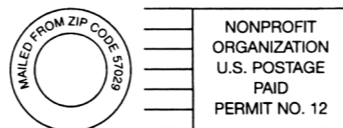




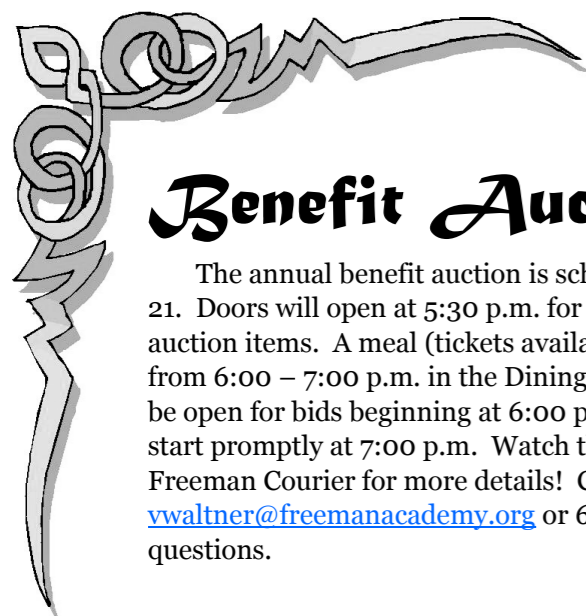
748 South Main, PO Box 1000
Freeman, South Dakota 57029-1000

Return Service Requested



Alumni Forum/Internet Connections

Freeman Academy is now on Facebook.com! If you are a Facebook.com member, just type become a "fan" of Freeman Academy and a "friend" of Vernetta Waltner, development director, to keep in touch with former classmates and stay up-to-date with the current happenings at Freeman Academy!



Benefit Auction

The annual benefit auction is scheduled for Saturday, November 21. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for viewing of both silent and live auction items. A meal (tickets available at the door) will be served from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall. Silent auction items will be open for bids beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the live auction will start promptly at 7:00 p.m. Watch the school website and the Freeman Courier for more details! Contact Vernetta Waltner at vwaltner@freemanacademy.org or 605-321-7351 with any questions.

Coming Events

FJC/FA Annual Corporation Meeting

September 28 7:30 pm

Freeman Academy Fall Play

November 7, 9 7:30 pm

FA Benefit Auction

November 21 6:00 pm

Yuletide Banquet

December 10, 12 6:00 pm

FOCUS ON FREEMAN ACADEMY

Distinguished Engineer



Kenton R. Kaufman, Ph. D., P.E.

The fall Focus issue presents the first of a continuing series of alumnus interviews. Who would you like to see in future articles? Please send your suggestions to vwaltner@freemanacademy.org or 605-925-4237, ext. 235 and I'll do my best to seek them out! This article features a Freeman Academy graduate who has combined his interests in engineering and human medicine to benefit mankind.

By Vernetta Waltner

Kenton R. Kaufman, Ph.D., P.E., son of Richard and Leona Kaufman, graduated from Freeman Academy in 1970. As a farm kid who worked with machinery, he decided to pursue a career in agricultural engineering at South Dakota State University. This move from a small, rural, nurturing community to a larger city and school of 6000+ students created a fair amount of culture shock – larger classes, challenging course work, and teachers that didn't personally know or care about their students. There were moments when Kenton wondered what he was doing in this situation. Had he made a mistake?

Was he capable of these studies? Maybe he should go back to the farm. Though the first weeks were troubling, Kenton did persevere and received an Agricultural Engineering B.S. degree in 1974 at SDSU. During his college years, he also participated in weight lifting competitions. This was a natural extension of participation in athletic activities (track, cross country, and basketball) in high school. He always enjoyed physical activity and was accustomed to hard work growing up on the farm. Due to his interest in physical activity/movement and his studies in agricultural engineering/machine design, Kenton decided to focus on human factors engineering – an

Continued on page 2

August 2009



*Where Faith & the Arts
Bring Learning to Life*

▶ Our Mission...

Freeman Academy, as part of Christ's church, integrates Christian principles into all learning while maintaining a standard of excellence in academics, creative arts and athletics. Freeman Academy is Mennonite in origin and doctrine, but seeks to serve students of all Christian faiths. A safe, caring and nurturing atmosphere prepares students to accept God's call to live a life of compassionate service and discipleship to Christ.

Distinguished Engineer

Continued from page 1

interface between humans and machines – as he continued his education at SDSU for a Masters Degree.

As Kenton learned more about the engineering of machines, he began to draw correlations between mechanics and human “machinery.” All of our joints, limbs and muscles are doing “work” each and every day to make our lives productive and meaningful. What happens when that machinery wears out? Medical science has been able to find ways to “fix” our machinery and biomechanics has taken that science many steps father. His interest in physical activity challenged him to consider these questions: “How did God design our bodies? How can we recreate biological substitutes for God’s work?” Improving joint replacements and creating artificial limbs have positively affected many people and greatly improved their quality of life.

Kenton’s current position as a named professor at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN was achieved through a journey of education, research, and a desire to help people with movement disabilities. After receiving his master’s degree in 1976, Kaufman taught at North Dakota State University for ten years. He received the Ph.D. degree in Biomechanical Engineering at NDSU in 1988. Research for his doctoral dissertation occurred at the Mayo Clinic.

Kenton has the official title/s of W. Hall Wendel, Jr. Musculoskeletal Research Professor, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Director of the Biomechanics-Motion Analysis Laboratory, and Consultant in the Departments of Orthopedic Surgery, Physiology and Biomedical Engineering at Mayo Clinic. Seventy per cent of his time is spent in research, 20% in clinical care, and 10% in educating other physicians, science engineers, etc. He lectures on the topics related to the musculoskeletal system several times each year to audiences in the United States, Australia, Asia, and Europe.

Kenton has experienced great satisfaction from products he has developed. In the 1990’s he worked with the person who started the Nike research lab. Together they developed the combat boots for the U.S. Marine Corps. More recently he worked with an engineer to develop a special knee brace called the

Sensor-Walk which provides stability to persons with degenerative neurological disorders affecting their muscles. The brace took him 15 years to research, develop, and implement for use.

His most meaningful award is a personal letter from a Vietnam veteran whose life was changed due to the Sensor-Walk brace. This man suffered from a degenerative neurological disorder caused by exposure to “agent orange” during the Vietnam War. Here is a portion of the veteran’s response: “What a wondrous piece of equipment! I don’t know who designed these braces, but I am deeply indebted to them for such ideas and skill. With the Sensor-Walk brace, that wheelchair is now so much further down the road that I can no longer see it!”

Another significant honor was recognition as Distinguished Engineer at SDSU in 2008. This award has special meaning to Kenton as he recalls his first weeks on campus as a freshman in the fall of 1970. Kenton recalls: ‘I was thrown into an educational culture which was very different from my previous experiences. My calculus class was intimidating. Other students from larger schools had already taken a calculus class, but everything was new to me! On my first test, I scored 70% (69% was failing) and my teacher had written “Goon” on it! I went home and told my parents that I was flunking out! After visiting with my parents, they encouraged me to remain at SDSU. Soon after that experience, my parents attended a Parents Day on campus during which they planned to visit with this particular instructor. That instructor was not available, but his office mate assured my parents that he would have my professor get back to my parents. A few days later, my parents received a phone call telling them the correct translation of the comment that had been written on the test – “Go on!”

Kenton’s formative years living in rural Freeman and attending country school, Salem-Zion Mennonite Church, and Freeman Academy had a great influence on him. A strong work ethic, determination, and persistence provided him with the tools to succeed in the field of biomechanics and to find fulfillment in his vocation. The opportunity to study with Freeman Jr. College professors while still attending Freeman Academy pushed him to excel. The nurturing teachers, pastors and community provided a network of support that built his confidence and allowed him to venture into the challenging world of research.

Freeman Academy is extremely pleased to count Kenton as an alumnus and is proud of his accomplishments! We wish him continued fulfillment and success in his ventures!

FJC/FA Corporation Annual Meeting

FJC/FA Corporation Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, 2009 in the Pioneer Hall Dining Hall at 7:30 p.m. All corporation members should have received a written notice along with updated voting information. Written reports of finances, auxiliary organizations, and staff will be available at the meeting. If you are unable to attend and would like copies of the reports, please stop in the Business Office during regular business hours (M-F, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) or notify Anita Neufeld at aneufeld@freemanacademy.org or 605-925-4237, ext. 223.



Ribs at the Ranch Chef Awards



Presentation of Freeman Foundation Check



Winner of the Kiss the Pig Contest

Schmeckfest

Music Chosen For Will Ortman and Jeremy Waltner, who are co-directing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for

Schmeckfest 2010, the popular Rogers and Hammerstein show based on the lives of Joseph and his 11 brothers holds a special place. Both had key roles in the musical when it was presented by Freeman Academy in 1995: Ortman played Jacob, the elderly father of 12 sons, and Waltner played Joseph, whose ability to interpret dreams takes him from slavery and prison to a spot in Egypt’s government as Pharaoh’s “number two man.”

Now, Ortman and Waltner will be part of the show in a whole new way as they direct a cast of more than 30 through this popular Biblical story. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* will be presented each night of Schmeckfest on March 19, 20, 26 and 27.

Tickets go on sale in December.

Ribs at the Ranch Report!

Praise the Lord for another wonderful summer evening to host the public for our second annual ribfest on Saturday, June 27! The dunk tank, inflatable, and face painting proved to be popular attractions this year and will be repeated next summer. Thanks to Collin Kleinsasser, Paul Peterson and Friends, and Radar Ray and the Creekbusters for delightful music that entertained the crowd. Visitors enjoyed the car show and we hope to have more exhibitors next year.

Seven chefs prepared 700 pounds of ribs to feed a hungry crowd! Bob and Cheryl Wollmann won the grand prize of \$400 cash and a gas grill that was donated by the National Pork Producers. We are grateful for the support that was shown by the greater Freeman community by their attendance at the event. Jim Haar and Gladys Simantel got to “Kiss the Pig” raising \$1050 that was donated to the Freeman Community Foundation. Thanks to everyone who assisted in all areas! Next year’s date is June 26, 2010 and will coincide with Quiltfest 2010.

Watch for more details!

Music Hall Windows

Through generous donations from alumni and friends, we have reached our goal and will be able to purchase all of the replacement windows for Music Hall. The alumni classes of FA ’58, FA ’49, FJC ’49, FA ’59 and FA ’69 collectively gave \$10,335 which gives us a total of \$18,408.76! Plans are underway to have them installed in the near future. Thanks to all who had a part in this project over the past few years!