Events Calendar

September
22 Saturdays at CWS (workshop)
26 NPM Exhibit Reception
28-30 South Dakota Festival of Books (CWS booth)

October
8 Screening of A Good Day to Die (Life of Dennis Banks)
9 Catherine Friend (Library Associates author)

November
8 Boe Forum on Public Affairs
17 Saturdays at CWS

December
12 Russ Duerksen Exhibit Reception

January
7-30 Finding the Great Plains (Interim course)

Saturday Education Series Launched

Starting this fall, the Center will launch its ‘Saturday at CWS’ workshop series, designed to bring additional educational opportunities to the Sioux Falls area. The first two workshop leaders have been selected: a writer and a genealogist. The workshops are free, but registration is required. Please contact Kristi Thomas at kristi.thomas@augie.edu or 605.274.4007.

September 22 • 1-2 p.m.: “The Writer Inside You,” presented by David Allan Evans, South Dakota Poet Laureate and author of The Bull Rider’s Advice and After the Swan Dive.

November 17 • 10:30 a.m.: “Gathering Family: A Guide to Genealogical Research,” presented by Dr. Loren H. Amanda, author of Norwegianists, Suedes and More (6 vols.)

Bronze in the Galleries

C.A. Pardell sculptures donated by Paul and Julie Mohman in the Eleni Gallery.

Boe Forum: Foreign Policy & New Technologies

Over the past few years, as protest movements have erupted in such countries as Iran, Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, Americans—including the Center’s Boe Forum Committee—have become keenly aware of the impact of social media and other new forms of communication on world affairs.

Named one of six “Top American Leaders” by The Washington Post and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, Jared Cohen will address the topic of communication technology and U.S. foreign policy in the 17th Boe Forum on Public Affairs, to be held on Thursday, November 8, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Elmen Center on the campus of Augustana College.

Cohen is the director of Google Ideas, an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and a nonfiction author. Previously, he served as a member of the Secretary of State’s Policy Planning Staff and as a close advisor to both Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton. Foreign Policy listed him as one of the “Top 100 Global Thinkers.” Cohen is also co-author (with Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt) of “The Digital Disruption: Connectivity and the Diffusion of Power,” which appeared in Foreign Affairs just a few months before the Arab Spring. He and Schmidt are now writing a book on the future of the world. At age 30, Cohen is the youngest speaker in the forum series.

The event is free and open to the public; however, tickets are required. Priority seating option is not offered online. To ensure our current CWS members receive their membership benefit of floor seating, please call or stop by the Center for Western Studies.
Conference Dramatized Plains Indian History

Those in attendance at this year’s Dakota Conference witnessed how past events, such as the 1890 massacre and 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee and related incidents, continue to affect the lives of contemporary Americans.

Word that former American Indian Movement leader Russell Means and former FBI Agent in Charge at Pine Ridge Joseph Trimbach would be speaking brought AIM founders Dennis Banks and Clyde Bellecourt to the conference. Executive Director Harry Thompson invited both Means and Banks to participate. Means gave a 90-minute talk Friday night. Banks attended a post-conference screening of a film about his life, arranged by former Outreach and Promotion Director Tim Hoheisel and supported by a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council.

Accusation and counter-accusations by others associated with the occupation and subsequent trials—Denise Mallow, daughter of murdered Anna Mae Aquash, host Adrienne Fritz, former assistant U.S. attorneys David Gienapp and James McManus and former FBI agent David Price—led to lively discussions. Thompson had also contracted with documentary filmmaker Kevin McKernan (California) and author Stewart Magnuson (Virginia) to speak at the conference.

Although the tension was at times palpable, comments such as these were common among the evaluations: “Thank you for everyone’s contributions to creating an excellent, informative conference—exploring and living history at its best!”

“Absolutely stunning conference—Kudos!”

For an appraisal of the conference by author Stewart Magnuson, see his posting “Truth and Accountability Still Elusive” at stewart magnuson.blogspot.com.

Many presentations on a range of topics made it possible for attendees to learn about the Northern Plains apart from Wounded Knee. Two sessions arranged by National Advisory Council member Jon Lawak featured panel discussions of important new books about the Great Plains. Remaking the Heartland and The Plains Political Tradition. Council member Lloyd Svendsbye spoke about his book I Paid All My Debts. Visit www.facebook.com/CenterforWesternStudies for more photos of the conference.

Dakota Conference Presenter Awards

Distinguished Contribution to the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage of South Dakota and the Northern Plains Award: Lillian Jussohnson, (see the full citation on www.augie.edu/cws/)


Richard Cropp Award (amateur): Bob Benson, “The Americanization of Roslyn”

Herbert W. Blakey Award (professional): Thomas J. Gasque, “The Legacy of the Civil War in the Place Names of the Upper Midwest”

Ernest M. Trugarden Award (professional): David S. T ank, “The Presbyter vs. the Bishop: A Forgotten Soldier of the Korean War”

Clyde Cummins Award (student): Brian Knight, “The Immortal Man: George Armstrong Custer”

Ardyce Samp Award: Betty Guitch, “The South Dakota State Medical Association, 1880-1910”

CWS wishes to thank all the presenters at this year’s conference—what a success!

2013 Dakota Conference to Examine Spanish Influence

Searching for the fabled cities of gold, Coronado in the 1540s pushed as far north on the Great Plains as central Kansas. Two hundred years later, Villasur reached the Platte River in central Nebraska, where his party was attacked and defeated by Otoes and Pawnees. Spanish fur trader Manuel Lisa worked the upper regions of the Missouri River in the early 1800s. At its zenith in 1795, New Spain constituted most of the American West. Today, large Hispanic/Latino populations live in the Northern Plains, especially in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Colorado. In South Dakota, for example, the Hispanic/Latino population is the largest minority in Sioux Falls, now approaching 5%

The 45th Annual Dakota Conference, April 26-27, 2013, is seeking papers on Spanish exploration of and Hispanic/Latino immigration to the Northern Plains. Paper and session proposals on this theme, as well as other topics related to the Northern Plains, should be sent addressed to “Dakota Conference” or e-mailed to dakotaconference@augie.edu. The submission deadline is February 8, 2013.

Adventures of a Private Collector

For its June 12 fundraising dinner, the Center celebrated the role of the private collector by asking businessman and collector Larry Ness to share stories of his collecting adventures. In introducing Mr. Ness, Executive Director Harry Thompson noted that there would be far fewer repositories of cultural treasures were it not for the generosity of private collectors. Among Larry’s stories was the account of how he acquired Sitting Bull’s tomahawk.

Collectors sometimes create their own museums or research centers, like the Huntington or the Getty. Libraries, museums, and art galleries often would not have the collection depth that scholars and the interested public demand had a collector not donated or loaned rare items. And without the financial generosity of these and other donors who value museums and archives, few such institutions would be able to exist.

Thompson observed that although the first known European collector is thought to be Niccolo Niccoli, a wealthy resident of 15th century Florence, Italy, closer in time and place to us is the example of Thomas Jefferson. He was America’s most extravagant and visionary collector, having sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark up the Missouri River on a two-year expedition, in part, to collect Western America, much of which he put on display at Monticello.

Larry Ness, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of First Dakota National Bank, has been a generous contributor in a variety of ways to CWS and has served on its National Advisory Council for more than three decades. In 1997 the Center recognized Larry’s contributions by presenting him with its Friend of the Center Award. Larry recently demonstrated his support of CWS through a generous pledge to the Center’s Endowment Campaign.

Other projects that Larry and First Dakota National Bank have supported include the purchase of the painting Moonlight (1849), by Gutzon Borglum, the Richard Cropp Case in the Fioland Plains Indian Room, sponsorship gifts for two June Events, and the publication of one of two books the Center released in conjunction with the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

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The Richard Cropp Case in the Fioland Plains Indian Room

The Madsen/Nelson/Ellen Galleries this fall feature three simultaneous art exhibitions. The Frank and Jan Gabo’s Collection of American West and Regional Art continues in the Nelson Gallery. The work of five Plains Indian artists is on display in the Madsen Gallery; Roger Rice; Jackie Sevier, Paul Szabo, Richard Red Owl, and Harvey Ratley. Held in collaboration with Sinte Gleska University, this show celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Northern Plains Indian Art Market. The market and this exhibit are featured in an article in the August issue of NOW/WI/VI/LONN magazine. The Paul and Julie Mohrmans Collection of bronze sculptures by Chris Pardell is on exhibit in the Ellen Gallery. See the feature article on the Mohrmans in the fall issue of The Australiana. These exhibits are part of the Native American Initiative 2012-2013.
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New CWS Secretary Amy Nelson (seated) and New Education Assistant Kristi Thom.

Conferences continue: new collection of Riggs family papers from C.E. Van Norman of Neversink, NY, via his friendship with CWS member Bob Kolbe. The papers include letters from missionary Stephen R. Riggs to his second wife, Annie, and their daughter Edna, among several others. Van Norman also donated two new sets of Civil War letters, those of Mitchell of the 4th Iowa Volunteer Regiment and John S. Lemuel F. Mathews of the 112th Illinois Volunteer. The papers list of donors to the collections in below: Musician and bookdealer Clare Van R. Riggs to his second wife, Annie, and a new collection of Riggs family papers and new Education Assistant Kristi Thomas.

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Bank Gifted, daughter of Frank and Jan. CWS wishes to thank all the presenters at this year’s conference—what a success!
Campaign Exceeds $1.5 Million Goal

The campaign to increase the endowment for the Center for Western Studies reached a milestone this summer. As of July 31, gifts of more than $1.2 million have earned the $500,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), bringing the amount raised to over $1.5 million. CW5’s designated endowment funds, including those supporting the Boe Forum on Public Affairs, now exceed $7 million.

The grant provides an additional year to collect outstanding pledges and complete the final performance report required by the NEH. Core programs that will benefit from this campaign are the following: Archives and Library, Art Program and Educational Exhibits, Dakota Conference, Publications, and the Fantle Building. Executive Director Harry Thompson, project director and co-author of the NEH grant (with Paul Krueger), remarks, “As the result of the generous commitment by many individuals to this endowment campaign, the Center is entering a period of unsurpassed financial stability.”

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NEWS FROM THE COLLECTIONS

Collections Assistant Liz Thrond worked with the Council for Arts and Humanities in Rock County, MN, on an exhibit about author Frederick Manfred. Manfred’s works depict life in “Soulwood,” the phrase he coined to describe our region, which is still in use today. Displayed at the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building in Lorenze during July, the exhibit featured several artifacts on loan from CW5, including Manfred’s typewriter, leather boots, and briefercase. The event was part of 2012—a Year of Manfred,” a year-long celebration of the author funded, in part, by a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts and Humanities Council.

There were several interesting donations to the archives this summer. Kay Hesby, of College Station, TX, donated papers belonging to her in-laws, Edwin and Pearl (Lewish) Hesby, who farmed in Volga, SD. The collection includes hundreds of love letters Edwin wrote to Pearl during their long-distance courtship in the 1930s. The archives also received a...