



Dakota State University For Your Information

April-May 2009

Employee of the Month

Dana Hoff, Senior Secretary for Enrollment Services, was selected as the Career Service employee of the month for March. Recognized at the April meeting was Susan Eykamp, Senior Secretary for Extended Programs.

Spring Commencement

History will be made at the May 9th Spring Commencement, when DSU congratulates its first doctoral graduate, Dr. Pat Engebretson. Over 190 graduates make up the spring graduating class. U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin will provide the Commencement Address. Distinguished Alumni awards will be presented to Arne Fockler of Rochester, MN, (Class of 1967) and Deb Bowman of Pierre (Class of 1976). Twelve returning graduates from the Class of 1959 will be recognized and receive 50 year diplomas.



DSU Students Intern at Los Alamos National Lab

Two DSU students will be doing summer internships at the Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) in New Mexico. The student interns, Daniel Moore and Joel Maassen, will be working on experiments dealing with dark matter. The team will be led by Dr. Andrew Hime, Director of the Weak Interactions Program at LANL.

Moore, from Howard, SD, is a senior physical science major at DSU. Maassen, from Hull, IA, is a junior majoring in physical science and scientific forensic technology. The students will gain hands-on experience in the laboratory and also have the opportunity to learn how to analyze and interpret real experimental data. They gained the internships through an application process that included interviews, academic standing, and future goals.

Student Essay Presented at International Conference

An essay written by Dakota State student Jenna Halse was accepted for presentation at the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society Conference in Minneapolis, MN March 25-28. Halse, from Florence, SD, is a sophomore at DSU majoring in English education. Halse's essay, entitled "Temptation and the Grotesque: Religion in 'Good Country People' and 'The Ugliest Pilgrim'" was among 815 papers submitted. The papers were judged by a 19-member committee made up of experts from across the country. Halse presented her essay and participated in a group discussion at the March conference.



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Legends and Legacy Banquet

Dakota State University will present the Philanthropists of the Year Award and Faculty Legend Award at the annual Legends and Legacy Banquet, Friday, May 1. **Gene and Margie Phillips** (former Madison residents) are being honored as Philanthropists of the Year. **Dr. Robert Oas** (Professor Emeritus of Education) will be receiving the Faculty Legend Award. Dr. Oas retired from DSU in 1994.



Gene & Margie Phillips



Dr. Bob Oas

Four faculty will also be recognized at the banquet. The four awards are given annually to recognize excellence in teaching, research, service and advising. Faculty members are nominated by their peers and selected by a faculty committee. Being recognized this year are the following individuals:

- The Dr. Ernest Teagarden Award for Excellence in Teaching is being awarded to **Dr. Dale Droge**, Professor of Biology and Academic Coordinator for Math and Science
- The Merrill Hunter Award for Excellence in Research is being awarded to **Dr. Kevin Streff**, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Information Assurance at DSU.
- The DeWayne Mork Award for Excellence in Service is being awarded to **Dr. Maureen Murphy**, Associate Professor of English with the College of Arts and Sciences.
- The Alexander "Sandy" Davidson Award for Excellence in Advising is being awarded to **Dr. Gabe Mydland**, Assistant Professor in the College of Education.

DSU Training Featured in National Case Study

Dakota State University is featured in a national case study for Connections Now, a customer service training developed by educational consultant company Noel-Levitz. The training was facilitated by the Dakota State Human Resources Department and funded by the Title III Grant as a project to help increase student retention.



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New Head Coaches Hired

Dakota State University director of athletics, Gene Wockenfuss, announced the hiring of Gary Garner as the head coach for the men's basketball program and Amy Veenhof as the head coach for women's volleyball.

Garner's collegiate experience is primarily on the Division I and II level. For the past two years, he has served as the assistant coach for Iowa Energy, a team with the NBA Development League. He served as head basketball coach at Southeast Missouri State University from 1997-2006. From 1991-1997 he led the men's team at Fort Hays State University. His 1995-1996 team won the NCAA Division II Tournament, capping a perfect 34-0 season. That same year Garner was named the NCAA II Bulletin National Coach of the Year and the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.



Wockenfuss & Garner



Veenhof

Veenhof has been the assistant volleyball coach at Northern State University since 2005. Prior to Northern, Veenhof was the head volleyball coach at Si Tanka University in Huron. Along with her coaching duties at Northern, Veenhof worked with area high school athletes for club play and volleyball camps.

Center of Excellence Symposium Held

Over 30 faculty and students presented their research work at the Center of Excellence Spring Symposium on April 24. Many of these reports were from participants in the Student Research Initiative (SRI) and the Faculty Research Initiative (FRI). The SRI/FRI program is completing its 4th year on the campus.

Annual Longevity Reception

DSU recognized its long-term employees at the annual longevity reception on April 6. Twenty-three employees received pins and plaques for completing 10, 15, 20, 25 or more years of service. This year's group represents 420 years of service to the State of South Dakota.