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State Historical Society honoring author, historian Schuler

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Historical Society will present the Robinson Memorial Award, one of the Governor’s Awards for History, on Saturday, May 30, to Harold H. Schuler of Tucson, Ariz., and formerly of Pierre.

Five other individuals or groups will also receive Governor’s Awards for History for their efforts in preserving state history.

The award winners include Jean Kessloff of Rapid City, Jennifer Phillips of Aberdeen, Fraser Harrison of England, the Grant County Historical Society in Milbank and The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD, Inc.

The awards will be presented at a luncheon on Saturday, May 30, during the annual history conference of the State Historical Society in Pierre.

“Our award winners are to be commended for their efforts at preserving our state’s history,” said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. “Their work helps to keep the past alive for future generations.”

“We are pleased to give out these awards,” added Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society. “These are just a few of the shining examples of how people across the state and beyond are helping us in our efforts to promote, nurture and sustain South Dakota history.”

Named after former state historians Doane and Will G. Robinson, the Robinson Memorial Award is the highest award given in the field of history in South Dakota, recognizing a lifetime of outstanding and meritorious service.

Schuler has donated tireless service to the cause of preserving and promoting South Dakota history. Schuler has written several books about South Dakota history. “Fort Pierre Chouteau,” his most widely held volume, is among the collections of 87 libraries, including the British Library.

Kessloff is the individual award winner. She is being recognized for her work in historic preservation in Rapid City.

Phillips was named the 2015 History Teacher of the Year. Phillips has been teaching for 13 years and was recognized for the way she utilizes technology, music, dance and chants to enrich her students’ learning.

Harrison is the winner of the Herbert S. Schell Award for best article in the previous year's "South Dakota History," the State Historical Society's award-winning quarterly journal.

The Grant County Historical Society is one of two organizational winners. The GCHS is a very active county historical society that owns and maintains a large number of museum buildings in Grant County.

The Mammoth Site, the other organizational winner, is focused on preservation and public education as it relates to the last Ice Age. It has under its care the largest concentration of mammoth remains anywhere in the world.

The Saturday awards luncheon is part of this year's State Historical Society annual history conference, taking place Friday and Saturday in Pierre. This year's theme is "Prairie to Pines: People and Their Environment in South Dakota." Registrations are still being accepted. Call (605) 773-6000 for more information.

The State Historical Society is headquartered at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. For more information, visit www.history.sd.gov or call (605) 773-3458.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.