

# CWS *News*

THE CENTER FOR WESTERN STUDIES | AUGUSTANA COLLEGE | FANTLE BUILDING

## Major New Exhibits Planned

Under a plan approved by the Board of Directors in April, the Center will develop a design concept for new “permanent” exhibits in the Fantle Building. “Although the exhibits that Dean Schueler, Art Huseboe, and I oversaw served us well from the time the Fantle Building opened in 2001,” remarked Executive Director Harry Thompson, “they are now twelve years old. The Center needs to begin planning for the redesign and expansion of these exhibits as a way to attract new audiences.”

The acquisition of the Blue Cloud Abbey-American Indian Culture Research Center Collection will facilitate the replacement of the artifacts currently on display in the Froiland Plains Indian Gallery. “These items need to rest and regain their natural shape,” observed Thompson.

The Art and Educational Exhibits Program was identified as one of five core areas under the \$1.5 million CWS Endowment Campaign, including \$300,000 from a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. The exhibits project, which will proceed in three phases, is scheduled to be completed in 2018. In addition to using a portion of endowment earnings, the Center will need to raise funds specific to the redesign project.

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## Announcing the CWS Digital Collections

Since 2011, Collections Assistant Liz Thron and Chair of the CWS Collections Committee Deb Hagemeyer have been engaged in the Center’s Digitization Initiative. The result of these efforts is the Center for Western Studies Digital Collections, a free and continually expanding digital archive of materials from the CWS research collections, which was officially launched at the 2013 Dakota Conference.

The initial collection to be digitized, the Historic Sioux Falls Slide Collection, features nearly 3,000 images of Sioux Falls and the surrounding area from the 1860s to the 1970s. A popular collection, originally assembled by Dr. Gary Olson, Professor Emeritus of History at Augustana, it has long been used by historians, authors, historic building preservation enthusiasts, and interior designers to reveal the Sioux Falls of long ago. The Digital Collections currently include more than 500 images from this collection on such topics as hospitals, city parks, military scenes, parades, the quarries, the Queen Bee Mill and other important Sioux Falls industries. An additional 2,350 images from this collection will be added to the database during the summer of 2013, including large groupings on such topics as street scenes, private homes, schools, and important residents.

The Digital Collections are managed and web hosted by PastPerfect-Online, an extension of the Center’s PastPerfect museum software. The web interface allows users to print copies of watermarked images, e-mail links to family and friends, and send purchasing inquiries and feedback to staff. To learn more about the Digital Collections and to access them, visit the CWS web-site.

Liz Thron wishes to thank Dr. Loren Amundson who volunteers in the archives and tirelessly scanned thousands of images to make this project possible. The staff intends to continue this effort, expanding the digital collections to include artifacts, documents, and additional photographs from CWS holdings, as conditions allow. If you would like to help fund this important endeavor, please contact Executive Director Dr. Harry Thompson.



CWS interns and student assistants (left to right): Lauren Anderson, Kelsey Goplen, Seth Wolles, Rebecca Sunde, and Jasmin Graves. Not pictured: Sebastian Forbush and Ksenia Vlasenko.



This writing desk and the Norwegian genealogy journals it highlights from the Orrin Volden Collection are newly displayed in the Fantle Scandinavian Gallery. Other new exhibits in the Fantle Building include the wedding of Pearl Lewison and Edwin Hesby (which demonstrates the costs of getting married in Iowa during the Great Depression) and letters from Congregational missionary Stephen R. Riggs to his second wife, Annie.

## Dakota Conference Presenters Receive \$900 in Awards

The following presenters of papers at the 2012 Dakota Conference received their awards at this year's Friday dinner:

Arthur and Willmeta Johnson Award  
(Amateur)  
**Justin Hammer**

Richard Cropp Award (Amateur)  
**Blair Tremere**

Herbert Blakely Award (Professional)  
**Elizabeth Cook-Lynn**

Ernest Teagarden Award  
(Professional)  
**Richard Muller**

Cedric Cummins Student Award  
**Jordan Dobrowski**

Rex Meyers and Susan Richards  
Student Award  
**Sebastian Forbush**

Carol Mashek Award  
in Women's History  
**Rebekah Walker**

Ardyce Samp Recognition Award  
**Aaron Woodard**

*Stepping into History*  
*Early Views of Dakota Territory*  
June 13  
24th Annual June Event  
Dinner, Program, and Exhibit  
Premiere

## Former Board Chair Passes

Esther Bowden, former member of the CWS Board of Directors and Chair of the Board, passed away on April 23, 2013. In recent years, Esther served on the National Advisory Council. Her husband, R. Herbert "Herb" Bowden, passed away in 2007. Both Esther and Herb were honored with the Friends of the Center for Western Studies Award in 2006.

## Exhibits to Feature Dakota Territory Photos and Carl Grupp Paintings



Russ Duerksen provided an overview of his career as an artist at the opening reception for his gallery show, *The Art of Russ Duerksen*, on December 12, 2012.

The summer exhibit is *Dakota Territory Plains and Mountains (1866-1889): Images from the Robert Kolbe Collection*. The exhibit premiere will be held on June 13 in conjunction with the Center's fund-raising dinner and program, *Stepping into History: Early Views of Dakota Territory*. The event includes a talk by Robert Kolbe, a specialist in historical photography, whose photo collection will be on display. The exhibit features selected images enlarged to 6' x 4' in size. Call 605-274-4007 to find out if seating is still available for this unique celebration of early views of Dakota Territory, which will be held in the Madsen/Nelson/Elmen Galleries.

The fall exhibit will be *Why Are We? A Carl Grupp Retrospective Exhibition*, which will be held in conjunction with the Eide/Dalrymple Gallery and be curated by gallery director Dr. Lindsay Twa. The retrospective will open on September 12 with joint receptions in the Madsen/Nelson/Elmen Galleries in Fantle and the Center for Visual Arts in the Humanities Building. This is the third time that joint exhibits between CWS and Eide/Dalrymple have taken place. The exhibit will close in the Eide/Dalrymple Gallery on October 12 but remain open in the Fantle Building through December. Recent exhibits have featured the work of Russ Duerksen and Jerry Fogg.

## Artists of the Plains Show Astonishes

The Artists of the Plains Art Show and Sale, which took place February 15-17 at the Holiday Inn City Centre, is now a staple of the Sioux Falls art scene. This annual event gives art lovers the chance not only to view and purchase works from their favorite artists but to discover new favorites as well.

This year's event featured twenty-six local and regional artists who work in various media including oil/acrylic, 2-D/3-D mixed media, watercolor, ceramics, wood sculpture, jewelry, stone sculpture, and photography. Education Assistant Kristi Thomas, who organized the show, observed, "The quality and diversity of the artists that the Center for Western Studies attracts provides something for everyone who attends, from the person looking to purchase a few unique artistic greeting cards to the serious collector wishing to add to his/her collection."



This year's award winners shared \$600 in prize money (from left to right): Best of Show 2-D First Place, Carol Lundeen; Best of Show 2-D Second Place, Jerry Fogg; Best of Show 3-D First Place, Drake Wood; and Best of Show 3-D Second Place, Karllys Wells.

Augustana art students were again invited to participate in the show, selected by the Augustana Art Department. With funding from CWS Board member Roger Haugo, each student received a cash award in honor of Arthur and Doris Huseboe, notable patrons of the arts. The First Place Best in Show Student Award recipients were Laura Nerness and Jennie Yu (tie). The Second Place Best in Show Student Award recipient was Amanda Seeley, and the Third Place Best in Show Student Award recipients were Mariya Pabst and Annie Nance (tie).



## First Europeans in the Plains Topic of Dakota Conference



Wayne Fanebust (center) receives the Distinguished Contribution Award for Heritage Preservation from Chair of the Board of Directors Tony Haga (left) and Executive Director Harry Thompson (right).

For 2013, the Dakota Conference focused on the first Europeans to explore and establish settlements on the Great Plains, the Spanish. Eight sessions examined various aspects of the Hispanic/Latino experience. Speakers in three plenary sessions discussed the theme in detail: Pablo Rangel (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Juan Bonilla (Sioux Falls businessman and Chair of the city's Diversity Council), and Michael Olsen (professor and author from Colorado Springs).

Although primarily impacting the southern Plains, the Spanish pushed as far north as Kansas in the 1540s and Nebraska in the 1720s. Spanish fur trader

Manuel Lisa established posts throughout the northern Plains in the early 1800s.

Today, large Hispanic/Latino populations are found throughout the region, especially in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Colorado. In South Dakota, for example, the Hispanic/Latino population is now the largest minority, with more than 22,000 residents, most of whom are from Central America.



*Left:* Juan Bonilla, Chair of the Sioux Falls Diversity Council, explained that the 22,000 Hispanic/Latino residents of South Dakota have an impact of \$480 million on the state's economy. *Right:* Pablo Rangel, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, spoke about the role of the vaquero (Spanish cowboy) in American culture at the Friday lunch.

As usual, many topics in addition to the conference theme were addressed: the life and legacy of former South Dakota Senator James Abdnor, the past thirty years of political reporting in South Dakota, and South Dakota immigrant groups. The Saturday autograph party featured sixteen writers, including Washington, D.C.-based journalist Stew Magnuson, author of *Wounded Knee 1973: Still Bleeding*, which chronicles last year's conference on Wounded Knee, and Norma Wilson, USD Emeritus Professor and author of *Under the Rainbow: Poems from Mojácar*. Copies available at CWS.

## New Book by 2012 Boe Forum Speaker

A new book by Jared Cohen, the speaker for the 2012 Boe Forum on Public Affairs, was released in April and is available for purchase at the Center for Western Studies. *The New Digital Age: Reshaping the Future of People, Nations and Business* (Knopf) was written by Google Chairman Eric Schmidt and Google Ideas Director Jared Cohen. Cohen, who mentioned the book during his talk, is also senior member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Read more about the book by Cohen and Schmidt, two leading thinkers in communications technology and foreign affairs, on the CWS Facebook page.

Current CWS members will receive a 15% discount off the \$26.95 price if they mention this story.

## Sharing the Blue Cloud Abbey Book Collection

In keeping with the spirit in which CWS accepted the American Indian Culture Research Center Collection, the Center has donated duplicate copies of books from Blue Cloud Abbey to the Sisseton Wahpeton Community College Library, Watertown Public Library (serving the Blue Cloud Abbey/Sisseton Wahpeton area), Crazy Horse Memorial Library, and the South Dakota State Penitentiary Library (large Native American population). The Center expresses its appreciation to the staff of Augustana's Mikkelsen Library for their work in cataloging the collection and distributing the duplicates.

## Art Preservation Plan Launched

Responding to the Preservation Needs Assessment Survey, which was a component of the Art Collection Initiative 2011-2013, Executive Director Harry Thompson developed a Preservation Action Plan for 2013-2018. The preservation assessment was completed in February 2013 with grant funding from Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The six-year action plan identifies several needs that require immediate attention and form the basis of a Preservation Assistance Grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities. Collections Assistant Liz Thron wrote the \$6,000 proposal to the NEH to request funding assistance with the following: the purchase of a new temperature and humidity monitoring-recording system, light-sensing equipment, supplies for a pest management system, and an in-house disaster response and salvage kit. The Art and Collections Committees are each reviewing the Preservation Plan at this time.

Other aspects of the Art Collection Initiative are an Art Collecting Policy for 2012-17, which provides a set of guidelines for managing current collections and future acquisitions of art and artifacts, and the creation of an Art and Artifact Collection Database, which is nearing completion.

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



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Students in the January-term course *Finding the Great Plains*, taught by Executive Director Harry Thompson, conducted research on a variety of topics related to the region, from the concept of the Buffalo Commons, growth of Hispanic/Latino communities, renewable energy opportunities such as biofuels, and regional sensitivity to criticism, to extractive industries such as oil and gas fracking in North Dakota.

Three students presented their research findings at the Dakota Conference. From left to right (front): Courtney Healey, Lauren Evans, Maren Werth; (back): Abreya Oda, Harry Thompson, Marti LaVallie, and Kate Carlson.

## Events Calendar

### May

11 *Saturdays at CWS* with Jerry Fogg speaking about his gallery show

### June

2 Heritage Park opens (Sundays 2:00 to 4:00): view four historic pioneer buildings, including Ole Rolvaag's writing cabin

8 *Saturdays at CWS* with Tara Barney making corn jewelry (\$25 charge for supplies)

13 *Stepping into History* (June Event dinner, program, and exhibit premiere)

14 *Dakota Territory Plains and Mountains (1866-1889)* opens

### July

13 *Saturdays at CWS* with Gene Smith on digital photography

26-27 Augustana Academy Archives open

### August

9-11 140th Wagon Train Reunion (Berdahl and other Norwegian families)

25 Heritage Park closes for season

### September

5 Academic Year 2013-14 begins

13 *Why Are We? Carl Grupp Retrospective* opens