The Opportunity to
Experience and Observe…
The Challenge to Serve and Excel
through the Farber Fund and the study of Political Science, Criminal Justice, International Studies and Leadership.
The beginning of the Farber Fund was marked on May 8, 1976. That was the date of a recognition dinner for William O. (Doc) Farber on the occasion of his retirement. He had been associated with USD since the fall of 1935 and had served as chair of the Department of Government (later Political Science) for 38 years.

Tom Brokaw ('64), was the master of ceremonies at the banquet and brief presentations were made by several persons who had special connections with the Farberian era. Over 200 persons attended, most of them present or former political science majors. In addition to Gov. Kneip, also present were former Governors Joe Foss, Sigurd Anderson, Archie Gubbrud and Frank Farrar.

During the dinner, Brokaw announced that a fund was to be established to honor “Doc” Farber. Farber insisted that the fund be used to give students in the department the opportunity to travel and to undertake internships in order to enrich their backgrounds and broaden their horizons.

Article I of the current Farber Fund bylaws (adopted in 1999) states: “The overall objective of the Fund is the advancement and strengthening of the Department of Political Science at the University of South Dakota in its promotion of academically excellent student programs and activities, public service and civic leadership.”

The Fund grew gradually and by the end of 1980 totaled $32,574. It was then that John Griffin of the USD Foundation suggested that a drive be undertaken to substantially increase the endowment. Griffin and Farber discussed the proposal in Phoenix with Bob Swanson ('54), then CEO of the Greyhound Bus Company. Swanson agreed to serve as head of the new fund drive. Thus began a development which soon far exceeded its original goals. An executive board composed of major givers was established to govern Fund activities and an initial 10-year goal of $300,000 was set. To start the drive, Swanson provided a $10,000 challenge grant.

By the time of the executive board’s annual meeting in 1989, the endowment had surpassed the $300,000 level. The board then set a new goal of $750,000 in contributions by the end of the next 10-year period (1991–2001), which would mean a total of $1,000,000 in appreciated assets. As of late 2010, contributions had far surpassed that goal and appreciated assets were over $3,000,000 for the combined Farber Funds. This means that approximately $175,000 is available each year as interest income to fund grants for student internships, research-related travel, scholarships and other appropriate activities. The Funds now annually support over 300 majors who participate in dozens of group and individual activities.
The funds in this account shall be used as follows:

a. Farber Fund #1: Student Internship and Travel Fund

1) Scholarships to pay tuition costs of interns.
2) Matching funds or supplements when internship stipends are inadequate.
3) Travel funds to internship locations.
4) Assistance for travel to attend state, regional and national educational forums, seminars and conferences.
5) Travel grants for research.
6) Candidates will be enrolled or accepted in USD and meet all departmental requirements to be a student in good standing.
7) Candidates will be primarily undergraduate students, but in exceptional cases graduate students may be recipients.
8) Recipients shall show a desire to pursue a career in public service.
9) Awards will vary according to financial need, scholarship of the student and the worthiness of the proposed use of funds.
10) Scholarships, travel grants and other assistance to those students desiring to attend foreign institutions for a summer, semester or year abroad.
11) Travel expenses of USD graduates who agree to return to campus to participate in classroom and in informal discussions, sharing their expertise and experience with current students.
b. Farber Fund #2

1) Contributions to this fund are available to assist students and faculty in ways that are not readily provided for in the other Farber Funds.

2) This Fund is not an endowment and contributions to it are available for immediate use.

c. Farber Fund #3: Scholarship Fund

1) Candidates will be enrolled in or accepted by USD and meet all USD requirements to be students in good standing in one or more of the programs of the Department of Political Science. The recipients of the scholarships from this Endowment will be chosen using criteria and procedures established from time to time by the chair of the Department of Political Science in consultation with the Department’s faculty and the Administrative Committee of the Farber Funds. The department chair, or designated representatives, may also determine the size of each individual award.

Matthew Tysdal (’11) double majored in political science and economics, served in the SD Army National Guard (2006–2012), and received a Truman Scholarship (2010). After graduating, Matthew spent two years as an analyst for the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, where he worked on electric rate increase filings from South Dakota’s investor owned utility companies. He is currently pursuing a joint J.D./M.P.P. from NYU School of Law and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.
d. Farber Fund #4: Farber Futures Fund

One fourth (1/4th) of the annual payout from the Farber Futures Fund shall be allotted to each of the following constituent funds, hereinbefore set forth, and any uncommitted or unspent money for each fund shall annually revert to the Farber Futures Fund principal.

1) Farber Futures Fund #4a: Publications Fund
   a) This Fund will be administered by the Government Research Bureau of the University of South Dakota.

   b) It is designated to promote the publication of research and informational studies.

   c) It is intended to encourage both faculty and student involvement in such research and studies.

2) Farber Futures Fund #4b: Outreach Fund
   a) This Fund will be administered by the chair of the Department of Political Science in consultation with the department’s faculty and the Administrative Committee.

   b) It is intended to support faculty and student involvement in community and professional appearances at public meetings.

Thanks to the Farber Fund, 12 students and faculty make periodic trips to Washington, D.C. each spring. The groups meet with the South Dakota Congressional delegation and many other policy-makers, many of whom are South Dakotans.
3) Farber Fund Futures Fund #4c: Student Activities Fund

a) This Fund will be administered by the Chair of the Department of Political Science in consultation with the department’s faculty and the Administrative Committee.

b) It is intended to support the Political Science League, student attendance at local and national political science meetings and the local USD chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha.

4) Farber Futures Fund #4d: Administrative Fund

a) This Fund will be administered by the Chair of the Department of Political Science in consultation with the Administrative Committee.

b) It is intended to provide facility support, ordinary and customary maintenance costs, as well as necessary improvements and other appropriate expenses associated with “Farber House” at 413 E. Clark Street.

The Farber Fund sponsored Lynn von Koch-Liebert’s ('06) internship to Kabul, Afghanistan in 2005. She later worked with the United Nations Office for Project Services in Sudan and Jerusalem, completed a Masters in Public Affairs at Princeton University and a fellowship with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. von Koch-Liebert is currently a Vice President of Business Development at DynCorp International, which specializes in domestic and international government services. She was recently named a 2015–2016 Marshall Memorial Fellow.
To my students:

I believe that dedicated public service is the noblest of the professions. To enter it, whether as academic or as practitioner, is the greatest of good fortune. Thus, I have sought to encourage all in my purview to share the joys and rewards of this commitment. You who came to me, came with some inner flame; it has been my mission to nurture, to feed that flame and at all costs never to kill it. With all the world’s contemporary challenges, the chance to motivate, to stimulate, to kindle, remained the high calling, and ever to remind that in catastrophe there is opportunity, and out of weakness can come strength. My hope has been that none of you has left my presence feeling the worse for the encounter.

The keys to a happy, acceptable and productive existence are participation, involvement and concern for others. I have hoped, by example, to inspire you to become change agents. Often your intellect, I know, has been superior to my own; only my experience has been greater, and that I have tried to permit by association “to rub off on you.”

To broaden one’s horizons, travel and experimentation and bold thinking must be the goals. I have sought to teach the importance of the background to know, the vision to see, the will to do. Like others before, I confess that I have often learned more from you than you from me. But always, for over forty years, has the joint educational venture been intensely human, exciting and worthwhile.

William O. Farber
Presented at Recognition Dinner
May 8, 1976
Administration of the Farber Fund

Contributions are received, accounted for, invested and disbursed by the USD Foundation under guidelines set by the university and the Executive Board of the Farber Fund. Student requests for Farber Fund assistance are received by the chair of the Department of Political Science, who receives advice from faculty members and others in evaluating the relative worth of student requests. It is generally expected that students receiving help from the Farber Fund will pay a share of the costs they incur. Each year, at the annual meeting of the Executive Board during Dakota Days weekend at USD, the Department of Political Science chair makes a summary report of Farber Fund awards for the previous year.

The Executive Board elects a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a six-person Administrative Committee. Persons who have contributed $1,000 or more to the Fund and continue to make annual contributions of at least $100 are invited to serve on the Executive Board. Other contributors who desire to serve on the board may write to the Executive Board, Farber Fund, Department of Political Science, the University of South Dakota, 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390.

A review of the following list gives an idea of the variety and richness of Farber Fund uses:

• Students take part in regional mock trial tournaments.
• International Relations students take part in Model United Nations Conferences.
• Students attend Midwest Political Science Association conventions in Chicago.
• Students take part in spring study tours of Washington, D.C.
• Students spend a semester studying abroad in locations such as Germany, Spain, Egypt, France, the Netherlands and the U.K.

For more information about the Farber Funds, please see
www.usd.edu/farberfund

Students interested in applying for funding should go to
www.usd.edu/farberfund/apply

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SOUTH DAKOTA
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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
414 East Clark Street | Vermillion, SD 57069-2390 | www.usd.edu/farberfund

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