Carolyn Brich came to the School of Mines in January 2000 and worked in the Student Affairs Office. She transferred to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department in August 2000.

Carolyn kept a watchful eye over the ECE Department and befriended students by making them feel welcome and comfortable in their chosen field of study. She welcomed freshmen students into the department, monitored their progress, and attended to their wellness, both academic and spiritual. Little did students know as they walked through the front door of the ECE Department that their lives would be forever changed by their contact with Carolyn, a simple servant who brought a woman’s touch to an otherwise mostly male-dominated environment.

Carolyn was well known for providing treats when students seemed to most need attention during challenging times throughout each semester. She would prepare special meals for Christmas and at graduation.

Carolyn’s “can do” attitude permeated her entire life affecting students, co-workers, family and friends with her infectious enthusiasm for excellence regardless of the task or activity. While performing this “above and beyond the call of duty” role Carolyn was recognized by the students as the C.H.A.D. 2008 awardee, an esteemed honor that she cherished and valued greatly.

Carolyn was diagnosed with a brain tumor during the fall semester of 2006 and had four surgeries over the span of the next two years. After each, she came back to assume her duties in the ECE Department until she “officially” retired in June 2008. After her retirement, Carolyn enjoyed special times - going to a movie, going shopping, and eating dinner - with Elaine Linde. Carolyn passed away on May 28, 2009.

Sharing in the adventures of a very active outdoor-oriented family, Carolyn often remarked to “her boys” - husband Richard and sons Sol and Jed - “If you shoot it, you clean it and eat it.” Her superb skills in the kitchen were challenged occasionally as the fare covered the gamut of Nebraska and South Dakota waterfowl, fish, upland and big game along with an occasional rattlesnake or two!

Carolyn’s husband, Dick, worked in the Academic and Enrollment Services Department as a computer expert for 10 years until his retirement in June 2010. Dick’s father and Dick and Carolyn’s two sons are Mines’ graduates. Clair Brich (EE 49) passed away on March 9, 2011, and his wife, Bea, currently reside in Pierre. Sol Brich (CE 95, MS CE 02) recently moved to Flandreau after working for the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) in Pierre and Jed Brich (CE 00, MS MES 07) works for Janicki Industries in Sedro Woolley, Washington.

A memorial, the Carolyn Brich ECE Student Support Fund, has been established as a legacy to the caring spirit portrayed by Carolyn to all who knew her. The endowed memorial fund will provide treats for all students who are part of the electrical and computer education at the School of Mines forever.

Project Coordinator: Larry Simonson
Larry.Simonson@sdsmt.edu
(605) 484-4147 [cell]

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SDSM&T Foundation
306 E Saint Joseph St - Suite #200 • Rapid City, SD 57701
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