

Danielle Tejral Tours Europe With CSC Women's Choir



COURTESY PHOTO/UNA TAYLOR

The group from Chadron State College stops for a photo at a sight overlooking Prague.

CHADRON, Neb. — It may seem fitting that the word "arioso" means airy, literally speaking. When Arioso, Chadron State College's women's choir, went on tour this spring, they took to the air.

Arioso delivered more than a half-dozen performances while touring the Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria in March.

The 11-day European journey which ended March 14 is believed to be the first-ever performance tour on foreign soil for members of the CSC music department. The 12 members of Arioso were joined by director Dr. Una Taylor, music professor Dr. James Margetts and his wife Colleen, and two student assistants. Danielle Tejral of Yankton, is one of the students who participated in the tour.

Taylor said the trip met the goal of broadening the students' perspective on the world. Not only did it help them find similarities and differences between cultures, but it also built camaraderie within the group.

"It's a learning experience that can't really be quantified or graded," she said. "We had some wonderful guides and learned a lot about European history. We expanded the horizons for these students both musically and culturally. The history and architecture is incredibly breathtaking," she said.

One of the first highlights of the journey was an afternoon performance for an audience of 200 at the St. Nicholas Church in Prague's Old Town Square.

"It was a beautiful church, but it was really cold," she said. "We sang in our dresses and it was about 30 degrees in there."

Near the end of the trip, Arioso sang at a choir festival in Pomaz, a community on the outskirts of Budapest. When the festival's director discovered Arioso was planning to sing a song by one of Hungary's most famous composers, Zoltan Kodaly, she asked Taylor if other choirs could join in the performance. The result was a performance featuring about 50 singers of multiple choirs singing the song simultaneously in two languages.

"Hearing singers of so many different backgrounds unite for

one piece of music was an amazing experience," Taylor said.

She said the students enjoyed a balance of performing and sight-seeing throughout the voyage. They witnessed firsthand the beautiful old buildings, scenic landscape and many sites that were ravaged during years of war.

The choir performed on the stage of the Esterhazy palace in Eisenstadt, where Franz Joseph Haydn was a court composer during the 1700s. They also visited Salzburg, the home of Mozart. Other stops included the Prague Castle, the largest coherent castle complex in the world, and an opera in Vienna.

"Many of our students come from towns in sparsely populated areas and haven't had the opportunity to broaden their world view," she said. "When students are able to see more of the world and other cultures, when they meet people who speak three languages to their one, it widens their perspectives."

Ashley Rushman, a member of Arioso from Gurley, Neb., said she enjoyed Prague most, but lists a traditional dinner in Vienna as the trip's highlight. The group was serenaded with folk music of the Austro-Hungarian Empire by a violinist and accordion player.

"They played a bunch of songs for us, and everybody got into it," she said. "And the food was delicious."

Rushman said she'll also always remember the performances.

In order to fund the trip, the group tapped a variety of resources. In addition to some college funding, they developed and sold cookbooks, raffled items and sought donations. The trip was arranged by Tour Resource Consultants, a company which has the motto "Musicians Serving Musicians."

The trip to Europe was a first for Taylor and all but two of the students, she said.

"The students were very excited about going to Europe," she said. "We all got along well. The itinerary went as planned and the weather cooperated. The group sang well and the students were good ambassadors for the college."

Hagen A Finalist In Photography Comp.

Twenty-two Black Hills State University photography students were chosen as finalists in the 31st Annual College Photographers Competition by Photographer's Forum magazine.

The annual international competition, sponsored by Nikon camera, draws submissions from art schools and universities from around the world. In this year's competition more than 15,000 photographs by over 1,300 photography students were submitted for consideration. The top four percent of entries submitted were chosen as finalists. From these finalists, the judges chose the top 100 submissions for honorable mentions.

BHSU photography area students chosen as finalists in this year's competition include: Tina Hagen, sophomore mass communication major from Yankton.

Competing against the world's finest art and photography schools, BHSU students dramatically increased their standing in this year's competition by doubling the number of students accepted as finalists over last year.

"Our students continue to excel due to their dedication and commitment to their work. Regardless of their chosen path in photography, BHSU students continue to push boundaries and achieve at a high level. They are an amazing bunch," said Babbitt.



TINA HAGEN/BHSU

Tina Hagen from Yankton was one of 22 Black Hills State University photography students chosen as a finalist for her submission in the 31st Annual College Photographers Competition by Photographer's Forum magazine.

NRCS Nebraska Volunteers Recognized



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bruce Ofe, Marlin Schuttler and Donna Christiansen volunteered their time to help at a household hazardous waste collection event last year. Citizens were able to properly dispose of paint, chemicals, and other items found in homes and on farmsteads.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Nebraska will recognize their Earth Team volunteers during National Volunteer Month, according to NRCS State Conservationist Craig Derickson. One of NRCS's programs, Resource Conservation & Development, makes extensive use of volunteers. The Northeast Nebraska RC&D headquartered in Plainview is proud of the 100 dedicated volunteers who have committed their time, talents, and treasure to conserving and protecting the environment. They work tirelessly in helping their communities and assisting with the projects

that they see are important to their citizens. They'll be honored at the April 25th RC&D meeting.

The NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program offers numerous volunteer opportunities for individuals 14 years of age or older. They help NRCS conservationists across Nebraska with diverse activities - from providing conservation technical assistance, to generating awareness about conservation through community projects. According to Derickson, with increasing workloads and a declining workforce, volunteers help NRCS carry out its mission of "Helping People Help the Land."

Crofton Students Attend Healthy Kids Summit

CROFTON, Neb. — On April 13, Crofton Community School students went to the Action for Healthy Kids Summit in Lincoln to receive an honorable mention for their dedication to school wellness. Nebraska Action for Healthy Kids is a public-private partnership of more than 30 organizations and government agencies with the goal of addressing the epidemic of overweight, undernourished, and sedentary youth by focusing on changes in schools to improve nutrition and physical activity. Last spring the Crofton High School students organized a mini-fun run for the elementary students to promote student wellness. The elementary students recorded the laps they ran/walked around the playground, then participated in a mini-fun run lead by some high school volunteers. Three student representatives (Tiffany Tramp, Mathew Guenther and Drew Eskins) along with Jayne Arens (teacher) and Jackie



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Crofton Students in photo Drew Eskins, Tiffany Tramp and Mathew Guenther

Freeman (school nurse) went to Lincoln to accept the award and participate in the summit. There were 59 Nebraska Schools at the summit receiving awards. At the summit students, teachers, principals and school nurses went to

different speakers to learn about ways to help promote wellness back in their communities.

"We really loved going to the elementary and work with the younger kids and share our love of running," Tiffany Tramp (sophomore at Crofton High).

"We learned a lot from the different speakers at the summit," Drew Eskins (freshman at Crofton)

"Since nearly 1 in 3 American children is overweight or obese, we felt we needed to do something to help promote exercise and wellness. We wanted to find an activity that kids could do anytime and anywhere. The mini fun run seemed like a great way to get elementary students interested in exercising," Jayne Arens (teacher at Crofton)

For more information about Action for Healthy Kids go to <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org>

Niobrara High School Students Win Regional RC&D Award

NIORARA, Neb. — The Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council selected the Niobrara High School Purple Loosetrife project as their youth award winner for 2010. From there that nomination went on to win at the state level. And just recently they were chosen the regional winner as well.

The Western Regional RC&D Association (a 10 state area) met in Lewiston, Idaho in March where the students' efforts were rewarded as the winner of the Outstanding Youth Involvement award. It was presented for their work to educate local farmers and ranchers about the negative effects Purple Loosetrife has on the

environment. For several years they've been working in conjunction with the Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Area, an RC&D sponsored project. RC&D President Dennis Wacker attended the conference and received the award on their behalf. Their nomination will now be forwarded to the National RC&D Association for consideration at that level.

This week the Weed Management Area folks, students and instructor Charla Hanzlik established the school's new "bucket garden", a place where students will raise the biological insects that feed on Purple loosetrife. When appropriate, the insects will be distributed

throughout the region to feed on heavy infestations of this noxious weed.

For more information about this project contact instructor Charla Hanzlik at Niobrara High School; Mark Rettig, Superintendent at Niobrara State Park; Doug Smith with Dixon County Weed Control in Allen; or Judy Engelhaupt, Secretary/Treasurer of the South Dakota/Nebraska Purple Loosetrife group in Butte. Information on this or other RC&D projects can be found at www.nenercd.org, or by calling Carol Peters, Program Support Assistant at 402-582-4866.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Doug Smith, Dixon County Weed Control and Mark Rettig, Niobrara State Park Superintendent present Charla Hanzlik, instructor and some of her students with the Western RC&D Outstanding Youth Involvement award.

MEETING MINUTES

UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS

MITCHELL — The United Commercial Travelers of America (UCT) held their 100th annual convention April 16-17 at the Americinn in Mitchell, S.D. Supreme Counselor Stewart A. Wagner, representing the Supreme Council from Columbus, Ohio, was the guest speaker. Newly elected members were installed with Vicki Swenson of Yankton as the new Grand Counselor for the upcoming year.

The next convention will be held in Mitchell in April 2012.

OUTLAW TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY

CROFTON, Neb. — The Annual meeting of the Outlaw Trail was held April 19 at Mama Mech's in Crofton, Neb. President Mary Rose introduced Zach Nelson, Staff Assistant to Senator Ben Nelson and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Minutes and treasurer's reports were given and approved.

Sally reported on membership. Angie reported progress on "See the Byway the Quiltway". Al Brock passed out flyers and information on the "Doc Middleton Trail Ride" scheduled for the weekend of May 21-22 and asked for volunteers to help with the ride. The Doc Middleton Ride will be on the Fort National Wildlife Refuge at Valentine along the Niobrara River to Casterline's Hog Ranch. Riders will hear the story of the attempted robbery, death of Johnny Bordeaux and cowboy Wild Bill, and the subsequent murder of Lt. Cherry, who Cherry County is named after. Additional riders on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Rides are limited to 45 riders. For more information or reservations, please contact Al Brock 402-376-1164.

No word has been received from Walgreen's on the grant for "See the Byway the Pie-way". Marita reported the book, "Legends and Lore of the Outlaw Trail", is ready to go to the printer.

It was decided that if possible, the May 17 meeting will be by conference

call.

Chris Kreyck was re-elected treasurer and Sally Snowe was re-elected to the office of vice-president.

The Federal RC&D's have been zeroed out. Without the RC&D's, the Scenic Byways and other organizations no longer have the technical support and help for tourism and other projects benefiting rural America. The public is urged to write to senators and congressmen and request they restore the funding of the RC&D's in the 2012 budget, explaining why RC&D's are so important to rural America and particularly Nebraska. Letters for Senator Ben Nelson may be sent or emailed to: Zachary Nelson, Northeast Nebraska Field Representative, 11819 Miracle Hills Drive, Suite 205, Omaha, NE 68154 or email Zach_Nelson@ben-nelson.senate.gov

RC&D COUNCIL MEETS

The training session for the Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council meeting on April 25th was given by Steve Mietz, Superintendent with the National Park Service - U.S. Department of the Interior at Yankton, SD. Mr. Mietz came to this area from Grand Canyon National Park in Colorado. The goal of the National Missouri Recreational River is to keep it free flowing for recreational, fish and wildlife biological, geological, historical prehistoric, cultural and scenic conditions. Not only is the view fantastic but the tourist volume is great for the area. Some of the things being worked on at present are erosion control, more signage along the highways and cleaning up the area. More controlled burns are planned to clean up invasive weeds to get more native plants growing which also helps with erosion control. "Let's Move Outside" is a fast growing experience for the youth being developed on a National basis.

Considerable time was spent in discussion on the current dilemma that all RC&D's across the nation are currently facing since the program has "O" funding in the 2011 federal budget as of April 15th. There are many unanswered ques-

tions on the minds of the Council members at the moment: Do we try to make it on our own? Can we afford to stay where we are? How do we make up for this loss of Federal funds? Will we still be able to work with our partners? It is the consensus of the volunteer members to keep going and put on their thinking hats to see how and where they can get the funds to support the organization. The Council will have to begin charging for things that they used to be able to do for free.

It was decided by the Council to approve a June Wildflower Walk tour. More details will be available during the month of May. This should be a very educational and great way to experience nature at its best. Please watch the website for more details. www.nenercd.org

The next meeting will be May 23, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the RC&D office in Plainview. The public is welcome to attend. Contact the Council at 402-582-4866 for more information on this or any projects.

ROY ANDERSON POST #12

Roy Anderson Post #12 held its monthly meeting on April 14th 2011 at the V.F.W. Post home all saluted the flag and recited the Preamble, Chaplain Tienken gave the Invocation.

Commander Ausbourne then declared the meeting open with eight members present The Financial report was read and approved by the members.

Children and youth Director reported on article that was in the paper for the sports equipment drive, also reported that we had lost our storage facility and we are now storing the sports equipment in the old Save U More building.

Membership we have two transfers Brad Aune and Louis Matcha with one new Puff Dan Conklin welcome to Post #12.

Post talked briefly on the upcoming State Convention June 24-26, Chuck Tienken and Harold Hoffman will be attending.

Don List will be in charge of the Color

Guard for the State Tournament and Harold gave a brief on the baseball up comings.

Adjutant Brandt was selected as the Post POW/MIA representative will give a monthly report when available.

Chuck Tienken talked about the grocery delivery that is going well numbers were down a little in the last month. Chuck also had talked briefly on Boys State.

Chaplain Tienken gave the benediction and the meeting was declared adjourned. The next meeting will be May 12th at 7:30pm at the V.F.W. Home.

TOASTMASTERS 1294

Yankton Toastmasters Club 1294 met at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant on Saturday April 16, 2011. Acting Club President Kevin Buhl called the meeting to order and asked Janice Stone to give the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Carol Hale served as Toastmaster of the Day and asked Grammarian Kevin Buhl to present the word of the day "Steadfast". Kathy Hejna gave a speech from the Competent Communicator Manual titled "Researching Easter". The Table Topics was lead by Angela Mann who asked 8 different members to provide a definition of an uncommon word she provided. The evaluation portion of the meeting was lead by Master Evaluator Joy Winther who asked Steve Hamilton to evaluate Kathy Hejna. Vernon Arens was the timer for the meeting. Jeremy Skrenes was the "ah" Counter and Janice Stone was the Vote Counter. Joy then gave her evaluation of the meeting in general. Joke Master Roy Wilcox provided the joke of the day. The Best Speech trophy was awarded to Kathy Hejna, the best evaluator was awarded to Steve Hamilton, and the best Table Topic Speaker award was given to Jeremy Skrenes.

Yankton Toastmasters Club 1294 meets each Saturday from 7:30-8:30 AM at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant and guests are always welcome to attend a meeting. For information about Toastmasters, call 665-1523 or 660-3904.

To Be Well...

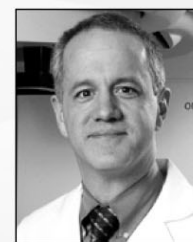
What You Need To Know About Skin Cancer

Tuesday, May 3rd
Noon-1:00 pm
Avera Professional Office Pavilion
Amphitheatre



**James Young, DO
Dermatologist
Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C.**

Dr. Young will present on the prevention, diagnosis & treatment of skin cancer.



**Michael Peterson, MD
Radiation Oncologist
Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center**

Dr. Peterson will present on the various forms of radiation treatment for skin cancer.

This forum is free and open to the public. Space is limited, however, so please make reservations by calling **605-668-8080**. A light lunch will be served.

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