

# CWS News

THE CENTER FOR WESTERN STUDIES | AUGUSTANA COLLEGE | FANTLE BUILDING



## Exhibit Expansion Initiative Moves to Design Development

With gifts in hand approaching \$200,000 and completion of the Concept Design Phase, CWS is now ready to proceed with the next phase of the Exhibit Expansion Initiative—Design Development. This phase has several stages—Design Development I & II, Pre-production, Production, and Installation—and will take approximately a year to complete.

The emphasis in the new exhibits will be the “voices of the past,” referring to the voices that “speak” to us through the Plains Indian and immigrant artifacts, as well as through the letters and photographs that provide context for understanding these objects. The new exhibits will also celebrate the treasures found in the Center’s museum collections and archives. The initiative will significantly impact three museum exhibit areas and will require considerable staff involvement throughout the forthcoming twelve-month period.

The Center gratefully recognizes the following for their financial support of the Exhibit Expansion Initiative: Lynn and Barbara Aspaas, L.M. Baylor, Shon Cronk, Verna Berg Estate, Gary and Kathy Conradi, Virginia Dettman Charitable Foundation/SFACE, Ruth Dunmire (in memory of Ray Dunmire), Elizabeth Gutch, Howard and Eunice Hovland, Gil and Lillian Johnsson, Gerry and Robert Law, Gordon ('57-'59) and Joan ('59) Nelson Family, Ronald R. Nelson Trust, Larry Ness, Gary and Roseann Olson, Richard and Tammy Otten (in honor of Lynn and Barbara Aspaas), Lynwood Oyos, Darwin and Jane Sletten, Charline Smith, and attendees of the June Event in 2013 and 2014. If you would like to make a gift to the exhibit initiative, please contact Executive Director Harry Thompson.



Conceptual design for one of the *Voices of the Past* exhibits, depicting the immigrant settlement period.

## Excitement Builds as the 125th Anniversary Art Exhibit Nears

The Center’s official observance of the 125th Anniversary of South Dakota’s Statehood begins on June 10 with the premiere of the *South Dakota 2014 Art Show and Sale*, which will also provide the theme of this year’s June Event dinner and program. Dinner guests will be invited to choose the winners of two \$750 cash awards and match wits with historians in selecting the “Ten Events that Shaped South Dakota History during Statehood, 1889-2014.”

Invitations to the June Event will be mailed in mid-May. Tickets for the dinner and program are available at a cost of \$60 per person. The event will be held in the Simmons/Madsen/Nelson/Elmen Galleries of the CWS Fantle Building, so seating will be limited. A second reception, free and open to the public, will be held on June 12.



*First One There*, entry submitted by Donald Montileaux.



*Starting Out*, entry submitted by Gisele Robinson.

The Art Committee of the Center’s Board of Directors, chaired by Stan Christopherson, served as the judging panel, selecting 41 pieces from 80 submissions. The committee will also choose the winner of the \$2,500 Grand Prize, which will be announced at the public reception on Thursday.

## Advisory Council Member News

Two new books by CWS Council members Dr. Jon Lauck (Sioux Falls), *The Lost Region: Toward a Revival of Midwestern History* (University of Iowa Press, 2013), and Dr. John Miller (Brookings), *Small-Town Dreams: Stories of Midwestern Boys Who Shaped America* (University Press of Kansas, 2014), were featured in the session “Re-birth of the Midwest” at the Dakota Conference. Both books are available in the CWS gift shop. Lauck and Miller are active in the new allied organization Midwestern History Working Group. Also at the Dakota Conference, Jeffrey Johnson (Providence College) presented a further installment of his extensive research on the WW I Preparedness Day Bombing in San Francisco in 1916.

Arthur Amiotte’s (Custer) work is the subject of a new touring exhibition, *Transformation and Continuity in Lakota Culture: The Collages of Arthur Amiotte, 1988-2014*. The culmination of a Bush Fellowship, the exhibit opened in Pierre in April at the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Christel Gollnick (Kansas City area) has been named Regional Relations Team Leader for Heartland Foundation. Jeffrey Hayzlett (NYC) is host of *C-Suite with Jeffrey Hayzlett* on Bloomberg Television. Find out more about Jeff’s work at [http://www.bloomberg.com/personalities/jeffrey\\_hayzlett/](http://www.bloomberg.com/personalities/jeffrey_hayzlett/).

Council members Christel Gollnick, Jeffrey Johnson, Dick Haase, John Miller, and Jerry Simmons attended the Board/Council retreat following the Dakota Conference.



Don Barnett, Rolly Samp, and Ted Muenster speak on South Dakota politics in the 1970s in a Dakota Conference session organized by Jon Lauck.

## New Book Tells the Story of World War II Army School in Sioux Falls

The Center for Western Studies announces the publication of *Reveille for Sioux Falls: A World War II Army Air Forces Technical School Changes a South Dakota City*, by Dr. Lynwood E. Oyos, Professor Emeritus of History at Augustana College. Many of the characteristics associated with Sioux Falls today began with the advent in 1942 of the Army Air Forces Technical School.

In this new, illustrated history of the military technical school, Dr. Oyos proposes that, along with its air base, the school changed Sioux Falls in the post-World War II era as much as the railroads did in the nineteenth century. The radio communication school, where 45,000 men and women trained through 1945, brought new wealth to the community, changed social attitudes about women and minorities, stimulated construction of new homes and businesses, contributed to the city’s first industrial park, and created Sioux Falls’ first modern airport.

Dr. Oyos is the author of many scholarly publications, including *The Family Farmers’ Advocate: South Dakota Farmers Union, 1914-2000* (2000) and chapters in *A New South Dakota History* (2nd ed., 2009), published by CWS. Publication of *Reveille for Sioux Falls* was made possible with funding by the Anne King Publications Endowment, Ronald R. Nelson Publications Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Copies of the 220-page book, illustrated with fifty photos, are available in the CWS gift shop at the retail price of \$21.95. Member discounts of 10% and 20% apply.



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## Board Member Publishes Holocaust Novel

*The Commandant of Lubizec*, a novel by CWS Board member Dr. Patrick Hicks, was published by Steerforth/Random House this spring and is available in the Center’s gift shop (\$16, and member discounts of 10-20% apply). Hicks follows CWS founding director Herbert Krause as Augustana’s Writer-in-Residence. Set in the early 1940s, the novel is based on the Operation Reinhard death camps in Poland during World War II. To research the book, Hicks read extensively on the Holocaust and traveled to Warsaw and Krakow, Poland, to discover the kind of details that he says “make fiction real.”

“I knew what I was going to look for. It’s important as a fiction writer to actually go to these places where history took place,” he said. “It’s one thing to study the Holocaust from a safe academic distance. It’s another thing to stand where these crimes took place. It becomes more real for you. It does something to you to be in these places and that just naturally affects you as an artist.”

Hicks said the experience of writing *Lubizec*, a fictitious Nazi death camp created as an aggregate of Operation Reinhard’s three camps, Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka, was an emotional one. “I’ve taken the stories from these three real places to tell the story of Operation Reinhard. Sometimes I think people haven’t approached these camps because they are so horrifying.”

Hicks is also the editor of the 2010 CWS publication *A Harvest of Words: Contemporary South Dakota Poetry*, a finalist for the High Plains Book Award.

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## New Board Members and Officers

At its January meeting, the CWS Board of Directors appointed Tony Haga as Chair, Stan Christopherson as Vice Chair, Deb Hagemeyer as Recording Secretary, and Jamie Volin as Deputy Recording Secretary. The Board also welcomed Richard Muller, Martin Oyos, and Ann Smith as new community members. Richard teaches marketing at USD’s Beacom School of Business. Martin is an attorney specializing in estate planning with the law firm Christopherson, Bailin and Anderson. Ann is the Federal Programs Coordinator for the Sioux Falls School District, with administrative responsibilities also for grants and libraries. The Board and Council rosters may be found on the CWS website at [www.augie.edu/cws](http://www.augie.edu/cws).



## Centennial of World War I Observed at Dakota Conference



Seton Hall Law School professor Thomas Healy explains First Amendment rights in a session with Joe Kirby on racism against German-Americans during WWI.

Cultural History of the Northern Plains through his research and publications and support of the Dakota Conference through his presentations, and with his wife, Mavis, establishing an endowment. A complete list of financial contributors to the conference is found in the printed program and online. See more photos on Facebook.

More than seventy speakers from fourteen states—North Dakota to Florida, New Jersey to Washington State—attended this year's conference, making it yet another landmark event. Three speakers from the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, MO, joined with nearly fifty other presenters to address the conference theme observing the centennial of the start of World War I. Attendees heard an additional twenty presenters on a variety of topics, including a session on the rebirth of the midwest with panelists from Iowa State, Southwest Minnesota State, Dordt College, and Augustana.

Fifteen authors signed copies of their books at the Northern Plains Autograph Party on Saturday. Lyn Oyos' new book, *Reveille for Sioux Falls*, debuted at the conference, as did *Twenty Thousand Years of Human History as Recorded on Historical Markers in Minnehaha County, South Dakota*, compiled by Bruce Blake and members of the Minnehaha County Historical Society.

Dr. Loren Amundson, M.D., received the Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Preservation of the



Distinguished Award recipient Dr. Loren Amundson is flanked by CWS Vice Chair Stan Christopherson (l.) and Ex. Dir. Harry Thompson (r.).

## Improvements to Collections Care



The contents of a disaster kit, prepared in advance to respond to storm or other damage.

basis for the Center's Preservation Action Plan (2013-2018).

As of spring of 2014, several of the plan's goals are at or nearing completion. This winter, the Center received a \$5,981 Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The funds were used to purchase a light meter and a new and expanded set of data loggers for environmental monitoring as well as supplies for an Integrated Pest Management program and in-house kits of disaster response supplies. Much of this equipment has already been deployed, and Collections Assistant Liz Thron will be using the new light meter to create an art rotation schedule in May.

Speaking of light, recent visitors to the Fantle Building may have noticed a difference in the gallery spaces. The college maintenance staff have been busy changing lights in the Simmons/Madsen/Nelson/Elmen Galleries to LEDs as part of a campus-wide effort to reduce energy costs. LEDs are a new trend in museums as they emit less heat, less infrared light, and no UV light, all of which are cumulatively and permanently damaging to museum objects.

In addition to these activities, Thron has drafted the Center's first disaster plan specific to the Fantle Building and the CWS research collections. The plan includes emergency and response/salvage instructions, names of vendors of emergency equipment and supplies, and lists of priority objects in the research collections. A final draft will be completed in May in tandem with the conclusion of the preservation grant activities. This effort was enhanced by Thron's participation in three days of disaster preparedness and response training organized by the Dakota Collections Care Initiative with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and collecting institutions in North and South Dakota in 2013.

## CWS Moves Forward with Donor Support

Guided by its Constitution to improve the quality of social and cultural life in the Northern Plains, achieve a better understanding of the region, its heritage, and its resources, and stimulate interest in solving regional problems, the Center for Western Studies has embarked on a journey of transformative initiatives as detailed in its strategic plan, affirmed by the CWS Board of Directors in 2012.

Chief among these is securing the financial integrity of the Center, which has been accomplished through a six-year endowment campaign that raised \$1.7 million, including a \$300,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Executive Director Dr. Harry Thompson emphasizes that these achievements are only possible because of the generosity of people who believe in the Center's unique mission to both Augustana and the Northern Plains.

Donors of gifts of \$10,000 or more to the endowment are Loren and Mavis Amundson, L.M. Baylor, Thomas and Ann Garry, Anne King, Shirley King Estate, Karl Lee, Hazel Lyon, John McIntyre, Ronald R. Nelson Estate, Larry and Diane Ness, Lynwood Oyos, Rebecca Porter, Jerry and Gail Simmons, Darwin and Jane Sletten, and Ada Yeager. The campaign boosted CWS endowments by 30% to \$8 million. Other gifts, memberships, grants, and revenue provide additional annual support of \$200,000.

## Marketing Efforts Carry CWS to Several States

The words "The Center for Western Studies" are now heard or seen from western Wisconsin to eastern Wyoming, from southern North Dakota to southern Nebraska. CWS underwriting announcements are heard daily on South Dakota Public Radio and weekly on Minnesota Public Radio, reaching 1.5 million listeners! Ads promoting CWS programs and publications are seen in *South Dakota Magazine* (circ. 65,000) and the Sioux Falls Active Generations newspaper *LifeTimes* (circ. 4,500). CWS has begun advertising in the monthly Great Plains newspaper *Prairie Fire* (circ. 85,000), based in Lincoln, increasing the Center's geographical outreach into Nebraska.

CWS will also serve as a distributor of the paper, which has a strong environmental theme; copies are free and available throughout the region. CWS was also featured in February on all eight stations of Results Radio (Sioux Falls) to promote the Artists of the Plains Art Show and Sale. The Center was the subject of a favorable article in the January 11 issue of the *Argus Leader*: "Center preserves regional history: Exhibits, forums, workshops include many sides of issues," by reporter Peter Harriman.

## New Fundraising Emphasis on Focused Giving

Success with recent endowment and exhibit expansion campaigns provides an opportunity to connect CWS program and project needs with donor interest. Donors now have a chance to participate in the life of the Center in specific and visible ways—through a new emphasis on focused giving. Although the Center has, for many years, been the recipient of gifts to a program or event of particular interest to a donor, CWS will now make available on a regular basis a list of initiatives, special projects, or events that would benefit from donor support. A few of the current funding opportunities are listed below:

### JUNE EVENT DINNER AND PROGRAM

Sponsorships  
\$2,500

### COLLECTIONS DIGITIZATION

Professional Digital SLR Camera & Scanner: \$6,000  
2 gifts of \$3,000 or 6 gifts of \$1,000

Image Editing Computer & Software: \$3,000  
3 gifts of \$1,000 or 6 gifts of \$500

Special Containers for Blue Cloud Abbey Artifacts: \$4,000  
4 gifts of \$1,000 or 8 gifts of \$500

Student Internship in Digitization: \$4,000  
4 gifts of \$1,000 or 8 gifts of \$500

### SOUTH DAKOTA 2014 ART EXHIBIT:

OBSERVING THE STATE'S  
125TH ANNIVERSARY  
\$1,500 IN CASH AWARDS  
2 gifts of \$750

### FINE ART PURCHASE FUND:

**\$10,000**  
5 gifts of \$2,000 or 10 gifts of \$1,000

### ONGOING EXPENSES

Krause Research Library  
\$250 for books and periodicals

Marketing  
\$250 to underwrite a basket of radio and print ads

Art Gallery Receptions  
\$250 to underwrite refreshments for one reception

## Scrapbooking from an Archivist's Perspective Topic of *Saturdays at CWS*

According to a 2007 survey conducted by CK Media, a publisher of craft magazines, scrapbooking is a \$2.87 billion per year industry and is a hobby practiced in almost 30% of U.S. households. The survey found that 78% of scrappers have a designated scrapbooking space in their home, and 50% consider themselves addicted to the pastime.

Collections Assistant Liz Throned is one of those addicts! Scrapbooking since middle school, she has spent many hours with scissors and adhesive in hand, developing her skills and exploring her creativity.

But it isn't just about crafting; it's also about preservation. As an archivist, Liz works with deteriorating, antique scrapbooks and albums, some of which are 100 years old. Unfortunately, they too often demonstrate what not to do. The scrapbooking industry itself did not develop a mindset towards sound preservation practices until the 1980s.

That's why in February, Liz taught a workshop in the *Saturdays at CWS* series on "Scrapbooking from an Archivist's Perspective." Wearing her "Scrappers Are Acid-Free" t-shirt, she provided tips on organizing and labeling photographs, scrapbooking supplies and techniques to use (and avoid), and how to care for completed albums, including historic ones. Liz was also able to provide examples of real-world damage from aged books in the CWS archives.

Tips for scrappers:

- Label your photographs! The ability to identify family members diminishes quickly, even just two or three generations later.
- Organize, label, and back up your digital photographs. It's estimated that 10% of the images that have ever existed in human history have all been taken in the last year, and most of those digitally.
- Look for products that have passed the Photographic Activity Test (will say "Passed P.A.T.") or that have received the CK OK seal of approval. These are proven to be archival quality.
- Plastic enclosures should be made of inert plastics. Polypropylene, polyethylene, and polyester are recommended as they won't interact with photographs.
- Use paper that is acid-free and lignin-free.
- Avoid magnetic photo albums, PVC, scotch tape, rubber cement, and metal embellishments.
- Avoid storing completed albums in attics and basements. Ideal storage conditions are 65-70° F with 45% humidity, but rapid fluctuation in these parameters is equally damaging.



These pages from a scrapbook about O. E. Rolvaag in the Clarence A. Berdahl Collection are yellowing due to the acidic paper of the album itself. Liz used additional pictures of this particular book to demonstrate how the product's poor construction has caused rippling and requires superfluous, potentially damaging handling of the objects it was meant to preserve. It's difficult to believe that the album was sold under the moniker "The Ideal Scrapbook."

## Dakota Conference Presenters Receive \$900 in Awards

The following presenters of papers at the 2013 Dakota Conference received cash awards at this year's Friday dinner:

Arthur and Willmeta Johnson Award  
(Amateur)

**Jean Rahja**

Richard Cropp Award (Amateur)  
**Alvin Kangas**

Herbert W. Blakely Award (Professional)  
**Thomas Gasque**

Ernest Teagarden Award (Professional)  
**Brad Tennant**

Cedric Cummins Student Award  
**Martina La Vallie**

Rex Meyers and Susan Richards Student Award  
**Katherine Carlson**

Carol Mashek Award in Women's History  
**Marian Cramer**

Ardyce Samp Recognition Award  
**Miles Browne**



At the gallery opening of *The Art of Cathleen Benberg and Steve Beaubien En Plein Air*, both artists discussed their creative process. Benberg (pictured left) revealed that she sometimes has people stop and ask her if she needs assistance with a broken-down vehicle because she often creates her art work while sitting in her car.



## Artists of the Plains Show Warms Winter Days

Honoring its commitment to bring exceptional artists to the Northern Plains area, the Center for Western Studies was proud to present the 34th Annual Artists of the Plains Art Show and Sale on February 14-16. Art enthusiasts from around the region look forward to this one-of-a-kind show held every year at the downtown Holiday Inn City Centre. With twenty-six gifted artists, representing five states, working in mediums as diverse as oil/acrylic paint, watercolor, pottery, ledger art, photography, jewelry, stone/wood sculpture, and mixed media, this year's art show truly had something for everyone.

Cash awards for Best of Show were presented at the Friday night Premiere Reception on February 14. First place in two-dimensional artwork went to Bryan Bortnem, second place in two-dimensional artwork went to Johnny Swatek, first place in three-dimensional artwork went to Megan Sweets, and second place in three-dimensional artwork went to Drake Wood. Underwriting support for the cash awards was provided by Dr. Jerry and Gail Simmons of Sioux Falls. Jerry is a member of the Center's National Advisory Council. CWS Education Assistant Kristi Thomas commented, "It's always great every year to see familiar artists who have been in several art shows, but to have a first-time art show participant like Megan Sweets win first place best of show proves that this long running show is constantly evolving and finding fantastic new talent every year."



Pictured from left to right, CWS Education Assistant Kristi Thomas, award winning artists Drake Wood, Bryan Bortnem, Johnny Swatek, Megan Sweets, and CWS Executive Director Harry Thompson.



Potter Dave Huebner takes time out from creating clay figures to discuss his work with Art Show attendees.

went to Jennie Yu, the second place Best in Show student award went to Laura Nerness, and honorable mention awards went to Anh Chung, Brianna Sejnoha, and Mariah Greenhoff.

The Center gratefully acknowledges the corporate patronage of First Premier Bank, Results Radio, Valley Exchange Bank, and Wells Fargo and individual support of Lynn and Barbara Aspaas, Tony and Anne Haga, and John McIntyre. The Center also recognizes the many Board members who volunteered as greeters over the course of the weekend.

## Californian Interns at CWS

I am Sebastian Forbush and I am a senior history and math major at Augustana College. I am from Hollister, California, but have thoroughly enjoyed my experiences in South Dakota, especially the last two years at the Center for Western Studies. Once I graduate in May, I hope to pursue a career in museum work, maybe even taking my supervisor Liz's job.

During my time at the Center for Western Studies, I have worked on a plethora of collections, most notably the C.E. Van Norman, Jr., Collection and the papers of the late Arthur Huseboe. The majority of the Van Norman Collection contains letters written between congregational missionary Stephen Riggs and his second wife, Annie B. (Ackley) Riggs. The Huseboe Collection consists of documents from his time as CWS executive director. Working with these collections and many others has helped to teach me the joy and the difficulties of working in a museum, and that it is ultimately what I hope to do with my life.

While interning at the CWS I have had the privilege of working on various committees for events that the Center for Western Studies has hosted. I have helped with art shows, Boe Forums, and Dakota Conferences making my time here at the CWS enjoyable throughout.

Editor's note: Sebastian presented a paper at this year's Dakota Conference using the Peder Phillips Collection, which includes a journal of Phillips' military service in Europe during World War I. Sebastian first came to the attention of CWS through a course he took from Dr. Harry Thompson, "The Search for Authenticity," in which he transcribed original documents from the archives.



Intern Sebastian Forbush unpacking artifacts from Blue Cloud Abbey.

# CWS News

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
Humanities

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The Center's archives are open  
M-F by appointment.



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## Events Calendar

### May

- 17 *Saturdays at CWS:*  
"Preserving Dolls," Alice  
Gould, Forever Young Doll  
Hospital

### June

- 10 Premiere Reception for *South  
Dakota 2014 Art Show and  
Sale* (June Event)  
12 Public Reception for *South  
Dakota 2014 Art Show and  
Sale* (closes September 27)

### July

- TBD *Saturdays at CWS:* "Summer  
Birding," Sioux Falls Bird Club

## In Memoriam

The Center received word from daughter Barb Gifford of the passing of former Board member **Frank Gibbs** on February 18, in Springfield, MO. In the summer of 2012, CWS hosted an exhibit and sale of works from the Frank and Jan Gibbs Collection (Jan passed in 2013). A memorial service was held at First Reformed Church in Sioux Falls on March 22. The family designated CWS as a recipient of gifts in memory of Frank. President Rob Oliver announced that former **President Lloyd Svendsbye** (1987-92) passed on March 2. A historian by training, Dr. Svendsbye had long been a supporter of CWS and, for the last few years, a member of the Council. He last visited CWS in 2012 to attend the Dakota Conference, where he spoke about his family memoir, *I Paid All My Debts*. In his 1987 inauguration address, Dr. Svendsbye said, "First, the whole college should be a Center for Western Studies. . . . Augustana should integrate its Center for Western Studies more securely into the heart of the College. Our geography can make Augustana distinctive if we are willing to see it as intellectually vital . . ."

In the past few years, CWS and Augustana have worked together to realize President Svendsbye's vision. CWS now houses the college's honors program, Civitas, provides meeting space for several classes on a weekly basis, hosts the monthly meeting of the department chairs with Dean Dr. Susan Hasseler, and recently hosted a meeting and reception for the South Dakota Biotech Association, at the request of Associate Dean Dr. Michael Wanous.