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2007 Mid-Winter Conference “Relax. Refocus. Rejuvenate.”

This year the South Dakota College Personnel Association’s Mid-Winter Conference offered us the opportunity to relax, refocus, and rejuvenate. From the member social to the keynote address and from the breakout presentations to the Qigong session, conference-goers had the opportunity to relax in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, to refocus their energies, and to rejuvenate themselves and their programs.

Conference Highlights

- ♦ **Keynote Speaker:** As the keynote speaker, Bernie Hunhoff shared stories about our great South Dakota history. He provided a humorous and insightful look at South Dakota as experienced through his many travels across the state. Hunhoff is founder and author for South Dakota Magazine.
- ♦ **Graduate Student Awards:** Three graduate students received awards for their work in various areas related to higher education. These students presented results of their work at the conference. Awardees were Julie Doss-Danielson, SDSU graduate student, Shawnda Carmichael, SDSU WRGC graduate student, and Craig Miske, SDSU WRGC graduate student.
- ♦ **Awards Ceremony:** Various members of SDCPA were honored, including past presidents, campus liaisons, and recipients of the Merrigan and Boesen awards. Institutions in the state also were recognized for their strength of membership.
- ♦ **Closing Session:** The closing session focused on “The Journey”, a story of self-discovery and life lessons. The story follows the journey of Eric Saperston, a recent college graduate, as he experiences life and self-discovery on a cross country tour. Along the way, Saperston enticed three new friends to join his exploration.

Relax. Refocus. Rejuvenate.
February 7 - 9, 2007 @ Spearfish, SD
 SDCPA Mid-Winter Conference 2007

Special Thanks to our Sponsors!

<p>BHSU Alumni Foundation Black Hills State University Career Center at SDSM&T Citibank EAC</p>	<p>National American University SDSM&T Residence Life US Bank Wells Fargo Western Dakota Technical Institute</p>
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Connections is a publication of SDCPA’s Marketing Committee
 Christy Osborne (SDSU) and Travis Sieber (NSU), members; Jody Owen (SDSU), chair



Connecting With . . .

Rae Getz

Originally from North Dakota, Rae Getz spent 15 years in Scottsdale, AZ where she realized the life-long dream of going back to college. Rae earned a 1997 bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in Anthropological Religious Studies from Arizona State University. She began graduate studies at ASU and then moved to South Dakota where she received her master's degree in Counseling and Human Resource Management/Student Affairs from South Dakota State University. Before entering a career in higher education, Rae worked in a variety of occupations including management and employee training. Her history includes an entrepreneurial venture as owner/founder of an exotic bird brokerage. She currently serves as Assistant Dean of Student Success for National American University, Rapid City Campus. Although her background is diverse and colorful, there is nothing she has enjoyed more than working with students. She finds the campus atmosphere exciting and describes her work as meaningful and satisfying.

Starla Russell

Starla has been in the financial aid profession for 7 years. She and her husband of 11 years are raising four young children: a son who is in 4th grade, a first grade daughter, another daughter in pre-school, and finally, a 2-year old son who rules the roost! Starla serves on her institution's Accreditation Steering Committee, Marketing and Public Relations Committee, and administers the Scholarship Program. Starla's favorite quote is "Depending on someone is like having a parachute. If they aren't there for you the first time, chances are you won't need them again." She believes there is strength in a team and that no one person succeeds alone... we all sink or swim together, and we need to row the boat in the same direction! Starla graduated with a Bachelor of Science from BHSU in 1992 and with a Master of Business Administration from USD in 1999. She has been a member of SDCPA since 2005.

Danielle Brady

Danielle currently works as the Coordinator of the Student Assistance Center and Proficiency Exam Coordinator at Black Hill State University. Her favorite part of her job is the interaction with students and helping students achieve their goals. Danielle holds a BS in Human Development and Family Studies from SDSU and a MA in Educational Psychology and Counseling from USD. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Educational Administration Adult and Higher Education from USD. She has been a Licensed Professional Counselor since 2002. Danielle has been a member of SDCPA for three years and currently serves as one of state university representatives on the Board. She feels that the most important part of being involved in SDCPA is the networking that happens between the different types of higher education institutions across the state. ■

2007 Student Leadership Conference

The 2007 Student Leadership Conference will be held in on Thursday, October 25 at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. This is a great opportunity for student leaders to come together to share ideas about student leadership, professional development, and more!

Call for Proposals

Want to share your expertise? Do you have ideas of successful programs that work on your campus? Students and staff are invited to submit their breakout session proposals by September 30, 2007. To submit your proposal, email a short description, title, and names of presenters to Reeny Wilson at maureen.wilson@sdsmt.edu. Breakout session presenters will receive free registration.

Conference Registration

Conference registration is \$20 per person and includes the conference, breakfast, lunch, and a conference T-shirt. Registrations postmarked before October 10, 2007 will receive one free registration for an accompanying advisor. Each school should register as a group, so please contact the point person for your school to coordinate registrations. To obtain a registration form, talk with your SDCPA campus liaison or visit the SDCPA website at <http://www.mysdcpa.org/Upcoming%20Events/website%20info.pdf>. Registration forms will be available online soon! (Note: Registration is limited to 12 students per school.) ■



2007 Mid-Winter Conference cont.

And the Award Goes To...

Each year at the conference, two SDCPA members are recognized for their contributions to students and higher education. The Marcus Boesen Award recognizes and encourages an individual who has been in the student services profession for less than four years but shows outstanding promise in his or her efforts. The Patrick Merrigan Award recognizes an SDCPA member who has consistently provided outstanding leadership within his or her institution and areas of responsibility and who has significantly contributed to the profession and SDCPA for a number of years.



Patrick Merrigan Award
Peggy Schlechter, NAU-RC



Marcus Boesen Award
Susie Hadrick, DWU

Next Year's Event

Mark your calendars for the 2008 Mid-Winter Conference! Next year's event will be held February 6-8 at the Days Inn in Brookings. If you are interested in helping out with the 2008 conference, contact Travis Sieber, Conference Chair, at siebert@northern.edu. ■



SDCPA Website Gets Extreme Makeover

Move over, Ty Pennington! The SDCPA design team is taking over! This year, SDCPA President Janet Greenway and her design team took on the tremendous task of overhauling the organization's website. The new, easy to use site includes information about the organization, conferences, awards, membership lists, committees, and other important topics.

You can check out the new site at <http://www.mysdcpa.org/>.

For a look at national events related to the profession, visit the ACPA website at <http://www.acpa.nche.edu/>.



Campus happenings...

Northern State University – More than 50 NSU students participated in this year's Alternative Spring Break trips from March 2-10. The five service learning trips were: "Hunger and Homelessness," or "Domestic Violence," in Phoenix, AZ, "Urban Youth Education," in Denver CO, "Hurricane Relief," in Waveland, MS, and "HIV/AIDS and Youth," in New York City, NY. This is the seventh year for the Alternative Spring Break program sponsored by the student-run Volunteer Service Clearinghouse. NSU is the only school in the state of South Dakota that is affiliated with Break Away, the national non-profit organization that supports universities and communities in implementing alternative break service trips. This year marks the first year NSU students can earn university credit for attending.

NSU also welcomed famed "Remember the Titans" football coach Herman Boone. His lecture "Stories of Unity, Leadership, and Conflict Resolution" was co-sponsored by the Campus Activities Board and Black Student Union on March 15. The student organizations promoted this event to the community of Aberdeen and also welcomed fans and students from the State B Boys Basketball tournament. An estimated 730 people attended this moving speech.

SDSM&T – Students and staff have been working diligently on sponsoring the 3rd Annual SDCPA Student Leadership Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Climb On..." and the date selected is Thursday, October 25 with a few events being planned the evening before. Several student groups including the Leadership Development Team are coordinating this effort.

SDSM&T is hosting the Baja SAE Competition May 23-26 in which 100 teams and 1,000 students from the United States, Canada, Mexico, France, South Korea, and South Africa will compete. SDSM&T student teams have achieved impressive results in recent competitions:

- Won top honors with their Carbon Post-it Notes idea in the national Entrepreneurship Week USA Challenge
- Took 1st Place at American Society of Mechanical Engineers Regional Conference for designing and building a human-powered device to distill water
- Achieved a 2nd Place finish for Alternative Fuel Vehicle team in the SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge

SDSU – SDSU will open a new Wellness Center in August 2008. The facility will include Wellness, Intramurals, Recreation, Student Health and Counseling and an Aramark juice bar. The \$12.1M facility will be built primarily through student fees and donations from the City of Brookings and private donors.

The SDSU Residential Life staff hosted the regional Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (MACURH) conference November 11-13 in Brookings. More than 550 students and staff attended the conference. MACURH is comprised of Residence Hall Associations from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the Canadian province of Manitoba.

SDSU Student Health and Counseling and the Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota co-hosted the North Central College Health Association Annual Conference (NCCHA) conference in Sioux Falls October 11-13, 2006. NCCHAAC consists of institutions of higher education in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. More than 130 people attended the three day event.

Western Dakota Technical Institute – Melanie Krauter, Special Services Coordinator at WDTI is also an active advisor to the Eagle Feather Society, a campus organization that lists more than 120 active members. The Eagle Feather Society hosts a variety of events each year, such as the Book Drive for WDT Giving Tree, Black Hills Children's Home residents and Library, and hat and mittens drives. They organization also appropriates funds to students in need from their emergency fund resources. In addition, the society sponsors a feather ceremony during each graduation. The ceremony involves many culturally significant events including a Native American drum group that sings an honor song as the graduates enter and exit the ceremony. An invocation and special blessing is given and there is a time of encouragement and reflection by a speaker who is selected by the graduates. ■

... from around the state!