

Bies enjoys learning and sharing stories of USD alumni

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

As communications coordinator for the USD Alumni Association, it is the job of Jarett C. Bies to keep USD grads abreast of university happenings, as well as alumni updates.

The lead writer for the association's biannual magazine, The South Dakotan, also releases a monthly electronic newsletter, The Coyote Connection.

"I really enjoy learning and sharing the stories about the alumni," Bies said. "We are able to bring the greater global stories of UDS coyote alumni around the world back to the university and to the alumni community, and at the same time keep alumni informed on things here in Vermillion."

In addition to his work with the publications, Bies

does "just about anything else on the communications front," from social media to electronic media to press releases.

"I also help to recruit people to organize events, recruit new members to the alumni association, answer questions and provide support to our four-person team," he said.

This year should be very exciting, he added, since it is USD's 150th anniversary.

"It's been a lot of fun sharing the historic story of the state's flagship university," Bies said. "I had the opportunity to interview alums as far back as the 1930s to the present. It's been exciting to celebrate that milestone ... and we're taking the energy from that celebration and going forward into the next 150 years with a lot of events and increased outreach so that we can

keep alumni connected wherever they happen to be in the world."

A native of Sioux Falls, Bies graduated from USD in 1994.

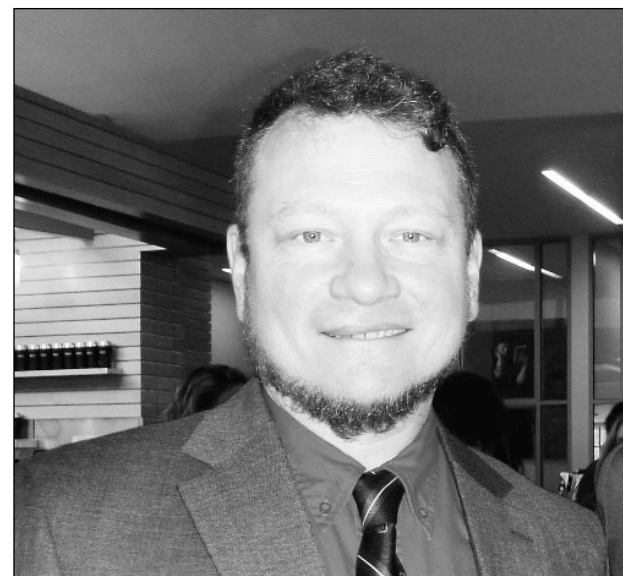
Before coming back to work there in November 2011, he was employed as a social media editor in Minneapolis and worked as a writer for the South Dakota State Extension Service.

He and his wife Laura live in Vermillion with

their three cats.

When he's not working, Bies said his passion is kayaking. In fact, he is one of the founders of the South Dakota Kayak Challenge, which just took place last weekend.

"This is our third year, but the second year we were actually able to have the event," Bies said. "With the flooding last year, we had to cancel it. But we had our best year yet, with 170 people signed up for the



event, 156 that took part and 103 who made it to the finish line in Sioux City."

Bies described his role with the event as one involving marking, communications and organization.

He said he was glad to have the opportunity.

"That was a really exciting weekend, and it was really fun to host so many people traveling from as far away as Texas and North Carolina to come here and see the Missouri River," he said.

Sierra Club rep voices tar sands concerns

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Approximately 1.5 million barrels of tar sands crude oil is coming into the United States per day.

If the TransCanada Keystone I and XL pipelines are completed as proposed, that total could be increased to 2.5 million barrels by 2020 and 15 million barrels by 2030.

This poses multiple environmental concerns which need to be addressed sooner rather than later, said Dr. James Heisinger, University of South Dakota professor emeritus and chair of the state chapter of the Sierra Club.

Heisinger spoke about the issue recently during a presentation to the local Sierra Club at the WH Over Museum.

One issue concerns the composition of the tar sands themselves.

"The 'black gold' of the tar sands is bitumen, and it's like asphalt," Heisinger said. "You're going to have to liquefy it in some way. It's not just like asphalt, it's also got sand in it, so it has to be liquefied, separated from the sand. That requires steam.

"The steam means you have to use energy to heat the water. And then, when the water separates from the sand and the bitumen you have to dispose of the water in some reasonable way because it's toxic. So it's problematic," he said.

The water is stored in tailing lakes up to 25

miles across which don't evaporate very fast.

"Not to worry," Heisinger said. "There are levees surrounding these big toxic pools. ...

"There are two types of levees," he continued. "The ones that have been breached, and the ones that will be breached. So it's a problem."

Once the sand is removed from the bitumen, it remains similar to asphalt, and thus needs to be treated with a diluent called dilbit.

"You can imagine ... that great quantities of greenhouse gasses have to be produced in this process, and indeed they are," Heisinger said.

There also are problems with the pipelines, he said. Keystone I already has had more than 30 leaks, 14 of which occurred in the United States.

One of these leaks dumped more than 840,000 gallons - about 20,000 barrels - of tar sands into the Kalamazoo River, requiring a \$750 million clean-up, Heisinger said.

A smaller leak - 63,000 gallons - occurred in the Yellowstone River, he said.

A unique problem arose when the diluent was placed in the icy water, Heisinger said. Because the diluent was lighter than the water, the bitumen separated from it and just sunk.

Clean-up cost \$135 million, with less than 1 percent recovered, he said.

Because of its abrasive nature, bitumen has to be pumped at high pressure, which has caused some of the pipelines it to explode, Heisinger said.

One such case happened in Minnesota in 2006, leaving two workers dead.

"Some of these pipelines ... really weren't designed for bitumen," Heisinger said. "They're old pipelines that have had pump houses added. We really haven't developed safety and spill response standards beyond the conventional oil pipeline.

"So this is a real struggle, something we're going to have to do if we're pumping viscous oil at high pressure," he said.

At the time the pipelines were proposed, many people were not thinking with an eye toward environmental consequences, Heisinger said.

When Keystone I was first proposed, the United States "was deep

into Afghanistan and Iraq," he said.

"It was hard to oppose anything like that," he said. "It was hard to say, 'Well, gee, you shouldn't be bringing oil down from Canada, dirty oil, and refining it.' People were thinking about military and security. That's very different from 2008, which is when the XL was introduced to the public. At that time, though, many of us were worried about jobs."

That said, the information cited by Keystone regarding job creation is not quite what it appears, Heisinger said.

"They've loaded the deck," he said. "In TransCanada's 2008 presidential permit application, they said there would be 3,500-4,200 construction personnel. They didn't say that most of them would be Canadian. But most of them would be Canadian."

Keystone said an additional 20,000 jobs

would come from building the actual pipeline, as opposed to installing it.

"Somebody's got to build the pipeline, but what they didn't say was that the steel comes from Poland, and the pipelines are constructed, some of them, in India, and so foreign labor is utilized," Heisinger said.

He added that according to the Cornell University Global Labor Institute, only 20 permanent jobs will be created on the pipeline and be constituted by people actually manning the pump houses.

"The XL will not claim a major source of U.S. jobs, nor will it claim any role at all in putting Americans back to work," the Cornell report said.

Additionally, there is

no guarantee that the pipelines will have a positive effect on the price of fuel in the U.S. According to the report, it actually could contribute to a rise in gas prices.

For these and other reasons, Heisinger said people need to get involved to find a solution to the issues soon.

"It's going to be harder and harder for our nation to do anything about this ... if we let it progress," he said.

To view the Cornell University Global Labor Institute's report on the Keystone XL pipeline, visit http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/globallaborinstitute/research/upload/GLI_Keys_toneXL_Report.pdf.

NOW RENTING

OAKWOOD APARTMENTS

- AFFORDABLE RENT ADJUSTMENT FOR YOUR INCOME
- LARGE 2 AND 3 BEDROOM RENTAL UNITS
- STOVE, REFRIGERATOR & AIR CONDITIONING
- OFF-STREET PARKING AND PLUG-INS
- UTILITIES INCLUDED
- ON-SITE COIN LAUNDRY
- PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT & SAND BOX
- 3 BLOCKS FROM CAMPUS

CALL NIKKI OR DAVE
(605) 624-9557

WANTED

Buying all types of SCRAP IRON

Farm Machinery • Cars & Trucks
References Available • Top Market Prices Paid
Home: 402-945-1512 • Cell: 402-533-3640

K&K Iron & Metal

Patricia Curry: 605-661-2860
Andy Curry: 605-261-1202
Archie Dunham: 605-366-4625
Also see us at
Siouxlandhomes.com

Dunham COMPANY

www.dunhamcompany.com

Virtual Tours

<h4 style="margin: 0;">Elk Point, SD</h4> <p style="margin: 0;">402 E. Rose Street - \$79,950</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">2-bedroom, 1 bath, many updates in kitchen and bath. Oversized attached garage w/ work bench. Kitchen appliances and stacked washer and dryer included.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">2007 Country Club Drive - \$164,900</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">Top to walk out lower level finish! 1909 sq ft: 3 bed, 3 bath. April 2012 new carpet, fireplace, fenced yard w/garden shed. Kitchen appliances stay, heated garage w/GDO. Shingles 2010. Close to school bus stop.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">2008 Side by Side Duplex - \$209,000</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">301 & 303 S. Pearl St.</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">Great Business Opportunity: live on one side, rent the other. 2 units each: 2 bedroom, 1 bath 2 stall. Each unit with stainless steel stove, ref, dishwasher. Washer/dryer included. Professionally landscaped.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">706 E. Clay Street - \$129,900</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">Nice home has been well cared for and has many recent updates. Call for your showing today! 24 hour notice preferred. This home qualifies for a rural development loan, with no downpayment!</p>
<p style="margin: 0;">203 Lexington St. - \$151,500</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">2007 split home. 4 bedrooms, 1 bath. Stainless Steel Appliances stay. New floor in kitchen, new faucets. Lower walk out level future family room, future 2nd full bath, all set to go. Easy access to I29, school and down town.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">10% OFF</p> <p style="margin: 0;">COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES/RESIDENTIAL LOTS IN ELK POINT</p>