

# Governor News



Volume I, Issue II

December 2006

## In the Works: Plans to Bring Debate Back to Riggs

The debate program at Riggs High School ended in the early 1990s with budget cuts and reorganization. In the past 16 years, students at Riggs have had the chance to participate in Oral Interpretation, a form of non-competitive debate, but the school has been lacking a debate program. Plans are being made to try and fill that void, and bring debate back to Riggs.

A task-force is currently being put together of past debaters and individuals passionate about seeing the program return. Already on the committee are Verne Brakke, past president and founding board member of the Pierre Educational Foundation; Wade Pogany, a former Pierre High Debater; Randy Wright, a former Highmore Debater and State Champion; and Karl Wegner.

Karl Wegner is not a former debater, but instead is involved because of his late brother, Peter Norbert Wegner. Peter graduated from Pierre High School in 1946 and was very involved in the debate program while in high school. Gradually increasing neurological problems that compromised his mobility restricted Peter from pursuing a career in journalism and he retired to Tucson, AZ. Progressive neurological problems led to Peter moving to a nursing home in Sioux Falls, where he died in December 1999.

Almost to the end, Peter retained a strong interest in reading and speaking. He never forgot

his interest in high school debating, so after his death, Peter's family and friends started the Peter Wegner Fund with the Pierre Educational Foundation to sustain his name and interest.

The Peter Wegner Fund is giving the Pierre Educational Foundation a financial jumpstart in raising funds to help bring a debate program back to Riggs High School. In addition, the Foundation has agreed to help the Student Senate with their outdoor classroom / commemorative brick project at Riggs High, and the students have designated that a portion of the funds raised from the brick project (more information on page nine of this newsletter) will be put towards debate.

If you are interested in serving on the debate task force, please contact Kim Brakke at [kim@pierreeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:kim@pierreeducationalfoundation.org) or (605) 222-7781. If you would like to donate money to help bring debate back to Riggs, please mail your check to: Pierre Educational Foundation, PO Box 94, Pierre, SD, 57501. Please specify on your check that you would like the funds designated for debate.

Stay tuned for the next issue of the *Governor News* (June 2007) for an update on the progress being made by the debate task force and the Pierre Educational Foundation in bringing a debate program back to Riggs High School. ●

# Pierre Educational Foundation

## About the Pierre Educational Foundation

The Pierre Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community based organization committed to helping students of all ages in their pursuit of academic excellence. The activities of the foundation are directed by a Board of Directors.

The Foundation was established in 1995 with a gift from the Cora London Estate. Cora London was a successful clothier business owner and operator for many years in Pierre. Her generosity will encourage additional grants, gifts and endowments for educational purposes.

The Pierre Educational Foundation seeks to involve all sectors of the community. Our goal is to perpetuate a high quality system of education for all citizens within the boundaries of the Pierre School District. The Foundation is dedicated to providing well-rounded educational opportunities where graduating students will be well prepared to succeed in their post high school years; faculty members will be able to teach in a positive and well equipped learning environment; educators can continue to develop innovative and sound instructional programs; local employers will be assured that schools will provide competent employees; and all Pierre citizens will benefit from the Pierre School District.

The purposes of the Pierre Educational Foundation are to promote and support the educational needs of the students, teachers, and community members through donations, pledges, gifts and grants; to accept contributions from individuals, businesses and public or private organizations; to deposit and productively invest funds received, obtaining the maximum income obtainable with safety; and to provide funding for academic scholarships and educational activities in accordance with the terms specified by donors. ■

The **Governor News** is published by the Pierre Educational Foundation



211 South Poplar  
PO Box 94

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: (605) 773-7300

[www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org)

[info@pierreeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:info@pierreeducationalfoundation.org)

## Pierre Educational Foundation

### Board of Directors

#### President

Scott Jones

Term Expires June 30, 2007

#### Vice President

Laurie Gill

Term Expires June 30, 2010

#### Treasurer

Ron Tedrow

Term Expires June 30, 2008

#### Secretary

Dr. Bernard Linn

Term Expires: June 30, 2010

#### Directors

Brad Cruse

Term Expires: June 30, 2011

Norm Lingle

Term Expires: June 30, 2011

Cheryl Stone

Term Expires: June 30, 2011

# President's Column

Scott Jones, Pierre Educational Foundation President

I am a member of the Pierre Riggs High School Class of 1971. That means when my next birthday comes around in March, I'll be three times as old as I was on my eighteenth birthday in 1971. Quirky milestones like that often cause me to reflect on life.

Pierre was a great place for me to grow up and a big part of that was the Pierre School system. The education I received, both in the classroom and through extracurricular activities, did a lot to prepare me for life. Many of you reading this probably feel the same way.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the teachers, coaches, administrators, school board members, and even taxpayers that gave me educational opportunities which shaped my life. But I also owe more than just my gratitude.

A few years ago the movie *Pay It Forward* told the story of a boy who, for a school project, came up with a great concept. Instead of paying someone back for a good deed, you were to do a good deed for three other people and tell them to "pay it forward" to three other people, each good deed in turn leading to many more. Like ripples on a pond, our impact on others spreads, sometimes in ways we'll never know.

The Pierre Educational Foundation was created in 1995 to be a convenient vehicle for Pierre Schools alumni and supporters to promote educational excellence for current and future generations of students here. Whether it's the mini-grant program supporting innovative new programs, scholarships to help students pursue their dreams, or the new campaign that's being launched to help re-start the debate program at Riggs, there are many ways you can make a difference through the Pierre Educational Foundation. Please keep the PEF in mind as you make your gifting and estate planning decisions.

Before leaving the subject of gratitude, I'd like to personally thank Verne Brakke for his leadership of the PEF these past ten years. Verne's vision and persistence in creating and nurturing the PEF will benefit area students for generations to come.

Finally, as a Pierre Riggs alum, I'm looking forward to the first Pierre / Riggs High School alumni directory which is scheduled for distribution this spring. Alumni Research, Inc. is contacting alumni to get information for the directory and to sell directories to those interested. There is also an on-line service available. What a nice way to reconnect with old friends.

All of us involved in the PEF wish you and yours health, happiness and meaning in 2007 and beyond. ●

## Pierre Educational Foundation Website

Have you had a chance to check out [www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org)?

The Pierre Educational Foundation's website includes information about the Foundation, current scholarships, mini-grants, and much, much more. Did you know you can also update your current contact information on the Foundation's site?



Check it out today!

# From the Student Body

Seth Parsons, Student Body President  
Curtis Egan, Student Body Vice President

High school – what else needs to be said? Every person can flashback and remember their high school days and know just what we're talking about. High school can be thrilling, scary, fun, and emotional. To sum it up, high school is a like a rollercoaster – a big hill to climb at first, followed by an incredible adventure that goes by fast. For first time riders, it can be an intimidating encounter, while the novice riders seem to know every drop, turn and loop. As freshmen first come up to the welcoming doors of Riggs, they seem to hesitate on their first step into the building. Once inside, students find their own unique place from pep band, quiz bowl, track, or cheerleading. Eventually, everyone finds a place where they belong.

The year started great, with homecoming activities that got all the students involved. Student Senate members were racing to put together ideas for dress up days and activities during and after school. It turned out to be a success, as we had a fun-filled week of coronation, spirit breakfast, Olympics, powder puff, and of course the Governors football game followed by a dance. Although the football team lost, everyone was left with a week to remember.

As most of you probably know, Pierre hosted the Vietnam War Memorial Dedication in September. Many students volunteered their time to be a part of this special event. Whether it was handing out water, selling concessions at the concerts, or giving a helping hand through out the weekend, students were there for a magnificent part of Veterans lives. The patriotism didn't stop there, as Student Senate held a Veterans Day assembly. Students gathered to hear stories from the past. Veterans Don Rounds, Pat Hoing and Tracey Fuerst shared their military experiences, what it has meant to serve for our country and how they felt about Veterans Day. The band and choir put together a few pieces and the whole student

body rose together with pride to sing our country's National Anthem.

Academics have been the pride of Riggs High School. With some of the highest test scores in the state, Riggs has proven to have rigorous classes that provide top-notch education. Recently, students were used as "pilot testers" for the science portion of the Dakota Step Test taken each year. The test results from Riggs will be used as a standard for future tests given to schools across the state. This accomplishment further adds to the astonishing students at Riggs.

The athletic excellence of Riggs sports has continued to shine as well. This year's Volleyball Team was only the second team in Pierre's history to qualify for state tournament, and they ended their season with their best season on record: 5<sup>th</sup> Place as the Consolation Champions. The Boys Soccer team pulled off their second championship title in three years, Boys Cross-Country finished 4<sup>th</sup> at state, Girls Tennis won ESD, and the Varsity Football Team made it to the first-round of the playoffs. Along with team victories, many individuals accomplished outstanding triumphs in each sport. The Riggs Chorus also had great success with sixteen all-state members. With the upcoming winter and spring seasons, more success is on the way.

A new addition to the Riggs High grounds is one dream that was successfully fulfilled this year by Student Senate. An outdoor amphitheater was constructed over the past six months to be used for classes, concerts, plays, speakers and other "get togethers." Money to build the amphitheater came from the School Board, grants, and the graduating classes of '05 and '06. Thanks to Mark Zarecky, of Midwest Construction, Student Senate was able to build the amphitheater with volunteers from the student body. Mark volunteered over two

*continued on next page...*

# From the Superintendent

John Pedersen, Pierre School District Superintendent



Greetings from the Pierre Public Schools!

The 2006—2007 school year is off to a great start. Results from state sponsored tests

taken last April were received in September and once again the overall results were very positive and show improvement. Our ACT test scores continue to outperform the South Dakota and national average.

We have 2,540 students enrolled in our school for the current school year. Our enrollment totals have been declining over the past 5 years, with this years Kindergarten class smaller than most years. The majority of our funding is based on a per pupil basis; therefore declining enrollment has a negative impact on our school funding. Our school is continually striving to be as efficient as possible and numerous cost savings have been implemented in past years. I share this information because the need for a successful school foundation has never been greater than it is today.

Mini grants funded through the Pierre Foundation provide funds beyond the normal operating budget for programs and activities that will enhance educational opportunities for all students, encourage teachers to explore ways of expanding their students' worlds of learning and provide a vital link between the community and the classroom. I want to personally thank the Pierre Educational Foundation for the recent grants awarded to teachers within our school. ●

## *From the Student Body, continued...*

hundred hours in order to make sure that the structure was built to last. Morris Inc and Nystrom Electrical Contracting also donated to the construction.

Alumni, current students, future students, and faculty of Pierre / T.F. Riggs High School will have the opportunity to be included with the amphitheater project through a fundraiser. Connected to the amphitheater will be a commemorative brick patio. Because of limited availability, the bricks will only be available to current students, future students, alumni and faculty (including school board members, teachers and staff). The bricks will be available with a minimum of a \$30.00 donation. The person's name along with year of graduation (students or alumni) or years of service (faculty and staff) will be inscribed on the brick. This project will allow proud members of Pierre / Riggs High to have a lasting memory at the school, and will also help raise funds for Student Senate and bringing the Debate program back to T.F. Riggs High School. An order form for the commemorative bricks can be found on the bottom of page nine of this newsletter.

Future plans for the amphitheater include adding picnic tables and other landscaping ideas to help spruce up the area. The picnic tables will provide an area for students to have meals and open periods outside, taking advantage of the beautiful fall and spring days South Dakota has to offer.

All and all, the rollercoaster of high school has started off wonderfully. The integrity of Riggs seems to grow each year, adding to the reputation of the school. With all the different activities to offer, more students become less scared to walk through the doors of Riggs, and more eager to embark on memories that will remain with them throughout their lifetime. ●

# Fall 2006 Mini-Grant Recipients

The Pierre Educational Foundation awards mini-grants twice annually. Mini-Grants are awarded to students, educators, and members of the community to encourage teachers to focus beyond standard curriculum, raise the educational performance of students of all ages, and offers solutions for urgent educational challenges. **Since the mini-grant program was established in the fall of 1996, over \$71,000 has been awarded to educational programs in the Pierre community.** Applications were due on October 1, and winners were announced on November 1. Thirteen applications were submitted, and the following five projects were awarded mini-grants, totaling \$5,464.00.

- ✓ \$900.00 to Margaret Peggy Rose, Riggs High School for **Enhancing Public Speaking & Presentation Skills Through the Use of Video Critiquing** which will incorporate basic public speaking expertise along with outside help from local TV and media experts. It will emphasize the life long learning skill of self critiquing.
- ✓ \$889.00 to Bob Gill, Riggs High School for **Continuation - Multimedia/Website and DVD Project-Website Component.** In this phase of the project, students will learn how to take quality photographs and place them on CDs or DVDs. They will learn how to enhance and resize the pictures so they are suitable for a website.
- ✓ \$1,675.00 to the Boys & Girls Club of Pierre for **BrainPop Out of School Time Learning.** BrainPOP is an interactive education program that provides curriculum-based content covering Science, Math, English, Social Studies, Health and Technology. BrainPOP focuses on grades 3 through 12. BrainPOP, Jr is aimed at Grades K-3.
- ✓ \$1,000.00 to Darlene Braun, St. Joseph School for **A Laptop for Learning.** St. Joseph School has a Smart Board the entire staff desires to use. Therefore, the board and attachment equipment needs to move to different classrooms. A roving laptop simplifies the use of the Smart Board for multiple classroom use. The Smart Board accommodates different learning styles and encourages the use of technology. It encourages critical thinking in students and is interactive.
- ✓ \$1,000.00 to Bruce Venner, Riggs High School for **AP Laptops.** The AP (advanced placement) calculus and AP psychology classes currently use the computers in lab room 2002. Additional laptops would make it possible for AP classes to meet in room 228 (regular classroom) and free up the lab. The laptops are more powerful and can better run the AP system.

For a complete list of all mini-grants awarded by the Pierre Educational Foundation, visit our website at [www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org). Applications for the next round of mini grants are due April 1, 2007. Applications are available at the Pierre School District Administration building, or you can download an application at [www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org/minigrants/application.shtm](http://www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org/minigrants/application.shtm).



## Past Mini-Grant:

**Realization of the Impact of Water on Erosion** is a program at Georgia Morse Middle School that teaches students about erosion and weathering factors related to water. Deborah Hepper's sixth grade class has tied this standard to the geography of South Dakota – specifically the Black Hills, caves, Badlands, the Northeastern region in relation to glacial evidence with lakes and the Missouri River. This mini-grant allowed Mrs. Hepper to purchase a stream table to use with her students to teach about erosion.

# Past Mini-Grants

## Past Mini-Grant:

### Teaching the Craft and Traits of Writing Through Literature

at St. Joseph School is a program that emphasizes life long learning skills,

teaches students to write with the help of great authors, and leads



students to recognize that the ability to put one's thoughts in written form is necessary. Mrs. Misty Roberts, a first grade teacher, reads to a group of students and emphasizes the descriptive words found in the text. ●



## Past Mini-Grant: Purposeful Playgrounds

allowed Buchanan Elementary School to purchase stencils for a map of the United States and another of the World

and paint these on the playground along with painting walking lines on the black top. T.F. Riggs Students Paige Burkett, Abby Dix, Megan Dix, Jessica Jones, Kelly Lingle, Cassi Palmer, Lindsey Peterson, Molly Ryan, Shaina Stover and Lisa Weber painted the maps for the students at Buchanan Elementary to enjoy! ●

## Past Mini-Grant:

### E-Missions: Real Life Science, Math & Technology

is an innovative, distance-learning program that simulates real-life emergency situations in order to enhance science, math and technology skills. Pierre School District teachers Rob Coverdale and Ronda Wollman both completed E-Missions with their students this past spring.

Mrs. Wollman's 4<sup>th</sup> graders participated in **E-Mission: Moon, Mars and Beyond**. They studied and researched the planets to prepare for a mission during which they were tasked with rescuing a lost space shuttle. Using information from mock satellite transmissions, the navigation experts retraced and mapped the projected path of the lost ship and unknown space objects.

To make connections to real-world situations, Mrs. Wollman's 4<sup>th</sup> graders were given permission to conduct their mission from the Emergency Operations Center at the new George S. Mickelson Criminal Justice Center. The state-of-the-art facilities helped them realize that in the real-world experts from all areas are called together to share their knowledge to manage emergency situations.

Over 120 Morse Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students participated in **E-Mission: Operation Montserrat**. With this mission, Rob Coverdale introduced his students to the fairly new concept of Earth Systems Science. In this concept, scientists realize that no system on earth operates in isolation and therefore to study one without information from the others can have negative consequences.

During this mission, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated as volcanologists, meteorologists, evacuation, and communication specialists. In turn, this team implemented their contingency plans for evacuating the Montserrat residents no matter which disaster hit. The students gained a greater understanding of the importance of accurate work, teamwork, communication, and efficiency. ●

## Coming in 2007: Pierre / T.F. Riggs High School Alumni Directory



Work continues on the first ever Pierre / T.F. Riggs High School Alumni Directory. The Pierre Educational Foundation has contracted with Alumni Research, Inc. to collect and compile the information into a hardbound, library quality volume and an online community. This directory is being made available to Pierre / T.F. Riggs High School alumni only and is a limited edition press run and offered only one time.

To date, 4,350 alumni have participated by giving interviews and 1,149 directories have been purchased. Alumni Research, Inc. is attempting to contact all alumni to verify contact and biographical information. Please help your alma mater to keep in touch with you. The directory is scheduled for completion in the spring 2007. To be included in the Alumni Directory or for more information please contact Alumni Research Inc., by phone at toll-free (800) 299-1230, U.S. mail at 3333 US Highway 19 Suite 6 Holiday, FL 34691. 📧

## Current Pierre Educational Funds and Scholarships

### *Irene L. and Herbert C. Emde Scholarship Future in Teaching*

Irene Emde taught 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Pierre School District for more than 20 years. Her students remember her as the teacher who taught them reading, and inspired them to learn. After her retirement from the Pierre School District in 1975, she continued teaching by substituting both in the Pierre School District and at the Pierre Indian School until 1987 when at the age of 78, she entirely retired. This fund is currently building its endowment base and the Foundation hopes to start awarding this scholarship in the next few years.

### *James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship Future in Medicine*

The James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship Fund was established in 1997 by Mrs. Gertrude Mueller. The annual scholarship is intended to go to a graduating high school student in Pierre who will enter the medical field. The 2006 Mueller Scholarship winner was Maria Tracy.

### *Peter Wegner Fund Future in Debate*

Peter Norbeck Wegner grew up in Pierre, graduating in 1946. He was a devoted reader and an avid debater. Peter unfortunately experienced the gradual onset of difficulty in walking which became increasingly severe, necessitating the use of canes and then of a wheelchair. By the time he finished college, gradually increasing neurological problems that compromised his mobility, restricted Peter from pursuing a career in journalism and he retired to Tucson, AZ. Progressive neurological problems moved Peter to a nursing home, where he died in December 1999.

Almost to the end, Peter retained a strong interest in reading and speaking. He never forgot his interest in high school debating, so his family and friends started the Peter Wegner Fund with the Pierre Educational Foundation to sustain his name and interest. This fund is currently building its endowment base and the hope is that it will help bring the debate program back to T.F. Riggs High School.

Former students, individuals, businesses and those wishing to support the Emde, Mueller or Wegner Funds may send a tax-deductible donation to the Pierre Educational Foundation, PO Box 94, Pierre, SD 57501. Please specify on your check which fund you would like your donation designated to. 📧

# Set Your Legacy in Stone

**Bricks are only available to current students, future students, alumni and faculty (including school board members, teachers and staff).**

Leave your mark in Pierre. Alumni, current students, future students, and faculty of Pierre / T.F. Riggs have a unique opportunity to be included in the "Outdoor Classroom / Amphitheater Project" at T.F. Riggs High School. Connected to the amphitheater will be a commemorative brick patio.

With a minimum donation of \$30, the person's name along with year of graduation (students or alumni) or years of service (faculty and staff) will be inscribed on the brick. This project will allow proud members of Pierre / Riggs High to have a lasting memory at the school, and will also help raise funds for Student Senate and bringing the Debate program back to T.F. Riggs High School.



## Order Form

*Please print clearly*  
**Deadline – April 1, 2007**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation (students and alumni) or years of service (faculty) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**To be inscribed on brick (max of 14 characters per line):**

First Line (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Second Line (ex: Year of Graduation) \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the order form and send your check made out to the "PEF: Riggs Brick Project" (minimum \$30.00 donation) to:

Pierre Educational Foundation  
PO Box 94  
Pierre, SD 57501

# Reunion Information



**Back Row** (L to R): Jennifer (Lopez) Madson, Mary (Weinheimer) Morris, Mike Mehlhaff, John Weeldreyer, Torry Zeller, Ryan Kelley, Ryan Murphy, Duane Ottenbacher, Damon Meyers, Shaun Mullett, Rob Valland, Justin Smith, Dale Coonrod, Aaron Semmler, Chad Mosteller, Travis Lindekugel. **Third Row** (L to R): Tina (Geary) Vermeulen, Amanda (Weaver) Sprengle, Addie (Rieman) Sanchez, Jackie (Thorson) Nedrebo, Jennifer (Thorson) Richey, Becky Cass, Cathy Richardson, Melissa (Moore) Flottmeyer, Erika (Snow) Andreas, Amy (Weischedel) Campbell, Stacey (Shepherd) Schumacher, Amber (Jensen) Fitzgerald, Sarah (Deters) Johnson, Robin (Kilber) Carlson, Sonya Wendell, Tya Clemetson, Erin (Droppers) Rudy, Tracey (Clark) Tjeerdsma, Nicole Christansen, Michelle (Koehn) Fox, Lindi (Kebach) Bierman. **Second Row** (L to R): Brenda (Collison) Schmidt, Jessica (Enbrecht) Graham, Mahryah (Dixon) Anderson, Kari Dierks, Jenna Neuhauser, Katrina (Stiles) Mosteller, Marcie (Fuhrer) Holsteen, Cheri (Olinger) Raymond, Leslie (Eckert) Warkenthien, Chris Bauck, Andy Powers, Jeremy Adams, Todd Bertsch, Tammy Maher, Chris Alumbaugh. **Front Row** (L to R): Ronnie Little Bear, Shannon (Knutson) Hadac, Jonathan Pitlick, Darwin Fromm, Al Steffen, Dave O'Connell, Matt Brakke, Josh Joy, Shelly Schochenmaier, Audra Meyer.

## Class of 1996: Class Reunion Challenge Winner!

In the last issue of the Governor News, the Pierre Educational Foundation challenged the classes of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996 to see which class could raise the most money for the Pierre Educational Foundation at their reunion this summer!

We are happy to announce that the class of 1996 is the winner! They donated \$575.00 to the Pierre Educational Foundation. Thank you class of 1996! 🍀



**Back row** (L to R): Jack Walker, Howard Brancel, Neil Moulton, Keith Hickey, Jim Leonard, Jerry Cave, Dick Stageberg, Eldon Lindquist, Dick Hudson, Roger Garrett, Clint Schimkat, Chuck McLaughlin. **Third row** (L to R): Beverly (Sherwood) Rupkalvis, Tom Scarborough, Agnes (Thorne) Knutson, Jeannette (Hall) Pfeiffer, George Leonard, Jeane (Giles) Stockburger, Kathy (Fluharty) Creager, Diane (Graff) Cooney, Audrae (Potter) Tinker, Jerry Hosman, Mary (Peters) Krawitt, Bill Miller, Ed Matthews, Bill Fritz. **Second row** (L to R): Elaine (Stertz) Scott, LaVona (Riggins) Kirkpatrick, Joyce (Andresen) Mortison, Vic Hanson, Mary (Miller) Moulton, Verna (Hayes) Spoonemore, Judy (Hartwell) Ove, Pat (Henkins) Hall, Sharon (Hinsey) Menzel, Patty (Austin) Willey, Dixie (Kifer) Tindell, John Koutsoukos. **First row** (L to R): Don Sandal, Jack Kirkpatrick, Frank Tucker, Christina (Huckfeldt) Conant, Jim Picotte, Jim Kadlec.

## Class of 1956

The Izaak Walton Clubhouse was the reunion center on September 22 – 23 for the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion for the Class of 1956.

Classmates came from GA, FL, NJ, MS, CO, CA, VI, WS, LA, MN, IA, CT, MO, OR, TX, NV, NB, AZ and cities across SD to renew friendships with classmates.

Classmates look forward to the next reunion in 2011. 🍀

# Reunion Information

## Class of 1959 Reunion

This fall, a few classmates from the Class of 1959 met and made preliminary plans for a "full scale" reunion in 2009. In September of 2007, the class is planning a "mini-reunion." For more information, please contact Sharon (Warnes) Ackley at [jskley@aol.com](mailto:jskley@aol.com) (put '59 reunion' in subject line).



L to R: Dick Howard, Gloria (Cole) Hosman, Beth (McKenna) Star, Mavis (King) Board, Sharon (Warnes) Ackley, Joyce Denise (Thompson) Lants, Joyce (Howard) Sack, Ken Glander, Maxine (Keyser) Miller and Don Cronin.

## Class of 1946 Reunion

The Pierre High School class of 1946 held its 60<sup>th</sup> reunion the weekend of August 11-13 at the Ramkota RiverCentre in Pierre. Lots of visiting was enjoyed, along with lots of reminiscing, and a tour of the new developments in the Pierre area.

## Coming Soon: 1940 - 1949 Class Reunion

A reunion of the classes of Pierre High School for the years 1940 through 1949 is being planned for 2007. As the dates and location are determined, information will be mailed to all graduates who have updated their contact information. If you are not contacted by March 2007, please send your address to: Jo (Doyle) La Roche, PO Box 303, Ft. Pierre, SD 57532; or: Marilyn (Hansen) Hagerty, 1520 Cottonwood Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201.

## Coming Soon: Class of 1953 Reunion

54 Year Class Reunion  
September 7-9, 2007  
For more information contact Joyce Scarborough Sugure at [joycesugrue@myexcel.com](mailto:joycesugrue@myexcel.com).

## Coming Soon: Class of 1997 Reunion

10 Year Class Reunion: June 29 - 30, 2007  
For more information, visit [www.riggs1997.myevent.com](http://www.riggs1997.myevent.com), or contact Nancy Morris at (605) 222-2163 or by email at [riggs1997@pie.midco.net](mailto:riggs1997@pie.midco.net).

## Planning a Class Reunion?

Forward all reunion information to [kim@pierreeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:kim@pierreeducationalfoundation.org) and it will be included on the PEF Website, [www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org) and also included in the next issue of the *Governor News* (published in June 2007). The Foundation can also help by providing your reunion coordinator with the most recent contact list for your classmates from our database. Contact Kim Brakke at [kim@pierreeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:kim@pierreeducationalfoundation.org) for more information.

# Alumni News

## The Thirties

### Anna Marie Sandberg (Soleglad)

Class of 1931

Anna Marie currently resides in Madelia, MN. She is 93 years old and still living in her home.

### Ruth Smith (Livingstone)

Class of 1933

Ruth currently resides in Greeley, CO. Ruth retired from Washington D.C. to Greeley, CO and St. Petersburg, FL in 1972. She has one daughter, Cynthia; a son in law, Randy; and one grandson, Randall.

### Jean Eberly (Davidson)

Class of 1934

Jean currently resides in Lake Helen, FL. She retired from the V.A. Hospital in WI after working in Civil Service for 30 years and moved to FL in 1980.

### Anna Marie Anderson

Class of 1937

Anna Marie currently resides in Midland, SD. She has four children and is a retired postal worker.

### Donald A. Dittman

Class of 1937

Donald currently resides in Webster, NY. He is retired and moved from to New York State two years ago.

## The Forties

### Jo Gilbert (Rawlins)

Class of 1947

Jo currently resides in Menlo Park, CA. She is a retired probation officer and enjoys traveling.

### Nita Robbins

Class of 1949

Nita currently resides in Carmel, CA. She is retired.

## The Fifties

### Richard Kirk Demmon

Class of 1951

Richard and his wife Mary Lucinda, currently reside in Doyline, LA. Dick works full time as a

diesel driving instructor and tests for the State of Louisiana. He retired from driving trucks in 1996. Mary is a housewife and retired from being a Drug Department Clerk back in 2001. They have eight children.

### Richard Hyde

Class of 1951

Richard and his wife Ruth, currently reside in Edmond, OK. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Richard is a semi-retired professor and still teaches at the Kansas City School of Medicine and Biology and the University of Oklahoma – Norman Campus. They are anxiously awaiting the birth of their sixth great grandchild.

### Dr. Wayne F. Echelberger, Jr.

Class of 1952

Dr. Echelberger currently resides in Tampa, FL. He serves as a consultant to the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the review of research and demonstration grant proposals. In 1999, Dr. Echelberger established the Wayne and Iris Echelberger Scholarship through the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Foundation. The scholarship is annually awarded to a sophomore, junior, or senior majoring in Civil Engineering with special interest in the area of Environmental Engineering.

### Jeraldyn P. Anderson (Ottum)

Class of 1954

Jeraldyn and her husband Merlin, currently reside in Inver Grove Heights, MN.

### John Shangreaux

Class of 1954

John currently resides in Las Cruces, NM. He is retired.

### Diane Cooney (Graff)

Class of 1956

Diane and her husband Judd, currently reside in Pagosa Springs, CO. Diane is a Chief Household Systems Engineer and Judd guides, photographs and writes about the outdoors. They are very involved in the lives of their three teenage grandchildren who live nearby.

# Alumni News

## **Frank Tucker**

Class of 1956

Frank and his wife Judy currently reside in Dana Point, CA. Frank is an Electrical Engineer and owns his own business. They have four children and a brand new granddaughter.

## **John B. Peller**

Class of 1957

John and his wife Pat, currently reside in LaHabra Heights, CA. He is retired, and they have two sons.

## **Joan Williams (Sterling)**

Class of 1958

Joan currently resides in Pierre, SD. She is a personal caregiver at Kelly's Retirement Home in Pierre. She has two children: Raelene (class of 1984) and William (class of 1987).

## **The Sixties**

### **Thomas Woods**

Class of 1960

Thomas and his wife Sally, currently reside in Peoria, AZ. Both Thomas and Sally are officers in the Sun City Elks Lodge #2559. Thomas is also the Youth Activities Chairman for their lodge, which has won 1<sup>st</sup> place awards at both the state and national levels for youth programs. They have three children.

### **Shirley A. Klein (Klinger)**

Class of 1962

Shirley and her husband, Don, currently reside in Waupun, WI. They have been married for 15 years and have 11 children, 22 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Shirley enjoys sewing, crafts, and being a grandma and foster parent.

### **Gaylord Sonnenschein**

Class of 1965

### **Cathy Sonnenschein (Strudle)**

Class of 1967

Gaylord and Cathy currently reside in Pierre, SD. Gaylord is a Rancher and State Employee, and Cathy is a Real Estate Broker. They have three children, two grandsons, and one grandson on the way.

## **The Seventies**

### **Patricia Syring (Davis)**

Class of 1971

Patricia and her husband, Gerald, currently reside in Sac City, IA. After completing a four-week teaching practicum in German, Patricia earned her German Teaching Certification to teach German and English in German schools. She is currently teaching German in Iowa.

## **The Eighties**

### **Joseph R. Hartford**

Class of 1983

Joseph, his wife Deb and their children (Sophia: 7, Colton: 4) currently reside in Rapid City, SD. Joseph has practice optometry at the Rapid City Medical Center since January of 1999. His wife Deb works as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

### **Dawn M Melius (Witte)**

Class of 1987

Dawn, her husband Kelly Melius and their children (Sarah: 19, Taylor: 12, Lane: 9, Jaden: 5 and Baby Boy due February 2007) currently reside in Faulkton, SD. After being in the insurance business for 11 years, Dawn has finally gotten to use her elementary education degree, taking a fourth grade teaching assignment in Faulkton last year. In addition to being a first year teacher, she also coached Jr. High girls track and was assistant volleyball coach. This year, she was co-head volleyball coach, but will not be coaching track as Baby Boy will have arrived by then.

### **Jeff A. Loesch**

Class of 1988

Jeff; his wife Leanne and their children (Wyatt: 7, Savannah: 4) currently reside east of Pierre in Canning, SD. Jeff is a barber at Dakota Barbers in Pierre, and Leanne is a secretary at the SD Department of Revenue and Regulation.

*Continued on next page...*

# Alumni News

## **Brian S. Miller**

Class of 1988

Brian, his wife Brandee and their daughters (Drue: 10, Aubree: 2) currently reside in Sioux Falls, SD. Brian has been an engineer with Johnson Controls Inc. for 14 years. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and being with his family in the Pierre area.

## **Colette Beshara (Pogany)**

Class of 1989

Colette and her children Jacquie and Max, currently reside in Pierre, SD. Colette is a registered nurse.

## **The Nineties**

### **David Ebach**

Class of 1990

David, his wife Jamie, and their daughter Sydney, currently reside in Woodbury, MN. David is a financial analyst for Transport America. Jamie is a legal assistant at 3M.

### **Erik Swendsen**

Class of 1990

Erik currently resides in St. Louis, MO. He has two children (Jada: 12; Vanessa: 9) and works as an electrical engineer.

### **Nate Brakke**

Class of 1993

Nate currently resides in Charlottesville, VA. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1997, and the University of South Dakota Medical School in 2002. He completed his Pediatrics residency at the University of Minnesota in 2005 and is currently working on his Anesthesia residency at the University of Virginia. ●

## ***Where Are You Now?***

Send us your update! Where are you living?  
Working? Do you have children?

Email your update to:

[info@pierreeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:info@pierreeducationalfoundation.org)

or send a hard-copy to  
PO Box 94, Pierre, SD 57501.

## **In Memoriam**

### **Maurice Green**

Class of 1931

### **Dorothy Franz (Jacobs)**

Class of 1932

### **Harley L. Hansen**

Class of 1937

### **Clara Huggins (Lumley)**

Class of 1937

### **Albert Imsland**

Class of 1939

### **Jim Robbins**

Class of 1948

### **Todd Tessier**

Class of 1981



**Does your will include the Pierre Educational Foundation? If not, please consider a bequest of cash, property, or stocks and bonds—or a percentage of your estate. Your gift will make a difference!**

# Thank You Donors

The Pierre Educational Foundation would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all alumni, individual, families and businesses that have contributed money to the Foundation. The following is a list of contributors who have donated money since the last printing of the *Governor News*. We apologize if we have missed any names, please contact us and let us know. Thank you again for your generosity!

## Patron (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Elizabeth A. Mayer  
Dr. Wayne F. Echelberger, Jr.

## Sponsor (\$500 to \$999)

Class of 1996  
Roland L. Franz

## Supporter (\$250 to \$499)

Charles H. Burke  
Class of 1986

## Donor (\$50 to \$249)

Anna Marie Anderson  
W.B. & Patricia Blankenburg  
Kathie Cink  
Melissa T.M. DeChandt  
Donald A. Dittman  
David Ebach  
Donald & Donna Gallimore  
Marilyn Hagerty  
Joseph R. Hartford  
Craig Herman  
Jerry & Eileen Herrin  
Dan Hosman  
Robert Huber  
Richard M. Hyde  
Randall Ice  
George & Marilyn Leonard  
Buron & Karen Lindbloom  
Ruth Livingstone Smith  
Stefan M. Mason  
Brian Miller  
Amy Nadine (Hasek)

Darrel & Geneva Neilan  
Kie and Connie Patterson  
John B. Peller  
Jo Rawlins Gilbert  
Nita Robbins  
John Shangreaux  
Gaylord & Cathy  
Sonnenschein  
Iva M. Sutherland  
Darwin & LaVila Tessier  
Frank Tucker  
Steven E. Tusa  
Thomas Woods  
Mark & Danette Zickrick

## Friend (under \$50)

Corinne Alphson  
Jeraldyn P. Anderson  
Collette (Pogany) Beshara  
Diane Cooney  
Debbie Krueger-Domy  
Amanda & Joey Garrett  
Karen Hasek  
Josephine La Roche  
Anna Marie (Soleglad)  
Sandburg  
Erik Swendsen  
Patricia Syring  
H.W & Autumn Thomas

## Pierre Educational Foundation Lifetime Givers

### Gifts of \$100,000 or greater

Cora London Estate

### Gifts of \$50,000 to \$99,999

James & Gertrude Mueller

### Gifts of \$25,000 to \$49,999

Bank West Foundation

### Gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999

American State Bank  
First National Bank  
Scott & Julia Jones  
Wells FargoBank

### Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999

Riter Family Gift  
Peter Wegner Memorial Gifts

### Gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999

Tom & Pat Adam  
Verne & Debbie Brakke  
Duane & Barbara Butt  
Dr. Wayne Echelberger, Jr  
Emde Fund Memorial Gifts  
Capital Journal (Hipple Family)  
Elizabeth Mayer  
Bruce Huxford Memorial Gifts  
Maxine Isenberg Memorial  
Ed & Sandy Jacobson  
Tony & LaVerne Klein  
Godfrey Roberts  
Tom Roberts  
Donald Schliessmann  
Richard & Mary Jane Schoessler  
Kevin and Alice Stulken

These gifts do not include **Pierre School District Educational Foundation** gifts named by will, beneficiary, or remainder trust.

# Pierre Educational Foundation

211 South Poplar  
PO Box 94  
Pierre, SD 57501

Non. Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Permit No. 123

Newsletter Editor: Kim Brakke  
www.pierreeducationalfoundation.org  
info@pierreeducationalfoundation.org

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**The Pierre Educational  
Foundation is a partner  
in academic excellence**

---

## Alumni News

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

What's new with YOU? (feel free to use a separate sheet of paper): \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

**Yes! I want to support the Pierre Educational Foundation.** My gift to the Pierre Educational Foundation is enclosed.

- |                                     |                    |                                    |                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$2,500 or more    | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter | \$250 to \$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron     | \$1,000 to \$2,499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor     | \$50 to \$249  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor    | \$500 to \$999     | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend    | under \$50     |

Your gift is tax-deductable! The Pierre Educational Foundation qualifies for matching gift programs. PLEASE submit your news even if you cannot make a gift at this time!

**Send checks and correspondence to:** PEF, PO Box 94, Pierre, SD 57501  
**Email news & comments to:** Kim Brakke, editor -- kim@pierreeducationalfoundation.org