

## Section B Press & Dakotan

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# YHS Fine Arts Hall To Induct 4

Amon, Anderson And Jack And Margaret Lyons To Be Honored At May 2 Ceremony

BY DEREK BARTOS

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Two community contributors, a teacher and a Yankton High School graduate make up this year's class for the YHS Fine Arts Hall of Fame.

Jack and Margaret Lyons, Richard Anderson and Michael Amon will be inducted as members of the 2013 class during ceremonies beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 2, in the YHS Commons.

#### **MICHAEL AMON**

ichael Amon, a 1997 YHS graduate, is the news editor of the Greater New York section of The Wall Street Journal. He was previously a general assignment reporter for Newsday. He has also written for numerous other publications, accluding the New York Times, the Washington Post

including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and *Backpacker Magazine*.

In 2005, Amon's profiles of the Army Reserve soldiers accused of mistreating Iraqi prisoners at Abu

diers accused of mistreating Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib were included in *The Washington Post* package named a Pulitzer Prize finalist for national reporting.

He also founded *Disgrace*, a non-fiction humor magazine, in 2006.

"Being inducted into the Yankton High School Fine Arts Hall of Fame is a profoundly meaningful event for me," Amon said. "I have lived in many places across the country in the past 15 years, but Yankton remains a special place. It will always be home, and the high school is the center of that community."

The YHS graduate added that there are many teachers at the school to whom he is indebted.

"First among them is Dick Anderson, who was my journalism teacher, steady mentor and faithful friend," he said. "I owe any modest success in my journalism career to his patient tending of my aspirations. Patricia Schulze and Terry Winter also were instrumental in helping me develop an interest in writing and literature. I would like to thank Yankton High School and its staff and administration for this honor."

### RICHARD ANDERSON

ichard "Dick" Anderson taught for the Yankton Public School District from 1962 to 2008. He spent his entire career in Yankton, first at the junior high school from 1962-68, followed by the senior high school until his retirement in 2008.

"It's definitely an honor for him to be inducted, and through the years, he respected all of the previous inductees," Louise Anderson said about her husband, who passed away last November. "I'm sure if he were here today, he would be humbled and saying it wasn't his time to be inducted."

Louise said Dick had known he wanted to be a teacher as early as grade school.

"He decided that teaching would be his life calling, and he enjoyed it immensely," she said. "He loved his students and all of his colleagues throughout the years."

During his 46 years of teaching, Dick advised the YHS student newspaper, *The Woksape*, which earned All-State awards 36 times. He had more than 100 students named All-State journalists and photographers under his direction. He also established and advised the student literary magazine, the *Cellar Door*.

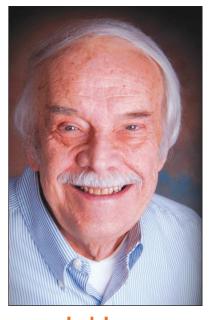
Dick also taught English at Yankton College and Mount Marty College and was the advisor for The Moderator, the MMC student newspaper.







**Richard Anderson** 



**Jack Lyons** 



Margaret Lyons

He was a member of the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) Journalism Advisory committee, the North Central Accreditation teams for English departments at area high schools, South Dakota Teachers of English, the South Dakota Reading Council, the South Dakota Education Association, Yankton Education Association and the Yankton Public Library board of directors.

Dick received the Distinguished Service Award from the SDHSAA in 2004 and the High School Press Associations' Founders' Award in 1986 and 2005.

"We all miss him dramatically," Louise said. "I know if he were still with us today and his health allowed it, he would still be teaching. He loved it that much."

#### **JACK AND MARGARET LYONS**

ack and Margaret Lyons are both retired music teachers who received the 2004 Yankton Area Arts Advocate Award and were named 2009 Yankton Citizens of the Year.

Jack, a 1952 graduate of YHS, was a faculty member and music department and division chair at Mount Marty College from 1965-98. He started the college Vespers, was involved with annual music tours and directed many college musicals.

His past and current membership in local, state and national boards and organizations includes: Yankton Community Library, Statehood Centennial Committee, Keep Yankton Beautiful, Habitat for Humanity, Community Concert, Yankton Community Forum, Cramer Kenyon Historical Home, Lewis and Clark Theatre, S.D. Humanities Council, Congressional Conferences for Civic Education, director of Harmony Notes Singers and director of St. Benedict's Adult Choir.

He also plays keyboard for residents at nursing homes and the Human Services Center.

"I've been fortunate to be involved in a variety of things, and I've enjoyed the variety of people that I met," Jack said.

Margaret was involved with the Yankton public school system for 25 years before retiring in 1999. Before that, she taught one year at Mount Marty High School. She spent many years raising her family, as well, with her sons Will, Sean, David and Derek all graduating from Yankton High School.

Margaret has also worked with the Yankton Children's Choir, as well as various church groups and choirs.

"I certainly enjoyed teaching and working with fine-arts people with the intent of bringing enrichment to other people's lives — not only the participants, but also the recipients," she said. "And I hope it will be shared for many more years, as people grow and live in the area or leave the area, they'll still have a memory of what happened here in Yankton."

Jack and Margaret both said they were honored to be named as inductees.

"We did it because we wanted to do it, not because we had to do it," Margaret said. "And that brings its own rewards."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d\_bartos



