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CWS Board members Stan Christopherson (l.) and Richard Muller (l.) visit with Augustana Development Director Mike Lynch (l.).

Executive Director Harry Thompson (l.) explains to Shirley Savage Jones (m.) and Connie Savage Thiewes the Jim Savage display in the Northern Plains Folk Art Continuum exhibit.

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**Major Donors to Voices of the Northern Plains**

**NAMING GIFTS OF $25,000-$50,000**
- Gordon (~5’7-5’9) and Joan (~5’9)
- Nelson Family
- L M. Baylor
- Darwin and Jane Sletten

**SPONSORING GIFTS OF $5,000-$9,999**
- Gerry and Robert Law
- Ronald R Nelson Trust
- Charline Smith

**NAMING GIFTS OF $10,000-$24,999**
- Lynwood E. Oyo
- Verna Berg Estate
- Tom Deupree and the Deupree Family Foundation
- Elizabeth Riggs Gutch
- Gil and Lillian Johnson
- Larry Ness
- Danis Wyman in Memory of Richard Lee Wyman (~5’6)

**SPONSORING GIFTS OF $1,000-$4,999**
- Gary and Kathy Conradi
- Shon Cronk and Wells Fargo
- Howard and Janice Hofland
- Gary and Rosaean Olson

**CWS Collaborates with Washington Pavilion and Northern Plains Indian Art Market**

The Center for Western Studies was delighted to honor a request from the Washington Pavilion’s Visual Arts Center to lend three original works by Oscar Howe from the CWS Fine Art Collection for the exhibit Oscar Howe Centennial: Celebrating the South Dakota Master and His Legacy, which opened July 28. At the reception, Pavilion President Larry Toll and Arts Center Director Kara Dinkson expressed their profound appreciation for CWS’s participation in the exhibit. The Center’s Own Treasures from the CWS Fine Art Collection exhibit features three of Howe’s original works, as well.

CWS was also pleased to sponsor one of four judging divisions at this year’s Northern Plains Indian Art Market, September 18-20.

**Dakota Conference to Examine Impact of World War II**

The Center for Western Studies will mark the 75th anniversary of America’s entrance into World War II by dedicating the 48th Annual Dakota Conference, April 22-23, 2016, to the theme World War II Comes to the Northern Plains (1941-2016). Papers and panels exploring the impact of the war, in all of its manifestations, on the Northern Plains, specifically South Dakota and the contiguous states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana, are welcome. Leading Plains historians R. Douglas Hurt, author of *The Great Plains during World War II: Headlines and the Conference. Professor and head of the Department of History at Purdue University, Indiana, Dr. Hurt is also the author of *The Big Empty: The Great Plains in the Twentieth Century and The Indian Frontier* (1763-1846).

Submissions should include title, brief description, biographical sketch, and full contact information, and be sent to dahunter@unl.edu or Dakota Conference, Center for Western Studies, Augustana University, 2001 S. Summit Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57197. Deadline for submissions is February 12, 2016.

**Treasures from the CWS Fine Art Collection Exhibit closes October 17**

The Simmons/Maden/Nelson/Elmen Galleries of the Center for Western Studies have hosted a wide variety of artists throughout the years. Each of these artists has embodied the mission of the Center to preserve and interpret the history and cultures of the Northern Plains. To further this mission the Center maintains an extensive collection of fine art by regional artists and artists whose work illustrates the essence of the region. With the Treasures from the Center for Western Studies Fine Art Collection exhibit, which opened July 6, the Center filled the galleries with works that represent our enduring commitment to exemplify the Northern Plains.

This remarkable fine art collection is ever expanding as new artists emerge to interpret the land and the people that make up the Northern Plains. And the Center is always grateful when a piece from a master artist finds its way into the collection to reaffirm the historical significance of art in our region. The CWS Art Committee is responsible for helping guide the acquisition of artwork for the collection in a focused and purposeful way. The Fine Art Purchasing Fund and a gift from the Frank Gibbs Estate have made it possible to add to the collection, but the majority of the collection has been built through the generous donations of friends of the Center who desire the chance to share publicly the artwork that inspires them.

The Center’s Fine Art Collection consists of many different mediums, including bronze, wood, and stone sculptures; oil, watercolor, and acrylic paintings; photography; and mixed media. With such an extensive collection of artwork, Education Assistant Kristi Thomas faced many difficult decisions as she designed the exhibit of CWS treasures. A unique feature are two study pieces. (A study is a template that serves as a model from which the final piece is created.)

Visitors enjoy the Norman Rockwell study entitled *A President’s Wife*.

This painting became the blueprint for a much larger work, later destroyed by fire, which was then used as an illustration in the *Ladies Home Journal* in August 1939. Another study is accompanied by the completed piece on which it is based. Oscar Howe used a pencil sketch to map out the figures in *Blizzard Bath* before beginning the painting of the same name. Placed side-by-side in the exhibit, they show the many changes Howe made during the painting process. Other artists represented in the exhibit include Harvey Dunn, Yang Yang, Gюссе Robinson, Nick Hansen, Dan Deuter, Jerry Fogg, and many others.

**Improving Collections Care**

Collections Assistant Liz Thord has completed a study of the lighting in the Fantle Building. Her findings informed a new Art Rotation Plan to improve collections care.

Light exposure is irreversibly damaging to museum objects. This damage accumulates over time and affects different kinds of materials in different ways and at varying rates. But light exposure is a necessary evil if we are to enjoy a work of art or learn about our history from an old letter. It is always a careful balancing act to meet the preservation needs of an object while also providing desired access.

Comparing CWS readings to professional guidelines, Thord found that most areas in the Fantle Building cannot accommodate year-round display. The Art Rotation Plan provides a basis for understanding when different types of art and artifacts have reached their maximum exposure limits for the year and should be placed back in storage. The plan also provides short- and long-term recommendations for mitigating light exposure in various storage and display spaces in the building.

The research was recommended by consultant Elna Redman, Director of Preservation Services at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis, during the Center’s participation in the Conservation Assessment Program in 2012. A component of the Art Collection Initiative in the CWS Strategic Plan, Funds from a 2014 National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant were used to purchase the necessary light meter.

This rotation plan was delayed by changing realities in the Fantle Building, but was completed in July 2015 after the installation of new LED lighting throughout the major gallery spaces and the new long-term exhibits Voices from the Northern Plains.
Praise for Recent CWS Books

In an early assessment of the Center's newest book, Little Business on the Prairie, by Robert E. Wright, University of Virginia economist Ron Michner notes that 'never has the history of the state's economic development been so admirably and admirably detailed' and praises the book for its exploration of 'why the native American population of South Dakota has not shared in the state's bounty.' University of California at Santa Barbara history professor John Majewski observes that Little Business on the Prairie "is a spry written economic history of a state and region that scholars too often neglect." "Thoroughly researched and richly illustrated, this book will appeal to policy makers, economists, and historians, as well as to those looking for a unique history of one of our nation's most interesting states." Reviewing the book for the South Dakota Library Association’s Book Marks, librarian Jan Brue Enright calls the book "informative, lively, and challenging. It is well-indexed, making it especially useful for most South Dakota libraries." HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" recently featured JDS Industries of Sioux Falls and its CEO Scott Sletten. The company is mentioned in Little Business on the Prairie as an example of the entrepreneurial spirit characteristic of South Dakota. JDS is the world's leading supplier of awards and personalization products. Company founder Darwin Sletten is a generous supporter of CWS. Promotional efforts for the book include glossy ads in South Dakota Magazine, South Dakota Festival of Books Guide, and the Sioux Falls Chamber News, as well as underwriting acknowledgment on South Dakota Public Radio. The latest issue of the State Historical Society's quarterly, South Dakota History, carried the reviewer's "hearty endorsement" of Revell for Sioux Falls, authored by Emeritus Professor Lynwood Oyos and published in 2014. Sean Flynn, professor of history at Dakota Wesleyan University, calls the book "readable and well-illustrated" and "a welcome contribution to the literature on South Dakota during World War II." Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed CWS author Lee Ann Roripaugh as South Dakota Poet Laureate. Roripaugh, who teaches at the University of South Dakota and is the editor of South Dakota Review, is a contributor to the 2010 CWS publication Harvest of Words: Contemporary South Dakota Poetry, edited by Augustaana Writer-in-Residence Patrick Hicks. Poems by former Poet Laureate David Allan Evans are also featured in Harvest of Words, and in 2004 CWS published his poetry collection, The Bull Rider's Advice. Members are encouraged to buy, read, and give away as gifts these substantive CWS "ambassadors in print." Remember to use your 10% and 20% member discounts when visiting the CWS Gift Shop!

Prairie Light: A Gallery Exhibition Featuring the Watercolors of Sharon Gray

Opening Reception October 21

Sharon Gray’s foray into painting began after she serendipitously came across a close-out sale of art supplies at the Augustana Bookstore. With paints, brushes, and watercolor paper marked down to 25 cents an item and all proceeds going to the Banquet, she says, “it was a win-win.” The watercolor paint tubes had been picked through by the time she had found the sale so only a few colors remained, which forced her to learn how to mix her own colors. Her $150 purchase that day gave her the opportunity to put on paper what she had experienced as a child when her father took her with him to film South Dakota Department of Tourism movies in the 1960s. From those trips she has carried with her the memory of the stunning, wide expanses of the South Dakota landscape. It’s this love of the land that allows her to create what her oldest son calls “portraits of places.” Gray says it’s “more than just capturing what a place looks like, I want to capture what it feels like.”

A familiar face to the Center for Western Studies, Gray has been in the Artist of the Plains Art Show & Sale and has pieces chosen for both the Plains Art Museum’s Wounded Knee 1973 and 1990 and the South Dakota 2014 Artists Respond to the State’s 125th Anniversary gallery exhibitions. Gray is an Instructional Technologist at Augustana where she is in charge of faculty development in the area of instructional and information technology.

Clouds at Clay County Park, by Sharon Gray

Kitchen Window in Morning Light, by Sharon Gray

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New Faces at CWS

We welcome Kari Mahowald (right) as our new Office Coordinator, beginning August 3. Most recently a substitute teacher, Kari holds a business degree from Augustana and has managed accounts at McKesson Atlantic Healthcare and Midland Printing. She and husband Ben have a son attending Augustana, and their daughter begins in the fall. Kari is the daughter of former Board member Rev. Dave Johnson. Former coordinator Erin Castle accepted a retail position in downtown Sioux Falls at Urban Archaeology. We have appreciated Erin’s attention to program and account details and her always welcoming demeanor and we wish her the best!

The Search Committee for the Digital Technician position (Phase II of the Collections Digitization Initiative) interviewed candidates from New York, Iowa, and Nebraska and offered the one-year contract position to Wyeth Lynch (left), who began his duties on August 3. Most recently a graphics coordinator in training at American Packaging Corp., he has experience with digital file management at Iowa State University. Wyeth holds a B.A. degree in photography from Morningside and an M.F.A. in photography and mixed digital media from Iowa State.

Two of three new Augustana student interns began their work at CWS this summer. Thomas Norland (left) and Matthew Houssiaux (right). A history major and president of the Augustana Band, Thomas performed with the Sioux Falls Municipal Band during the summer. A journalism and history major, Matthew is a recipient of the David Krantz-Argus Leader Media Journalism Scholarship. Summer interns receive financial assistance from the Richard Solberg Endowed Fund (Augustana) and the Doris Huesbeck Internship Fund through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation. During the academic year, both Norland and Houssiaux are beneficiaries of the Mildred White Internship Fund through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation. During the academic year, both Norland and Houssiaux are beneficiaries of the Mildred White Internship Fund through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation. At the Academy of Arts and Sciences, he has experience with digital file management and administration.

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Augustana Riley Danielson, who joined CWS in September is the beneficiary of the Julius and Dorothy Jacobsen Internship Fund through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation. Four regularly scheduled classes and monthly meetings of the Department Chairs and Civitas Committee are scheduled for the board/seminar room this fall semester, great opportunities to share our exhibits and resources with students, faculty, and administrators.
CWS Launches World War II Oral History Project

In conjunction with the Center’s observance of America’s entrance into World War II, we have commissioned SDSU Emeritus Professor of History John E. Miller to conduct interviews with war veterans. The interviews and associated materials—letters, photos, etc.—will be deposited in the archives, and Dr. Miller will present his research results at the Dakota Conference.

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