

# DAKOTA STATE MAGAZINE

FALL 2020

FOR OUR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS



## DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW SUPPORTERS OF DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY



I hope this issue of our magazine finds you and yours safe and well. What a year 2020 has been so far! We are very grateful at how well our DSU students, faculty, and staff continue to so positively deal with the onslaught of changes that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our campus and online worlds.

As you are probably aware, the South Dakota regental universities this fall returned to offering students an on-campus educational experience, as well as online, or a combination of both. Last spring, as U.S. universities looked toward fall enrollment, the predictions were grim. Many experts predicted that the vast majority of four-year residential colleges and universities would see at least a 20% reduction in enrollment this fall, possibly more. And unfortunately, for many U.S. schools that prediction did come true. I am happy to report, however, that DSU's enrollment was very minimally impacted. Where we did see minor declines, those declines were offset by gains in other areas.

Our enrollment data revealed a number of positive trends. We were pleased to see that more DSU students are taking more classes, with higher numbers of full-time-equivalent students (FTEs) compared to the total number of students enrolled (headcount). Research has shown that students who take a full-time class load are far more likely to eventually achieve their desired degrees. Fewer than 25% of part-time students achieve their desired degrees, even eight years after they started their college education. The studies have shown that even if a student can take only one semester with a full-time load, the odds are far better that they will eventually complete their degree as compared to students who are required to attend part-time every semester of their entire college career.

Research has also shown that there are two primary reasons why students choose to go to college only part-time instead of full-time. The first is financial need, i.e., some students need to work full-time in order to cover their living expenses as well as all of their college expenses, making it impossible to take a full course load. The second is a lack of adequate academic preparation for college-level courses. Dakota State is addressing both of these issues.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Heartland states, including South Dakota, are in the region that took the longest to recover from the recession years of 2007 to 2009. Many families in South Dakota and surrounding states were hit especially hard by that Great Recession, with what have become permanent reductions in income. This has meant more South Dakota families are unable to provide much financial support for their children to go to college. As a result, more students are having to work more hours to cover more of the cost of their college education, in addition to covering their own living expenses while working toward their degree. At the same time, government college scholarship funding covers a much smaller portion of the expenses than it did some years back.

Because of these factors, here at Dakota State we are continuing to do everything we can to increase available scholarship funding for our students.

Contributions to our DSU scholarship programs are needed more than ever before. If you have any ability and desire to impact a life, I encourage you to contact our DSU Foundation and give whatever amount you can to one of our scholarship funds.

The second reason that many college students are not able to carry a full-time class load is that they lack the academic preparation to handle college-level classes. They have to spend considerable extra hours in tutoring, needing additional help to complete their coursework. We are addressing this issue in multiple directions. We were able to obtain a federal government Title III grant that has enabled us to significantly expand our tutoring and academic support programs. This has included a Writing Center with one-on-one assistance. Another new innovative program involves a student who has previously completed a certain course returns and attends the class sessions with the next set of students taking the class. That experienced student becomes familiar to the students now taking the course, and facilitates group study sessions and is available for one-on-one support for any student in the class.

We have also expanded the physical space available for our student support services. When we renovated the previous Madison Health Center hospital to become a residence hall, The Courtyard, we were able to include a new Learning Engagement Center, which allowed us to have a centralized, easily accessible center for all of DSU's tutoring and student support services.

Over the last few years, we have also significantly expanded our K - 12 programs across South Dakota, through dual credit programs and other in-district offerings of DSU courses to high school students. These students are able to start their academic career at DSU well prepared for the demands of a full-time course load, and thus are able to complete their degrees in a shorter amount of time.

We can tell that all these various student support services are helping students succeed by looking at our retention numbers – the percentage of first-year freshmen who continue in their degree programs. The number of DSU freshmen who came back as sophomores has increased from 66% of the 2018 freshmen class to 71.4% of the 2019 freshmen who stayed enrolled this fall (2020).

That number is even more impressive given the added challenges of the pandemic for any student going to college in 2020.

Over the last few years, here at Dakota State we have taken on the themes of "Rising" and "Rising Together." While the present pandemic certainly has thrown us numerous curve balls and challenges, I am pleased to report that DSU continues to be a vibrant, engaged, upward-moving university, serving the communities of South Dakota, the Heartland, the United States, and the world. We are forging ahead, with plans for continuing both our on-campus and online academic programs for spring semester 2021.

We hope you will take the time to read through the articles in this magazine and that they will give you a sense of all the amazing things going on at DSU. We would also encourage you to connect with our social media. We post on numerous platforms daily, often hourly, and it is a good way to keep up with the depth and breadth – and fun – of DSU's day-to-day life.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of Dakota State University. We appreciate your engagement, especially in this unusual year. #DSURising #DSURisingTogether #DSUStrong

Warmly,



José-Marie Griffiths, President, Dakota State University

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## On the front cover

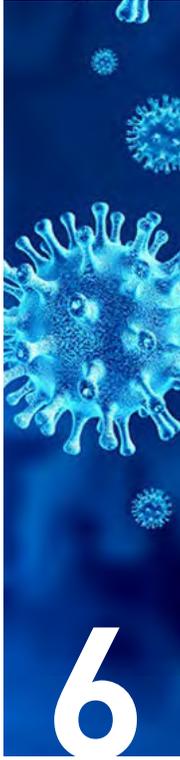
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**DAKOTA STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

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Dakota State University (DSU) in Madison, SD 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](http://dsu.edu).

# HISTORY FOUND US

DSU CREATES NEW WAYS TO DO BUSINESS DURING PANDEMIC

**DEDICATED, DRIVEN,  
DISCIPLINED, DYNAMIC,  
DETERMINED, DISTINCTIVE.**

These are all words that describe Dakota State. In Spring 2020, a new “d” word came to the forefront – disrupted.

The novel coronavirus disrupted many aspects of life at Dakota State, and around the world. Classes went to online-only delivery format in late March through the summer semester. A majority of the state’s employees moved to telework in mid-March.

These transitions were smooth at Dakota State, due to planning, preparation, collaboration, and forward vision. This resulted in two important goals – DSU never closed for business, and the health and success of our Trojan family remained our priorities.

Here are some of the ways we handled the situation with our students, our prospective students, faculty and staff, and the public.

## CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

“An online class is different than an in-person class,” said President José-Marie Griffiths. “It involves much more than creating a Zoom meeting or changing assignments. The learning objectives remain the same, but how you get there is a bit different.”



Dr. Mark Hawkes, Dean,  
Graduate Studies/  
Professor/CTL Director

Dr. Mark Hawkes, Dean of Graduate Studies elaborated: “Good online teaching is multi-faceted. There is an engagement factor, a connectivity part, and an interactive component.”

This is where the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) comes in. The center builds DSU’s professional development commitment through its tradition of teaching and learning excellence. Hawkes is director of the CTL.

“An institution like ours shows its maturity when it has a CTL,” said Hawkes, as it demonstrates that the institution is “seriously considering what great instruction means and promoting good student learning.”

In March, CTL’s professional development events focused on online course delivery. At Dakota State, “we have a strong sense of technology capacity for engaging our students and we put that good sense to work,” Hawkes said.

Hawkes and Nicky Khattapan, Instructional Design and Technology Specialist, offered faculty tips and pointers, answered questions, offered one-on-one help, and created a Facebook page as another platform for outreach.

Over the summer, faculty were also given an opportunity for course redevelopment grant funding through the CARES Act. Twenty-nine faculty, representing all four colleges and every discipline, were awarded \$500 grants to enhance an online class, or to take an on-campus class and move it online.

“This was great for young faculty but also for seasoned faculty,” Hawkes said. The grant recipients also completed an online learning academy course, a three-week, self-paced, self-instructional study of good pedagogy and good learning headed by Khattapan, in which faculty learned about tools to engage teams and groups, assess, and rebuild courses.

The model also gave a stipend to a mentor. “We hope that from that dialogue emerge great ideas and collegial reflection on what is good instruction,” Hawkes said. Professional development sessions will continue through the academic year for all faculty. “This is a big commitment in a very tight budget environment,” he stated, “but that priority demonstrates the administration’s commitment to the faculty and the importance of their work.”



## TAKING ARTS CLASSES ONLINE

"When COVID-19 forced us to go completely online mid-way through the spring 2020 semester, our faculty had to quickly develop alternative delivery methods. Not surprisingly, our art faculty were intellectually well prepared to find creative solutions to this challenge," said Dr. David Kenley, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Angela Behrends, Assistant Professor of Art, admitted that "Last semester was especially difficult because of the timing for our shift to virtual instruction—directly after spring break."

For Behrends, the project assignments she typically crafts for her students are materials-specific, with a suggestion of the thematic content, she explained. "Then it is up to them to create the concept as they design and build a solution."

Behrend's students had to adapt, since they all left campus without tools or materials, thinking they'd be back in nine days.

In the 2-D Design courses, assignments shifted to utilize home office supplies until students could make it back to campus to get their tool kits. "I was counting on all of them being able to dig up a pencil, white office paper, ruler/straight edge, and take a selfie with whatever device they had," Behrends said.

The 3-D Design class had to "scrounge up materials found in students' respective households," she said. "Many of their projects for the rest of the semester utilized items from their recycling bins and junk-drawer collections. We saw some amazing transformations of 'trash to treasure,'" she said.

In every course, they continued synchronous class meetings on Zoom, utilized D2L drop boxes for images of their work, and shared screens for in-progress and final class critiques.

"I was in Pennsylvania last April. Despite being so far from campus, I still had the opportunity to take an online tour of a virtual exhibition featuring the artwork of our students," Kenley said. "Of course, I would have preferred to see our students' work personally, but in the end, the online exhibition may have had more visitors than a more traditional venue."

"I am proud of our DSU faculty for being able to pivot so quickly and provide these opportunities for our students," he stated.



This tornado art piece created by Madeline Gaukel brings up visions of the Wizard of Oz in this tornado tetrahedron made from things found at home, wire, toothpicks, polyester fiberfill stuffing, cardboard and polymer clay farm animals. Their assignment was to be dynamic and energetic.



# HIGHLY TECHNICAL CLASSES

At the other end of the spectrum from arts classes were high-technology courses, such as the labs for animation and digital arts and design courses.

Students in these labs use dedicated machines for software sharing, due to the high licensing costs of the programs.

"We have these very well specked-out computers that are designed specifically for these operations," said David Miller, Interim Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer. "The software is local, so removing access to the lab does inhibit what the class can do."

Information Technology Services (ITS) "chased down all the rabbit holes" in March to find a solution, but Adobe then reached out and gave universities free work-from-home licenses through July 6.

"Adobe handed us a solution and that was great, because that meant the students could run the programs on their own machines," Miller said.

With the issue resolved for Spring 2020, ITS was able to look to the future. "There may be other situations requiring remote learning in the future, plus the labs will need to be updated in a few years," Miller said.

ITS is looking at options, with possible solutions of using other server infrastructures dedicated to the labs, different licensing models, or providing specific computers for students in those classes.

"We don't want to take away the learning environment the lab creates," Miller said, "but our eyes have been opened to remote learning."



David Miller, Interim Chief Information Officer, ITS

# RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

## VIRTUAL

"Campus visits are one of the best ways to envision yourself at a future university," said Amber Schmidt, Assistant Director of Admissions. "From talking with faculty, admission counselors, and getting to tour our facilities and dorms, the visit is one of the biggest deciding factors for a student."

Despite the advantages of in-person visits, the COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to on-campus tours at universities across the United States. The Admissions team quickly adapted, in some cases in only a few days.

"We were able to convert our Discover DSU Day and our new student registration sessions to a virtual format via Zoom," said Amy Crissinger, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management.

"We made use of a number of features within Zoom to encourage interaction between ourselves and the students as well as between the students themselves." Admissions also used the web, email, print, and social media to alert students to changes. "This summer, Admissions launched Snapchat and Instagram accounts, and our first TikTok video," said Crissinger.

Videos were particularly popular. Schmidt, along with her "office assistant," son Nolan Schmidt, posted several Facebook "working from home videos" on topics such as "Seven steps to becoming a Trojan."

On-campus visits were reinstated in early July, with mitigation precautions, and they are adapting their formats to better suit virtual college fairs and high school visits this year.



Amber Schmidt, Assistant Director of Admissions, and her son, Nolan, created engaging videos to reach out to prospective students.

"We are here for you," Schmidt said. "Whether it's virtual or physically on campus, please know we love getting to talk to you about all things DSU. We're here to guide you through what can be a very big, important decision."

These efforts were successful at keeping Dakota State's fall 2020 enrollment numbers steady.

"The many staff involved in our admissions activities came together with energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and skill to develop new systems and virtual activities to continue their recruitment and registration work," said DSU President José-Marie Griffiths. "We are so very proud of both their efforts and their results. They have illustrated to all of us the work ethic, commitment to excellence, and determination that are hallmarks of all of our DSU employees."

# VIRTUAL EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT



Liam Slaathaug and his sister, Taylor Buthe, found one of 25 eggs located around campus for Human Resources' virtual Easter Egg Hunt in April. They are the children of Alumni Director Carrie Slaathaug.

A term frequently heard during this pandemic has been social distancing. Thanks to concerted efforts by Dakota State's Human Resources Department, working from home has been viewed more as distant socializing.

"Building a community online can be done with the right tools and community experience," said President José-Marie Griffiths. At Dakota State, "the technology portion was the easy part, so we could focus on the human side, making sure people retained their interactions," she stated.

The HR team, headed by Angi Kappenman, Vice President for Human Resources, began sending out weekly emails to all employees. "This Week at DSU" offers daily engagement

opportunities and information, including a Tip of the Week, such as "Don't Let Video Calls Drain Your Energy," or "Tips for homeschooling kids." Also included are information graphics from the South Dakota Department of Health.

Additionally, they created a private Facebook page to connect with employees, with engaging posts including "Would You Rather..." or "What are you reading?" Other suggestions were daily dress-up themes, or themes for selfies, and a virtual Easter Egg hunt.

"It is vitally important for us all to support one another and stay connected," Kappenman said. While it involves some time and effort to develop and implement these ideas, it is well worth it to let employees know that there is help and support when facing these challenges, she said.

A very popular feature is a weekly Zoom call for all employees, called "What's Up, DSU?" held the last workday of each week. Employees are able to ask questions of leadership on safety protocols, plans for the semester, effects on the budget. A student version of the What's Up DSU? began in July.

"Staying connected is something we may never take for granted again," said Griffiths.



The university has not focused exclusively on inward-facing issues during this pandemic. Because higher education exists to advance and enrich the lives of people in our communities and our world through scholarship, research, and public service, Dakota State embodied this mission with multiple outreach efforts.

**It's About Community.** DSU partnered with several Lake County entities to create the "It's About Community," campaign aimed at marketing safety messaging. Posters, social media graphics, radio spots and other tools are available for free at [www.itsaboutcommunity.org](http://www.itsaboutcommunity.org). Campaign partners included the City of Madison, Greater Madison Area Chamber of Commerce, KJAM Radio, Madison Daily Leader, and Madison Regional Health System.

**The College of Education** hosted a series of free webinars for teachers, highlighting various tech tools and resources for virtual teaching, intended to reduce the anxiety or stress teachers may have experiences with the transition to online formats. These webinars hosted as many as 70 registered participants.

**The College of Business and Information Systems** shared virtual instruction lessons for businesses in a series of webinars.

**Faculty served** as sources for local news reports on how to stay cyber safe from instances like zoombombing during telework and e-learning.

**Mary Francis from the Karl Mundt Library, and Dr. Omar El-Gayar** were guests on South Dakota Public Broadcasting's "In the Moment" to discuss how to find and interpret reputable information sources, and how to make sense of data visualizations.

**CybHER**, a DSU program in The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences, added several virtual outreach programs, including a new YouTube Learning Channel and weekly CybHER Conversations to introduce young students, as well as teachers and parents, to cyber opportunities through visits with industry leaders from the region and the nation.

**DSU employees** and also alumni embodied this mission on a personal level as well, through efforts to provide PPE for the local hospital, by sewing face masks, or working with a local business to create masks and face shields.

# HISTORY NEEDS US

This pandemic has become something of a marker of life, said Dr. Jim Moran, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students will not forget the experiences they have had, and the lessons they have learned throughout this year. These are challenging, but are good life lessons for students, ones that will help their careers, said Moran.

“Adaptability is the key to learning and students won’t forget that,” he stated. In addition, “employers are looking for graduates with adaptability and creativity.”

President José-Marie Griffiths stated that this has been an event that will change the way we –including those in higher education – will live. “Higher education now is all about adapting.”

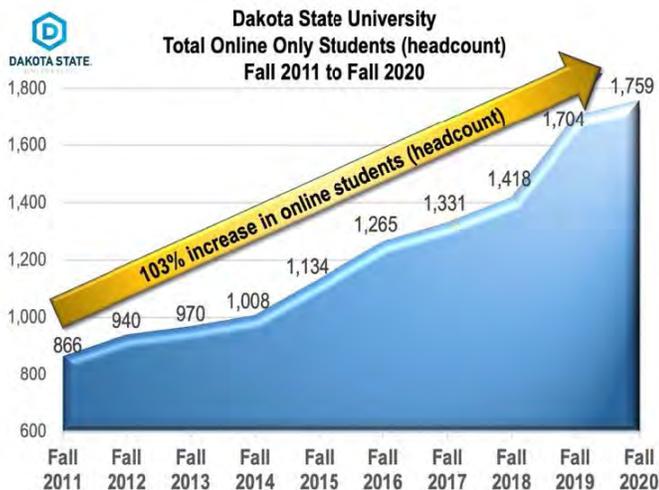
In a commencement message to the Spring 2020 graduates she referenced an article in The Atlantic by Caitlin Flanagan. “History found you,” Griffiths quoted from the article, “and now, history needs you. History needs all of us,” she stated.

“We need smart people, people who have learned how to think, and take in information and analyze it and develop helpful conclusions. We need people who can problem solve, with special expertise,” Griffiths said.

These newly developed skills may very take us on different path from what was anticipated, she explained, but on the new paths, we will be making history.



# POSITIVE TRENDS OFFSET CHANGES IN ENROLLMENT



“Some in higher education were predicting that college enrollments would decrease by 15% to 20% this fall, due to the ramifications from the novel coronavirus pandemic,” said President José-Marie Griffiths. “This is not the case at Dakota State.”

Changes – many which were anticipated even before COVID – were offset by gains in other areas, so final Fall 2020 enrollment numbers were effectively steady by headcount and Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs). There was also an increase in online students, and South Dakota resident students.

## HEADCOUNT AND FTES

There are 3,186 students enrolled this fall, a decrease of only 2.5% from Fall 2019. These students are taking class credits that translate into 2,045.8 FTEs, a decrease of only 0.83% from Fall 2019. Research has shown that students who take a full-time class load are far more likely to graduate, so this is a positive trend.

## UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

DSU has 2,740 undergraduate students enrolled for Fall 2020. Undergraduate FTEs decreased only 0.80% from the previous year. There are 446 graduate students enrolled in master’s, certificate, and doctoral programs.

## ONLINE-ONLY STUDENTS

Online-only enrollment has been rising since 2014, and this trend continued in Fall 2020 to 1,759 students. Combined credit hours saw an 8% rise in online-only FTEs compared to Fall 2019, and more than a 3% rise in the number of online-only students compared to Fall 2019. The number of online-only undergraduates increased by almost 10%. Online-only graduate student FTEs increased by 2.5%.

## ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS/RESIDENCE HALL OCCUPANCY LEVEL

The university’s residence hall occupancy levels have been at or close to 100% the last few years, even as DSU has continued to increase its residence hall capacity. This year is no different. There are 753 students living in DSU residence halls, occupying 97% of available residence hall spaces. (About 4% of the capacity was taken off-line so rooms were available for to quarantine or isolation.) On-campus enrollment is 1,262 undergraduates, and 46 graduate students.

## EXPECTED ENROLLMENT CHANGES

Changes to enrollment numbers were anticipated for several reasons. Some families were reluctant to send their child out-of-state during this public health crisis, and this student demographic did decrease, but both on-campus and online South Dakota resident enrollments rose by 7.2%. On-campus transfer students from South Dakota is up to 56% (from 39% last year). South Dakota students transferring to DSU’s online programs now make up 43% of all online transfer students, up from 35% last year, and 62% of incoming first-time freshmen are from South Dakota, up from 54% in Fall 2019.





# Judy of all trades

In 41 years at Dakota State, Judy Dittman hasn't just seen it all, she's done it all.

"I don't remember a time when I had just one responsibility," she said of her time at DSU. "I seemed to have two or three balls to juggle at any given time."

Some of the positions she held include Physical Education and Exercise Science Instructor, Athletic Director, Dean for the College of Education, and Women's Basketball and Softball Coach.

"I've been involved in a lot of really great projects in my time at DSU," she said.

One of her favorite projects was bringing a wellness center to Dakota State. With support from President Tunheim and Dean of Students Terry Ryan, Dittman helped open the DSU Wellness Center in the basement of Zimmermann Hall. The basement was filled with treadmills, ellipticals, and weight equipment, and was open to students, faculty, staff, and the community.

"I've always had a warm spot in my heart with this project," she said. "It really gave the community people an opportunity to get to know our students, faculty, and staff and vice versa. It was especially gratifying to see this interaction between the students and the community members."

When the Community Center opened in 2000, all of the equipment from the DSU Wellness Center was moved to the new facility. Dittman served as one of the initial board members for the Community Center.

In her 11 years as Athletic Director (AD), Dittman eliminated a large deficit in the athletic budget, increased scholarship amounts, and started the Blue and Gold Golf Classic (now called the DSU Blue Golf Classic). Dittman continued coaching and teaching classes while serving as AD.

"During my time as Athletic Director we also started the DSU Athletics Hall of Fame," she said.



“We’ve had a wonderful history of athletic performances at this university and that first year we inducted eight members and honored the Coach of the Year.” The Athletics Hall of Fame was created over 20 years ago and honors former DSU athletes for their accomplishments.

Eventually she decided to step back from athletics, and her brother Jeff Dittman took over the head coach position for women’s basketball. Ultimately Judy became Jeff’s assistant coach.

“So, we went from Jeff being my assistant to me being his assistant,” Dittman laughed.

During her time as assistant coach, Dakota State women’s basketball team made their first appearance at a national tournament in which they won their first two games and moved into the Elite 8 round. The support shown by the Madison community was fabulous. Dittman described the energy for those games as being on a whole new level with all that support.

“It was truly one of my more memorable moments in athletics,” she said.

She enjoyed her time as both head and assistant coach of the women’s basketball team and appreciated the opportunity to get to know the students and form lasting relationships with them. “I enjoyed working with Jeff, not that we always agreed on things, but I’ve always respected his coaching knowledge, his work ethic, and how he got the best from his athletes.”

“I have such fond memories of our student athletes on our basketball teams and my softball teams over the years,” she said. “I stay connected to many of them on Facebook.”

After eventually stepping back from coaching, Dittman went on to spend several years as Dean of the College of Education, back where she began her career at DSU, teaching.

“I thoroughly enjoyed it,” she said. “I loved working with the faculty, and I loved working with the students because that’s my area – education. There’s no better feeling than watching a student grow and mature into being a professional.”

Despite attempts at retirement, Dittman spent the last several years stepping into various positions as needed at DSU. Just a few of the jobs she held include: Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, Associate Provost, Title III Director, and Interim Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

She enjoyed the opportunity to get to know people from different areas of campus through her many positions and participation in committees on campus.

“I have met a lot of wonderful people, worked with fantastic people, and truly enjoyed students I’ve gotten to know,” she said. “I would like to say thank you to everyone.”

Dittman is excited to spend time doing yard work, kayaking, traveling, and of course, keeping up with Trojan sports.

# CLI PROGRAM PROVIDES A PLETHORA OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

## MAJOR BLENDS CYBER AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Cyber Leadership and Intelligence (CLI) program at DSU is the only one of its kind in the United States. Now in its third year, the combination of courses gives students an interdisciplinary background in history, political science, philosophy, sociology, and cybersecurity.

“The CLI major provides an international affairs and national security focus to cybersecurity,” said Dr. Ben Young, Assistant Professor in Cyber Leadership and Intelligence. “We study anything from Facebook’s policy toward users’ data to North Korea’s foreign policy.”

While students take some courses in computer science as part of the major, the broader focus is on writing and oral communication skills. The program also emphasizes the importance of learning about world cultures and affairs.

“Cyberspace is inherently stateless and is an inherently international arena,” Young said. “Learning more about world cultures and international affairs allows you to analyze

cybersecurity from a national security and foreign policy perspective.”

The program prepares students for a wide range of careers in private and public sectors. Graduates will be well suited to take on positions in national security, international affairs, law enforcement, military, cybersecurity-related fields, technology companies, and the federal government.

“It is also a useful degree for those thinking of law school or graduate school,” Young shared.

The versatility of the program is what drew Shane Farmer to the program. Farmer, a junior CLI major and Cyber Operations minor from Morton, IL, initially began his time at DSU as a cyber operations major. After realizing the cyber operations program was not for him, he began looking into the CLI major. Based on his love for a wide array of topics, particularly in social sciences, Farmer found his ideal major in CLI.



Shane Farmer, a junior CLI major and Cyber Operations minor from Morton, IL initially began his time at DSU as a cyber operations major.



The program has two different paths students can take. The first one is digital forensics dedicated to computer incidence response. The second path is a world affairs and human behavior focus based in social sciences.

“The world affairs and human behavior focus, which I’m in, deals with the mentality of hackers, motivations of nation-states, and manipulation of digital media by malicious organizations,” Farmer explained.

These subjects are taught through courses such as social deviance, principles of macroeconomics, and guerilla warfare and terrorism. While a few courses differ between the two tracks, the bulk of the courses in the program are part of both tracks.

“With classes such as cyber ethics, information security management, and geography of religion, the CLI major provides opportunities for me to explore the ethos of hackers, prepare for the workforce, and develop diverse perspectives that supply additional context as to why different people and countries interact with the United States and their immediate neighbors in certain ways,” Farmer said.

The diversity in subjects covered in CLI courses offers students a well-rounded experience, providing a foundation beneficial for career paths such as working on Capitol Hill, in academia, for a three-letter government organization, or private sector organizations, Farmer shared.

Through these classes, students learn to critically analyze content, complete research, and communicate clearly through oral and written communications.

And the subject matter isn’t the only highlight of the program. Farmer also appreciates Young’s teaching methods, which focus on actively engaging students in the content. Through class discussions and opportunities for students to choose topics for assignments, they are able to learn from and understand different perspectives.

In addition to teaching the curriculum, at the start of each class, Young offers support for students through recommendations on where to find beneficial internships and opportunities for content-enriching and career-developing events.

The CLI program emphasizes the need for professionals who can bridge the gap between the technically proficient and leadership, and trains students to fill this role in organizations.

“The diversity of subjects within the CLI program provides insight and allows me to understand that the possibilities are nearly endless when it comes to connecting the social sciences and cyber and being able to capitalize on that in the future as computers continue to become increasingly relevant in everyday life,” Farmer said.

Upon graduation, Farmer hopes to gain experience in the security industry, provide the public with insight into the dangers and benefits of the cyber world, and eventually work in international relations or domestic policy development.

# more than WORDS

## CREATING A CAMPUS OF UNDERSTANDING

**I**n May, the nation watched as a Minnesota man took his last breaths while being brutally subdued by a police officer's knee. The death of George Floyd and other tragedies like it resurrected a national conversation about privilege, equity, and racism in our country.

Nestled in the plains of fly-over country, Dakota State University is far from immune to issues facing communities around the US. And like so many others, DSU is committed to conscientiously working to encourage honest dialogue and real improvements, so that everyone who chooses to call Dakota State home feels welcome to do so.

As protests and unrest erupted, University President Dr. José-Marie Griffiths issued a statement, calling on the Trojan family "to address the unintended consequences of tradition, of process, of our interactions and decisions especially as they relate to minority groups," promising to act and not be satisfied with the status quo.

President Griffiths charged DSU's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee to develop an institutional plan, asking them to look for ways to "address bias, discrimination, marginalization, and inequities on campus."

### RECOGNIZING THE NEED

An effort to address injustice and disadvantage at Dakota State has existed since the early 2000s. Like many committees, the success of the group ebbed and flowed based on interest, leadership, and participation. However, given recent events, that formula was no longer enough.

Dr. Jack Walters, Professor of Management and Coordinator for the Master of Business Administration program, is the current chair of EDI. He said, "We want to make this committee more visible. We want to do more things. There is a growing awareness of the need for these efforts."

Committee member and Adjunct Instructor of English, Casualene Meyer, agreed: "We've had a long time understanding of the importance of EDI. It is there, but increasing our efforts is warranted."

Made up of about 25 faculty and staff from departments across campus and varying student interests, EDI's mission is to build an inclusive and diverse university community. Every student, faculty, and staff member — whatever their race, gender, age, ethnicity, cultural heritage or nationality; religious or political beliefs; sexual orientation or gender identity; or socioeconomic, veteran, ability status, or other identifiable statuses — has the right to inclusion, respect, and voice in the DSU community.

Nicole Claussen, Director of International Programs, is another member of the committee.

"Students have verbalized that there is a problem," she said. "There is a group of us on campus that truly believes in the mission of EDI, that truly wants to create a sense of welcome for everyone who chooses to work or study here."

The makeup of the university is much like that of the state. Our students are predominately white and male. The state and community of Madison lean right on the political spectrum. At times, that can make it difficult for minorities to feel included.

"We recruit these students to come here. We have an obligation to support them and recognize the value everyone brings to the table," added Deb Roach, who is the Director of Career Services and one of EDI's committee members specifically focused on student involvement.

# A YEAR OF PROGRAMMING

EDI, along with President Griffiths, has hosted listening sessions for students and others to share their experiences and voice their concerns. Additionally, the university is executing a year of monthly programming and events to raise awareness, educate, and facilitate conversations.

Because students are in class on several holidays this year due to COVID-19, EDI sees these holidays as one opportunity for engagement.

The school year's first events focused on and celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment with a guest speaker, and the lighting of Heston Hall in purple. There was also a Lunch 'n Learn on Labor Day, which focused on the history



The 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment featured the lighting of Heston Hall in purple.

of organized labor as well as what's at stake for employers and employees in the world of work today. Native American Day brought a special lunch for students and



Evan Read, a senior cyber operations major from Derby Kansas enjoys Indian Tacos on Native American Day.

another lighting of Heston Hall. Future events will focus on, but are not limited to, autism awareness, Black history, bullying, the Holocaust, faith and religion, and sexual orientation and gender identity.

"The ground is ripe for it because we are bringing people together. Maybe these conversations are already happening, and we don't know that they are. I hope they are," said Meyer.

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

While EDI's dedication and efforts are there, they recognize they cannot do it alone.

"Students need to drive this," said Roach. "Otherwise it's just a group of adults throwing information at them. A student is much more apt to jump on board if it's coming from their peers."

Claussen added, "We recognize that a full year of programming is not enough. But it is going to get to the core issue, and it might just be the motivator needed to get our students more involved."

President Griffiths sees DSU as the perfect spot for growth to happen.

Institutions of higher education are places where we can meet people from all walks of life with different backgrounds and experiences. They are places where we can hear, reflect on, and explore new ideas. By doing so we learn not only about others but about ourselves," she said.

"We are still in the 'if you build it, they will come' phase," said Walters. The goal being that membership and activity will continue to grow as campus recognizes that EDI is more than words.

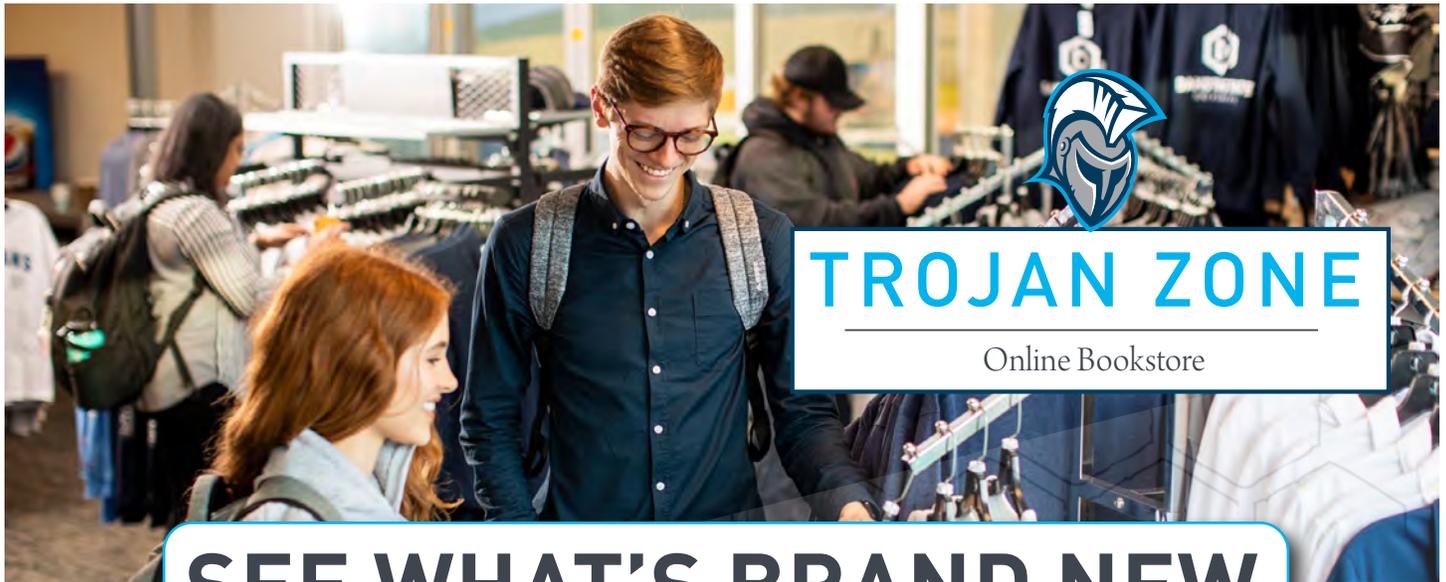
"This is not just 'yeah, yeah, yeah,'" said Walters. "This is important. And when it takes off, it's going to help a lot of people."

# HOME SUITE HOME UNDER CONSTRUCTION

When students and staff returned to campus this fall, there was a noticeable difference. The Residence Village construction project is moving along very well, said Corey Braskamp, Director of Facilities Management. Concrete panel walls went up over the summer. In September and October, interior construction walls, wiring, plumbing, and window installations were underway. Floors will be finished from top to bottom in the spring, with completion expected around July 1, 2021. DSU would then take possession of the building around August 1 to have it ready for occupancy for the Fall 2021 semester.

The four-story, 42,000 square foot building will feature 122 beds, all in suite or apartment style configurations. There will also be shared lounges, kitchens, study rooms, and laundry facilities, along with a small retail shop on the lower level.





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# ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD THROUGH WORK AND PLAY

## DAKOTA STATE ACCESSIBILITY: ON CAMPUS AND ONLINE

Accessibility is more than just handicap parking spaces and automatic doors.

Dr. Chris Olson, Professor in the College of Business and Information Systems and Coordinator for Information Systems Program, is dedicated to improving accessibility in all areas at Dakota State because of personal experience. In 2001, Olson was a passenger in a motor vehicle accident that caused C5 quadriplegia. As someone who utilizes a motorized wheelchair, Olson is extremely cognizant of the need for accessibility on campus, in classrooms, and with online content.

“The administration, faculty, and staff at DSU have been extremely receptive and supportive of accessibility efforts at DSU,” Olson said.

In addition to physical accessibility, Olson has recently begun auditing all syllabi submitted each semester to identify, report, and fix any accessibility issues. Through this, Olson raises awareness of what makes a document accessible and helps increase accessible syllabi. “It is always my goal to make DSU classes accessible to all,” he said.

Files, web pages, and videos used in teaching must be accessible to students who may experience auditory, mobility, and visual impairments. Some students may require assistive technology to access content in their courses. For example, Olson had a student with a condition called arthrogryposis multiplex congenita, that required the student to rely on her feet and toes in order to use a keyboard and mouse to complete the course.

While Olson works to make sure technology used in the classroom is accessible to all students, he also uses technology as a means of accessibility in teaching. Olson utilizes a telepresence robot he named Cosmo, to participate in classes and meetings on campus.

“This has had an immense impact on me since I cannot drive myself to campus,” he said. “DSU has always made every effort to create a fully-accessible workplace for me for the 15 years I have worked here, and they have gone above and beyond expectations to provide me with tools I need to do my job effectively.”



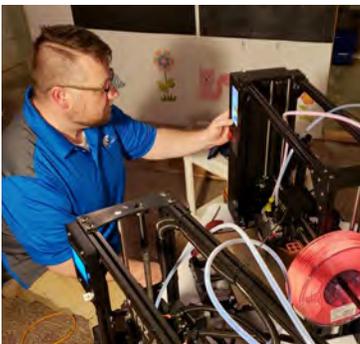
Dr. Chris Olson, teaching class through a telepresence robot.

While accessibility does not impact all people, everyone should care about it. “A broken bone, accident, or illness can make anybody reliant on accessibility,” Olson said.

Olson also works with Dr. Justin Blessinger on research in adaptive technologies as part of the AdapT Lab in MadLabs. The two are always looking for ways to utilize technology to overcome a variety of accessibility obstacles.

The mission of AdapT Lab is to use technology to navigate and structure environments to achieve “barrier-free living.” AdapT Lab has a goal of being a resource for the disabilities community for using technology to remove barriers to full participation in work, play, and everything in between.

Blessinger, Professor of English and Director of the AdapT Lab, has led past projects which include modifications to an adaptive gaming controller from Microsoft and toy ride-on cars in partnership with LifeScape for the Go Baby Go program.



Dr. Justin Blessinger, Professor of English and Director of the AdapT Lab.

Blessinger and Olson collaborated with Rob Honomichl, Instructor of Information Systems, to customize and create additional adaptable game controllers unique to each player through the use of a 3D printer and hardware from Honomichl’s

courses. Blessinger created the base for the controller, switches, and joystick that enables customization of the game controllers.

AdapT Lab’s partnership with LifeScape for the Go Baby Go program has AdapT Lab focusing on making toy ride-on cars more technologically accessible to kids with mobility challenges and their parents through Bluetooth and remote controls.

“Current projects [in AdapT Lab] are focused on using proximity beacons to provide relevant information for one’s immediate surroundings and to streamline



accessible technologies, such as elevator calls and automatic door openers,” Blessinger said. “We also partnered with a startup company to develop a ‘power block’ device that allows users of powered chairs and mobility scooters to tap into their chair’s power to charge phones, small electronics, and operate needed devices such as nebulizers and heated fabrics.”

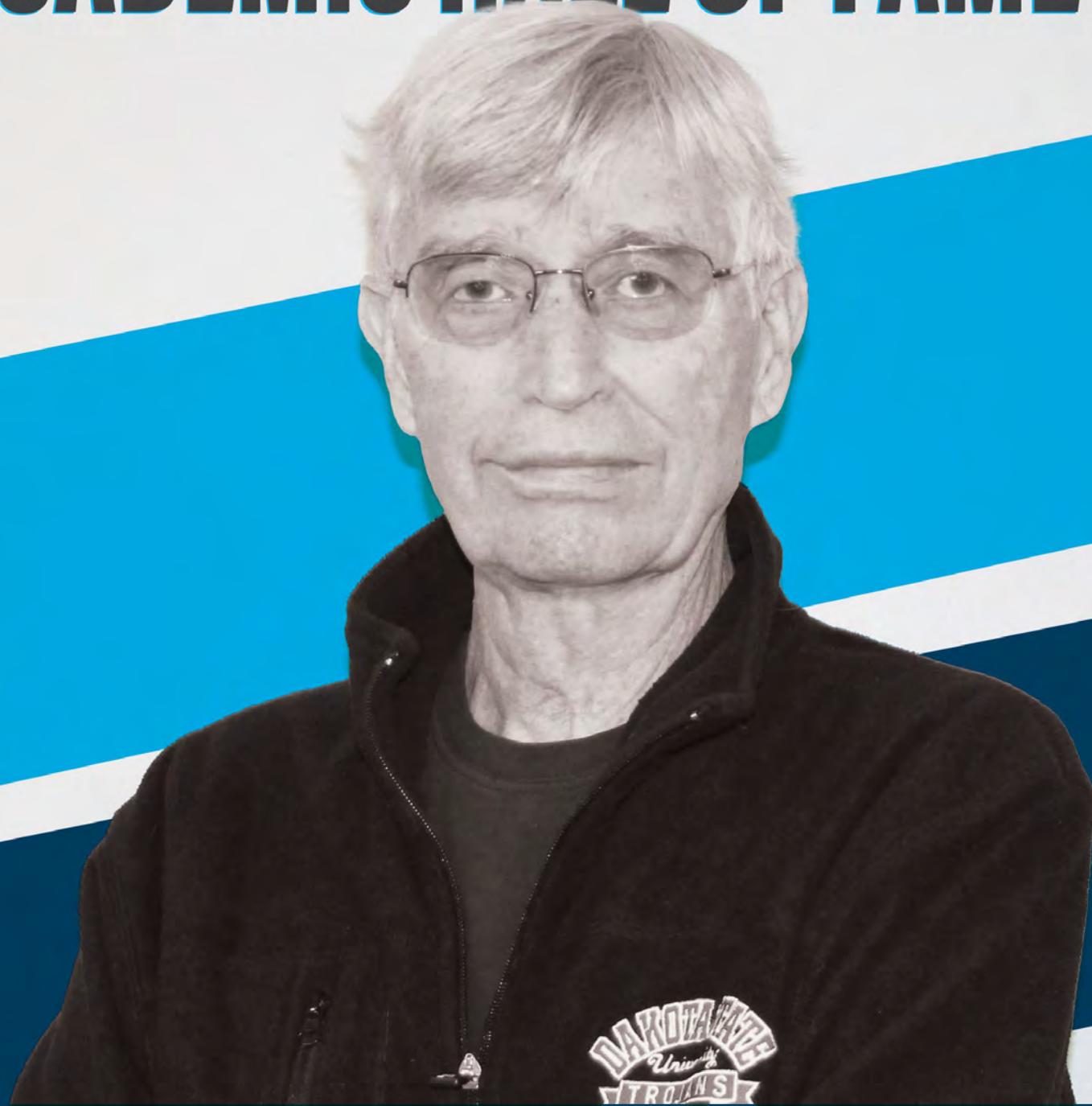
In Blessinger’s role as AdapT Lab Director he’s found his friendships with people who have disabilities has been invaluable to his work. He recommends listening to others first, but bringing questions to the table as well.

“By listening and understanding just one obstacle your friend, colleague, or new employee faces, you can take an important first step toward thinking about accessibility less as our collective responsibility (though it is), and more as our privilege,” Blessinger explained. “With small changes, we are sometimes able to greatly streamline the way our coworkers and friends and employees work, retrieve information, and approach new challenges.”

As the AdapT Lab continues its research, those involved hope to help people who have any disability have access to new forms of socialization, hobbies, and potential new work opportunities.

“In addition to the straightforward benefit of treating fellow humans with dignity and respect, the AdapT Lab also helps people who have a disability to more fully engage in their work, play, and world,” Blessinger said.

# Van Erdewyk named to **ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME**



The Academic Hall of Fame was initiated in 2018 to bring greater visibility to scholarly work at DSU and to foster a collegiate environment that celebrates achievement in research and creative works. Celebrating past and present research and creative work produced by DSU faculty, staff, students, and alumni, highlights the Beadle Scholar Institutional Repository, which reflects best practices for “collecting, preserving, and disseminating the intellectual” work of DSU faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Dr. Clyde Brashier was the first inductee, in the spring of 2019. To nominate a candidate for the 2021 Hall of Fame, there is a form on the DSU website.

Former president Dr. Jerry Tunheim once charged DSU professors with a mission: to demonstrate that Dakota State teaching faculty were alive and well professionally.

Dr. Zeno Van Erdewyk took that to heart.

He was already an experienced college professor with a dedicated emphasis on quality of teaching when Tunheim made that statement. Van Erdewyk enjoyed classroom teaching, and his general psychology class had an excellent reputation.

The advice “started me down the road with presentations [to demonstrate] that I was alive and well professionally,” said Van Erdewyk, a professor emeritus in the College of Education.

After 37 years at DSU, his colleagues deemed his professional career so significant that he has been chosen as the 2020 Academic Hall of Fame inductee.

Tom Farrell wrote in his nomination letter that “it is with deep respect that through his years of teaching, research, scholarship, and service, that Dr. Zeno Van Erdewyk truly is the Trojan that we all can be proud of.”

In his last 13 years of teaching alone, Van Erdewyk presented 27 papers at national and international professional conferences and conventions. He was also sought after as a national and international consultant, with local schools in the Madison area as well as in California, Nevada, Florida, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, along with London and Paris. Additionally, he was a visiting scholar at the English International College in Marbella, Spain.

Dr. Vicki Sterling noted that Van Erdewyk spent a year in London with his family, which opened doors for DSU students to experience student teaching in another country, she wrote.

Educational trips were part of his professional life. Dr. Lynette Molstad Gorder said he directed European tours for almost 20 years. He took about 275 students, faculty, alumni and others on 15 trips to Europe and Washington, DC.

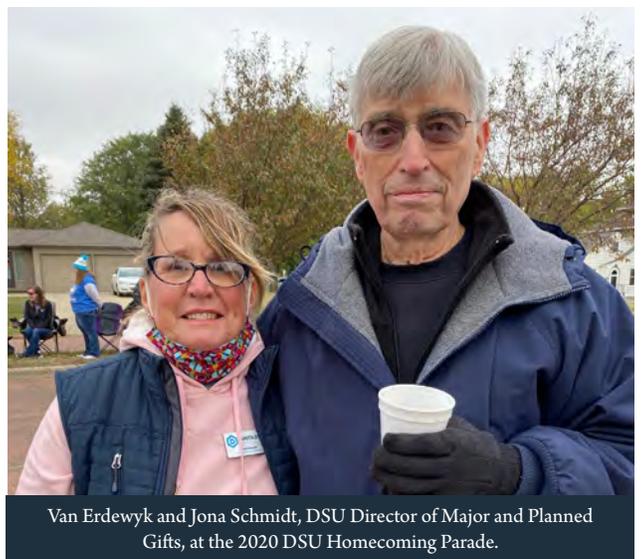
He retired in 2004, and said throughout his career, “I’ve had experiences like you wouldn’t believe,” including being hijacked on a plane back from a conference in the Caribbean in 1988. “We were only delayed a day,” he shrugged.

Van Erdewyk is an alumnus of Dakota State, or General Beadle State Teachers College as it was known in 1959, when he graduated with a B.S. in math and science, and a biology minor. After teaching high school for five years, he earned a master’s degree from SDSU, and a doctorate in counseling and guidance from the University of North Dakota in 1967. He then returned to General Beadle to teach general psychology and classroom management for almost four decades. During this time, he estimates he taught between 13,000 and 14,000 students, including his wife of 55 years, Carol, their four children and one grandchild, and many children of his colleagues.

“His desire to return to his alma mater and dedicate the majority of his professional career to Dakota State speaks volumes of his commitment to Dakota State,” Farrell stated.

The recognition of the Academic Hall of Fame award was “humbling,” he said, and attributes all his accomplishments to Carol’s support and encouragement. She died in 2016.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, plans are to recognize Van Erdewyk and the 2021 inductee in the spring, in a ceremony at the Karl Mundt Library.



Van Erdewyk and Jona Schmidt, DSU Director of Major and Planned Gifts, at the 2020 DSU Homecoming Parade.

# TROJAN DAYS 2020

## SOARING THROUGH THE DECADES

“It was really hard last year when we didn’t have the parade because of the flood,” said Mandy Parpart, director of Student Engagement and Leadership.

For 2020’s Homecoming on September 28 - October 3, “we knew this was a great opportunity for Madison businesses, and a fun thing for the community, and we wanted to continue this tradition,” she stated. Given the current pandemic, Parpart said “We did whatever we could to make sure this was a good experience for everyone in our communities.”





- 1 The DSU Distinguished Alumni gathered to celebrate Homecoming. This Alumni Association float won Best Overall and Sweepstakes prizes.
- 2 Jacia Christiansen and Piyush Vyas were crowned the 2020 Homecoming Queen and King.
- 3 Mandy Parpart (left), Director of Student Engagement and Leadership, instructed the Homecoming parade judges in their duties before the Oct. 3 event. Judges included Nicole Bowen, Director of the Counseling Center, and students Hunter Boelz and Anna Fields.
- 4 President Griffiths rode in the Homecoming parade, and Dr. Judy Dittman was the parade marshal.
- 5 Prospective DSU students Brock and Colt Ruhd (sons of Jill '07 and Tyler Ruhd '07) cleaned up on candy at the parade.
- 6 A group of faculty, staff, and friends of DSU enjoyed the parade from Sundog Coffee on Egan Avenue. There were 65 entries in the parade.

# NEW AUDIO COURSES COULD CHANGE EVERYTHING

## INTERDISCIPLINARY CERTIFICATE WILL OPEN DOORS

There is more to audio production than meets the ear.

“Students who enjoy music can go to a traditional music school,” said Sandy Champion, Director of Music Programs, “or they can explore other realms of sound design, including sound therapy, acoustic ecology, sound forensics, or audio journalism.” One of the most important is software development, she said, which is in line with DSU’s mission as a university.

“Everything in the digital realm involves software,” said Champion. In fact, “there is a whole industry of software development in all of our disciplines.”

For audio production majors, knowing how to fully utilize creative software can give them applicable skills and career opportunities, so Champion spoke to Dr. Tom Halverson about the possibility of creating a programming class specific to audio majors.

All students take basic computer science, but “this would be really beneficial for my students, to open the door to music software development, and what they could do if they could tell the software what to do.”

Halverson, Associate Professor of Computer Science in The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences, created a class in which the students learned creative programming languages like JavaScript, Python, or Maya (a 3D computer graphics application).

The Creative Coding class was offered first as a pilot course in the Spring of 2020, taken by 16 students from animation, computer sciences, and audio production.

“The students loved it,” said Champion, “because programming finally made sense to them.”

Audio production majors Spencer Raap (left) and Jacob Hoffer are some of the first students to take new creative programming courses designed specifically for their major.



Audio Production major Spencer Raap said the course “showed you how to use the programming as a real application for what you’re interested in.” A native of Aberdeen, SD, he will graduate in May 2021, and then plans to go to graduate school.

Halverson then created a subsequent, project-based course called Interdisciplinary Coding, offered Fall 2020. Six are enrolled in this course.

Jacob Hoffer, a digital sound design major from Lyman, SD, said the new courses gave him the skills to create his own software, program sound design for videogames or movies, or to freelance his own creations and solo programs.

“There are a lot of avenues I’m interested in and would like to explore. I think [these courses] will help with any and all of these,” said Hoffer.

These two new courses, along with two other courses already required for audio majors, have been packaged as a 12-credit Creative Programming Certificate, currently under consideration for approval with the state Board of Regents.

“Students can do a lot with programming if they just understand the languages,” Champion said, “and getting that creative programming certificate can open so many doors.”

With courses in music, sound, and creative programming languages, students can get jobs in the music industry, entertainment industry, or software development.

This diversity is so important, Champion said, especially in this time of COVID-19.

A classically trained singer and flutist, she said, “my ability to diversify has saved me throughout my career.”

Versatility “makes you so much more valuable in the job marketplace if you have the skills,” she said. It is also something that can keep Dakota State students in the region. “There’s a lot they can do if they understand programming languages ... and then students won’t have to leave to get a job, and that can change everything.”

The interdisciplinary aspects of this certificate are also beneficial.

*“We can’t be in silos anymore with the way the workplace is changing,” Champion said. “We need more than just a basic understanding of what your colleagues are doing. We need to be able to talk and create with them.”*

For sound designers and computer scientists, “it’s important to work together on a level that they both have a deeper understanding of their own disciplines and what they can do together. That’s when you have innovation,” she said.



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# GRADUATION

## MUST GO ON

Spring 2020 graduates had an unexpected ending to their time at Dakota State. The COVID-19 pandemic moved their final semester online beginning in March.

Kaysea Luna, a film major, found the transition required her to manage her time differently; she would also have preferred to get feedback on her final projects in person.

The move also postponed students' graduation ceremony to October. "To hear that commencement was postponed was sad because I worked hard to finally get to that day. It was a bit of a heartbreak," she said.



Luna didn't let the postponed ceremony deter her from attending. With a rescheduled date of October 4, she joined over 80 of the 375 spring and summer graduates to attend in person, flying back from California, and describing graduation as a "once in a lifetime opportunity."

"Knowing the university is willing to work with the students to make this opportunity happen makes it all the better," she said. "My family is super excited for me to be a part of this. They are glad commencement is still happening, and they get to see me walk across the stage."

Luna is currently interning for a sports agency in California.

# MEET THE NEW DEANS

## BEACOM COLLEGE, ARTS & SCIENCES

This summer, Dakota State University welcomed two new deans to lead two of the institution's colleges.

Dr. Pat Engebretson took the helm of The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences on May 22, 2020.

Engebretson is a name that will be very familiar to many from Dakota State. He is an alumnus, having earned his Doctor of Science in information



assurance in 2009. He has also been a faculty member at DSU, teaching courses in computer science, networking, and cyber security from 2006 to 2015. Engebretson has published many articles related to cyber security, and a book titled *The Basics of Hacking and Penetration Testing: Ethical Hacking and Penetration Made Easy*.

In 2015, Engebretson moved to private industry, as Chief Information Officer for East River Electric. East River is a power supply cooperative that delivers wholesale power to over 250,000 homes and businesses in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled to return to DSU in this role. DSU has a long and rich history of educating students and I'm proud to be a part of that," said Engebretson. "The faculty and staff at Dakota State are among the most talented and dedicated individuals I have ever known and I look forward to working with everyone to provide our students the finest educational opportunities in the world."

Engebretson took over for retiring dean Dr. Richard Hanson, who is now the interim director of the Foundation.

Engebretson lives in Madison with his wife, Lori, a retention specialist at DSU, and their daughters Maggie, Molly, and Madelyn.

Dr. David Kenley began his duties as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on June 22, 2020. He had been at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, PA. since 2004, serving in a variety of positions such as history and modern languages department chair and vice president of faculty assembly. His most recent titles at Elizabethtown included professor of history and director of the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking.

Kenley earned his Bachelor of Art degree from Brigham Young University in Asian studies and Chinese literature, a master's degree from University of Utah in Chinese history, and a PhD from University of Hawaii in Chinese history.

He has published several books: "New Culture in a New World: The May Fourth Movement and the Chinese Diaspora;" "Contested Community: Identities, Spaces, and Hierarchies of the Chinese in the Cuban Republic;" and "Modern Chinese History."

"There is so much I am looking forward to at DSU," Kenley said. "Most especially, I am excited to work with the fantastic professors, administrators, and students at Dakota State. As an early adopter of online learning and a proponent of the digital humanities, I am eager to contribute to the university's mission."

Kenley is filling the role formerly held by Dr. Ben Jones, now the Secretary of Education for South Dakota; Dr. Judy Dittman had been acting as interim dean.

Kenley and his wife Wendi look forward to becoming involved in the university and Madison community.



# HESTON HALL CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

LEARNING FROM THE PAST; MOVING TO THE FUTURE

If buildings could talk, what stories they could tell. If Dakota State University's Heston Hall could talk, it would tell two life stories from its 100 years of existence.

The building opened on August 1, 1920 as "The New Madison Hospital." Forty years later a replacement medical facility was built across the street and the state of South Dakota purchased the now old "New Madison

Hospital" in April 1966 for \$85,000 for Dakota State College administration. The building was named after John W. Heston, president from 1905-1920. After a \$436,000 remodeling project, it opened in 1971 with seventeen offices, six executive suites, three conference rooms, a data processing center, a post office, and a printing center.



Whether as a hospital, or a higher education building, both owners have had a similar mission -serving its public.

“Heston Hall proves you can be in a place where you trust that people are going to do their best for you, whether it was as a caregiver or an administrator,” said DSU Registrar Kathy Callies. She was born in the building, in the delivery room that is now the President’s office; she has worked in Heston for most of her adult life.

Callies said when students walk into Heston, they can sense that people in this building have adjusted to change over the last 100 years.



“That can give today’s students confidence that while there’s always change, here is evidence that it can be dealt with, so they can be confident they can adapt.”

There is also a sense of the future. The 100-year-old building now sits right next to

the three-year-old Beacom Institute of Technology where students and faculty work on ideas that are weeks old. That’s a fun, diverse feeling, she said.

“There’s the new and the old showing you can learn from the past and move to the future. I love it.”





## FROM RURAL SOUTH DAKOTA TO INTERNATIONAL STAGE

### ALUMNUS RESEARCHES, TREATS RARE DISORDERS

**MYRL HOLIDA** '81 came to Dakota State from "the middle of nowhere," he said, the little town of Naples, SD, population about 35 people.

Now he is a physician assistant (PA) at the University of Iowa Stead Children's Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa. In addition to seeing patients, he has spent over three decades researching new treatments for lysosomal storage disorders, predominantly Fabry's Disease (a genetic enzyme disorder).

An important stepping stone on his journey was Dakota State University, or Dakota State College (DSC) as it was called in the late 1970s.

"I grew up poor, with no running water or phone at home," said Holida, and he knew he needed to go to college. He considered School of Mines, but that was too far from home; a high school counselor had some connections to Dakota State. "I liked how close it was to home, and the small class size," so he enrolled.

He didn't choose a major at first, "I just took courses that interested me." He graduated in 1981 with a degree in Physical Science and Mathematics Composites, with a biology minor.

A chemistry faculty member, Richard Hinkley, helped Holida when he was having trouble with physics. Hinkley was explaining the concepts, but Holida could see a different method to solve the problems. "Why can't I do it this way?" he asked, and Hinkley answered, "It doesn't matter how you do it, because you're working with the units."

"However you get there, you'll get the answer." Holida said, "Boom! A light bulb went off, and that was good for me."

This academic foundation led him to professional success even before he graduated from DSC. In the first semester of his senior year, he was accepted to an undergraduate research program in chemistry at Argonne National Lab in Illinois. He spent a semester there, then was hired for the next semester to help orient new students in the program. He lived in a dormitory setting with about 65 other students from across the country, "It was a good experience."

After graduation, he was hired at the University of Iowa as a research assistant in the cardiovascular research lab.

A member of the Army National Guard, he had been trained as a medic. An opening came up to train as a physician's assistant through the military, so he went through the Army PA program.

With this degree, he came back to the University of Iowa (U of I), to the pediatric bone marrow transplant division. This involved working with children with leukemia and other malignancies that didn't respond to other therapies. At their peak they did about 50 per year.

After a few years, he moved within the same group to general pediatric oncology, which is where you get to what Holida called "the interesting part of the story."

One of the oncologists at U of I cared for patients with lysosomal storage disorders. These patients lack a certain enzyme, which causes fatty substances to build up in their cells, causing a variety of symptoms. Fabry's Disease is the most prevalent of the lysosomal storage disorders.

"One of the oncologists I worked with had dealt with one of the first diseases that had an enzyme therapy approved by the FDA," Holida said. He invited Holida to become involved with the research on this disorder, and "that's how it all started that I now do work with very special rare diseases."

In addition to caring for patients with Fabry, he has had the unique opportunity to be a principal investigator on numerous clinical trials, something unusual for a PA. His experience with Fabry and clinical trials has allowed him to be a speaker at international meetings, a highlight of his career.

His Dakota State education was the basis for this, as it "covered all the basic sciences I needed for medicine," Holida said. "My education was very comparable to other people I have interacted with in my career."

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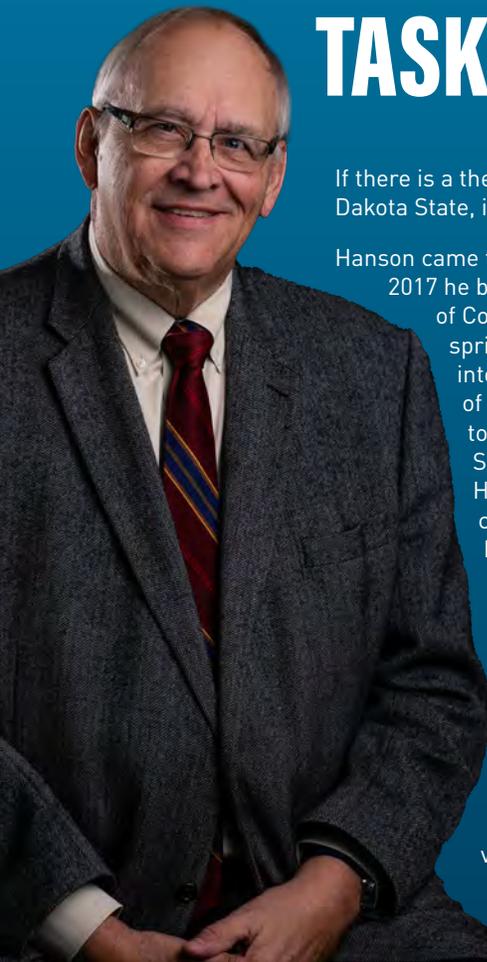
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## HANSON TAKES ON TRANSITIONAL TASK WITH FOUNDATION



If there is a theme for Dr. Richard Hanson's time at Dakota State, it would be "transition."

Hanson came to DSU in 2016 as interim provost; in 2017 he became Dean of The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences; this spring he moved into the position of Assistant to President - Special Projects. He is also the current interim Foundation Director.

"Interim leadership is one of those very important tasks for universities, and I see my time at the DSU Foundation and Alumni Association as one of transition," Hanson said.

The department's purpose is also very important, he stated.

"THE DSU FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SERVE TO ACQUIRE SUPPORTIVE GIFTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY, MANAGE ENDOWMENTS AND OTHER ASSETS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND PROVIDE STEWARDSHIP TO DONORS AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY."

"The DSU Foundation and Alumni Association serve to acquire supportive gifts for the university, manage endowments and other assets for the support of the university, and provide stewardship to donors and friends of the university."

Hanson has been in higher education for almost 50 years, including six years as President of Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College in Minnesota, and

ten years as Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Augustana University in Sioux Falls. He was also at North Dakota State University for many years, as a faculty member, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and interim President.

The hope is to have a permanent Foundation director in place in early 2021.

# DEDICATED. DISTINGUISHED. DSU ALUMNS

**FIVE DSU ALUMNS WERE HONORED WITH THE ANNUAL OUTSTANDING ALUMNS AWARDS AT THE HOMECOMING GAME ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3.**



## **Outstanding Alumni – Coach of the Year – Josh Conklin**

### **2003 BS Physical Education**

Josh Conklin is entering his third season as head coach of the Wofford College (SC) football team. In the his first two seasons as head coach he led the Terriers to back-to-back Southern Conference Championships and reached the NCAA FCS Playoffs.

“Josh is the complete package,” said Wofford College Director of Athletics Richard Johnson, citing his depth and breadth of external experience. Conklin had previous experience at Wofford as an assistant coach. Conklin has additional experience as defensive coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh, Florida International, Tennessee, and The Citadel. Conklin’s coaching career was launched at South Dakota State, where he served as a graduate assistant in 2003 and 2004. He then was promoted to a full-time post with the Jackrabbits, coaching the secondary and special teams in 2005 and 2006.

Conklin, a native of Gillette, Wyoming, is a 2003 graduate of Dakota State University. He was a starting linebacker and Academic All-American for the Trojans. In addition to his bachelor’s in physical education from DSU, Conklin also earned a master’s in sport administration from South Dakota State. He and his wife, Molly, have three children - sons Clark and Davis and daughter Millie.



## **Outstanding Alumni – Young Alumni – Michael Anderson**

### **2009 BS Biology Education**

Michael Anderson graduated from Dakota State University in 2009 after completing his science student teaching position in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After teaching in high poverty, high minority schools for the first four years of his career, Michael realized he had to do something to fill the language barriers teachers were experiencing due the high percentage of Spanish speaking families. Michael and his new wife, Madison, moved to Ecuador on a two-year, full Spanish immersion adventure where they lived and taught in an Ecuadorian school. Upon returning to the United States, it was Michael’s desire to have a broader effect on the world of education.

Since 2015, Michael has been a middle school administrator. He is currently an assistant principal and athletic director at Jenkins Middle School in Colorado Springs, where he assists teachers and staff, and serves nearly 1,000 students. Because of the skills he acquired while in South America, he supports families as the school’s Spanish translator.

Michael is an avid mountain biker and outdoorsman. He cherishes the moments he can spend with his family in the mountains. Nothing makes Michael prouder and more delighted than the experiences he shares with his wife and their two daughters Callie (3 years) and Rose (2 years).



### **Outstanding Alumni – Educator – Laura Biagi**

#### **2011 BS Education Technology**

Laura Biagi has been teaching for nine years, beginning at Brandon Valley, and is currently teaching 4th grade in Chester Schools (SD). Her favorite thing about teaching is seeing the teachable moments take action. The core subjects are important, but she strives to make her students the best humans they can be. This past year she was awarded Teacher of the Year for the Chester Area School District. Biagi was also named One of the Top Five Outstanding Teachers by Keloland Living.

Biagi gets to know her students on a personal level. They are her “kids.” She builds relationships with every student that walks through her door and continues that as they grow, even beyond her classroom. She wants them to succeed and helps anyway she can, by staying late to help kids with work, or taking her work home to better herself so she can help these kids the best she can. She is in constant contact with parents of her students.

Laura lives in Madison with her husband Greg and their four children.



### **Outstanding Alumni – Service to Alma Mater – Arden Jones**

#### **1978 BS History Education**

Arden Jones is a 1978 graduate of Dakota State College with a degree in history education. Jones' involvement with DSU began in 2008 when his youngest daughter Cari (a 2012 graduate) started her college career at DSU. Jones volunteered for the Alumni Board in 2009, and was instrumental in establishing the Alumni Tailgating events we see today. During his time on the board, Jones has been vice president, president, and now serves as past president of the group.

Jones has been very involved in moving the board to the great place they are in today. Although he never used his degree to teach, he feels his DSU education helped propel him to a great career in sales for over 40 years. He sold his interest in his company, Concept Sales, earlier this year, and continues to work for the company through this transition.

Jones's family consists of his wife Debra, three daughters, and four grandchildren. He resides in Hartford, SD, where he is also on the city council.



### **Outstanding Alumni – Professional Achievement – Matt Paulson**

#### **2008 BS Computer Science, and 2009 MS Information Systems**

Matt Paulson is the founder and CEO of MarketBeat, an Inc. 5000 financial media company that publishes stock market news, data, and research tools. MarketBeat was recognized as the fastest-growing privately held company in South Dakota by Inc. Magazine in 2016 and has since been recognized by Barron's, Entrepreneur Magazine and several other publications for its continued growth and success. Receiving more than 15 million monthly page views, MarketBeat is arguably South Dakota's widest-reaching vertical media company.

As an active private equity investor, Paulson has invested in more than 60 small businesses and high-growth startups, including Buffer, Dollar Shave Club, Lime, Lyft, Ripple, and Wikia. He also serves as the chairman of Falls Angel Fund, which makes early-stage capital investments in high-growth companies in South Dakota and surrounding states.

In 2019, Paulson founded Startup Sioux Falls, a community organization that aims to connect founders with each other and with the startup ecosystem. He provides leadership to several other startup organizations and events, including 1 Million Cups, Hey Sioux Falls, Innovation Expo, and the Zeal Center for Entrepreneurship. He has also published eight business and personal finance books.

Paulson also has an MA in Christian Leadership from Sioux falls Seminary, and provides volunteer leadership to several area non-profits and local political campaigns. Additionally, he was recently named the Small Business Champion of the Year by the South Dakota Small Business Administration.

He lives in Sioux Falls with his wife, Karine, and his two children, Micah and Adylin.

# Make a difference SERVES DSU ALUMNA WHO

Susan Koch's entire life has revolved around higher education.

It began the moment she was born in the New Madison Hospital, which is now DSU's Heston Hall. Koch "literally grew up on the campus attending events with my family," she said. After graduating from General Beadle, she continued a professional career in education, which recently concluded when she retired as Chancellor of the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS).

"I hope my years as an educator, both as a professor and as an administrator, have helped prepare students for success both in their profession and as contributing members of their community."

That is the whole point of being a leader in this field, Koch said.

This "make a difference" attitude is something she saw growing up in Madison, the daughter of William

*"The reason someone becomes an educator is to fulfill their aspiration to make a difference in the lives of students."*

Bulfer, a long-time faculty member and coach. As a General Beadle student, Koch remembers professors always being accessible to students, "knowing every student by name, being interested in them, and setting high expectations for performance. Classes were small enough that each one felt like a community."

After Koch graduated in 1971 with an education degree, she taught high school for a few years, then earned master's and doctoral degrees, became a professor at University of Northern Iowa, and most recently Chancellor of UIS. Throughout her career, she has dealt with many issues affecting universities.



# ference attitude

## ELL IN HIGHER ED CAREER

The plethora of new and ever-advancing technologies is generally good, “but universities need to do everything possible to ensure students (as well as faculty and staff) are technology literate,” Koch said.

Affordability has become a serious concern for many students, she stated.

“I think my own undergraduate tuition was around \$250 per semester and I graduated with very little debt. Today, the average undergraduate student debt upon graduation is about \$26,000, and college debt can follow a student for years beyond graduation. That’s a problem.”

She also found that there is no doubt the “glass ceiling” still exists for women in higher education leadership, although progress has been made and there are many more prominent women leaders in higher education today.

“I have always taken seriously my responsibility as a role model for aspiring women leaders. I hope my contributions have served to inspire other women to pursue leadership opportunities,” she said.

Balancing work life, family life and personal life was another challenge. Dr. Koch and her husband, Dennis Koch, are the parents of four children and the grandparents of ten. Her husband is engaged in agribusiness and the Kochs raise and show purebred Angus cattle.

“When I started my higher education career in the mid-1980s, I was the only woman in a large academic department who had a spouse and children – that was pretty unusual. I had to be organized and focused at all times; but I loved the teaching and research and had wonderful colleagues. There were certainly missteps along the way, but I hope I learned from them.”

Throughout her career, Koch has been open to new experiences in order to enhance her ability to move forward, to learn, and be ready for the future.

“Saying ‘yes’ to every possible opportunity and always being a ‘student of leadership’ has enabled me to work with and learn from some exceptional people and in some amazing locations including China, Syria, Kuwait, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Peru, Cuba, Haiti and Argentina,” she said.

In 1995, she participated in the United Nation’s Fourth World Conference on Women in China, and was in the audience when Hillary Clinton pronounced that: “Women’s rights are human rights,” a radical idea at the time. Meeting women from around the world who were working with great dedication to advance opportunities for women was unforgettable, she stated.

“There have also been decision-makers along the way who have given me a chance at key points in my career. I’ll always be grateful for those opportunities and I hope I’ve lived up to their expectations.” In addition, “I also hope my work mentoring many colleagues over the years has helped advance their careers and their sense of achievement.”

For others considering involvement in higher education leadership, she advises, “You need a lifetime commitment to learning and you need to make choices constantly that will provide you with the experience necessary to lead. You also need to learn to be a great team player and to truly enjoy and appreciate the interests and contributions of others. Any leadership role requires courage and determination.”



# LOYAL TO BLUE



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO DSU ADVANCEMENT

“Every graduate of Dakota State automatically joins the Alumni Association,” said Carrie Slaathaug, Director of Alumni and Family Engagement.

The Alumni Association was first organized in 1926 as the Eastern Alumni Organization. Today the association is governed by a 15-person board, made up of volunteer members who serve three-year terms, explained Mike Halverson, Alumni Board President. Current board members represent graduates from locations across the country and graduation years ranging from 1962 to 2019.

The Alumni Board helps plan events, lines up speakers, and selects alumni to receive recognition and awards. The goal of the board is to serve as a primary link between the university and its family of alumni across the country, keeping them engaged in the university community, Halverson explained. Additionally, the board is dedicated to “providing services, activities, and programming that further the goals and mission of the University.”

These efforts help Slaathaug with her goal as director to be more visible to alumni and create an identity that DSU alumni will recognize.

“Our Loyal to Blue slogan and graphic appears on almost everything we do,” she said, “I would like to inspire our alumni to proudly talk about their DSU story.

Be proud of your alma mater, tell everyone about DSU, wear our logo, recommend us to a high school senior, and promote the University at all times.”

With help from the alumni board, Slaathaug hosts a variety of alumni events, from homecoming celebrations and service events to an ongoing series called Third Thursdays. Every third Thursday of the month, the Alumni Association hosts events in various formats: sometimes they’re Lunch and Learns; other times they’re evening socials like a night at Great Shots in Sioux Falls.

As the country begins to recover from the COVID pandemic, Slaathaug hopes to help remote board members across the country plan events in their areas. Some ideas are watch parties for DSU athletic games and Saturday morning breakfasts.

There are many ways alumni can get involved at Dakota State. Some of these include attending athletic, arts, or academic events, networking with fellow alumni, volunteer with alumni events, or join the Alumni Board, and simply stay informed. Ways to stay informed include receiving the email newsletter, checking the alumni pages on DSU’s website, and following the association on Facebook and Twitter.

Another way to help the mission is to share your story. “We are building a network of alumni willing to share their experience with our students, as we know those stories are a powerful retention tool with our current students,” Halverson said. “Our alumni are our best ambassadors and we know they tell the DSU story with an unmatched passion.”

The Alumni Board is currently looking for five additional alumni to be active members. If you are interested, please contact a board member or the Alumni Office at 605-256-5009.

“Remember you’re only a DSU student for a few years, but you’re a Trojan for life,” Halverson said.

## NEW MEMBERS

### CODY WELU

After earning an undergraduate, master’s, and PhD at Dakota State, Cody Welu is now an Assistant Professor in The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences. Welu is grateful for his experience at DSU and is proud to be a part of DSU’s growing reputation as a national leader in cybersecurity education. His positive experiences at DSU inspired him to join the alumni board this spring.

### VICTORIA SOPKO

Sopko, a 2017 elementary education graduate living in Arizona, joined the Alumni Board this summer. Attending an alumni event in Scottsdale, AZ earlier this year inspired her to join the board. “I realized I want to become more involved with my alma mater because of all the opportunities the school has given me,” she said.

# SCHOLARSHIP OPENS DOOR TO *Big Dreams*

## ‘It’s a privilege to be a scholarship recipient’

Kazzi Foster Teel '00 had what she called a “crazy dream” for her college experience.



“Raising my son and getting my education were the two most important things at the time,” she said, “but it was also my dream to play basketball.”

Dakota State gave her the opportunity to do all three. “DSU was willing to take me as I was and understood

that my situation was different than a traditional student.”

It was a challenge to balance classes, practice, hold down a job, and be a parent, even with the support of her family in nearby Colton, SD. Girls’ Basketball Head Coach Jeff Dittman and Assistant Coach Judy Dittman suggested she apply for the LeRoy and Janet Thomas Annual Scholarship for single parents. It would pay for tuition, books, and provide a daycare stipend.

“I never saw myself as somebody to ask for help,” Foster Teel said. “I always thought if I worked really hard, I could do it.” But she took the time to apply, writing an essay about her life, her goals, her dreams. When she got the call that she’d been selected, it was an answered prayer.

“It changed everything for me and took massive amounts of pressure off,” she stated. It also “opened my eyes to the fact that somebody was opening a door for me to do bigger things.”

Foster Teel said, “it’s a privilege to be a scholarship recipient, but also a tremendous responsibility [because] somebody was willing to invest in me, a student they didn’t know.” She resolved to use it wisely and do the best she could, on the court, and in her career.

A transfer student coming to DSU, “when I walked into that first basketball practice, I felt like I was at home,” she said.

“The friendships that I made there were absolutely life-changing. It’s awesome being a part of a group of young women that had this bond.” She stays in touch with them to this day.

For the next three years, the team worked towards their big dreams of being able to win a conference championship, and play in a national tournament. Her senior year they reached those goals.

“We were the first women’s team to ever compete at that level, and we still hold the school record for the most wins,” she said, with 25 wins in the 1999-2000 season.

Foster Teel graduated with a Biology for Education degree in December 2000, then went to work for Wells Fargo for 10 years. “I loved the fast-paced business environment.” She worked in a business development role, teaching the sales process to employees, utilizing skills learned with her teaching degree. She also used the technology skills she’d learned.

“DSU was light-years ahead when it came to technology,” she said, instructing students in programs such as PowerPoint and Excel. “We had the technology skills in addition to what we needed to know from the textbook.”

Foster Teel is now a business owner and entrepreneur in sports and fitness instruction (kazziTeel.com). Her son is a Dakota State University graduate as well; he has a degree in biology for information systems and is working in the renewable energy industry.

She advises students do all they can to make the most of their education by applying for scholarships. “Don’t look back and wish you could have done more.”

“I’ve never forgotten that the Thomases invested in me, and I want them to know I’ll be forever grateful to them for taking a chance on me.”



## FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

Contact Development Officer  
Jill Ruhd at 605-256-5650.

# YOUR SUPPORT BY THE NUMBERS



**\$230,000**

raised through gifts of  
\$500 or less

**74%**

of students receive  
financial aid



**987**

students received  
DSU scholarships

**\$89,300**

raised through gifts  
of \$100 or less



**\$1,989,431**

awarded scholarships

**\$17,830**

Average annual tuition  
\$16,684 for SD residents

**56%**

Faculty/  
Staff Giving Rate

“As the economic landscape for higher education continues to shift, annual gifts are vital to sustain Dakota State University’s core mission – creating and sharing knowledge and providing the best educational experience possible for students. At DSU, the annual fund is the ‘foundation’ of financial support coming into the University. The fund provides for the Phonathon, direct mail appeals, and faculty-staff campaigns. It also provides flexible resources to support university, school, and college priorities which help us create a competitive advantage in the challenging world of higher education.”

Dr. Richard Hanson

**Contact Information:**

Dakota State University Foundation  
325 NE 2nd Street  
Madison, SD 57042

[dsu.edu/give](http://dsu.edu/give) | [advancement@dsu.edu](mailto:advancement@dsu.edu) | 605-256-5693

# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

## DSU Phonathon: more than just a job

DSU's Phonathon means more to students than just a part-time job. The fundraising venture also makes an impact that hits close to home.

Jacob Rogers, one of the student workers who serves as a Phonathon caller, says "Phonathon is a great environment, and the people I work with are great." A member of the Trojan football team, he particularly appreciates the flexible hours, but as a scholarship recipient himself, he realizes the importance of the work.

"It's great to do this and help get donations for scholarships. I'm on a scholarship, so it helps me, too."

Development Officer Jill Molstad Ruhd '07 (Business Administration), is in charge of the Phonathon.

"Scholarship dollars are a large need which continues to increase each year," Ruhd said. "Even though most donations to the DSU Phonathon are small amounts, they add up and allow the Foundation to help students at DSU get a great education." The funds also help with college and departmental needs and other special projects, such as keeping an organization running or attending conferences.

About 14 students work the phones each semester. They gain excellent skills in communication, customer service, negotiating, sales, etc. said Ruhd, who was a caller during her college days.

"They also learn about Dakota State University and make great connections with donors and alumni." Sometimes, she stated, "they receive advice about their future and careers from alumni who have been in their shoes before."

Last fall Rogers called a couple while they were on a ski trip in Colorado. They donate annually, so told him it would be an "easy donation," but he asked about their trip, and they asked about his major (Cyber Operations).

"It's cool that DSU has those people to call who want to and are happy to donate," Rogers said. A native of Sutton, Nebr., he expects to graduate in 2023. Rogers chose DSU over other schools because "they had my major and I got to play football and stay pretty close to home."

Phonathon began in the early 1990s, and has been based out of Heston Hall, Lowry Hall, and now the Kringen building. Jona Schmidt, Director of Major and Planned Gifts, remembers the relationships built during Phonathon.

"President [Jerry] Tunheim would come in and talk to the alumni and callers, as would President [Doug] Knowlton," Schmidt recalled. "They would just drop in and say hello. That made it a lot of fun and a good bonding experience for the people."

Still, there was a serious side to the work. "The callers understood what they were there for, and Jill does a good job instilling the importance of the work in her student callers when she trains them," Schmidt said.

Dates for the spring Phonathon are tentatively set for January 24 to April 18.





# STUDENT ATHLETES FACE NEW OPPONENT COVID-19

The North Star Athletic Association(NSAA) announced a pause to its spring season in early March when the COVID-19 pandemic started, suspending all spring sports activities through the end of March. Later that month, the NAIA officially announced its decision to cancel all spring national championships. The NSAA followed that path and decided to cancel all spring sports contests and conference tournaments.

These decisions impacted our student-athletes in a number of ways.

# NICOLE STEWART

## SOFTBALL

Nicole Stewart, who majors in Exercise Science, was entering her fourth and final year of playing softball at Dakota State University.

Stewart was with her teammates for their annual spring break trip in Tucson, AZ. “I was playing my last games in Arizona,” she said, when she found out that her softball season would be ending. “We weren’t told the official news until after our last game. I remembered struggling with the emotions that my family was not able to be there for the games and that this game may be my last.”

Stewart said, “I felt they were just trying to play it safe and keep everyone healthy. At the same time, softball at DSU and in the NAIA level does not have many fans that come out to our games, so why not let us finish the season after all the work we put into it?”

Stewart, who plans to graduate this fall, made her decision to end her stellar four-year softball career at DSU. “I decided that it was my time to hang up the cleats and give 110% to the school and start my career after this semester,” said Stewart. “I appreciate all that DSU softball has given me.”

She did finish her final career collegiate softball career with a bang.

“I was in a hitting slump during the entire time in Arizona and finally ended my last game strong.” She also finished as the all-time home runs with 22 and doubles with 51 at Dakota State. She was also a three-time North Star Athletic Association Softball All-Conference First-Team, and holds numerous ‘Top 10’ school records. During DSU Athletics virtual awards show in June, Stewart was one of the three athletes for being named to the Most Outstanding Female Athlete-of-the-Year.

Stewart and her teammates faced daunting challenges with the adjustments to remote learning, trying to complete the spring semester instead of face-to-face learning on campus.

“I struggled,” admitted Stewart. “I live in a house with five other people and we all have to study in our rooms and manage with some people needing quiet time and others getting out of their rooms to take a break. Wi-fi for six people, at the same time, isn’t the best situation, either.”

Stewart provided some advance to the underclassmen on how to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. “Try and be flexible because your coaches, professors, bosses, etc., don’t know much information before you know. Try not to stress, everyone is in the same boat right now.”

# JOBIE MCCREARY

## TRACK & FIELD



Jobie McCreary, a thrower on the Trojan track and field team, had one final chance to make a national qualifying mark for the NAIA Track & Field National Championships. She had high expectations to qualify for the outdoor nationals in throwing events, but her dream came to a crushing end after the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the world in March.

“I was preparing to make a transition into outdoor season,” she said. “Since it was my senior year, I did not know what to do and was not ready to be done throwing so soon.”

After finding out when the NAIA and NSAA announced its cancellation of the spring sports season, McCreary had mixed feelings about the decision. “I kind of wish they would have waited a little longer just so the seniors that weren’t going back could get a couple meets in, but I also think they made the right decisions on cancelling things, and giving the seniors an opportunity to come back next year to give us all another chance and to keep people safe and healthy.”

After spring break, McCreary “adjusted really well to remote online learning,” but ultimately made the decision to end her track and field career. “I sadly decided not to continue playing sports because I plan to do the accelerated nursing program through South Dakota State University,” said McCreary. A Biology for Information Systems major, she is currently working at Valiant Living, but also looking for a job in Sioux Falls.

McCreary’s last track and field season was at the 2020 North Star Athletic Association Indoor Track & Field Conference Championships at Sanford-Jackrabbit Athletic Complex in Brookings, SD. She finished second in the weight throw event, tossing 14.57 meters (47 feet, 9.75 inches). She also placed fifth in the shot-put toss of 10.75 meters (35 feet, 3.25 inches).

She offered some advice to the underclassmen on how to deal with this COVID-19 pandemic. “Make sure you live life to its fullest because you never know what could happen nowadays.”

Still, with uncertainty around sporting activities, “I would definitely recommend students to be active and participate in sports,” McCreary said. “It contributed to my college experience because I was able to meet way more people, stay focused on school, and be able to compete and show others what I could do.”

McCreary holds the three ‘Top 10’ weight throw marks in the DSU women’s indoor track & field school record, including a second-best all-time throw of 50 feet, 4 inches in 2019. She is also listed in two ‘Top 10’ marks in the outdoor track & field school record book (third all-time best hammer throw and ninth best javelin throw, both in 2019). She was also a three-time North Star Athletic Association All-Conference recipient (two times indoor and one time outdoor). She captured the NSAA indoor weight throw and outdoor hammer throw titles in 2019.

# MAXWELL CRUSE

## TRACK & FIELD

Coming off one of the most memorable seasons in 2019-20 academic year, Maxwell Cruse was looking forward to his final outdoor track season last spring at Dakota State after earning his first NAIA All-American recognition.

He had begun the year by fueling the Trojans to its back-to-back North Star Athletic Association Cross Country and Indoor Track & Field conference titles and was looking forward to adding another back-to-back NSAA Outdoor Track & Field Conference Championships last spring.

Cruse was in Madison, training for the outdoor track season when the NSAA and NAIA announced the decision to cancel the spring sports seasons. Cruse had mixed emotions. "I was upset initially because it felt like an overreaction at first and it was going to end my collegiate career. In hindsight, it was the right decision to shut down the season." Cruse only had online classes during his spring semester at DSU so didn't have any adjustment following the shutdown.

After the NAIA granted another season of eligibility to all spring sports student-athletes who were impacted COVID-19, Cruse was eager to return to DSU. "I have decided to continue training and return in the spring for my final outdoor track season," said Cruse. "I chose to do this because I already had my undergraduate degree and I could just push my graduate degree graduation date back to the next year." Cruse, a Computer Science major, is currently living and working in Sioux Falls as a software engineer.

"I also chose to continue competing because I feel like I can be successful in outdoor track and compete at the national level," added Cruse. He had qualified for the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field National Championships in his previous three seasons at Dakota State.

Cruse's last track and field meet was at the 2020 NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships at Sanford-Jackrabbit Athletic Complex in Brookings, SD. last March. He secured a spot in the national men's 5000-meter run finals after clocking a time of 14 minutes, 51.40 seconds in the semifinals. His teammate, Braden Curnow, also qualified for the national finals in the 5000-meters. Cruse captured his first NAIA All-America honor at DSU after finishing seventh in the national finals with a time of 14 minutes, 54.14 seconds.

"Continue training [during the COVID-19 pandemic]," Cruse advises underclassmen. "It's easy to lose focus, but it will be worth it in the long run."

For new students, he strongly encourages them to be involved in sports and come to Dakota State, even with the uncertainty around sporting activities, but encourages incoming freshman to consider taking a year off and waiting to compete. "It will save your eligibility for the future when we have more meets and races," explained Cruse.

"Running meant the world to me during college. I immediately made life-long friends and became a part of a family in cross country and track teams. I owe all of my success to my coaches and teammates, and I definitely wouldn't have been as successful academically if it weren't for the cross country and track programs."

Cruse's successful running career at Dakota State included 3-time North Star Athletic Association Cross Country All-Conference runner, 5-time NSAA Indoor Track & Field All-Conference, and 4-time NSAA Outdoor Track & Field All-Conference. His academic achievements at DSU include being named to Daktronics-NAIA national and NSAA



# ESAI HERNANDEZ

## BASEBALL

Esai Hernandez is a member of the trojan baseball team, and is earning a degree in physical education.

He was in Tucson, AZ, with other Trojan baseball teammates when he found out the news about the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I was a little upset about the decision, but safety is always first," Hernandez said.

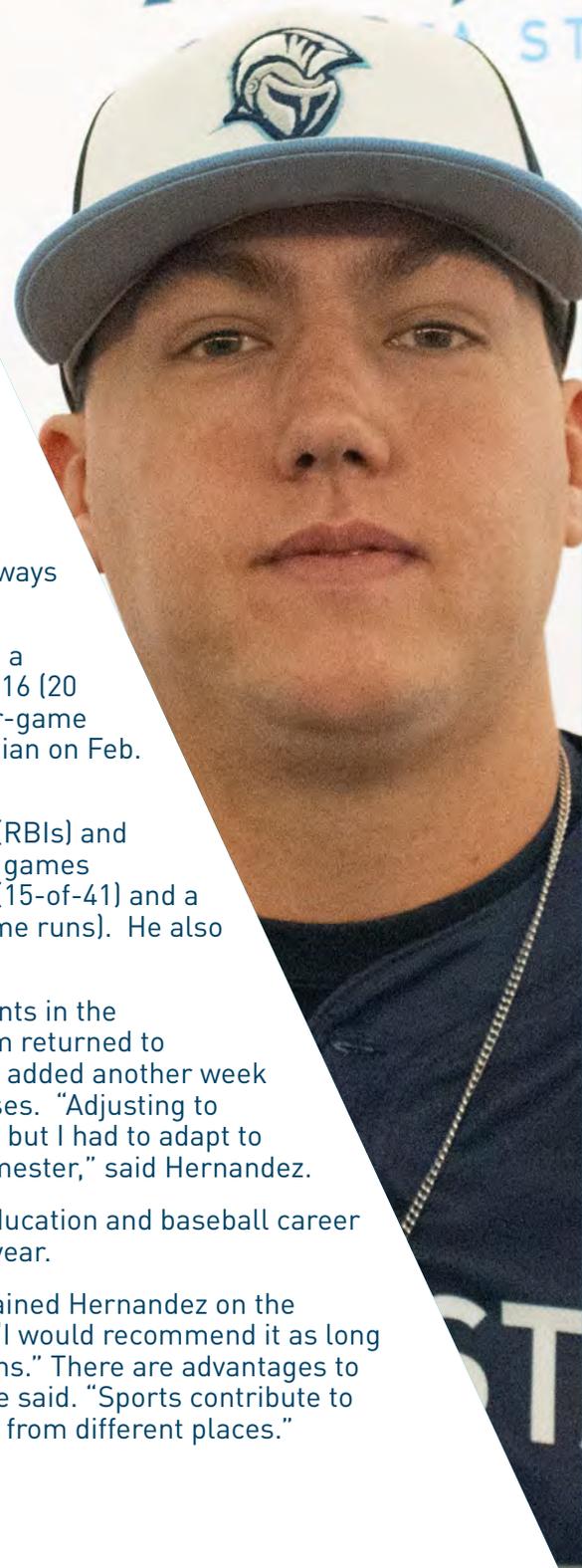
Dakota State finished the 2020 baseball season with a 6-9 overall record, recording its most wins since 2016 (20 victories). The Trojans also registered its first four-game series sweep since 2014, sweeping Kansas Christian on Feb. 27-28.

Hernandez led the team with 15 runs batted in (RBIs) and three home runs for the Trojans in 2020. In 13 games played, he recorded a batting average of .366 (15-of-41) and a slugging percentage of .732 (6 doubles, 3 home runs). He also scored 14 runs.

Hernandez faced challenges and adjustments in the classrooms when the Trojan baseball team returned to Madison from the spring break trip. DSU added another week of spring break before resuming to classes. "Adjusting to remote learning was a little frustrating, but I had to adapt to online classes midway through the semester," said Hernandez.

Hernandez decided to continue his education and baseball career at DSU for the 2020-2021 academic year.

"Take it slow and be positive," explained Hernandez on the uncertainty with sports activities. "I would recommend it as long as they take the proper precautions." There are advantages to participating in college sports, he said. "Sports contribute to getting to know different people from different places."



# 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](http://dsuathletics.com)



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# STUDENTS ADAPT TO W

## 2020 MARKS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ALL-FEMALE FOOTBALL TEAM

Innovation has been the name of the game at Dakota State for decades, and in 1945, the game was football.

World War II had just ended, and students at Eastern State Teachers College were eager to bring back traditions that had been cancelled during the war, including the annual homecoming football game.

Fielding a team was going to be a challenge: only three members of the student body were male, so the students decided to recruit the women on campus to play a tackle football game.

"A bunch of us were sitting around after gym class and we thought, if we're going to have homecoming, we've got to have a football game," said Susie Lowry, who was a freshman in 1945. (Susie's last name may look familiar; her father, V.A. Lowry, was president of the college at the time. Lowry Hall, a former residence hall located where MadLabs was built, was named for him.)

Some of the female students had never even seen a football game before, including Joyce (Rave) Evans. When the two teams held a reunion in 2001,

she was quoted as saying "Football didn't impress us farm girls much."

Still, "we decided we should have a game of our own," Lowry said in an article written by Robert C. Nelles. He was one of the male students in the fall of 1945, and wrote about the game in the 1995 "History of Lake County."

A 2011 "South Dakota Magazine" article on the team quoted another team member, Pauline (Grytness) Lunde. "Gas was rationed. Tires were rationed. We couldn't just get in the car and go like they can today. We had to make our own fun."

Twenty-three students (about half the student body) were divided into two teams. Eleven lived in town, twelve in the dorms, creating a natural rivalry between the "Townies" and "Dormies." They held a few practices before the big game day with their team coaches, college physical education teacher Leota Van Ornum, and the campus high school football coach Robert Ormseth.

The next challenge was finding uniforms. Since the college jerseys and pads hadn't been worn since 1941, they were worse for wear, but the on-campus high school and local public school had enough to borrow. "The girls were spunky, and they made do with what was available," Nelles wrote in the



# WORLD SITUATION - IN 1945

history book. Townies wore blue, Dormies took gold.

The game was set for Saturday, October 20, 1945, and was promoted in the local paper with the headline "Football Game To Be Played By Debs." Nelles and Paul Tommeraasen, two of the three male students, were pressed into service as game officials; the third male student was married and was on child care that day.

"We tried to be almost real, with huddles and all that," said Lowry. "There was a lot of clowning around. A few of us fell down, just to make it look good, but it wasn't really rough or anything."

The game was scoreless through the first half, then Doris Treloar of the Dormies scored a touchdown; Townie's Nancy Baughman answered with a touchdown of their own. Then, Nelles wrote, "A.E. Swan, the college librarian who was serving as the referee, considered that an opportune moment to end the contest on an amiable note. Either that or he was tired and wanted to go home, as a rumor later alleged." That ended the game in a 7-7 tie.

*"Those of us who were a part of the event will always remember what a fun time it really was."*

*Robert C. Nelles*

This was not the first all-female football team in the state. In 1926, an all-girls team from Cavour beat the Lake Preston boys 13-7, an event that made the national news. Still, Nelles said the DSU women students

"have to be given credit for putting on a good show and restoring homecoming to the campus."

"Those of us who were a part of the event will always remember what a fun time it really was."

In 1946, a men's team played the homecoming game, but homecoming parades weren't held again until the mid-1950s.

*Photo: A group of women's football players from Eastern. Back Row: Mary Pardy, Beverly Coombs, Marlys Bower, Doris Treloar, Muriel Tupper, Joyce Rave, Nancy Baughman, Susie Lowry. Middle Row: Anna Ruth Lang, Dorothy Carper, Phyllis Linafelter, Ruth Hart, Joyce Walters, Beverly Rubin, Barbara Stearns, Captain. Front Row: Donna Haley, Laurel Caldwell, Dona Keiner, Jeanette Johnson, Carol Weber, Elaine Norris, Captain, Janis Holsworth, Pauline Grytness. Photo courtesy of Barbara Stearns Turner.*

# ESPORTS PROGRAM FIRST NATIONAL IN FIRST



In its first athletic season, Dakota State esports student athletes competed against teams from across the nation -- University of Tennessee, University of Kansas, University of Texas, University of Michigan, Syracuse and more.

The student athletes earn spots on teams organized by the game being played. This allows students to play the game they've developed skills in. Several of these teams -- Rainbow 6, Hearthstone, Heroes of the Storm, and Magic the Gathering Arena -- competed nationally with great success. Heroes of the Storm and Magic the Gathering Arena teams both placed in the top 10 of their national tournaments.

In addition to competing nationally, some teams had the opportunity to compete with teams and clubs at other South Dakota schools like School of Mines and SDSU, according to Andy Roland, Esports Coach.

Individually, student-athletes were triumphant as well. Student athlete Zach Tchida, a DSU sophomore, finished within the top 20% in the world in the world's largest Smash Ultimate tournament held in downtown Detroit.

DSU also held their own Smash tournament. "We hosted the largest Smash tournament in South Dakota history right here in the TC Underground, where \$1,000+ in prizes were handed out," Roland shared.

The first year of the esports program exceeded expectations in competition and number of participants. Ninety-eight student athletes competed in nine different games -- League of Legends, Overwatch, Rocket League, Smite, Rainbow 6, CS:GO, Hearthstone, Heroes of the Storm, and Magic the Gathering Arena.

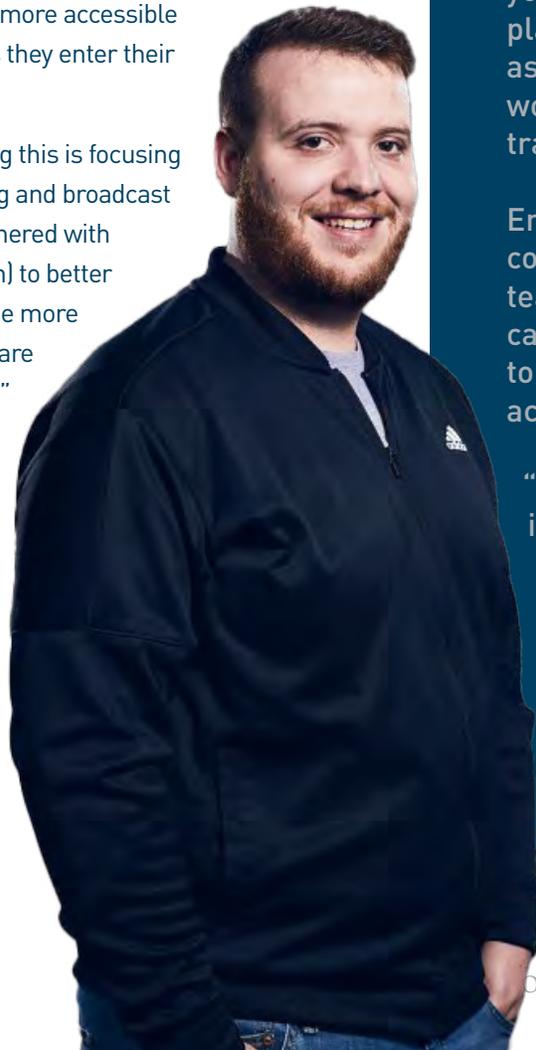
# INDS SUCCESS YEAR

“The number one thing I enjoyed last season was running the organization along with some of the best and brightest students,” Roland said. “The experience of working with our athletes and teaching them how to become leaders and team members is something most of these students would not have if this organization did not exist.”

This year there will be 103 student athletes competing in 11 games with the addition of VALORANT and Call of Duty teams. Roland hopes to make everything they are doing inside the esports organization more accessible to the general DSU audience as they enter their second year.

“One way we are aiming at doing this is focusing our efforts on our live streaming and broadcast efforts,” he said. “We have partnered with KDSU (the campus radio station) to better accomplish this goal and provide more opportunities for students who are interested in media on campus.”

Keep up with [esportsteams](#) and athletes on their [Twitter page @DSU\\_Esports](#) or the [DSU Athletics website](#), and visit [twitch.com/DSUEsports](https://www.twitch.tv/DSUEsports) to watch matches.



## PROFESSIONAL ESPORTS ATHLETE JOINS ESPORTS ORGANIZATION AS ASSISTANT COACH

Nicolas Engle, a Yankton, SD native, has brought his experience as a professional esports athlete to DSU’s organization.

Engle began his competitive career in Call of Duty competitions before taking up PC gaming. He played CSGO in the Cervo Pro League and finished his career playing public and private Fortnite events.

“Esports is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week sport that does not take days off, and if you want to make it as a professional player where you have hundreds of millions of players trying to make their name as a professional player you have to work harder and longer than most traditional sport athletes,” he said.

Engle’s experience in professional competitions and work with esports teams and individuals in a teaching capacity will help guide DSU teams to success in competitions and academics.

“His perspective of the gaming industry and general attitude toward esports and student development is invaluable as someone who is in an influential position,” said Andy Roland, head esports coach. “As a former player he understands the needs of an athlete as well as the expectations of a legitimate organization.”

# GOLFING

## “FORE” SCHOLARSHIPS

### SUMMER TOURNAMENTS DRAW NEARLY 300 PARTICIPANTS

Dakota State held their two annual golf tournaments this summer. Both were sponsored by First PREMIER Bank and PREMIER Bankcard.

“We have had great support for our two golf tournaments this summer, and we are very appreciative of the title sponsorship of First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bank Card and all the other businesses that provided sponsorships, pin prizes, and raffle items for us,” said Jeff Dittman, DSU Athletic Director. “And, thank you to everyone that came out to golf. These dollars are extremely important to our 475 student-athletes and their opportunity to attend DSU and play collegiate sports for us.”

On July 24, 130 golfers participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> annual **TROJAN SCRAMBLE** at The Country Club in Sioux Falls. Results for the competition included:

#### FIRST FLIGHT:



First place: Logan Denning, Rocky Nelson, Michael Neugebauer, and Michael Plooster

Second place: Nick Bahr, Kyle Schievelbein, Randall Shannon, and Nick Weets (Madison Lawn Care)

#### SECOND FLIGHT:



First place: Krista Martinson, Bart Wiley, Chance Stoesser, and Troy Fox (Fox Print)

Second place: Russell Olson, Pat Prostrollo, Randy Schaefer, and Teresa Schaefer (State Farm)

#### THIRD FLIGHT:



First place: Mark Ovenden, Jordan Schuh, Nick Huntimer, and Rachel Fricke

Second place: Bill Kriech, Brian Kringen, Kevin Kringen, and Michael Williamson



Over 160 golfers participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual **DSU BLUE GOLF CLASSIC** on August 14 at the Madison Country Club. Results of the competition included:

**MORNING SESSION:**



First place: Kyle Stuebner, Tyler Ruhd, Billy Stitz, and Keaton Westover (InfoTech)

Second place: Corey Braskamp, Andrew Schaefer, Rex Groos, and Chad Groos

**AFTERNOON SESSION:**

**FIRST FLIGHT:**



First place: Stacy Krusemark, Tom Kahler, Gavin Fawbush, Cole Kratovil (BankWest)

Second place: Cam Shafer, Kristen DiPaola, Michael Sullivan, Kylie Westover (Sporty's)

**SECOND FLIGHT:**



First place: Jamal Branco, Tanner Waage, Mitch Jurgens, Ryan Davis



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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**DARLENE DULITZ '70** (English) has come out of retirement to team teach art education in Webster, SD.

**DARWIN ROBINSON '74** (Education) named to the 2020 South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame. A ceremony will be held in 2021. While at DSU, he was an NAIA All-American in track, and All-District in football. He was inducted into the DSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995.

**JIM WILSON '78** (Education) sunk his eighth hole-in-one on June 3 at Lakeview Golf Course, using a 5-iron from 194 yards on Hole No. 17. He played football, ran track, and golfed while in college.

**NANCY FALOR '80** (Education) was chosen as the 2020 Order of the Rose recipient by Lambda Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, for her distinguished service to education, community, and chapter. Falor retired from teaching and coaching at Madison Central Schools (SD) in May 2020.

**DALE METTE '80** (Art Education) recently retired after a 40-year teaching career. He taught at Milbank, Sioux Valley, USD, Nebraska Indian Community College and Little Priest Tribal College, both of Winnebago, NE. He spent the last 34 years teaching art for Winnebago Public Schools in Winnebago. He earned an MFA from USD in 1995. The Mettes reside in Vermillion, SD.

**TODD FOSTER '86** (Business Education) is the new principal of Mickelson Middle School (MMS) in Brookings. He has been involved in education for 35 years, has taught all grades, continued his education, and been an administrator at Flandreau, and assistant principal at MMS since 2013.



### **TOM NELSON '86**

(Education) is retiring after 33 years in South Dakota Schools. He has taught industrial arts, driver's education, and coached football, basketball, and track in New Effington, Gayville-Volin, Scotland, and most recently in Tea. Tom is a member of the Michael Entringer Scholarship Classic Hall of Fame, the South Dakota Technical Education Association (SDTEA), and the South Dakota High School Coaches Association (SDHSCA). He took two South Dakota High School All Star football teams to the Down Under Bowl in Australia in 1994 and 1996.

**JOANN ALVERSON '96** (Biology Education) is the new elementary principal at Chester Area School District (SD).

**ADAM SHAW '00** (Elementary Education) was named Administrator of the Year by the South Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education, for leadership that has helped teacher and student success at Madison Central High School, where Shaw is principal. He was also elected to the Madison City Commission in June 2020 for a three-year term.

**AARON RUSH '03** (Electronic Commerce and Computer Security) is the new part-time pastor at United Church of Christ in Springfield, SD. He will also continue as regular pastor at Danzig Baptist Church, Avon, SD.

**LISA TOLLIVER '03** (Master of Science in Educational Technology) is 1/2-time Title teacher at Tyndall Elementary and Bon Homme Colony, and 1/2-time Title Director and PBIS coordinator.

## SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Several alumni, students, and friends of DSU are serving with the SD National Guard 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Djibouti, Africa for 11 months.

**HEATH ABRAHAM**  
Dakota State's School Resource Officer

**WILLIAM BULFER** current student

**KAYLA COOK** current student

**JESSE JOHNSON '04**

(Elementary Education and Educational Technology) is now the principal at Chamberlain (SD) Middle School.

**JERAE WIRE '06** (Bachelor of Business Administration) was elected to the Madison City Commission in June 2020 for a three-year term.

**MATT PAULSON '08 and '09**

(BS Computer Science, MS Information Systems) was named the Small Business Champion of the Year by the South Dakota Small Business Administration. The digital awards ceremony Sept. 22 was part of National Small Business Week.

**KYLE STOEBNER '08 and '11** (BS in Computer & Network Security, Networking, Computer Information Systems, Business Administration, and Master of Science in Information Assurance) has been promoted to VP/Director of Engineering and partner in Infotech Solutions.

**JOSH VANDYKE '08** (Computer Information Systems and Network Security) has been promoted to President and a partner in Infotech Solutions.

**AMANDA BARRIOS '09** (Computer Graphic Design) is a paraprofessional and JV volleyball coach at Elk Point-Jefferson Schools.

**KYLE BRUINSMA '09** (Exercise Science) is teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade math and English, and K-8<sup>th</sup> Physical Education at Plankinton (SD) School.

**DOUG IVERSON '09** (Business Administration) has been promoted to Director of Client Services at Infotech Solutions.

**TRICIA MCNEELY '09**  
(Business Management)

**REBECCA TRYGSTAD '02** (Elementary Education) is a Lt. Colonel and will serve as the unit's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

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**TYLER BOLSTAD '10** (Elementary Education) is the new K-12 principal at Castlewood School District.

**BRIANNE NELSON BOLSTAD '10** (Elementary Education) is a kindergarten teacher at Dakota Prairie in Brookings School System.

**AMANDA HARGREAVES '10** (Elementary Education) was named Teacher of the Year for Region 3 by the South Dakota Department of Education. She teaches 6<sup>th</sup> grade English and science at Mitchell Middle School.

**1 LAURA BIAGI '11** (Education Technology) named Teacher of the Year at Chester Area Schools. (Photo courtesy Madison Daily Leader)

**2 JOHN FLINT '13** (Elementary Education) published his first children's book, *What If...*, a story about four kids playing the "What If" game while on a camping trip. He wrote and illustrated the book, which he hopes will promote imagination and creativity. The book, geared for young elementary-age students, is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and on Google Play as an ebook. He has several other books in progress. Flint teaches at West Central.

**DR. RANDALL WALDNER '13** (Biology) is a family medicine provider at the Redfield Clinic and Community Hospital. He graduated from the USD Sanford School of Medicine in 2017, and did his residency with Texas A&M.

**BRYCE HAVILAND '14 and '15** (BS Computer & Network Security, MS Information Assurance) is a second lieutenant in the 114<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the SD National Guard. He was the keynote speaker for the Volga (SD) Memorial Day program. As the event was cancelled due to COVID-19, his speech was published in the *Volga Tribune*.

**MICHAEL KAPPERMAN '14** (Secondary Math Education) was ordained as a Catholic priest in May by the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

**CAITLIN PICK '14** (Health Information Administration) was chosen as the Master's degree scholarship winner for 2020-2021 from the South Dakota Health Information Management Association.

**KAYLEE GRAYSON NIELSEN '16** (Elementary/Special Education) is teaching in the empowerment room at Madison (SD) Middle School.

**CODY VANROSENDALE '16** (Biology Education) is teaching biology, physical sciences, chemistry and physics at Wall (SD) High School. He is currently a student in DSU's Master of Science in Education Technology program.

**SARAH ZACH '16** (Elementary/Special Education) is the new high school special education instructor at Colman-Egan (SD).

**JESSICA SCHMIT DAWSON '18** (Secondary Mathematics Education) is the new fifth-grade math instructor at Madison (SD) Elementary School.



## ENGAGEMENTS / WEDDINGS

**CHELSEY CHRISTIANSEN '12** (Health Information Technology) and **CODY CARPER '03** (Marketing) were married Feb. 16, 2020.

## BIRTHS

**Sierra (Stiedl-Jenson) Heppler '15** and Eric Heppler announce the birth of their daughter Mesa Blake Heppler on June 13, 2020.



**KINDRA SCHNEIDER '08** (Elementary/Special Education) and Zach Schneider announce the birth of their son Brendin James on Sept. 25, 2020.



**LINDSY EDWARDS '18** (Elementary Education/Special Education) is the new elementary/special education teacher at Estelline Schools.

**STEVE SCHMIDT '18** (Network & System Administrator) has been promoted to Implementation Engineer at Infotech Solutions.

**LOGAN SECKER '18** (Exercise Science) is teaching elementary and middle school physical education and high school CTE health at Eureka schools. He is also the head boys basketball coach.

**SHELBY BORGERS '19** (General Studies) is a paraprofessional in the Elk Point-Jefferson School District. She is also the junior high volleyball coach.

**PARKER CHRISTENSEN '20** (Elementary Education) is teaching middle school math and technology at Viborg-Hurley and is the junior high football coach.

**SHANNON DEBOER '20** (Elementary Education/Special Education) is a new fifth grade teacher at Estelline Schools.

**CATLYN FALCONER '20** (Elementary Education) is teaching second grade at McCook Central (Salem, SD). She is also the cheer coach.

**SYDNEY MOSS '20** (Elementary Education) is teaching 7-12 math and junior class advisor at Castlewood High School.

**JERAMIE SOPKO '20** (BS in Information Systems) was named the June Exceptional Employee of the Month at Huron Regional Medical Center. Sopko, an IT technician, was nominated by his co-workers for the honor.

**RACHEL STERLING '20** (Elementary Education) is teaching first grade at White River (SD).

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## IN MEMORIUM

### ALUMNI

#### **HELEN INGLE '32**

(Teaching Certificate) Helen was DSU's oldest alum at 108, and was featured in the Spring 2020 magazine.

**MARIE TUYNMAN MARTIN '38** (Teaching Certificate) Marie was 100 years old.

**HILDA MARTEN LANGLEY '39**  
(Education)

**CARMEN HEGDAHL WARNER '42**  
(Education)

**ARDELLE TELKAMP PERSING '43**  
(Education)

**LEORA SAMPLE GABRIELSON '48**  
(Education)

**ELSIE AASHEIM SEVERSON '50**  
(Education)

**BARBARA PETERSON LARSON '51**

**ELLEN (JURGENSEN) TABBERT '52**  
(Education)

**MARTHA MARY (CANNEY) ZARA '52**  
(Education Diploma)

**BARBARA VORSETH BENSON '54**  
(Elementary Education diploma)

**DR. SHARON BECK BROWN '55**  
(Education)

**DARRELL GENZLINGER '55** (Education)

**MYRL REECY MORAN '58** (Elementary Education Diploma)

**RONALD LEE OLSBO '59** (BS Education)

**DONALD 'DON' RAY BOGUE '61**  
(Education)

**GILBERT BURNEY '61** (Education)

**WILLIAM F. RICHTER '62** (Education)

**DIANE KRUEGER '64** (Education)

**JAQUELINE J. (SPICER) SPAWN '64**  
(Education Diploma)

**MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN '65** (Art/Social Science)

**RUTH WILSON HAYES '67** (Education)

**JEAN OSTERBERG SCHMEECKLE '67**  
(Business)

**WAYNE TROUSDALE '67** (Education)

**VESTA CASE '68** (Education)

**PATRICIA KRUEGER '68** (Bachelor of Science)

**JANICE PETERSEN DANGEL '68**  
(Education)

**LYNN WAYNE HAUG '70** (Education)

**CRAIG WESLY JOHNSON '70** (Arts & Sciences)

**JAMES M. KNUTSON '70** (Education)

**RONALD ROBERTS '70** (Business Education)

**LONNIE IVERSON '71** (Industrial Arts)

**DOUGLAS QUINN '71** (Education)

**EUNICE HAUGE SCHWADER '71**  
(Elementary Education/Special Education)

**LARRY FRENCH '72** (Elementary Education)

**RUSSELL ALAN ICKES '72** (Bachelor of Science). He played in the Boothill Bowl and is a member of the DSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

**MICHELE SIEDSCHLAW HINDERLITER '73** (Education)

**GREGG HEADRICK '74** (Music)

**MICHAEL "MICK" TWISS '74** (Business) He was a member of the 1971 team that won the Boot Hill Bowl.

**DENNIS LEE LAFOLLETE '76** (Biology Education). He was a national wrestling champion for DSU.

**KARLA NIEWENHUIS JORDHEIM '79**  
(Education)

**LARRY L. RICKARD '83** (Business Administration)

**VIRGIL T. GANNON '88** (Business Administration)

**LAVONNE KERKHOVE SCHMEICHEL '93** (Respiratory Care)

**BARBARA OLIVER FOOTE '94** (Education)

**CINDI BANKS '97** (MS Accounting)

**DANA LARSEN '03** (MS in Information Systems)

## FRIENDS OF DSU

**TERRY DENNIS** Former professor at DSU from 1999-2004. Terry and his wife Laurie were instrumental in developing the DSU Graduate Program.

**JANE ERICKSON** Former Faculty/Staff

**WALTER DALE SLAUGHTER**  
Friend of DSU

**LAWRENCE STEIN** Friend of DSU

**BRIAN LEW CAMPBELL** attended '62-'65

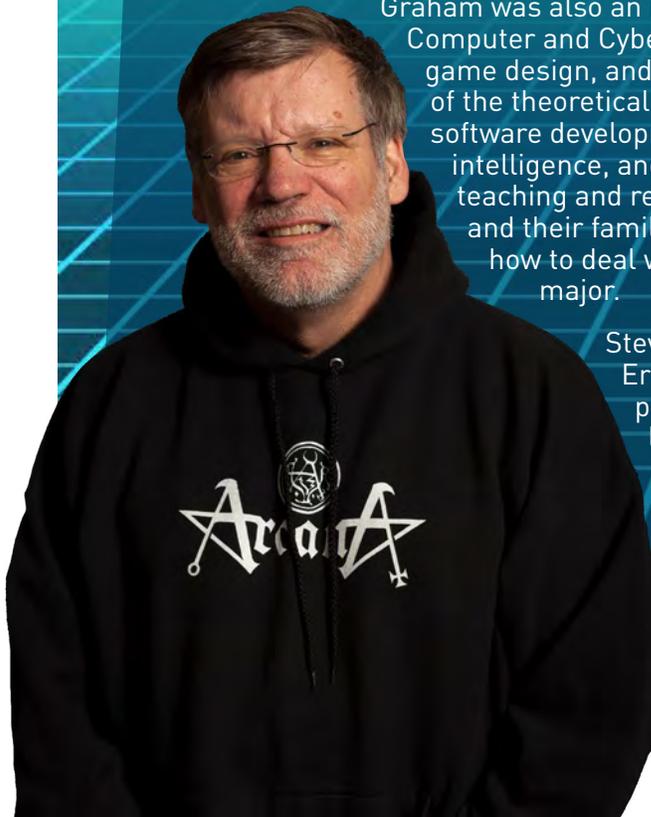
Send address updates and class notes to  
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## IN MEMORIUM

DR. STEVEN GRAHAM, professor of computer game design, passed away on May 2 due to metastatic melanoma. Steve was a brilliant scientist and a committed teacher. He was able to take a fledgling program in computer game design and turn it into a strong academic program of about 100 majors. He worked well with colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences to jointly put together a challenging, creative, and highly useful program for our students.

Graham was also an important colleague in The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences. He had deep interests in computer science, game design, and machine learning. He was adept at the melding of the theoretical and practical aspects of computer science and software development in specific applications to game design, artificial intelligence, and other areas of computer science. In addition to his teaching and research, Steve enjoyed working with potential students and their families, describing the ins and outs of game design and how to deal with the many demanding aspects of the game design major.

Steve is survived by his wife Tammy, daughters Abbie, Erin, and Brenna (David Boffa), and dog-son Porter, his parents, and four siblings. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to any of the following: the Dr. Steve Graham Memorial annual scholarship, a scholarship fund for game design students; B-Squad Dog Rescue in Brandon, SD; and Sioux Falls Transplant Fund at Sanford Health Foundation.





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