



Congratulations to our Court Management Program Graduates



Graduates: front, left to right: Danette Zickrick, Debbie Salzsieder, Carrie Hinrichs, Jessica Bosse. 2nd row: Tara Hicks, Jodi Calhoon, Sharon Harms, Julie Jenter, Heather Covey, Amy Krueger, Kristi Wammen, Karn Barth. 3rd row: Laura Graves, Marci Stevens, Chad Clark, Gary Moen, Ron Freeman, Jason Schneider, Mike Pisciotta, Dallas Fitzgerald.

Twenty UJS staff recently completed the Court Management Program. The final session of training was held in Bismarck, North Dakota, May 2-6.

The Court Management Program educates staff about the administrative aspects of the court system. The training is provided through the National Center for State Courts.

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Welcome to the eleventh issue of the UJS Newsletter!

Articles, information and feedback are welcome. Articles and information will be printed as space allows. Please email your information to Gloria Guericke.

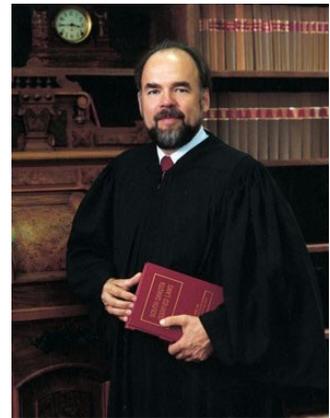
Chief Justice's Memo

I recently had the opportunity of speaking at a Drug Court Graduation in Sturgis. Three people "graduated" or successfully completed the Drug Court program. They have been off drugs for an average of 18 months. If not for this program, these three individuals would be in the penitentiary for felony possession of drugs due to their addiction.

This program is currently running at a success rate of 90%. These folks who succeed are maintaining full-time employment, maintaining a home and taking proper care of their children. Not only is it

a better result for them and their family, society benefits as they become taxpayers and not another occupant of a prison cell. The defendant wins, the family wins and the taxpayers win - everybody wins.

Given the success of this program, it has been expanded to include the 7th Circuit as well as the 4th Circuit. We have also started similar programs in Pierre and Sioux Falls. We are in the planning stages of establishing programs in the Aberdeen and Mitchell areas. We will continue to expand these programs to other areas of the state as funds allow.



Chief Justice David Gilbertson

When I asked one participant what she thought of the program, she simply said, "It saved my life".



State Court Administrator's Message

Leadership is one of those qualities that some people seem to be born with, but everyone has it in them to a certain degree. The UJS is pleased to be offering leadership programs to those interested in developing their leadership skills to their utmost potential. The UJS's basic Leadership classes have been well received and over 100 have attended and learned new skills. We also have an advanced leadership program where staff take an in-depth look into the administrative workings of the court system.



Patricia Duggan, State Court

If you are interested in one of these programs, please contact your Circuit Administrator.

Leadership, for me, started many years ago when I joined the Toastmasters program in my community. I enjoyed the challenge, the networking, the

encouragement I received, and seeing my communication skills improve.

A friend had a poster on her office wall that said "Always, always, always keep moving." I plan to follow this advice and always plan to keep learning. By continually challenging yourself, you stay young. Consider taking a class, joining a new fitness program or learning a new skill.

Leadership, more than many other skills, cannot be learned in a day. It's learned daily. Are you ready to take the many small steps that lead to success each and every day?

Welcome to the Roberts Co. Courthouse

As Chief Justice Gilbertson travels the state, he takes photos of the courthouses he visits. These photos have been used in the UJS Judiciary Message booklets and will now be used to feature a different courthouse in upcoming issues of the UJS newsletter.

A "thank you" to Cindy Marohl for compiling this article with information obtained from the Sisseton Centennial history book (1992) and input from Chief Justice Gilbertson.

On January 8, 1901, a delegation of the town of Sisseton addressed the board of county commissioners on the question of building a courthouse for the County of Roberts. Prior to this time, the county offices were housed in various buildings along main street. On November 5, 1901, the voters in Roberts County voted in favor of issuing bonds in the sum of forty thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting a courthouse and jail. The building contract was awarded to Fred C. Norlander, St Paul, Minnesota in March 1902. Other contractors were awarded contracts for vaults, furniture, plumbing, heating, etc. By December 1902, the building was close to completion. The auditor and treasurer actually moved into

the courthouse in January 1903. Total cost of the building was \$43,994.84.

The jail in the basement of the courthouse was completed by April 8, 1903. There were two double cells on each side and a large room in the center. These accommodated up to 30 persons. After 40 years they



Roberts County Courthouse

were converted into needed office space. A separate jail building was built in 1933.

In 1904, sidewalks and trees were added to the grounds. Sisseton had just completed bringing water into the town, so the courthouse had water pressure. Sewage was taken care of by a large septic tank buried in the southwest corner of the block until the city sewer system was developed about 15 years later. It is not known if the building was wired for lights at the time of erection, but it is presumed that it was, as the Municipal Light Plant began operating in 1901.

In 1976 a new brick front entrance was constructed. All

of the courtroom furniture is original, and was refinished in the 1980's, along with the rest of the woodwork in the building, revealing the original oak wood. In September 1988, the firm of Youngberg & Sons, Pierre, restored the rotunda to the original colors and designs that were on the walls and ceiling.

Recently, a grant was received for new windows, which were installed in October, 2010. The Roberts County Courthouse is listed in the National Registry of Historical Buildings.

Two murals painted by the famous Native American artist Paul Warcloud, who was from Sisseton, are found in the courthouse. The courthouse was the chambers for the Honorable Mildred Ramynke, who was the first woman in South Dakota to serve as a District County Judge, Circuit Judge, Presiding Circuit Judge and by designation as a Justice with the South Dakota Supreme Court. Judge Ramynke served from 1958 to 1985. Following her retirement, the Honorable David Gilbertson was appointed as Circuit Judge, and served until his appointment as a Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court in April of 1995. We are proud to have portraits of Chief Justice Gilbertson and Judge Ramynke displayed over the Judge's bench in the courtroom.



Hat's Off to CSO Jeff Norris on his Promotion to Lt. Colonel in the S.D. National Guard

Deputy Chief Court Services Officer Jeffrey A. Norris was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel with the South Dakota National Guard.

Jeff was born in Huron, South Dakota to Allen “Smokey” [deceased] and Pamela Norris. He attended school in Huron and Rapid City, before graduating from Rapid City Stevens High School – Class of 1985.

After graduating from high school, Jeff joined the South Dakota National Guard, and was a member of the Dakota Platoon [1985] at Ft. Jackson, SC. As an enlisted soldier, he held numerous positions in the Engineer, Transportation and Quartermaster Corps. Jeff's first deployment came when he volunteered to serve as a Motor Transport Operator in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. After serving 10 years as an enlisted Soldier, Jeff graduated from the South Dakota Military Academy – Officer Candidate School [Class #38]. As an Officer, he served in various duty assignments in the 88th Troop Command, 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the 196th Regional Training Institute,

109th Regional Support Group and Joint Force Headquarters. Jeff's second deployment was in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom [2003-04] as the Company Commander of the 1742nd Transportation Company. Under Jeff's command, the 1742nd TC



Jeff's children: Mackenzie, Keaton and Rylea assist at the Pinning Ceremony.

logged over 2.4 million miles throughout Iraq and Kuwait. Since his last deployment, Jeff has worked in the Defense Movement Control Section in Rapid City, as the Logistics Officer at Ft Meade, the Executive Officer for the 152nd CSSB in Pierre, and in the Support Operations section at the 109th RSG in Rapid City. Jeff is currently assigned to the 109th Regional Support Group as the Director of Operations [S-2/3] where he was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 17

December 2010. LTC Norris has over twenty-five years of military service and has earned such awards as the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training

Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwait, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Combat Action Badge, South Dakota Distinguished Service Award, South Dakota Desert Storm Ribbon, Flood Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Citation and

South Dakota Desert Storm Unit Citation Award.

Jeff earned a Bachelor of Science from Black Hills State University [1998], and a Master of Science from the University of South Dakota [2008]. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College – Intermediate Leadership Course [2008] and the Reserve Component National Security Course [2009]. Jeff is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal [OIF] and the Meritorious
(cont'd. on page 5)

Jessica Miller, 7th Circuit CSO, Honored by the Child Protection Council

Hat's Off, cont'd. from page 4.

Serve Medal [152nd CSSB]. Jeff is Deputy Chief Court Services Officer, Unified Judicial System – Seventh Circuit, in Rapid City. He has been employed with the State of South Dakota for the past fourteen years; the last nine have been with Court Services.

Jeff has one brother MAJ Corey Norris who is currently deployed to Afghanistan with the 196th Maneuver Enhanced Brigade.

Jeff is married to CW3 Sandra Norris. They have three children together.

Article provided by Sandra Norris.

Jessica Miller was recently honored by the Child Protection Council for her work in "Building Strong Families" in the Rapid City community.

Jessica was nominated for this award by the Pathway Program at Behavior Management.

The presentation was April 26, 2011. Behavior Management staff wrote the following:

"Jessica Miller is a court services officer for the 7th Circuit stationed in Rapid City. Jessica is currently assigned to the Juvenile Intensive Probation Program. Jessica builds strong families within our community by supervising the most at risk youth. Jessica sees the big picture and understands that families sometimes need extra support. Jessica is compassionate yet has a strong understanding of the law and is



Jessica Miller, CSO

good at steering individuals toward resources that can help them be successful. Jessica is willing to go the extra mile and give youth the opportunity to stay in the community. Jessica works to keep families and youth connected in our community by promoting collaboration and cooperation."

Article by BMS Pathway .

Tanya Nelson Joins the UJS IT Office



Tanya Nelson

Tanya Nelson has been hired to fill the Senior Programmer Analyst position within the Information &

Technology department. She will be working with our Legacy and Web-based applications.

Tanya grew up in Anselmo, NE (directly south of Pierre in the middle of Nebraska). Tanya attended Wayne State College in Wayne, NE where she received her BS in Computer Information Systems. She completed her MS in Computer Information Systems with the University of Phoenix. Tanya had begun work on her PhD in Computer Information System when her youngest child came along, so that education has been put on hold.

For the past five years Tanya has worked for the SD Bureau of Information & Technology on the Department of Social Services' Economic Assistance Eligibility System.

Tanya has two children. Savannah, the oldest, is almost 5, and will be starting kindergarten in the fall, and Kaiden, who is 1 ½. Tanya's husband, Curtis, is a jailer at Hughes County Jail and he works on the juvenile side.

Welcome, Tanya!

Susan Compaan Promoted to Circuit Court Administrator



Susan Compaan, New Circuit Administrator in the 5th Circuit

Susan Compaan was appointed as the Circuit Court Administrator for the 5th Circuit in March.

Susan has 28 years of experience with the UJS, both as a deputy court clerk and the last 13 years as the Court Clerk Magistrate 1 for Day County, South Dakota.

Born and raised in South Dakota, Susan's family includes her husband of 31

years; two daughters, two son-in-laws, and three grandsons.

Susan's hobbies include reading, playing piano, and enjoying the great outdoors and all the sports that go with it.

Susan is excited to be embarking on a new job.



Meet Doug Nickle, New Employee in IT Development

Doug recently started work in the UJS IT Development office. He provided responses to a number of questions so that you would have the opportunity to get to know him better.

My interest in Technology and computers started when I was 14. In high school, I was in the top of my class in computers and higher math. My first computer was a Commodore 64. When most of my peers were using the computer for gaming and applications, I was programming my own games and applications just for fun.

After high school, I went to school at the SD School of Mines and Technology, double majoring in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. I was unable to complete my last year due to



Doug Nickle, UJS IT Development

a tragedy in my family. When I was able to return, the curriculum had changed so much (due to the changes in technology), I would have had to start over. During my absence from college, I picked up a new hobby as a web programmer. That hobby lasted over 4 years before I decided to go back to school

to finish my degree at National American University with a bachelor's degree in Information Technology, with emphasis in Internet systems development.

What I like most about my new position are the new challenges that I face, the new things I'm learning, and the good people I work with that have helped me adjust to my new role.

When I'm not working, I like to spend time with my family, especially my kids. My hobbies include working on my family's personal website, building things - from furniture to homes, and I enjoy watching sci-fi movies.

My favorite quote: "The difference between an opportunity and an obstacle is your attitude." - J. Sidlow Baxter. I'm all about the attitude.

Recent Retirement Celebrations

Two Case Management System employees retired in April.

Charlene Sundstrom, Court Operations Specialist, retired on April 8. Charlene worked for the UJS for 21 years.



Charlene Sundstrom poses with Chief Justice Gilbertson at her Retirement Celebration.

Charlene is an avid quilter and was looking forward to having more time for her quilting projects and for spending time with her grandchildren.

Pam Templeton, Director of the Case Management System, retired on April 23.

Pam, too, plans to spend time with her grandchildren, but is also looking forward to tackling some landscaping projects around her home.

Pam retires after 30 years with the UJS, and she has a total of 37 years



Pam Templeton holds the recognition plaque presented to her by Chief Justice David Gilbertson.

working for the State of South Dakota.

We wish Pam and Charlene much happiness in this new chapter in their lives.



UJS Clerks Recognized by the State Bar President in the State Bar Newsletter

State Bar President Dick Casey recognized the Clerks of Court and their staff in his column, *President's Corner*, in the May State Bar Newsletter.

The recognition was as follows: "...Finally, I would like to recognize our clerks of court and their staffs, who work hard to keep our courts running smoothly and court records intact. They are often overlooked, but we-and our clients' files-would be lost without them!"

We second the sentiment. You do a great job!

Our minds are as different as our faces; we are all traveling to one destination; —happiness; but few are going by the same road.

Charles Caleb Colton

Annual CASA Meeting Held May 3

In 2003, legislation established the South Dakota Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grant program; from this establishment the South Dakota CASA Commission was appointed.

The South Dakota CASA Commission consists of five residents of the state, appointed to three-year terms. As per South Dakota Codified Law 16-2-53, the



CASA Committee members: (left to right) Kim Max, Court Services Officer from Mitchell, Circuit Judge Kathleen Trandahl, 6th Circuit; Jaime Reiff, Protection Specialist, Child Protection Services; Kristie Fiegen, Executive Director of SD Junior Achievement; and Lisa Thompson-Heth, Director of Wiconi Wawokiya, Inc.

Governor appoints three Commissioners and the Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court appoints two Commissioners.

The Commission's primary responsibility is to award grant funds to support the development, growth, quality, and continuation of CASA programs in South Dakota.

The South Dakota CASA Commission held its annual meeting, on May 3, 2011, at the state Capitol.

Employee/Manager Self Service Website

The Employee/Manager Self Service website, also known as SEA, is located at www.bop.sd.gov.

This site allows you to manage your personal information and do things such as update your W-4, direct deposit, and home address. This site also provides general information specific to your position and other general information such as leave balances, benefit information, and the payroll calendar. It also allows supervisors to see employee leave balances and

performance evaluation dates.

During the running of payroll this site cannot be updated as it would affect payroll; however, it is still available to review as needed.

Detailed instructions on how to access this website can be found at the above link. We would invite you to review this website and find out what it can do for you!



Beth Urban, Director, and Lisa Mammenga, Personnel Specialist, from the UJS Human Resources Office.



Legal Advice v. Legal Information Refresher

Most of us have told someone during our tenure with the UJS that “we cannot provide legal advice.” But what is legal advice? And what “legal information” can we provide? After all, legal information is essential to the work of the courts. First of all, let me say that it does not matter if you have a law degree or not. No employee of the UJS can provide legal advice to a member of the public. Also, remember that just because information is helpful does not mean that it is improper.

Legal information is facts about the law and process. Explaining court rules, procedures and legal requirements generally constitutes legal information. Legal advice is when you apply knowledge of the law, procedures and legal requirements to a set of facts to determine the best course of action for a caller, court customer or that pesky relative. Legal advice typically relates to strategy, choosing among alternatives, and developing arguments to advance a person’s interests.

Tip: Legal information questions are generally signaled by “how do I” or “can I” questions. Requests for legal advice are often signaled by “should I” or “what would

you do if you were me” type questions.

The need to distinguish between legal advice and legal information is only compounded by the increase in self-represented litigation. Oftentimes, the self-represented litigant will need legal information but will want or actively seek legal advice.

Remember that even if someone is asking for legal advice you may still be able to provide them with legal information that may be of assistance. For example, providing information on how to file a small claims case is perfectly acceptable. However, helping a person determine if they should file a small claims case is legal advice and is a decision they must make on their own.

Tip: Legal information is generally not fact specific.

As many clerks can attest, many lawyers need legal information in order to understand how things are done in a particular county or circuit. However, we should not treat a lawyer differently than a self-represented litigant when determining what information we can and cannot provide.

Tip: If you would be



Greg Sattizahn, UJS Legal Counsel

uncomfortable or hesitate giving the same information to both sides then it is probably not permissible.

The most important thing to keep in mind is not to do anything that would compromise your impartiality or create a perception of bias or favoritism. Also, remember that if you do not know an answer to a request for permissible legal information do not attempt to guess at it. Consult with a supervisor or co-worker and then follow-up with the person when you have accurate information.

If you are ever unsure whether information requested is something you can provide, always consult with a supervisor before providing the information. For further information about this topic, please contact me.



Conquering the Chaos. Tame Your E-mail Inbox

Microsoft Outlook has some special features that make managing your in-box much easier. First, create two new electronic folders, labeling them “Waiting for response” and “Someday.” When you receive new messages, move as many as you can into those two folders:

Waiting for response.

Some important messages linger in your inbox because you are waiting for more information from someone else. Yet if you let those items slide toward the bottom of your inbox, you risk losing sight of them and forgetting them.

Think of the “Waiting for response” folder as a temporary holding bin. The only items you should place there are ones you need or



Karn Barth, Judicial Branch Educator

want to act on but can't handle without someone else's input. Review the folder at the end of every day. Delete items you handled during the day, send reminders regarding others and leave less urgent items for another day. Janet Borchard (Director of Budget

& Finance) deletes messages that she has responded to using her “sent mail” as her waiting for response folder.

Someday. Some items wear out their welcome in your “Waiting” folder. You may decide that they aren't high priority, you may not be able to track down the response you need, or you simply may choose not to act right now. However, you may not be ready to let them go for good.

Use your “Someday” folder to capture thoughts and tasks you want to keep in the back of your mind, even if you are not ready to add them to your calendar. Review items once each quarter.

Adapted from More Time for You: A Powerful System to Organize Your Work and Get Things Done, Rosemary Tator and Alesia Latson.

First Circuit: Roger Hisek Retires; Joanne Balvin Appointed as Bon Homme Clerk of Court

Roger Hisek, Bon Homme County Clerk of Courts, retired March 23, 2011. Roger had been with the Clerk of Courts office in Bon Homme County for over 35 years. Roger was first hired as a deputy clerk in 1976 and then appointed as Clerk of Court in 1991. A reception in his honor was held on March 18, 2011 in the Bon Homme County Courthouse in Tyndall.

Joanne Balvin of Tyndall was appointed by Judge Arthur Rusch, the presiding judge of the First Judicial Circuit, as the new Bon Homme County Clerk of Courts. Joanne has worked as a Deputy Court Clerk for over 20 years. She is a graduate of Tyndall High School.

Presiding Judge Rusch extended his thanks to Roger Hisek for his dedicated service to the Unified Judicial System and

the people of Bon Homme County over the past 35 years. He said that he had worked with Roger as an attorney in private practice, and as a circuit judge, and always found him to be unfailingly helpful and friendly to everyone coming into the Clerk of Court's office.

Excerpts from 3/29/11 press release by 1st Circuit.

First Circuit: Robin Iverson Retires; Jessica Bosse Appointed as Clay County Clerk of Courts.

Robin Iverson, Clay County Clerk of Courts, retired on January 7, 2011. Robin had been with the Clerk of Court's office for over 35 years. First hired as a Deputy Court Clerk in 1975, she was appointed as the Clerk of Courts for Clay County by 1st Circuit Presiding Judge Arthur Rusch on January 1, 2000.

A reception was held in her honor on January 7, 2011 from 2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m. in the Clay County Courthouse.

Jessica Bosse of rural Vermillion was appointed by Judge Rusch as the new Clay County Clerk of Courts. Jessica had worked as a Deputy Court Clerk for over 13 years in both the Union County and Clay County Clerks' offices. She is a graduate of Wakonda High School, and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of South Dakota.

Presiding Judge Rusch

extended his thanks to Robin Iverson for her dedicated service to the Unified Judicial System and the courts in Clay County over the past 35 years. He said that he had worked with Robin when he was Clay County's States Attorney, as an attorney in private practice, and as a circuit judge, and always found her to be unfailingly helpful and friendly to everyone coming into the Clerk of Court's office.

Excerpts from 12/23/10 press release by 1st Circuit.

“Welcome Aboard” to the Following New UJS Employees

1st CIRCUIT:

- *Kathy Mehlhaff, Deputy Court Clerk Magistrate*
- *Joanne Balvin, Court Clerk Magistrate*
- *Cheryle Gering, Circuit Judge*

2nd CIRCUIT:

- *Teri Beeson, Deputy Court Clerk*
- *Devon Schreiner, IT Intern*

6th CIRCUIT:

- *Brett Daly, IT Intern*

SCAO:

- *Tanya Nelson, Senior Programmer Analyst*
- *Jared Tidemann, Legal Intern*
- *Doug Nickle, Programmer Analyst*

PROMOTION:

- *Honorable Steven Jensen, Presiding Judge, 1st Circuit*
- *Joanne Balvin, Bon Homme Clerk of Court, 1st Circuit*
- *April Grubb, Court Clerk Magistrate, 3rd Circuit*
- *Carrie Hinrichs, Court Clerk Magistrate, 5th Circuit*
- *Kelli Sitzman, Court Clerk Magistrate II, 6th Circuit*

RETIREMENTS:

- *Arthur Rusch, Presiding Judge, 1st Circuit*
- *Carol Blaha, Court Services Secretary, 1st Circuit*

- *Roger Hisek, Bon Homme Clerk of Court, 1st Circuit*
- *Donna Koop, Scheduling Clerk, 7th Circuit*
- *Connie Carlisle, Legal Secretary, SCAO*

You're
happiest while
you're making
the greatest
contribution.

Robert F. Kennedy

Connie Carlisle Retires After 44 Years with the State

After 21 years with the Unified Judicial System and a total of 44 years of working for the State of South Dakota, Connie Carlisle retired.

A Retirement Celebration was held for Connie on May 24 in the Supreme Court Law Library in the Capitol Building.

Connie began working for the State at the age of 18 with the Division of Insurance and was there for almost 18 years. She worked briefly for Merriman Printing, but then went back to the State to work in the office of Adult Services and Aging. Connie also worked in the Word Processing Center at the Kneip Building and for the

Attorney General's Office before coming to work in the Supreme Court as a Legal Secretary.

Connie looks forward to spending more time with her husband and her son, Carson, who work together on their ranch, and her daughter-in-law, Heather, who is a veterinarian at the Oahe Vet Clinic in Ft. Pierre.

Besides cooking, Connie enjoys being with family and friends. Her plans are to finish her spring cleaning and hopefully get some organization in her flower bed.

Travel arrangements are in place for Connie to travel to

Las Vegas to see Celine Dion.

Connie is hoping to have grandchildren sometime in the near future so that she can spoil them and then send them home.

Best wishes to Connie in her retirement.



Fifth Friday Celebration

UJS staff in the Capitol and Soldiers and Sailors building celebrate the fifth Fridays that occasionally occur in months throughout the year.

The April 29 Fifth Friday happened to fall on the same day as the Royal Wedding, so the Human Resources staff teamed with the State Court Administrator's office staff to host a Fifth Friday Royal Wedding Tea/Brunch.

Staff were invited to a "Royal Tea" during their coffee break. Royal Tea treats included: open-faced cucumber sandwiches, shrimp and cream

sandwiches, or hummus and tomato sandwiches. Also available were cranberry, cherry and chocolate chip scones, fresh fruit, several varieties of bars and cookies, and cake and mints.

Some staff used the opportunity to model hats available for the occasion.

Past Fifth Friday events have included a

Halloween potluck luncheon and a potluck picnic on the Capitol lawn.



Bureau of Personnel staff stop by to model hats with UJS staff during the Fifth Friday Celebration.

South Dakota Children’s Justice Conference

The South Dakota Children’s Justice Conference is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls.

Chief Justice Gilbertson and Presiding Judge Jeff Davis will provide the Welcome and Opening Remarks.

Ashley Rhodes-Courter is the Keynote Speaker.

There are two plenary sessions and the topics are as

follows:

- Family Group Decision-making—American Humane
- Child Safety Guide Overview
- Report to the Court: What a Judge is Looking for / Courtroom Etiquette
- Safety First—How to Keep Yourself Safe in Unsafe Situations

- Child Development—How Abuse and Neglect Affect Growth and Development.

V.J. Smith will give a presentation entitled “The Richest Man in Town” following the plenary sessions.

Additional information about the sessions can be found on the UJS Home Page at <http://ujs.sd.gov/>

Circuit Administrator Becomes Fellow of Institute for Court Management

Kim Allison, Circuit Administrator with the 1st Judicial Circuit of South Dakota in Yankton became a Fellow and a Certified Court Executive (CCE) of the Institute for Court Management (ICM) having successfully completed the rigorous requirements of ICM’s Court Executive Development Program (CEDP). The Court Executive Development Program is the only program of its kind in the United States. The intensive four-phase educational program better prepares court professionals for management and leadership positions.

Adapted from NCSC News Release. Contact: Lorri Montgomery



Ms. Allison receiving her diploma with U.S. Supreme Court Clerk General William K. Suter, President of the National Center for State Courts Mary McQueen, and on the far right John Meeks, Vice President of the Institute for Court Management.



Kim is pictured with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who attended the reception for the graduates.

Drug Court Graduation Celebrates Sobriety and Success



Chief Justice David Gilbertson speaks during drug court graduation ceremonies at the Meade County Courthouse on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (photo by Ryan Soderlin/Journal staff)

Northern Hills Drug Court Facts

Current participants:

- 16 active participants (4 male, 12 female)
- 9 single mothers
- 22 minor children impacted
- 2010 Calendar Year Financial Impact
- \$305,000 avoided correctional costs
- \$71,000 avoided foster care costs
- Over \$188,000 in earned income/wages by participants
- Over \$4,000 in child support payments made by participants
- Participants completed 830

hours of community service

- Participants paid nearly \$11,000 towards treatment costs
- Nearly 90 percent of drug court graduates have successfully remained in the community.

Sitting together, they represented 93 years of suspended prison time and more than 15 years of sobriety. They were the 16 active clients of the Northern Hills Drug Court until graduation reduced their numbers by three Tuesday.

Personal Success Story:

Bob Benson's sobriety began 16 months ago when he was arrested for felony drug possession. His first five months of sobriety were spent behind bars in the Lawrence County Jail awaiting sentencing.

Alcohol and then drugs lured the New York native away from his successful family and dreams of a career in baseball and engineering.

"I had many ambitions," Benson, 26, said during Tuesday's graduation ceremony. Drugs, money and power overshadowed those dreams. "I was addicted to the lifestyle. I was young, strong and ambitious. I lived like I was invincible."

Benson found Christ in jail

and a road to a new life through the Northern Hills Drug Court's four-phase program of intensive probation. Drug court is an option to remain out of prison. Someone in the program remains out of jail while working on the stringent goals set by the program.

As a first-time offender, Benson qualified for drug court and was accepted. He joined a growing number of drug court success stories.

Eleven months later, he is sober, married, a GED graduate, employed and active in Lead's Black Hills Center of Hope. At Christmas he organized a gift give away that helped many in his community.

By combining efforts, the two circuits can deliver more services to more people, Davis said.

"I earned back the trust and respect of others," Benson said.

Benson was one of three graduates from the program that stresses addiction recovery and accountability for participants.

Almost 90 percent of drug court graduates have stayed out of prison or jail.

"It's an absolute bargain, plus it provides a permanent solution rather than the revolving door of incarceration," South Dakota Supreme (cont'd. on pg. 15)

Drug Court Graduation (cont'd. from page 14)

Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson said. Gilbertson spoke at Tuesday's graduation ceremony at the Meade County Courthouse.

South Dakota was the last state in the nation to invest in drug court. The Northern Hills Drug Court, serving offenders in the 4th Judicial Circuit, became the state's first program in 2007. The program is funded through the Unified Judicial System and has weathered several legislative attempts to eliminate the program.

Drug court served clients in Lawrence, Butte, and Meade counties until this year when Pennington County in the 7th Judicial Circuit was included.

"For as long as I've been a judge, I've been looking for a better way to look for services and meet the needs of the community," 7th Circuit presiding Judge Jeff Davis said.

By combining efforts, the two circuits can deliver more services to more people, Davis said.

The supervision required by

drug court is demanding. Two 7th Circuit court services officers share the supervision load with their Northern Hills counterparts.

Davis said it's a good mix. The two circuits have similar demographics and use many of the same services.

Eleven drug court participants are now supervised by the 7th Circuit.

Adapted from an article by Rapid City Reporter Andrea Cook. Reprinted with permission granted by Editor Mike LeFort on 5/16/2011.

Knowledge of what is possible is the beginning of happiness.

George Santayana

Odyssey Pilot Date Change and EDMS

Among the issues discussed at the February CMS Steering Committee meeting was the possibility that the pilot date could be delayed to ensure the roll-out of the Odyssey application was successful in all areas. An April review date was established to determine the status of several significant milestones. After UJS and Tyler staff reassessment meetings, the UJS IT office, due to concerns about the ability to have all necessary projects completed,

tested and finalized for the pilot date, submitted a recommendation that the pilot date be rescheduled to October 11, 2011. One last winter storm canceled a Steering Committee meeting and resulted in an electronic vote that approved the recommendation.

The Odyssey pilot date has been moved to October 11th with the previously-selected (6) Third Circuit counties. The project timeline has moved each circuit conversion date

back three months with consideration to collapse the final (2) circuits into a single event and maintain the prior scheduled completion date.

The initial plan for Odyssey called for the implementation of the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) or imaging feature after most of the UJS was migrated to Odyssey. The Steering Committee agreed that including EDMS in the pilot and following circuit installs would be (*cont'd. on pg. 16*)

Odyssey Pilot Date Change and EDMS

more beneficial, and the project was adjusted accordingly. A subcommittee will be utilized to determine recommendations, standards, and any necessary procedural changes.

EDMS will provide the ability to quickly display documents while viewing the case in Odyssey. The paper/magnifying glass icon indicates that the case event, or ROA, has an associated

imaged document. 'Clicking' the icon will display that document in a new window.



From this screen it is possible to quickly page through, enlarge, reduce or print the document.

