PT Grad Fulfills NFL Dream
Since this promotion appeared in 1963, there have been dramatic changes and improvements in oral health care. We now understand, for example, the relationship between oral health and overall health. The USD Department of Dental Hygiene was founded in 1967, and it has also evolved during its 50 years of existence. The department not only educates South Dakota’s dental hygienists, it serves a vital role maintaining and improving the skills of the state’s professional oral health care providers.
More

A Letter from the Dean .................................................. 2
New Degrees ................................................................. 3
Potter Takes Reigns at MLS ........................................... 3
Impressive OT/PT Research Labs & Classrooms to Open Soon ... 9
USD Nursing Aids International Rural Nursing Conference ........ 10
A Pioneer! First Graduate of MPH Program .......................... 11
National Recognition for PA program ................................ 11
Fort Thompson Outreach Clinic ...................................... 18
Interprofessional Efforts Recognized .................................. 19
Zimney Promotes Alternatives to Pain Drugs ...................... 19
USD Foundation ............................................................. 27

Thank You for Your Generosity and for Many New Scholarships
Health Sciences Hosts Alumni Event in Rapid City

Recent Health Sciences Awards, Honors, Publications and Presentations . . 28
Dear Alumni, Students, Faculty, Staff and Friends,

Welcome to the 2016 issue of South Dakotan Health, the magazine of the University of South Dakota’s School of Health Sciences. As the state’s comprehensive School of Health Sciences, we continually strengthen our programs in response to emerging health needs, locally and internationally. In this issue, we share stories of our work to improve health and human services by developing scholar-practitioners and leaders.

The Department of Dental Hygiene has been leading the state’s efforts in oral health for 50 years. The feature article on dental hygiene outlines the development of the program over five decades to its current role as a state and national leader in oral and public health. Connecting the traditions of excellence in dental hygiene are Ann Brunick, chair and professor, and Beverly Kennedy, professor, with a combined 76 years of leadership at USD’s Department of Dental Hygiene.

Another feature article describes Dustin Little’s path from Castlewood, South Dakota and the USD physical therapy program to his current position of director of rehabilitation for the Denver Broncos. Little describes the significant mentoring from Steve Young, a fellow physical therapist and graduate of the USD physical therapy program. Michaela Sieber, our first graduate of the MPH program and now a student in the Ph.D. in health sciences program, describes her special interests of addressing Native American health disparities as well as health issues in the LGBT community.

Our ongoing interprofessional health care outreach is well-represented in the articles on Guatemala and Fort Thompson. In both settings, the faculty and students from the School of Health Sciences and Sanford School of Medicine aim to promote wellness and prevent disease through interprofessional practice and learning with local citizens and providers. Other articles describe the successful work of nursing and physician assistant studies to address the health care needs of rural communities. Kory Zimney’s important research on pain care is reviewed, along with its promise to help address dependencies on opioids and other addictive treatments.

Exciting program developments mentioned in this issue include new faculty leadership from Kari Potter for medical laboratory science and from Kelly Bass for the MSW program, and our new undergraduate and graduate degrees: Ph.D. in health sciences, occupational therapy doctorate, BSN in Pierre, MSW West River and online, and B.S. in health sciences with paramedic specialization. Additionally, we have a number of new student scholarships created with generous support from the USD Foundation and friends and alumni of the school.

We are making great progress toward our vision to be a nationally-recognized leader in interprofessional health sciences’ education. Recently, the South Dakota Interprofessional Practice and Education Collaborative, which is led by the School of Health Sciences, was one of five sites recognized for excellence by the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be associated with this good work and I appreciate the contributions and support of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Lawler, M.S.W., Ph.D.
Dean and Professor, University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences
New Degrees

Important new degrees are now offered by various departments within the School of Health Sciences.

OTD degrees in Occupational Therapy
We offer doctoral level programs to entry-level students, and also to licensed practitioners possessing a master’s. The post-professional program is offered online, and it can be uniquely tailored to meet the student’s professional aspirations.

B.S. in Nursing, Pierre, SD
This program responds to the need to meet today’s increasingly complex health care demands. Coursework is offered at Capital University Center in Pierre. B.S. Nursing programs are also available at USD Nursing’s other campus sites in Rapid City, Watertown, Sioux Falls and Vermillion.

Ph.D. in Health Sciences
The interprofessional doctorate in health sciences is designed to prepare practicing health care professionals to assume leadership roles in academia, research and/or health and human services practice settings.

M.S.W. (Online and traditional - Sioux Falls)
This program includes instructors from the social work department as well as new adjunct faculty.

B.S. in Health Sciences with Paramedic Specialization
The paramedic specialization allows students to become certified emergency responders while earning a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences. This program is offered in partnership with Sanford Health.

To learn more, visit the USD School of Health Sciences website at: www.usd.edu/health

Potter Leads Medical Laboratory Science Department

Kari Potter, M.S., M.L.S.(A.S.C.P)CM has been appointed chair of the medical laboratory science department. Potter recently taught lectures and labs in the MLT program at Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Luverne, Minnesota. She has also worked for nine years in the medical lab at Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls, including leading the lab’s education program and supervising interns there since 2013. The USD medical lab graduate (’08 B.S., medical technology) is excited to return to her alma mater and to the program that launched her career. “I will miss working in the hospital setting,” said Potter, “but my end goal has been to work at a university, and to work at USD is ideal for me.”

Potter has also earned undergraduate degrees in music and biology from the University of North Dakota, as well as an M.S. in medical laboratory science from the same institution.

Potter’s plans for USD’s MLS program are to continue the progress made in the department, and to explore options to improve hands-on opportunities for students. “I would like to find a way,” she said, “to incorporate more student experiences, more laboratory exercises for the students, before they leave the campus for their internships.” •
An Intimate Approach to ‘Distance’

Students Experience Altruism and Growth in Guatemala

By Peter Carrels

‘Those of us in health care have a social responsibility. Not only did we want to expose our students to a different culture, we wanted to infuse that experience with a mission-oriented trip so our students could actually use the skills they are learning to help the people in that culture.’

– Lana Svien, Ph.D., Chair, USD Department of Physical Therapy
The idea of annually sending students from the School of Health Sciences to faraway Guatemala to help needy residents there was inspired by a service trip Dr. Lana Svien and two physical therapy students took to Israel in April, 2006. Svien, chair of the physical therapy department, was a staunch advocate for student trips abroad. She understood the advantages of such trips, including the educational, maturation and service components. To amplify the benefits for her students journeying to Israel, Svien partnered with a university in Israel and with Hope Haven, an Iowa-based service organization that specializes in providing mobility assistance to individuals with disabilities.

“It was such a positive experience,” recalled Dr. Svien, “that we decided to do more such trips.”

Guatemala was an ideal choice as a destination for additional service trips because Svien had already traveled there as part of her work with Sharing the Dream, an ambitious fair-trade project that aims to reduce poverty in Guatemala by connecting craftspeople and artisans in that country with commercial opportunities through a specialized shop in Vermillion, South Dakota. Plus, she had already established a relationship with Hope Haven, and that organization needed skilled assistance advancing its charitable work in Guatemala.

So, in August 2006, Svien traveled to that Central American nation with a small group of PT students to help residents needing wheelchairs. One of Hope Haven’s niches is rehabilitating wheelchairs and matching them with needy local people unable to otherwise afford or obtain such a device. Svien and the PT students then helped teach residents how to use the wheelchairs.

It was the beginning of a rewarding, decade-long relationship that continues to grow and benefit students in the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Dakota. Svien arranged and managed the annual visits, and gradually expanded student work from physical therapy involving wheelchairs to a variety of other health care applications. Now students from the areas of dental hygiene, physician assistant, occupational therapy, the school of medicine, addiction studies and nursing are making trips to Guatemala. And Svien is working closely with leadership and faculty in other departments to broaden beneficial experiences for students. She is also working with officials in Guatemala to provide new, needed services for Guatemalans.

The trips are typically week-long and involve spending that time in a rural, medically unserved region of the country. Svien and the students raise their own funds to underwrite each trip, a practice that continues. About 10 students, sometimes more, undertake each expedition, and it usually takes place during spring break. Faculty accompany students to provide mentorship and supervision. All participants are inspired by the unique and dramatically different conditions and people they encounter.

“We prefer visiting areas that most visitors or tourists don’t see,” said Svien. “These are mostly Mayan communities and areas.” Although she carefully screens accommodations and service areas to assure safety for students and faculty, conditions are typically spartan and basic. And there is never a shortage of meaningful work for the visitors from USD. When a village clinic or local officials inform local residents that USD health

continued on page 8
Guatemala
A Fascinating, Beautiful Nation in Need

Guatemala, with 15.8 million people, is the most populous nation in Central America. A representative democracy steers its government, and the capital and largest city is Guatemala City.

Situated in a mostly forested, mountainous region, the land occupied by Guatemala once formed the core of Mayan civilization. Most of the country was conquered by Spain in the 16th century. Guatemala attained independence in 1821 as part of the Federal Republic of Central America, which dissolved in 1841.

From the mid-19th century to recent times, Guatemala has experienced numerous dictatorships and social unrest. A bloody civil war lasted from 1960 to 1996, but more recently the nation has slowly stabilized its economy and held democratic elections, though it continues to face severe challenges.

USD Health Sciences students and faculty have been aiding Guatemalans in the area surrounding Lake Atitlan for the last 10 years.
This nation measures about 42 million acres in size, roughly the same area as that part of South Dakota lying west of the Missouri River. Though much of Guatemala would be considered “rural” it is heavily populated compared to South Dakota, with a population density of some 348 people per square mile. South Dakota has only 11 people per square mile.

Despite possessing the largest economy in Central America, half of Guatemala’s population lives in poverty. The country’s per capita income is less than $2,800, and the unemployment rate – though difficult to specify – is dauntingly high.

Guatemala has a larger proportion of Amerindians in its total population than any other Central American country. Persons of mixed Amerindian and Spanish ancestry constitute more than half the population. There are at least 22 separate Mayan groups, each with its own language.

An abundance of biologically significant and unique ecosystems are found in Guatemala. The landscape includes more than 30 volcanoes – some active – majestically rising above the countryside and towns. Guatemala is also known for its rich and distinct culture, which fuses Spanish and indigenous influences. Because of its consistently pleasant, temperate climate, Guatemala has been called the “Land of Eternal Spring.”
South Dakotan HEALTH care volunteers will be visiting to help, there is an excitement that ripples through the area, and residents are ready to take advantage of the opportunity.

“We can see people walking down mountain footpaths to visit us,” related Dr. Julie Johnson, a physician and assistant professor with the USD physician assistant program, and a recent volunteer in Guatemala. Dr. Johnson described serving one local clinic where more than 100 patients showed up through a long day. “Our visit had been publicized, and we had more patients than we could handle, but we saw everyone that day,” recalled Johnson.

Students and faculty now make house-calls, visiting patients in small, primitive dwellings with dirt floors and tin roofs.

“The people we visit live simple lives, with simple wants,” explained Lana Svien. “But they are very happy people, and their lives revolve around their families. They are warm and kind to us, and sincerely appreciative about our visits.”

Dr. Johnson described working with locals who have never known pain relief. “They have dealt with pain issues all their lives, and never knew any different,” she explained. “And they didn’t complain.” Johnson’s treatments caused great excitement; the reduction or elimination of pain was viewed as almost miraculous.

“The people are so grateful for what we do,” Svien beamed. “They pray over us. They bless us. They touch our foreheads, look to the heavens, and thank God for sending us to them.”

“My time in Guatemala over spring break was an amazing learning experience, both culturally and clinically,” said student Alex Sherlock. Sherlock, who has since graduated from the USD physician assistant program, added that he encountered unusual cases including cleft palates, Guillain-Barre syndrome, cerebral palsy, and Bells palsy, that he might never encounter again. “Due to language and cultural barriers,” recalled Sherlock, “it was necessary to adapt to the situation in order to get a history and physical exam accomplished. Having now learned that ability of building rapport using non-verbal communication will benefit me in the future and make me a better and well-rounded provider. I consider that trip to be the highlight of my PA school experience.”

Svien is particularly excited at the interdisciplinary opportunities now happening as students from numerous health care fields interact to provide care to Guatemalans. “This has become an interprofessional experience for our students,” said Svien. “It is an added feature that boosts the value of each trip.”

The future for this important educational activity appears bright, as USD continues to cultivate deeper relationships with organizations like Hope Haven, Guatemalan universities and schools, and others in the country.

“We’re planning to expand our schedule to two trips per year,” said Svien. “The advantages of these trips is so apparent. Many of our students have never experienced a different culture before, so that is a definite educational benefit. But so are the health care experiences, and so are the opportunities to do positive work for wonderful people who need it.”

Health Care in Guatemala

Health coverage for Guatemalans is mostly sub-standard, with up to 40 percent of the population tested by poor access to health care services. Transportation deficiencies are part of the problem. Another is the ratio of doctors to population is one to 1,000. In the United States that ratio is 1 to 400. A bigger problem is that 70 percent of Guatemala’s doctors reside in Guatemala City, leaving large parts of the country without physicians. It is estimated that the country’s most rural and poorest areas have a physician-to-population ratio measuring one to tens-of-thousands. Notable shortages of other health care professionals, hospitals and clinics also exist for much of the nation. Malnutrition and inadequate housing and sanitation contribute to the nation’s health problems.
New OT/PT Research Laboratory and Classrooms to Open Soon

A teaching and research facility for USD occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) students and faculty will soon open in the new Sanford Coyote Sports Center, adjacent to the DakotaDome on the USD campus in Vermillion. The facility is part of the center’s Sports Performance and Enhancement Facility and the adjoining Science, Health and Research Laboratory section of the complex. OT and PT will join the university’s Kinesiology and Sports Sciences and Sports Medicine programs in the new, $66 million athletic and health sciences facility. The shared science spaces will allow for new collaborative, interprofessional opportunities. Centerpiece of the expansive facility is a 6,000-seat sports arena. The Science, Health and Research Lab portion of the new structure covers nearly 59,000 square feet.

The Sanford Coyote Sports Center was made possible by the University of South Dakota Foundation’s Onward Campaign.

Bass Leads MSW Program

Kelly Bass, DSW, MSW, is the new MSW program director for the Department of Social Work. Bass, who recently earned his DSW (doctorate in social work) from the University of Tennessee, blends practice and academic experience in social work. He comes to USD from Presentation College, Aberdeen, South Dakota.
USD Nursing Plays Vital Role in International Rural Nursing Conference

Rural health care advocates from 35 states and nine countries gathered July 19-21, 2016 in Rapid City to attend and contribute to the International Rural Nursing Conference. Attendance exceeded 250, dramatically surpassing expectations. A special emphasis of the conference was describing, examining and proposing solutions for the unmet nursing and health care needs in rural areas and on Native American reservations.

Primary sponsors for the event included nursing programs at the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University, the Rural Nursing Organization and the Matson Halverson Christiansen Hamilton Foundation (MHCH). MHCH, a South Dakota-based foundation interested in enhancing rural health care and economies, also provided the funding necessary to convene the conference.

Conference planners spent almost two years organizing the gathering, and they indicated it was a triumphant event. USD nursing’s involvement was instrumental in that success.

“Hosting the international rural nursing conference in South Dakota was a rare opportunity for South Dakota nurses to come together in their own backyard with nurses from around the world to discuss the challenges, opportunities and strengths of rural nurses to contribute fully to the health of rural communities,” said Dr. Carla Dieter, recently retired as chair of nursing at the University of South Dakota, and now professor emeritus of nursing at that institution. She helped plan the conference.

Corey Kilgore, MHCH executive director, also spent many hours on the conference planning committee organizing the gathering. She echoed Dieter’s thoughts about the conference. “It was a huge success,” said Kilgore. “We accomplished all our objectives. USD nursing was extremely helpful and vital in that achievement.”

According to Kilgore, a conference highlight was hearing from Dr. Donald Warne, one of five keynote speakers at the conference. Warne, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe from the Pine Ridge Reservation and chair of the department of public health at North Dakota State University, addressed the topic of “historical trauma,” and how this condition includes a combination of circumstances – including 500 years of oppression and suffering – that impacts existing health conditions on Native American reservations.

“Dr. Warne’s solution to historical trauma,” explained Kilgore, “revolves around a so-called balance wheel. This balance wheel involves treating Native American patients in a holistic way, and being cognizant of historic trauma as a part of a treatment plan. This is vital information for nurses serving Native American populations.”

It is well understood that nurses are integral in providing health care to rural citizens. It is also well understood that the health care needs of rural areas requires nurses who have received relevant training and preparation.

“Nurses are on the frontline of rural health care,” said Haifa A. Samra, Ph.D., interim chair of USD nursing. “We must prepare nurses for the conditions they will encounter in their practice, and that includes both urban and rural settings.”

USD nursing’s presence at the conference was notable, with 15 faculty and seven students in attendance, and nine faculty and two students presenting research and practice projects related to rural nursing.

“More than ever,” explained Samra, “our nurses need to have the most evidence-based education to deal with conditions like an aging population with complex diagnoses. USD nursing is working to ensure our faculty are preparing our graduates for the nursing workforce issues and demands they will face.”
First Graduate of MPH Program

In August 2016, Michaela Sieber became the first person to earn a master’s degree in public health from this new program offered jointly by South Dakota State University and the School of Health Sciences at USD. Sieber is from Sisseton, South Dakota, and is an enrolled tribal member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. She began her studies in the MPH program at USD in January 2015.

During her MPH studies Sieber participated in research analyzing outcomes and other information regarding out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in South Dakota from 2013 to 2015. Her special interests in health care are Native American health disparities as well as health issues in the LGBT community.

Sieber has decided to continue her academic studies and preparation. She is now enrolled in the new health sciences Ph.D. at USD.

Physician Assistant Program Garners National Recognition

The physician assistant (PA) program at the University of South Dakota ranks 12th out of 154 PA programs in the nation for the percentage of its graduates practicing in rural locations. The national Rural Health Research and Policy Center recently announced this recognition, adding that 37 percent of USD’s PA graduates are practicing in communities with fewer than 10,000 people.

The PA profession emerged in the United States in the 1970s as a critical aspect of a solution aiming to increase access to expert health care providers for people living in rural areas. USD’s PA program started in 1993, and it has produced 413 physician assistants.
Dustin Little (right), assists Denver Broncos football player Vance Walker.

Photo by Eric Bakke, Denver Broncos
Dustin Little’s Big-League Plan
Graduate of PT program helps heal injured NFL football players

By Peter Carrels

An inherent disadvantage in being a small town sports star is that you will inevitably be compared to your counterparts in larger communities. Yeah, that kid can do okay in Castlewood, but what would happen to him if he lived in Sioux Falls? Compensating for this narrow viewpoint helps the successful athlete from a diminutive high school cultivate a realistic, can-do attitude.

Dustin Little (’09 B.B.A., ’12 D.P.T.) was that small town star. And he played for the Castlewood (South Dakota) Warriors as a multi-sport stand-out. Castlewood, population 610, is located a dozen miles south and east of Watertown, South Dakota. Dustin’s 2004 senior class contained 25 students, and total enrollment at Castlewood High School that year was 86.

For Little, there were high school accolades aplenty, and then came an impressive career playing basketball for the USD Coyotes. Little so enjoyed the four-year collegiate basketball experience that he added another year as a Coyote, playing wide-receiver on the football team during his fifth season of Division I eligibility. His brother, Brooks Little, also a wide-receiver, holds the Coyotes’ record for career receptions. During his college basketball career Little was twice named an academic all-star.

Despite significant athletic successes and local notoriety Dustin Little understood early on that if he were to make it to the big leagues of any sport he’d probably need to do it in some capacity other than as an on-court or on-field competitor.

“The dream to pursue a career in physical therapy was something I started having while I was still in high school,” Little recalled. “Like most athletes I experienced injuries and needed physical therapy. That exposure had me thinking about the profession’s advantages. I liked the idea of helping people, and also staying engaged in sports. My goal became rather specific. I wanted to work as a physical
therapist for a professional sports team. I also knew a guy from a small town in South Dakota who became a trainer in the NFL. That reinforced the idea that such a career was achievable.”

As a USD freshman Little enrolled in a class schedule heavy with science, and his specific aim was to emphasize courses that would prepare him for the physical therapy curriculum. But he changed his major to business management, believing that learning about business would aid his future success as a therapist. This was the type of careful planning that came to characterize Little’s career development. After earning his undergraduate degree in business Little gained acceptance to USD’s physical therapy program.

By 2012, he’d completed a doctorate degree in PT that included a beneficial nine-week clinical experience. Another carefully calculated educational pursuit and accomplishment followed, when he secured a master’s degree in athletic training at South Dakota State University. “Some people questioned the sequence of degrees I pursued,” remembered Little, noting the fact that he earned a doctorate in PT before a master’s in athletic training. “But that sequence made sense to me, and for my plans.”

In between semesters of the athletic trainer curriculum he participated in a rigorous five-week internship with the Denver Broncos. Little approached the short, focused stint like it was an extended job interview, pouring his time and energy into the position. It was his first taste of top-level athletic conditioning and therapy, and he knew he’d dreamed the right dream.

When Little finished the athletic trainer program at SDSU, the culmination of a demanding and deliberate educational regimen that had started in Vermillion almost eight years earlier, he felt he was finally ready to seek employment with a professional football organization. He sent inquiries and resumes to many teams in the NFL, and several weeks later, on the very same day offers arrived from the Buffalo Bills and the Denver Broncos.

‘Dustin was consistently passionate about athletics during his time in the PT program, excelling in the musculoskeletal and sports courses in the curriculum.’
– Lana Svien, Chair of Physical Therapy department

‘USD prepared me to be a professional. I was taught to be committed to my profession.’
– Dustin Little
NFL players and teams face a formidable number of injuries, including serious injuries that result in missed starts and long absences. This circumstance has motivated NFL teams to increasingly emphasize fitness and conditioning as well as the quality of the medical teams working with players.

- Between 2000 and 2014 there were 30,186 injury reports filed by the NFL’s 32 teams. This led to players missing 51,596 weeks of the regular season.
- Average injury = 1.71 weeks missed.
- Knee injuries are the most common injury, and, on average, require the most recovery time.
- 2000 to 2014 = More than 4,500 knee injuries, including 450 ACL injuries.
- ACL injuries require, on average, 10.5 weeks for recovery.
- Surprisingly, 61 percent of NFL players in a given year will not miss playing time because of injury.
- On any given week during the regular season there are approximately 1,696 rostered players in the NFL.

Little decided the Broncos were a better fit. He already knew or had met many of the medical team, coaches and players there. He liked the organization, its professionalism, and its overarching emphasis on teamwork. Denver was also closer to South Dakota than Buffalo, and he and his wife wanted to be nearer their families.

In 2013 Little began his duties as a physical therapist with the Broncos, and he was quickly able to demonstrate his competence. More responsibilities were soon offered, and Little became director of rehabilitation, the position he now holds.

“I facilitate the treatment programs for the players, and communicate with the head athletic trainer regarding each player’s treatment program,” explained Little, adding that he serves as part of a group of health care providers who function as a closely knit group.

“We’re a staff, a team, and we work together to make some really difficult decisions about players. We discuss injuries and recovery plans, and these decisions aren’t made hastily. Our decisions include many variables, and they are always made based on what’s best for the players and the team.”

On game days Little joins his health care colleagues on the sidelines, closely watching how recovering players perform, checking on players with new injuries, and assisting players needing attention. Occasionally he must come to the aid of a player injured and needing assistance on the field.

“There are lots of injuries – major and minor – during a professional football game,” Little explained. “These are certainly superb athletes with amazing athleticism, but the game is so fast and the players are so big and strong. We give the best treatment to every

“There are lots of injuries – major and minor – during a professional football game. These are superb athletes with amazing athleticism, but the game is so fast and the players are so big and strong.’

– Dustin Little
player who needs treatment and care.”

Because of the everyday association he has with Denver Broncos players Little develops close relationships with many players. “These guys are more than football players, they’re really good people,” said Little. “I realize many fans hold them up as heroes, and some fans are star-struck, but I’ve come to view the players as regular guys and as friends. Sure, they’re special athletes, but once you get to know them you realize most of them are down-to-earth people.”

At the NFL level, Little added, everyone who is part of a franchise is constantly working hard to get better at their contribution to the team. “One of the things that most impresses me about the Broncos,” he explained, “is the team orientation that is evident from the ownership level to the coaches and players and to the staff. One of the reasons the Broncos is such a successful football team is because they are a successful organization that emphasizes the concept of teamwork. That is one of the reasons I enjoy being part of this organization.”

To navigate the road from Castlewood, South Dakota to Vermillion, South Dakota and on to Denver’s Sports Authority Field and the NFL’s Broncos required persistence, patience and preparation. “I made many calculated decisions to get to this place,” Dustin Little explained. “I also had great support from my family, especially my wife, and I had excellent training.”

Little refers to his education at USD and the Department of Physical Therapy as foundational in his success. “USD prepared me to be a professional,” said Little. “I was taught...
During Dustin Little’s education at USD he experienced a nine-week clinical experience supervised by a physical therapist named Steve Young that greatly influenced his career. Young, a former Coyote football player and a USD PT graduate, is a physical therapist in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

“Steve Young was a significant mentor for me, a role model,” said Dustin Little. “He’s a skilled physical therapist, and I learned certain therapy techniques from Steve that I use to this day.”

Young, who received B.S. and M.S. degrees from USD in 2001 and 2003, was a member of the Coyote football squad from 1996 to 2000. He clearly recalls his experience with Little. “Dustin had a definite vision for what he wanted to do, and he was always asking questions, and he was always wanting to learn more. It was a joy to watch someone with a hunger to work hard to get better in this profession.”

Young’s work with the renowned Gray Institute – in 2009 he became a Fellow of Applied Functional Science through a 40-week program – translated into big benefits for Dustin Little. “Steve’s work with the institute, and the connections he made were very helpful in my learning process,” Little explained. Steve Young said the two men continue to speak about PT matters.

“It is terrific that Dustin fulfilled his dream to work in the NFL,” Young said. “He shared that ambitious goal with me when we first met, and it impressed me that he knew what he wanted, even though it was quite ambitious. It was exciting to watch him apply himself to accomplish that objective. He is a lifelong learner, so he’ll continue to improve his skills. He has a bright future.”

to be committed to the profession. I was taught to always be the best PT I can be. Because of that I’ll never stop learning, and that means I’ll never stop getting better at what I do.”

Lana Svien, Ph.D., is chair of the physical therapy department at USD. She and other faculty recognized Little’s strong motivations and aspirations as a student. “Dustin was consistently passionate about athletics during his time in the PT program, excelling in the musculoskeletal and sports courses in the curriculum,” recalled Svien. “His goal to be a sports PT solidified when our Director of Clinical Education, Joy Karges, was able to arrange Dustin’s last clinical education internship in 2012 with a focus on outpatient orthopedics and sports.”

The future for Dustin Little is fueled – unsurprisingly – by spirited ambition, and an ongoing focus on more study and training.

“I’m grateful to be here, with the Broncos,” Little noted. “I want to keep growing, and I need to keep improving in this field. My aim is to be the best physical therapist I can be, and eventually I want to be a head athletic trainer at an NFL team.”
Fort Thompson, South Dakota is only 220 miles from Vermillion and the USD campus, but it exists as a distinctly different environment. With a median family income of less than $10,000, 65 percent of Fort Thompson’s approximately 1,400 residents live below the poverty line. This is a community where more than 20 percent of the homes are both overcrowded and do not have a kitchen or plumbing. Located in south central South Dakota along the Missouri River and on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation, Fort Thompson’s population is 96 percent Native American.

For the second consecutive summer, students and faculty from the School of Health Sciences and the School of Medicine participated in the Wiconi Yuonihan (Respect Life) Health Fair at Fort Thompson, South Dakota.

Sponsored by the Indian Health Service, the health fair promotes wellness and disease prevention to residents of the Crow Creek Reservation.

In 2016, USD was represented by students and advisors from social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, and dental hygiene programs, as well as the school of medicine. Tests such as blood pressure, grip strength, and balance were administered to area residents.
South Dakota’s Interprofessional Efforts Recognized

The National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education recently recognized South Dakota’s interprofessional organization (South Dakota Interprofessional Practice and Education Collaborative, or SD IPEC) for projects and efforts to expand and increase interprofessional health care in the state.

SD IPEC was one of only five winners from across the nation.

The University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences has been a primary leader to organize and implement interprofessional projects and interprofessional health care in South Dakota.

SD IPEC promotes a health care environment that endorses interprofessional competencies that support and help accomplish the goals of the triple aim. The triple aim identifies enhancing patient experiences, improving patient outcomes and reducing health care costs as principle and meaningful health care objectives.

The SD-IPEC aspires to become a regional, national, and international model aligning interprofessional education with clinical practice to achieve the triple aim.

Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, is co-editor of a special publication titled “Perspectives on Pain Neuroscience Education.” The publication came out in print as part of the journal Physiotherapy Theory and Practice, Volume 32 (5), 2016.

Zimney’s interest and work in biopsychosocial approaches to pain care is especially important in today’s pervasive climate of relying on drug treatments – particularly opioids – to manage pain. A serious consequence of that approach – reliance on using drugs to treat pain – is that it can lead to drug addiction and significant social problems. Zimney’s work at the university’s School of Health Sciences includes teaching about and researching pain and treatments for pain.

“Perspectives on Pain Neuroscience Education” includes articles by scientists and researchers from the United States, Canada, Belgium and South Africa. Zimney’s co-editors are Dr. Adriann Louw and Dr. Louie Puentedura.

According to Zimney, pain neuroscience education is a patient-centered educational approach to reducing pain and suffering by emphasizing understanding and limiting fear.

The School of Health Sciences is using an interprofessional approach to circulate and present Zimney’s work and his ideas and thinking across disciplinary lines within the school. This reflects a school-wide philosophy aimed at sharing educational information that benefits both students and the overall health care industry, including patients.

‘Dr. Zimney’s research is a great step forward in understanding alternative ways to manage pain beyond opioid medication and stemming the cycle of addictive drug use.’

– Frank Zavadil, M.A., L.A.C., Chair, USD Department of Addiction Studies
The dental hygiene profession in South Dakota is relatively young. Though the nation’s first formal curriculum aimed at training dental hygienists was established in 1913, a dental hygiene degree-granting program did not open its doors at the University of South Dakota until 1967. That means the department will celebrate its 50-year anniversary next year, in 2017.

This is a field that, once firmly rooted during its earliest years of existence, grew rapidly. Educational programs for dental hygienists existed at only 18 institutions during the 1949/1950 school year, and that year those programs yielded 529 graduates. Fifteen years later there were 53 programs and 1,491 dental hygiene graduates.

South Dakota and many surrounding states developed dental hygiene programs later than the rest of the country. Until 1961 – when a program was organized at Idaho State University – no dental hygiene program existed in the Dakotas, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Nebraska, Kansas or Utah, an expansive and contiguous chunk of the nation. In 1960 just seven women from South Dakota applied to one of the nation’s existing dental hygiene programs, and only three were admitted.

The following year a group of South Dakota dentists asked University of South Dakota president I. D. Weeks to investigate the feasibility of starting a
In October 1961, a questionnaire sponsored by the South Dakota Dental Association was sent to all of the state’s 296 dentists. More than half the surveys were filled out and returned. A healthy share of the respondents – 61 percent – indicated they would hire college-trained dental hygienists if they were available, and 73 percent favored the creation of a dental hygiene educational course in the state.

The dental organization then set out to identify which South Dakota university or college would be the best one to create and manage such an undertaking. Because of its extensive health care degrees and courses, including a medical school, it was decided that USD should be the location of the state’s dental hygiene program.

Approved by the South Dakota Board of Regents in 1966, the dental hygiene department at USD was formally organized, equipped and staffed for a modest opening in fall of the following year, and the state legislature appropriated $20,000 to launch the program. A two-year curriculum – an associate of arts degree program in dental hygiene – was developed including studies in the liberal arts, basic sciences, dental sciences and clinical practice. Completion of that two-year course would allow graduates to seek licensure in the state.

The school’s first class of students received instruction from two full-time faculty (each was a dental hygienist) and three part-time faculty who were all full-time practicing dentists. Rooms in venerable East Hall on the Vermillion campus would be remodeled into classrooms, but until those new, permanent quarters were finished, program instruction happened in classrooms used by the school of medicine. In 1969 the program’s first graduates were ready to enter the workforce.
For all health professions, the so-called ‘White Coat Ceremony’ signifies an individual’s entry into a professional program and the beginning of a career of service to others. This group of 32 participated in dental hygiene’s White Coat Ceremony in August 2016.

That same year the department received full accreditation, a designation subsequently earned without interruption throughout its half-century history.

The degree originally offered – an associate of arts degree in dental hygiene – was later transitioned to an associate of science degree. In 1971 the dental hygiene department began offering a bachelor of science degree in dental hygiene, and this is the only degree option at USD for today’s professionals.

From the earliest years department enrollment increased steadily and then stabilized. The first group of students – they began the two-year program in 1967 – numbered only 12, and was fondly known by faculty and staff as the “dirty dozen.” Through the first half of the 1970s class size varied between 16 and 20 students, and in 1975 the number reached 30, and since then class size has fluctuated in the 28 to 32 range. Admission to the program has become increasingly competitive. Offices and classrooms for the program have been in East Hall and Dakota Hall since 1967.

The program’s first chair was Sharon Barton, and she directed dental hygiene until 1970. Dr. Darrell Ludeman followed Barton, and his tenure lasted until 1996. Ludeman’s longevity and leadership translated into a number of significant milestones, including directing the program through its first and a number of subsequent accreditations. He also played a critical role in program expansion, when class size grew from 16 to 32, and when clinic size increased from eight exam chairs.

The University of South Dakota School of Dental Hygiene was first imagined by leaders and members of the South Dakota Dental Association. Dentists had come to understand the meaningful health care contributions of dental hygienists, and South Dakota’s dentists also recognized the urgency of encouraging higher education in the state to start a program that prepared these professionals. The decision to locate the new educational program at USD in Vermillion resulted from the university’s more extensive health and health sciences programs, including a medical school.

The profession of dentistry in the United States pre-dates dental hygiene by more than a century. Although the so-called father of modern dentistry – Pierre Fauchard – published his seminal book about teeth and oral surgery in 1723, the dental profession in the United States loosely existed in unregulated fashion until 1883, when a national association of dental examiners was created to unify standards that dentists had to follow in order to practice. Thirty years later the nation’s first program aimed at producing well-trained dental hygienists was opened in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

A backbone of the dental hygiene department is the community clinics and outreach opportunities that allow students to work with patients, gain practical experience, hone their skills and contribute to society.
Dental Hygiene’s Loyal Leaders

There’s something to be said about loyalty to a worthy cause. USD dental hygiene impresses with its faithful faculty and staff, and Ann Brunick epitomizes that strong commitment and allegiance. Brunick has led dental hygiene since 1996, and her appointment as department chair followed 14 years teaching students in the program. The Department of Dental Hygiene is celebrating its 50th anniversary in the same year as Ann Brunick is celebrating 34 years serving the state of South Dakota as part of USD and the Department of Dental Hygiene.

Chair Brunick’s longevity, impressive as it is, doesn’t match another faculty member, however. Beverly Kennedy has taught in the department for 42 years. Kennedy actually earned an A.S. and B.S. in dental hygiene from USD so her history with the program extends into the very early years of the department.

Beverly Kennedy enrolled in the program soon after high school. Kennedy eventually followed in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother as an educator, and her deep interest in teaching and in her students was recognized in 2013 when she was awarded the School of Health Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. Kennedy’s role in the department is fundamental. She has broad expertise and has taught many areas of the curriculum.

Noting Kennedy’s upcoming May 2017 retirement, Chair Brunick observed that “We will not be able to fill Mrs. Kennedy’s shoes.”

Ann Brunick’s interest in dental hygiene started when she was in 7th grade. The Vermillion native described a representative of the USD dental hygiene program visiting her school, and making an impression on her. “It is because of that dental hygiene student that I decided I wanted to become a dental hygienist,” recalled Brunick, many years later. “I was so interested in the field,” added Brunick, “that when I was in high school, about 16 or 17-years old, I asked our family dentist if I could work for him as a dental assistant. And he hired me to work after school! Not only that, but he encouraged me to think about dentistry or hygiene as a career.”

Brunick followed her passion, earning an associate degree in dental hygiene at USD before transferring to the University of Minnesota. She worked as a hygienist in the Twin Cities while earning a B.S. degree in dental hygiene education. Following graduation in Minneapolis she immediately returned to Vermillion and took a position teaching at the USD dental hygiene program. During her earliest years as an instructor at the school she spent her summers working as a hygienist. A few years after commencing to teach she decided to return to school as a student to gain a master’s degree. At the time there were only four such programs in the country, and one of them was at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, so in the fall of 1985 Brunick moved for a semester to Kansas City to start her graduate curriculum. After that opening semester she returned to Vermillion, resumed full-time teaching at the dental hygiene department, and continued full-time student status, as well. She became engaged in what she called “genuine distance education,” returning every other week to Kansas City for a short visit to consult with faculty and her graduate committee. It was the third dental hygiene degree she would achieve.

“I was able to earn the highest degree offered in my field,” she later explained. As of 2016, there are no doctorate programs in dental hygiene.

When she assumed department chair responsibilities in 1996 she continued teaching a full complement of courses to dental hygiene students. That commitment – to teaching and leadership – continues to this day. Her busy, demanding life is rewarded by the satisfactions of her work and the accomplishments of her students. “I’m most proud of the work of our faculty,” she said.

“We’ve worked as a cohesive team for many years.”

A 4th edition of a dental hygiene textbook Brunick co-authored was released in 2014, marking 15 years that the book had been used as an important teaching tool. Originally published in 1999, and titled Handbook of Nitrous Oxide Oxygen Sedation, Brunick’s publication has been relied on at dental hygiene and dental schools around the country and the world.

To honor her accomplished scholarship, enthusiasm and leadership in her chosen field, the University of Missouri, Kansas City recognized Brunick in 2013 as a distinguished alumni.

“I am humbled,” wrote Brunick about the award, “to acknowledge that my goal to become a respected dental hygiene educator has been achieved.”

Loyalty and leadership in the department extends beyond that demonstrated by Brunick and Kennedy. There are other faculty who have a significant tenure of 10 to more than 20 years. “Many people have contributed to the professional reputation of the department,” said Brunick. “We are fortunate to have such dedicated and committed faculty and staff who have the best interests of the students, patients and the university at heart.”
In 2016-2017 Ann Brunick is serving as chair of the American Dental Education Association’s Council of Allied Dental Program Directors administrative board. ADEA is the voice of dental education in the United States and Canada, including dental schools and allied dental education programs. The organization has existed since 1923. Brunick’s selection and position reflects her respected standing in the national dental education community.
to 16. It was Dr. Ludeman who helped the program quickly recover from a significant cost cut in 1988 that was imposed by the president of USD.

Leadership and faculty have proven to be loyal in the long-term and passionate about the program. Current chair Ann Brunick, M.S., had been on the faculty for 14 years when she assumed chair status in 1996. The Vermillion native has helped build the program into a highly respected institution producing graduates who are valued in the health care field. Today’s department includes five full-time and eight part-time faculty, six people working administratively, and two emeriti professors.

Community service has figured prominently in the department’s curriculum for many years, and students are afforded a wealth of learning-service options including community clinics and outreach opportunities that allow them to hone their skills, gain experience and contribute to society. In addition to working in the school’s dental hygiene clinics in Vermillion (started in 1977) and Sioux Falls (opened in 2008) that welcome the public, dental hygiene students are able to offer services in an array of special settings, such as schools, day care facilities, nursing homes, the South Dakota Development Center in Redfield, South Dakota, and to inmates in the state’s prisons. Students can also perform oral cancer screenings and present to groups about oral health topics.

In public clinics in Sioux Falls and Vermillion dental hygiene students work and learn under close supervision of licensed dentists and hygienists. Services such as dental exams, limited restorative services, X-rays, teeth cleaning, nutritional counselling, fluoride treatments, denture care and many others, are available at reduced prices and performed by licensed dentists. The Sioux Falls clinic occupies space in a downtown

The many outreach clinics staffed by USD Dental Hygiene students helps the South Dakota Oral Health Plan meet its goals. This ambitious plan brings together a variety of entities, organizations, institutions and individuals in the state to improve the oral health of all South Dakotans, including those who reside in underserved areas as well as those who have limited financial means.

Starting in fall 2016 the dental hygiene department is offering a convenient path for dental hygienists possessing an associate degree in dental hygiene to obtain a B.S. in dental hygiene. This is an online program designed to allow working hygienists to concurrently work and take classes. Interested hygienists are encouraged to contact the Department of Dental Hygiene.
Clinical rotations for students in the state’s penitentiaries began in 1977 at the main inmate facility in Sioux Falls. Rotations at prisons in Yankton and Springfield followed. Students providing dental hygiene services in these facilities are supervised by USD Dental Hygiene faculty with Department of Corrections’ training.

Students also have opportunities to serve at Indian Health Service (IHS) clinics and in tribal dental clinics on Native American reservations and in the South Dakota communities of Sisseton, Ft. Thompson, Kyle, Rapid City, Wagner, St. Francis, Eagle Butte and Rosebud, and also in Winnebago, Nebraska.

“The clinical experiences embedded within the curriculum,” explained Ann Brunick, “have a profound impact on both the personal and professional development of our students. Our students graduate as knowledgeable, competent, primary health care professionals as well as mature, compassionate, respectful individuals who are willing to improve the health of all people. They are well prepared to be successful in the professional workforce.”

The many outreach clinics staffed by USD Dental Hygiene students helps the South Dakota Oral Health Plan meet its goals. This ambitious plan brings together a variety of entities, organizations, institutions and individuals in the state to improve the oral health of all South Dakotans, including those who reside in under served areas as well as those who have limited financial means.

Today’s dental hygienists are called on to do far more than clean teeth. They are also expected to engage patients and the public in matters of preventative, educational and clinical matters. New technologies have grown the field, and have made it easier for hygienists to extend their careers. Employment opportunities are projected to grow dramatically in the next decade. Some of that is due to the fact that research continues to provide compelling evidence that general health is closely linked to oral health. Dental hygienists will continue to be relied on to provide protective and preventative dental services, and the Department of Dental Hygiene at the University of South Dakota will continue to prepare highly educated, public-spirited professionals to provide the care that is needed.

Dental Hygiene Faculty Teaches South Dakota Dental Professionals, Too

Because South Dakota does not have a dental school, the dental hygiene department is relied on by the South Dakota Board of Dentistry and the citizens of South Dakota to regularly provide continuing education opportunities for the state’s dentists, dental assistants and hygienists. These classes are offered by faculty at the USD campus, and also at locations around South Dakota. In 2016 a unique partnership between the department and the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry has been created and will offer continuing education classes together. The partnership was aided by Nebraska’s dental dean, Dr. Janet Guthmiller, a graduate of USD’s dental hygiene program.
Thank You for your generosity and for many new scholarships

We are deeply grateful to benefit from so much heartfelt generosity that has in recent months expanded existing scholarships or created new scholarships. Our hardworking students earn scholarships to help keep them focused on their studies. Here is an incomplete list of new scholarships benefitting students in the School of Health Sciences:

**Dean of Health Sciences Student Enrichment Fund**
Supports students in addiction studies and nursing with preference for Native American students.

**Shelly & John Aesoph Dental Hygiene Scholarship Endowment**
Preference is for South Dakota natives enrolled as dental hygiene majors. Second preference is for dental hygiene majors, irrespective of home state. A student who is a recipient one year is eligible for consideration in any other year.

**Orval J. Weegar Nursing Scholarship Endowment**
Some criteria are still being developed for this scholarship, though preference shall be given to graduates of Parker (South Dakota) High School. This scholarship is intended to assist students enrolled in the USD nursing program.

**Scott and Julia Jones Scholarship**
Candidates are undergraduates in dental hygiene or pre-dental. Preferences include graduates of T. F. Riggs High School, Pierre, South Dakota.

**Goodcare Rehab LLC Physical Therapy Scholarship Current Fund**
Recipients must be South Dakota residents who are students in good standing in the physical therapy department.

**Goodcare Rehab LLC Occupational Therapy Scholarship Current Fund**
Recipients must be South Dakota residents who are students in good standing in the occupational therapy department.

**A.R.C.H. Scholarship Current Fund**
Students enrolled or accepted in the nursing department and committed to working at Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center following graduation are eligible for this scholarship.

School of Health Sciences Hosts Alumni Event in Rapid City

Alumni, faculty, students and staff of the University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences gathered at the Journey Museum in Rapid City on July 14, 2016. The annual event was hosted by USD alumni Troy and Brenda Kilpatrick and included discussion of nursing and other School of Health Sciences’ degree programs offered in Rapid City.
Recent Health Sciences Awards, Honors, Publications and Presentations

Student Awards

Abbing, Caitlin – (Vermillion NURS, BSN) – Academic Excellence
Babbe, Catherine (Vermillion NURS, BSN) – Certificate of Completion for the Pathway to Innovation Research, Mentored Research
Barber, Jennifer (Sioux Falls NURS, BSN) – Academic Excellence & Clinical Excellence
Barber, Laura (PT) – Distinguished Academic Achievement Award; Lee Hisek Memorial Award
Bartscher, Rachel (DH) – Southeastern District Dental Society Scholarship
Bentz, Monica (DH) – Dr. Peter R. Thraen Department Service Award
Berry, Brandon (PA) – Faithe Family Scholarship
Bice, Katherine (SOCW) – Helen Anderson Quirk Scholarship
Bierman, Francies (Rapid City NURS, AS) – Student Leadership
Bills, Brock (PT) – Distinguished Academic Achievement Award
Blackwell, Marissa (PT) – Sanford Hospital VanDemark Scholarship
Bretschneider, Joseph (PA) – Faithe Family Scholarship
Brewer-Nysven, Rainy Dawn (ADS) – Faithe Fellowship Scholarship
Bryant, Dacey (NURS, AS, Pierre) – Student Leadership
Buescher, Matt (OT) – Dorothy Anne Elsberry Scholarship
Burditt, Britain (Vermillion NURS, BSN) – Academic Excellence
Canada, Holly (DHi) – Outstanding USD DHII Student Award
Cavin, Rebecca (DH) – Dr. Peter R. Thraen Department Service Award; Colgate STAR Award
Chrisopulos, Joshua (PA) – Faithe Family Scholarship; Doctor Hays Memorial Scholarship
Crook, Krista (OT) – Sanford Hospital VanDemark Scholarship
DeGeest, Jamie (Rapid City NURS, BSN) – Academic Excellence
Duffel, Allysha (SOCW) – Elizabeth King Booth Scholarship
Ebke, Whitney (PT) – Distinguished Academic Achievement Award
Fluth, Nicole (OT) – 2016-2017 Leadership Education Excellence in Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Related Disabilities Traineeship
Foster, Autumn Marie (ADS) – Faithe Fellowship Scholarship
Freeman, LaKenya (Rapid City NURS, BSN) – Clinical Excellence
Garness, Robert (Rapid City NURS, BSN) – Clinical Excellence
Goetsch, Lauren (SOCW) – Elizabeth King Booth Scholarship
Goetsch, Lauren (SOCW) – Elizabeth King Booth Scholarship
Grego, Karsi (Rapid City NURS, BSN) – Academic Excellence
Griese, Kellee (DH) – Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society Membership
Haeder, Emily (SOCW) – Elizabeth King Booth Scholarship
Hauff, Jessica (Sioux Falls NURS, BSN) – Academic Excellence
Haugen, Brianna (SOCW) – Helen Anderson Quirk Scholarship
Haugen, Brianna, Warne, Karlie, Junkman, Kori, Larson, Savanna, and Bankston, Garrett – (Vermillion BSSW) – First Place, Student Poster Competition, 4th Social Work Symposium, University of Memphis
Heath, Abby (DH) – Most improved USD Dental Hygiene Student Award
Heine, Marcia, Ph.D. – The Roy Osborn Lifelong Learner Award; Dr. Lana Swien Visionary Leader Award
Herbert, Lindsey (Vermillion NURS, BSN) – Clinical Excellence
Hill, Jessica (PT) – Betty Donohoe Memorial Scholarship
Hoffman, Jordan (PA) – Faithe Family Scholarship
Hoffman, Rhianna (PT) – Faithe Family Scholarship
Hoffmeyer, Paige (DH) – Dr. Peter R. Thraen Department Service Award
Holbeck, Michelle (OT) – Faithe Family Scholarship
Holbrook, Kate (OT) – 2016-2017 Leadership Education Excellence in Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Related Disabilities Traineeship

2016 Faculty Awards

John Korkow, Ph.D., associate professor in the addiction studies program, received the teaching excellence award. He has not only been an outstanding teacher but also played a key role in new addiction studies courses that provide current, relevant and research-based information.

Haifa Samra, Ph.D., interim chair of USD nursing and associate chair of research and evidence-based practice in the nursing department, was presented with the faculty research achievement award. Samra, who joined the faculty in 2014, has already demonstrated outstanding research success, including helping secure two grants worth $593,000. She is currently involved in seven research projects and has authored six research manuscripts since coming to USD.

Ellie Brooks, Ph.D., associate chair of academics for USD’s nursing program, was given the award for distinguished service. She was recognized for leading an effort to consolidate five USD nursing sites located across the state into a single, unified nursing program. She retired from the nursing program last May.
Addiction Studies Professor Chosen for National Post

Diane Sevening, Ed.D, assistant professor in addiction studies, has been elected president – elect of the National Association of Addiction Professionals (NAADAC). Sevening will serve two years in that position, two years as president and then two years as past president. The NAADAC represents the professional interests of more than 85,000 addiction counselors, educators and other addiction-focused health care professionals in the United States, Canada and other countries.

Sevening has taught at the School of Health Sciences since 1982.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Scholarship/Recognition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunter, Sophie</td>
<td>Sioux Falls NURS, BSN – Clinical Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iwan, Holly (DH)</td>
<td>Scott and Julie Jones Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenkins, Taylar (SOCW)</td>
<td>Helen Anderson Quirk Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jensen, Page (DH)</td>
<td>Stephanie Asheim Young Scholarship; District VII Student Delegate to American Dental Hygiene Association Annual Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson, Wade (PA)</td>
<td>School of Health Sciences Presidents Student Leadership Award</td>
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<td>Joy, Andrea (PT)</td>
<td>Alma C. Sneesby Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirkland, Rebecca (ADS)</td>
<td>National Association for Addiction Professionals minority fellowship for 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Koops, Shaniah (SOCW)</td>
<td>Elizabeth King Booth Scholarship</td>
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<td>Koskovich, Nicole (PT)</td>
<td>Clinical Education Student of the Year Award</td>
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<td>Kost, Amber Rose (ADS)</td>
<td>Faithe Fellowship Scholarship</td>
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<td>Krdzalic, Almir (PA)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Krupinsky, Allyson Taylor (ADS)</td>
<td>Stacey Myers Scholarship; Allen H. Neuharth – For Excellence in Journalism</td>
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<td>Kuhn, Taylor (PT)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Larsh, Shawna (Rapid City NURS, AS)</td>
<td>Academic Excellence; Clinical Excellence</td>
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<td>Larson, Savannah (SOCW)</td>
<td>Elizabeth King Booth Scholarship</td>
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<td>Lee, Margaret (PA)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Lee, Morgan (Vermillion NURS, BSN)</td>
<td>Academic Excellence; Clinical Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less, Christian (DH)</td>
<td>Black Hills District Dental Society Scholarship; Dr. Peter R. Thraen Department Service Award; Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society Membership</td>
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<td>Lickteig, Courtney (Vermillion NURS, BSN)</td>
<td>Clinical Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lipp, Ashley (PA)</td>
<td>Pi Alpha PA Student Honor Society</td>
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<td>Lovro, Clay (PT)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Meyers, Kristine (OT)</td>
<td>Student Achievement Award</td>
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<td>Mikkelsen, Lucas (PA)</td>
<td>Doctor Hays Memorial Scholarship</td>
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<td>Mohr, Allison M (ADS)</td>
<td>Faithe Fellowship Scholarship</td>
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<td>Mullin, Danny (PA)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Murad, Shahad (Sioux Falls NURS, BSN)</td>
<td>Academic Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murden, Mijah (HSC)</td>
<td>Windom Area Hospital Foundation Scholarship</td>
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<td>Nagler, Naomi (Rapid City NURS, BSN)</td>
<td>Student Leadership; Elected resolutions chair for South Dakota Student Nurses Association</td>
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<td>Nelson, Morgan (Vermillion NURS, BSN)</td>
<td>Academic Excellence</td>
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<td>Petterson, Alyssa (PT)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Pritchard, Amy (DH)</td>
<td>Outstanding Student Member of the Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association USD Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice, Rebecca (Sioux Falls NURS, BSN)</td>
<td>Academic Excellence; Leadership Award</td>
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<td>Richter, Michael John (ADS)</td>
<td>Faithe Fellowship Scholarship; John R. Williams Scholarship</td>
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<td>Roemen-Madland, Amanda (DH)</td>
<td>Dr. Peter R. Thraen Department Service Award</td>
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<td>Ross, Stephanie (OT)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Runge, Elizabeth (DH)</td>
<td>Lonna Wallay Jones Scholarship</td>
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<td>Sanchez, Jasmine (ADS)</td>
<td>Lulu B. Wheeler Scholarship</td>
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<td>Schaefer, Chanesse (PA)</td>
<td>Pi Alpha PA Student Honor Society</td>
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<td>Sinclair, Emily (HSC)</td>
<td>– Dr. Walter Anyan Scholarship</td>
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<td>Smith, Madison (DH)</td>
<td>Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award</td>
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<td>Sprecher, Sandra (DH)</td>
<td>Dorothy Francis Yeoman Scholarship</td>
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<td>Steffen, Kristin (PT)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Streleck, Nikki (PT)</td>
<td>Betty Donohoe Memorial Scholarship</td>
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<td>Stroup, Jenna (PT)</td>
<td>Lee Hisek Memorial Award</td>
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<td>Sudbeck, Kathryn (Sioux Falls NURS, BSN)</td>
<td>Academic Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tatge, Taylor (DH)</td>
<td>Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society Membership</td>
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<td>Timko, Hailey (PT)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of South Dakota – Occupational Therapy Department – 2015-2016 AOTA Student Membership Circle: Gold Level (Criteria: 100% student membership in the American Occupational Therapy Association)</td>
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<td>VanKeulen, Courtney (DH)</td>
<td>Outstanding USD DHI Student Award</td>
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<td>Visser, Dana (OT)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Volmer, Mary (Pierre NURS, AS)</td>
<td>Clinical Excellence</td>
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<td>Walter, Charlotte (PT)</td>
<td>Jeff and Tyla Steinberger Appreciation Scholarship; Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Wattier, Kylie (DH)</td>
<td>Crown Seating Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Werning, Carolyn (Pierre NURS, AS)</td>
<td>Academic Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wickett, Britt (PT)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship</td>
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<td>Williams, Angela (PA)</td>
<td>Faithe Family Scholarship; Pi Alpha PA Student Honor Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winckler, Amanda (Sioux Falls NURS, BSN)</td>
<td>Academic Excellence; Clinical Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zwart, Hollie (DH)</td>
<td>Dr. Peter R. Thraen Department Service Award</td>
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</table>

Faculty Awards

(Abou) Samra, Haifa, (NURS) – University of South Dakota School of Health Science Research Achievement Award

Aden, Deborah (SOCW) – Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Brooks, Ellie (Sioux Falls NURS) – SHS Outstanding Faculty Award for Distinguished Service

Richard Ekstrom, (PT) – Elected to the South Dakota Physical Therapy Hall of Fame by the South Dakota Physical Therapy Association

Inglis, Lisa (PT) – Board Certified Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy; American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (May 18, 2015 – June 30, 2025)

Jordre, Becca (PT) – School of Health Sciences Faculty Research Achievement Award

Kindle, Peter (SOCW) – Promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure

Korkow, John (ADS) – 2016-17 SHS Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence Award

Lichtenberg, Michelle (Vermillion NURS) – Student Nominated, Excellence in Caring

MacCabe, Angela (PT) – USD CTL Teaching and Learning Grant ($750) to bring the Minnesota
Wheelchair Rugby Team to USD for a PHTH 744 lab session with year two students.

Molencamp, Molly (DH) – Promoted to Lecturer

Ness, Brandon (PT) – Board Certified Specialist in Sports Physical Therapy; American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties

Nissen, Ranelle (OT) – South Dakota Occupational Therapy Association Dorothy Anne Elsberry Award of Merit – received September 2015

Norris, Debra (SOCW) – “Who’s Who in Academia” by Joseph Bozanek

Serfling, Jody (Sioux Falls NURS – Faculty Nominated, Excellence in Teaching

Williams, Katie (DH) – Promoted to Lecturer

Yockey, Jean ( Vermillion NURS) – Student Nominated, Excellence in Teaching

Staff Awards

Fulk, Janet (PA) – USD Employee of the Month, July 2016

Harnois, Marcia (PT) – Harry E. Settles Contributor of the Year Award

Rajdl, Julie (Nursing) – USD Employee of the Month, June 2016

Toland, Jill (Sioux Falls NURS) Faculty Nominated, Excellence in Caring

Wiemers, Laura (School of Health Sciences, Dean’s Office) – USD Employee of the Month, January 2016

Faculty Publications (September 2015 – Present)


Addiction Studies and Psychology Student Receives National Scholarship

Kelsey Hennig, a USD senior pursuing a double major in addiction studies and psychology, received the only undergraduate scholarship from NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals.

This national group represents professional addiction counselors in the U.S., Canada and abroad. The Colorado native plans to obtain a master’s degree after graduating from USD, and become a licensed addiction counselor.

Faculty Presentations at International Professional Meetings


Lawler, M.J. and Curry, D. (August 2016). “Using the Application Potential of Professional Learning Inventory (APPLI) to promote transfer of learning in child and youth work,” presentation at FICE Congress, Vienna, Austria.
Employees Honored for Years of Service

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<th>30 Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lana R. Svien, Physical Therapy</td>
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<th>20 Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin L. Brady, Nursing</td>
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<td>Joy R. Karges, Physical Therapy</td>
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<td>Dawn R. Warren, Nursing</td>
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<th>15 Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>John W. Korkow, Addiction Studies</td>
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<td>Carissa R. Regnerus, Dental Hygiene</td>
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<td>Haifa R. Abou Samra, Nursing</td>
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<td>Wendy K. Stubbins, Nursing</td>
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<td>Julie A. Symes, Nursing</td>
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<th>10 Years</th>
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<td>Crystal L. Barnes, Dental Hygiene</td>
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<td>Doreen A. Endres, Nursing</td>
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<td>Cheryl L. Fischbach, Nursing</td>
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<td>Roger L. Habermann, Nursing</td>
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<td>Betty A. Hulse, Physician Assistant</td>
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<td>June M. Kepler, Nursing</td>
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<td>Lori A. Koencke, Nursing</td>
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<td>Kathryn D. LaPlante, Social Work</td>
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<td>Erin B. Nielsen Ogdahl, Addiction Studies</td>
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<td>Tamara L. Olson, SHS Dean's Office</td>
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<td>Martha E. Steil, Dental Hygiene</td>
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<td>Christine J. Tesch, Nursing</td>
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Wolf, R., Gutierrez, C., Reed, C. and Rupe, E. (July 2016). “Hands-Only CPR: Assessing the Impact of Mini-Training Sessions to Increase the Knowledge and Confidence of College Students to Administer Care,” poster presentation at International Rural Nursing Conference, Rapid City, S.D.

Faculty Presentations at National Professional Meetings


Lawler, M.J. (August 2016). “Professional development and continuous learning,” keynote address at UC Davis Summer Institute, Davis, Calif.


**Faculty Presentations at State and Local Professional Meetings**


Brunick, A. (May 2016) "USD Dental Hygiene Report," presented at SDDA/SDDHA Annual Session, Rapid City, S.D.


Nursing Recognizes Late Dr. Zakahi and His Family

Dr. Raymond J. Zakahi practiced medicine as a general surgeon and family practitioner in Pierre for almost 40 years.

Following his death in 2010, his wife and his family honored Dr. Zakahi by establishing and funding scholarships to USD nursing for Pierre-area students.

The Zakahi family also financially contributed to significant upgrades for nursing’s simulation facilities at Capital University Center, in Pierre.

Last spring, Dr. Zakahi and his family were honored at USD nursing at a special ceremony in Pierre. It was noted that their generosity improves health care in Pierre and throughout South Dakota.

Other Creative Works

Cerny, S. “Simulated Learning using Lifelike Baby Dolls: The Next Best Approach to Teaching Clinical Competencies in Human Development;” sponsored by Health Affairs Medical Informatics Committee (HAMIC) Technology Grant, University of South Dakota, $3,553. (January 2016). Funded.


Yockey, J., Kim, J., Nerud, K., Long, T., Brady, K. and Stolle, B. (2016). Health Affairs Medical Informatics Technology Grant, University of South Dakota.
The University of South Dakota

Our Vision
To be the best small, public flagship university in the nation built upon a liberal arts foundation.