



GREETINGS, DSU TROJAN FRIENDS,

What a year and a half this has been! I send sincere best wishes to you and yours, with the hope that you have traveled the last many months in good health, able to manage the many challenges of 2020 and 2021.

For those of us here at DSU, it has definitely been a time of modifications and adaptations to our usual academic, research, and service environment. Students, faculty, and staff have all had to learn new ways of doing things that have required ingenuity, creativity, and patience.

Through it all I have continued to feel so very privileged to be serving as the President of Dakota State University. I have had the opportunity first-hand to see the impressive commitment and energy of our faculty, students, staff, and supporters rising to every challenge. Together, we have worked towards ensuring that DSU continues to excel in everything we do. We have continued to advance the shared success of the University as a whole and each individual who has a connection with Dakota State University.

While other institutions have struggled to even stay viable, DSU has continued to grow, expand, advance, and rise. On every front – our academic programs, our research endeavors, and our local, regional, and national service — we have continued to successfully pursue excellence and pioneering progress. What a joy it is to be associated with and able to support so many impressive activities and accomplishments, to be a part of all that is Dakota State University. Thank you for being on this amazing journey with us, transforming lives and communities through education, research, and outreach, across South Dakota, our region, and our country.

In this issue of our magazine, you have the opportunity to read about a number of people in our extended DSU community. While their lives have each taken a different path, there are similarities across their experiences and impact that validate all we work to accomplish each day here at the University. An educational community such as Dakota State is always more: more than a place to get an education; more than a place to meet and establish relationships with lifelong mentors, colleagues, and friends; more than a place to work and carry out a career; more than a place to contribute to improved quality-of-life for individuals and their communities; more than a place to advance wisdom and knowledge for our country and the rest of the world, though it is all those things and more. As you read the stories of some of the members of our DSU community chronicled in this magazine, I hope you will get a sense of that “more than . . .” that is such an integral aspect of the transformational power of being connected in some way with Dakota State.

One aspect of being President of the University is that my days often start very early and end late in the evening. As such, I often find myself coming onto campus as the early morning sun pokes through the trees and gradually illuminates our beautiful campus. The light of a new day shining on the old brickwork of East Hall and the soaring front windows of the Beacom Institute are mutually inspiring, speaking to DSU’s rich traditions and 140-year history, the energy and impact of our present impressive endeavors, and the ever-greater potential we are creating for amazing futures, in the next few years and for decades to come. As I look out my office window at Residence Village, our newly constructed residence hall, I think of all of the students who will fill its rooms this fall. I think about all the lives that will be transformed because of the choice each of those students made to come to DSU for their college education. The halls of all our campus residence halls, our classrooms and labs, athletics and library facilities, indeed all of our other learning/teaching/outreach locations, in Madison and beyond, both physical and virtual, are places where lives and futures are

changed, transformed, and set in motion. They are all places of “more than . . .” And they exist because you and me, and others like us, have chosen to be connected with this amazing place called Dakota State University.

As I leave my office at the end of a long day, in the glow of the streetlights and the lights along our campus pathways, I find myself thinking about all that has occurred during another busy day. I feel grateful and encouraged for all that has been accomplished at DSU over 140 years of days, by so many different people in so many different endeavors, all focused on creating something so much bigger than any of us individually. I consider it a privilege to be counted as part of the “we of DSU,” part of the “more than . . .” of education, research, and outreach that together we and others, past, present, and future have created and will continue to advance.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our extended Dakota State University community, part of the ongoing creation of “more than...” Best wishes for a restful, healthy, and productive summer.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José-Marie Griffiths". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

José-Marie Griffiths
President, Dakota State University



GREETINGS FROM THE DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

As I write this, I have just completed my first 30 days on campus and it has exceeded all expectations. The DSU and Madison communities have been incredibly welcoming and it has taken no time for me and my family to feel right at home. My wife Heidi and I are so excited to put down roots in Madison and our five-year-old son is settling into Junior Kindergarten with Mrs. Johnson.

While coming to Madison is a bit of a homecoming for us, it was the opportunity that Dakota State and President Griffiths presented that brought us here.

I believe we are poised to continue building something special and are limited only by our imaginations and belief in what the future can look like. We recently celebrated a record-setting Gala in which we surpassed our goal of raising \$200,000, beginning our celebration of 140 years since the founding of Dakota State. What a great year for all DSU alumni and constituents to honor the past, live the present, and RISE to the future.

The impact of DSU Rising and Trojans Unite will transcend previous perceptions of Dakota State University and present an opportunity for all Trojans to come together as ONE DSU. Regardless of majors, interests, areas of study or activities, I look forward to bringing everyone together around a common goal, serving the best interests of DSU and our students. I ask for all constituents to join us in this effort and believe the impact will be felt throughout campus, the community of Madison, the state of South Dakota, and beyond.

I look forward to seeing everyone in person soon and wish you all the best in health and happiness.

We are rising, we are united, we are ONE DSU!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Schemmel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

Jon Schemmel, Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Director of the DSU Foundation and Alumni Association

Read more about Jon on page 59.

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On the front cover

Dakota State throughout the years, a campus photo from years ago (lower right), overlaid with an aerial view from 2021.

Thank you to Dr. Cody Welu, '14, '15', '19 for the current photo.

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.

Distinctive TEACHERS

Dakota State University was founded in 1881 as a normal school, or teacher training school. After the mission was updated to include a technology focus in all majors, DSU continued to prepare future educators for the classroom.

Throughout the past 140 years, the University has helped educate teachers, from Walt Disney's favorite teacher Daisy Beck, to award winning educators. Here are some of the experiences and lessons of several alumni who were named a South Dakota State Teacher of the Year.

DEB PLATT 1991 SD TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Deb Platt's passion for education was influenced by three things: "a calling from God, my mother, and inspirational teachers that I had during my own time in school."

As far back as she can remember, teaching is what Platt wanted to do. She was further inspired by her mother, who received a temporary teacher's certificate during WWII. Additionally,

the kindness and compassion of her teachers, particularly her fourth grade teacher Mrs. Bartholomew and her sixth grade teacher Miss Gray, encouraged Platt's desire to provide a safe place for students.

"Those who made you feel good about yourself, respected you for who you were, and were enthusiastic about their jobs were all people who made me want to choose education as my career field," she shared.

As a Madison resident, Platt was able to live at home while earning her Elementary Education degree from DSU, which "had a great reputation as a teacher's college," she said.

She took classes on dealing with learning disabilities and special needs, discussed current trends in education, and practiced collaborating and working with classmates and teachers.

Upon graduation, Platt began her career in 1976 in Howard, SD. She later worked in Clear Lake, SD, before settling in Mitchell, SD, where she taught first through third grade during her time there.

In 1991 she was awarded South Dakota Teacher of the Year (ToY). "I felt honored to represent all of the amazing teachers in South Dakota," she said.

During her time as ToY, Platt wanted to share how important educators' jobs are, encouraging colleagues to stay positive and open to new ways of teaching/reaching children and work toward helping them to feel good about themselves.

Platt continued working in Mitchell until 2004, when she and her husband adopted their first child. They adopted a second child in 2008 and she remained out of the classroom for about 10 years. Now she works as a substitute in Mitchell.

Platt wants people to know that the profession of teaching is not an easy job, and it often comes with challenges, but they can make a difference and that is very rewarding. “We need to meet physical, emotional, social, cultural, and individual needs as well as overall academic needs every day in every way we can. I’m proud to be called a teacher and have never regretted my career choice.”

JENSI KELLOGG-ANDRUS **2005 SD TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

A grandfather who was a math educator first sparked an interest in teaching for JenSI Kellogg-Andrus. Later, other role models throughout her education fostered a love of both learning and teaching.



Kellogg-Andrus earned her undergraduate degree in Biology and Education at SDSU, later continuing her education with a Master’s in Education Technology (MSET) at Dakota State. She has been working in the profession since 1988,

and today teaches advanced placement biology, anatomy, and physiology at Watertown (SD) High School, and anatomy and physiology at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown.

In 2005 she was recognized as South Dakota’s ToY. “I felt and still feel a deep responsibility to serve as a spokesperson for teachers and students,” she said.

Kellogg-Andrus encourages teachers to have very high expectations of their students and provide learning and emotional support to help them meet

those expectations. “Students need to believe they CAN learn and have the appropriate support, tools, and skills to accomplish their academic goals.”

As a ToY recipient, she attended a Rose Garden ceremony at the White House for all state recipients throughout the U.S. First Lady Laura Bush addressed the audience at the ceremony, telling them, “You are doing the most important job in the world,” Kellogg-Andrus shared, and that statement has stuck with her.

“Teachers have such a huge responsibility to help students become the best they can be,” she said. “We need to see each student as a unique individual with endless potential, and then help them all strive to develop that potential so they are responsible, contributing members of our community. And so, they can make a difference in other people’s lives.”

With the experience from the MSET program, she developed and uses a hybrid anatomy course at Lake Area Technical College, while also teaching advanced placement biology online through the Learning Powers program at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD.

“I love this profession because I can choose to make a difference in the lives of our most precious resource – children (and adult learners at LATC),” she said.

PATRICK MOELLER **2012 SD TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

As a freshman at Dakota State, Patrick Moeller worked at the math help desk, a position that would inspire him to pursue a future in math education.

After graduating in 2003, Moeller began his career in the Mitchell (SD) School District, teaching math and physics in high school. While initially nervous that he wasn’t prepared, he realized throughout his first year that DSU equipped him well for the

classroom. Moeller still works for the Mitchell School District and currently teaches at Second Chance High School, the alternative high school.

“I enjoy working with kids that have been labeled as ‘difficult to teach,’” he said. “These students are often misunderstood. I strive to give students an infinite number of chances to make the right choices.”

In 2012 Moeller was selected as South Dakota ToY, something he was humbled by. “When I was asked what it felt like to be recognized as the ‘best,’ I replied that I wasn’t even the best teacher in my school’s hallway,” he shared, but he was happy to represent the best South Dakota has to offer.

During his time as ToY, he encouraged his peers to recognize and utilize their

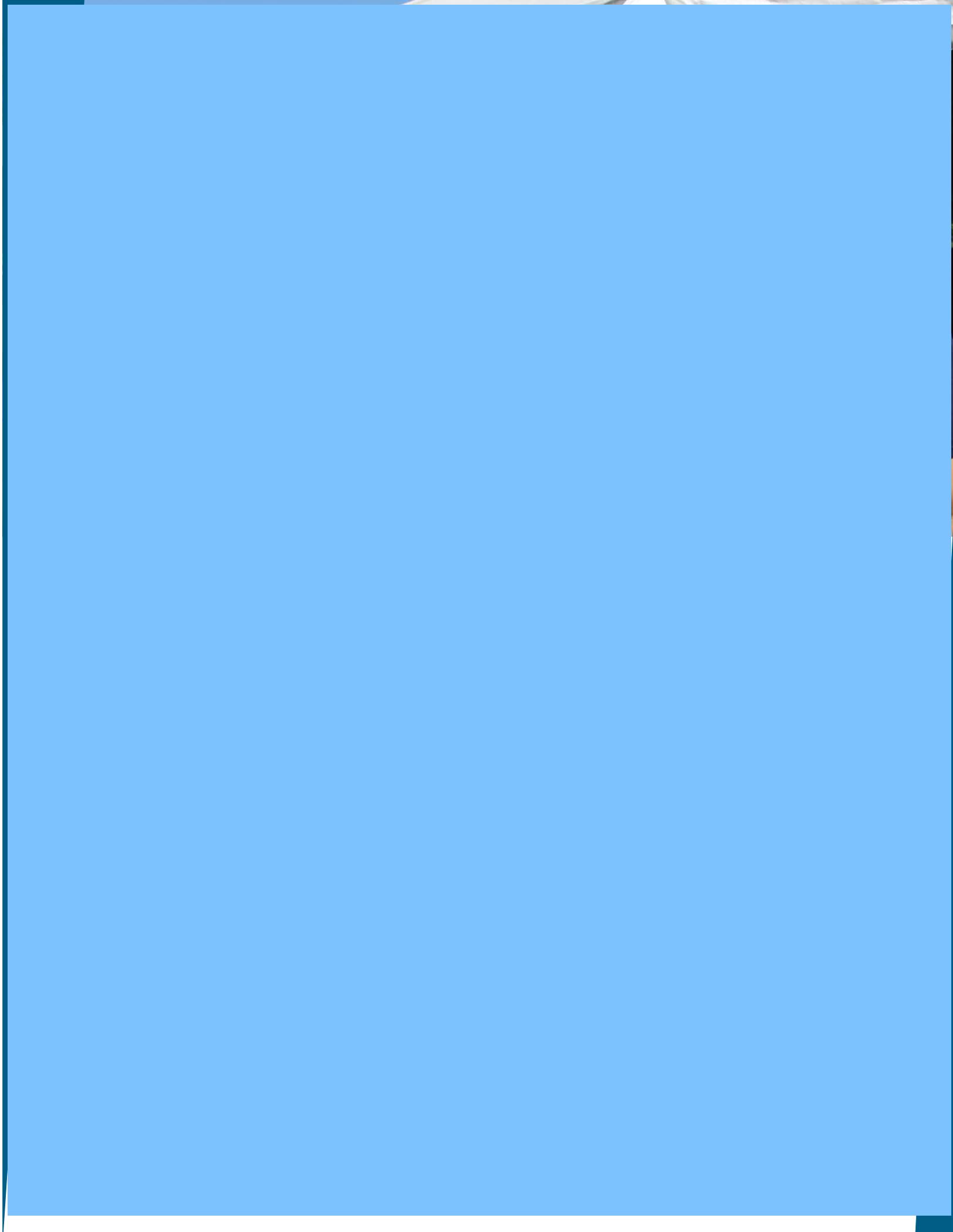
strengths to connect with students, while also recognizing and strengthening their weaknesses as an educator.

“The most important task for teachers is to develop and maintain relationships with their students,” he said.

As a South Dakota educator, Moeller recommends teaching as an exciting career profession that changes every day.

In addition to his continuing teaching career, Moeller coaches girls fall tennis and boys spring tennis, seventh grade boys basketball, and instructs driver’s education during the summer.

[Check our Fall 2021 edition to read about current 2021 South Dakota Teacher of the Year and DSU graduate Amanda Hargreaves.](#)



FOODS OF DSU

This story begins with a shortbread cookie.

Not just any shortbread cookie, but the legendary shortbread cookie of Alexander “Sandy” Davidson, former faculty member, Dean of Students, and Director of Counseling.

He retired in 1985, but many at DSU still remember – **and rave about** – Davidson’s cookie.

Marie Johnson, Student Affairs/Counseling Center Support Specialist, is one of those who remembers his baked treat. She first met the Scottish-born Davidson when she was working in the President’s Office.

He wanted to meet new President Doug Knowlton (who was president at Dakota State from 2004-2012). He also enjoyed visiting with the office staff. Like Knowlton, Johnson was a “newbie,” but Davidson “knew everyone else in the office from his time working at DSU. He would stop in now and then just to visit,” she said.

Davidson’s cookies had quite a reputation on campus, and in the area. The recipe was

included in the 1981 Centennial Cookbook, published for the University’s 100th anniversary. His colleague, Dr. Jim Swanson, helped organize special events at the Smith-Zimmermann Museum and invited Davidson to feature his cookies at a cooking demonstration.

“With any ‘secret’ recipe, watching how something is made makes all the difference,” Johnson said. “I decided to go and get the correct instructions on how to make shortbread. This is how I began making this special treat.” She bakes them for gifts at Christmastime, or by special request.

“Some say it’s the love that goes into the recipe that makes it unique. Maybe in this case there’s a little Scottish magic,” she said.

Shortly after the cooking demonstration, Davidson’s health declined and he was less active in the community. He passed away in 2006.

“I’m glad I had the opportunity to learn how to make shortbread from the master and share it with so many,” Johnson said. “I think that would make him very happy.”

Some say it's the love that goes into the recipe that makes it unique. Maybe in this case there's a little Scottish magic.

GRASSHOPPER PIZZA

No story on college foods would be complete without a discussion of pizza.

On the recommendation of her high school history teacher, Georgiana (Stroup) Olson came to General Beadle State College as a freshman in the fall of 1953. Originally from the Chicago, IL area, she was a bit surprised that none of her friends or classmates had heard of pizza.

During that school year she met Madison native Ron Olson, and they married in 1954. Ron worked at the John Morrell plant in Madison; Georgiana was at home with their children.

In the 1960s, one of Ron's colleagues opened a pizza place in town. "He hated it," Georgiana said. Knowing his wife had a good pizza recipe, Ron came home one day in 1965 and announced, "I bought you a pizza restaurant."

It was called the Pizza Den and was open from 4 p.m. to midnight. General Beadle students came for the pizza, but also to socialize. They were polite and respectful, Georgiana said, and they would often bring their guitars and sing. "It was fun to work there," she said.

If she made a mistake on the pizza, she would give it to them for free. One day, some students pointed out that she hadn't made a mistake in a while, so she said she'd make a free one if she could choose the ingredients.

Georgiana doesn't know why, but she had some cans of whole, toasted grasshoppers, and put that on the pizza with the sauce and cheese.

"It was awful looking, and I never tried it, but I guess it didn't taste bad." Soon, the publicity director at the college heard about the grasshopper pizza and called her to ask if she'd name it the "General Beadle

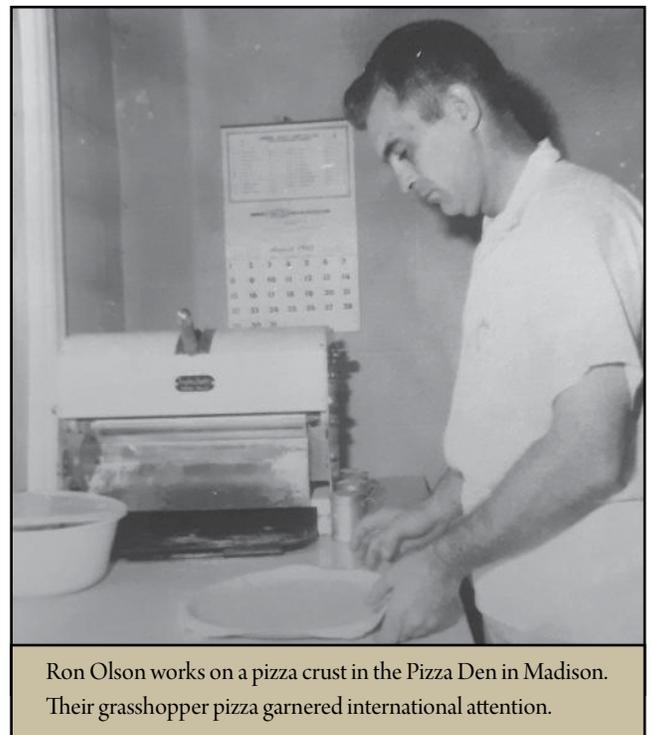
Special." He hoped the specialty pizza would grab media attention and land the university's name in the papers. She was agreeable, and he put the story out on the AP and UPI news wires.

"It was picked up and made the news from coast to coast," Georgiana said. The General Beadle Pizza was even mentioned by CBS news anchor Walter Cronkite. It made the news in the gourmet section of a leading food magazine, and in foreign countries, in the international military newspaper "Stars & Stripes."

"There were even some people who wrote asking for the recipe."

Georgiana then followed that up with a rattlesnake pizza, ironically sending to Chicago for rattlesnake. That made the news again, then that was the end of the fads, but "it sure put the college in the news all over the country."

In 1966, the family bought The Pheasant Restaurant and moved to Brookings, and the Pizza Den closed. As they opened the Pheasant, her husband did warn her, "Don't think you're going to try to serve grasshoppers here."



Ron Olson works on a pizza crust in the Pizza Den in Madison. Their grasshopper pizza garnered international attention.



When Skipper's was sold in 2016, the sign was removed, and owner Jay Pifer (pointing) sold it to a local family. The restaurant is now Los Tapatios.

SKIPPER'S

Also in the early 1960s, another pizza restaurant changed hands in Madison, when Cletus Schmidt bought Skipper's, an establishment on the west side of South Egan Avenue.

The first thing he did was make some changes. "Dad didn't like their sauce," said his son, Rick Schmidt, so he tried different recipes, and had friends sample some to find the best one.

Cletus cut the pizza in squares so children could eat his pizza more easily. "That was Dad's idea," he said. Plus, if it was a child's birthday, he would give them a dollar bill he'd fashioned into the shape of a bow tie.

"Dad had a saying, 'You've got to support the people that support you,' and he fully believed in local support of businesses," Rick recalled, so Cletus got almost all of his meats from Jack's Meat Market, and dough from a local bakery.

He didn't use unusual ingredients like the Pizza Den, but Cletus named his pizzas after people, like the Gordy, named after Gordy Anderson, a golf pro in Madison, or the Hooligans, after some local boys who could get into trouble.

"Skipper's was a hot spot for DSU students and the community," said Rick. "I still meet people who tell me Skipper's stories."

The restaurant moved twice while Cletus owned it, finally locating at 204 South Egan Ave. when Jay Pifer bought it in 1985; Pifer sold it in 2016, and it is now Los Tapatios.

A new pizza restaurant opened across the street in 2019, called The Office Bar & Grill. Owner Carson Stemper said Rick helped him get the restaurant started. The pizza has some similarities to Skipper's pizza – both thin crust, square cut – but it's Office pizza, Stemper said.

Because of Rick's help, the Office menu honors Rick's help and his dad with a pizza named "The Smitty." The office also has a "Trojan Pizza," with pepperoni, Canadian bacon, and fresh green peppers, but no grasshoppers or rattlesnake.



ALEXANDER "SANDY" DAVIDSON

was born in Elgin, Scotland in 1924. He left school at age 13 to work to help support his family. He served in the British Royal Navy during World War II and was part of the British Expeditionary Forces that landed at Normandy Beach on D-Day. Following the war, he immigrated to America in 1948. He worked at Lewis and Clark College (OR) and Milton College (WI) before moving to Madison in 1965. He served in various positions at Dakota State University, including Dean of Students and Director of Counseling, until retiring in 1985. He died in 2006. Today he is remembered not only for his shortbread cookies, but also with the Alexander "Sandy" Davidson Award for Excellence in Advising. This annual award is sponsored by the DSU Foundation in grateful recognition for his years of friendship and service.

SANDY DAVIDSON'S SHORTBREAD

From Marie Johnson

1 lb. sweet butter

2/3 Cup baker's sugar or granulated sugar

1/3 Cup powdered sugar

4 Cups sifted all-purpose flour

1. Cream the butter and add the sugar gradually. Blend well but do not overwork. Gradually add flour.
2. Turn the dough out on a lightly floured board and pat out. Divide the dough into even parts (5 small or 4 large). Form them into circles about 3/4" thick. Prick all over with a fork. Place on a parchment lined baking sheet.
3. Bake in a 300-degree oven for 50-60 min., or until rounds are a golden color. Cut into wedges while still warm (about 5 min. after taking out of the oven).

THREE GENERATIONS ONE SCHOOL

Shaylee DeBeer will be wearing a legacy cord when she graduates in 2024, to honor her parents and grandparents who graduated from DSU before her. Shaylee is a sophomore majoring in Elementary/Special Education and student athlete.

She is the daughter of Brad and Rachelle (Lengkeek) DeBeer, 1997 graduates of Dakota State. "Once Shaylee decided she wanted to go into education and play sports through college, we were thrilled that she chose DSU," Brad DeBeer said. "We enjoyed our experiences through school and sport at DSU and knowing that she would have the chance to have that same opportunity was extremely reassuring."

Rachelle was a student athlete, playing volleyball and running indoor and outdoor track for all four of her years. She earned All-Conference and Academic All-American status multiple times. Rachelle graduated with a degree in Mathematics Education.

Brad was student director of intramurals, a member of the Student Activities Council, and assisted Jeff Dittman with the women's

basketball program for a time. He was also the voice of the Trojans, working as the public address announcer for home volleyball and basketball games. Brad graduated with a degree in Elementary Education.

Brad and Rachelle are grateful for the relationships they formed with faculty, staff, and classmates. "There were so many

friendships made during our time at DSU that have lasted long beyond our short time there, and that is what I really appreciate most about being a Trojan," Brad said.

Before Brad's college years, both his parents attended in the 1960s, when it was called General Beadle State Teacher's College

LeRoy DeBeer was an accomplished student athlete, playing four years of basketball, running track for two years, and playing baseball for one year. He earned All-SDIC honors multiple times, was all-time leading scorer at the school upon his graduation in 1963, and was named Man of the Year at General Beadle the same year, Brad shared. His mother, Dianne Nelson DeBeer, graduated with a degree in Elementary Education in 1964.



Shaylee DeBeer (right) has followed in her parents' (Rachelle, center; Brad, left) footsteps by attending DSU. She is a two-sport student athlete and is currently earning a degree in Education and Special Education.

"They always spoke highly of their time at General Beadle and talked about the family feel when they were students there," Brad said.

As Brad decided to pursue a career in education and coaching, his father's stories and positive feelings about the University made attending an easy decision. "He always felt like the faculty treated him well and helped him be prepared to become an educator," he added.

LeRoy's love of DSU impacted Shaylee as well, and she was happy to share with her grandpa, who had diminishing health due to Parkinson's, that she was going to continue her education at Dakota State.

"I'll never forget the smile Dad had on his face the day Shaylee told him she was going to be a student athlete at the same college he was so proud of," Brad shared.

Shaylee plays basketball and runs indoor and outdoor track. Rachelle and Brad have found it rewarding to watch their daughter continue her athletic career at DSU. "To watch her grow and mature into the incredible young lady she is becoming is so gratifying and exciting," Brad said.

Brad is an on-air personality at Brookings Radio, in Brookings SD, and is Head Cross Country Coach, Head Girls Basketball Coach, and Head Boys Track Coach at Deubrook Schools in White, SD. Rachelle is a Deubrook Area Schools Mathematics teacher and Head Volleyball and Head Girls Track Coach.

An uncle and two cousins of Brad's also attended the University. "Dakota State and Madison will always hold a special place in the hearts of our family," he said.



DSU graduates from 2016 wearing their legacy cords to honor relatives who graduated from Dakota State.

DAKOTA STATE LEGACY CORD PROGRAM

Dakota State began a legacy cord program four years ago after being inspired by a similar practice at another university.

"For many years we have had alumni stand at the end of the commencement ceremony and receive recognition from the crowd, but we were looking for a way to tie those alumni in the audience to the graduates," said Jon Schemmel, Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Director of the DSU Foundation and Alumni Association.

After receiving a sample from a contact at a university in North Dakota, the DSU Foundation worked with colleagues to find something suitable for Dakota State, and the tradition was born.

1984 MISS A LOOK BACK AT SHAPE DSU TODAY



Tom Farrell is a DSU alum and faculty member. He was amongst the faculty trained at IBM when the mission change ensued.



Lynette Molstad Gorder was also part of the faculty who trained at IBM for DSU's mission change. She taught programming at DSU for many years.

Dakota State wasn't always known for being the cyber powerhouse of the plains.

In fact, during the 1970s and 80s, DSU, (then Dakota State College or DSC), was known as a teacher education institution.

When a nationwide recession on college enrollment slowly caused enrollment at DSC to decrease to just over 700 students in 1974, DSC's mission was re-evaluated.

DSC was placed under administrative control of the University of South Dakota (USD) from 1974-1978. During that time, the Board of Regents considered closing the school's doors or fully merging it with USD or South Dakota State University.

All that changed in 1983 when former Governor Bill Janklow proposed a mission change for the college to offer new programs and instruction in computer science and information technology

"Thanks to community support and legislators, our doors stayed open," said Tom Farrell.

One year later, Dakota State College underwent the 1984 mission change.

Farrell, a DSU alumnus, was working at DSU in the areas of physical education, intramurals, and athletics at the time. With the mission change, he and his colleagues had to shift their teaching focuses to learn about Information Technology (IT).

So Farrell and other faculty members, including Lynette Molstad Gorder, packed up and headed to Irving, TX, where they stayed for five weeks.

There they dedicated 40 hours a week to the IBM Corporate Information Systems Education Facility, and were taught programming according to the IBM structured programming methods.

ION CHANGE: THE MOVE THAT HELPED AY

“After the training, we were able to come back to campus and design materials to teach required classes of programming for incoming freshmen,” Molstad Gorder said.

The curriculum was also redesigned to require courses such as computer applications and computer programming, and to integrate computer technology. Faculty even created their own softcover programming textbooks to use in freshmen classes.

By 1985, the first two of four computer science degree programs were implemented at DSC.

The first program included a Bachelor of Science in English for Information Systems and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics for Information Systems; the second program included a Bachelor of Business Administration in Information Systems and an Associate of Science in Application Programming.

Both programs were tasked with the challenges of teaching the technical side of programming and expanding students’ minds to think more critically and creatively. Many of the new courses also focused on programming languages, logic, reasoning, and database/information systems.

“It wasn’t an easy transition, but it was the foundation of the things we do today,” Farrell said.

Now with cyber initiatives and technology at the forefront of all our curricula, our Trojans remain on a constant upward trajectory into the future.



FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS ARE NEW TO COLLEGE

First generation college students are in good company. Some notable individuals who were the first in their families to attend college include:

WALT DISNEY

Animator and entrepreneur (his favorite teacher, Daisy Beck, was a DSU graduate)

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Nobel Prize winning physicist

MICHELLE OBAMA

Former First Lady

COLIN POWELL

65th Secretary of State of the United States

HOWARD SCHULTZ

Chairman and CEO of Starbucks

SONIA SOTOMAYOR

U.S. Supreme Court Justice

OPRAH WINFREY

Talk show host and philanthropist

Locally, the list of notable first-gen college students includes Kindra Schneider, Instructor of Elementary Education.

Neither of Schneider's parents attended college; they married right out of high school, and her father farmed with his family. "For me, a stay-at-home mom was all I knew." When she graduated high school, she wasn't married yet, "so I had to think, 'What was the next step?'"

She considered cosmetology, but on the advice of her siblings she came to Dakota State to major in education. "When I started in the classroom, I absolutely loved it," she said. Her three sisters are teachers as well; their brother attended a tech school.

As a college instructor and advisor, Schneider doesn't always know which of her students is first-generation, but she can relate to them, understanding their nervousness in a new situation.

"Change is hard," she knows, "and there is an uncomfortable barrier of not knowing what to expect. These types of things, if you've never been through them, are hard."

Nationwide, some first-gen students report a stigma that comes with being new to college, or issues such as "breakaway guilt" caused from taking a different life path than their family members. There can be concerns with a lack of resources for professional, financial, psychological, or academic questions.



Kindra Schneider and students read a paragraph in an education class.



Grace Dellman is a first-generation college student.

Schneider hasn't seen Dakota State students experiencing these issues, but knows they sometimes feel pressure, especially if their parents are helping pay for college, "so they can carry that weight on their shoulders, when it's something new and they so badly want to be successful," she said.

The solution is to ask a lot of questions, so she encourages students to reach out.

"The biggest thing I see to indicate whether a student will fail or succeed is if they're willing to ask questions." If not, the situation becomes more overwhelming and their chances to succeed are much lower.

"Faculty and staff can only do so much," Schneider pointed out. "Unless we know their struggles it's hard to intervene and give the advice they probably need," she said. If the students self-advocate and ask questions, then "I can alleviate stresses for them, especially in the first two years, and that's critical."

Frequent questions include how to manage their studies; because a lot of the students work Schneider said, "we talk about prioritizing, syncing calendars,

time management." She lets them know about scholarship opportunities, and who to talk to about that. "Sometimes I have no clue about the answer, but if I know who to ask, I can point them in the right direction."

One of Schneider's advisees – and fellow first-generation college student -- is Grace Dellman, a junior elementary education major from Hartford, SD. She has known since kindergarten that she wanted to teach, and that meant earning a college degree. Her parents were encouraging, and she had additional help learning what to expect from her high school counselor. She credits the DSU website for having helpful information and resources available online.

There have been challenges, such as being away from home for the first time, but learning to deal with the little things in life is part of her education. "I wanted to see if I could do it myself, and I guess I was more independent than I thought," Dellman said. "This is something I needed to go through to see that I can do these things."

Dellman plans to go straight into the classroom after graduating in 2022, hopefully to teach second grade.



DESTINY THUNDER

OTHERS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Dakota State University Native American Student Association (NASA) has created a scholarship for Native American students. Destiny Thunder was the first recipient of this scholarship for the spring 2021 semester. She is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in Sioux Falls.

Thunder shared this kind of financial aid is vital for low-income students to afford school. She urges those in a position to apply for scholarships to do so. “Doubt is your biggest enemy, and if you never put yourself in a situation where you could possibly benefit due to fear of rejection you will never know what you can achieve.”

Thunder is a Cyber Operations major, planning to graduate in 2024. As a senior in high school, she was selected for the 2019 Rocket Girls camp at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center. This gave her the opportunity to attend cybersecurity workshops on topics such as forensic investigations, social engineering, cryptography, and more.

She chose to attend DSU because it “is one of the best schools for studying cyber operations.” She is grateful for being chosen for the assistance, calling it a privilege to be the first recipient.

The NASA club was started in the fall of 2017 by alumnus Carl Petersen ’20 (Computer Game Design/Computer Science). Miles Livermont (Cyber Operations/Network Security and Administration) is the current NASA president.

In 2019, the student organization worked with Jill Ruhd, Development Officer, to set up the fund. With fundraising and a donation from

The Rosebud Tribe in South Dakota, they were able to offer a \$500 scholarship.

Livermont is thankful for Peterson’s work in getting it started, adding “I am lucky to have the honor of rewarding it to Destiny.”

As a Native American student, Thunder acknowledged that most indigenous students don’t come from a place of privilege. “Having scholarships specifically for Native students creates an incentive for school in a group of individuals who statistically aren’t attending tertiary education,” she said. “Scholarships are vital for low-income students to afford school.”



SCHOLARSHIPS ARE VITAL FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS TO AFFORD SCHOOL.



Thunder hopes people will consider contributing to the NASA fund to help ensure Native American students receive the vital monetary assistance they may need to attend school. “Aiding in the development of a Native student’s education/career is one of the steps to help end the negative cycle that some Native Americans find themselves trapped and struggling in,” she said.

NASA continues to look for assistance and opportunities for indigenous students, Livermont shared. “The hope is to one day have enough funding to have the multi-tiered structure of the DSU Champion Scholarships where most Native students will get some form of aid.”

Those interested in donating to the NASA scholarship fund can reach out to Jill Ruhd at the DSU Foundation.



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President José-Marie Griffiths announces the new CyberHealth Strategic Alliance in November.

PARTNERSHIPS CREATE SYNERGY

Mark Twain defined synergy as “the bonus that is achieved when things work together harmoniously.”

Harmonious cooperation does not happen on its own, writes author and educator Dr. Stephen Covey. It takes teamwork and open-mindedness, but can result in the creation of a whole that is greater than the simple sum of its parts.

Dakota State has been a trendsetter with this type of synergy, seeking out and expanding cooperative partnerships with both research and business partners, and other academic institutions.



DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY



RESEARCH/BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Research and business partnerships “connect us to the real world,” said President José-Marie Griffiths. “These allow us the perspective to adjust our academic programs, or to tweak our research efforts to respond to problems found in industry. It also demonstrates to our partners what the capabilities are of our faculty and students.”

The newest – the CyberHealth Strategic Alliance with Sanford Health -- is very exciting because there are so many opportunities in health and cyber, she stated, in fact, “the sky is the limit.” Announced on November 18, 2020, this Alliance will be able to drive cyberhealth innovation and research, and create workforce and economic development opportunities for South Dakota.

Every DSU college will see opportunities with this Alliance, Griffiths said, from cyber and information systems to ethics, because behavioral sciences and humanities relate to health care and quality of life applications. The Alliance

may attract prospective students who are interested in mission-oriented health care and technology. It will bring about new research opportunities, and opportunities for collaborative research and development projects. This can create spin-off companies and partnerships with other agencies and institutions.

The Alliance is in an early but important stage, creating mechanisms for a flow of ideas and development of projects. This is particularly important with projects involving HIPAA data, she added. Two joint task forces are already working, one to look at educational needs, one to examine protocols for access to data.

“As the Alliance further develops, we will discover more things to do together,” Griffiths said.

“The activities of the Alliance will establish Madison, Sioux Falls, and South Dakota as a nationally-recognized CyberHealth innovation hub,” said Griffiths. “The Alliance will increase and integrate South Dakota’s workforce in two of the most powerful

drivers of local, regional, national, and global economic development in the 21st century: health care and cyber.”

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with other academic institutions create a “win-win” scenario, Griffiths said, with the opportunity to develop innovative and high-quality programs will benefit students and produce efficiencies for the institutions.

These are formalized through governance structures such as articulation agreements or memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

Dakota State established the first partnership between a public academic institution and the National Cryptologic School of the National Security Agency (NSA) through a 2015 articulation agreement. The agreement allows NSA employees (military and civilian) to transfer up to 56 National Cryptologic School (NCS) course credits to Dakota State’s bachelor’s degree in online cyber operations, or an MS in computer science.

Another partnership has been forged with the Community College of the Air Force, which allows students to maximize credits earned through the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree awarded by the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) and a BS in Cyber Leadership and Intelligence.

Allowing students to transfer credits from their home institution toward a DSU degree, or to take credit-bearing courses to apply to degrees, helps students

save time and money in their career journey, so they can make an impact in the workplace and in their community sooner.

Other partner institutions include:

- » Eastern Iowa Community Colleges
- » Indian Hills (IA) Community College
- » Lake Area (SD) Technical College
- » Lake Superior College
- » Metropolitan (NE) Community College
- » Minnesota State Community & Technical College
- » Minnesota West Community & Technical College
- » Mitchell (SD) Tech
- » North Dakota State College of Science
- » Northeast Iowa Community College
- » Southeast Technical College (SD)
- » Western Nebraska Community College

SHARED PROGRAMS

Dakota State has worked with other South Dakota regental institutions for several years to offer joint, or shared, programs. These capitalize on individual strengths of each institution while offering students the flexibility to fine-tune their degrees.

Each university offers distinct specializations and/or electives to allow students to specialize and tailor their programs of study to meet their career goals as professionals in the field. For example, the College of Education has had an Elementary Education coop agreement with SDSU (which offers an Early Childhood

Education degree). There is also a joint MS in Analytics with South Dakota State.

More recent collaborations include a shared degree program with USD for an MS in Nursing (MSN), specialization in Nursing Informatics and an e-Health degree program that will begin in Fall 2021.



President Griffiths and Dr. Richard Hanson report on DSU partnerships to the Sioux Falls chamber board.

“Our ultimate goal was to integrate classes from DSU’s MSHIIM program that included the content required for the MSN degree,” said Dr. Renae Spohn, director of the Health Information Management, or HIM, program and coordinator for the Master of Science in Health Informatics and Information Management (MSHIIM) program at DSU.

Graduate nursing students will be able to learn about the characteristics, strengths, and challenges within the nursing field, and the impact this career and its correlating technologies can have on consumers, populations, health care providers, and more.

They will also gain knowledge and skills in electronic health record classification systems, standard nomenclatures, metadata and semantic representation of data, applications, hardware solutions and telecommunications. This will strengthen a nurse’s ability to work with information technology and integrate better decision-making into nursing workflows, which are important skills for health care decision-making.

“Both classes are a win-win as students from DSU and USD will expand the richness of interdisciplinary discussion by adding a good mix on the perspectives of nursing with health information management,” Spohn said.

Beginning in Fall 2021, DSU and SDSU will offer a new joint PhD in Computer Science. Students will be able to leverage DSU’s expertise with applied machine learning, analytics, and information management in areas such as cybersecurity, or focus on SDSU’s expertise in areas such as precision agriculture solutions employing machine learning and data analytics.

Dr. Pat Engebretson, Dean of The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences, said “Both institutions have a rich history of providing educational excellence and this program will further cement that legacy. By working together, we will be able to reduce

the overall cost of delivery while simultaneously increasing our capacity.” An AS in Computer Science with SDSU is in the planning stages.

Dakota State also partners with Black Hills State University for an AS in Network and Security Administration, through shared delivery in Rapid City, SD. BHSU offers general education courses; DSU provides the majors courses.



The Skinners: Gi

Carol and Drew Skinner are no strangers to Dakota State University.

The couple, who grew up in Madison, attended Dakota State in the 70s, with Drew taking general classes and Carol graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in 1980.

Since graduating, the couple has remained close with DSU, becoming generous donors to the University, specifically in the scholarship area, in addition to supporting the Madison community, for over 15 years.

“DSU is our college. We’ve attended many DSU sporting events over time,

especially throughout high school and college. Having gone to school here myself, I appreciated the support of the community,” Carol said.

Over the years the Skinners have attended the yearly Gala and participated in the annual golf classic. They were inspired to start giving because of their strong connections with DSU as well as with Dr. Judy Dittman, Professor Emerita.

“Dr. Dittman has always been a driving force on campus. When we were approached about collaborating with her, we knew it was time to start giving back,” said Carol.



Giving Back to DSU

Carol and Drew also give back because of the difference the donations make in the lives of the students.

“We know every dollar makes a difference in scholarships. We give in the hopes that future students will be inspired to give back someday.”

In 1981, the Skinners purchased Nicky’s, a local restaurant that hosts a variety of events, dinners, and social gatherings for Dakota State, including DSU Alumni, as well as the Madison community. Nicky’s, which is family owned and operated, has been a Madison favorite since it was first built in the ‘70s. The restaurant offers exceptional food, tasty desserts, and a family-friendly atmosphere.

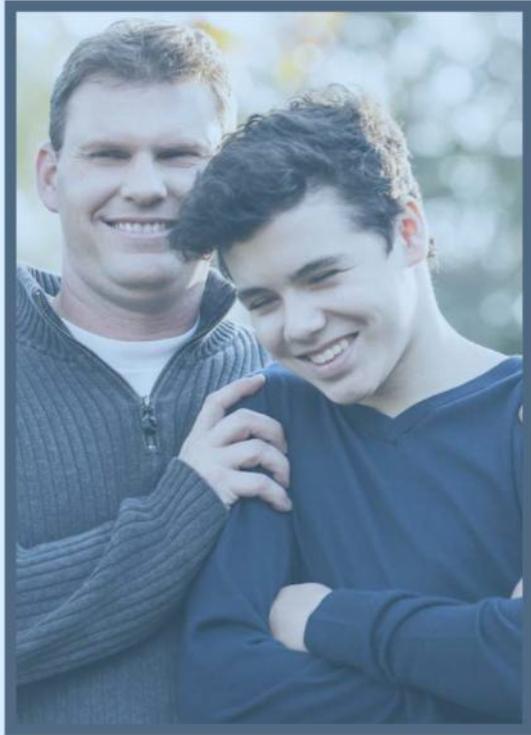
The Skinners are also active members of the Madison Chamber of Commerce, the South Dakota Retailers Association, and the South Dakota Liquor Association.

On top of watching the campus flourish, Carol and Drew love meeting students and parents from all over the nation.

“We enjoy speaking with kids, parents, and alumni. It’s nice when people come in and say, ‘I went to DSU, now my son or daughter is going here,’ It’s fun to hear all the different stories.”



CHILDREN *of alumni*



IN-STATE TUITION FOR OUT OF STATE TROJANS

Children of Dakota State University alumni can

- » Pay in-state tuition for their undergraduate degrees regardless of where they live

Limited to

- » Incoming freshmen or transfer students who attend the same university from which a parent or legal guardian received a degree

For more information

- » Visit dsu.edu

READY TO TRAVEL? SO ARE WE!



JOIN US!

DSU has taken some great international trips in recent years, and as soon as we're able we'd like to plan another awesome adventure.

If you'd like to be updated as to our plans, send your name and email to deb.tech@dsu.edu.

DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY

FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELPS WITH CRITICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING

“We are here to support students, student athletes, and learning,” Suzy Collignon-Hodgen said. “Raising money to fund these scholarships in a multi-faceted way is critical.”

Donations given to the Dakota State Foundation help the University operate and fund scholarships. The 35-member Foundation Board of Trustees assists the Foundation with facilitating organized, systemic, and targeted giving, explained Collignon-Hodgen, Foundation Board President.

While the full board meets twice a year, there are four committees – executive, audit, investment and finance, and athletics – that meet more regularly.

The main priority of the board is raising funds for academic and athletic scholarships to meet present and future demands. Board members do this by opening doors for giving, recognizing donors, and helping expand giving opportunities to support overall need at DSU.

One current project the board is involved in is the Trojans Unite campaign, dedicated to engaging committed alumni, friends of DSU, and community leaders in raising private funds to advance DSU in critical areas.



Suzi Collignon-Hodgen is the Foundation Board President at Dakota State University.

“Our board plays a key role in the success of this campaign and we are looking forward to the future growth it will bring,” she said.

“I GAINED LIFELONG SKILLS THAT ARE THE REASON I HAVE A CAREER I AM PROUD OF AND ENJOY.”

In her role as Board President, Collignon-Hodgen assists in ensuring strategic priorities and the vision of the institution are met. She works with the board to ensure formal and transparent processes are in place and being followed, and presides over the Board of Trustees meetings, assists in the appointment of all committee members, and signs required documents needed for Foundation business that is authorized by the board.

Volunteer members of the Board of Trustees generously give their time, energy, and finances to uphold the Foundation because they believe in its mission. Collignon-Hodgen appreciates the care given by current and past board members, noting the dedication they provide out of their personal and professional lives to help DSU.

She is also thankful for the faculty, Foundation staff, and President Griffiths for their support of the Foundation board. The board has also been excited to work with Jon Schemmel, the new Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

Those interested in becoming involved with the board can contact the Foundation Office or any

trustee to begin the application process. Other ways to support the board include joining events such as the annual gala, funding scholarships and endowments, becoming a member of the Trojan Athletic Club (TAC), or the Alumni Association. Opportunities such as these strengthen the DSU mission, Collignon-Hodgen said.

She is grateful for all who give to the Foundation and mission of the University. “You are truly appreciated for your gifts, your time, and your talents. We could not do the work we do without you.”

SUZY COLLIGNON-HODGEN FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT

Suzy Collignon-Hodgen is the Executive Director of Technology Solutions Business Management for Sanford Health. She earned her BS in Information Systems in 1998.

“I am so thankful for my time at DSU,” she said. “I had brilliant and caring faculty and professors who pushed me to be a better person. I gained lifelong skills that are the reason I have a career I am proud of and enjoy.”

She made long-standing friendships and even met her husband Max at Dakota State. He earned two undergraduate degrees and a graduate degree, and teaches at Madison High School, where he is also the head football coach. The couple spends their time between Lake Herman in Madison and a loft in downtown Sioux Falls.

Collignon-Hodgen is also proud to say that her parents, John and Linda Collignon, and sister Sara Wishard, graduated from Dakota State.



Cathy Grell in her first year of teaching.



Dani Forster Ruhd '19 teaches special education at Howard (SD) Schools.

MORE THAN GENEROUS

MENTORSHIP IS PART OF GRELL SCHOLARSHIP

Education is all about investing in people, said Gene Grell.

That's what he and his wife Cathy '70 (Elementary Education) did throughout their careers. Grell, a graduate of Augustana University, spent many years as a teacher and administrator in Iowa and Nebraska; Cathy taught at the Iowa School for the Deaf, at public schools, and as substitute teacher for the hearing impaired. After she died in 2015, her family created the Cathy Werner Grell Endowed Scholarship for education majors. It was a way to continue that investment, Grell said.

Through a tiered system, three students (a sophomore, junior, and senior) each receive a financial

scholarship every year. This is very helpful, said current awardee Angela Hupf.

"College is expensive, and any little bit helps," she said. The financial assistance "takes the burden off so you can focus on what you're at college to do -- learn and become better in your field."

much more impactful," Hupf stated, because it helps the student make personal connections, and develop soft skills such as interpersonal communication.

"Then you can blossom into a real, live person who talks to other people. That does not happen a lot today," she said.

"It's not about us, it's about who comes after us."
- Gene Grell

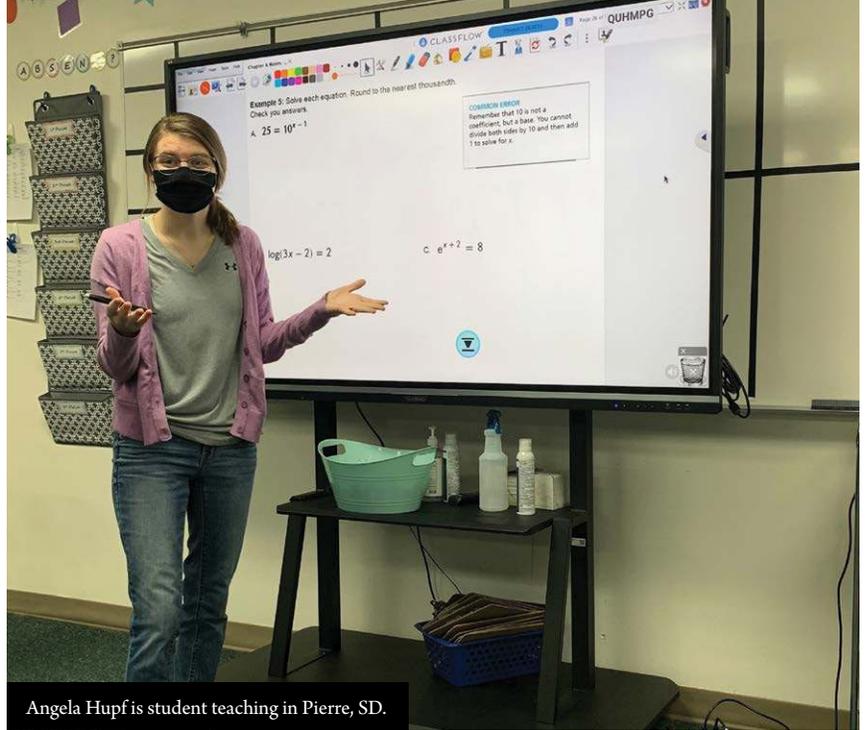
Grell tries to visit them when they are student teaching as well, to encourage them and make sure they think about their experience.

Yet the Grell Scholarship is more than financially generous -- it also includes a mentorship component. Throughout the academic year, Grell meets with the scholarship awardees, investing time in the students. Hupf said this is, "fantastic! I love getting advice and experience stories from Gene." This "makes the scholarship so

"I want to know what they saw with their cooperating teacher that was helpful and good, and the things they don't want to copy. To me, that's what teaching is about. We all have our own way of approaching teaching and I want them to solidify that before their first job," Grell said. He also provides them with supplies they may need, such as books, or the inexpensive



Cathy Grell with two foster daughters.



Angela Hupf is student teaching in Pierre, SD.

calculators he provided for Hupf, who is student teaching math at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre, SD.

The first Grell Scholarship recipient, Salem, SD native Dani Forster Ruhd '19, said "Gene is very upfront and honest at these meetings." He tells the students they are going into a tough career and they need to know what administrators will be looking for when hiring teachers.

"I appreciated that [because] I could tell he was there to help me not just get through college but to be successful past college," Ruhd said.

Grell's mentoring "made it so much more meaningful in so many ways to prepare me for my career," Ruhd said. For example, she noted a "passion project" she once had for a class assignment: students were to teach themselves something new, and then present the information to the class. As an Elementary Education/Special Education major, she was curious about sign language, and reached out to Grell

because of Cathy's experience teaching at the Iowa School for the Deaf.

Grell brought Ruhd two huge binders of books and activities. "I didn't need to sign up for any online courses because he had it all," Ruhd said. Now a special education teacher in the Howard (SD) School System, she has non-verbal students so "I use sign language every single day."

Cathy's interest in sign language began when she was very young. Her grandparents and mother were deaf, so she had learned to sign before she learned to talk, Grell explained.

This personal connection provides motivation, Ruhd said. It meant that in addition to family members, "I had someone rooting for me and I wanted to do a good job for him. He wanted to help us and watch us grow, but he made a strong connection with us and I wanted to reciprocate and make him proud."

Hupf agrees. Financial support is very

much appreciated, but "time is just as valuable -- if not more -- than money. A donor putting forth the time to help a college student means a lot."

Ironically, Cathy hadn't planned on attending college, but her father encouraged her to go to a college fair at Watertown (SD) High School, and she happened on the General Beadle booth.

"She absolutely fell in love with the place," said Grell. She worked her way through school with jobs at a local grocery store and as an RA, plus some student loans, until she graduated in 1970.

"They say people are born teachers, but Dakota State truly perfected what she had and brought it out in her and that's what we hope to do with this scholarship," he said.

"It's not about us, it's about who comes after us."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



MEET DSU ALUMNA AMANDA (GILMAN) HARGREAVES, BS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ('10)

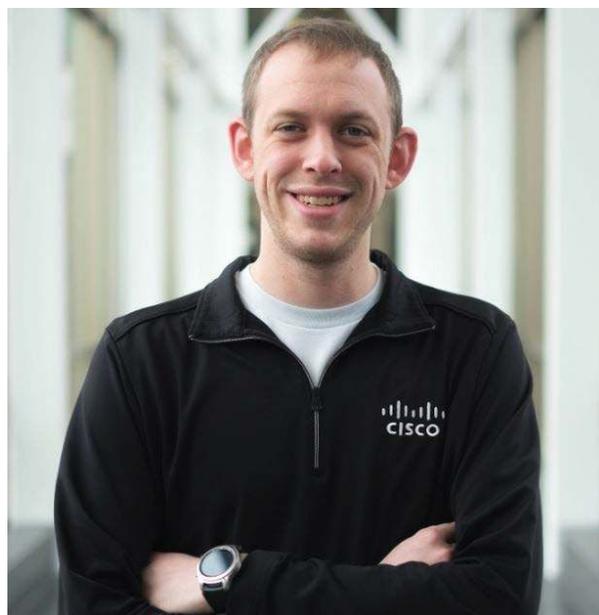
Where do you currently work? I am a sixth Grade Science and English teacher at Mitchell Middle School, Mitchell, SD.

Did you have a favorite faculty? Why? Dr. Mark Hawkes and Dr. Vicki Sterling are two faculty members that stand out to me. Both worked extremely hard to develop relationships with their students and made me feel like they truly cared about my success as an educator. I'll never forget the time Dr. Sterling dressed like "Fancy Nancy" to share a book in our Reading Methods class.

Do you have advice for current students as they prepare to enter the workforce? My advice to students entering the teaching field: Get into the classroom. Don't just observe. Volunteer and show a true interest in getting involved in both the school district and community.

Please share with us any special awards or accomplishments: I was named 2021 South Dakota Teacher of the Year. My job as a teacher, I believe, is not only to ensure academic education, but also to teach the whole child adequately: policies, practices, and relationships that ensure each child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.

If I would have known then what I know now... Believe in yourself and don't sell yourself short. You deserve a seat at the table and your opinion about education matters!



MEET DSU ALUM ELLIOTT BREUKELMAN, BS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS ('13) AND MS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS ('14)

Where do you currently work? I am currently a Solutions Engineer for McAfee, based in San Jose, CA. However, I live and work out of Minneapolis, MN. Prior to McAfee, I held security engineering roles at Land O'Lakes, PREMIER Bankcard, and Citibank.

How did your DSU degree and experience prepare you for your career? DSU was instrumental in preparing me for the real world, especially in the field of cybersecurity. In addition to the superb technical courses, several of the soft-skill courses offered at DSU are where I learned some of the most invaluable skills that I call upon today, including Managerial Communications and Human Resource Management. In many technology fields, security being a great example, it's not always about how well you can defend, attack, or keep systems online, but more about how you work together to better an organization.

Did you do an internship, student teaching, practicum, or other experiential learning? I interned with Citibank and was offered full-time employment after my internship. This was a great opportunity; huge shout out to Career Services for helping me get that initial interview!

What was one of your most memorable college experiences? I'm not sure I could name a single experience, but late nights with friends and lobbying for students at the state capitol with the legislature stand out!

What can you tell us about your career journey? Well, I certainly would not have guessed I'd be where I am now under 30! After spending time in individual organizations implementing and managing cybersecurity infrastructure, I decided to try and help more organizations at the same time by shifting to McAfee. Over the past seven years, I've met and worked with some incredible people and I wouldn't change that for anything!

If I would have known then what I know now...

Two things:

1. Mental health matters and it's ok to not be ok, especially in a college setting where stress can be huge!
2. Don't sweat the small stuff. While grades ARE important, your character and attitude tell more about you than your GPA!



MEET DSU ALUM THEODORE SEES, BIOLOGY FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS '03)

Where do you currently work? I am the owner and Optometrist of Rockford Family Eyecare and Belding Family Eyecare in Rockford and Belding, MI.

Why did you choose DSU? DSU was a smaller school with good academics and an athletic scholarship.

What was one of your most memorable college experiences? The most memorable college experiences were the great friendships that I developed while in school. These friendships range from other students to coaches and faculty members. Because DSU is a smaller school, it allowed for these close friendships that you would not get with a larger school (especially the friendships and personal attention from professors). The other great memories would be the athletics that I participated in.

Did you have a favorite faculty? Why? Dr. Dale Droge and Dr. Donna Hazelwood were my favorite professors. Both were very good at what they taught and prepared me well for professional school and life beyond that.

What can you tell us about your career journey? Since graduating from DSU, I went to Optometry school in Chicago IL. I then graduated with a Doctorate in Optometry in 2007. I moved to DC and worked in corporate optometry for about six years. I moved back to the Midwest in 2014 and opened my own practice. In 2018, I opened my second location.

Do you have advice for current students as they prepare to enter the workforce? Leverage the low student-to-faculty ratio as much as you can to learn about your profession not only academically but how it's also applied in real life.



MEET DSU ALUMNA LAURA BIAGI, B.S. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ('11)

Where do you currently work? Chester, South Dakota Area School – Fourth grade teacher

Why did you choose DSU? To be honest, I previously played collegiate softball. After not playing for two years I decided I missed playing competitively. Coach Prorok had recruited me before and heard I wanted to play again. He called me a few days later and the rest is history!

How did your DSU degree and experience prepare you for your career? In my profession, you must have an education degree. I am grateful that student teaching was such a lengthy amount of time. I was able to really get a feel for what it is like to be in the classroom with 20+ kids. Some things cannot be taught in a college course. Many things you need to experience and I'm thankful I had an amazing cooperating teacher to guide me. I truly believe many things about my teaching style come from her!

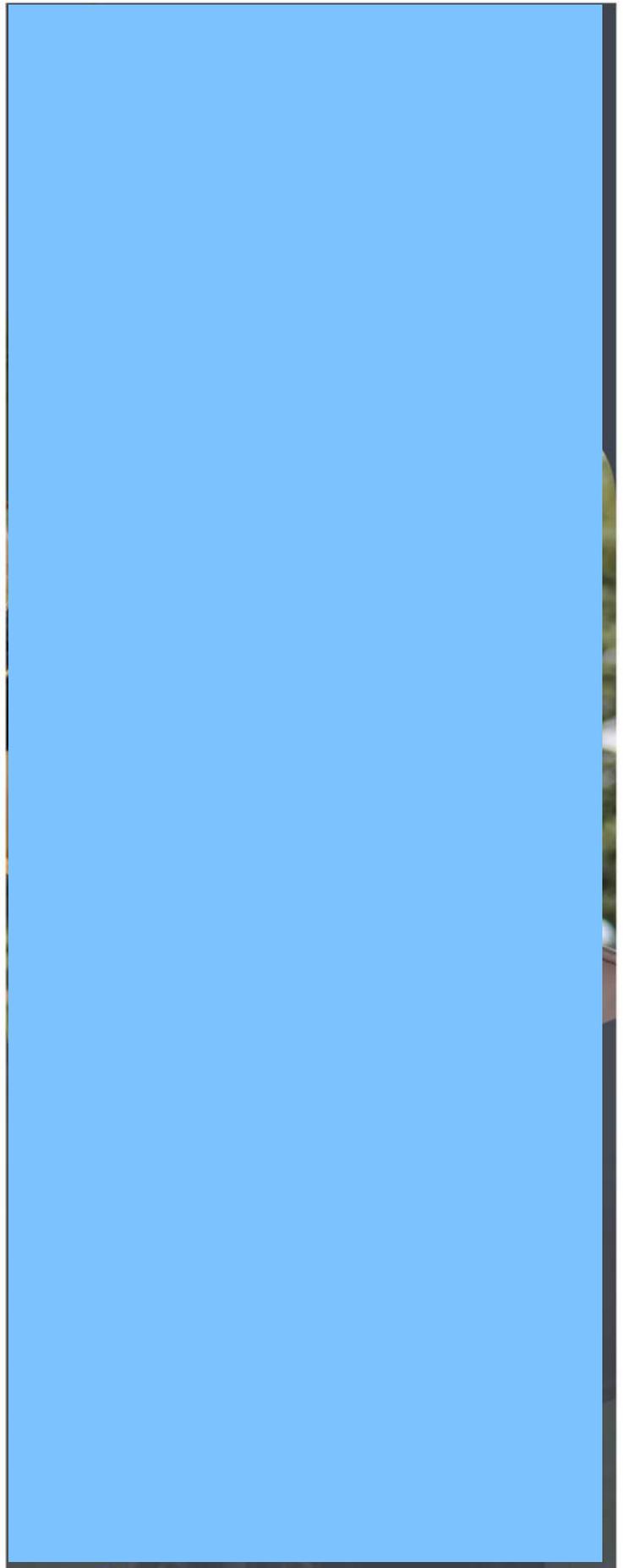
Did you do an internship, student teaching, practicum, or other experiential learning? At DSU, I was able to get into the classrooms many times before my actual student teaching. I was also able to student teach in Iowa. It is a whole new world when you are in a classroom for a lengthy amount of time. I am very grateful for my student teaching experience as I still use some of those tools today!

What was one of your most memorable college experiences? There are many. First of all, I met my husband there! I (and my husband) met some great people there and that is why we are still living in Madison. I had a great college experience being a part of athletics and the education program.

Did you have a favorite faculty? Why? Mrs. Pauli! Mrs. Pauli was so passionate and really showed she cared about education and her students. She made it comfortable and was someone you could go to with any concerns. I truly believe that her relationship with students made me a better teacher. I was able to see firsthand how a trusting relationship has a large effect on students and their learning.

Do you have advice for current students as they prepare to enter the workforce? Interviews are very important. You only get to make a first impression once. Do your research, be educated, and answer honestly. When the time comes for your first job, know that it will still be a learning process. I have been teaching for eight years and learn something new every year!

If I would have known then what I know now... Don't spend your student loan money on unnecessary things. Paying back student loans is not fun!





140TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & VIRTUAL GALA

Thank you!
\$200,371 RAISED!

Photo of Gala Event

"This year's Gala was certainly different, but one thing remains the same: the impact provided by all of you. I am thrilled to share we were able to surpass our goal of raising \$200,000 for student scholarships. The influence this provides is tremendous and allows us to recruit and retain the best and brightest minds to DSU. Thank you for your continued investment and continuing in our efforts to keep DSU Rising. We look forward to a time we can all Unite together again in-person."

Jon Schemmel

Vice President Institutional Advancement | Director of Foundation & Alumni Association

ADVANCING THE MISSION

38







HOMECOMING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

PARADE 10AM | TROJANS VS. MAYVILLE 4PM

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!





DAKOTA STATE
FOUNDATION



ROADMAP TO *Giving*

**SIMPLE STEPS FOR
SETTING UP A SCHOLARSHIP**

1 CONTACT

CONTACT THE DSU FOUNDATION
PHONE: 605-256-5693
ONLINE: [DSU.EDU/GIVE](https://dsu.edu/give)

2 MEET

MEET WITH GIVING OFFICER IN
A WAY THAT IS SAFE AND WORKS
BEST FOR YOU:

- PHONE
- ZOOM
- IN-PERSON

"The Foundation is here as a guide for donors, to help them connect their passions with a purpose. There are established scholarships that support a variety of academic and athletics areas, and then there is the option for the donor to create a new scholarship as well. Our job is to listen to the donor and find the simplest and best way to mold their interest into an opportunity to help a DSU student."

Jill Ruhd, Development Officer

3 MATCHING

THE DSU FOUNDATION WILL
TAKE IT FROM HERE, MATCHING YOUR
GOALS AND DOLLARS TO CREATE A
CONTRACT THAT BEST BENEFITS A
DSU STUDENT.

4 CONGRATS!

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'VE INFLUENCED
THE LIFE AND FUTURE OF A DSU STUDENT.

CREATING CHAMPIONS

DSU ESPORTS CREATES NEW CONFERENCE FOR ADDITIONAL COMPETITION

“I wanted to create a conference that provides a more memorable level of competition,” said Andy Roland, Head Coach of Esports. “We usually join larger national leagues that don’t exactly lend to memorable or meaningful competition.” This brought about the creation of Collegiate Champions League (CCL) by Roland.

He reached out to other universities the DSU teams have worked closely with, such as South Dakota State University, University of Montana, and South Dakota School of Mines, seeking competition outside the normal competitive platforms.

“We aim to bring recognition of our programs to our respective universities, develop students’ abilities to communicate with each program, and create a competitive drive that bonds

each university,” he explained.

This new league is an addition to regular tournament competitions DSU participates in through national leagues like PlayVS, a platform and league for high school and college esports competition. Adding the CCL gives teams the opportunity to play more consistently and potentially develop some fun rivalries, Roland said.

Also, he hopes that the new conference will make it easier for the average viewer to follow, by modeling it after those in traditional sports that have consistent games.

During fall competition, the conference included South Dakota School of Mines, SDSU, University of Montana, Texas Christian University, and Texas Tech. This spring University of Texas and University of Iowa joined the CCL.



The two games currently played in the CLL are “League of Legends” and “VALORANT.” As the league grows, more games will likely be added.

As coordinator for “VALORANT,” Caleb Schneider learned a lot about what goes into running a team, particularly with the new league. “It takes up more time than you would ever expect it to,” Schneider said. “Setting up scrimmages with other schools and finding times that work for everyone’s busy schedules can be difficult.”



Dakota State's "VALORANT" team playing their first CCL game of spring Sunday, Feb. 21

Schneider, a sophomore Business Technology major from Crooks, SD, found having more competitive games through this league enabled the "VALORANT" team to continue improving as they practiced against good competition.

Colby Clarkson is coordinator for the "League of Legends" team, which completed its fall season in the CCL undefeated, beating SDSU for the championship.

Clarkson, a sophomore double majoring in Computer Science and Mathematics

from Norfolk, NE, found that competing with students who are working just as hard to try and improve was both helpful and enjoyable. "Having another league to play in was very nice, as it provides another form of competition for our players."

The Esports team will continue to compete in national tournaments like PlayVS and CSL.

Most games played by the esports athletes are streamed at www.twitch.tv/dsuesports_ for those interested in watching.



FALL SPORTS, SPRING CHAMPS!

UNDERSTANDING, COMMUNICATION KEY FOR DUAL-SPORT ATHLETES

Connor Tordsen is a dual-sport athlete in football and track & field at Dakota State University. He is a defensive lineman on the football squad, and a thrower for the Trojan track & field team.

When the National Association Intercollegiate of Athletics (NAIA) moved fall sports championships to the spring season, “right away, I was concerned with the overlap of football games and track meets,” said Tordsen.

A Biology major, with Chemistry and Health minors, Tordsen admitted “thinking about practice of each sport, while keeping up with classes, was an extremely stressful idea.”

Football Head Coach Josh Anderson felt time management was a challenge for all dual-sport student-athletes.

“Dual-sport athletes have a tough enough time already with time management, as well as the mental aspect of dealing with two teams, two head coaches, different categories of friends from different sports, as well as the concern of their production in each sport,” explained Anderson, and “that is when there is a sports separation.”

“Now that we have had every sport ‘in-season’ during the spring, the dual sport athletes could be presented with even greater challenges,” added Anderson. “They want to do their best in all they do, while at the same time they do not want to let anybody think they are letting their other team down. It can be grueling mentally.”

Schedules can be grueling as well. Tordsen was busy with track practice during the day, followed immediately by football meetings and practice. He stated that “time management is a huge component to success in college for me, and with all the changes in the past few months, I think it has really brought a lot of student-athletes’ time management and ability to be adaptable to a new level.”

Anderson said it was the responsibility of the coaching staff to make sure we let each dual-sport athlete know what their expectations were, and what they were not, during the spring. “No need to add any unnecessary stress into anybody’s life.”

Tordsen is thankful that he had the opportunity to complete both seasons, instead of having them cancelled. "With so many athletes missing out on their season, I think that the changes in scheduling have taught me to be thankful that I was able to do the sports I love, even though the changes may have been an inconvenience," he said.

"Having coaches who understood this scheduling, and were willing to help me work around conflicts, was a huge weight off my shoulders and allowed me to stay up to speed with both," said Tordsen.

He noted that communication with the coaches was a big factor in keeping up with both sports. "Coach Anderson, Track Coach (Anthony) Drealan, and Assistant Track Coach (Alex) Glover, were all been very willing to help me work around both sports schedules," he said.

Tordsen was also glad to work with strength and conditioning with head coach Stephen Vassalotti. "He helped make a modified lifting schedule for dual-sport athletes," Tordsen explained. "The modifications allowed us to lift hard for our football off-season, but still be in top shape for track competitions."

Tordsen saw benefits to having the national championship in the spring. "I think that having more of the football season moved to the spring gave our team more time to prepare for the fall season," he stated. "This extra



Conner Tordsen sets to throw the shot put.

time gave us an opportunity to work on skills we may need to develop and allowed us to master our offensive and defensive schemes."

Trojan track & field team throwing coach Alex Glover said, "Conner is probably the hardest working athlete I have ever worked with. While practicing and competing in the middle of a pandemic are obviously less than ideal, he did not seem to skip a beat."

Glover stated, "he stayed focused on his goals and continued to perform at a high level. It makes coaching him easy and really enjoyable." In addition, Tordsen "sets a great example for all of the rest of the athletes," said Glover. "It is hard for others around him to make excuses when they see him double majoring, playing two sports at a high level, tutoring people on campus, and doing a lot of community service throughout the year."

In the classroom, Tordsen majors in Biology with Chemistry and Health minors, and plans to attend graduate school. Glover is aware of Tordsen's plans for a career in the medical field. Tordsen's advice on looking forward into his career and personal life deal with being adaptable and time management skills that he can use in his schooling and take into his career.

"Having these two skills will be very valuable as things continue to change with athletics and schooling," Tordsen said.

SPLIT SEASON IS 'BLESSING IN DISGUISE'



Lahna Matucha on the volleyball court.

When Lahna Matucha heard about the NAIA fall sports national championships being moved to spring season due to COVID-19 pandemic, she had some concerns.

"I was worried about how I was going to manage doing two sports that were in season at the same time," she said. Matucha, a sophomore Health Information Management student from Burke, SD, competes for the Trojan volleyball and track & field teams.

Matucha plays defensive specialist for the Trojan volleyball team. Normally, college volleyball occurs in the fall, but they played half of the regular season during this fall season, and returned to action to complete their second half of the North Star Athletic Association conference schedule in March and April.

The NAIA granted a free season to all athletes, so they will have an extra year of eligibility.

Matucha added, "COVID has been a really big factor in sports, and I think it was better to move the rest of the season because of this." In fact, "having championships in the spring has kind of been a blessing," explained Matucha. "I think it gave us a better opportunity than what we would have had in the fall. It gave us time to practice more, and I think that is great."

Matucha prepared herself for scheduling both volleyball and track and field practices. "Fitting in both track and volleyball practices were kind of a hassle, but we made it work," she said.

DSU's volleyball Head Coach Amy Veenhof said the spring season was "going to be a challenge with scheduling. Matucha had two practices most days. She was working twice as much as a one-sport athlete."

Matucha said, "My coaches were great when it came to working around practice schedules for how busy I am." She added, "I do not always practice for volleyball, though because of track. If I had a meet on a Saturday, Coach Veenhof let me take it easy on Thursday and not practice on Friday to make sure I was ready to go for my meet on Saturday."

She was able to make sure that she stayed healthy for both sports. "Coaches were very understanding when my body needed a break," she said. "They make sure that I was getting the treatment and rest that I need."

**LIFE IS ALWAYS THROWING
CURVEBALLS AT YOU WHEN
YOU LEAST EXPECT IT,
BUT I THINK IT ONLY
BENEFITS YOU IN THE END.**
LHANA MATUCHA

Through the COVID-19 situation, Matucha learned a lesson about being flexible with life's scheduling. "I have learned that you can't always have everything planned out like you might want," she said. "I like having a set schedule and always knowing what I need to do, but this is not always the case."

She added, "even though you can't control what life does, you can control how you react to what it gives you. I think this has been kind of a blessing in disguise because I have learned to make the most of what I have and to be thankful for the opportunities I have been presented with."

She will take these life lessons into her career and personal life.

"Life is always throwing curveballs at you when you least expect it, but I think it only benefits you in the end," said Matucha.

"I definitely think that I can take the lessons I have learned from the situation and implement them in both my work and personal life. Not giving up and pushing through will help my confidence and make me stronger mentally. I might struggle some now, but in the end, I will know it was all worth it."



Lahna Matucha placing first in track & field.

True Friend

Fans of Dakota State athletics will know George Kiner as the man who sits at the top of the bleachers at basketball games wearing a General Beadle letter jacket.

It isn't a souvenir he picked up in a second-hand store. Kiner earned that letter jacket while a member of the Trojan Men's Basketball Team, where he played first for Coach Homer Englehorn and later for Coach

Ed Harter. Kiner was named Senior Athlete of the Year in 1965.

Kiner didn't spend all his time on the court, he also made life-long friends while at GBSC. One of them was Dave Prohl. Kiner was from Hayti, SD; Prohl from Arlington, SD. One story of their time on campus involves the day Prohl met his future wife, Judy. She had just completed registering for classes in the fall and was walking back to her dorm when Kiner and Prohl drove up in Kiner's car. Being gentlemen, they offered Judy a ride. Sure, it was just a half a block away, but Judy had caught Dave's eye and he didn't want to miss an opportunity to introduce himself to the new freshman on campus. She accepted the ride, and the two of them became inseparable, with Kiner as a cherished friend.

That story was repeated numerous times over the years with good humor, until Dave was diagnosed with cancer and things turned serious.

Kiner and another friend, Charles Woodard, decided to raise money to help cover the cost of Dave's cancer treatments. Along with friend Bill Jensen, they wrote and published a book entitled "Tall Tales but True: South Dakota



George Kiner

Partnership

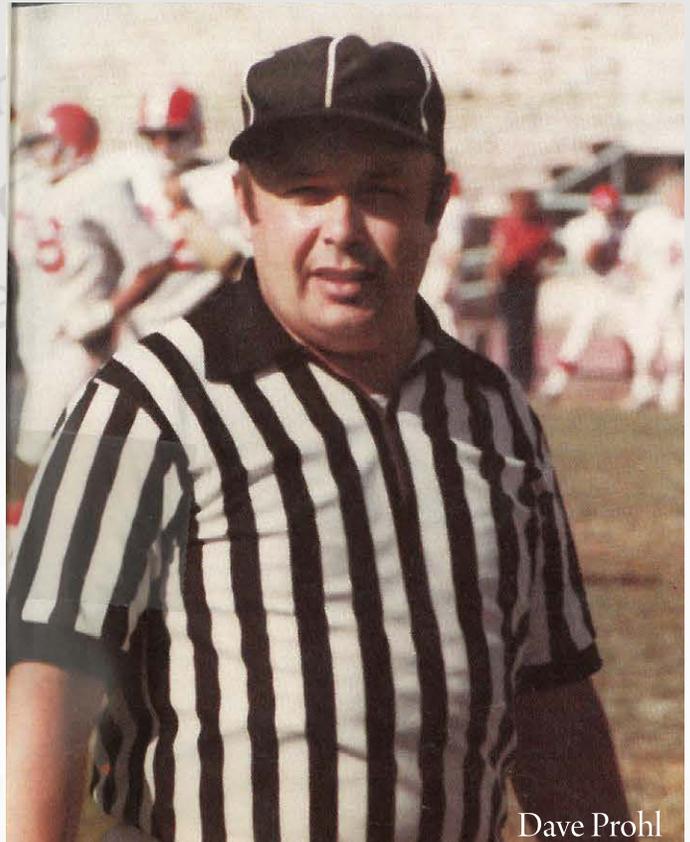
Sports Stories.” Kiner took the book to various sporting events around the state and sold them to fans.

Dave Prohl died in 2001 after battling cancer for many years, but the idea that Kiner, Woodard, and Jensen had conceived took hold and continued to grow.

In 2003, Kiner and Dave Prohl’s widow, Judy, established an endowment at Dakota State in Dave’s honor. Scholarships from the endowment are awarded to students who face financial hardship due to personal or family illness.

After many years as a coach, Kiner is now retired and self-produces and sells souvenir programs and various sports history and trivia books under the bleachers and in the halls at sporting events. He is often approached by younger people who are interested in checking on parents and grandparents who may appear in the record books. Kiner provides a historical record, drums up memories, and reminds people of times when sports were played in small venues to large crowds.

What started as a small gesture to help a friend has grown into the South Dakota Coaches Against Cancer Foundation. All proceeds from Kiner’s books are given to this foundation and go toward



helping students who are facing financial need due to personal or family illness.

The Dakota State Foundation thanks George Kiner for his dedication to raising money to help young people, and his dedication to his friend and fellow General Beadle alumnus Dave Prohl.

Dakota State alumni – or anyone – can donate in honor of Kiner’s work directly to the Dave Prohl scholarship by contacting the DSU Foundation.

Tall Tales But True
South Dakota Sports Stories

Beet Weber
George Kiner

Edited by Bill Jensen, George Kiner and Charles Woodard

The Dave Prohl Funding the Future Scholarship Foundation
Vulcan, South Dakota

Dave Prohl shared a memory from his days at General Beadle in the book “Tall Tales But True.”



SIBLINGS FORM STRONG BONDS THROUGH TROJAN ATHLETICS

If you've ever played a sport, you know very well the bond that can be created amongst the team and coaches. From practices to games, athletes spend so many days together that some even consider each other family.

But for some student athletes at DSU, that family was created the day they were born.

TWIN TAKE OVER



Jebidiah (left) and Wyatt (right) Sanford pose for the camera after a game.

Wyatt and Jebidiah Sanford are twin brothers from Aitkin, MN, who play Trojan football, Wyatt as a defensive back and Jebidiah as a linebacker. Both obtaining degrees in education, the duo has been playing together since childhood.

"We have a lot of fun playing together. We've always been on the same teams and played the same sports. It's been special the entire way; college football was no exception to that," said Wyatt.

Having been on the same teams their whole lives, the twins stated that having each other on the same team at the start of their college football journey team was a huge advantage, since they were able to remind each other of meetings, practices, game schedules, etc. They also were relieved of the nerves that came with a new school and a new team during their freshman year.



Despite the nerves, they were quick to form relationships with other teammates and coaches. And when it comes to coaches and professors in the classroom, it's another asset the two love about Dakota State.

"From our freshman to senior year we've had some great professors who have helped prepare us for the future. The best part has been my student teaching experience at the Madison Middle School. My cooperating teachers are great. They help me become more comfortable as a teacher and give me a lot of resources and advice," said Jebidiah.

Wyatt agreed, crediting the College of Education for their incorporation of technology into their programs.

"I love how technology-oriented the College of Education is and how much time I can spend in the classroom with real students," said Wyatt. "It's helped me become the best educator I can possibly be."

Being on the same team both on and off the field also strengthened the Sanfords' bond as brothers – and as teammates.

"We know we always have someone to count on."



TRIPLE THREAT

Jenni, Jessi, and Josh Giles are closer than normal siblings.

From day one, the triplets have grown up attending the same events, hanging out with the same group of people, reaching the same milestones, and cheering each other on in athletics in their hometown of Madison, SD.

"We have always been a close family, so DSU has allowed us to stay involved in each others' activities while also having separate successes," said Jenni.

Jenni is a part of DSU's track team as a sprinter, Jessi is on the basketball team as a guard and the track team as a hurdler and multi-event athlete, while Josh plays for the football team as a wide receiver.

For the three of them, being a part of DSU athletics at the same time has been a fun and memorable experience not only because it allows them to still be close to one another, but also because of the new relationships they've been able to form.

"One of the best parts about DSU athletics is how close everyone is. Our teams support one another. We root for each team to be successful because those are our friends out there," said Jessi.

In addition to cheering each other on in the stands, the three also cheer each other on in academics, with Josh majoring in Business, Jenni in Biology, and Jessi in English for New Media.

"Being a Trojan means a lot not just for me, but for my whole family. Our parents met here, our older brother played football here, so it runs in our family. We're proud to call ourselves Trojans," said Josh.

SISTER-SISTER

Being a Trojan also means a lot to sisters Peyton and Madalyn Groft, who play volleyball for DSU.

"To be a Trojan means to put forth your best effort every day for the betterment of yourself, your school, and your community. Trojans always go the extra mile to make a difference in someone else's life," said Peyton.

Originally from Ashton, SD, the Groft sisters came to DSU for the athletic experience and family-friendly atmosphere. With the love of the sports instilled in them from a young age, the pair has been playing side by side most of their lives.

So much so, they're even able to predict each other's next moves.

"We know how to work together, and we have that connection on the court that allows us to trust one another. We're able to trust each other and know exactly how the other person plays," said Madalyn.

With a sense of "bond-to-battle" between them, Peyton, a defensive specialist and Madalyn, a setter, continuously challenge themselves and push each other to set and achieve goals on and off the court and in their respective majors.

Peyton, an Exercise Science major, and Madalyn, a Mathematics Education major, both agree that their experience at DSU has been one of a kind.

"Everyone is extremely supportive. They're always willing to help you learn, provide you with as many opportunities as possible, and will help you expand your horizons within your field of study," said Peyton. "We always feel like we're part of the Trojan family."



Peyton and Madalyn continuously challenge themselves to achieve goals on and off the court.



Dave Branco (front, far right) was key to helping the women's basketball team find their "supernatural strength."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM HAS STELLAR BUT BITTERSWEET SEASON

TEAM MOURNS LOSS OF DAVE BRANCO, FATHER OF ASST. COACH JAMAL BRANCO

The statistics earned by the Dakota State University 2020-2021 women's basketball season are impressive, but the full story goes beyond the numbers.

This is the team that had only four wins two seasons ago. They hit rock bottom in the 2018-2019 season, forward Jessi Giles shared in a blog post on her Adobe Spark Page, titled "Growing From the Ground Up."

Through hard work and determination – along with a family atmosphere built by Coach David Moe and Assistant Coach Jamal Branco – the girls had a very different season in 2019-2020. They were winning.

Things changed again when the COVID pandemic was declared in March 2020, and Dakota State moved course

delivery to a virtual format for the remainder of the academic year. Students moved back home, and sports were cancelled. The 2020-2021 season brought a hint of normalcy, but Giles wrote: "When all the basketballs are taken away and the courts are locked you realize how much the game means to you. We didn't take any open gyms, practices, or games for granted. We learned the hard way that it could all be taken away from you at any moment."

They learned an even more significant lesson about loss on February 25.



Jamal Branco and David Moe, Head Women's Basketball Coach, share the joy after winning the NSAA Conference game. Branco's father had passed away two days before.

As part of the team's family atmosphere, the players and coaches would pray before games. Branco's father Dave had taken over the role of leading these prayers, often by phone from the family home in Florida, inspiring the players with references to their "supernatural strength." When the team was going to play in the NSAA



Jamal Branco, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach, and his parents, on a Florida beach

championship this February, he came in person to support the student-athletes.

Dave Branco was in mid-prayer in the DSU Fieldhouse locker room on Thursday, February 25 when he suddenly collapsed. They hustled the girls onto the

court while emergency personnel attended to Dave. The women won the game against Mayville State 72-55; after the game they learned that Dave had died.

This was a terrible loss, and it was felt by the team, the Trojan family, and the extended Madison community. While dealing with this grief, the women rallied for the championship game on Feb. 27. They came back from a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter to win the NSAA championship, beating the Bellevue University Bruins 80-72.

The next stop was the NAIA Women's Basketball National Tournament. DSU took on Providence (MT) and won the opening round; they moved to the next level at the Sioux City (Iowa) Tyson Events Center. Fans brought signs saying, "Team Branco" and t-shirts that read "The Trojan Way: In Dave's name we play."

The Trojans beat Sterling (KS) College in their first game but lost to the number-one ranked Thomas More in the quarterfinal on March 20, ending their stellar but bittersweet season. (Westmont (CA) beat Thomas More in the tournament final on March 23.)

"This offseason we will work to get back to the National Championship," Giles wrote. "We know what it takes to get there and we're ready to put in the work again. We have weathered some of the toughest storms this year, but that has only made us stronger."



RECORD-BREAKING STATISTICS FOR THE 2020-2021 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

- » 23-game winning streak, the best in school history (the previous record was set by the 1980-81 and 1983-84 squads with 11 consecutive victories)
- » 27-4 record overall record for the season, breaking the school record of victories in a single season, previously held by the 1999-2000 team with 25 overall wins
- » Perfect 14-0 North Star Athletic Association conference record, making them the third North Star squad to go undefeated in conference play since the league was formed in 2013-14
- » Playing in their seventh overall appearance in the national tournament, the first since 2007-08 season
- » Jessi Giles was named to the NAIA All-American First Team, the first time in program history that a women's basketball student-athlete was named to the first team. (She finished the season with an average of 17.2 points per game, totaled 533 points, the third most points in the Trojan women's basketball single season record book.)
- » The Trojans won both NSAA conference regular-season and tournament titles for the first time in school history since the league formed in 2013-14, and the first time since the 2006-07 season that DSU won both conference regular-season and tournament titles (in the former Dakota Athletic Conference)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



JUSTIN FOLKERS (Attended) was signed by the Hungarian BKG-Prima Akademia Debrecen (B Division). This is his first season as a pro basketball forward. As a Senior at Dakota State, Folkers averaged 18.8 PPG and 7.0 RPG while he shot 54.4% from the field and 37.3% from 3! He was named the All North Star Conference Player of the Year and an NAIA D2 2nd Team All-American in 2018-2019! During his college career, Folkers scored 1,518 career points!

BRYCE LOGAN (Attended) signed with Belator MMA, an American mixed martial arts promotion. Bryce played football for Dakota State.

JERRY COREY '72 (Education) was featured in the Minnehaha Messenger for Veterans Day. A retired Navy veteran, he spent many years as a recruiter.

LIONEL TORGRUDE '73 (Social Science) a veteran of the Vietnam War, was featured in the Brookings Register for Veterans Day 2020. He spent 23 years as veterans service officer for Brookings County.

MAX HODGEN '97, '99, '11 (BS in Technology Management, BS Physical Education, and MS in Educational Technology) reached the milestone of 100 wins during the 2020 football season as head coach of the Madison (SD) Bulldogs. He was named DSU Alumni Coach of the Year in 2017.

COLETTE TOLLEY '00 (Elementary and Special Learning Problems) is the counselor at a new private practice Rising Hope Counseling Center in Madison.

JEREMY BRECH '04 (Computer Graphic Design) created a localized Sioux Falls Adventure Book to boost the Sioux Falls economy and businesses. Secret "adventures" are revealed by scratching at the prompt token; they vary on season, cost, and activity, and have a spot for an instant photo. There are versions for families, couples, kids, or teens. They are available at <https://siouxfallsadventure.com/>



TAMARA DEUTZ '09 (Professional Accountancy) has been promoted to Partner in Training at Hoffman & Brobst, PLLP. She will continue working with clients, and take an active role in several management aspects of the firm. Hoffman & Brobst is a full service certified public accounting firm with offices in Marshall, Granite Falls, and Minneota, MN.

AMANDA HARGREAVES '10 (Elementary Education) has been named the 2021 teacher of the year in South Dakota. She is a sixth-grade teacher at Mitchell (SD) Middle School.

ELIZABETH JOHNSTON '13 (Elementary Education/Special Education) is teaching middle school English/Language Arts at McCook Central School District.

EMILY FEDDERS '15 (Respiratory Care) continued her education at USD, earning her Master of Physician Assistant degree in 2020. She has been hired as a PC-C at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Health Services, and will be seeing patients at the Centerville Medical Clinic. She also worked in Respiratory Therapy at Sanford USD Medical Center, and was a member of the Sanford AirMed Flight Team before returning to PA school.

EMMA JOHNSON '16, '18 (Respiratory Care, Biology for Information Systems) has joined St. Peter's Health Medical Group (Helena, MT) Palliative Care team as a physician assistant.

JAY HULS '17 (Physical Education) is teaching at Montrose School District.

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. Their deployment began in late summer 2020.

HEATH ABRAHAM
Dakota State's School Resource Officer

WILLIAM BULFER current student

KAYLA COOK current student

LERON GRAY '18 (Cyber Operations) an Azure Red Team Operator with Microsoft, was featured in the Twitter #ShareTheMicInCyber, a campaign to honor Black practitioners in cyber.

CARSON GROSS '20 (Elementary Education/Special Education) is teaching at Marion (SD) School District.

IAN OHLMAN '21 (Computer Science) has been hired as an associate developer at Swanson Russell, a branding, advertising, and public relations agency in Nebraska.

FUTURE TROJANS

MEGAN BLAKE SCHUH '06

(Elementary Education) and **JORDAN SCHUH '11** (Computer and Network Security) welcomed daughter Blake on January 22, 2021. She joins siblings Claire (8) and Rhett (1).



Nora Klimes, is the daughter of **AARON KLIMES '11** (BS Computer Information Systems) and **BRITNEY '12** (BS Computer Education). Aaron is on the DSU Alumni Board.



MANDY (ATKINS) STEGENGA '15, '18

(BS Health Information Administration and MS Health Informatics) and her husband Dale Stegenga announce the birth of their son, Kasen Dale, on October 21, 2020



ALEX BABCOCK '18 (Elementary Education) and **MEGAN BABCOCK '18** (Professional Accountancy) announce the birth of their daughter, Jocelyn James, on January 20, 2021

IN MEMORIUM

IN MEMORIUM - ALUMNI

ALVERDA DUCLOS SCRIVEN '31 (Education Diploma) She was 108 years old.

VIVIAN H. RONNING '38 (Education Diploma)

BERNIECE E. DIEPHOLZ ROWE '39 (Education Diploma)

GLADYS KNUDTSON MICHEEL '40 (Elementary Education Certificate)

W. ELAINE (COTTON) TUCKER '42 (Education)

KATHRYN "KAY" GUNDERSON WIEMAN '42 (Teaching Certificate)

ARLENE SCHRAG AMERT '44 (Education)

MILDRED L. EITREIM LARSON '47

LORENE HARMS DENEUI '48 (Education Certificate)

LEORA H. SAMPLE GABRIELSON '48 (Elementary Education Certificate)

MIRIAM HALVORSON NELSON '50 (Education)

FRANCES FRAUENBERG PARSLEY '50 (Education)

AUDREY L. PECKENPAUGH BECKEL '51 (Elementary Education)

RUTH E. LOUNSBERY MORUD '51 (Education)

MARGARET J. KLUSS RUE '52 (Education Diploma)

ANNA HAMMER NELSON '53 (Education)

ALBERTA JENSEN PEARSON '53 (Elementary Education Certificate)

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.

THEODORE JACKSON '10
Computer and Network Security

JOHN PATTERSON '19
Cyber Operations

JANET NELSON FINCK '54 (Education)

FLORIAN 'GENE' LINTON '54 (Education)

LEMAR A. NELSON '54 (Education)

ZORA M. ANDERBERG OAKS '54 (Education Certificate)

MARY ELLEN DOYLE SCHWARZ '54 (Elementary Education Certificate)

SHIRLEY SALMONSON EISNACH '57 (Teaching Certificate)

JEANNE SCHULTE RICHARDSON '58 '66 (Teaching Certificate, and BS in Education)

HYLA J. SHERARD OLSON '59 (Education Diploma)

CONNIE LOU (TUCKER) PARDY '59 (Education)

ROBERT J. GEDNALSKE '60 (Education Diploma)

WILBUR J. LARSON '60

BERNADINE M. FIELD '63 (Education Diploma)

TERRANCE C. WALTERS '63 (Education)

GAIL E. HAGEMANN '64 (Education)

DENNIS HALSETH '65 (Physical Education)

ROBERT L. PLIMPTON '65 (Education)

GEORGE D. VALENTINE '65 (Education) George was named an Outstanding Alumnus in 1982.

IRWIN "BUTCH" QUAIL '67 (Physical Education)

JOANNE K. KRATOCHVIL KRATZ '68 (Elementary Education)

DENNIS V. DEHAAN '69 (Business)

JUDY D. RICHEAL KIGER '69 (Education)

MADLINE L. HELLER GEIGLE '70 (Education)

JENYNE FIFELD BAGLEY '71 (Elementary Education)

VIOLA M. JANSSEN CALLESEN '71 (Elementary Education)

FRANCIS JAMES FITZGERALD '71 (Business)

DENISE M. BEMIS GEBUR '71 (Elementary Education)

ARLYCE E. ANDERSON JACOBSON '72 (Elementary Education)

MARY ANN SAND SCHONEBAUM '73 (Education)

ROBERT C. TURNER, JR. '73 (Bachelor's Degree)

JAMES L. RHEAULT '75 (Accounting)

JEFFREY D. JUNG '77 (Chemistry)

ROBERT 'BOB' KECK '77 (Education)

JOHN BJORKMAN '79 (Education)

CAROLL (SWENSON) CORDTS '79 (Education)

JEANNE S. ROSE NUSOM '81 (Education Associate Degree)

CANDACE REILLY KOOIKER '87 (Bachelor's Degree)

CLAUDIA G. LINDERMAN JOHNSON '89 (Elementary Education)

STACI KLEIN '96 (English Education)

MICHELLE L. CARROLL '04 (Computer Information Systems)

NICHOLE A. TONSAGER WATERS '18 (Business & Information Systems)

IN MEMORIUM – FRIENDS OF DSU

VIOLA JOYCE WILLIAMSON BEHL Attended

CAROL JOHNSTON BENTSON Attended

CHRISTOPHER L. BLACKWELDER Attended

EUNICE L. GUNDERSON DUERKSEN Attended

LOIS HIARING HOPE Attended

RONALD C. GUNDERSON Attended

MILDRED L. TOKHEIM JORGENSON Attended

RICHARD KACHEL Attended

KARL E. KAPPENMAN Attended

RALPH E. LEE Attended

JACK MADER Attended

EUNICE S. PEARSON OLSON Attended

GLEN E PERRY Attended

GARY E. THOMPSON Attended

JAMES ASMUSSEN Former groundskeeper

RON BARTHEL Former Faculty/Staff

DALE DAVIS Former Faculty/Staff

DONALD P. EVEN Former Faculty/Staff

MICHAEL D. FOSS Professor of math and physics beginning in 1984, Interim dean of the College of Natural Sciences. He was instrumental in developing one of two biotech programs in the country.

AARON D. GAMEWELL Friend of DSU

PHYLLIS J. HARTER Friend of DSU

JERALD HECKENLAIBLE Former Faculty/Staff

SHARON R. COLWILL ISSENHUTH Former Faculty/Staff

GEORGE REGAN Friend of DSU

JEAN TOMMERAASEN Friend of DSU

BETTY ZOLNOWSKY Friend of DSU



Featured Memorial

John C. Bjorkman, age 66, was born on November 21, 1954 to Lee and Betty Bjorkman. He grew up on a farm near Oldham and attended Oldham High School. John then went on to earn a degree in Education at DSU in 1979, later earning a Master's degree at SDSU and an Education Specialist degree at SFU. John had a passion for teaching and helping the youth. He also enjoyed refereeing high school basketball and football games, which he did for 30 years. John also loved fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family and grandchildren. His grandchildren were the light of his life. John passed away on October 20, 2020 from COVID19 at Avera McKennan Hospital.

[Send address updates and class notes to advancement@dsu.edu](mailto:advancement@dsu.edu)

NEW TROJANS

DSU WELCOMES JON SCHEMSEL AS NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Jon Schemmel was born in Topeka, KS and grew up primarily in Eden Prairie, MN.

Schemmel, who played college baseball at the University of Minnesota & Concordia University, St. Paul, went on to play professional baseball in the New York Mets and San Diego Padres organizations, making it as high as AAA. He graduated college from San Diego State University.

Schemmel is familiar with higher education in South Dakota, as he was Senior Associate Athletic Director for Development at the University of South Dakota for six years. Most recently he has been Senior Associate Athletic Director and Assistant Vice President of Development at Miami University (Ohio) since 2017. He is also a Consultant with College Sports Solutions.

His goal as the VP for Institutional Advancement is to create a culture of philanthropy and build a Foundation and Alumni Association that all constituents are proud of, as well as continue and form great relationships that will lead to significant investments into DSU and President (Dr. José-Marie) Griffiths' vision for the future.



