

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Our library will undergo a major renovation beginning this month. Although there's been a bit of disruption and lots of work to empty the library and temporarily relocate staff members, we know it's necessary to do the infrastructure and renovation that will place a greater focus on one-stop help for students and co-location of student services to greatly enhance student success. We are looking forward to reopening the library in the Fall of 2022.

The retirements of two longtime administrators – Jhett Albers, athletic director, and Corinne Hansen, director of University and Community Relations – were announced this week. It's been a pleasure working with them and I wish much happiness in their retirement plans. We've already begun searches for both positions.

This time of year requires multiple trips to Pierre to testify before committees and advocate for higher education funding. The six state universities are economic drivers for our state and college graduates make significant contributions to their communities and in the workforce. We are watching (and supporting) several bills that could impact public higher education in significant ways.

It is hard to believe that we are already in the sixth week of spring semester. Faculty and students are highly engaged in their courses and other scholarly work. In this newsletter we highlight eight faculty members whose artwork was selected for the South Dakota Governor's Biennial Art Exhibition. I congratulate these artists and thank all of our faculty who are going the extra mile to provide quality education in a cautious environment where mitigations efforts against COVID continue.

Go Jackets!



President Laurie S. Nichols



## LIBRARY RENOVATION

The E.Y. Berry Library and Learning Center, which was built in 1973, is undergoing a major remodeling and infrastructure update.

The Library building is now closed for the renovations and library services have been moved to the David B. Miller Yellow Jacket Student Union. Books and resources have been

relocated and are available by request. Einstein's Bros. Bagels has also been temporarily relocated to the Student Union.

Construction will begin in the next few weeks and the renovated library is expected to be ready by the start of the Fall 2022 semester. Bids for the project came in lower than expected at \$6.7 million. A local company Ainsworth-Benning Construction, A Journey Group Company, was awarded the construction project. [Read more](#)

For details about the renovation see: [www.BHSU.edu/LibraryRenovation](http://www.BHSU.edu/LibraryRenovation).



Artwork by eight BHSU faculty members has been selected for the South Dakota Governor's Biennial Art Exhibition. This piece by Desy Schoenewies, "Ghosts and He Realized He Would Be The Last Thing To Exist," is part of the traveling show.

## FINE ARTS FACULTY IN STATEWIDE ART SHOW

Works from eight Black Hills State University faculty members have been selected for the South Dakota Governor's Biennial Art Exhibition.

The BHSU professors whose works were selected include:

- Steve Babbitt, professor of photography
- Michael Baum, assistant professor of art
- Skott Chandler, assistant professor of mass communication
- Gina Gibson, professor of digital communication
- Quintin Owens, assistant professor of art
- Paul Peterson, adjunct professor
- Jerry Rawlings, associate professor of mass communication
- Desy Schoenewies, assistant professor of art

The traveling exhibit will be featured at the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City Dec. 3, 2021 through March 5, 2022. Other exhibit locations are: the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings March 19 through June 13; The Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls June 26 through Sept. 19; and the John Day Gallery in Vermillion Oct. 16 through Nov. 13. [Read more](#)

## RETIREMENTS

### ALBERS WILL RETIRE IN JUNE

Jhett Albers, who has served as the Director of Athletics for Yellow Jacket Athletics since 2006, will retire in June. A Black Hills State University graduate, he joined the coaching staff at BHSU in 1999 as volleyball coach.

As Athletic Director, Albers held responsibility for the direct oversight and day-to-day operations of the BHSU Athletic Department and Donald E. Young Sports & Fitness Center. Albers also serves as a member of the BHSU President's Administrative Team. [Read more](#)



Albers

### HANSEN WILL RETIRE IN JUNE

Corinne Hansen, Director of University and Community Relations at Black Hills State University, will retire in June after working for the university for nearly 31 years.

Hansen, who graduated from BHSU with a mass communication degree, began her employment at her alma mater in 1990 in the News Service Department. In the last three decades she has expanded her area of oversight to include marketing, public relations, media relations, print and digital design, the printing center and community relations as well as the University's website, social media and online presence. [Read more](#)



Hansen



## BHSU TO OFFER BLACK HILLS HISTORY COURSE IN THE SUMMER OF 2021

This summer, Black Hills State University will offer a Black Hills History course, taught by professor emeritus Dr. David Wolff.

The course will include field trips, lectures, discussions, and readings to examine the people, places, and events behind the myth and reality that made the Black Hills famous and infamous. Wolff is an award-winning author focusing on Black Hills and South Dakota history.

The course is scheduled from June 28 through July 30, meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Spearfish campus. Several field trips are planned, with some running later than 1 p.m., requiring schedule flexibility. Three hours of undergraduate or graduate credit is available through HIST-467 or HIST-592.

For registration information, contact Amy Fuqua at [Amy\\_Fuqua@BHSU.edu](mailto:Amy_Fuqua@BHSU.edu) and for course content questions, contact David Wolff at [David.Wolff@BHSU.edu](mailto:David.Wolff@BHSU.edu).

## BHSU IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATES

The Black Hills State University Honorary Degree Committee is seeking nominations for honorary degree candidates.

The honorary degree is the highest honor conferred by the Board of Regents and Black Hills State University and is reserved for those candidates whose extraordinary accomplishments have benefitted society. The purpose of conferring the honorary degree is to pay tribute to worthy individuals; the degree is not equivalent to, nor a replacement for, an earned bachelor, masters, or doctorate degree. The honorary degree may be conferred as:

- Doctor of Humane Letters
- Doctor of Laws
- Doctor of Letters and Literature
- Doctor of Public Service
- Doctor of Science

Honorary degrees are conferred during the spring commencement ceremony. The recipient must be present at the convocation or honorory to receive the degree. Please make nominations using the link at [www.BHSU.edu/honorary](http://www.BHSU.edu/honorary). Nominations are due by Feb. 22.

## TRUDY HAUSE

Trudy Hause, spouse of Black Hills State University's sixth president Gil Hause, passed away Feb. 5, 2021.

Gil served as the president of BHSU from 1977-1985.

BHSU is deeply saddened by the news of her passing. The following message was sent to the university from Gil Hause:

"Dear friends, I am contacting you today to inform you of the death of Trudy, my wife. She died on Friday of her long fight with cancer. There will be no service now due to the virus. I remember BHSU with fond memories. You are doing a great job; I am proud of the university. Sincerely, Gil Hause."

A private family service will be held at a future date. [Read more](#)

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or St. Mary Catholic Church, 2222 23rd Avenue, Greeley, CO 80634. Cards may be sent to Apt. 321 12105 Ambassador Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80921.



Gil and Trudy Hause celebrate their time at Black Hills State at the Going Away Tea held in their honor in 1985. Gil served as the sixth BH president.

