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AUGUSTANA IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, TITLE IX,
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DIGITIZATION BRINGS
CWS ARCHIVES TO THE WORLD

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Welcome to this year’s Dakota Conference being held in observance of the 75th anniversary of America’s entrance into World War II. So momentous was that conflict—or conflagration of conflicts—that we are, today, in some ways still living in the post-World War II era. For all of its glory (and tragedy), let us nevertheless strive to be sure the world never sees anything like it again. The United States did everything it could to avoid being caught up in the European conflict. Not until the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor did America, the next day, find reason to engage—and it did so not only in the Pacific, but following the declaration of war by Italy and Germany a few days later, America was at war on two fronts simultaneously. Could it do so again?

Some informed analysts think not. The army last year did not meet its recruitment quota, though offering attractive financial incentives. Even if every young American wanted to join up, less than 30% would be eligible, according to The Economist (10.24.15). Of the starting number of 21 million, 9.5 million would fail a basic academic qualification, such as high school graduation, and 7 million would be disqualified because of weight, criminal record, or tattoos. That leaves 4.5 million young Americans, while yet costing the lives of hundreds of thousands of Japanese.

Who were these people who served America? Where did 16 million of them come from, and where have over 15.3 million of them gone, now dying at a rate of 430 a day? We look forward to finding some answers at this conference.

CWS Hosts Library Associates Books & More Sale

The massive two-and-one-half-day sale in April known as “Books & More” brings hundreds of book lovers from the community and campus into the CWS Fantle Building. CWS also participates in the sale by offering books priced to sell! Students, especially, find the book sale appealing.

I Have the Honor to Report Exhibit Stirs Emotions

Exhibit Stirs Emotions Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Visits CWS

President of the South Dakota Humanities Council (1994–2002), David Volk reviews South Dakota political history in a session chaired by Dave Knudson, former Majority Leader of the South Dakota Senate.

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World War II Observance
250 Attend, Over 70 Presenters from 16 States Speak

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Congratulations to Board and Council Members

Christel Gollnick (Council) on the publication of Come Together, THINK AHEAD! Inspiring People, Organizations and Communities to Thrive, a new book on the innovative work of Heartland Foundation, by Christel Gollnick and Judith Sabbett. Christel is the Regional Relations Team Leader and Judith the President of Heartland Foundation, St. Joseph, MO.

Sue Hasseler (Board) on her appointment as the twenty-first President of Muskingum University, New Concord, Ohio. Thank you, Sue, for your strong support of CWS during your tenure as Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean at Augustana University!

Jeffrey Hayzlett (Council) on the publication of Think Big, ACT Bigger: The Rewards of Being Relentless, from Entrepreneur Press, in September 2015.

Patrick Hicks (Board). Augusta's Writer-in-Residence has been named the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Fellowship from the prestigious Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a Loft Fellow, Hicks will receive a one-week writing retreat at the Madeline Island School for the Arts, one of the nation’s premier art and craft schools. There, Hicks will work on his upcoming novel, tentatively titled “Eclipse.”

Jeff Johnson (Council) on the forthcoming publication of The 1916 Preparedness Day Bombing: Anarchists and Terrorism in Progressive Era America, in Routledge’s “Critical Moments in American History” series. Jeff recently was informed that he has been promoted to the rank of full professor at Providence College, RI.

John Miller (Council) on receiving the Frederick Jackson Turner Lifetime Achievement Award in Midwestern History (Midwestern History Association, presented by MHA President Jon Lauck (Council).

Ann Smith (Board) on her new position with the Sioux Falls School District as Director of Curriculum and Instruction (formerly Director of Libraries and Federal Programs for the school district).

The 36th Annual Artists of the Plains Art Show & Sale has found a new home at the Hilton Garden Inn, located in downtown Sioux Falls. The beautiful new facility was the perfect venue to showcase the work of over 20 regional artists on February 5-7, 2016. The elegant environment turned out to be a huge hit with artists and patrons alike, and the underground parking lot was a big plus on a cold February weekend. As always this phenomenal show was made possible through the generosity of sponsors like Roger Haugo, Wells Fargo Bank, Inter-state Office Products, Reed Scott, Round Mountain Ranch, Tony and Anne Hauga, John McIntyre, Joe and Bobbi Jo Dondelinger, Valley Exchange Bank, Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Results Radio. A show of this size couldn’t happen without the tireless work of the many volunteers who gave their time to sit at the registration table, and the CWS Art Committee who helped put the show together. The mission of this event has always been to promote Northern Plains art and artists. There is no other show in the region that brings this level of talent together in one place. As the longest running show in our area, the Artists of the Plains continues its acclaimed tradition for not only our patrons but the artists themselves.

Ledger Artist Donald F. Montilleaux commented that he enjoys starting his season off with the Center’s show every year. Art lovers had a wide variety of mediums to choose from again, from a diverse selection of artists from across the region. Whether you were looking for paintings, 2-D/3-D mixed media, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, or photography, there was a little something for everyone this year.

Augustana Art students, who have been participating in the Art Show for a number of years, were excited to have their work featured in the new and open venue. Thanks to CWS Board member Roger Haugo, two student artists each received a cash award.

Art buyers enjoyed the new venue—artist Russ Dunkis was seated on the left—which showcased the work of over 20 artists from 5 states at the Artists of the Plains Art Show & Sale in February.

Technology Advances CWS Mission

At the recent Board and Council Retreat, following the Dakota Conference luncheon, Deb Hagemeier, Chair of the Collections Committee, offered a comprehensive and insightful presentation on the topic “Archives/ Collections Digitization Initiative and np3 (Northern Plains Peoples & Places),” the powerful new online collections access partnership between CWS and Mikkelsen Library and in collaboration with the global library cooperative OCLC.

“Technology, and digitization in particular, costs money,” Executive Director Harry Thompson pointed out. “Our commitment to the Archives/Collections Digitization Initiative began four years ago with raising funds for the purchase of digitization equipment.” Thompson continued, “First-year costs for a dedicated staff position (Digital Technician) and database license/hosting fees ran $43,000. These costs will increase for the second year, starting August 1, 2016, to $50,000, because of a one-time OCLC license upgrade.”

“As part of his duties, Digital Technician Wynn Lynch is developing the infrastructure by which current and future student interns will assist in achieving the initiative’s goal of providing increased access to CWS archives and other collections. The digitization work that Collections Assistant Liz Thrond has performed over the past few years, making available thousands of photographs and other materials through PastPerfect Online has created the foundation for this advance.

CWS is advancing technologically in other areas as well. Beginning with the 2016 Dakota Conference, attendees can register and make their meal reservations online. Although online giving has been possible for several years, the new gift portal, being developed with Advancement, will specify CWS and include its various membership categories.

Marketing CWS with technology continues with active postings on Facebook, Twitter, and the Web. Spots on Results Radio’s eight stations promoting the Artists of the Plains Art Show & Sale have appeared for many years. Two years ago, CWS began a partnership with South Dakota Public Broadcasting to feature CWS programs in video underwriting spots. This year, CWS has expanded the effort to include video spots on Public TV. CWS worked with South Dakota Magazine in March and April to promote the Dakota Conference on the magazine’s website.

Thompson’s interview on South Dakota Public Radio’s “Dakota Midday” about the movie The Revenant, Freeman Manfred’s Lord Grrizzly, and the CWS exhibit featuring Manfred has been archived on SDPB’s Website: http://listen.sdpb.org/past/dakota-midday-hugh-glass-fredd-manfred-and-revenant.

IRA Charitable Rollover Permanently Restored

The Council on Foundations recently announced that the IRA Charitable Rollover was passed by Congress and signed into permanent law by President Obama, allowing taxpayers age 70½ or older to transfer up to $100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to a charity without first having to recognize the distribution as income.

Talk with your financial advisor, an Augustana Development Officer, or Executive Director Harry Thompson about how this provision can help you realize your dreams for the Center for Western Studies. In conjunction with Horizons 2019 The Campaign for Augustana University, the CWS Board of Directors has set a goal of building the CWS-designated endowment from the current $8.2 million to $10 million by 2020. For more information, please visit http://www.aug.edu/center-for-western-studies/financial-support/endowment-campaign.
Check Out New Pricing on CWS Books

In advance of our latest release, Outlaw Dakota, we are pleased to make available other CWS books at special prices. Visit our website to see the new pricing list, or email or call Marguerite Cullum.

Here are a few examples:

- Little Business on the Prairie ($12), Reveille for Sioux Falls ($15), and A New South Dakota History (50,500)
- a 25% membership discount for even greater savings!

CWS Shares Blue Cloud Abbey Books

The final installment of books from Blue Cloud Abbey’s American Indian Culture Research Center, donated to CWS four years ago, have made their way to the libraries at Crazy Horse Memorial and to the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. In her letter of thanks, Crazy Horse Librarian Marguerite Cullum writes, “I am just starting on the new additions to our library from the Center for Western Studies as part of the gifted books from Blue Cloud Abbey. They are all as stated in the selection sheet and I am excited to add them to our collection. Thank you for thinking of us in your partnership for distribution.”

Marguerite Cullum, Library staff members have been processing the 4,000 books from the abbey, adding appropriate volumes to the Center’s archives. CWS Libraries at Augustana, Sioux Falls, and Watertown Libraries, as well as Crazy Horse and Sisseton Wahpeton.

Boe Forum Speaker Fuels Debate

Expressions critical of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia as the Boe Forum speaker in the recent newspaper, The Mirror, have sparked a debate. The Sioux Falls Argus Leader, and on social media. Twice, CWS Executive Director Harry Thompson has been asked to attend meetings of Augustana Student Services to explain the selection process and reassure students and faculty alike that Justice Scalia’s appearance was not meant to provoke controversy or deem any actions held by members of the Augustana community. He was also invited to attend a meeting of the Augustana Diversity Committee, where he was again asked to explain the selection process and respond to questions about the invitation to Scalia in light of his recent comments in a hearing as to whether African American students might fare better in a “slower-track school” rather than more competitive colleges. This questioning was released the day after Augustana announced Scalia would be the next Boe Forum speaker. Thompson also met with members of the Augustana Student Association and offered the Center’s assistance in bringing a speaker to campus who might represent opposing views.

One student, Matthew Schilling, writing in The Mirror's Forum section, observed, “Regardless of his status in American society, Scalia has been the foremost antagonist in a nationwide fight for basic human dignity and civil rights… To nonetheless invite such a speaker to give a platform and legitimacy to such views. It is an implicit endorsement by the university of an irrational hatred and prejudice that cause untold harm to the community.” Another student, Matthew Housiaux, also writing in The Mirror section, stated that he was opposed to many of Scalia’s positions but saw value in his appearance on campus. “Healthy democracies depend on dialogue. They require give and take, and the frank exchange of ideas and a well-educated citizenry capable of reasoning its way through complex issues. Indeed, a liberal arts education is supposed to contribute to this goal by exposing students to a broad spectrum of ideas and teaching them to think critically about all of them. An international student, Luca Amayo, offered the following assessment in The Mirror’s Forum section: "Describing himself as an ‘originalist,’ Scalia’s rulings were rooted in his belief that the Constitution should be interpreted as the founding fathers had intended when they wrote it. These framers, however, lived in a fundamentally different time. What ruling would have Scalia’s philosophy led to if he was on the bench when cases such as Plessy v. Ferguson, when the Supreme Court voted that racial segregation did not violate the rights of colored people, were being debated? Would the founding fathers, many of them slave owners themselves, have disagreed from that decision, and others similar to it? Is it unlikely?" Interviewed by Mirror editor Sarah Kocher immediately following Scalia’s death, Thompson remarked, “This date of the Boe Forum is an opportunity to bring to campus someone whose decisions affect people’s lives and will continue to affect people’s lives, and those decisions are studied by students here at Augustana.” Professor Schotten noted in his write-up, "Thompson’s running of this event based on the First Amendment, spoke out in favor of it, and expressed in his writing that there can be no open exchange of ideas for the sake of having them heard. It is a debate. It is a discussion that requires a forum where everyone can participate and learn from each other."

The controversy among some on the Augustana campus engendered by Justice Scalia’s appearance provided an opportunity for the academic community to discuss the implications of decisions that he authored. Scalia’s statements in opposition to marriage equality and affirmative action and in favor of Citizens United, the death penalty, and a broad interpretation of the Second Amendment (NSAA), in conjunction with the organization’s biannual Saffron Sinterfest无线电波, andｙ电子产品, and military records, and law enforcement records from Sioux Falls from June 9-11. As part of the week-end, President Rob Oliver observed about Scalia: “His passing has been emotional and difficult for the campus community and the nation. The Forum is an opportunity for the academic community to discuss the implications of decisions that he authored. 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Three weeks before he was scheduled to speak at the Center for Western Studies’ Boe Forum on Public Affairs, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia passed away, suddenly and alone, at a West Texas ranch, where he had gone to hunt with members of an exclusive hunting fraternity called the International Order of St. Hubertus. Intrigue has now been added into the mix of uncertainty and controversy that had characterized this year’s forum. Proposed as a forum speaker by Professor Peter Schotten, who assigns Supreme Court decisions to his Constitutional Law students, Justice Scalia was selected by the CWS Board of Boe Forum Committee, with support from President Rob Oliver. A colleague of Dr. Schotten’s at Knox College provided the contact with Justice Scalia.

CWS anticipated that the 200 floor space normally meant by mid-February would have been filled, bringing attendance to 3,500. Uncertainty about Justice Scalia’s death increased the time between when he accepted the Center’s invitation, on January 16, 2015, and the day he died, on February 13, just over a month apart. From three letters exchanged between Justice Scalia and Executive Director Dorothy Mikkelsen the day before his death, communication with the justice was possible. As a government official, neither he nor CWS was represented by a third party, although phone and email contact had been established with Scalia’s assistant, thanks to the persistence of Office Coordinator Kari Mahowald, and the court’s public information officer was reviewing Thompson’s request to pose questions to the justice. The interests of the Center and Augustana were at risk.

Less than a month before the event, CWS had still not received flight information from Scalia’s chambers. Anticipating disruptions from protest groups in Indianapolis and Minneapolis, Campus Safety Director Rick Tupper’s office was in full “planning mode,” including making arrangements for bomb dogs and metal detectors and requesting and receiving assistance from the Sioux Falls Police Department. Sioux Falls Fire Rescue, and Deputy U.S. Marshals from offices in Sioux Falls and St. Louis.

The controversy among some on the Augustana campus engendered by Justice Scalia’s appearance provided an opportunity for the academic community to discuss the implications of decisions that he authored. Scalia’s statements in opposition to marriage equality and affirmative action in favor of individuals, the death penalty, and a broad interpretation of the Second Amendment to protect the right to keep and bear arms for what he considered to be “well regulated militia[s]” have elicited controversy. The Center’s invitation to Justice Scalia, or any speaker, must act now to mitigate the effects of climate change on future generations.

Dr. Loren Amundson Completes Service as Archives Volunteer

New Historical Exhibits on the Horizon

There will be several new historical exhibits to view at the Center for Western Studies this summer. Some relatings to World War II were recently completing preparations for bomb dogs and metal detectors and requesting and receiving assistance from the Sioux Falls Police Department. Sioux Falls Fire Rescue, and Deputy U.S. Marshals from offices in Sioux Falls and St. Louis.

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Congratulations to Board and Council Members

Christel Gollnick (Council) on the publication of Come Together, THINK AHEAD! Inspiring People, Organizations and Communities to Thrive, a new book on the innovative work of Heartland Foundation, by Christel Gollnick and Judith Sabbett. Christel is the Regional Relations Team Leader and Judith the President of Heartland Foundation, St. Joseph, MO.

Sue Hasseler (Board) on her appointment as the twenty-first President of Muskingum University, New Concord, Ohio. Thank you, Sue, for your strong support of CWS during your tenure as Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean at Augustana University!

Jeffrey Hayzlett (Council) on the publication of Think Big, ACT Bigger: The Rewards of Being Relentless, from Entrepreneur Press, in September 2015.

Patrick Hicks (Board), Augustana’s Writer-in-Residence, has been named the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Fellowship from the prestigious Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a Loft Fellow, Hicks will receive a one-week writing retreat at the Madeline Island School for the Arts, one of the nation’s premier art and craft schools. There, Hicks will work on his upcoming novel, tentatively titled “Eclipse.”

Jeff Johnson (Council) on the forthcoming publication of The 1916 Preparedness Day Bombing: Anarchists and Terrorism in Progressive Era America, in Routledge’s “Critical Moments in American History” Series. Jeff recently was informed that he has been promoted to the rank of full professor at Providence College, RI.

John Miller (Council) on receiving the Frederick Jackson Turner Lifetime Achievement Award in Midwestern History (Midwestern History Association, presented by MHA President Jon Lauck) (Council).

Ann Smith (Board) on her new position with the Sioux Falls School District as Director of Curriculum and Instruction (formerly Director of Libraries and Federal Programs for the school district).

He was born in Pennsylvania, but was sent west by President Grant to clean up Dakota Territory. Read about the murderous times and criminal trials of frontier Judge Peter C. Shannon, Chief Justice of the Dakota Territory Supreme Court (1873-1882), in OUTLAW DAKOTA, the new book by attorney and historian Wayne Fenebust from the Center for Western Studies. 450 pp. $14

Technology Advances CWS Mission

At the recent Board and Council Retreat, following the Dakota Conference luncheon, Deb Hagemeier, Chair of the Collections Committee, offered a comprehensive and insightful presentation on the topic “Archives/Collection Digitization Initiative and np3 (Northern Plains Peoples & Places),” the powerful new online collections access partnership between CWS and Mikkelsen Library and in collaboration with the global library cooperative OCLC. “Technology, and digitization in particular, costs money,” Executive Director Harry Thompson pointed out. “Our commitment to the Archives/Collection Digitization Initiative began four years ago with raising funds for the purchase of digitization equipment.” Thompson continued, “First-year costs for a dedicated staff position (Digital Technician) and database license/hosting fees ran $43,000. These costs will increase for the second year, starting August 1, 2016, to $50,000, because of a one-time OCLC license upgrade.”

As part of his duties, Digital Technician Wyeth Lynch is developing the infrastructure by which current and future student interns will assist in achieving the initiative’s goal of providing increased access to CWS archives and other collections. The digitization work that Collections Assistant Liz Thond has performed over the past few years, making available thousands of photographs and other materials through PastPerfect Online, has created the foundation for this advance.

CWS is advancing technologically in other areas as well. Beginning with the 2016 Dakota Conference, attendees can register and make their meal reservations online. Although online giving has been possible for several years, the new gift portal, being developed with Advance, will specify CWS and include its various membership categories. Marketing CWS with technology continues with active postings on Facebook, Twitter, and the Web. Spots on Results Radio’s eight stations promoting the Artists of the Plains Art Show & Sale have appeared for many years. Two years ago, CWS began a partnership with South Dakota Public Broadcasting to feature CWS programs in voiced underwriting spots. This year, CWS has expanded the effort to include video spots on Public TV. CWS worked with South Dakota Magazine in March and April to promote the Dakota Conference on the magazine’s website.

Thompson’s interview on South Dakota Public Radio’s “Dakota Midday” about the movie The Revenant, Fredrick Manfred’s Lord Grizzly, and the CWS exhibit featuring Manfred has been archived on SDPB’s Website: http://listen.sdpb.org/pass/dakota-midday-hugh-glasse-fred-manfred-and-revenant.

The 36th Annual Artists of the Plains Art Show & Sale has found a new home at the Hilton Garden Inn, located in downtown Sioux Falls. The beautiful new facility was the perfect venue to showcase the work of over 20 regional artists on February 5-7, 2016. The elegant environment turned out to be a huge hit with artists and patrons alike, and the underground parking lot was a big plus on a cold February weekend. As always this phenomenal show was made possible through the generosity of sponsors like Roger Hauga, Wells Fargo Bank, Interstate Office Products, Reed Scott, Round Mountain Ranch, Tony and Anne Haga, John McIntyre, Joe and Bobbi Jo Dondelinger, Valley Exchange Bank, Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Results Radio. A show of this size couldn’t happen without the tireless work of the many volunteers who gave their time to sit at the registration table, and the CWS Art Committee who helped put the show together.

The mission of this event has always been to promote Northern Plains art and artists. There is no other show in the region that brings this level of talent to one place. As the longest running show in our area, the Artists of the Plains continues its acclaimed tradition for not only our patrons but the artists themselves.

Ledger Artist Donald F. Montileaux commented that he enjoys starting his season off with the Center’s show every year. Art lovers had a wide variety of mediums to choose from, again, from a diverse selection of artists from across the region. Whether you were looking for paintings, 2-D/3-D mixed media, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, or photography, there was a little something for everyone this year.

Augustana Art students, who have been participating in the Art Show for a number of years, were excited to have their work featured in the new and open venue. Thanks to CWS Board member Roger Hauga, two student artists each received a cash award.

The Council on Foundations recently announced that the IRA Charitable Rollover was passed by Congress and signed into permanent law by President Obama, allowing taxpayers age 70½ or older to transfer up to $100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to a charitable organization without first having to recognize the distribution as income.

Talk with your financial advisor, an Augustana Development Officer, or Executive Director Harry Thompson about how this provision can help you realize your dreams for the Center for Western Studies. In conjunction with Horizons 2019 The Campaign for Augustana University, the CWS Board of Directors has set a goal of building the CWS-designated endowment from the current $8.2 million to $10 million by 2020. For more information, please visit http://www.augie.edu/center-for-western-studies/financial-support/endowment-campaign.
Director's Comments  
Opening Dakota Conference  
World War II Observance  
250 Attend,  
Over 70 Presenters from  
16 States Speak

Welcome to this year’s Dakota Conference being held in observance of the 75th anniversary of America’s entrance into World War II. So momentous was that conflict—or conflagration of conflicts—that we are, today, in some ways still living in the post-World War II era. For all of its glory (and tragedy), let us nevertheless strive to be sure the world never sees anything like it again. The United States did everything it could to avoid being caught up in the European conflict. Not until the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor did America, the next day, find reason to engage—and it did so not only in the Pacific, but following the declaration of war by Italy and Germany a few days later, America was at war on two fronts simultaneously. Could it do so again?

Some informed analysts think not. The army last year did not meet its recruitment quota, though offering attractive financial incentives. Even if every young American wanted to join up, less than 30% would be eligible, according to The Economist. Of the starting number of 21 million, 9.5 million would fail a basic academic qualification, such as high school graduation, and 7 million would be disqualified because of weight, criminal record, or tattoos. That leaves 4.5 million young Americans, while yet costing the lives of hundreds of thousands of Japanese.

Who were these people who served America? Where did 16 million of them come from, and where have over 15.3 million of them gone, now dying at a rate of 430 a day? We look forward to finding some answers at this conference.

CWS Hosts Library Associates Books & More Sale

The massive two-and-one-half-day sale in April known as “Books & More” brings hundreds of book lovers from the community and campus into the CWS Fantle Building. CWS also participates in the sale by offering books priced to sell! Students, especially, find the book sale appealing.

I Have the Honor to Report  
Exhibit Stirs Emotions

Artists (l. to r.) Chris Francis, Chad Nelson, Angela Behrends, and Jerry Fogg discuss their interpretation of the Hiawatha Indian Asylum in Canton, SD.

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Digitization Brings CWS Archives to the World

The Center for Western Studies and Augustana’s Mikkelsen Library have recently introduced a new website called Northern Plains Peoples & Places. This archival collaboration, also known as np3, can be found at http://np3.augie.edu and contains historic and contemporary primary source material related to the Northern Plains and its inhabitants.

This unique resource combines archival documents and images with campus scholarly research activities. Materials are continually being digitized and added to the np3 database. The website features browse-able lists of topics, people, collections and mediums as well as keyword searching of the ContentDM hosted database. For additional information about the archives or to arrange for a visit to campus, please call 605.274.4007 or email FeedbackNP3@augie.edu. See related story about technological advances on p. 6.

A Word from One of Our Three Archives Interns

I’m Matt Housiaux, a history and journalism major from Brookings, SD. This is my fourth and final year at Augustana, and my first year with the Center for Western Studies. After graduation, I will be moving to Washington, DC, where I will be covering the White House for the Kiplinger Washington Letter.

I have worked on a number of interesting projects during my short time at the Center. Among my favorites are an exhibit on women’s activism in South Dakota that I put together last fall and the Judy Morstad Collection, which features several photographs, newsclippings and artifacts related to the history of Spencer, SD. Like all my assignments, these projects were fun, challenging and intellectually stimulating. They also gave me a better appreciation of how much work goes into preserving the past for future generations.

Working in the archives proved to be the biggest highlight of my time here. There’s an old saying that goes, “You can’t be a good historian unless you like to read dead people’s mail.” That goes double for CWS interns. Archives offer an invaluable window into the past, and I am grateful to have been a part of this one.

Editor’s Note: Matt Housiaux and intern Thomas Norland were each nominated for Augustana’s prestigious Covenant Awards. Matt received the Covenant Award for Excellence.