

CWS News

THE CENTER FOR WESTERN STUDIES | AUGUSTANA COLLEGE | FANTLE BUILDING

Museum Exhibit Initiative Nears \$200,000

The concept design phase of the museum exhibit initiative and fund raising for the entire project are nearing completion. The Center's staff and the exhibit design team from Split Rock Studios, in Minneapolis, have met several times to plan the overall vision of the exhibits. With naming gifts to date from Les Baylor, Verna Berg Estate, Gordon ('57-59) and Joan ('59) Nelson Family, Larry Ness, Lynwood Oyos, and Darwin and Jane Sletten, funding for the initiative has surpassed 90% of the \$200,000 goal. Opportunities still remain for naming gifts (\$10,000-\$50,000) and sponsoring gifts (\$1,000-\$9,999) for the exhibit initiative.

"One of the projects that a robust endowment allows us to undertake is to plan for the redesign and expansion of our long-term museum exhibits," observed Executive Director Harry Thompson, reflecting on the successful completion of the Endowment Campaign. "Those who contributed to the endowment and the exhibits have secured a bright future for the Center," added Thompson.

The goal of the Exhibit Expansion Initiative is to feature in new and compelling ways the remarkable treasures found in the Center's collections. Special emphasis will be placed on sharing with the public the letters and photographs from the Center's archives. These documents will be further highlighted by such objects as a plow used to break the sod in Dakota Territory, the steering wheel from a steamboat that plied the upper Missouri River, and a bell from a locomotive engine that pulled cars laden with grain and passengers across the Dakota plains.

Additional features of the exhibit redesign will allow CWS to place on display some of the remarkable examples of quill- and beadwork from the Blue Cloud Abbey American Indian Collection. The exhibits will also introduce visitors to authors O.E. Rolvaag, Herbert Krause, and Frederick Manfred, whose lives are intertwined with CWS and whose writings help define the Northern Plains region.

Call for Art in Observance of South Dakota's 125th Anniversary

The Center announced in November that it would observe South Dakota's 125th Anniversary of statehood with a juried art exhibit and sale. *South Dakota 2014: Artists Respond to the State's 125th Anniversary* is open to current and past residents of South Dakota and will run from June through September. Artists should submit their proposals for an original work of art by the deadline of **January 17, 2014**.

The exhibit carries a \$2,500 grand prize and \$1,500 in additional cash prizes, as approved by the Board of Directors of the Center for Western Studies. Both two- and three-dimensional pieces are welcome, but the work of art must be suitable for display on a gallery wall or pedestal.

Native American artists are encouraged to share their unique perspectives on ways in which statehood has impacted the lives of indigenous peoples. The proposal must include a brief artist's statement about the work as a response to the observance of South Dakota's 125th anniversary. The proposal form and additional information are available at www.augie.edu/center-for-western-studies or call CWS Education Assistant Kristi Thomas.

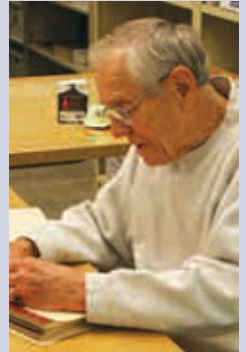
The panel of judges will include members of the Art Committee of the Center's Board of Directors and others appointed by the Board.

(continued on page 2)



Volunteers Appreciated

Starting his seventh year as a volunteer in the archives of the Center for Western Studies, Dr. Loren Amundson, M.D., is seen here working on one of the many collections of original documents he has processed.



Not only does Loren donate his valuable time and expertise as a volunteer, but he and his wife, Mavis, have established an endowment at the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation to support the archives and the Dakota Conference. The Amundsons also support CWS through their annual membership and with other gifts. Thank you, Loren and Mavis, for your many contributions! A salute also to all of the other CWS volunteers: Lynn and Barbara Aspaas, John Bylsma, Stan Christopherson, Gary Earl, Dick Haase, Tony and Anne Haga, Milt Hanson, Tom Houle, Patrick McGreevy, Fran Noteboom, Lyn Oyos, Dick Sabers, Molly Uden, and Arlen Viste.

2014 Membership Campaign Underway

Current members are reminded that they can include their annual membership gift in their tax-deductible contributions for 2013 if their gift is postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. The membership mailing features a new brochure designed to emphasize aspects of the Center's programming not generally known and remind members of the benefits of continuing their membership. The brochure was also used in the prospect mailing in September. If you know someone you think might enjoy membership in CWS, please contact Office Coordinator Amy Nelson.

CWS Intern Rebecca Sunde



I'm Rebecca Sunde, a history and art major from Madison, South Dakota. I am currently in my fourth year and will return for one more semester in

the fall to complete my recently added art major. I am unsure about my plans for the future, but I hope to do something that involves art or printmaking!

In my time at the Center, I have worked on several big projects. The two biggest ones being cataloging the Blue Cloud Abbey AICRC artifacts that were acquired last winter and working with the Edwin and Pearl (Lewison) Hesby collection, which contains several hundred love letters from the 1930s. Interning in the archives has been both fun and challenging, and has also really helped me understand what working in a museum or archive setting would be like.

In addition to working in the archives, I have also had the opportunity to work with some CWS events outside of the archives including the Dakota Conference in the spring and the annual Boe Forum. My favorite has been helping with the Boe Forum, because we have had some really engaging speakers, and I love being able to be a part of making it happen! I have really enjoyed my time here and look forward to where this experience takes me!

Gifts in Memory of Gil Johnsson

CWS members who attend the Dakota Conference will recall the name and gentle presence of Gil Johnsson, former librarian and storyteller from Chamberlain. Lillian Johnsson notified the Center that gifts in memory of her husband, who passed away on November 3, should be directed to CWS. Both Gil and Lillian were long-time presenters at the conference and both received the Dakota Conference Distinguished Service Award, Gil in 2000 and Lillian in 2012. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Center and condolences to Lillian Johnsson, 1209 S. Main, Chamberlain, SD 57325.

(Call for Art - continued from page 1)

For the official South Dakota Centennial Finale in 1989, the Center for Western Studies sponsored *The Great Plains Art Show and Sale*, featuring 25 South Dakota artists and coordinated by Promotions Director Wayne Peterson. Curator and Managing Editor Harry Thompson oversaw the three-year "History of the Arts in South Dakota" project (1986-1989), sponsored by the South Dakota Arts Council and South Dakota Humanities Council. The project produced a bibliography of South Dakota arts resources and the book *An Illustrated History of the Arts in South Dakota*, written by Arthur Huseboe and Arthur Amiotte and published by the Center for Western Studies.

New Research from CWS



My Antonia, Willa Cather

Perhaps the most famous image in the "prairie trilogy" by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather is that of a plough (Cather's spelling) resting in the field against the setting sun. Generally regarded as the iconic novel of the Great Plains, *My Antonia* is Cather's unvarnished depiction of immigrant settlement in Nebraska in the 1880s. In an article published this fall in *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies* (vol. 15, no. 2, pgs. 203-20), a journal of the Pennsylvania State University Press, Executive Director Harry Thompson argues that this novel should be understood not simply as representing the past realistically but also challenging whether we can know the past at all.

In "This Is Not a Plough: Magritte, Foucault, and Resisting Authenticity in Cather's *My Antonia*," Thompson calls upon the work of French theorist Michel Foucault, whose study of the Belgian artist René Magritte's Surrealist paintings, such as *This Is Not a Pipe*, he takes as the point of reference for the title of the article. A hallmark of the novel of the American West is its pursuit of historical authenticity, which Cather employs but then simultaneously undermines in *My Antonia*, Thompson observes. It is this tension that opens up the possibility of reading a classic in a new way.

The article provides several examples of ways the novel struggles with its perceived role of accurately portraying the Plains settlement period, suggesting Cather's own discomfort with representing the past in writing. The conflicting versions of the introduction (1918 and 1926 editions) can be read as a caption to the novel, in the same way Magritte incorporates the caption "This is not a pipe" under his realistic depiction of a pipe. As Jim Burden, *Antonía's* biographer observes, the past may indeed be "incommunicable," or at least more complex than we sometimes admit. The importance of this research is that readers should be able to appreciate Cather's novel apart from the burden of authenticity and find new levels of meaning beyond those the author, herself, may have known.

Papers and Authors Sought for Dakota Conference on World War One Era

World War I and its immediate aftermath changed the people of the Plains and their sense of identity in many ways. The Center is seeking papers and panels that address the specific conference theme of *The Great War and the Northern Plains* or aspects of life on the Plains during the years 1910-1920. Papers on other topics related to the Northern Plains are also welcome.

Those wishing to present should mail a one-page paper or session proposal with title, brief description, and biographical sketch, along with name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, to "Dakota Conference" at CWS or send information via e-mail to dakotaconference@augie.edu. Submission forms are available online at www.augie.edu/cws. Proposals are due on or before **February 14, 2014**. Please indicate whether you would also be willing to serve as a session chair.

Authors scheduled to appear at the conference autograph party include Bruce Blake, *Twelve Thousand Years of Human History* (Minnehaha County Historical Society's marker program); Jon Lauck, *The Lost Region: Toward a Revival of Midwestern History*; John Miller, *Small-Town Dreams: Stories of Midwestern Boys Who Shaped America*; Arley Fadness, *Balloons Aloft: Flying South Dakota Skies*; and Bernie Hunhoff, *South Dakota 125: A Pictorial History*, which includes photographs from the CWS archives.

Recent Acquisitions in the CWS Archives

Robert Aldern Collection: Joey Aldern, wife of the late artist Bob Aldern, donated two boxes of correspondence and subject files related to dozens of his commissioned artworks, including those for the Augustana College Chapel, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Several of these commissions can be viewed on the Hovland Center for Liturgical Arts on-line database.

Donna Dexter Collection: This summer, Collections Assistant Liz Throned assisted Donna Dexter of Keepers of the Canton Native Asylum Story with an oral history interview documenting the Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians, which operated in Canton, SD. Participants Manfred Hill, Charles Hill, and Julian Holter, who grew up in Canton, are quite possibly the only persons still living with personal memories of the asylum's operations. Donna donated the DVD of the interview to CWS, where it is being transcribed and archived.

Glenn E. ("Doc") Soladay Collection: Elizabeth Soladay recently donated materials related to her father's service with "B" Battery, 147th Field Artillery in the Pacific during World War II. Of particular interest is a set of 103 photographs depicting the National Guard unit leaving Mitchell, SD; traveling to Aberdeen, SD, and Deer Lodge, MT; and training and sight-seeing at Fort Ord, CA. The images were only recently discovered and developed for the first time from negative film rolls found in Soladay's foot locker. But the resulting prints are crystal clear and provide a personal view of the unit's mobilization. The collection is currently being processed for long-term preservation and should be available for public access soon.

Joy Tibbitts and Stanford Taylor Collection: Joy Tibbitts donated a CD containing fifteen treatises she wrote, one with co-author Stanford Taylor, on the genealogy of the Ponca tribe in the Dakota and Indian Territories, later South Dakota, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Totalling more than 2,000 pages, the manuscripts compile Ponca names and heads of households as discovered in agency census and annuity records and U.S. federal census records from 1860-1910 and trace clan affiliations. Several volumes provide contextual information about the history and movement of the Poncas.

Artists of the Plains Show & Sale Offers Underwriting Opportunities

In preparation for the 34th Annual Artists of the Plains Art Show and Sale, February 14-16, 2014, the Art Committee of the Center for Western Studies took on the arduous task of choosing which of the many talented artists who had applied would ultimately be invited to the show. The artists chosen for the 2014 show truly represent the diversity of what it means to live on the Northern Plains. New to the show this year, artist James Star Comes Out represents a strong traditional Native American voice with intricate beadwork and dance sticks, while long-time art show participant Jennifer Stone uses the more modern mixed media to demonstrate her unique perspective of life on the Northern Plains.

The show and sale will run Friday, February 14, 5:00-9:00 pm with awards presented at 8:00 pm; Saturday, February 15, 10:00 am-6:00 pm; and Sunday, February 16, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. The popular Silent Auction will close at 2:00 pm on Sunday. The Center will again offer a cash prize of \$200 for first place in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork, as well as a \$100 cash prize for second place in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork.

Student artists have become an important part of the art show. The event gives many students their first chance to sell their artwork. It also provides them real-world show experience and the opportunity to observe the business side of art. Continued funding from CWS Board member Roger Haugo allows student artists the chance to receive cash prizes.

The Artists of the Plains Art Show and Sale is seeking underwriters to partner with the Center to continue to bring remarkable artists to Sioux Falls. The following individual and corporate naming opportunities are available:

Premiere Reception (Opening Night)--\$1,000 (2 gifts of \$500 also possible)

Artists' Awards--\$600 (2 gifts of \$300 also possible)

Exhibit Hall Rental--\$2,000 (2 gifts of \$1,000 or 4 gifts of \$250 also possible)

The Artists of the Plains Art Show and Sale, which is free and open to the public, is a Sioux Falls institution, bringing thousands of people to the downtown area every year. Please contact Education Assistant Kristi Thomas if you would like more information about how you can help support the arts in Sioux Falls.

The following artists have been invited to this year's show: Bryan Bortnem, Russ Duerksen, Genevieve Echols, Rodger Ellingson, Jess Elofson, Jerry Fogg, Marian Henjum, Carol Lundeen, Don Montileaux, Deb Parks, Martiena Richter, Gisele Robinson, Robert Ruf, James Star Comes Out, Jennifer Stone, Johnny Swatek, Megan Sweets, Paul Szabo, Linda Szabo, Brian Szabo, Ed Thomas, Karlys Wells, Jennifer White, and Drake Wood.

Gift Shop Upgrade Highlights Books and Jewelry

With over 500 book titles in inventory, our shelf space made it challenging to highlight our Center for Western Studies publications and gift shop books. Under the direction of Office Coordinator Amy Nelson and with the help of our work-study students, Kelsey Goplin, Jasmin Graves, Nicole Schimelpfenig, and one of our volunteers, Dick Sabers, we have been busy clearing shelves and organizing our inventory. We can now rotate our books in and out of the gift shop, allowing us to bring more attention to our titles, facilitate browsing, and make our once formidable wall of books a thing of the past. Rare and bargain priced used books will also be rotated into the gift shop. Creatively displaying and highlighting the work of our artists and their jewelry has been another area of focus. Creating artist information cards, material descriptions, and story cards, like the one for Jerry Fogg's beaded medallion necklaces, are ways we are accomplishing this.

The Center for Western Studies carries beautiful note cards by artists such as Robert Aldern, Russ Duerksen, Jerry Fogg, Deb Parks and Paul Schiller. Consider stopping in to pick out a card to send handwritten words of love, encouragement, sympathy, or congratulations for that next special occasion. Remember, your membership entitles you to a 10% or 20% discount!

Galleries to Feature Art of Benberg and Beaubien

Having been newly repainted, the Madsen/Nelson/Elmen art galleries of the Center for Western Studies will welcome two wonderful local artists in January. Cathleen Benberg and Steve Beaubien are painters who share a unique joy for painting *en plein air*. Artists who work *en plein air* take their canvases out into nature and brave the elements to capture their subjects on location. Painting both landscapes and architectural scenes, Benberg and Beaubien evoke the spirit of life on the Northern Plains, where the lines between city and country are often blurred. Beaubien favors oils and watercolor, while Benberg works with both watercolor and soft pastels. Both artists are members



Palisades Park, Garretson,
by Cathleen Benberg.



River at Old Yankton Trail,
by Steve Beaubien.

of the Eastbank Art Gallery Co-op. Benberg and Beaubien's work will be on exhibit from January 6, 2013, until April 26, 2013. A gallery reception and talk by the artists will be held on January 22, 2013, 4:00-6:00 pm.

Saturdays at CWS Educational Series

As part of its *Saturdays at CWS* series, the Center for Western Studies worked with the Keepers of the Canton Asylum Story to host author Kent Nerburn to speak about his new book, *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo*, on November 9, 2013. The author of thirteen books, many of which chronicle the Native American spiritual and historical perspective, Nerburn has twice won the Minnesota Book Award.

The Keepers of the Canton Asylum Story gave a presentation at last year's Dakota Conference on the group's efforts to shed light on a dark and nearly forgotten corner of history known as the Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians, which was in operation from 1899 to 1933 in Canton, SD. Nerburn's *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo* examines the appalling saga of this asylum, which operated without medical oversight and horrifically mistreated patients.

Through the *Saturdays at CWS* series, coordinated by Education Assistant Kristi Thomas, the Center seeks to offer the community a wide range of educational experiences at no cost. Past workshops have featured Kara Dirkson of Artisia Fine Art Services giving a tutorial on fine art collecting, Yankton Sioux Oyate artist Jerry Fogg discussing his artwork, Dr. Loren H. Amundson providing a guide to genealogical research, and South Dakota Poet Laureate David Allan Evans demonstrating how to find the writer inside of you.

CWS Collections Assistant Liz Thronnd will be conducting a Scrapbooking Workshop as part of the series on February 22, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. For more information about this workshop, or if you have suggestions for future workshops, please contact Kristi Thomas at 605-274-4005 or email kthomas@augie.edu.



Author Kent Nerburn discusses his new book, *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo* during a *Saturdays at CWS Workshop* held November 9, 2013.



As South Dakota Chair of the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) Presidents' Award Committee, Liz Thronnd presents the 2013 award to the Landsat Science Team during their annual meeting in October. Dr. Tom Loveland, chair of the Landsat Science Team and a research geographer at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center outside of Sioux Falls, accepted the award. The team is a group of international scientific researchers responsible for providing guidance to the Landsat Program, the longest continuous record of changes of the Earth's surface as seen from space, archived at EROS. The 2006-2011 team influenced several key decisions, including changes to access policies, which positively impacted global research. MAC's Presidents' Award recognizes individuals and institutions who make significant contributions to the archival profession and support its purpose and value, though they are not directly involved in archival work.



Retiring Board members Dr. Gary Earl, Vice Chair (far left) and Rev. Dr. Bruce Williams (far right) receive certificates of appreciation from Board Secretary Stan Christopherson (middle) and Executive Director Harry Thompson (at podium) at the closing reception for the Carl Grupp Retrospective, December 4. Also retiring is Dr. Mary Brendtro (not pictured).

Boe Forum Speaker Sees China's Global Influence Rising

In the weeks since the Boe Forum on November 4, China unilaterally claimed the airspace between China and Japan, testing the ability of the United States to manage its own strategic interests in the Asia-Pacific region. Military planes from the United States, China, Japan and South Korea have all flown through the contested air zone since China's declaration. How to prevent such tensions from escalating into conflict is a concern



President Rob Oliver, Ambassador Jon Huntsman, and CWS Board Chair Tony Haga.

raised by this year's Boe Forum speaker, former Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman (2009-2011).

Governor Huntsman provided first-hand knowledge of the role of China in shaping the future. "I suspect the most important story in the next century will be the rise of China and how we reacted to it," Huntsman remarked. The Boe Committee, a committee of the CWS Board of Directors and two student advisors, selected China and its relationship with the United States as the topic

for the 18th Boe Forum on Public Affairs and invited Jon Huntsman as the speaker.

As the world's second largest economy and with a population of 1.3 billion, China faces many challenges, Huntsman noted, including making its central bank independent and transitioning from a manufacturing-based economy to a consumer-based economy. Decisions made at the Third Plenum of the Communist Party the week after the Boe Forum, to which Ambassador Huntsman alluded, indicate that China will follow a path of controlled capitalism for the foreseeable future as it seeks to widen its arc of influence.

In establishing the forum in 1992, former South Dakota Governor and U.S. Federal Judge Nils Boe charged the Center's Board of Directors with providing the people of South Dakota and neighboring states with access through a lecture program to "singularly knowledgeable" individuals who would address events, issues, or problems of "current worldwide or national concern and broad public interest."

Boe specifically chose the Center for Western Studies because its mission extends beyond Augustana to the Northern Plains region. As Boe recognized from reading the CWS Constitution, the Center seeks to improve the quality of social and cultural life in the Northern Plains, to work with individuals and groups, on and off the campus, to achieve a better understanding of the region and its heritage, and to stimulate interest in solving regional problems.

The people of the Northern Plains, Boe felt, deserve to know how the issues confronting the nation and the world impact their lives. Governor Boe realized that by providing not only the idea but also the resources to implement the idea, he could insure a unique educational experience for those who live in that part of the country he loved so dearly.



18th Boe Forum speaker Jon Huntsman

Praise for *A Harvest of Words*

The latest issue of the journal *Western American Literature* (Fall 2013), includes a review of the Center's publication *A Harvest of Words: Contemporary South Dakota Poetry*, edited by Patrick Hicks. The reviewer, who teaches at Utah State University, writes, "*A Harvest of Words* provides a rare and nourishing bounty intended for a variety of poetic tastes. The voices are rich and thoughtful and confident, inviting the outsider (us) to share in their varied experiences and the stories of heritage and identity, as well as to investigate our own stories" (362-63). Copies of this collection, compiled by Augustana's Writer-in-Residence, are available in the gift shop.

New History of World War II Army Technical School Coming



In his new history of the Sioux Falls Army Air Forces Technical School, historian Lynwood Oyos proposes that the radio school and air base changed Sioux Falls in the post-World War II era as much as the railroads did in the preceding century. The technical school, where 30,000 men and women trained, brought new wealth to the community, changed social attitudes, stimulated construction of new homes and businesses, contributed to the city's first industrial park, and created Sioux Falls' first modern airport. The new illustrated book from the Center for Western Studies, *Reveille for Sioux Falls*, will be released in April 2014, just in time for the Dakota Conference. Watch for additional information on the CWS website and Facebook, and in the spring issue of CWS News.

CWS News

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



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Events Calendar

January

22 Opening Reception for
Cathleen Benberg and Steve
Beaubien Art Exhibit

February

14-16 34th Artists of the Plains Art
Show & Sale

22 *Saturdays at CWS:*
Scrapbooking from an
Archivist's Perspective, by
Collections Assistant Liz
Thron

March

Cathleen Benberg and Steve
Beaubien Art Exhibit
continues
6-8 Missouri Valley History
Conference, Omaha

April

4-5 South Dakota State Historical
Society History Conference,
Pierre
25-26 46th Dakota Conference:
World War I Era in the Plains



The Byneset Historical Society from Trondheim, Norway, made its yearly visit to CWS on September 26, 2013.

As a sponsor of the *Journey toward Justice* series, the Center for Western Studies hosted author Joseph Marshall, who discussed his book *The Lakota Way* on October 27, 2013. Volunteer Tom Houle introduced the speaker.