

Vermillion family honored as SDSU family of the year

The Francis "Bud" and Doris Heine family of Vermillion was honored Saturday, Feb. 13, as the South Dakota State University Family of the Year for 2010.

Eight of their 10 children as well as four future in-laws have attended SDSU, and two grandsons are current engineering students. In addition, the family has been long-time supporters of the Agricultural Heritage Museum, the South Dakota 4-H Foundation and the College of Agricultural and Biological Sciences.

"I really do feel a strong connection to SDSU because of the children. We've watched it grow," Doris Heine said.

The Heines have been watching State grow since son Tim came to campus after graduating from Vermillion High School in 1983.

"Administration and faculty provide the vision and leadership," Heine said of how SDSU has evolved in the past quarter-century. "It continues to progress with new areas of study, construction and athletics. We're so impressed with how generous the alums are with their time, their money, their interest. It shows how they appreciate their education."

Heine's appreciation for her children's education is just as great an alum.

"We're just grateful that the children got such good education. It's such a strong school in agriculture and science," Heine said, noting that the family alums include an ag journalist, a physician's assistant, an optometrist, an electrical engineering technologist and a nurse as well as keeping the animal science, agronomy and mechanical engineering technology majors at home to help run the farm and Heine Hybrid Seedcorn Co.

"Our children also were involved in University activities such as meat and crop judging teams, Microbiology Club, University 4-H, Little International and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity," Heine said.

Common family experience

Family members who have attended State include Tim and his wife Julie, Todd, Robyn, Mark and his wife Marci, Gretchen and her husband Patrick O'Reilly, Nick and his wife Jamie, Joel and Nancy. "With that many children we knew public educa-



The Francis "Bud" and Doris Heine family of Vermillion was named the South Dakota State University Family of the Year for 2010. Recognition Feb. 13 brought 39 Heines to SDSU for events coordinated by the SDSU Alumni Association and Staters for State, the student alumni organization. Eight of the couple's 10 children and 21 of their 22 grandchildren came to Brookings to mark the feat. Their two children who live in Houston were unable to attend.

tion had to be the route, but we were convinced they could do what ever they wanted with that education," Heine said.

She noted that this was the second time for Marci Heine to be part of the SDSU Family of the Year celebration. Marci's family, the George Dylla family of Watertown, was honored as family of the year in 2000.

There were 39 Heines were on hand for the Feb. 13 observance, which is coordinated by the SDSU Alumni Association and Staters for State, the student alumni organization. Doris Heine said eight of their 10 children were in Brookings. The two who live in Houston were unable to attend. In addition, 21 of their 22 grandchildren were on hand.

Activities included a luncheon and awards ceremony as well as being recognized during halftime of the women's basketball game.

Still returns to campus
Although the second generation of Heines are no longer

at State, Doris Heine said she always makes an annual trip to Brookings. She was selected as an Eminent Homemaker in 1989, and since her retirement in 2004 has made the trip back to SDSU for the Eminent Farmer and Homemaker banquet with a couple other former recipients.

"We make it a day. The University just shows us all the new things that are going on on the campus. We just learn a lot every time we come back," Heine said.

She associated SDSU with learning long before Tim strolled onto campus in the mid-1980s.

"The 4-H program (run by the SDSU Cooperative Extension Service) really bonded us in the beginning," Heine said. "All 10 of our children went through all 10 years of 4-H. I was an Extension member for years, and I was a 4-H leader for years."

"If you talk to any of our children, they will say 4-H was the best foundation they could

have ever gotten. They learned public speaking, selecting a project, working through difficulty and gaining the reward of a job well done; working at a project, failing, getting up and redoing was important training for life."

Consequently, four of them are 4-H leaders today even though they live in such diverse places as Spearfish and Indianapolis as well as Vermillion.

Heines transplanted from Nebraska

Other connections to Brookings include support and participation in Catholic Campus Parish, seed performance testing services and the veterinary diagnostic lab.

Bud and Doris Heine were raised in Cedar County, NE, were married in 1963, and soon began farming in the adjacent Clay County, S.D. Doris Heine was trained as a nurse, but set that career on hold while raising their children.

Later she refreshed her nursing skills through an SDSU correspondence course, reactivated her nursing license and worked as a skills lab technician with the University of South Dakota nursing program from 1989 to 2004.

Families of the year are selected by Staters for State based on dedication, loyalty, support and contributions to SDSU, members of family who attended SDSU and involvement as students and alumni.

Founded in 1881, South Dakota State University is the state's Morrill Act land-grant institution as well as its largest, most comprehensive school of higher education. SDSU confers degrees from seven different colleges representing more than 200 majors, minors and options. The institution also offers 23 master's degree programs and 12 Ph.D. programs.

The work of the university is carried on a residential campus in Brookings and at sites in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City.



Rachel Solbach and Grayson Witt

Will wed

Rachel Solbach and Grayson Witt, both of Houston, TX, announce their engagement.

Parents of the couple are Anthony and Marlys Solbach of Vermillion, and Raymond and Sharon Witt of Houston, TX. Grandparents of Rachel are Robert and Joey Aldern, formerly of Vermillion.

Solbach holds a position for a real estate company in Houston, TX, managing marketing and design and is a part time real estate agent and brokers assistant. Witt is a health insurance sales manager and agent for Assurant Health in Houston, TX.

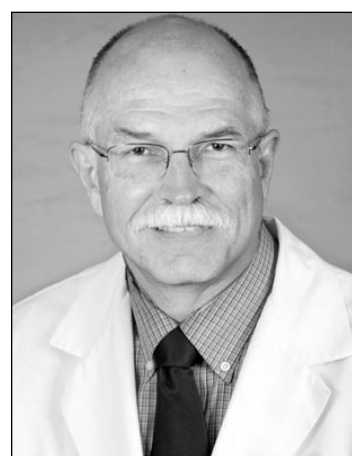
The couple is planning an April 10, 2010 wedding.

USD med school faculty member is family physician of the year

Earl Kemp, M.D., was awarded the 2010 South Dakota Family Doctor of the Year by the South Dakota Academy of Family Physicians. Kemp is an associate professor of family medicine with the Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota.

Kemp is the director of the Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency Program at the Center for Family Medicine. He has been associated with the medical school for more than 30 years. Kemp serves as a tuberculosis consultant and clinician for the South Dakota Department of Health. His professional interests include smoking cessation, patient education, disease prevention and maternity care.

He received his medical degree in 1972 from the University of Iowa and interned at



Earl Kemp, M.D.

McKenna Hospital. The Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency was created in 1973 and has 300 graduates. The program is sponsored by Avera McKenna and Sanford Health Hospitals and is affiliated with the medical school.

Johnson staffer to visit Feb. 19

Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) has announced that Erik Nelson of his Sioux Falls office will hold a Constituent Case Day in Clay County on Friday, Feb. 19. Nelson will hold traveling office hours from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Buffalo Run Winery in Vermillion. He will also be attending the Vermillion Chamber and Development Corporation Annual Membership Banquet that evening.

"Many South Dakotans are unable to travel to my offices in Rapid City, Aberdeen or Sioux Falls. Outreach days help me remain in touch with the concerns of South Dakotans," Johnson said. "South Dakotans are my number one priority, and I want to make sure that everyone — regardless of where they live — has an opportunity to meet personally with my staff."

Johnson has always encouraged South Dakotans to call, write or visit his service offices in Rapid City, Aberdeen, Sioux Falls or Washington DC to share their concerns. South Dakotans may also call Johnson's office toll-free by dialing 1-800-537-0025 or e-mail at <http://johnson.senate.gov/emailform.html>.

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PLUMBING

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