

DAKOTA STATE

MAGAZINE

Spring 2020



FOR OUR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW SUPPORTERS OF DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY



Welcome to our spring 2020 magazine. This issue contains many examples of one of DSU's greatest assets and strengths – the people of the extended DSU community. It is especially apropos for the time in which we suddenly find ourselves, the onslaught of the new novel coronavirus and the illness COVID-19.

It seems as though almost overnight we went from the distant sounds of a mild threat, to the loud drumming of a dangerous attack on our doorstep. Through it all, the people of our extended DSU community – the students, faculty, staff, City of Madison, Lake County, State of South Dakota, and our worldwide network of alumni and supporters – have come together in impressive and innovative ways to keep DSU people safe and the university moving forward.

As we go to print with this magazine, we have come through some tumultuous weeks. This novel coronavirus spreads aggressively through person-to-person contact. The innumerable in-person interactions of a busy university campus, especially students living together in university residence halls, was a highly dangerous situation. South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem gave the order in March for all state employees (all DSU faculty and staff are state employees) to move to working from home if at all possible. DSU faculty and staff have done so. The South Dakota Board of Regents made the decision to have the regental universities move to all online classes through the end of this semester. All but a very few of our residential students have moved back home or to other safer environments where they can practice the isolation and social distancing critical to stemming the tide of COVID-19 infections.

While this transition to remote work certainly required innovation and flexibility from DSU faculty and staff, Dakota State was far better prepared for the move than most universities across the country. DSU's tech/cyber-intensive environment meant that we already had in place the resources and tools people needed to continue their work from off-campus locations, generally their individual homes.

In addition, in December 2019 when the threat of the new coronavirus came on the world scene, DSU's administration began working on contingency planning if the crisis should spread to the U.S. and South Dakota. In January 2020, as information grew about the deadly impact of widespread COVID-19 illness, we moved to working intensely on detailed plans for a potential transition to operating fully online. When the executive orders came to shift, DSU was able to move quickly and seamlessly to online operations.

Thanks to energetic and skilled contributions by people across the university, I am happy to report that we have successfully transitioned all of our essential activities to online delivery, and the university has stayed up and running and moving forward through all of this shift.

This COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to march across the United States, creating enormous personal, professional, social, and economic disruption. This battle with an unseen, initially silent but deadly enemy is unlike anything I believe any of us has previously experienced. I believe we all have a new appreciation for our shared human and societal vulnerability to the devastating impacts of a highly-contagious health threat. At the same time, it has also brought into stark focus the responsibility and requirement for each of us to do everything we can to not only protect ourselves but also our families and loved ones, our communities, and our country.

I understand that right now extroverts are struggling with the emotional deprivation of reduced human interaction, and introverts are enjoying the solace they need to recharge. Personally, I am basking in appreciation at the strength, ingenuity, and positive attitude of the people of Dakota State University, once again demonstrated in our shared, highly successful response to this present crisis. We will get through this, and we will all be stronger for it on the other side. As Robert Schuller, the American writer, speaker, and pastor once said, "Tough times never last, but tough people do." I am so very grateful to be part of this amazing #DSUStrong! community of tough people.

Best wishes for safety and health for you and yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José-Marie Griffiths".

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



DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Dakota State University (DSU) in Madison, S.D. offers undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs through its Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Information Systems, Computer and Cyber Sciences, and Education. Visit dsu.edu.

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Dakota State Magazine is published by the DSU Marketing and Communications Department and distributed at no cost to over 14,000 alumni, donors, and friends.

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20 TO WATCH IN 2020

AS DAKOTA STATE embarks on the Soaring '20s, we are highlighting 20 people of DSU to watch in 2020. These students, staff, and faculty members were selected by each college's dean for their efforts in and outside the classroom. Read on to learn about these outstanding members of our DSU family.



KATIE ANDERSON

Assistant Professor of Reading and Language Arts
College of Arts & Sciences

Katie Anderson started her teaching career in 2004 at a middle school in Rapid City, South Dakota. While teaching, she earned her master's degree in curriculum instruction and in 2013, she was named South Dakota Teacher of the Year.

Not long after, she began working at DSU in 2014. Anderson's focus in her courses is how to teach reading. All courses have some form of fieldwork where a student is matched with a teacher in the field to see practices in real life.

Anderson's goal in the classroom is that her students feel prepared. "When they get done with my coursework and student teaching and they start teaching, I want them to feel confident and comfortable teaching the content area that I trained them in, whether that's reading in general, or assessment in general."

She also hopes to continue working with other faculty to offer professional development for teachers across the region.



ANDREW BEHRENS

Instructor of Information Systems
College of Business & Information Systems

Andrew Behrens earned his undergraduate degree in information systems at DSU, then he worked for three years at the hospital where he previously interned. During that time, he earned his master's degree through DSU in health informatics and information management.

While working at the hospital, Behrens mentored interns and realized he wanted to become an instructor. He was able to apply for an instructor position at DSU and is now pursuing his Ph.D. in information systems while teaching.

He enjoys teaching. "It's kind of fun when you see that lightbulb click on, as cliché as it sounds," he shared. He also enjoys watching them grow as students and go on to do exciting things.

Behrens' goals include becoming a professor after completing his Ph.D. and expanding and continuing his research in healthcare.



GRACE CROOK

Exercise Science

Hometown: Gettysburg, S.D.

Grace Crook was deeply involved with track and field in high school, so when looking at colleges she knew she wanted to attend one that gave her the opportunity to continue running.

With an initial interest in athletic training, the exercise science program was the right path for Crook.

Crook spent two years on the track team, before stopping due to injuries. She then joined the Exercise Science Club, which encourages networking at conferences, and began working as a personal trainer at the Community Center.

Crook expressed appreciation for the hands-on practice students in the program receive, and learning from the different teaching styles of her classmates.

She hopes to continue her education to become a physical therapist after graduation.

"If I do become a physical therapist, I want to open my own practice because I want to have a family and I want to have the flexibility of spending time with them."



ELLIC GANT

Game Design

Hometown: Sioux City, Iowa

Ellic Gant may only be a freshman in the game design program, but he's already created a free game, "Pixel Planet," that has over 3,000 user accounts.

In addition to game design, Gant is interested in video production, music creation, and playing games. In his short time at DSU, he's made meaningful relationships with his peers. One of his friends offers feedback and ideas for his game and tips on how he can secure it.

"I enjoy the act of creating," Gant said. "I love seeing people's reactions to things I have made."

He's enjoyed the ability to create a variety of projects through creative outlets like computer science, music, and video game design for others to enjoy.

"I chose DSU because they have one of the best computer science programs I could find," he said.

Gant's goals include owning a game design studio and making a living off of his video games.



DR. MICHAEL GAYLOR

Associate Research Professor of Chemistry
College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Michael Gaylor did not always see a future for himself as a chemist. In fact, he started out as a music major and while he ended up changing his major to biology, later he pursued his rock star dreams of touring as a drummer.

Now Gaylor teaches chemistry and conducts research at DSU. His research with students focuses on astrobiology, or life in the universe.

"Meteorites contain chemical compounds that, in certain environments, undergo chemical reactions that produce molecules essential for life," he explained.

"So we've now been able to show in this tiny little lab at Dakota State University, that molecules that are abundant in the solar system and throughout the universe, and occurring in meteorites, if you do certain things to them they produce chemical compounds that are the same types of molecules that are absolutely essential for life to happen as we understand it today," he said.

Gaylor's goals include earning more grant funding, expanding research, helping students find their passion, and making DSU known as much for science as it is for technology.



DR. PETER HOESING

Director of Sponsored Programs
Research & Economic Development

Dr. Peter Hoelsing's background is in music and cultural anthropology, but a successful skillset in grant writing led him to join DSU as director of sponsored programs with DSU Research and Economic Development.

In his position, he works with faculty researchers to develop research ideas into fundable projects that can be pitched to organizations, institutions, and private foundations to fund research.

Most of his time is spent collaborating with faculty to draft proposals for grants, contract offers, and service agreements. "The bonds that I'm really most proud of here are with faculty researchers," he said.

Hoelsing enjoys seeing all the different passion projects across campus. "I can see really up close and personal the commitment that they have to the progress of science to the common good," he said.

His goal is always to increase funding from regional, national, and international foundations to continue producing new research projects.



JAROD KEENE

Master's in Computer Science
Hometown: Rapid City, S.D.

Jarod Keene always thought he was going to attend the South Dakota School of Mines, but when his sister chose that school he wanted to carve out his own path. An experience at DSU's GenCyber Camp helped him do just that.

"I went to the GenCyber Camp and I enjoyed every class and every elective," Keene said. "But even above that the people who work here are just the nicest people."

At the camp he met some of his future professors, Dr. Tom Halverson and Dr. Austin O'Brien. These professors have impacted him beyond the classroom in research, projects, and competitions. Keene recently attended a national ICPC competition with programming team advisor O'Brien, competing against teams from Stanford and MIT.

After two summers interning with the Department of Defense, he hopes to continue to work for the federal government. He also hopes to be able to work on research projects in the new Cyclops Lab on campus in the future.

While he's often busy programming, completing research, studying, and competing, you may be surprised to learn he's found the time to memorize the entire Dinner Party episode of "The Office."



ANDREW KRAMER

Instructor of Computer Science
The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences

Andrew Kramer moved from California to Madison sight unseen to earn his bachelor's degree from Dakota State.

Kramer initially hadn't planned to stay in Madison. "I really fell in love with the school and the area in a way I hadn't planned to," he explained, adding that he found his people at DSU.

"I get to spend my time working with students on all the things I was excited to spend my time on anyway," he said.

He works in MadLabs as director of the Deep Red Lab, which is offensive security work, or vulnerability research.

"We are creating technology faster than we are securing it, so we're hoping to identify some of those problems before someone else does," he explained.

Kramer's future goals include speaking at the conference DEF CON in Las Vegas and earning a Ph.D.



DR. AUSTIN O'BRIEN

Assistant Professor of Computer Science
The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences

Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Dr. Austin O'Brien, spent a portion of his collegiate career as a cheerleader at SDSU. Now he uses that same enthusiasm in the classroom teaching Dakota State students in The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences.

From teaching freshman through graduate level students to advising computer programming teams, O'Brien is invested in teaching his students theory, application, and communication as they prepare for their future careers.

"I hope students will not just soak in what they're being told, but learn to take the next step and apply it to real world problems and communicate that with others," he shared.

O'Brien's future goals include working toward tenure and helping Dakota State become known as the go to university in the region for artificial intelligence, in addition to cybersecurity.



IVY OELTJENBRUNS

Master's in Computer Science
Hometown: Hartford, S.D.

Ivy Oeltjenbruns originally thought she was interested in graphic design, but after two job shadows and an internship during high school she knew cybersecurity was what she wanted to study.

As a cyber operations major, Oeltjenbruns found Dr. Tom Halverson, associate professor of computer science, very influential, taking many of her intro classes to the program with him. He also encouraged Oeltjenbruns to join the Computer Club and run as an officer, which helped her earn a CyberCorps scholarship.

After interning for the past two summers with MITRE, a non-profit organization that manages federally funded research, Oeltjenbruns has continued working part time for them from South Dakota and will be taking a full-time position with them in Maryland in May.

"I want to continue advancing my career, start speaking at conferences in the industry, and go outside of my comfort zone," she shared of her goals.

WHY DSU?

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NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
WYOMING

\$291
PER CREDIT HOUR

IN-STATE TUITION

MINNESOTA
*This is an updated number and differs from the printed version of the magazine

\$297
PER CREDIT HOUR

100%
JOB PLACEMENT RATE
FOR 24 MAJORS

98%
JOB PLACEMENT RATE
FOR RECENT DSU GRADS

close
to
home

Madison, SD



FRANCISCA OPOKU-BOATENG

Ph.D. Information Systems in Cyber Defense
Hometown: Ghana, West Africa

Francisca Opoku-Boateng has earned two master's degrees and is now working toward her fourth degree, a doctorate in information systems with a focus in cyber defense.

Education is important to Opoku-Boateng and her entire family. They believe in and agree with the African proverb, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation."

As she saw technology use increase over the years, she saw her own future in the technology sector. For the 2019-2020 school year, Opoku-Boateng was awarded the Google Women Techmakers Scholarship and a blackcomputeHER Fellowship, giving her access to professional development such as retreats, conferences, and networking.

When she's not busy earning accolades or completing research with Dr. Ashley Podhradsky and Dr. Pam Rowland, she is part of the MadLabs Digital Forensics for Cyber Enforcement (DigForCE) team, where she analyzes and conducts forensic investigations into cybercrimes.

Opoku-Boateng's future goals include inspiring more women to consider the technology field and to return to Ghana to share what she's learned about technology and cybersecurity and teach others.



SHANNON OYLER BEZONIAS

Bachelor's in Business Administration Management
Hometown: Rapid City, S.D.

Shannon Oyler Bezonias, a self-employed, non-traditional online student, felt a management degree in business would be beneficial for her career goals.

"I looked into several colleges with online programs before selecting DSU," Bezonias said. "I liked the smaller atmosphere and DSU seemed more tech-oriented than others."

She is no stranger to reaching her goals. While pregnant with her daughter she was put on bedrest. During that time she chose to learn HTML and about online selling as a way to make income from home. For the past 16 years she's been creating her own income sources.

Bezonias runs and writes for a website, offgridworld.com, she purchased in 2017 that generates passive income through advertising. "It focuses on several areas of sustainability and self-sufficient living, like off-grid homes, growing food, and renewable energy," she said.

Bezonias found many of her courses valuable, specifically mentioning Dr. Jack Walters' business strategy course, and Dr. Michael Roach's small business management and entrepreneurship courses. "I would recommend them to anyone who might want to start or manage a small business," she said.

With many goals for herself, like sustainability projects such as unconventional/off-grid homes to sell or rent, and new website ideas, Bezonias is excited for the future.

"Big picture, I want to teach others how to live healthy, self-sufficient lives while creating something I can pass on to my kids and future generations."



CARL PETERSEN

Computer Game Design
Mathematics for Information System Minor
Object-Oriented Programming Certificate
Hometown: Parade, S.D.

Carl Petersen is a grant recipient, business owner, Indigenous game developer, and DSU student.

In 2019, Petersen was awarded the Billy Mills \$10,000 Dreamstarter grant offered through Running Strong for American Indian Youth, which enabled Petersen to start his company Northern Plains Games.

Through his company, which employs Native Americans to create games for Native Americans, he is developing "Tipi Kaga" an interactive 3D game in which players build a traditional Lakota Tipi by receiving instructions in the Lakota language.

Petersen hopes to partner with Native K-12 schools to offer his game as a supplement to teaching the Lakota language. He will also make his game available to the public by releasing it on STEAM, a game-buying platform. His future goals include creating a sequel to "Tipi Kaga" with deeper vocabulary and to continue to develop other Native games, while staying in South Dakota.

"Right now, there aren't really any game design studios in South Dakota, much less on a reservation," he said. "So, I'd like to have a studio on the reservation that can provide jobs and train people in a skill set. There are a lot of artistic people who just don't have opportunities and I want to provide those opportunities."

Upon graduation in May, Petersen will return to his reservation, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, to run his company and help out in his community.



NOAH SALMEN

Elementary Education
Hometown: Madison, S.D.

Noah Salmen always thought he would end up farming on the family popcorn farm, but education opportunities based in his interest of teaching began popping up while he was still in high school. He interned at the Madison Christian School and began helping with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

Being born and raised in Madison, and having had both his parents attend DSU, Dakota State seemed like the perfect fit for a degree in education for Salmen.

Throughout his time in the elementary education major, he has learned a lot about the importance of building relationships in education.

"It's a pretty valuable lesson for education, building a rapport with students and parents," Salmen said.

He's thankful for other opportunities he's had in the College of Education, from field experience observing in a real classroom, to researching the use of tech in math enrichment activities and sitting on a panel for prospective students.

In the future he hopes to be working for a school in the area teaching upper elementary and immersing himself in all areas of the community.



PHUSUDA SHEEHAN

Digital Arts and Design
Photography Minor
Hometown: Watertown, S.D.

Phusuda Sheehan was born in Bangkok, Thailand, but grew up near Watertown, S.D. and spent her youth going on photoshoots with her mother, a professional photographer.

As Sheehan graduated high school, she started her own portrait and wedding photography business, PB Photography, and decided to attend DSU for graphic design. She is currently on track to graduate in 2.5 years. In addition to running her own business and being on a fast track to graduating, Sheehan is an RA, and a work study employee.

In the digital arts and design program, Joe Ren, assistant professor of digital arts and design, impacted Sheehan with her describing him as “phenomenally cool, just so different from not only artists, but also professors in the Midwest.”

“He’s inspired me to do more and follow a style even if it doesn’t match your surroundings,” she said.

Sheehan’s favorite part of photography is being able to tell someone’s story with a single photograph. “Portraying somebody’s emotions, actions, energy, and style in one second in time is something I am blessed to be able to do,” she said.

She also appreciates the flexibility of graphic design. Her goals for the future are to move to New York City after graduation and incorporate graphic design into her photography business.



DR. KEVIN SMITH

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education
Coordinator for Master of Science in Educational Technology Program
College of Education

Dr. Kevin Smith earned an undergraduate degree in math education with a technology minor when he attended Dakota State. After graduation he taught high school math, but his interest in technology made him decide to go back to graduate school.

At the University of Nebraska, he studied instructional technology, while also working in the department of distance education as an instructional designer, developing high school correspondence courses and turning the course into online courses with multimedia. During this time one of the students in the distance program was American singer, songwriter, dancer, and actress Britney Spears.

Smith went on to work remotely for organizations in New York City and St. Louis, until returning to DSU to teach math education and technology. He focuses on building relationships with his students in hopes that he will model how to teach in their future classrooms.

“I think the most important thing in teaching is relationships,” he said, along with incorporating technology and fun into the learning process, he added.

Smith and a friend, Kent Steen, created three learning apps available in the Apple App Store: Spelling Star, for practicing spelling; Math Mountains: Add & Subtract; and Math Mountains: Multiply & Divide.

In the future, Smith plans to continue moving forward through the tenure track process, continue learning, and develop his research skills further. His research interests currently involve gamification and engaging students, particularly when it comes to math.



DUSTIN STEINHAGEN

Ph.D. in Cyber Defense
Home State: Minn.

Dustin Steinhagen, a second-year doctoral student in cyber defense, developed an interest in cybersecurity after learning that the brain is hackable during his time as a biological engineering student at Cornell University.

There’s more to cybersecurity than just protecting computer networks and information.

“In cybersecurity our job inherently involves protecting people,” Steinhagen said. “People are the most critical infrastructure we need to protect.”

This includes protecting people’s private data from hackers and scams like phishing emails with malicious attachments and bank and social security scams. In cybersecurity these hacks and scams are called social engineering, which is the psychological manipulation of people to get them to do something, such as divulging confidential information.

“I decided the best way to help address issues in the human exploitation field is getting a degree in cybersecurity,” said Steinhagen.

Steinhagen has been an integral part of developing curriculum for the cyber defense doctoral program. Dr. Kevin Streff, his advisor and mentor, inspired him to spearhead the new 700 level introductory data privacy course, and a new social engineering course. Steinhagen has had the opportunity to teach both courses.



BRANDON VANROSENDALE

Computer Information Systems Business Analytics
Hometown: Madison, S.D.

Brandon VanRosendale didn’t start his college education at Dakota State, but he’s happy to be here now. He spent one year at the School of Mines before he transferred to SDSU for one semester, but struggled with his grades. VanRosendale then moved back to Madison and worked full-time at Sunshine Foods. While he liked his job at the grocery store, he knew other opportunities were out there.

“I learned a lot from working in retail and managing my own department, from SCM, CRM, data warehousing, inventory care, some basic accounting, and communication skills,” he explained.

In spring of 2019 he began at DSU. “I made the honor roll that semester, something I never thought I’d do,” he said.

While he still works part-time at the grocery store, he has also started teaching supplemental instruction to help other students.

His goals include completing undergraduate research and being accepted into the 4+1 master’s of analytics program.



TROJAN DAYS SAVE THE DATE

October 3, 2020

Parade
10 a.m.

Tailgate
Noon - 4 p.m.

Football Game
DSU vs. Waldorf University - 4 p.m.



LINDSEY VOGL

Professional Accounting Major
Hometown: Webster, S.D.

Lindsey Vogl was drawn to Dakota State to play on the basketball team, but the professional accounting major solidified her decision to play and study here.

“The lesson I’ve learned in school is there’s opportunities everywhere, but sometimes you have to go find them,” Vogl said.

Once on campus, Vogl immersed herself in campus activities beyond the basketball team, joining PBL Business Club, serving on Student Senate, and serving on Captain’s Council.

She also learned about hard work, balancing her time, and setting priorities through her participation in basketball. Her favorite memory of DSU is her first college start; in that game she went 7 for 8 from the 3-point line.

Vogl recently accepted a job with RSM in Minneapolis as an International Tax Associate for the fall. Her future goals are to first pass her CPA exam and ultimately become a controller or CFO for a company in Minneapolis. But her dreams don’t stop there, she hopes to publish a fiction novel one day, inspired by her favorite mystery and horror books by Stephen King.



DR. SHENGJIE XU

Assistant Professor
The Beacom College of Computer
& Cyber Sciences

Dr. Shengjie Xu teaches both undergraduate and graduate level courses, in addition to conducting research. Xu joined DSU this year from University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a doctorate in computer engineering.

Xu is really enjoying the process of teaching, focusing on hands-on experience and making himself available for questions. “Often times the students are so self-motivated and that’s what delights me most,” he said.

During his time as a Ph.D. student, Xu focused his research on artificial intelligence because, as a world, we’ve moved into the big data era. Data can be utilized to help secure people’s information.

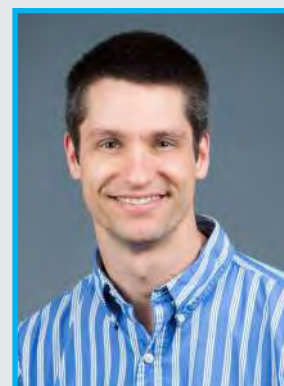
“I’ve been doing research on artificial intelligence and how we can apply that to security and privacy research,” he said.

Xu’s goals at DSU include continuing to make himself available to students, earning tenure, and continuing to research artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things.

Checking in WITH OUR GRADUATES

While we look ahead at the Soaring ‘20s, we are also taking time to look back at some students we featured in 2005 and 2017, students deemed “ones to watch.” Read on to learn about their accomplishments and future goals.

2005 GRADUATES



CHRIS AHRENDT

Major: Double Major in Mathematics and Computer Science

Hometown: Sioux Falls, S.D.

Graduation Date: May 2005

Where I’m living now: Eau Claire, Wis.

What I’m doing today: I am currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Outside of work, my wife Carol and I have three wonderful children who keep us quite busy: Michelle, 10, Anastasia, 7, and Gabriel, 6.

Professional accomplishments I’ve reached since graduating:

I completed my doctoral work at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and my Ph.D. advisor was Dr. Allan Peterson. Dr. Rich Avery in the DSU mathematics department was also a student of Dr. Peterson, and Dr. Avery played an instrumental role in encouraging me to pursue graduate work at UNL. Since joining the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire faculty in 2010, I have been mainly focused on teaching undergraduate courses and working with undergraduate students on faculty/student research collaborations. I have had the pleasure of teaching about 2,500 students over the years here at UWEC in a wide-range of mathematics courses, as well as working with dozens of students on research collaborations—all of which have resulted in presentations at professional mathematical conferences, as well as a few publications in peer reviewed journals.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career:

The faculty at DSU had an immense impact on my future. While I was attending DSU, the idea of going to graduate school and teaching in academia was not necessarily in the forefront of my mind. But seeing firsthand the commitment and excellent example of my math professors especially, as well as all of the encouragement they provided me, truly inspired me to pursue these things.



JOSHUA HOGUE

Major: Business Management & Marketing

Hometown: Gregory, S.D.

Graduation Date: May 2005

Where I'm living now: Watertown, S.D.

What I'm doing today: President of Reliabank Dakota, which is a \$470 million dollar bank, servicing nine locations, employing close to 100 people, located in northeastern South Dakota.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since graduating: Master of Science in Banking and Financial Services from Northern State University and Graduate School of Banking from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Goals for my future: Continue leading and growing the bank through mentorship of employees, strategic planning, and business development.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career: Meeting my wife Emily (class of 2004) was a pretty big highlight of my time at DSU; our marriage has blessed us with three daughters ages 11, 9, and 8 months. Professionally the information and technical background that DSU provided gave me a leg up when I started my career. This ability to understand and learn more about systems, data, and technology has stayed with me, and gave me the ability to build upon the basis set 15 years ago. I don't believe I would have received the same technical knowledge if I had pursued a business degree at another institution.

JEFFREY SWETT

Major: Mathematics for Information Systems; Business Management

Hometown: Platte, S.D.

Graduation Date: 2007

Where I'm living now: Murfreesboro, Tenn.

What I'm doing today: General Counsel and Compliance Officer for an international auto parts manufacturer.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since graduating: In my previous job, I became a partner in a law firm. In my current job, I am leading the legal and compliance efforts for the company's United States operations.

Goals for my future: Take on more responsibility and attain higher levels of leadership with my current employer.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career:

At DSU, I was always encouraged to take on greater challenges and strive for excellence in everything I do. This mindset has presented many great opportunities and has helped me to excel in graduate school and as a leader with my employers.



KELLEY TIETJEN

Major: Elementary Education

Hometown: Milbank, S.D.

Graduation Date: December 2005

Where I'm living now: My husband, Shane and

I have lived in Harrisburg, S.D. since 2009. We have two children, Ava and John.

What I'm doing today: I am currently teaching 2nd grade at Liberty Elementary in the Harrisburg School District. This is my second year teaching in Harrisburg. I appreciate that although Harrisburg is a growing district, they have an emphasis on innovation while also striving to attain a small community feel. I have previously taught in the Tea Area School District for 12 years as a librarian, Title One teacher and 1st grade teacher. I have been very fortunate to work with and learn from dedicated professionals in both districts.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since graduating:

Although I have completed a vast amount of professional training in the areas of assessment, curriculum, and instructional practices, having longevity in the teaching profession is an accomplishment all on its own. It takes perseverance, dedication, and a strong work ethic to improve your practice and teaching craft in an ever-changing profession. I consider myself a very reflective individual and constantly think of ways to improve upon my instruction, whether it be focusing on ways I can improve student engagement or instructional delivery of concepts. We wear many hats in the teaching profession, so it's important for educators to focus on one's individual purpose and the rewarding impact we have on the children we teach.

Goals for my future: After having 14 years of experience in the profession, I have become quite interested in curriculum and instructional delivery. My family is in a busy season of life, but eventually I would like to pursue further knowledge in these areas, whether that be through attaining a master's degree or other further training.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career: Although technology has changed greatly since I was in college, DSU's technology component in education helped give that added boost when I was entering the teaching profession. The staff in DSU's educational department not only helped me feel prepared for my career, but I also felt valued as an individual. I will never forget how appreciative I was when they reached out to me on a personal level when my mother passed away in the fall of 2003. They offered advice and support as I completed my degree. For all of these things, I am ever grateful!



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HILLARY WIESE HENRICH

Major: Business with majors in Finance and Management

Hometown: Ortonville, Minn.

Graduation Date: May 2005

Where I'm living now: Big Stone City, S.D.

What I'm doing today: I have been employed with Big Stone Therapies, Inc. since graduation. I will have worked with the company for 15 years in May. I started as an Operations Assistant to the owners of the company. I became

Operations Manager in 2011 and Chief Compliance Officer in 2017. I married my husband Joe in 2005 and together we have two children, Zoe 8, and Jade, 5.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since graduating: In 2001, I received my MBA in Healthcare Administration. I also became certified in Healthcare Compliance, CHC in 2017.

Goals for my future: My professional goals are to continue to learn the world of healthcare compliance to best help the organization I work for. I would like to earn the CPHC - Certified in Healthcare Privacy Compliance.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career: DSU provided several opportunities for me that helped shape the person I am today - personally and professionally. DSU promoted to students to become involved on campus in various ways. There was a strong focus on academics but also an emphasis on the person.

2017 GRADUATES



BEN AASHEIM

Majors: Business Technology and Management

Hometown: Sioux Falls, S.D.

Graduation Date: December 2018

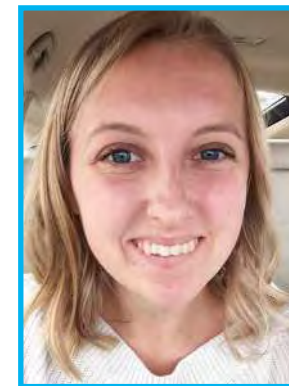
Where I'm living now: Sioux Falls, S.D.

What I'm doing today: IT Quality Assurance Specialist at Sanford Health Professional

Accomplishments I've reached since graduating: Featured in Sanford Health Intern Recruiting Video. Gained experience working with different teams and departments within Sanford through project work on multiple large enterprise implementations and initiatives.

Goals for my future: Continue my education by pursuing a master's degree, and continue to develop and advance in my professional career.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career: The guidance I received from my advisor and professors at DSU was invaluable to me in my pursuit of a career. Also, the education and experience I received from DSU has helped me to stand out and integrate successfully into the work force.



KELLY BETHKE

Major: Digital Arts & Design: Computer Graphics

Hometown: Pierre, S.D.

Graduation Date: May 2017

Where I'm living now: Casper, Wyo.

What I'm doing today: Working part-time at a credit union as a

Lobby Advisor while developing my own business focused on wall art, greeting cards, and other illustration-based products.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since

graduating: I have had a difficult time finding opportunities in my field since graduating. However, I have worked at several credit unions since graduating and have learned a lot of professional skills along with financial and budgeting skills. I believe these will help me in developing my own business. Working at these credit unions has also taught me the importance of community involvement and supporting others around me which is a vital part of owning a small business.

Goals for my future: My ultimate goal is to be running a successful business from home while raising future kids.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career:

The various art and design classes allowed me to experiment with different mediums. The professors also pushed me to try new and challenging things with my art. I continue to use this advice with my art today.



JOSHUA DOSDALL

Major: Computer Science and Mathematics for Information Systems

Hometown: Elk Point, S.D.

Graduation Date: Spring 2017

Where I'm living now: Elk Point, S.D.

What I'm doing today: Field Services Engineer at Riverside Technologies, Inc.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since graduating: Certified in Digital Watchdog security cameras.

Goals for my future: Buy a house in the next year, continue building up my career knowledge and abilities.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career: DSU expanded my knowledge and improved my skills to perform exponentially better at my career.

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ANDREW KRAMER

Major: B.S. Cyber Operations, M.S. Computer Science

Hometown: Etna, Calif.

Graduation Date: B.S. 2015, M.S. 2017

Where I'm living now: Madison, S.D.

What I'm doing today: Instructor at DSU.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since graduating:
Found some neat software bugs.

Goals for my future: Find more software bugs!

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career:

Helped me build my academic and professional network. I've had the privilege to work with a lot of great people!



SID MOORHEAD

Major: B.S. Network and Security Administration, M.S. Cyber Defense

Hometown: Warroad, Minn.

Graduation Date: May 2017

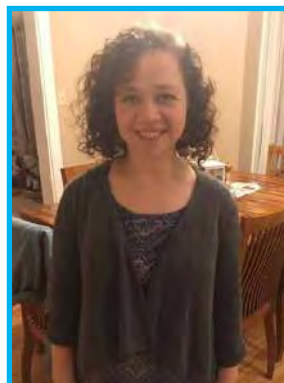
Where I'm living now: Plymouth, Minn.

What I'm doing today: Network Security Analyst at Polaris.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since graduating: Completed an M.S. in Cyber Defense at DSU and a two-year developmental program at Polaris.

Goals for my future: Continue to expand my career in cybersecurity.

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career: DSU's career services offered excellent resources to secure multiple internships and a relevant role immediately upon graduation.



CARISSA LEWIS

Major: Elementary Education K-6

Hometown: Jordan, Minn.

Graduation Date: May 2017

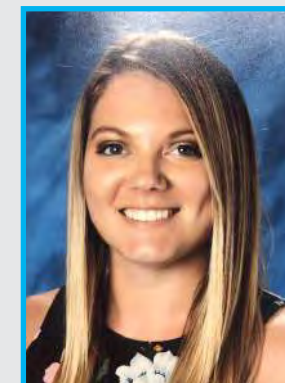
Where I'm living now: Northfield, Minn.

What I'm doing today: Teaching as a full-time Pre-K teacher in Lonsdale, Minn.

Professional Accomplishments: Taught Adult English Education for six months at a private institution in Nepal; Taught as an ESL Teacher in Faribault, Minn. for the 2018-2019 school year.

Goal for my future: I'm planning to pay off all student loans by the end of this year and head to South Asia soon after to teach at an international school.

Specific impact DSU has made on my life or career: It was a great starting place for me. The courses were practical. The professors were very experienced, knowledgeable, and caring. The year-long student teaching did a really good job of preparing me for joining my own school district— being a colleague to the other teachers, experiencing the ups and downs, seeing the transformation students went through, the different classroom management styles, etc.



VICTORIA SOPKO

Major: Elementary Education

Hometown: Forest City, Iowa

Graduation Date: May 2017

Where I'm living now: Chandler, Ariz.

What I'm doing today: Teaching 4th grade at Power Ranch Elementary in Gilbert, Ariz.

Professional accomplishments I've reached since graduating: This past fall I earned my Structured English Immersion (SEI) endorsement. This year I am Team Lead for my

grade level group of teachers. I participated in the Red for Ed movement in Arizona in May of 2018. I spent six days at the Capitol fighting for improvements for student funding, resources, and teacher pay.

Goals for my future: I am hoping for more leadership opportunities within my school and school district. I plan to stay up to date in best instructional strategies in the teaching profession. I want to continue to be a lifelong learner!

One specific impact DSU has made on my life or career: From my education at Dakota State, I felt very prepared for my first year of teaching. I appreciate the relationships I formed with my professors in the small class setting. I frequently refer back to my college notes and resources for ideas to implement in my classroom and to share with colleagues.

THE POWER OF MENTORS

At DSU, faculty members strive to create mentorships that go above and beyond any expectation, especially in our academic programs. So, when students approach professors and ask them to be their mentor, the answer is always, “YES.”

These mentorships create lifelong professional relationships and academic experiences for both students and faculty.

Mentees are more likely to experience academic, social, and economic success. And mentors build on significant leadership, management, and creative skills.



Dr. Pam Rowland (left),
Kanthi Narukonda

NAVIGATING GOALS AND DREAMS

When DSU graduate student Kanthi Narukonda recognized her passion for women in cybersecurity, she switched her Ph.D. program to Information Systems. From there, she met Dr. Pam Rowland, assistant professor of cyber security, who shares the same passion.

Narukonda soon became Rowland’s graduate assistant and it didn’t take long for the pair to embark on a mentorship that’s grown into successful collaboration, fresh perspectives, and innovative ideas.

“When you work together, you get to know each other, so it naturally flows into a relationship where you share life and help the other person navigate their goals and dreams,” said Rowland.

The duo, who work collectively on projects like Wobble Bot Day, Girl Scouts’ Cybersecurity Patch Day, Rocket Girls, and GenCyber, credit each other with bringing in fresh ideas, as well as ways to maximize the impact of their ideas coming together as one. They feel their mentorship helps them become better individuals and inspires creativity in research and academia.

“It’s better when you have someone to guide you. Dr. Rowland helps me get where I want to be. She’s such a positive person, which has a subconscious effect. That positive feeling she’s created, it’s what students need,” said Narukonda.

WELCOMING CHALLENGES

For Jared Dewitt, that positivity and guidance is found in the lab of Dr. Michael Gaylor (pictured above), an associate research professor of chemistry who conducts research in astrobiology and planetary science.

During the summer of 2019, he worked with Gaylor and undergraduate researchers from the Astrobiology Institute of Colombia – an international affiliate of the NASA Astrobiology Institute – during an intensive research internship. Dewitt and his team lead a project to identify how non-living chemistry might have given rise to the chemistry of life on the ancient Earth some four billion years ago. The team also discovered that chemicals found in meteorites react on minerals common on the planets and moons of our solar system to produce the very same chemicals that make all living things go on Earth today. The team’s ultimate goal is to develop methods to look for these same chemical reactions happening on other planets as possible indicators of the existence of life on these worlds.

“**WORKING IN THE GAYLOR LAB BROADENS MY HORIZONS AND SHOWS ME HOW MUCH HARD WORK IS REQUIRED TO DISCOVER THINGS THAT NOBODY ELSE KNOWS AND TO CREATE NEW HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.**

– Jared Dewitt

“It’s a very influential area because it forces us to ask very deep questions that science has so far been unable to answer definitively. Engaging students in the study of such big questions pushes them far outside their intellectual and academic comfort zones and prepares them to work at the cutting-edge of scientific discovery when they graduate from DSU,” Gaylor said. “It’s challenging work and long days, but it creates complex and exciting dialogues between the students and me and requires us to think critically about how to solve one of the biggest questions in science,” said Gaylor.

The unique part? Dewitt doesn’t graduate from high school until May. He took his senior credits his junior year, so he could attend DSU full time. Though he’s just beginning his college career, he welcomes the many challenges in the Gaylor Lab with open arms.

“There are very high expectations and plenty of constructive criticism from Dr. Gaylor, which advances my knowledge and helps shape my learning. It might sound cliché, but it’s been a dream,” said Dewitt.

Though it may be a dream, it still comes with many lessons for both mentee and mentor. For Gaylor, one of those lessons has been to be more strategic in distributing assignments and collaborations to student researchers in a way that does not overwhelm them.

"I'm afraid that when I discover extremely curious and ambitious students like Jared, I get so excited that I have sometimes thrown too many things at them at once," said Gaylor.

But for Dewitt, those many tasks have so far led to more inspiration, self-motivation, and self-revelation.

There's been moments that build together, like receiving career or academic advice," Dewitt said, "I never envisioned myself on this path, so working in the Gaylor Lab broadens my horizons and shows me how much hard work is required to discover things that nobody else knows and to create new human knowledge."

BREAKING BARRIERS

Dr. Kyle Cronin, an assistant professor of information assurance, has spent the last year mentoring Chris Loutsch, a cyber operations student and CyberCorps scholar.

"When I came to DSU, Kyle knew what he was talking about and answered my questions. He's a good leader, approachable, and engaging," said Loutsch. "He took me under his wing and introduced me to different concepts and project initiatives."

Their very first project required them to successfully use wireless technology to signal and work with electronic sensors for ice fishing tip ups. Loutsch also helps Cronin with summer camps, which allows him to build teaching skills – an opportunity that doesn't often come natural for technology majors.

"Chris thinks outside the box and shares his ideas with me, whether they're about the camps, projects, or research. We encourage each other to

remain curious and share new perspectives," said Cronin, "We have to learn how to break down barriers between faculty and students. It will allow us to have more successes along the way."

INSPIRING OTHERS WITH TECH

Dr. Kevin Smith, assistant professor of mathematics education, breaks these barriers by inspiring his education students to utilize classroom technologies in unique ways. One of his students, Jenna Grossenburg, met Smith through a methods class and, while at a cross country meet, the two sparked ideas for technology in the classroom.

"Kevin has influenced me in many ways. He's taught me to have an innovative mindset and to take risks. He provides great resources and advice. He's taught me to be a lifelong learner and was the main inspiration for obtaining my Master of Science in Educational Technology degree," said Grossenburg.

Being that lifelong learner means incorporating innovative technology and ideas into the classroom, like the Chasing Einstein Challenge, which Smith implemented in 2017.

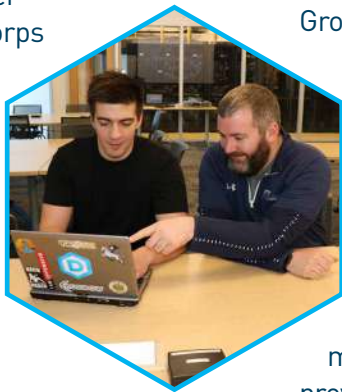
The goal of the project? Have college students mentor Grossenburg's fifth grade math class through video communication, then provide math challenges for students to work on.

Grossenburg and Smith credit each other with the ability to collaborate via email or Twitter, where Smith tweets about innovative ideas and technologies.

"I use technology to remind my students that innovation is different than invention, learning never ends, and taking risks is very important. So, when a young teacher like Jenna takes risks and learns new ways to keep students engaged, it inspires her classroom and keeps me inspired as well," said Smith.

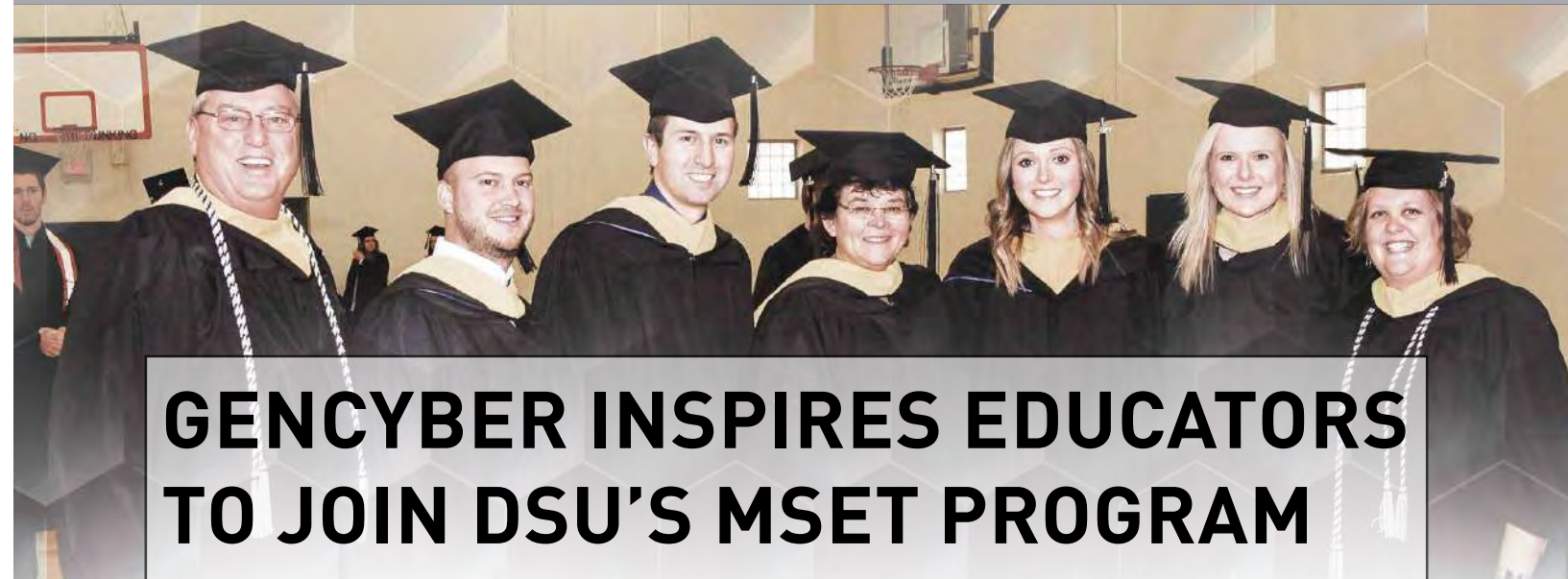


Jenna Grossenburg (left),
Dr. Kevin Smith



Chris Loutsch (left),
Dr. Kyle Cronin

Many teachers who have taken DSU's summer teacher camp come back as students in our MSET program. Recent graduates include: Joey Liesinger, Madison High; Mitch Miller, Flandreau Public Schools; Dan Hall, Flandreau Public Schools; Lisa Shepardson, Medary Elementary – Brookings; Andrea Fish, Medary Elementary – Brookings; Jenna Grossenburg - Aberdeen Public Schools; and Kalee Greve, Medary Elementary – Brookings.



GENCYBER INSPIRES EDUCATORS TO JOIN DSU'S MSET PROGRAM

DSU's GenCyber Teacher's Camp is proving just how important technology within the K-12 classroom is.

The free camp teaches 6th-12th grade science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) teachers, how to hack, fix, and explore the world of cyber security. Throughout the five-day stay, educators engage in hands-on education sessions that expand on programming, networking concepts, and security concepts with DSU professors, alumni, and current students.

"It's great to see teachers that are excited to learn about cyber and connect with others. If and when they return to the camp, they're able to build on previous skills and incorporate them into their classrooms," said Robert Honomichl, instructor of Information Systems.

Those who attend the camp also work with Raspberry Pi's, lock picking, and soldering. All are pieces of equipment that are inexpensive and enable teachers to take them back to their schools, to show administrators and students. They walk away with a backpack full of tools, to help demonstrate what they learned to students.

Tina Belden, technology coordinator in the Estelline School district, has attended the camp for the last two years.

"The best part about teacher's camp is that we receive a lot of tools to integrate into our classrooms such as circuit kits, python cards/book, etc.," she said.

"We were also able to network and meet other teachers in the same content area, which is very uncommon considering computer science is a new area for many small schools in S.D. I have been so fortunate to attend teacher's camp twice, and I am so grateful to the people that put it on. It really is a great experience!"

This innovative camp has inspired educators to take their learning to the next level by enrolling in the Master of Science in Educational Technology (MSET). The program has 22 students currently enrolled and focuses on contemporary teaching, technological learning processes, and how to effectively integrate classroom technology.

"Many educators like the MSET program because it's 100% online and it's flexible for their schedules. Schools are always investing in technology, so hiring educators that have a graduate degree in educational technology is really valuable for both the school and the educator," said Dr. Kevin Smith, coordinator for MSET program.

The program is for all kinds of educators, but specifically targets those who have an interest in educational technology or those who teach STEM classes.

Both the GenCyber Teacher's Camp and the MSET program are available through Dakota State for any educator interested in educational technology.

Visit gencyberteachers.camp or dsu.edu for more information.



NEW WEBSITE

BETTER ACCESSIBILITY

Following the debut of our new brand, Dakota State introduced a new website in December 2019. The new site features more visually rich imagery, increased video capabilities, and increased functionality.

Work on the website began in 2018 with focus groups of students, faculty, and staff, said Joelle Johnson, DSU web editor.

“One goal is to focus on student engagement and enrollment,” she said. “An equally important goal is to showcase DSU’s research and technology to our current and prospective faculty, corporate partners and government entities.”

The process of creating the new site went beyond the coding to include content audits, reorganization of the site, and the creation of new content.

During the creation process, Dakota State worked to increase accessibility of the website for people of all abilities.

“We want to make sure people can go to dsu.edu and find the information they’re looking for, no matter what their ability is,” Johnson explained.

Johnson worked with Dr. Chris Olson, associate professor/coordinator of information systems program, who offered expertise in accessibility. He recommended a tool which DSU now uses called Site Improve. The tool offers automated testing of areas on the site like forms, color combinations, and PDF accessibility to ensure it meets Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

“Our job is to make sure that information is coming across to the best of our ability to a wide audience base, so those with sight, hearing, mobility, or other impairments can access all content,” she said.

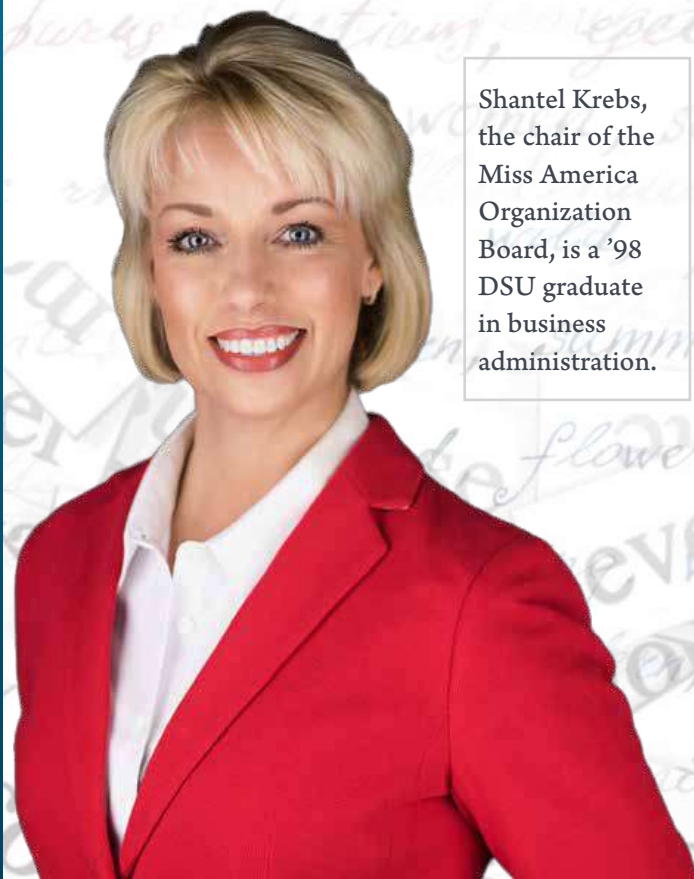
See our next issue to learn more about Olson’s accessibility efforts throughout DSU.

NEW MISS AMERICA PARTNERSHIP CREATES OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPACT

The Miss America Organization (MAO) has aligned on an “unbelievable partnership” with Dakota State University, said Shantel Krebs ‘98, board chair of the MAO.

Announced in December, this partnership is based on a first-of-its-kind scholarship, The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences STEM Scholarship. This writing competition was based on a STEM-theme.

The winner, Simone Esters (Miss Missouri), was awarded a \$5,000 Beacom College STEM Scholarship cash award. The scholarship also offered four years of undergraduate studies, including tuition, room, and board, or a scholarship for tuition to complete one degree of graduate studies. The Beacom College also sponsored the live broadcast of the preliminary competition.



Shantel Krebs, the chair of the Miss America Organization Board, is a '98 DSU graduate in business administration.

PARTNERSHIP IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL

Miss America has a goal to highlight talent over appearance with its Miss America 2.0 initiative. “There are a lot of misconceptions about who Miss America is,” said Krebs, but by participating in this STEM-focused competition, along with community service and social impact initiatives, the young women prove their relevance, she said.

The writing competition judges saw relevance as well. Dr. Pam Rowland saw great passion in the writing she judged. “These women are educated leaders who want to make a difference.”

Rowland, associate professor of computer science and cyber security, stated, “with the Beacom College’s national reputation and excellence in education and the need for more professionally trained women in this field, it is a great fit. This partnership opens the doors for highly motivated women to receive a great education in a dynamic field.”

By partnering with the internationally known MAO, DSU’s programs were showcased with regional, national, and international audiences.

“The world needs to know what Dakota State offers as far as security and education and technology advancements, that they’re in the lead with any other university in the nation,” Krebs said.

Response to the partnership was very positive, Krebs noted. At the December competition “I heard people say that was exactly what they want to see their daughters or our candidates competing in and getting scholarships for, with a top leading university in STEM and cyber-related fields.”



Simone Esters (center) is the winner of The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences STEM Scholarship. Congratulating her are Amy Crissinger, associate vice president of Enrollment Services (left) and President José-Marie Griffiths.

WRITING COMPETITION RELEVANCE

The writing competition takes MAO to another level. “Writing is a skill that is integral to any job that you’re pursuing, no matter the field, being able to effectively communicate your thoughts,” Esters said.

Dr. Ashley Podhradsky, one of the judges for the writing competition, agreed. “Having highly technical skills in cyber is great, but if you cannot communicate your results in writing or through communication then your work cannot be disseminated.” Podhradsky is associate dean of The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences and associate professor of information assurance and forensics.

The 51 candidates wrote a blog, tweet, and an Instagram post in answer to this question: “Technology is changing faster than at any other time in history. While these advances can make our lives easier, they also put us at risk. What is the greatest technological threat to our safety and security and what should be done about it?”

Esters, a convergence journalism major at the University of Missouri-Columbia, wrote about the concept of social engineering for the blog: “We need to re-engineer our minds to outsmart the social engineers who are endangering our safety and security.”

Dr. Justin Blessinger, professor of English, another of the competition judges, said Esters “offered a nuanced and informed discussion of email-driven phishing attacks, and then connected it to her work experience. Her essay showed verve, intelligence, and sophistication.”

SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

Esters will use her cash scholarship this summer. “I accepted an internship with the NFL and that scholarship is going to entirely cover my housing.” She is investigating DSU’s graduate certificates for the in-kind scholarship benefit, after she completes her degree next December.

“We hope the national attention the Miss America contestants helped to bring to the issue of cyber security will serve as a catalyst for still more extensive conversations and partnerships at DSU and for The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences, where we confront the big issues of information security every day,” said Blessinger.

MISS AMERICA VISITS DAKOTA STATE

Miss America 2020 Camille Schrier visited Dakota State on Friday, March 13. During her visit, Schrier spoke about how she became interested in STEM, demonstrated the experiment she conducted as her talent in the Miss America competition, and answered questions submitted by Madison Middle School students. The event was livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook Live, with students from Madison and Huron watching online.

While sharing her love of learning and science, Schrier spoke about how science is a part of so many things. She believes the STEM field will continuously expand, ultimately touching every single industry in the U.S. and world.

"We're changing the way things are produced, we're making things more efficient, we're hoping to reduce environmental impacts through the way we produce things," she explained.

As Schrier continues traveling across the U.S. as Miss America, she hopes to inspire young girls like herself who have an interest in science.

"I have girls who wear lab coats and crowns to come meet me," she said. "If a young girl can think of Miss America as having a white coat then I've done my job."



While visiting campus, Schrier (far right) posed for a photograph with DSU alum Ray Peterson, who has been producer of the Miss South Dakota Pageant for over 50 years, and DSU alumna Shantel Krebs, who was Miss South Dakota 1997 and current board chair for the Miss America Organization. Peterson graduated from Dakota State in 1968 with a degree in art and Krebs graduated from DSU in 1998.

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Angi Kappenman (left), David Overby, vice president for Technology and CIO, and Stacy Krusemark, vice president for Business and Administrative Services, helped with recovery efforts after the 2019 flooding. These efforts are now ongoing as Trojans Helping Trojans.

TROJANS HELPING TROJANS PROGRAM DEMONSTRATES UNITY

FOOD PANTRY AND SWIPE OUT HUNGER ADDRESS CAMPUS FOOD INSECURITY

Everyone is facing challenges, said Angi Kappenman, vice president for Human Resources.

“We need to be there to support one another and show kindness. That’s what being a Trojan is all about.”

Students and employees alike faced big challenges in the fall of 2019, when severe flooding impacted the Madison area. Several departments collaborated to help those in need with a program that came to be called Trojans Helping Trojans. Efforts included finding a variety of volunteers, and accepting donations of food, goods, or cash.

“We wanted to build a foundation in the darkest times of our students’ and employees’ lives,” she said. Because Trojans Helping Trojans so well fit the new brand theme of unity, it was decided to continue the program, “to be there to brighten people’s day when they are going through tough times,” Kappenman said.

To make a bigger impact, efforts are underway to look for more ways to help each other. One way deals with college student food insecurity.

DSU FOOD PANTRY

Student hunger is real. Steve Johnson, director of Dining Services, said that nationally there is about 30% food insecurity on college campuses, meaning approximately one in three college students will go hungry.

“Some people trying to improve themselves through higher education may not have enough financial backing, so it can be a burden to go to college,” said Johnson. These students may “wonder where their next meal is coming from.”

Because of this, many campuses have food pantries for their students, said Donna Fawbush, events coordinator and interim bookstore director. In 2018 she started planning and assessing the option of a food pantry at Dakota State, investigating the program’s sustainability,

management aspects, privacy, location, and distribution protocols.

“We felt it was important to have this on campus,” said James Jacobsen, vice president for Student affairs, “because as a university we want the additional support to help our students be successful.”

The resulting food pantry is now housed in the Learning Engagement Center (LEC), offering food items along with health and beauty aids. This academic year, the university has also been providing winter clothing, such as a hat and mitten drive at an all-employee event. This becomes increasingly important, Jacobsen said, “as we expand our footprint for students who come to us from warmer climates.”

Notices of open hours are posted around campus, and referrals are accepted from faculty and staff. In its first few weeks of operation in fall 2019, 35 students were served.

SWIPE OUT HUNGER

In October, DSU’s food service vendor Sodexo, announced an industry-leading and first-of-its-kind pilot program to expand its partnership with Swipe Out Hunger – a leading national nonprofit group committed to reducing food insecurity on college campuses.

We’ve learned to never underestimate the power of a meal swipe,” said Rachel Sumekh, founder and CEO of Swipe Out Hunger.

The pilot program takes place on 13 campuses across the nation, including Dakota State. These schools will determine best practices for a “Meal Swipe Bank” at each participating institution for students in need.

“This is another opportunity to provide an additional program to ensure our students are successful,” said Jacobsen.

Sodexo will provide two free meals for every full-time meal plan sold – an estimate of more than 25,000 free meals annually. At Dakota State, this will amount to about 620 meals this spring semester.

Referrals are confidential, through members of the Student Affairs team, faculty and staff, or students themselves. Students can receive five meals at a time, or up to 20 meals a semester. The meal swipes are loaded onto their student ID card, so they can swipe their card at the Marketplace conveniently and anonymously.

For more information on the Trojans Helping Trojans program, reach out to Angi Kappenman at angi.kappenman@dsu.edu or 605-256-5134.



Donna Fawbush stocks shelves in the DSU Food Pantry. Committee members include: Jim Jacobsen, Angi Kappenman, Mandy Parpart, Bryn Hart, Nicole Bowen, Patti Beck, and Kim Wermers.

HOME SUITE HOME

RESIDENCE VILLAGE CONSTRUCTION BEGINNING THIS SPRING

Beginning fall 2021, students at DSU will have a new housing option on campus with the opening of Residence Village, a 122-bed residence hall with four-bedroom suite and six-bedroom apartment-style units.

The four-story, over 40,000-square foot building will include six different unit plans, including handicap accessible units, apartment units with small kitchens, and an additional exterior

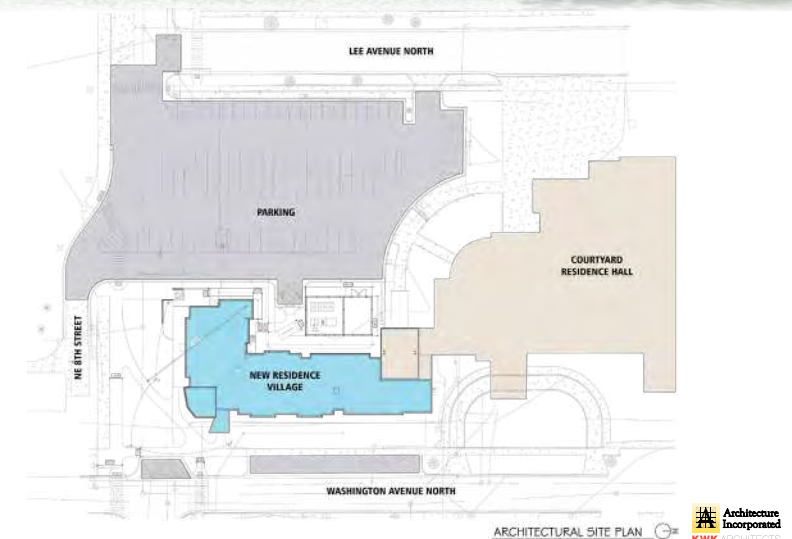
door in the hallway for units with a Resident Assistant. All bedrooms in the new hall will be single occupancy. Residence Village will also include community study areas, lounges, laundry facilities, and a food and beverage retail space.

"This facility will help to meet our strong enrollment growth as well as provide the features and amenities that students desire," said Jim Jacobsen, vice president for Student Affairs.

Architecture Incorporated, KWK Architects, and Journey Construction are working together with DSU to create a durable, long-lasting residence with sustainable characteristics.

Construction on Residence Village will begin this spring. The residence hall will be attached to the Courtyard Residence Hall and Learning Engagement Center.

"This new residence hall will not only house our students, its new design style will enhance their living and learning experiences," said DSU President José-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D.



CARRIE SLAATHAUG NAMED PERMANENT ALUMNI DIRECTOR

FAMILY EMPHASIS ADDED TO POSITION TITLE

Carrie Slaathaug, interim director of Alumni and Family Engagement at Dakota State University, has been named to the position permanently.

“Carrie is a natural for this role,” said Mark Millage, vice president for Institutional Advancement at DSU. “She is an established member of the DSU Foundation team, and is an active leader in the campus community,” he added. Slaathaug had been Annual Fund and Phonathon Manager since 2016 and was named interim director in May 2019.

“Carrie is engaging our alumni, students and their families, and is already hard at work planning a number of events – near and far – that will provide meaningful opportunities to strengthen these relationships,” Millage stated.

Because she has been including families in her efforts, this was highlighted in the new position, Millage pointed out.

“The addition of ‘family’ to Carrie’s job title emphasizes the importance of her continued work in engaging the families of our students through regular communication and activities. They are important partners when it comes to student recruitment and retention,” he said.

Slaathaug is looking forward to melding the engagement efforts to include both alumni and family members. “These are not the same in terms of engagement, but there are significant overlaps that will lend themselves well to being managed by this position.”

She noted that Dakota State alumni are proud, but often quiet champions of the university.

“I’m hoping to provide up-to-date, more frequent information regarding DSU to our alumni and family members so that they can confidently (and less quietly) share it with those around them. So much is happening at Dakota State and we need to arm our best advocates of the university with that information,” Slaathaug said.

Jona Schmidt, the previous alumni director, is now Director of Major and Planned Gifts.

SIMONS NAMED PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR AT THE DSU GALA

Darrel and Patti Simon were named the 2019 Philanthropists of the Year for Dakota State University. The Madison couple has supported Dakota State University and its students for almost 50 years. “We derive a lot of satisfaction in giving our time, talent, and treasures to Dakota State University,” said Darrel, “especially to the many young men and women who desire to better themselves and the world by seeking further education.” The Philanthropist of the Year award was established in 2006 to acknowledge donors who make significant personal contributions of time, talent, and resources to DSU.



SANFORD SPONSORSHIPS

This spring Sanford Health Technology Solutions began offering a sponsorship program at DSU, providing financial assistance of up to \$10,000 to support tuition and other expenses. Students can apply for the sponsorship as a sophomore.

The sponsorship is open to a variety of majors, such as computer science, cyber operations, network security, software development, and business finance, according to Jill Ruhd, development officer with Institutional Advancement.

Upon completion of their degree, students who received sponsorship will work full-time for three years at Sanford Health. This position will require the individual to work as a technology solutions professional for the health system in Sioux Falls.



FUNDING BETTER FUTURES

GERTRUDE GILL

Gill was a 1910 graduate who taught upper elementary in Sioux Falls, until she returned to Madison in 1920 to teach at the teacher education program at what was then known as Eastern State Normal School (now DSU).

Gill left the school in 1923 to teach at a college in Michigan. She eventually earned her master's degree at University of Chicago and returned to General Beadle State College (now DSU) until her retirement in 1959.

Education was extremely important to Gill, which led her to leave DSU \$275,000. DSU was her home, this was her family. Many of her relatives continue to donate to her scholarships adding to the legacy funds.



Pam Lewis

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP LEAVES A MARK

Gertrude Gill, a graduate of Madison State Normal School (now DSU), left an endowment of \$275,000 to Dakota State upon her passing in 1983. That funding made an immediate impact on one student, Pam Lewis, and continues to benefit students today.

Lewis, a December 1986 graduate with a degree in secondary education, was a non-traditional student. "I was married, I had one child and I was out of high school five years," Lewis said.

Initially Lewis only had financial aid to cover her college costs and with a child she had the cost of childcare as well. After two years, someone recommended she apply for scholarships.

She applied for the brand-new Gertrude Gill Scholarship. The Gertrude Gill Scholarship, open to academic leaders in all majors with a GPA of 3.5.

At the time Lewis received the scholarship she was about to have her second baby, and financially college was a struggle.

"It was very important to me financially to be blessed with that scholarship," Lewis said. "It was a two-year full ride."

Being the recipient of a scholarship has inspired Lewis to include DSU in her will, donating a certain percentage to DSU scholarships.

After teaching for a few years and a 28-year career in insurance in Sioux Falls, Lewis and her husband moved back to Madison about five years ago.

Upon returning to Madison, she got a job at Dakota State. She started out working in Admissions before moving to the College of Arts & Sciences as senior secretary.

Gill's endowment was one of the first endowments the university received, according to Jona Schmidt, director of Major and Planned Gifts. Her impact is still felt by providing financial help to current students. "She's been gone since 1983, but here we are in 2020 still telling her story," Schmidt said.

DRIVE AND REVEAL



FURLONG FAMILY MAKES MADISON THEIR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

When it comes to their grandchildren, there's no distance that could keep Dan and Claudia Furlong from showing their support.

The couple lives in Soldotna, Alaska, a community on the Kenai Peninsula that's about three hours from Anchorage. But when it comes to supporting their grandson, DSU student athlete Brenner Furlong, they laugh in the face of distance. The 3,000 miles can't stop them from showing their Trojan Pride.

"We've rarely missed any of our four grandsons' activities since they were in elementary school. We're a really close-knit family and continuously support them in their academic, athletic, and community endeavors," said Dan.

"It means the world to me to look up and see them there in the stands. It lets me know how much they really care. Having them here also helped me adjust to Madison, because they helped make it feel more like home," said Brenner.

During their first visit, they fell in love with the Madison community and Dakota State, so they bought an RV and camped at Lake Herman State Park throughout the 2019 football season.

While enjoying the season and taking in the beauty of Lake Herman, the Furlongs were subjected to the 2019 flooding that devastated the Madison community. Though an unfortunate event, the Furlongs believe it was positive experience thanks to the people of Madison.

"We were the only people in the park at that time. The ranger and his staff helped us get out. We had many wholesome offers from people in town, everyone was so accommodating. But we felt extremely bad

for the Madison residents, for those who lost their homes and much of their belongings in the flood, so we didn't take those offers. We thought it best to stay in a hotel," said Dan.

"It just warms my heart when I'm in Madison. Everyone is so kind, they treat each other well, and they all care so much," said Claudia.

After recovering from the flood, the Furlongs continued to appreciate their home away from home, from the beautiful countryside to the Community Center.

"Everyone is so kind and welcoming. They always remember the fact that we're from Alaska and always have a question or comment for us, it's wonderful. We feel right at home when we're there," said Claudia.

The couple loves Madison so much they even subscribe to the Madison Daily Leader to keep up on news and events in the Madison area.

In addition, the Furlongs have much respect and love for Dakota State. Throughout their time here, they've become members of the Trojan Athletic Club (TAC) and have met President José-Marie Griffiths, many DSU faculty and staff members, as well as Brenner's coaches, teammates, and roommates.

"We really love the size and location of DSU and the fact that they're fundraising to build new facilities. They're growing, and that's an excellent sign. The biggest asset DSU has is the people who surround it and work there," said Dan.

Their pride doesn't stop at football. They also spend time cheering on other DSU athletic teams, including Trojan Volleyball, and the Madison High School football team.

But their favorite memories so far? Watching Brenner score his first touchdown his freshman year and starting two games this last season. But thanks to Claudia's planning, Dan was also able to surprise Brenner at the indoor track meet for nationals in Brookings, S.D.

"I was in the stands, sitting by the door where the teams enter and walk across the track to the infield. When DSU came in, they began to walk across the track, but Brenner randomly stopped, turned, looked up into the stands and right into my eyes," said Dan, "I just put my hands in the air and smiled. It was a really special moment."

The Furlongs plan to return with their RV in tow, to watch Brenner and the rest of the Trojan's 2020 football season.

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.

Send Nomination Letters to:
Provost's Office
820 N. Washington Ave
Madison, SD 57042

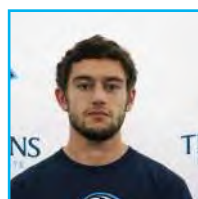
DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY



Senior Spotlight

DAKOTA STATE IS RISING

#DSURISING



NICK BRUGGEMAN

Sport: Cross Country, Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field

Major: Network & Security Administration

Hometown: Larchwood, Iowa

Big Wins: Winning three conference titles during the 2018-19 season, winning the conference title from the 2019 cross country season.

My sport is more than just a meet because: It's a way for an individual to work on being the best version of themselves while being surrounded by a supportive group of people that further encourages you to reach that goal.



BRANDON SCHMIT

Sport: Football and Track & Field 2017-2019

Major: Professional Accountancy, Business Technology, and Marketing

Hometown: Jackson, Minn.

Big Wins: Beating Valley City in Valley City State two years ago in football. Beating Dickinson State at home three years ago in football. Winning against DWU any of the four years I played.

My sport is more than just a game or a meet because: I was able to work to my fullest potential and lead by example as a captain of the football team and continue to grow personally through of all it to who I am today.

LINDSEY VOGL

Sport: Women's Basketball

Major: Professional Accountancy and Finance

Hometown: Webster, S.D.

Big Wins: Overcoming my second ACL tear.

My sport is more than just a game because: It's shaped who I am, and that will follow me for the rest of my life.



BRADEN CURNOW

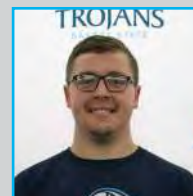
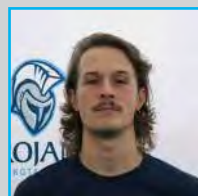
Sport: Cross Country and Track & Field

Major: Exercise Science

Hometown: Wawina, Minn.

Big Wins: Multiple team NSAA conference championship wins. Any race where I received All-American Honors. Night run with T-chub and the boiz.

My sport is more than just a meet because: You are literally pushing your body as hard as you possibly can for the entire duration of the race, you don't get time to sit on the bench, you don't get timeouts. It is entirely up to you and how hard you can push yourself. The training is grueling, and you don't get an "off" season, you have to compete with the weather, and there will absolutely always be someone better than you.



EVAN MCCREARY

Sport: Men's Track and Field

Major: Exercise Science

Hometown: Webster, S.D.

Big Wins: Indoor Conference Team Champions 2019, Outdoor Conference Team Champions 2019.

My sport is more than just a meet because: Track and field is more than just a meet because there is so much more that goes into it, that being the many hours of practice each day, and the relationships built with my teammates over the years.



ASHLEY ROBINSON

Sport: Cross Country and Track & Field

Major: Biology

Hometown: Huron, S.D.

Big Wins: Winning the 2019 steeplechase conference title and COMING IN 2ND IN THE CONFERENCE IN THE 2019 CROSS COUNTRY SEASON AND ADVANCING TO NATIONALS!!!

My sport is more than just a meet because: Participating on the cross country and track team has given me a family. It is more than just racing. It is creating lifelong friendships. Running has shaped me into who I am. It has allowed me to push myself beyond my limits and see who I truly am. It has taught me resilient and confidence. Racing has helped me manage my anxiety and utilize to my advantage. I am a stronger person, mentally and physically because I made the decision to run at DSU. It is a decision I would never change; I would do it again and again.

COREY HERMANN

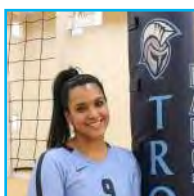
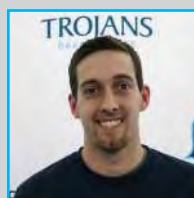
Sport: Cross Country, Track & Field

Major: Master's in Computer Science

Hometown: Fargo, N.D.

Big Wins: Getting the conference trifecta (winning men's cross country, men's indoor track and field, and men's outdoor track and field conference championships).

My sport is more than just a meet because: It has both an individual and a team aspect. You compete individually and are responsible for how you perform so there are no excuses. There is also the team aspect, especially during the conference meets, where you are really excited for everyone else to be performing at their best.



BARBARA H. BRICENO HERNANDEZ

Sport: Volleyball

Major: Network & Security Administration, minor in Computer Forensics

Hometown: Lima, Peru

Big Wins: Beating Viterbo at home last year and beating Bellevue every time this past year.

My sport is more than just a game because: The relationships you build from the start of the season to the end are endless.

CASEY BOURQUE

Sport: Football

Major: Cyber Operations

Hometown: Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Big Wins: DWU 2019.

My sport is more than just a game because: It gave me a way to meet hundreds of people throughout my college career.



RACHEL JOHNSON

Sport: Volleyball

Major: Business Management

Hometown: Jackson, Minn.

Big Wins: Beating Viterbo and breaking their conference winning streak, and making it to the first round of nationals and making DSU volleyball history!

My sport is more than just a game because: I'm creating lifelong friendships and being a role model for young girls in our community, showing them that anything is possible with hard work and determination.

MAXWELL CRUSE

Sport: Cross Country and Track & Field

Major: Computer Science

Hometown: New Glarus, Wis.

Big Wins: 2018 and 2019 NSAA Cross Country Champions.

My sport is more than just a meet because: Running becomes such a big part of who you are when you run for DSU.



JOB MCCREARY

Sport: Indoor/ Outdoor Track & Field

Major: Biology for Information Systems

Hometown: Webster, S.D.

Big Wins: Indoor Conference weight champion and Outdoor Conference hammer champion.

My sport is more than just a meet because: My sport is more than just a meet because of all the life lessons that I was able to learn, such as gaining lifelong friendships, persevering through an injury, and being fully dedicated to the team.

TREY RANDEL

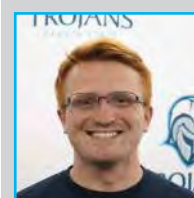
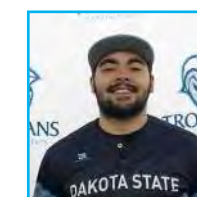
Sport: Baseball

Major: Physical Education

Hometown: Dell Rapids, S.D.

Big Wins: Upsetting number 1 Mayville in conference tournament. First career pitching win against Champion Christian College.

My sport is more than a game because: It is what I have grown up playing and it has made me into the person I am. It has also allowed me to meet many great people who will be friends and brothers. 2 Corinthians 5:17



AUSTIN ROW

Sport: Track and Field

Major: Cyber Operations

Hometown: Baltic, S.D.

Big Wins: Winning both indoor and outdoor conference meets.

My sport is more than just a meet because: A person can be a part of a team that supports each other to be their best and reach their goals.

ATHLETICS' CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SEEING PROGRESS



GUNDERSON'S DONATES TO TROJANS UNITE

"Athletics is a huge part of a university campus," said Jeff Dittman, athletics director.

At DSU, it amounts to about 33% of the on-campus student body, and that number is growing. There is a record number of scholar-athletes this year, 431 compared to 215 two years ago.

"That impacts the classroom, it impacts the professors and staff, it allows us to grow as a university, not just as an athletics department," he said.

But with numbers like this, "there is no room for us to grow right now," Dittman said. "Practice space is maxed out, locker space is maxed out, and we can't look at new sports until we start building a new facility."

Trojans Unite is the capital campaign working to build that new facility. Designed in three phases, the first will include a new football stadium and concourse that will include locker rooms, academic rooms, offices, strength and training room facilities, and other components that will be utilized by every sport, he said. The cost of Phase 1 is estimated to be \$27.5 million.

The campaign kicked off last August with a \$10 million gift from First PREMIER Bank / PREMIER Bankcard and the Miles and Lisa Beacom family. Miles is CEO of PREMIER Bankcard, a former track and cross-country athlete, and 1981 graduate of DSU.

In December, Gunderson's Jewelers pledged \$100,000 to the campaign. Brian Gunderson, owner and CEO, said DSU athletics inspired the donation because the sports programs "allow high school

graduates to continue to be involved in a sport they enjoy while getting a great education."

In addition to gifts, eight acres of land just north of the current football field has been acquired for Phase 1, said Mark Millage, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

"It's important that we continue to build momentum over the next year," he stated, "to identify alumni, friends and organizations that have the means and interest to invest in bringing Phase 1 to fruition."

DSU has been in a perpetual construction phase for the last several years and "that will continue for the next 18 months with the Residence Village (see page 34)," Millage said. "Our goal would be to seamlessly go into the next phase with the athletics facility."

Once the dollars are raised, the university will also need Board of Regents and legislative approval to move forward, but Dittman is hopeful DSU will have something new for the start of the 22-23 school year. Phases 2 and 3 (an event center, and indoor practice facility and Fieldhouse renovations) will build on that momentum.

For more information on the campaign, contact Mark Millage at mark.millage@dsu.edu or 605-256-7327 or Jeff Dittman at jeff.dittman@dsu.edu or 605-256-5229. Details are available at trojansunite.com.

OLDEST ALUM ADVISES OTHERS TO 'LEARN EVERYTHING YOU CAN'

HELEN INGLE IS DSU'S OLDEST ALUM AT 107

“*You never know what direction life and work will take you after graduation.*” —Helen Ingle '32

These words of advice come from a wise woman, Helen Ingle, who knows from experience the truth of her statement. The 107-year-old is the university's oldest alumna.

Born in Chamberlain S.D. in 1912, she studied elementary education at what was then called Eastern State Teachers College, graduating in 1932 with a teaching certificate.

Her first and only teaching job was at the Flandreau Indian School, but as it was the Great Depression, they weren't paying her, so she took a train to Washington D.C., to apply to be an accountant with the federal government.

To get that job she had to rent a typewriter and compete against more than 80 women for one position. She got the job, thanks in part to accounting and typing classes she had taken at Eastern State.

She was grateful for those classes, and because of her experience she advises students today to “diversify and learn everything you can.”

Helen never returned to teaching. Instead she stayed in the D.C. area until she retired from the federal government. She and her husband retired in Maryland, near Solomons Island, where they owned a beach house.



Her husband passed away fairly early in their retired years and Helen started traveling the world, visiting many countries. She also spent her summers with family, traveling throughout the U.S.

Helen lived in that beach house until she was in her mid-90s, when she and her sister Mary moved to Greeley, Colorado to be closer to family. Helen still lives in that apartment today. Her family owns a Greeley coffee shop, named Aunt Helen's Coffee House, after her.

She hasn't been back to the campus since she graduated, but would be very interested in seeing the college again. Until recently she kept a “Round Robin” letter with her classmates, where they would send letters to one another, keeping everyone in touch. She is now the last surviving classmate.

In memory

DONALD WARD KING

July 18, 1932 – November 17, 2019

Donald Ward King, 87, passed away November 17, 2019, with family at his side.

Don was born July 18, 1932, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and spent much of his childhood in Ames, Iowa. He was a highly skilled Marine jet pilot and flying instructor. After his military service, Don returned to the University of Wyoming, completing his B.S. in 1959 and his M.S. in 1960, both in statistics.

He was co-founder of Westat, Inc., one of the world's leading private-sector statistical survey research organizations.

He also started his own company, King Research, Inc., which performs information systems evaluations and return-on-investment studies. He has been nationally recognized as one of the ten most cited authors in the information sciences field.

In 2015, he became the university's first official “First Dude,” and found great joy in supporting DSU Trojan athletes in their journeys and achievements.

A full obituary can be found at Ellsworth Funeral Home's website, ellsworthfh.com. Donations in Don's memory can be made to the DSU Foundation.



JOIN THE TEAM BEHIND THE TEAMS

The Trojan Athletic Club leadership group is made up of alumni and supporters interested in supporting DSU Athletics. The membership dues, which can be given to a specific team or distributed to the general athletic fund, provide scholarship and program support for the Trojan's 13 varsity teams.

The Trojan Athletic Club is the team behind the teams and was established to play an integral part by enhancing support for Dakota State University's student athletes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

DSU Athletics
605-256-5229

dsuathletics.com



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PATRICK MARONEY '67 (History Education) has been named to the Horizon Health Foundation Board of Directors. The board members oversee operations including financial management and advocacy efforts of Horizon Health Care.

DARWIN ROBINSON '74 (Education) elected to the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame. Induction ceremony set for April 25, 2021 in Sioux Falls.

GINNY FREITAG '84 (Art) was one of the featured artists in the October Art & Wine Walk. Her ceramics were on display at Rehfeld's Art & Framing Gallery. The walk is sponsored by Avera Health as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



DAWN KLUDT '90 (Modern Office Systems) named November Employee of the Month at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Health System in Viborg, S.D.

BRAD MAIR '98 (Fitness Wellness Management) has been named the president of the Home Builders Association of Sioux Falls.

CHARLIE FLOHR '02 (Health Physical Education) has been named head football coach at SD School of Mines and Technology. Flohr most recently had been co-offensive coordinator at Northwest Missouri State.

JOEL MOLASCON '02 (Computer Information Systems) was promoted to vice president of web development at Bulldog Media Group in Madison, S.D.



DR. JOSH PAULI '02 (B.S. Computer Information Systems); '03 (M.S. Information Systems) has been elected to the Dakota Bank Board of Directors and audit committee. Pauli is currently vice president for Research and Economic Development and director of the Cyclops Lab at DSU.

VANCE WINTER '02 (Physical Education) has been named the defensive coordinator at SD School of Mines and Technology. He has previously coached at several colleges and universities in Nebraska.

JAY KRUSE '09 (BBA Professional Accountancy) chosen as one of 40 under 40 by the Prairie Business Magazine. Kruse is Chief Advocacy Officer with the Credit Union Association of the Dakotas.

AMANDA HARGREAVES '10 (Elementary Education) has been named the Teacher of the Year for the Mitchell (S.D.) School District. She teaches sixth grade English and science at Mitchell Middle School.



STEVEN DAHLMEIER '14 (General Studies) is now the general manager of the State Theatre Company in Sioux Falls, S.D. The theatre has been closed since 1991, but has recently undergone extensive renovation and is scheduled to reopen in mid-2020 as a luxury movie theatre.

JUSTIN VANKIRK '14 (B.S. Information Systems) has joined the marketing team at JDS Industries as a digital media specialist.

JACOB SCHAEFERS '18 (Cyber Operations) hosted his third annual Veterans Suicide Awareness March on Veterans Day 2019 to generate awareness of the national problem of veteran suicide. Fifty friends, family, and community members made 957 laps on Trojan Field, a total of 239.25 miles. Total donations raised, \$1,230, were given to Mission 22, a non-profit organization dedicated to healing America's veterans.



For the third year in a row, Jacob Schaefers (left) has organized a veteran suicide awareness march, held Nov. 9, at DSU's Trojan Field in Madison, S.D.

ENGAGEMENTS / WEDDINGS

JACOB MEYER '17 (Information Assurance and Computer Security) married Natasha Borah on Oct. 12, 2019.



HANNAH KNOCK '18 (Graphic Design) and **DAVID COWAN '13** (Information Systems) will be married in June.

JACOB WILLIAMS '18 (Cyber Operations) married **RACHEL SLAVEN '18** (Elementary Education) November 9, 2019. They are both members of the DSU Alumni board.

CHILDREN of alumni

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.



IN MEMORIAM

WILMA THIELE BECK '45

LEROY D. DEBEER '63

CLETUS (CLETE) L. HUETTL '65

DAVID EGAN '67

ROBERT FRAGER, '69

JOANNE BENZ WAYRYNEN '69

RONALD FLYNN '72

EARL STONE '73

ELIZABETH BUCK CULLEN '74

DONITA M. KINDT '74

GREGORY SHERMAN '74

ANDREW DIEDE '76

MARK LEE BUDAHN '77

DENNIS HALSETH '65

MARJORIE VARNUM SKOTVOLD '42

DONALD M. HUNGERFORD, '71

RICK STERLING '71

WALTER A. CANNEY,
2015 Philanthropist of the Year

TED PINS, DSU Foundation Board Member

Send address updates and class notes to
advancement@dsu.edu

DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY GALA BY THE NUMBERS

2019

\$109,500
raised at the 2019 Gala

308
ATTENDEES

2020

\$165,400
raised at the 2020 Gala

GOAL \$150,000

12
LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

BID

61
SILENT AUCTION ITEMS



11 SPONSORS

333
ATTENDEES



Every Swipe Gives Back

First PREMIER Bank now offers a free Dakota State University branded debit Mastercard® with our checking accounts. Each time you use your card, First PREMIER will give 50 percent of the net interchange fees collected to the DSU Foundation.

Plus, enjoy benefits like:

- Online and Mobile Banking, Mobile Wallet and Mobile Deposit
- Debit Card Lock and Unlock
- Zero® Liability Fraud Protection
- 33,000+ Surcharge Free ATMs Nationwide
- Free Financial Tools



First PREMIER Bank
Member FDIC
PREMIER Bankcard

Visit firstpremier.com/Trojans



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