New library director hopes to create more visibility and make library resources available to all patrons

By Dr. Warren Wilson,
E.Y. Berry Library-Learning Center Director,
Chief Information Technology Officer,
South Dakota Library Network

I would like to introduce myself as the new E.Y. Berry Library – Learning Center Director. I have been at Black Hills State University for seven years as the Chief Information Officer (along with being the South Dakota Library Network’s Executive Director). I have been Interim Director of the Libraries for the past year and half while the University had a Task Force, comprised of faculty, staff and students, look at where the library needs to go in the next decade.

As I have worked with Bobbi Sago, I am beginning to see the enormity of the collections that comprise the Case Library. We have taken steps to make some of the displays more prominent in the Library, such as moving the E.Y. Berry display case out of the back storage room into the hallway.

We have also purchased a display case that stands at the front doors to the Library. Students have pulled together several displays from the Case Library collections into this case. The large display cases from the first floor have been moved upstairs, outside of the Case Reading Room, where new displays are being put together.

Another step that we are taking to make the Case Library more visible on campus is to invite various classes to tour the Case Library, and Bobbi has been working with faculty to create student assignments that require them to do research in the Case Library. It is exciting to see so much activity in the Reading Room.

We have been able to secure $50,000 in grants from the Black Hills National

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Case Library Updates

By Bobbi Sago

As always we’ve been working hard and there is rarely a dull moment in Case Library. We recently finished processing the Watson Parker Ghost Town Notebooks as well as the collection inventory and description. The inventory databases and the collection descriptions for both the Notebooks and the rest of the Troy L. and Watson Parker Collection are now on our website. From the main Case Library page you can get to the Finding Aids and the database search. http://bit.ly/1iUVw7s. Facilities Services assures us that the new cabinets for the Reading Room are underway.

We are steadily working on getting all our collection information into our collection management database called Past Perfect. When this is completed we will be able to search our collections more easily and effectively for specific information.

Over the winter break, we moved the exhibit cases from the south wall near the coffee shop on the main floor to the hallway outside of Case Library on the second floor creating a kind of ‘exhibit hall’. The reason for

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New library director
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Forest Service and Jim Neimann of Hulett to help us organize, catalog, digitize, and generally make this unique collection more searchable and available. Anna Gaffey has been hired to be the archivist and is able to concentrate her full energies on this project.

The more that I get exposed to the Case Library, the more I see its potential value to our faculty and students. I am very excited to be part of the Library and privileged to work with this talented staff. In particular, I like the challenge of finding new ways to make the wonderful library resources available to all of our patrons. Specifically the Case Library has enormous potential and I look forward to helping all of us reach that potential.

Case Library Updates
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this change was to have a nice space to showcase the art purchased for the Library through an endowment from Lyndle Dunn. In addition to the watercolor by Richard Dubois that we acquired a few years ago, we recently purchased a ledger drawing by Donald F. Montileaux titled Ton.Fon.Ta.Tion. Lyndle Dunn was a prominent wildlife illustrator who late in life settled in Sturgis. His work hangs on the second floor of the library.

We are in the process of reinstalling the exhibits. Native American artifacts from the Sanders collection are again on display.

Creating is about baseball at BH. On the second floor in Woodburn Hall, our new exhibit is a montage of photos of BH in 1967. The current contents of the tower display case near the front door of the E.Y. Berry library are from the Edith Hoy Peterson Collection. The center piece of the exhibit is a small side table that was used by President Coolidge to sign the dedication of Mount Rushmore. The Edith Hoy Peterson Collection was featured in the Fall 2012 Black Hills Historian. Past issues are available on the Friends of Case Library page, http://bit.ly/1iuZSRY.

Patron use of Case Library has been consistent. In FY2013 (July 1, 2012-June 13, 2013) we had 185 patrons who used 199 books, 161 manuscripts, and 175 photographs. To date, for FY2014 (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014) we have had 171 patrons. Items used total: 224 books, 378 manuscripts, & 431 photographs. The topics and purpose of patrons’ research varies widely. Case Library is available to all, not just BHSU students and faculty.

This semester we’ve had several local researchers working on books, folks from the student newspaper working on articles, and other local history research. We welcome all researchers interested in the history of our region. Visitor parking is available in front of the library. Directions and a map of campus is available at: http://bit.ly/1p67o8F.

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Case Library Updates

Another visitor was Lauren Harris a correspondent to Rapid City Journal. She did an article on the A.D. Humbert collection of cuneiform clay tablets. This collection is on display in the cases in the coffee shop on the main floor of the library. Her interest in the Humbert collection was peaked when she worked on a unit on cuneiform tablets with her children who are middle school age. The children were with her when she visited and I was thrilled to have such young people interested in our holdings. Lauren’s article is available at: http://bit.ly/1djaRif. Further information about this collection can be found on the Special Collections webpage: http://bit.ly/1djbR8.

Spring semester brings students from the Historiography, Public History, and South Dakota History classes into Case Library. Shortly after the semester started I gave a tour to Dr. Kathleen Parrow’s Historiography class of about 13 students. Just before Spring break, I visited Professor Kelly Kirk’s South Dakota History class to show them the kind of resources that are available in Case Library and discuss topics on which they might like to write their term papers. The Historiography students are assigned a several files of documents from the E.Y. Berry papers and do a document by document inventory. Students from the Public History class have come in to do background research on their group project dealing with St. Ambrose Cemetery in Deadwood. This semester, new faculty member Dr. Cody Lawson brought her K-8 Social Studies Methods Class to the Case Library to examine our resources. We had a great time; the students were 100% engaged in their project and working with the collections. (See article on their visit) It was the first time I’ve worked with a class from outside the History department and hope that we will see more use and interest from other disciplines. I see potential for English students, Speech students, Political Science students, and students interested in Environmental History.

While I especially enjoy talking to our students about the Case Library and University Archives, I am also happy to talk about them anytime and anywhere. On March 12th I had the great pleasure of speaking at the Bellman Brown Bag Series at the Matthews Opera House. In honor of Women’s History month my presentation was on Women’s History Resources in the Case Library. Collections highlighted were: Lesta Turchen Collection, the Lawrence County Extension Office Records, American Association of University Women, the Black Hills Federation of Women’s Clubs, and Eva Grace Siple Borg Diaries to name a few. (See the sidebar to the left about the Eva Grace Siple Diaries)

We are very grateful for grant funding that has allowed us to hire Anna Gaffey, a professional archivist, to process the Black Hills National Forest Collection. With the grant we were also able to hire a student to work with her. The student’s name is Jacqueline Schieferstein. You can read more about this project and the collection in Anna’s article in the Highlighted Collection column.

We rely on the generosity of our friends and donors and have received several new collections recently. They include: The Spearfish Republican Women’s Scrapbooks; Lawrence County Extension Office Records; more material from Linfred Schutler; and additional materials for the Ernest Smith Layton Family Papers. We also received records from PEO Chapter BW dated from 1965 until 1998/99. They were dropped off

Eva Grace Siple Borg Diaries

The Eva Grace Borg Siple Diaries played a role in both Bobbi’s Women’s History Month presentation at the Matthews Opera House and in the visit from Cody Lawson’s K-8 Social Science Methods Class.

Since the Bellman Brown Bag presentation was on March 12, 2014, the diary entry selected was from March 12, 1938.

"Went to Rapid on Bus. Had exam by W. A. Davole. Visited with folks. Stayed of night at the Alex Johnson. Bought coat $12.13 at Young’s. Bought hat $1.98 Dotty Dunn or something like that. Carol Ramser went over on the same bus. We had a lovely visit on way over."

The favorite entries of the students’ from Dr. Cody Lawson’s Elementary Social Science Methods class were from June 30 and July 1, 1938 written during summer school in Los Angeles.

"Wednesday June 30 ’I shot my first arrow in archery today. It went just barely over the target. Rusted in correct room. Studied Spanish for 5 hours.’ Thursday July 1 ‘Had written lesson in Spanish. Ate a bowl of soup at University Cafeteria. Went to lecture by Dr. David Snedden formerly of Columbia U. recently Stanford. “Some Sociological Forecasts for American Civilization”. Received card from Maude today.”

Eva Grace Siple Borg was born in North Dakota in 1898. She taught Physical Education, Science, and English in Lead, S.D., from 1927-1947. At the time of her death in 1994 she was residing in Sacramento, Cali.
Case Library Updates  
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without the donor leaving their name. When you bring us material, please be sure to leave your name and address so that your generosity can be properly acknowledged.

The Lawrence County Extension Office Records consists of 10 boxes of materials. The types of material included are: Extension agents’ reports, photographs, and scrapbooks. Here are a couple of examples of what you might find in the collection.

I’d like to note two books that we received as gifts. Both were created for Whitewood’s 125th Anniversary. They are: Whitewood Historical Notes and Folklore by Mary Livingston and A Journey through time Whitewood Schools, 1888-2013 by Jill Eymer's Sixth Grade Class. The Whitewood Schools book is particularly charming and an amazing accomplishment for middle school children. A great deal of credit goes to Jill Eymer and Joanna Jones who worked with the children on this project. I’ve met some of the kids their excitement about their book is thrilling.

Sometimes gifts for the Archives come through the University Advancement and Alumni Relations office. One of the items they’ve accepted on our behalf is book called Men’s Basketball Records from 1910-1969 – Spearfish Normal School, Black Hills Teachers College, Black Hills State College. It is a compilation of the scores for each game during those years. Another gift includes 16 color slides from the 1956 Swarm Days.

K-8 Social Studies Methods Class visits Case Library

By Dr. Cody Lawson

Dr. Cody Lawson is a new assistant professor who teaches Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Methods at Black Hills State University.

One area of interest for Social Studies educators is the use of primary sources, actual records form a given period of time, and their use in the classroom. After a tour of the campus library and all of its resources, I discovered the essential need to bring my students into the library to explore all it has to offer. It was such a pleasure to work with Bobbi Sago in the Case Library section. Her enthusiasm and dedication to the collections are certainly contagious. My students were excited to view all the Black Hills history that the University has been fortunate enough to have been donated and shared their enthusiasm working with these Case library documents and artifacts.

Bobbi and I set up five stations and emphasized the importance of planning interdisciplinary studies for the classroom. Observation, knowledge, and interpretation of the primary source materials was the focus for each station. The five stations included: local Native American artifacts (drum, ceremonial pipe, beaded shoes), historical photographs of the area and people who lived and attending school here 100 years ago, maps with handwritten symbols for a key (100 years old) showing national forest boundaries and extensive record of forest fires, tax records (1881), personal journals from women taught school in Lead from 1927-1947, and so much more. The students explored the stations in small groups and

Students examining family and personal papers including the Eva Siple Borg Diaries.

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K-8 Social Studies

Completed analysis forms for the artifacts, photos, and written documents.

The use of primary sources in the classroom can foster skills in:
– synthesizing diverse materials,
– thinking critically,
– making inferences,
– developing reasoned explanations, and interpretations,
– strengthening vocabulary,
– locating material from a variety of sources.

Also, they help students recognize and appreciate what is special or unique about a particular time period and they can foster in students the skills of a historian.

I know these students will be better prepared to bring what they learned about our local history to their K-8 classrooms because of this experience.

Elizabeth Burgess, an elementary education major, expressed interest in making a presentation and copying various photos from the Case Library to show her students. I think this was such a positive and rewarding experience for my future teachers. I plan to bring a group each semester to see what all we have to offer in terms of local history at this University.

Highlighted Resource: Federal Writers’ Project publications

In 1939 the United States government appropriated $4.9 billion for the Works Progress Administration. The purpose of this New Deal Agency was to provide employment for millions of Americans. Part of the WPA was the Federal Writers’ Project. The Federal Writers’ Project employed, writers, editors, and research workers. The project’s most well-known achievement was the American Guide Series. Guides were created for each state and territory (except Hawaii) as well as a number of major cities, several highways and many towns, villages, and counties. They provide a nice overview of our country at that time giving us a glimpse of life at the time of the Great Depression. Case Library holds several original publications as well as later reprints of the South Dakota guide and some of their more specialized publications. We also hold the South Dakota place names books also compiled by this organization.

The map shown here is from the brochure about Custer State Park brochure compiled by the Federal Writers’ Project and Sponsored by the Custer State Park Board. The WPA was dissolved on June 30, 1943.
**Highlighted Collection:**
Black Hills National Forest Historical Collection

By Anna Gaffey

Forest fires. Mining. The Civilian Conservation Corps. Smokey Bear. These are just a few of the subjects that can be found within the folders and envelopes of the Black Hills National Forest Historical collection. Received on deposit in 2005, the collection documents the history of the Black Hills National Forest and the United States. The Forest Service manages these lands for uses including mining, recreation activities, range/grazing, and wildlife. Headquarters for the Black Hills National Forest are located in Custer, with ranger districts in Spearfish, Rapid City, and in Sundance, Wyo.

Currently the collection is comprised of over 165 cubic feet of materials including loose and bound manuscript material (books, records, correspondence, newspapers, scrapbooks, journals, and pamphlets), microfilm, photographs, film, negatives, slides (lantern and 35mm), reel-to-reel audio, video and audio recordings, artifacts, and oversized architectural and cartographic materials such as quadrangle maps, blueprints, and forestry subject-specific atlases. The collection includes material on deposit from the Custer and Spearfish forest service offices.

In summer of 2013, the E.Y. Berry Library was awarded a Forest Service grant with the goal of hiring a project archivist to assess, process, and digitize the collection, in essence, to make the collection more accessible to researchers. The collection processing procedure includes the creation of an inventory and finding aid for collection materials, and the replacement of acidic folders, envelopes and containers with archival-safe housing. Processing is currently ongoing, with an expected completion date of September 2014, after which a finding aid and inventory will be available to view online. For now, researchers can come to Case Library to use the collection materials, or view collection photos on the Digital Library of South Dakota’s website. At the date of this writing, there are over 750 images from the Black Hills National Forest Historical Collection available for study.

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**Forest Officers, an Ende, Stoddard & Campbell on way to work (w/ six gun). Lionel Anderson Photographer, 8/21/1920.**

**Saltgrounds. Near view of salt trough. Horses getting salt. Black Hills, Kelleter, 7/19/1917.**

**Trout fishing, Harney National Forest.**

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Use of E.Y. Berry Papers in Historical Methods Class

By Dr. Kathleen A. Parrow

The Leland D. Case Library preserves a number of historical collections important for the study of western South Dakota. What many people do not realize is that some of the collections in the Case Library are used not only by researchers but also by BHSU students for class projects. For example, the Historical Methods and Historiography class uses the E.Y. Berry papers.

The collection of E.Y. Berry’s papers is from his time as the state’s representatives to the U.S. Congress from District 2. As the “West River” representative, many of Berry’s papers deal with issues from Native Americans and the South Dakota reservations. Because this material in particular is of interest to researchers from across the country, it was chosen as the section to be inventoried. The collection was indexed when it came to BHSU (see the article “The E.Y. Berry Papers; An Unexpected Resource for Students of Recent South Dakota History” by David B. Miller in the Winter 1972 issue of South Dakota History). The index only gives a general idea of the content of each box; the inventories, on the other hand, identify each document in each folder in the boxes.

Each student in the class is assigned a section of one of the archival boxes to inventory and given directions and examples of how to do the inventory. This archival inventory project is designed to familiarize the students with both the nature and the handling of archival materials. The directions help maintain a common format among numerous students over the years. In the process of completing the project, students develop skills for working with these materials in their own research, which was the original intent of the project when the late David B. Miller began it decades ago. However, as public history has developed as a field, an additional benefit of the project has become apparent. Students who have chosen to do internships in area archives have found that, even though it is brief, their experience inventorying part of the E.Y. Berry collection has been beneficial in obtaining and succeeding in their internships. An additional benefit of the project is that after the instructor checks the students’ inventories against the contents of the files, the students correct them and both hard copies and electronic copies in Word are deposited in the Case Library and made available to researchers.

Local happenings

National Library week – Lives change @ your library, April 13th – 19th, 2014


Spearfish Area Historical Society – Monthly program, first Tuesday of the month September – May 7:30 p.m. at the Spearfish Senior Center. http://bit.ly/T4SU1w


South Dakota State Railroad Museum – For hours and info see their web page. http://bit.ly/1hT1dzZ

2nd Annual Prairie’s to Peaks Iron Horse Rail Summer Camp - June 10, 11 & 12, 2014

The camp will be held at the 1880 Train in Hill City, S.D., in the beautiful Black Hills! In partnership with the Federal Railway Administration, the camp’s main purpose is to teach young people, ages 11-15 years, rail safety around highway/rail grade crossings, railroad rights-of-ways, rail equipment and rail operations. In addition, it educates them about the many different crafts that are necessary to operate a railroad and exposes them to the opportunities available in the rail industry. The campers attend the camp for FREE (including food and lodging), thanks to sponsoring organizations. http://bit.ly/1gRHuhT

Call for Papers: 22nd Annual West River History Conference - Digging Deep for History’s Root in the West October 16-18, 2014 | Hilton Garden Inn, Rapid City | Visit their web page for more information http://bit.ly/1jw7FX1

To submit a paper proposal, send your name, your paper title, and a brief description of your paper to wriverhistoryconf@gmail.com or mail it to West River History Conference, Inc., PO Box 9276, Rapid City, SD 57709
**Friends of Case Library**

**Join Today!**

- ☐ Annual Individual: $10

Name: __________________________________________________________

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(cell) _________________________________________________________

E-mail: ________________________________________________________

Please return to:
Dr. David Wolff, Friends of Case Library
Black Hills State University
1200 University St., Unit 9003
Spearfish, SD 57799-9003

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**Featured Photo**

*From the Archives*

Un-named members of the 1905-1906 Baseball team - Baseball started at the Spearfish Normal School in 1904-1905.