) and the South Dakota Board of Regents. Work will focus on developing a 2D Biofilm Science and Engineering Center.

The six state universities, three tribal colleges, two private universities, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development are involved with the grant. DSU will be involved with three projects within the grant project, which will impact three of DSU's four colleges. One will be an outreach opportunity for undergraduate education majors, who will be preparing six STEM modules

for K-12 schools, said Dr. Jennifer Nash, associate professor of science education. She is taking the lead with DSU's portion of the grant. Undergraduate science students will take part with research related to the biofilms focus; in addition, the university will open a position for a postdoctoral candidate to study the data analytics.

Dakota State was involved with a previous NSF grant for a biosciences and commercial biotechnology, BioSNTR, and will be taking on a larger role with this new grant, approximately 4%, or about \$800,000.

This increased research capability is a result of the university's leadership, said Dr. Mark Hawkes, dean of Graduate Studies and professor of Instructional Technology.

"President José-Marie Griffiths has set the stage for Dakota State to have a more robust, more competitive research agenda than we've had in previous years," he said. "By encouraging research, she has built our capacity, which puts us in a position to play a bigger role not just on this project, but many others that are coming forward. This is taking us to new heights."



# MORAN JOINS DSU AS PROVOST

“Dakota State is an institution that is truly on the rise,” said Dr. James Moran, the interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Dakota State University.

Moran has worked in higher education for many years, in Oklahoma, Virginia, and Tennessee. In Pennsylvania, he served for nearly 10 years as the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher

Education. Most recently he was at the University of South Dakota, serving as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs from 2014-2018. He has also served on state and national advisory boards. He started at DSU in June.

“I’m excited to be here at DSU. It’s exciting the direction the institution is going,” he said. He sees that the faculty and staff are committed to the university goals, and “that drive keeps me going.”



DR. JAMES MORAN

## NEW NETWORK WILL CREATE NEW RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

**\$1.46M EDA grant intended to drive job creation**

Dakota State University has received a \$1.46 million grant from the U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration (EDA) to help establish a high-speed research network.

This investment, located in a federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act designated Opportunity Zone, will be matched 1:1 with local funds, which will come from private donations and Future Fund monies that are part of the university’s funding for the Madison Cyber Labs, or MadLabs.

The grant funding will provide for equipment to “set up fully customizable research environments” in the new MadLabs building, the Heartland Technology Center

(a campus business incubator) and the Beacom Institute of Technology, stated Dr. Peter Hoelsing, director of Sponsored Programs with DSU Research and Economic Development Affairs. DSU Research and Economic Development Affairs staff anticipates most of the actual work will be done within the next year.

This on-campus network will provide an avenue for research traffic that is separate from the day-to-day traffic of the university, Hoelsing stated, with the benefits of security, speed, and dedicated access for research.

“This is important to Dakota State because it facilitates a capacity we did not have before, making us competitive for a whole range of ambitious funding mechanisms



DR. PETER HOESLING

we couldn’t pursue previously,” Hoelsing said. The resulting “research and development efforts will create partnerships which will produce jobs, and new companies which will create their own new jobs.”

The grant was supported by several partners, including local businesses such as East River Electric Power Cooperative, Heartland Consumers Power District, Sanford Research, and organizations including First District Association of Local Governments.



Silver Creek flooded southwest Madison, closing all major north/south roads in town, and flooded DSU's baseball and softball complex.

## UNIVERSITY RESPONSE TO AREA FLOODING DEMONSTRATES COMMUNITY

Day of Service coincides  
with clean-up efforts

"If this isn't the definition of community, I don't know what is."

Eric Hortness, executive director of the Greater Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, made that statement after the Madison area community – Dakota State included – responded to record flooding in September.

A foot of rain fell in Lake County over Sept. 10 and 11, flooding roads and homes. Residents were evacuated from their homes – some in the bucket of loader trucks – and schools closed, including DSU.

While there was good news that there were no deaths or major injuries from the incident; the bad news is the devastation to homes, businesses, and area infrastructure was severe. The main university campus saw minimal impact, but Dakota State's baseball/softball complex were flooded. Over 100 students, faculty, and staff were directly impacted by the disaster. Despite the property loss and damage, the response of university students and employees was decisive.

Some in the DSU family provided support for displaced friends, or volunteered to make sandbags. Members of the football team helped evacuate 78 residents of Bethel Lutheran Homes to the Community Center; they moved the residents, beds, and other supplies in three hours, then helped them move back 60 hours later.







A sandwich making crew assembled pork loin sandwiches for the community tailgate on Trojan Day.



Memorial Creek flooding damaged homes and property near Egan Avenue.



Members of the DSU football team helped move the residents of Bethel Lutheran Home when flood waters threatened the facility.

Other athletics teams helped with clean up in southeast Madison around St. John Lutheran Church. The church was home to a clothing ministry, the Clothes Closet, which was flooded. Church President Scott Parsley said the students who came to help load up the six truckloads of destroyed clothing were angels. “Thank you for the things you’ve done for the community,” Parsley said.

Volunteers – 831 strong – put in over 2,800 hours of work around the Madison area, with a variety of painting and clean-up projects.

Working together, DSU and the city, county, and K-12 school district planned a community tailgate party before the Homecoming football game. A long list of area businesses, organizations, and individuals donated time, energy, and supplies to put on a free pork loin meal for everyone in the community. Donations were accepted for flood victims, items such as food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies; \$14,000 in cash was also accepted for the Lake Area Recovery Network, a volunteer community organization working to address unmet needs. The area’s first responders were honored for their service at halftime of the game.

These recovery efforts will continue for months, even years, but President José-Marie Griffiths reminds students, faculty, and staff to take advantage of resources available on campus.

“We will rise from this because we are stronger together than we are apart, just like our new visual image – the hexagon – a symbol of strength and unity,” she said.



Because the city and county’s manpower and resources were so over extended, the university made the decision to cancel the Homecoming parade on Sept. 21, but the traditional Homecoming Day of Service took place as planned six days after the flood.

Members of the DSU family helped the community in many ways, including sandbagging.

## DSU GRADUATE STUDENT WINS TWO NATIONAL HONORS

Opoku-Boateng named Google Techmaker Scholar, blackcomputeHER Fellow



Francisca Opoku-Boateng was at a loss for words this spring when she learned she had been awarded two national honors in one week.

“This is an amazing, phenomenal package,” said the Dakota State University doctoral student in information systems.

A native of Ghana, Opoku-Boateng didn’t expect to receive either because of the large number of people applying from the U.S. and Canada, but is very excited for the opportunities provided by each.

Through the Google Women Techmakers Scholars Program, she will receive a \$10,000 scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year, attend a Google Scholars’ Retreat, and take part in professional development and community outreach opportunities. Through the blackcomputeHER Fellowship, she and a cohort of other fellows will explore technical and professional development through monthly trainings on a wide range of tech topics.

Dakota State has had students win similar honors in the past, a result of efforts of the university to introduce students to programs and opportunities at a national level, said Dr. Pam Rowland, assistant professor of computer

science and cyber security. Students attend conferences such as Women in Cyber Security and are involved with the National Center for Women & Information Technology.

This is an important part of their education because “cybersecurity isn’t a local or regional issue, it’s a national and international one,” said Dr. Ashley Podhradsky, associate dean of The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences. “We want our students to be as successful as possible, and that means collaborating and competing on a larger stage.”

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**If I can give young girls a real-life experience or tell a story of opportunities I have actually experienced, I think that will add more to their understanding of technology fields.**

- Francisca Opoku-Boateng

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Opoku-Boateng’s future goals in technology are to “learn all I can learn and give back to my community and help girls in STEM tap into some these opportunities I have received.” These national, large stage experiences are things she can share on the small scale, such as with her outreach work with CybHER.





## VANDERWILT RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

**DSU senior credits curiosity  
with research success**

“One question can lead to an amazing journey,” said Alexis VanderWilt.

For VanderWilt, her work to answer computer and cyber science questions is definitely taking her on incredible journeys around this world this year.

The computer science and mathematics for information systems double major was one of 200 young researchers from around the world invited to the 7th Heidelberg Laureate Forum, held in September in Heidelberg, Germany. She was also chosen to attend the 2019 Grace Hopper Celebration in October in Orlando. Attendance is a one-time opportunity for women technologists from around the world.

These invitations are based on research she has undertaken at Dakota State. When VanderWilt came to college at Dakota State in 2017, “it was not my vision to do research,” she said, but “I have so many questions about the world, and research is the way to investigate those questions.”

One project during the 2018-2019 academic year dealt with the interpretation of data visualizations. VanderWilt, a native of Mitchell, S.D., said, “the amount of data that we have in the world today makes it necessary to have a way to analyze a great deal of information in a short glance” through data visualizations such as charts or graphs. Her research showed that most people don’t question graphs. She was amazed by this result, because “to take data visualizations at face value is really dangerous.” She encourages readers to be open-minded and inquisitive, “question everything and search out answers, then go and share your amazing revelations.”

Her revelations through these research projects earned her the invitation to the Heidelberg Forum, where she and the other attendees shared ideas and questions with 20 of the top-award winning mathematicians in the world. At Grace Hopper, she joined around 20,000 attendees in hundreds of information sessions, and at presentations by keynote speakers in the field.

“Meeting peers and faculty and industry leaders, Alexis will be bringing back knowledge that is invaluable, knowledge and information that will be a stepping stone for her,” said Dr. Pam Rowland, assistant professor of computer science and cyber security at Dakota State. Rowland is the undergraduate research coordinator.

With the information VanderWilt learns at these events, she’ll skyrocket, Rowland predicts. “Who knows where this will take her?”



The library staff have created an interactive display about the life of Senator Karl Mundt, namesake of the library. Pictured are Montanna Barnett (left), Ryan Burdge, Jan Brue Enright, Vaughan Hennen, and Mary Francis.

## HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO THE KARL MUNDT LIBRARY

### Nixon was keynote speaker at 1969 dedication

Karl Mundt had a strong connection to the city of Madison, and to Dakota State as well.

“He was a teacher here before he was a U.S. senator, for many years,” said Jan Enright, director of the Karl E. Mundt Library. “He left his mark here because Madison was really his community.”



Several DSU students stopped by the library on Sept. 21 for the library's 50th birthday party, and posed with the life-size image of President Richard Nixon, who was the keynote speaker at the library's dedication in 1969.

“He had a deep connection and a deep fondness for Madison and South Dakota,” said Ryan Burdge, institutional repository coordinator. “A lot of work in Congress he did was very much out of his love for the state.”

During his time in Congress he helped obtain support to construct Interstate 29 in South Dakota and worked to establish the Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) in South Dakota.

Because of his connections with the city, the state, and the university, the 1969 library was named in his honor. When the Mundt Library was dedicated in June of 1969, President Richard M. Nixon visited Madison to honor his friend. Thousands of people came to the library to attend the dedication and tour the newly constructed library.

Staff at the Karl Mundt Library are hosting a variety of events throughout the year to help them celebrate those 50 years.

The library has created an interactive display on the first floor of the library, including

Mundt's Congressional office furniture, photos from the grand opening, videos, scrapbooks, memorabilia, and much more.

“The display will be here for the full academic year,” Enright said, “and we will change the items quarterly to keep it fresh.” They also hosted a guest speaker in November, speaking on the impact of Karl Mundt.

Burdge is working to collect oral histories from the students of that era – the '69 and '70 graduating classes -- to talk about what they remember about the library and if they were at the dedication.





## NEW RESIDENCE HALL SLATED FOR 2020-2021 CONSTRUCTION

Dakota State University will be adding a new residence hall to their campus. Construction on Residence Village will break ground in Spring of 2020, with a hopeful occupancy date of 2021. The \$11.5 million hall will be approximately 40,000 square feet in size, located at the intersection of Washington Ave. and Eighth Street, across from Zimmermann Hall.

Upperclass students will occupy the approximately 128 beds, designed in suite-style apartments of four to six bedrooms, a bathroom and a small kitchen. This design will add diversity to the on-campus housing currently available, hopefully increasing enrollment and helping meet enrollment goals. It will also allow additional students to have access to on-campus services and support. Residence Village will connect to Courtyard Hall (the former Madison hospital). It will be the first hall built on campus in over 40 years.

## DAKOTA STATE SEEING SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT INCREASES

### Largest freshmen class in history

Dakota State University once again had enrollment increases in multiple categories for Fall 2019. The university has the largest freshmen class ever at 425 students, which is up 5% from last year. The number of graduate students has increased 16% over last year, and the number of full-time-equivalent graduate students (FTE) is up 14%, to 450 and 197, respectively. Total students new to DSU (freshmen plus transfer students) is 670, a 2% increase from fall 2018. DSU has a 1.26% increase in total student FTEs, which is an important positive trend.

The number of DSU scholar-athletes is up 42% from last fall, to a total of 471. These increases are the result of expanding rosters in traditional sports as well as the addition this fall of the new Trojan esports (see pages 34-35) program. There are 82 students on 15 different esports teams competing in six different games; 22 of them are students new to DSU.

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**Students taking more credit hours is a trend we want to see in higher education. These students are often more successful, and at Dakota State, student success is our number one priority.**

- Dakota State President, José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D.

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An increasing number of students are choosing to live in university housing. The DSU residence halls are at 100% occupancy, with 794 students living in university housing. This 100% occupancy is even more notable given that this fall the university opened the new Van Eps Place, with an additional 23 beds, and added 41 additional beds in existing residence halls by converting some rooms to accommodate more students.

# TROJANS UNITE CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF WITH \$10M GIFT

First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard  
and Beacom donate to DSU Athletics program



Miles Beacom announces a lead gift of \$10 million for the Trojans Unite capital campaign for Phase I of a new athletics complex. Joining him are his wife, Lisa, and their son Iman.

Dakota State University can now take the first steps toward “Building Champions for Tomorrow,” thanks to the largest single gift ever to the Trojans athletics program.

First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard, along with Miles and Lisa Beacom, have made a lead gift of \$10 million towards the Trojans Unite capital campaign for a new athletics complex. The gift was announced August 29 at the 4th Annual Ag Bowl football game. This lead gift will launch the \$42 million Phase I portion of the campaign, which will feature a new two-story concourse and outdoor facilities for current and future sports.

“Here at Dakota State, we’re building champions, not just on the field or on the court but in the classroom and in research labs. We’re building champions who succeed in life and in their careers by

giving them the best possible experience,” said José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D., president of DSU. “An important part of that experience includes athletics. In order to continue to rise as an institution we must offer our student athletes facilities that reflect our commitment to them.”

Jeff Dittman, athletics director, said “this is a critical need for the athletic department and the university. To provide our athletes with quality training, injury prevention, rehabilitation and competition facilities and be competitive in recruiting the top local and regional student-athletes, we must upgrade our sports complex.”

The three-phase Trojans Unite campaign will create a new athletics complex which will allow us to be able to compete consistently for conference titles and championships, Dittman said. These facilities

will also create a dynamic economic effect in the region, allowing the Madison region to host increased numbers of visitors for camps and events.

Miles Beacom, CEO of PREMIER Bankcard, is a distinguished alumnus of DSU, a 1981 graduate of the business program. He also participated in track and cross country, and is a member of the DSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

“Dakota State University has an extremely special spot in my heart,” Beacom said. “It provided me with the tools to not only succeed, but also exceed all of the goals I set for myself upon graduation. Today, there are so many great things happening on campus and Trojan Pride has never been stronger. Lisa and I are excited to make this lead gift, alongside First PREMIER Bank and PREMIER Bankcard, and we challenge others to step up and help us finish this project.”



# UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT STAFF SHARE FUNDRAISING KNOWLEDGE



JONA SCHMIDT



JILL RUHD

## Schmidt, Ruhd presenting on Power of the Purse, 4 R's of giving

Two members of University Advancement at Dakota State University attended conferences this summer to give presentations on fundraising.

Jill Ruhd, development officer, and Jona Schmidt, director of major and planned gifts, gave two presentations at the Mid-America Association for Fundraising Professionals (AFP) in Wichita, Kan. in May.

One presentation, "Power of the Purse," focused on women in philanthropy and the other, "The Four R's of Major Giving," focused on the basics of fundraising.

"Women have historically not been targeted by fundraising," said Schmidt. This presentation shifts that focus, because women do hold wealth.

"You're losing out on 50% of the fundraising audience if you don't do specific fundraising toward women," Schmidt said.

"Nowadays women are head of the household along with the men," Ruhd added.

This presentation was inspired by a Power of the Purse event that Ruhd and Schmidt created a few years ago, and are again instituting with special events held throughout the year.

The other presentation highlighted the four R's of major giving – relationships, research, request, and recognition, with bonus Rs – review and repeat. This presentation is Fundraising 101 for organizations that may not have done a lot of large or targeted gift fundraising in the

past, Schmidt explained.

Emma DeVos, the software vendor for Dakota State Foundation's database Engaged, assists with many of their presentations discussing how information from donors is integrated into the database, Schmidt said.

Ruhd and Schmidt have found attending these conferences beneficial for several reasons. It offers a way to get information about Dakota State out to a wider audience, share fundraising lessons from DSU, and is an opportunity to learn from others in fundraising across a variety of industries.

"You learn your profession through the peer-to-peer learning, since there's not really a school for what we do," Schmidt said.



## BLANKLEY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

After the Trojan victory at the annual Ag Bowl on August 29, Shirley Blankley (center) met the recipients of the scholarship she created to commemorate her husband's years at DSU. From 1962-1984, George Blankley served as athletic director and coached football, track and field, and men's tennis. George passed away in 2016 at age 98.

Blankley scholarship recipients include (from left) Riley Janke, Brodie Frederiksen, and Marcus Vanden Bosch. Coach Josh Anderson holds the Chamber of Commerce cup, given to the winner of the annual Ag Bowl.

If you are interested in meeting your scholarship recipients, please contact Jill Ruhd at the DSU Foundation, [jill.ruhd@dsu.edu](mailto:jill.ruhd@dsu.edu) or 605-256-5650.



Softball player Vinitzia Blanco, a freshman biology major from San Diego, Calif., models the new softball jerseys while standing near one of the new cornerstones on campus.

## NEW VISUAL IMAGE MEANS NEW ATHLETIC UNIFORMS

### Jerseys are a new beginning for athletics

Talk about back to school shopping.

When the university unveiled its new visual image in May (see pages 6-11), many new things followed – university signage, letterhead, and athletic uniforms. In total, 919 uniforms have been ordered for the 13 athletic sports. This does not include practice gear, player packs, and coaches' clothes.

"The jerseys represent change. They represent a new beginning," said junior volleyball outside hitter/defensive specialist Maddie Polzin from Baltic, S.D.

The coaches are happy with this new beginning. "I love the new colors and Trojan logo," said volleyball head coach Amy Veenhof. Football head coach Josh Anderson agreed.



Riley Janke celebrates a quarterback sack this season. Janke is a junior linebacker from Madison, S.D.



"I think we did a great job of creating our own brand recognition with a simple color change. The new logo is also very unique and a sharp design," he said. "Now, we have made it very simple for people in our state, as well as in the surrounding states, to recognize the difference between Dakota State University and any other high school or university in our area."

Redshirt sophomore quarterback Torren Devericks, from Sioux Falls, S.D. said "it makes me proud to see our new logo around South Dakota."

Devericks' teammate senior offensive lineman Brandon Schmit, a native of Jackson, Minn., said "I think the new colors distinguish us from other schools and really bring a sense of pride to DSU."

Junior linebacker Marcus Vanden Bosch sees the same change as Polzin. "The new uniforms and colors perfectly represent the change happening at Dakota State." With this new beginning, Polzin said Dakota State should "Never forget what we were, but strive for what we will become."



The new baseball uniforms at DSU.



Maddie Polzin shows off the new volleyball uniforms which feature DSU's new colors.



Cross Country runners Mallory Aughenbaugh (left), Kalissa Bryant, and Jacia Christiansen model the new cross country and track uniforms.



The detail on the new uniforms includes the new Trojan logo, a symbol of strength and unity.



The esports team bases out of a newly furnished room in the Trojan Center.

## DAKOTA STATE LAUNCHES ESPORTS AS ATHLETIC PROGRAM

This fall Dakota State launched a new competitive sport – esports – as an official athletic program at DSU.

Dakota State is competing in a variety of games, “League of Legends,” “Overwatch,” “Rocket League,” “Rainbow 6 Siege,” “Smite,” “Hearthstone,” and “Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CSGO),” according to Andy Roland, esports coach.

“I plan to be involved in every aspect of every competitive team,” he said, but he’s not doing it alone. Sixteen students are working as team coordinators and board members for the esports program. The coordinators organize try-outs, assist with practices, and organize scrimmages and competitions. In addition to the coordinators a faculty advisor, Scott Graham, assists with the esports program.

Andy Roland has been hired as the coach for DSU’s newest athletic team, esports.



There are enough students interested in esports that Roland plans to field at least two teams in each of the games played at Dakota State. “Our turn out has been spectacular,” he added.

Roland, who began his position in June, hopes to set up an in-state rivalry by playing scrimmages against Dakota Wesleyan. Student athletes will compete in scrimmages against the School of Mines, and schools beyond South Dakota in Texas, Minneapolis, and potentially Chicago. The scrimmages function as a practice for the teams, and each team practices about three times a week.

“The biggest part of practices is building team mentality,” Roland said. “Communication is key.”

In addition to the scrimmages Roland has arranged, students are competing through Tespa, a North American collegiate esports organization headquartered in Blizzard Entertainment. They are competing against teams across the country – like New York University, University of Utah, and University of Tennessee.

While it is early in many of their seasons, the competitive season is going well with spectacular results in some games like “Overwatch.”

Roland is excited to watch the esports program grow. “I have high hopes for us this season competitively, and even higher hopes for the future.”

Anyone interested in watching the students compete or scrimmage against other schools can visit Dakota State’s Twitch. All of DSU’s games will be broadcast on Twitch throughout fall and spring semesters.





The 2019 Athletics Hall of Fame individual inductees include: Bill Nelson (left), John Nyhaug, Bruce Johannes, Todd Payer, and Clay Amick.

## 2019 DSU ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS

Five individuals and a team were inducted into the 2019 Hall of Fame Class on June 1, at the 24th annual DSU Athletics Hall of Fame. The 2019 Hall of Fame Class featured members of the Trojan football team that dominated the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference in the late 1970's, along with athletes from the early 1980's. Inductees were Todd Payer, Clay Amick, Bruce Johannes, Bill Nelson, and John Nyhaug. Members of the 1976 Dakota State College South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference (SDIC) championship football team were also honored.



Inducted into the 2019 DSU Athletics Hall of Fame are members of the 1976 Dakota State College SDIC football championship team.



### Todd Payer '80

Todd Payer was an integral member of the Trojan football team that won four consecutive SDIC football conference titles from 1975-78, with a four-year record of 32-7-1. He was a leader on the tenacious defensive line where he was an SDIC All-Conference First Team honoree in 1978, as well as NAIA All-American Honorable Mention.

### Clay Amick '86

Clay Amick was a stellar linebacker for the Dakota State College football team in the early 1980's. He was named to SDIC All-Conference Football First Team twice. During his senior season in 1982, he fueled the Trojans as the No. 1 team defense in the SDIC conference, giving up a stingy 212 yards per game during six conference contests. Amick was honored as an NAIA All-District 12 First Team member, and NAIA Football All-Honorable Mention.

### Bruce Johannes '85

Bruce Johannes was a defensive tackle standout who earned a first team NAIA District 12 distinction plus honorable mention in 1983, fueling the Trojans to a 5-1-1 record in the SDIC conference. He was also named to the SDIC All-Conference First Team. He was selected as the team's most valuable defensive player, helping the Trojans' defensive unit with 10.8 points allowed per game in seven SDIC contests.

### Bill Nelson '86

Bill Nelson was a full-time free safety and back-up quarterback for the Trojans in the early 1980's. A product of Colman High School, he was named to the SDIC All-Conference, the NAIA All-District 12, and NAIA All-American Honorable Mention after his impressive defense performances in 1984. Nelson also competed in track at Dakota State, where he received the Spark Plug Award.

### John Nyhaug '78

John Nyhaug was a member of the Trojan football team as a linebacker from 1973 to 1976, a member of the team which won three South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference Championships in four years. He was voted as the team captain in his senior year, and was also a graduate assistant coach for the 1977 Trojan football undefeated team. In his professional life, he has achieved numerous coaching accomplishments at Viborg High School, and has been inducted in numerous Halls of Fame.

**The 1976 Dakota State College football team**, led by a former successful football head coach Joel Swisher, closed out one of their most successful seasons ever with an 8-2 record. The Trojans finished with a No. 9 ranking in the final NAIA Division II poll, and their second straight share of the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference (SDIC) title. The team smashed twenty-three school records, including four team marks and nineteen individual bests. Hall of Famer Jeff Rodman shattered ten records alone, and was named to the NAIA Division II All-America First Team. Teammate and Hall of Famer Terry Kasperbauer shared the most valuable trophy with Rodman.

## DSU RECEIVES 'BEST NEW CHAMPIONSHIP HOST' AWARD FROM NAIA

Dakota State received the 'Best New Championship Host' award from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). This honor is given to the host that displays excellence in all aspects of conducting a national championship, produces an excellent student-athlete experience, and is in their first year of hosting a championship event.

The award honors those that have gone above and beyond in the execution of a championship event for the 2018-19 school year. Their work, along with other local organizations, helps in executing a memorable championship experience for hundreds of student-athletes at each event.

"The NAIA is fortunate to partner with exceptional organizations and institutions every year to elevate the championship experience for our student-athletes," said NAIA President and CEO Jim Carr. "We appreciate the dedication and hard work of all our hosts and are proud to honor those that went above and beyond in the 2018-19 season."

The 2019 NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championship was hosted by DSU and the Sanford-Jackrabbit Athletic Complex in Brookings, S.D. Dakota State put on a memorable student-athlete experience event, with a western-themed banquet. Over 1,100 student-athletes were served in just 20 minutes, and featured an area where the participants could try their

hand at roping a stationary target. Not only did the mayor of Brookings greet the guests upon arrival, but the governor of South Dakota recorded a video welcome for the event.

"We are very excited when we were named a host site for the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships, and worked very hard to try to put on an event that would be an outstanding experience for the 1,100 athletes and coaches that qualified to compete in the meet," said Jeff Dittman, athletics director.

"I can't begin to thank all the people who put in long hours to make this meet successful, but without the help of Hannah Harmon and her team at the NAIA, we would not have been able to have a successful meet."





# DSU IS CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER FIVE-STAR INSTITUTION

Dakota State is one of the 180 schools to receive the Champions of Character initiative program recognition from the National Association of Intercollegiate of Athletics (NAIA) national office. DSU was one of the 76 institutions that received the Silver level.

Institutions are measured on a demonstrated commitment to Champions of Character and earned points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Institutions earned points based on exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and by having minimal to no ejections during competitions throughout the course of the academic year.

Each year, each NAIA institution and conference demonstrate their progress in pursuing character-driven athletes. The Champions of Character scorecard measures growth in training, promotion,



conduct in competition and commitment in five key areas with a possibility of earning 100 points.

Institutions can be recognized as Champions of Character Five-

Star Institutions at three different levels: Gold (90-100 points), Silver (75-89 points) and Bronze (60-74 points).

NAIA conference continued to embrace character-driven excellence with 16 conferences earning the Champions of Character Five-Star Conference award, including the North Star Athletic Association conference.

Through the Champions of Character initiative, the NAIA seeks to create an environment where every student-athlete, coach, official, and spectator is encouraged to be part of the true spirit of competition through the five cores: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership.

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The outstanding DSU alumni pose with interim director of alumni engagement Carrie Slaathaug (left). Distinguished alumni include: Dr. Kevin Smith, Mandi Atkins, Julie Wulf Plimpton, Rachelle DeBeer, and Roger Hettinger.

## DSU OUTSTANDING ALUMNI ANNOUNCED

The DSU Alumni Association honored five alumni for their achievements at the 2019 Homecoming game.

### Outstanding Alumni – Professional Excellence - Roger Hettinger

Roger Hettinger is a senior revenue cycle advisor at Axia Solutions based in Atlanta, Ga, working remotely from Sioux Falls, S.D. Prior to joining Axia, Hettinger worked with Avera Health as an outpatient coding auditor for 11 years. At Dakota State, Hettinger earned bachelor's degrees in business administration and information systems in 1993. He earned a master's degree in business administration at USD in 2013 and returned to Dakota State to earn an associate degree in health information technology in 2016, graduating with high honors. Hettinger is involved with several professional organizations, and is a current member of the Sioux Empire Chapter of 100+ Men Who Care.



### **Outstanding Alumni – Alumni Coach of the Year - Rachelle DeBeer**

Rachelle DeBeer has been teaching mathematics and coaching track and field for 23 years and coaching volleyball for 24 years. DeBeer, a 1997 DSU graduate, currently teaches and coaches at Deubrook Area Schools. In 2017 and 2019, she was voted the S.D. High School Coaches Association Girls Track Coach of the Year. Additionally, she was honored nationally by the U.S. Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association as the Girls Track Coach of the Year, representing the state of South Dakota. DeBeer was an academic All-American and earned all-conference honors in volleyball and track. Her husband, Brad, is a 1997 elementary education graduate of Dakota State, and also coaches at Deubrook. Their daughter Shaylee is a freshman at Dakota State this fall.

### **Outstanding Alumni – Service to Alma Mater - Julie Wulf Plimpton**

Julie Wulf Plimpton is an assistant professor at Dakota State University in the Health Information Management (HIM) program. She has many years of experience in the health information management profession, from traditional inpatient hospitals to long term care project management with a software vendor. She joined higher education in 2016. Wulf Plimpton earned her Bachelor of Science in Health Information Administration in 1992 from Dakota State, and returned to earn her Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics (MSHI) degree in 2014. Wulf Plimpton volunteers with professional advisory boards and campus committees. She and her husband Terry Wulf live in Sioux Falls.

### **Outstanding Alumni – Outstanding Young Alumni - Mandi Atkins**

Mandi Atkins works as an information technology specialist at the Center for Advancement of Health Information Technology (CAHIT) at Dakota State. She presents at health care conferences about DSU's services and assists with the technical and workflow needs of end-users. Atkins played volleyball during her time at Dakota State, graduating in 2015 with a bachelor's in health information administration. From 2013-2015, Atkins interned with the Department of Health. She earned her master's degree in health informatics and information management from DSU in 2018. She is a member of the American Health Information Management Association and is working toward her Registered Health Information Administrator certification. Atkins married Dale Stegenga on September 28.

### **Outstanding Alumni – Outstanding Educator – Dr. Kevin Smith**

Dr. Kevin Smith teaches math education and educational technology courses in the College of Education at Dakota State. Additionally, he is program coordinator for the Master of Science in Educational Technology degree. Smith was awarded the 2018 Ernest Teagarden Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the 2019 Knowlton Excellence in Quality Award at DSU. Smith earned his bachelor's in mathematics education from Dakota State in 1993, and his doctorate in Instructional Design and Technology from the University of Memphis in 2017. He was a member of the 1992 team that has been inducted into the DSU Athletics Hall of Fame. His wife, Sarah, is a physician in Brookings; they have three children: Ian, Nathan, and Kaia.



Winners of the 2019  
YPN 4 under 40 Award were:  
Katie Ashmore (left), Andrew Eitrem,  
Matt Paulson, and Andy Cahoy.

## MATT PAULSON NAMED ONE OF 4 TOP YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Matt Paulson '08 (B.S. Computer Science) and '09 (M.S. Information Systems) founder and CEO of MarketBeat was selected as one of the inaugural 4 under 40 by the Sioux Falls Young Professionals Network (YPN).

"I was thrilled and humbled to see my name on the list of the 57 individuals that were nominated for the award," Paulson said.

YPN is a program through the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce that offers a network of young professionals who are interested in continuing to grow and develop their skills professionally.

Paulson joined the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce and YPN in 2015. He stressed the importance of developing relationships with business professionals. "The old saying, 'it's not what you know, it's who you know,' is truer than ever," he shared.

Candidates for the 4 under 40 award were selected by meeting a series of four criteria. These criteria include: consistently demonstrating a commitment to their industry and advancement of it; acting as a passionate leader with a record of collaboration and success, leading by example, mentoring, and taking risks to achieve a desired outcome; under 40 years of age; and an employee

or owner of a Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce member in good standing.

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**It felt great to be recognized by the Sioux Falls business community for my efforts through Startup Sioux Falls, Falls Angel Fund, and MarketBeat.**

**- Matt Paulson '08 and '09**

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Paulson's business MarketBeat, which he created in 2006 as a sophomore at Dakota State and incorporated in 2008, is a financial media company that helps stock investors track their investment portfolios, Paulson explained.

"You can think of it as a personalized version of the Wall Street Journal that only has news for the stocks that you care about," Paulson said.

Paulson created MarketBeat through the Center for Techno-Entrepreneurship while attending DSU. There are currently 1.1 million subscribers to MarketBeat.

For current DSU students and recent graduates Paulson hopes to be an inspiration and has some advice – "You don't need to wait until you're near retirement age to take risks, make big moves, and do important work," he said. "You can do those things now."



### Douglas Nelson '61

(Education) named to the Deubrook Area High School Hall of Fame. He taught, coached, served as athletic director and superintendent in schools in Montana and South Dakota. For 38 years he was superintendent of the Deubrook Area Schools.



### Dave Gassman '71

(Secondary Education Physical Science) honored at a roast and banquet for 50-plus year career in amateur baseball, many as the manager of the Canova Gang. Gassman holds 11 state records including amateur wins (376) and strikeouts (5,595) and has been inducted into five Halls of Fame.

### Daryl Fletcher '73

(Education) voted into the inaugural Class of 2019 South Dakota High School Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

### Mary Ellen Thyen Luikens '74

(Education) inducted into the South Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, for her career coaching Scotland High School's girls basketball, volleyball, softball, and track and field teams for 39 years.



### Randy Walker '76

(Physical Education) was inducted into the Green River Wyoming High School Hall of Fame.

### Sean Bade '83

(Education) is general manager of TCs Referee, a sports-themed restaurant that has been in Sioux Falls 28 yrs. "DSU was/is a fabulous jumping off place; never think of it as small, because then you will miss out."

### Phyllis Bernard '83

(Education) is a library aide at Elk Point-Jefferson Schools.

### Tim Casper '85

(Education) retired as superintendent of Lake Preston Schools, after 34 years in education.

### Mark Davison '85

(Business Administration and Data Processing) took over as superintendent of Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming on August 18. He has spent 33 years with the National Park Service, and was most recently chief ranger at the Colorado National Monument, but has worked at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Dinosaur National Monument, Wind Cave National Park, Capulin Volcano National Monument, and Scotts Bluff National Monument.

### Kim Seitz '86

(Education) retires after 30 years of teaching, all in the Madison Central School District

### Gary Wockenfuss '86

(Education) was honored at the April 24, 2019 Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals (NSASSP) Region II Awards Banquet with the NSASSP Distinguished Service Award. Region II of the NSASSP covers seven counties in eastern Nebraska.

### Dr. Brian Sampson '89

(Education) named superintendent of the Arlington (S.D.) School System

### Marshall Dennert '91

(Computer Education) elected mayor of Madison, S.D.

### Steve Rokusek '97

(Biology and Computer Education) was named the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus at spring commencement. He is an education specialist with the South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB), known as Science Steve. He develops resource materials for specific content areas for in-service school workshops, education conferences across the state, and for special events, such as the 2018 Space Day at DSU. He also creates a weekly electronic education newsletter for teachers and parents.



### Shar Johnson '98

(Elementary Education) retired after teaching 21 years in the Bennett County School System.

### Shantel Krebs '98

(Business Administration) named administrator of the Avera Academy, a new dual-credit program launching in the 2019-2020 school year. She has also been named the chairwoman of the Miss America Organization Board of Directors. Krebs was Miss South Dakota in 1997.

### Jennifer Reecy '99

(Education, Special Education) is chief employee experience officer at First National Bank in Sioux Falls.

### Chad Kurtenbach '02

(Biology for Information Systems) named to the Deubrook Area High School Hall of Fame. He is an orthopedic surgeon in Sioux Falls, specializing in sports medicine and arthroscopic surgery. He is also team physician for SDSU football and basketball teams and the Sioux Falls Skyforce, and has served as assistant physician for the Minnesota professional athletic teams.

### Jason Gross '04

(Computer Game Design) joined the team at Expansion Capital Group as director of marketing.

### Joshua Hogue '05

(Business Management) has been named president at Reliabank.

### Mark Iverson '05

(Elementary Education) was named the S.D. Outstanding Physical Science Teacher of the year, an award sponsored by 3M and the S.D. Science Teachers Association and S.D. Physics Department.

### Chris Spielmann '05

(E-commerce and Computer Network Security) promoted from a system administrator to the systems manager at First National Bank in Sioux Falls, S.D. He has been with the bank since 2007.





**Dwayne Jake Jacobson '70  
and Shirley 'Chris'  
Christensen Jacobson '70**

Over the last few years, the couple has purchased over 250 coupons at Dairy Queen during Miracle Treat Day, and has given them to the Foundation to give out to students on move-in day, or to alumni at special events. The couple lives in Garretson, S.D.

**Jay Schultz '08**

(Computer Information Systems) is a new member of the DSU Alumni board.

**Penny Fossman '09**

(Health Information Administration) a nurse practitioner, Fossman has joined the Behavioral Health team at Gifford, providing therapy and medication management services at Gifford Medical Center in Randolph, VT.

**Josh Nelson '11**

(Business Management) was promoted to operations and logistics lead at Mustang Seeds in Madison. He will be responsible for managing inventory at all locations and ensuring accuracy of orders.

**Elliott Bruekelman '13**

(Information Systems) '14 (Master's in Information Systems) is a new member of the DSU Alumni board.

**German Amezquita Aldana '16**

(B.S. Business Management) has been promoted to Small Grains Forage Warehouse Supervisor at Red Horse Seed in Madison. He will be responsible for supervising and guiding warehouse responsibilities and employees.

**Tawny Sherman Heiser '18**

(Education) is now teaching and coaching at Sisseton Schools.

**Rachel Slaven '18**

(Elementary Education) is a new member of the DSU Alumni board.

**Dennis Hegg**

(former faculty) posthumously inducted into the Bulldog Hall of Fame (Beresford High School)

## BIRTHS

Scott Langerock '00 (Education) and wife Eve had a baby boy, Riggins Ryan, on June 28, 2018. He weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz., and measured 21 inches long.



Holly Rausch '07 (Computer Graphics) and her husband Miles welcomed their third child, Remy Valentine, on April 17, 2019.



## ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS

Meagan Hardee '16 (Management) and Jason Norgaard were married October 5, 2019.

Justin Erichsen '16 (Respiratory Care) and Shelby Lienemann were married Nov. 2, 2019.

Tawny Sherman Heiser '18 (Mathematics Education) and Tanner Heiser '17 (Professional Accountancy) were married August 31, 2019.

BreeAna Olson '17 (Physical Education) and Stephen Kelkas '13 (B.S. Information Systems), '17 (M.S. Education Technology) were married July 19, 2019.

Hope Juntunen '19 (Biology and Physical Science) and Chad Horack '17 (Cyber Operations and Network Security Administration) '18 (Applied Computer Science) were married July 20, 2019.

## IN MEMORIAM

Gladys Elizabeth Lorenzen '38

Maxine Adeline Bohl '41

Helen Lucile Jensen '41

Viola L. Place '41

Agnes M. Berge '42

Katherine A. Bindert '42

Bonnie Triplett '42

Signe N. Anderson '45

Helen Jean Eiesland '49

Dolores Langum Larson (attended '50)

Eugene Beckel '51

Lois Adelle Honglo '52

LaVern Carol Anderson '54

Jean Kolbeck '54

Mary Rose Cooper '57

Corinne Inez Severtson '58

Beverly J. Warns '58

Anna Margaret Huber '59

Russell Beldin '60

Mary Agnes Cooper '62

Richard "Dick" Brown '63

Marjorie M. Balo '67

Martha Katherine Johnson '67

Marjorie Rae Erickson '68

Iris N. Lange '69

Edward John Lanners '69

Ronald R. Streich '70

Camilla Omanson Aker '72

Lorraine Anna Butrum '72

Bernice E. Parmely '73

Helen Margaret Sieverding '73

Ruth Arlene Kreger '74

Deborah Kay Bowman '76

Joel F. Bresser '77

Kimberly K. Klostergaard '83

Sarah Elizabeth Johnson '88

Julie H. Johnson '88

Sharleen A. Hansen '88

Clyde Brashier, former faculty member

Larry W. McDaniel, Ed.D., former faculty

Mickie Kreidler, former faculty member

Robert Oas, former faculty member

Linda Grayson, friend of DSU

Muriel Jamison, friend of DSU





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