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Mount Marty College

Rae Getz (2008)
Assistant Dean of Student Success
National American University

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Starla Russell (2008)
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Academic Advisor, College of Pharmacy
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Mandy Parpart (2008)
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A Message from the President

It's official...we can now say "Happy Holidays"! I hope all of you are able to make time for yourself and your family during this busy time of year and to remember the true reason behind this holiday season.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the **SDCPA Mid-Winter Conference** coming up on **February 7-9 in**

Spearfish! The theme for this year's conference is **"Relax...Refocus...Rejuvenate"**. Each of us in student services deserves a little pampering after a busy fall of recruiting, counseling, finalizing financial aid awards, planning and organizing student activities, helping students to settle in to dorm life, registering students for classes (and making changes to their schedules so a student can sleep in) or helping students find part-time jobs...just to name a few things. I encourage you all to make arrangements in your offices so you and/or your colleagues can take time to relax & refocus, to renew or make new friendships, to learn from colleagues around the state and to rejuvenate yourself for the remainder of the school year. More information about the conference is included below. Thanks to Reeny Wilson, SDSM&T, SDCPPA President-Elect and Conference Chairperson and to her planning committee for all the hard work they have put into planning another outstanding conference for our SDCPA members.

At the conference, we will be unveiling the new SDCPA website: www.sd-cpa.org. The website will be practical and easy to use. The main purpose for the website will be to provide critical and timely information for our members and to promote our Annual Student Leadership and Mid-Winter Conferences. The site can grow with our association's needs.

To each of you, I wish you continued success in your responsibilities at your respective campus and a blessed and safe holiday season! Thank you for your continued membership and active participation in the South Dakota College Personnel Association!

See you in February!

Janet Greenway, 2006-07 SDCPA President
Mitchell Technical Institute ■

Relax. Refocus. Rejuvenate.



February 7 - 9, 2007 ☼ Spearfish, SD
SDCPA Mid-Winter Conference 2007

Join us at the Northern Hills Holiday Inn in Spearfish for information sharing, networking and rejuvenation!

Mark your calendar now! More information, including registration forms, will be sent soon.

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Connecting With . . .

Starla Russell

Starla Russell had been in the financial aid profession for seven years. And since she believes that family comes first, it is fitting to note that she and her husband are raising four young children: a son who is in 4th grade, a daughter who is in 1st grade, another daughter in pre-school, and, finally, a 2-year old son who rules the roost!

Starla serves on Western Dakota Technical Institute'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 be needing 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!

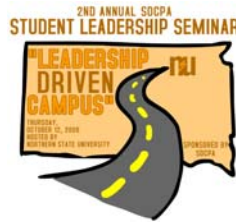
Starla graduated from BHSU in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science and from USD in 1999 with a Master of Business Administration. She has been a member of SDCPA since 2005 and is the new Technical / 2-Year Institution Representative on the Executive Board.

Jody Owen

Jody has worked in various roles in higher education over the past 10 years, including admissions, advising, academic success, and employment. She currently is a Tutoring Coordinator / Instructor in the College of General Studies at South Dakota State University.

In her free time, Jody enjoys reading, volunteering for the Brookings Regional Humane Society, and spending time with her family. She also belongs to various professional organizations including the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), the Association for the Tutoring Profession (ATP), and the National College Learning Center Association (NCLCA).

Jody earned her Bachelor of Science in 1996 and her Master of Science in 2002, both degrees from South Dakota State University. She has been a member of SDCPA since 2002 and is currently the organization's Secretary. ■



2nd Annual Student Leadership Conference

The 2nd Annual SDCPA Student Leadership Conference was held on the Northern State University (NSU) campus in Aberdeen on Thursday, October 12, 2006. The conference, "Leadership Driven Campus", featured a variety of breakout sessions regarding student leadership and personal growth.

The keynote address was given by Eric Kline, a lifelong Aberdeen resident and Northern State University alumnus. Kline currently is the Principal of CC Lee Elementary School in Aberdeen. His address to the students regarded key themes and philosophies from the critically acclaimed best-seller, "Purpose Driven Life", by Rick Warren.

The purpose of the student leadership conference is to provide college students with information about becoming better team players and stronger leaders and about student services professions. In support of this goal, speakers presented on topics such as Social Leadership Styles, Alternative Spring Break, Leadership in Campus Ministry, Safeguards regarding MySpace and Facebook, and Tools to Lead your Organization. The conference concluded with an Idea Swap breakout session in which students from various campuses shared ideas for programs and initiatives that have potential to improve campus life.

Participants who arrived on campus Wednesday evening were invited to a social sponsored by the NSU Campus Activities Board at the NSU Student Center. The mixer featured mini golf, food, and music.

More than 70 students attended the one day workshop, with the largest number of students (13) coming from National American University. ■



Pictures from the student leadership conference in Aberdeen



Campus happenings

Dakota State University – DSU Career Services is excited to introduce two new employees to SDCPA! Heather Muller is the new Student Employment Coordinator, replacing Jackie Miller. Heather had been at DSU for nine years, most recently in the Financial Aid Office. Heather coordinates the student employment program and work-study placements on campus.

Janelle Nielsen is the new senior secretary for Career Services. She came to us from Enrollment Services and is responsible for office management, work-study supervision and front-line operations.

Please welcome Heather and Janelle when you see them at SDCPA events!



Heather Muller



Janelle Nielsen

Dakota Wesleyan University – Mr. Terry Koch, Director of Physical Plant at DWU, will be retiring after the Christmas holiday. Terry has been our director for ten years and will be greatly missed. Terry is a member of SDCPA and is married to Gwenda Koch.

Mount Marty – Mount Marty is celebrating their 70th anniversary this year. This milestone marks many great developments for the campus and staff, including a new degree program for theatre on our Yankton campus and new MBA program on our Watertown campus. We also hosted our first annual student leadership workshop in October.

We have also had some additions to our staff, including Tom Centarri as a Residence Hall Director, Erin Duncan as a VISTA Coordinator, and Albert Fernandez as an Admissions Counselor and Softball Coach. SDCPA member, Celeste Solak, and her husband welcomed their new baby boy, Jillian, in September.

National American University – After having an outstanding season, National American University's volleyball team made it to the NAIA National Tournament in Columbia, MO. The first match was Wednesday, November 29. They entered the national tournament ranked as the #1 NAIA team in the U. S. The NAU Lady Mavericks finished their regular season as the only undefeated women's volleyball team in the country...across all divisions. GO MAVERICKS!!!

NAU welcomes a new Academic Dean, Dr. Holly Boomer. Holly is also a new member of SDCPA. She is originally from Martin, SD and most recently worked at Oglala Lakota College. She has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

School of Mines – School of Mines welcomes the following new staff members: Mike Keegan, Student Activities and Leadership Center Coordinator; Laura Baker, Director of Peterson Hall and Coordinator of FIRST Program; Patrick Buyck, Director of Connolly Hall; Dickson Pongrekun, Director of Palmerton Hall; Charles (Tex) Claymore, Director of Admissions; and Prince Amattoe, Admissions Counselor. Farewell to Kristiaan Rawlings, Director of Palmerton Hall, and best wishes to him in his new position with the SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club in Pine Ridge.

The March/Dake Plaza was dedicated during Mines' Family Week-end this fall. Located in the "backyard" of what was once March/Dake Hall, and with a view of M-Hill in the distance, the March/Dake Plaza provides students with a relaxing outdoor space to study, cook a few burgers, or just enjoy the sunshine! The March/Dake Plaza became a reality through the vision of a student team that developed a plan and made that plan a reality.



SDCPA President-Elect, Reeny Wilson, (far left) participates in the March/Dake Plaza ribbon cutting ceremony.

South Dakota State University – SDSU celebrated their 125th birthday this year. The anniversary year brought many new changes to the campus. Dr. Peggy Miller, SDSU's 18th President, announced her retirement after nine years of service to the university. Her successor, Dr. David Chicoine, will assume the presidency in January, 2007.

SDSU received a donation from alumnus Virgil Wintrode to create a student success center. Mr. Wintrode, who funds the CAP Center Tutoring Program, has contributed additional resources to renovate a facility that will house various academic support services, including tutoring, the Math Help Center, the Writing Center, Disability Services, and SDSU's TRiO Programs.

Between the College of General Studies and the Division of Student Affairs, SDSU welcomed more than 20 new student services staff members this year.

... from around the state! ■

Upcoming Events

SDCPA

February 7 – 9, 2007: SDCPA Mid-Winter Conference
"Relax. Refocus. Rejuvenate."
Northern Hills Holiday Inn, Spearfish, SD

ACPA

March 31 – April 4, 2007: ACPA Annual Convention
"Our Power and Responsibility to Shape Education"
Joint Meeting with NASPA in Orlando, FL ■