

State Historical Society names Governor's Awards for History

Four individuals or groups are being recognized by the South Dakota State Historical Society for their efforts in preserving state history by receiving Governor's Awards for History.

The award winners include Lonis Wendt of Vivian, Julie Ortman of Sioux Falls, Kingsley M. Bray of Manchester, England; and South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB), based in Vermillion.

The awards will be presented at a luncheon on Saturday, May 21, during the annual history conference of the State Historical Society in Pierre.

"These people are all to be commended for their efforts at preserving our state's history," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. "Because of their work, our past will be kept alive for future generations."

"We are pleased to give out these awards," added Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society. "These are just a few of the shining examples of how people across the state and beyond are helping us in our efforts to promote, nurture and

sustain South Dakota history."

Wendt is the individual award winner. His efforts have brought South Dakota history alive for thousands of South Dakotans of all ages. Wendt is the historian of the Encounters on the Prairie-Central South Dakota Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. He has spent more than 50 years preserving such segments of state history as the Fort Pierre to Deadwood Trail, the Fort Bennett Trail and the Vivian area.

Ortman was named the 2011 History Teacher of the Year. She teaches at Memorial Middle School in Sioux Falls and uses a wide variety of hands-on methods and technologies to engage her students in learning about history. A previous VFW and Alcester-Hudson Teacher of the Year and a finalist last year for Sioux Falls School District Teacher of the Year, Ortman said she teaches "to make every day an adventure that students can't wait to take!"

Bray is the winner of the Herbert S. Schell Award for best article in the previous

year's South Dakota History, the State Historical Society's award-winning quarterly journal. His article, "Before Sitting Bull: Interpreting Hunkpapa Political History, 1750-1867," appeared in the Summer 2010 issue of the journal.

SDPB is the organizational award winner, and is being recognized mostly for its work in capturing last year's State Capitol Centennial events through the mediums of TV, radio and online. SDPB TV producer Stephanie Rissler created the award-winning documentary "Our Statehouse: A Capitol Idea," that looked at the history of Dakota Territory, the fight for the capital city and construction of the Capitol building. SDPB has created several other documentaries about South Dakota history in recent years.

The State Historical Society is headquartered at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. For more information, visit www.history.sd.gov or call (605) 773-3458.

Seventh annual Heritage Music Fest is July 16

Mark your calendars and enjoy a day and evening of live, talented, quality entertainment and acoustic country, gospel, and variety music Saturday, July 16 at the air-conditioned Elk Point Jefferson Middle School Gym, 402 S. Douglas, from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Elk Point.

The fundraiser proceeds will benefit Elk Point Mason Lodge #3 high school scholarship program and the South Dakota Masonic Foundation which funds the Youth MMSAT, SDCHIP and Masonic Scholarships.

Featured artists will be nationally renowned Nashville singer/songwriter Terry S. Smith who is famous for Johnny Cash's recording of "Far Side Banks of Jordan." He is also the National Traditional Country Music Association Songwriter of the Year in 1995 and 1996.

"A Songwriter with a Different Touch" is a superior performer whose music has been recorded by Johnny and June Carter Cash, Roy Acuff, The Oak Ridge Boys, Kitty Wells, Chris Le Dous, The Stabler Brothers, Kris Kristofferson, Patty Loveless and others. Terry has recently released his 10th CD. He is a favorite at festivals wherever he goes. His web site is www.terrysmith.us.

He will be backed up by Rick and Harriette Andersen of Underwood, IA. They have been back up duo for international, national and local fiddlers, singers and instrumentalists for over 17 years and have attended the Old Time Fiddlers Contest in Yankton held in September for many years.

On the schedule is local square dance caller, singer entertainer and recording artist Elaine Peacock of Elk Point, who has released seven CDs since 2003. She sings and entertains regularly in the Midwest performing gospel, Patsy Cline and a variety of music as does, Jackie Shewey, singer songwriter Patsy Cline singer from Courtland, NE who has several CDs out and will be on the program for the first time. These performers above have all been recognized by the National Traditional Country Music Association. They are award winning NTCMA Hall of Fame and Rural Roots Commission Inductees for their contributions to the preservation of traditional country music.

We will be entertained by the talented Shrine Chanters from

Sioux City, IA. The Shrine Chanters, organized in October 1920, have been featured at concerts across the United States and in Canada, Great Britain and Denmark. The 20-25 voice male choir has been invited on several occasions to sing at Royal Albert Hall in London as part of the Welsh Festival of Voices. More important, the group has raised much needed funding for children and their families who need the services of Shrine hospitals, and transportation help to and from those facilities.

Also on the schedule is talented Johnny Cash Singer Sean Benz from Windom, MN; well known Sioux City singer/songwriter Jill Miller; Nebraska's Cowboy Poet Marci Broyhill from Dakota City and her sister, songwriter Teresa Kay Orr of Omaha. Joining them will be 11 year old Kelsey Doll from Merville IA who is a songwriter too!

Sharing the stage will be local artist/songwriter and performer Blake Allard, of Jefferson and 15 year old fiddler Katie Giorgio of Elk Point; South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame musicians Troy Manzer, and Christian Scholl of Sioux Falls; and Old-Time Fiddler Wilbur Foss from Scotland, who will be inducted into the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame Association in September.

Our fine veterans and families will be honored for their service and sacrifices for our country and our freedom. Without them we would not enjoy all of the freedoms that we have today.

This is a fun family event. There will be face painting and a Circle Jam Area for any musician/singer, as well as an afternoon lunch, and the Mason's famous roast beef dinner for sale at supertime. Bring your lawn chairs, a free will donation and enjoy excellent music to benefit Elk Point Mason Lodge #3 high school scholarship program and the South Dakota Masonic Foundation which funds the Youth MMSAT, SDCHIP and Masonic Scholarships.

For more information regarding Heritage Music Festival contact Elaine Peacock 605-356-2069, email elainepeacockmusic@yahoo.com or through her website, www.elainepeacock.com or Don Gray 605-356-2243, email: donagray@hotmail.com; website: www.mygrandlodge.org

Premier woman's award celebrating 25th anniversary

The Spirit of Dakota Award Society is seeking nominations for their 25th Anniversary award presentation and celebration. The recipient of this award will be announced at a banquet at the Huron Event Center on Oct. 1. In its 25th year, the Society will again be honoring and hosting outstanding women from every corner of the state.

The 2011 Spirit of Dakota Award winner will be chosen by a state-wide Selection Commission including First Lady Linda Daugaard of Pierre; Coral Bonnemann, Brookings; Glenna Foubert, Aberdeen; Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte; Jean

Hunhoff, Yankton; Bette Poppen, DeSmet; Tona Rozum, Mitchell; Suzette Kirby, Sioux Falls; Marsha Sumpter, Kodoka; Judy Trzynka, Watertown; and Bev Wright, Turton. The nomination process is open to all interested individuals or organizations who wish to recognize an outstanding woman in their community.

The Spirit of Dakota Award is presented to an outstanding South Dakota woman who has demonstrated vision, courage and strength in character and who has made a significant contribution to the quality of life in her community and state.

Past recipients have included

community leaders in business, government and civic organizations and have been described in newspaper articles as "the cream of the crop in terms of South Dakota's best." The 2010 award recipient was Dorothy Kellogg of Watertown a former school board member, a state legislator and a mentor for aspiring young policymakers.

Nomination forms are available by contacting the Huron Area Chamber of Commerce, 1725 Dakota Ave S, Huron, SD 57350 (1-800-487-6673) or online at www.spiritofdakota.org.

Sanford School of Medicine on of nation's 'most popular'

The Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota is one of the nation's most popular medical schools, according to the U.S. News and World Report.

In an analysis of yield data by U.S. News, the Sanford School of Medicine ranked as the seventh most popular medical school with a yield percentage of 76.1 percent. A school's yield is percentage of admitted students who opt to enroll in the program. At USD, 54 of the 71 accepted students chose to attend the school in the academic year beginning in 2010. The University of Kansas Medical Center ranked No. 1 on the list with a yield percentage of 82.2 percent, topping the University of Nevada-Reno School of Medicine (81.6 percent).

The Sanford School of Medicine ranked slightly ahead of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Medicine (74.4 percent), the Medical University of South Carolina School of Medicine (73.9 percent) and Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (73.1 percent).

Criteria in selecting the nation's most popular medical schools was based on a U.S. News survey of more than 140 medical schools for the publication's 2010 survey of research and primary care programs. Schools self-reported data regarding their academic programs and the makeup of their student body. U.S. News uses most of this data to rank schools for its annual Best Medical Schools rankings; the data can also be used for other lists.

For more information, please visit www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/articles/2011/05/17/10-most-popular-medical-schools.

Two faculty members honored for excellence in teaching at USD

The University of South Dakota honored two of its faculty for excellence in teaching at the 2011 Spring Commencement ceremony on May 7.

Joseph Vitt and Michael Allgrunn are the 2011 recipients of the Belbas-Larson Awards for Excellence in Teaching. They were recognized at USD's 124th Spring Commencement and each received a \$5,000 tribute, a framed certificate commemorating their accomplishment and a commemorative medal. The Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching is the highest honor USD bestows upon its educators.

Honored in the tenured category, Vitt is an associate professor in the department of chemistry. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from St. John's University (1987) and his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Iowa State University (1991). His teaching interests are in the areas of general and analytical chemistry, and he is also active in promoting

undergraduate chemical education research. Vitt came to USD straight from his graduate work at Iowa State.

Recognized in the tenure-track category, Michael Allgrunn is an assistant professor in economics at the Beacom School of Business. A faculty member of USD since 2006, Allgrunn received his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University (2001), and his master's degree and Ph.D. from Michigan State University, all in economics. He teaches classes in subjects such as econometrics, labor economics, game theory and public finance. In addition, he is very involved with undergraduate research in economics. Allgrunn came to USD straight from Michigan State, where he researched labor economics and taught courses in both labor economics and microeconomic theory.

"One of the reasons I chose

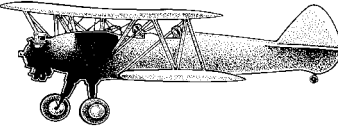


VITT

ALLGRUNN

to come to USD was our strong focus on the student," Allgrunn said. "Our students, particularly our undergraduate students, get a far better education than students attending much larger schools because of our student-centered philosophy. We attract great students, they get a great education while they're here, and they go on to do great things. It's an honor to be a small part of that."

The Belbas-Larson Awards were established by a 1956 graduate of USD, Dean Belbas of Edina, MN and Sioux Falls, and his friends, Harold W. and Kathryn Larson of Bemidji, MN and Scottsdale, AZ.

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