Dear Alumni and Friends,

In this issue, we celebrate several very talented alumni and faculty whose work has inspired and energized us. Dr. John Hallenbeck ’64 has made an enormous impact on our understanding of stroke through his research and through his leadership at the National Institutes of Health. He generously attributes his interest in neurobiology and research to his early years as a medical student at USD – interests we continue to try to foster in the new generation of medical students who are inspired by people like Dr. Hallenbeck.

In the medical school, we have an elective course called Spirituality in Medicine. This course allows students to gain a deeper insight into how spirituality and medicine intersect. Spirituality plays a central part of the lives of many of our physician alumni. Such was the case with Dr. Maynard Seaman ’54, who dedicated his career to serving the people of Nepal, sharing both his faith and his skill. This issue highlights his valuable work.

Dr. Gary Timmerman ’82, our chair of surgery, is an example of an outstanding alumnus who stayed in South Dakota and yet created a national reputation for excellence in surgery and surgical education. Among his many impressive accomplishments is serving as president of the American College of Surgeons. Those of us who know Gary well are not at all surprised that he rose to such prominence, and we feel fortunate to be able to work with him on a daily basis.

This issue also includes a celebration of the first three-generation physician-family from the USD Sanford School of Medicine four-year school. Although we have many multigenerational families from our days as a two-year school, this is the first from our four-year school. It is appropriate that this milestone was reached by such a dynamic group of women as Dr. Nancy Phipps, Dr. Cynthia Weaver and second-year medical student Lucinda Weaver. Their story is fascinating, and I know you will enjoy reading it.

This issue also includes the first from our four-year school. It is appropriate that this milestone was reached by such a dynamic group of women as Dr. Nancy Phipps, Dr. Cynthia Weaver and second-year medical student Lucinda Weaver. Their story is fascinating, and I know you will enjoy reading it.

We also celebrate the 100th birthday of Dr. Frances Kelsey. Early in her career, she was on the faculty of our medical school teaching pharmacology. She left the school to join the FDA at a time when there was significant pressure to approve thalidomide for use in pregnant women. Dr. Kelsey’s dedication to keeping this drug out of the U.S. market averted countless birth defects and set a new standard for the FDA, which has named one of their highest awards in her honor.

In this holiday season, we are particularly thankful for the support of our donors. Scholarship support gives our students the financial relief and encouragement at a time when both are truly appreciated. In this issue, medical student Deanna Lassegard expresses her thanks. Please remember that we have funds available to match gifts for endowed scholarships and faculty support. Details are in this issue.

There is so much going on! Our students, faculty and alumni continue to do us proud on so many levels. Please take a moment to read about them.

Mary D. Nettleman, M.D., M.S., M.A.C.P.
Vice President/Dean

Mary D. Nettleman, M.D., M.S., M.A.C.P.
The class of 2018, welcomed with its annual White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 1, 2014, in Sioux Falls. Hundreds of family and friends joined incoming students to help celebrate and commemorate the meaningful step of receiving a white coat to signify the start of a medical student’s career.

Mary Nettleman, M.D., M.S., M.A.C.P., USD’s vice president for health affairs and dean of the USD Sanford School of Medicine, welcomed students and their families and friends. Jerome Freeman, M.D., chair of the medical school’s Department of Neurosciences, spoke to students about the importance of kindness in the medical profession, and Dean Nettleman added perspective about the white coat ceremony, and the demands and rewards of serving as a physician.

The ceremony included a recitation of “The Affirmation of the Physician,” led by Daniel Heinemann, M.D., immediate past president of the South Dakota State Medical Association. There are 58 new students in the Class of 2018, including 56 entering as M.D. students and two entering as M.D./Ph.D. students. There were 516 applications for this class, which contains 23 men and 35 women. Forty-eight members of the class are from South Dakota, and 10 are non-residents with ties to the state. There are 27 South Dakota high schools represented by this group, including 16 students who graduated from high schools located in communities with populations less than 10,000.

Carmen Aikcock, Britton
Benjamin Albreiter, Rapid City
Sarah Altmann, Fort Collins, Colo.
Jennifer Asiam, Sioux Falls
Emma Bachastek, Sioux Falls
Stephen Bollinger, Pierre
Ravenn Beardscheid, Sioux Falls
Emma May Bye, Harrisburg
David Christenson, New Suffolk, N.Y.
Joran Clute, Hawley, Minn.
Brady Coburn, Sioux Falls
Eric Fausch, New Orleans, La.
Tammer Ferguson, Dakota Dunes
Spencer Ferrell, Yankton
Anthony Fiegen, Madison

Michael Fields, Minneapolis, Minn.
Adam Fitzgerald, Ketchikan, Alaska
Sara Free, Sioux Falls
Max Fuller, Watertown
Ariq Garrigan, Onida
Jera Goetz, Selby
Elizabeth Hedman, Brandon
Courtney Heyduck, Brookings
Caitlin Hod, Yankton
Kevin Hofer, Huron
Austin Hubur, Selby
Chandler Hunt, Dakota Dunes
Nathan Jacobson, Rapid City
Amanda Johnson, Sioux Falls
Jessica Johnson, Sioux Falls

Sarvesh Kaushik, Brookings
Jennifer Kuehn, Willow Lake
Kate Kuppers, Rapid City
Kathryn Kuepper, Rapid City
Kelley Lamoree, Sioux Falls
Christopher Lucido, Omaha, Neb.
Teresa Mallett, Watertown
Kellen Mastick, Harrisburg
Allison McKendree, Castlewood
Kelly McKnight, Sioux Falls
Natalie Murdock, Emery
Julia Nichols, Rapid City
Andrea Petersen, Sioux Falls
Nicole Westhoff, Rapid City
Brandon Ziegler, Rapid City

Leah Rasmussen, Mitchell
Ashley Schmidt, Mitchell
Daniel Schneider, Rapid City
Justin Suess, Miller
Emily Storm, San Francisco, Calif.
Kelley Thies, Sioux Falls
Marcus Tyeveden, Tyndall
Nathan Truax, Sioux Falls
Tilonna Vogt, Ewa
Nicole West, Sioux Falls
Lea Westhoff, Rapid City
David Waterman, Brookings
Shaneen Yuan, Rapid City

* Physician Scientist Program - Class of 2021
M.D.
Pulse

Dr. Keith Hansen Named Dr. Karl Wegner Chair in Medicine

Sept. 30, 2014 was a festive and momentous day, as physicians and members of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine community gathered to pay tribute to Keith Hansen, M.D., the first-ever recipient of an endowed chair at the SSOM.

USD President James W. Abbott spoke at the event to honor Hansen.

“We are fortunate to have Dr. Keith Hansen at the medical school,” said President Abbott. “He represents the best of health care and medical education. The medical school, the community and our state benefit from his skill and service.”

Dr. Hansen, a reproductive endocrinologist in Sioux Falls and longtime faculty member at the medical school, is chair of the medical school’s OB/GYN department.

Hansen, from Wall, S.D., received his medical training at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., and subsequently practiced and held faculty appointments at medical institutions in Virginia, Georgia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. During that time he served 10 years in the U.S. Navy. In 1998, he returned to South Dakota to practice medicine and teach at the medical school. Prior to becoming chair of the OB/GYN department, Dr. Hansen served in a variety of significant roles at the medical center.

The endowment to create the Karl H. Wegner, M.D., Chair in Medicine position was established by the late Dr. Karl H. Wegner with the support of his wife, Margaret Cash Wegner.

Karl Wegner taught at the medical school starting in 1962 and became dean of the school in 1974, a position he remained in until 1980. He also served as chief of pathology at Sioux Valley Hospital, now Sanford Health. He died in April 2014.

The Value of an Endowed Chair or Professor

Mary Nettleman, M.D., dean of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, said there are a number of benefits for the medical school associated with awarding an endowed chair or professor.

“Being named as an endowed chair or a professor is a distinct honor for the recipient,” said Dr. Nettleman. “It allows the medical school to recognize an individual possessing those characteristics we view as exemplary and positive.”

The endowment might include partial salary or financial encouragement to advance the recipient’s career through the pursuit of research or other meaningful initiatives.

“We can retain and recruit top-notch faculty when there are endowed chair or professor positions,” explained Dr. Nettleman. “It helps the school create improved sustainability in our programs.”

Naming an endowed chair or professor position not only elevates and honors the recipient, but it also honors the memory of the donor.

Dr. Mary Nettleman Appears on ‘On Call with the Prairie Doc’

With her emphasis on managing and advancing the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, it is easy to overlook that Dr. Mary Nettleman, dean of the SSOM, is an expert and specialist regarding infectious diseases.

That expertise was highlighted during a segment of the television program titled “On Call with the Prairie Doc” when Dr. Nettleman joined host Dr. Richard Holm to provide expert commentary on Ebola and other topics related to infectious diseases. The segment aired Sept. 25 on South Dakota Public Television. Dr. Holm described Dr. Nettleman as “one of the most articulate and most knowledgeable physicians I have ever worked with.”

During the one-hour broadcast, Dr. Nettleman discussed a wide range of subjects, including efforts to control Ebola, vaccine-preventable diseases such as influenza and the phenomena known as vaccine-phobia. While defending the value of vaccines to prevent the spread of the flu, Dr. Nettleman described the work of “charlatans” who spread false information about the flu vaccine.

On Call with the Prairie Doc is a television program offering science-based medical and health information that is presented on South Dakota Public Television on Thursdays from 7–8 p.m. Central Standard Time. Its host, Dr. Richard Holm, is a Brookings, S.D. - based physician who specializes in internal medicine. Dr. Holm earned his B.S. in medicine in 1973 from USD, and his M.D. from Emory University School of Medicine. The program has been broadcast for 13 years. The segment featuring Dr. Nettleman can be viewed by visiting www.oncalltv.org and identifying the Sept. 25, 2014 episode in the archives section available via YouTube.
SSOM Ranked Among ‘Most Desired Schools’

For the third consecutive year, the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine has been recognized as one of the nation’s most desired schools by students wishing to enroll in a medical school.

U.S. News & World Report rated SSOM sixth nationally in the percentage of an institution’s accepted students who actually enroll at the institution. Nearly 80 percent of the students accepted into the SSOM enroll at the medical school. The national average was 53 percent. The nation’s top program had an 85 percent enrollment rate. There are more than 150 medical schools in the nation, and 112 responded to the survey conducted by U.S. News & World Report.

“This analysis shows that students are eager to attend the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine,” said Mary Netkeman, M.D., dean of the school of medicine. “This news is also a reflection of our institution’s exceptional education and reputation, and our impressive faculty, facilities and opportunities.”

In 2013, there were more than 450 applicants for 56 first-year slots in the SSOM. Among those accepted were students representing 25 high schools in South Dakota, including 15 students from small-town high schools. Class size for the medical school will expand to 67 first-year students beginning in 2015.

Since expanding to a degree-granting, four-year program in 1974, the medical school has graduated 1,823 physicians, and 40 percent of those physicians have remained in South Dakota.

FARM Program Debuts

The much anticipated debut of the FARM (Frontier And Rural Medicine) program officially occurred on July 9, 2014.

On that day, six third-year students serving at five hospitals in five rural South Dakota communities began working with physicians and health care staff assisting patients. Each student will receive nine months of intense and hands-on clinical training at a single hospital, helping them understand the opportunities and conditions of practicing medicine in a small-town setting.

“This has been truly a win-win situation. We are excited and proud of our first group of FARM students,” Dr. Susan Anderson, M.D., director of the FARM program. “We’re trying to expose these students to rural communities and rural health care,” said Anderson. “We have a lot of opportunities for them in the rural communities, and we want to make sure they understand that our needs are changing.”

Thus far, the program is working well, and objectives are being met. “We are excited and proud of our first group of FARM students,” Dr. Susan Anderson, M.D., director of the FARM program. “We’re trying to expose these students to rural communities and rural health care,” said Anderson. “We have a lot of opportunities for them in the rural communities, and we want to make sure they understand that our needs are changing.”

First Group of FARM Students

Nicholas Kohles – Milbank
SD/Milbank Area Hospital (Avera)
Hometown: Aberdeen, S.D.

George Ceremuga – Mobridge
Mobridge Regional Hospital and Clinics
Hometown: Rapid City, S.D.

Josh Doorn – Parkston
Avera St. Benedict Health Center
Hometown: Sturgis, S.D.

Erin Rasmussen – Platte
Platte Health Center (Avera)
Hometown: Vermillion, S.D.

Heather Kapperman – Winner
Winnebago Regional Health Care Center (Sanford)
Hometown: Vermillion, S.D.

David Kapperman – Winner
Winner Regional Health Care Center (Sanford)
Hometown: Hartford, S.D.

Broadening and Deepening Medical Education

A pilot project at the Rapid City campus of the USD Sanford School of Medicine is integrating the study of humanities with medical education.

“We’re piloting some immersion experiences we call clinical medical humanities,” explained Dr. Matthew Simmons, associate dean of the Rapid City campus of the medical school. The immersion experiences include programs in literature, visual art and history of medicine. Each of the three topics are presented with an emphasis on those aspects that relate to the professional development of the medical students.

In designing these immersion experiences, the relevant medical literature was reviewed and relevant content was compiled. Dr. Simmons then teamed up with the humanities professors at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, artist educators with the Rapid City Arts Council, and historians at the Journey Museum in Rapid City to present three two-hour programs for the medical students as part of their Pillar 2 clinical training.

The Journey Museum in Rapid City contributed an important aspect to the history portion of the course by creating an exhibit titled “The History of Medicine in the Black Hills” in the spring of 2014. The exhibit traced medical care in the region from the Lewis and Clark era to health care responses during the tragic 1972 Rapid City flood. During the exhibit’s run, guest lecturers, including Dr. Simmons and Dr. Rod Parry, former dean of the medical school, presented at the museum on historical topics related to medicine.

“We want to immerse the medical students in stories relevant to medical care to deepen their appreciation for their place in the continuum of the history of the medical profession,” Dr. Simmons explained. As part of the history immersion, human interest stories were presented to highlight the triumphs and tragedies of the past while also reflecting on the relevance for the modern day practice of medicine. Some of the historical materials and stories, gathered for the major exhibit earlier this year, are being retained to use with each new class of medical students rotating through the Rapid City campus.

Other clinical humanities elements will emphasize literature pertaining to medicine and explore how visual art can be used to inform medical students in the skills of observation, creativity and communication.

“We view this as professional development for our students,” said Dr. Simmons. “We believe these experiences in the clinical medical humanities will enrich the medical education experience and provide a needed balance with advances in science and technology.”

Future humanities programs are planned for the Rapid City Campus, and the Ethics/Humanities section of the USD Sanford School of Medicine is exploring the possibility of conducting similar programs at each of the clinical campuses and rural sites.
Exercise Demonstrates Interprofessionalism for Students

Students from the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine and the USD Nursing Department in Rapid City participated in a day-long exercise Nov. 14 demonstrating the value of interdisciplinary cooperation, also known as interprofessionalism. The event was held at the Rapid City University Center.

Interprofessionalism is a relatively new concept that has been adopted by many health care teaching institutions and is currently taught by the USD Sanford School of Medicine and all disciplines in the USD School of Health Sciences. Interprofessional practice is a team-oriented and patient-centered approach to health care. The main idea behind it is that health care practitioners work together to offer a variety of skills and knowledge to better address and treat problems. Providers in many health care fields are now being trained to work together to achieve improved outcomes for patients.

“Teaching interprofessionalism is a huge priority for us,” said Dr. Matthew Simmons, dean of the Rapid City campus of the medical school. “We view it as the way of the future.”

The purpose of the exercise in Rapid City was to demonstrate to students how to achieve these improved patient outcomes. Physicians and nurses led and exhibited cooperative interaction on a simulated trauma case, in which 15 medical students and 30 nursing students participated. Those students were broken up into smaller groups that were each involved in a two-hour lesson. Throughout the course of the day, the teaching physicians and nursing staff put on seven similar lessons.

Additionally, students led a discussion about interprofessional ethics. “We let the students take the lead in the discussions portion of the lesson, and they were very engaged. The discussion was very useful,” Dr. Simmons said.

Dr. Simmons explained that there are four key areas that play important roles in the preparation of students regarding interprofessional practice: communication, roles and responsibilities, teams and teamwork, and ethics and values.

“We decided to focus on ethics and values particularly in this exercise,” said Simmons.

Simmons and others involved in the teaching project felt the experience was positive and beneficial for the students. “We want our students to be ready to participate in interprofessional practice when they graduate,” Simmons explained.

According to Dr. Simmons, more interprofessional exercises and simulations are planned.

South Dakota HOSA Student Awarded Major Medical Scholarship

The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists announced that Chris Pollema, a senior HOSA student at Dakota Valley High School, is the winner of a $185,000 National Academy Medical School Scholarship Challenge.

Pollema was selected from more than 3,100 applicants across the nation. Applicants were challenged to identify an unsolved medical or scientific world health problem and solve it using an original design. Pollema's topic was entitled "Using the Enzyme Choline Acetyltransferase to Either Prove or Disprove the Cholinergic Theory and Further Alzheimer's Disease Research."

Pollema learned about the scholarship opportunity last February while he attended the Congress of Future Medical Leaders conference in Washington, D.C.

“I was really inspired by Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor, who spoke at the conference regarding brain research,” Pollema said. “After I got home I read her book, and I was hooked on the subject.”

Pollema's interest in science has been heightened by his membership in HOSA, a student-run organization aiming to foster interest in young people to pursue health care careers. HOSA was created in 2012 by the South Dakota Area Health Education Center, or AHEC, which is sponsored by the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine.

“HOSA helped me develop my leadership and time management skills,” said Pollema. “It also provided me with many interactions with medical professionals that inspired me to pursue a career in medicine.”

Pollema also credits his family with influencing his work ethic and desire to learn. “I have been taught by my family that if you want something then you need to do it yourself, and you need to work for it. That helped me prepare my application for the scholarship.”

Pollema plans on attending college as a pre-med major, and hopes to become a pediatrician or an orthopedic surgeon.

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is the only nationwide student organization whose focus is 100 percent health care. As an initiative of the South Dakota Area Health Education Center Program Office, South Dakota HOSA-Future Health Professionals earned its National Charter on June 26, 2013. This past year, SD HOSA had a 54 percent membership increase with 433 members state-wide.
Faculty in the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences (BBS) work on a wide array of research subjects and problems. BBS is also the home of the sole graduate program of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. BBS closely collaborates with other departments at the University of South Dakota, including biology, audiology, clinical psychology and biomedical engineering.

**BBS researchers and project summaries:**

**Lee Baugh, Ph.D., Assistant Professor**
Dr. Baugh studies the neurological and psychological mechanisms underlying movement, especially related to changes as we age and through damage to the brain.

**Brian Burrell, Ph.D., Associate Professor**
Dr. Burrell studies changes that occur in the nervous system in response to pain. From these studies it is hoped that new treatments for chronic pain will be developed.

**Michael Chaussee, Ph.D., Associate Professor**
Dr. Chaussee's lab is studying how a single species of bacteria called Streptococcus pyogenes are able to colonize humans without causing disease, while at other times causing sore throat (“strep throat”), acute rheumatic fever and heart disease.

**Kathleen Eyster, Ph.D., Professor**
Research focus in this lab is reproductive endocrinology, especially developing an understanding how female hormones affect the development of abnormal conditions, including endometriosis.

**Gina Forster, Ph.D., Associate Professor**
Dr. Forster's research seeks to understand issues underlying substance abuse and what causes individuals to seek drugs initially and relapse after quitting. Changes in brain chemistry associated with drug seeking and anxiety states are investigated. Dr. Forster's lab also examines the neuroscience of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

**Victor Huber, Ph.D., Associate Professor**
Using new technology and techniques developed by Dr. Huber and being readied for commercialization, the lab aims to generate new vaccines that will provide broad immunity to the influenza virus.

**Joyce Keifer, Ph.D., Professor**
Studies of learning and memory are the focus of Dr. Keifer’s lab, including understanding cellular and molecular components underlying learning and memory. The studies have implications for disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease.

*continued on page 14*
Yifan Li, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor
Dr. Li is interested in the regulation of the heart by the nervous system. His intent is to find ways to manipulate the nervous impulses controlling the heart to improve function after damage to the heart.

Doug Martin, Ph.D., Professor
Dr. Martin seeks a better understanding of the physiological mechanisms that underlie the development of high blood pressure. He studies the role of the venous system in blood pressure regulation in order to develop better management approaches.

Lisa Moore, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Dr. Moore's research emphasis is in a bacterium, Chlamydia trachomatis, which is the cause of a widely occurring sexually transmitted disease. Dr. Moore seeks to understand how the bacterium obtains nutrients from the cell in order to generate better treatments for the disease.

Robert Morecraft, Ph.D., Professor
Dr. Morecraft's research centers around stroke. He uses a stroke model to learn how the brain is able to recover hand motion. He is interested in training paradigms that improve functional recovery.

Scott Ouellette, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Dr. Ouellette studies the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis. His focus is to determine the functions of the bacteria that have been lost through evolution and what functions either the host or other proteins have taken to allow the bacteria to survive. The proteins make druggable targets.

J. Scott Pattison, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Dr. Pattison investigates the pathways involved in controlling the quality of proteins in the cell as it relates to heart disease. He is interested in finding therapeutic approaches to heart failure. He also studies pathways leading to the death of heart muscle and the proteins that play a role in this process.

Khosrow Rezvani, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Dr. Rezvani studies the role of a specific protein in cancer. He is working to understand the role of this protein in the cell and trying to find other mechanisms to treat cancer.

Samuel Sathyarayanas, Ph.D., Associate Professor
The focus of Dr. Sathyarayanas's work is the treatment of psychiatric disorders such as depression. He is working on better delivery methods for anti-depressants. His work is also aimed at determining the mechanisms by which these factors work to make them more effective.

Evelyn Schlenker, Ph.D., Professor
Dr. Schlenker is interested in control of breathing by the nervous system. She also studies gender differences in this area.

Carlos Telleria, Ph.D., Professor
Dr. Telleria's lab studies ovarian cancer and development of new therapies. His work seeks to understand how cancer cells escape chemotherapy drugs by going dormant.

Hongmin Wang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Dr. Wang's lab studies neurodegeneration, with a specific interest in Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease and stroke. Dr. Wang is focused on pathways that regulate protein quality in the cell and how these pathways can be exploited for therapy.

Xuejun Wang, M.D., Ph.D., Professor
Dr. Wang studies heart disease and heart failure, including investigating the role of protein degradation pathways. His aim is to identify components of the pathway that can be either protective or serve as drug targets to improve heart function.

Michael Watt, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor
Dr. Watt uses a model of adolescent bullying to study brain changes and behavior of bullied animals in adulthood. Understanding changes in brain chemistry or connectivity as a consequence of social stress may lead to better approaches to treat these individuals.

Keith Weaver, Ph.D., Professor
Dr. Weaver studies bacterial suicidal toxins that limit bacterial growth and may be involved in bacterial death and/or tolerance to antibiotics.

Kelsey steadfastly refused to approve thalidomide for sale in the United States. She was suspicious that the drug might affect a fetus during pregnancy. She was not satisfied with the data provided by the pharmaceutical company, and she disputed the company's claims that the drug was reliably safe. Bravely, and in the face of intense pressure and criticism from the drug's manufacturer, Kelsey refused her approval.

The ensuing high-profile struggle between the pharmaceutical company and the FDA was underway when the births of deformed infants in countries including infants born without arms and legs or with flipper-like appendages instead of healthy arms and legs. Therefore, Kelsey's suspicions were confirmed, and the drug was banned.

Media coverage of Kelsey's accomplishment spawned public outrage about drug regulation and monitoring protocol, and in 1962, landmark legislation was enacted to strengthen drug laws and public protections. Important new drug testing reforms required companies to prove effectiveness and safety prior to a drug being marketed.

Kelsey, who reached her 100th birthday last summer, is credited with preventing birth defects in hundreds, perhaps thousands of babies, and with helping to change the process by which drugs are evaluated and approved for public use. President John Kennedy awarded Kelsey with the "Presidential Award for Distinguished Civilian Service," only the second time in the history of the United States that a woman received the award. Kelsey retired from the FDA in 2005 at the age of 90, after 45 years of public service. In 2010, the FDA established the Dr. Frances O. Kelsey Drug Safety Excellence Award, given annually to an FDA employee for meaningful public service.
Dr. Gary Timmerman’s impressive climb through the leadership ranks of the prestigious American College of Surgeons has been a highly gratifying experience for the Sioux Falls-based surgeon. It has also benefited students at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine.

Timmerman, chair of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine surgery department, recently concluded a one-year stint as chair of the College of Surgeons’ Board of Governors.

That appointment – to lead the Board of Governors – followed a 20-year commitment to the organization that involved an array of demanding and meaningful assignments and positions. He’d been president of the College of Surgeons’ South Dakota chapter, and had served on numerous regional and national committees helping the College of Surgeons launch initiatives and advocate for policies and programs. All of Timmerman’s service to the organization has been voluntary.

Founded in 1913, the American College of Surgeons initially set standards for surgeons and hospitals, but quickly evolved to address a more comprehensive set of essential aspects of surgery and health care, such as establishing criteria for certifications, residencies and treatment programs. Methods of collecting blood, dealing with trauma, developing military medicine practices, transplant procedures and health care political advocacy are other important issues that have been influenced by the American College of Surgeons. The organization’s 85,000 members are from every state in the United States, as well as many foreign nations. It is, behind the American Medical Association, the second largest organization of physicians in the world.

In early November 2014, Timmerman presided over the College of Surgeons Board of Governors’ annual meeting and banquet. From the elevated vantage of a smartly decorated stage, where Timmerman was seated at the middle of a long table, he looked across a vast ballroom in a San Francisco hotel. There was a sea of people and the din of conversation. He greeted well-wishers, shaking hands and hugging friends. Helping to organize this gala, and acting as its host and master of ceremonies, would be one of his last official acts as chair of the Board of Governors.

Timmerman’s work with the College of Surgeons had started years before while he was a young surgeon on staff at Prairie Lakes Hospital in Watertown, S.D., the community where he had grown up. Even in that lavish San Francisco ballroom, surrounded by fellow surgeons from all over the country, Timmerman couldn’t help but harken back to his childhood and to his roots, as they are constant touchstones in his life. He thought about his dad and his family, and he remembered a moment three years earlier when he told his father that he’d been selected as chair of the surgical department at South Dakota’s only school of medicine.

“My dad was so proud of me,” Timmerman said. “He was a teacher, and he loved to teach. For years he ran Lake Area Vo-Tech in Watertown. He told me that my work as a teacher would be special for me, and I would always cherish it. He was right, of course. I feel that way about my work with the medical school, and I also feel that way about my work with the College of Surgeons.”

The American College of Surgeons is guided by two leadership boards, the Board of Regents and the Board of
Timmerman’s work as chair has been the country wanted him there, and most important medical organizations role of helping lead one of the world’s profession.

Governors. Regents formulate policy and direct affairs for the college. The governors serve as an administrative channel through which various chapters (some 270 of them) and the organization’s many members deliver their concerns and suggestions to the organization. It is the grassroots component of the organization, the activist aspect. “The Board of Governors,” explained Timmerman, “is the voice of the College of Surgeons.”

Immediately prior to Timmerman’s service as chair of the Board of Governors he served for two years as the board’s vice-chair. In both capacities he attended all meetings of the Board of Governors and the Board of Regents.

During Timmerman’s terms as chair and vice-chair the Board of Governors completely re-organized and re-structured. The intention, explained Timmerman, was to provide a stronger focus on critical areas within the surgical profession. There are now five pillars, each with several work groups, and each work group has regular deliverables.

“Timmerman oversaw an ambitious collection of other initiatives, including standardization of recommendation letters for residency applicants, improvements in the preparation of surgeons through enhanced training, and more attention to issues related to substance abuse within the profession.

Don’t think for a minute that Timmerman was recruited into the role of helping lead one of the world’s most important medical organizations by quirk or by chance. “He accomplished and demanded colleagues from around the country wanted him there, and Timmerman’s work as chair has been well-received.”

Gary has been a terrific leader,” said Dr. Patricia Turner, a Chicago-based surgeon who also directs member services for the American College of Surgeons. “He brought stability and strategic thinking to this important position. He participated in high-level decisions and contributed to the very significant conversations we have about critical issues facing surgeons all across the country, even the world. We are highly appreciative of the significant work he has done. His has been one of the most important voices for 85,000 surgeons.” Turner also pointed out that Timmerman was the first South Dakota surgeon to lead the organization’s Board of Governors.

At his office on the campus of Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, just several days after returning from numerous meetings and the national gathering in San Francisco, Timmerman admitted he was still trying to fully recover from the intense whirlwind of activities that surrounded his final week as chair. He shared a thank-you note he had just received via email from the chair of the College of Surgeons’ Board of Regents, and he scrolled through a collection of digital photos of him and fellow board members at the banquet. He then held up a handsome plaque given to him by the College of Surgeons commemorating his many years of service, and listing a long roster of committees and leadership roles he has held.

“What a humbling experience it’s been,” he said. “I’ve been able to work with some extraordinary people, and I’ve learned that so many of my colleagues, my fellow surgeons, are dedicated to medicine, surgery and to the patient. It’s been an honor and a privilege to be part of the organization. And that doesn’t mean that I’m not going to be active in the organization in the future.”

One of the benefits of Timmerman’s national posts is his exposure to and relationships with surgeons and medical school professors and deans from around the country. That translates into better opportunities for University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine graduates seeking surgical residencies. It also translates into greater visibility for the surgical residency offered by the school of medicine here in South Dakota.

The surgical residency program at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine is in its infancy, and reviewed its second cycle of candidates in fall 2014. The program has been approved for three residents per year.

Timmerman played a key role in re-establishing the medical school’s surgical residency program, a program that had been discontinued in the 1980s, after it had been administered through the medical school and Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. His work on the residency issue actually started before he became chair of the surgical department.

“Dr. Timmerman spearheaded the effort to re-establish the surgical residency program,” said Dr. Melissa Johnson, associate program director for the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine surgical residency program. Johnson, a graduate of the USD Sanford School of Medicine and a practicing general surgeon at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Sioux Falls, described the value of having such a residency in South Dakota. “It is very important to have this residency program because a majority of residents end up practicing where they do their residency,” explained Johnson. “We want to train them here to keep them here.”

Johnson also noted that Timmerman’s high profile work at the College of Surgeons has attracted new attention to the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine.

“Made meaningful contacts by virtue of his important work there, and he has become well-connected to leaders in the surgical field from across the nation,” she explained. “Not only are we witnessing this as we review the applications of those who want to be surgical residents here, we also see this as our students seek residencies elsewhere.”

Johnson explained that prospective residents desiring to do a residency in South Dakota often cite references who know Dr. Timmerman, and USD students seeking residencies elsewhere meet teachers and surgeons at places like Harvard, Cornell and Johns Hopkins, who respect their general surgery training because they were students of Dr. Timmerman.

Through his experience leading the Board of Governors and in his work as chair of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine surgery department Timmerman has discovered his own career has been boosted.

“Before I got so involved in leadership at the College of Surgeons and the medical school,” he explained, “I had a satisfying and challenging career as a surgeon serving patients. Now I serve patients, the community of surgeons and the medical school. The experience of service – saving education, for example, and creating a new generation of well-prepared surgeons – has been a real gift for me. It has completely re-energized me.”

A graduate of Watertown High School, Dr. Gary Timmerman attended South Dakota State University for three years before his acceptance into the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. He earned a B.S. in medicine in 1982 before transferring to Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo., and completing his M.D. degree in 1984.

Timmerman performed a general surgery residency at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago, Ill., and then opened a surgery practice in Watertown in 1990. From 1994 to 1998 he served as chair of the Department of Surgery at Prairie Lakes Hospital in Watertown.

Timmerman relocated to Sioux Falls, S.D. in 1998, and joined the staffs at Sanford University of South Dakota Medical Center and Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center.

He served as associate professor of surgery at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine from 2006 – 2012, and became chair of the Department of Surgery in 2012, a position he continues to hold. Timmerman also maintains a teaching schedule as an associate professor in the Surgery Department at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine.

His medical practice as a surgeon has come to involve and emphasize surgeries related to cancer, including complex esophageal, pancreatic, thyroid and parathyroid surgeries. He was the first surgeon in the upper Midwest to roboticantly perform a trans-hiatal esophagectomy.

“These can be complex and time-consuming surgeries,” Timmerman explained. “And there can be much sadness in the area I work in. But my patients give me strength and purpose. I treat my patients like extended family. I establish a close relationship with each one of my patients.”

In 2013, Dr. Timmerman received the Warren L. Jones award for service as a member of the academic faculty of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. South Dakota State University awarded Timmerman an honorary undergraduate degree – with highest honors – in 1984.
A Lofty Mission

The heights of Nepal reach into the heavens. It's a place that inspires reverence and worship, and for Dr. Maynard Seaman '54, it was also a place to spend 25 years of his life serving the medically unserved.

By Peter Carrels
Wednesday's were reserved to meet those suffering from leprosy. Though the disease is not concerningly contagious, local residents in that era could not be convinced of that. They preferred that leprosy have its own special treatment day. Regularly singling out a place on the calendar in order to treat leprosy sufferers proved to be a scheduling challenge, for Dr. Seaman's non-leprosy patient load was overwhelming, numbering as many as 300-400 patients per day.

An array of other diseases and maladies afflicted residents of the region. Tuberculosis, typhoid, parasitic infections and pneumonia were serious, ongoing problems, and there were also plenty of traumatic injuries. The Nepalese were an unfailingly cheerful and polite people, reported Dr. Seaman, but their medical problems were daunting. Tuberculosis, in particular, ravaged the local populace, and nearly every Monday was set aside to see TB patients. The relentless pace of attempting to aid patients was non-stop and round-the-clock, and Dr. Seaman and his wife, a registered nurse, became consumed by their mission to help their new neighbors. He happily described the experience as a willing and welcomed preoccupation that gave both of them joy and purpose.

Dr. Seaman's calling to medicine and his desire to undertake a mission in Nepal started, almost unbelievably, while he was yet a teen growing up in South Dakota's Sully County. Nepal was off-limits to all Westerners except those who could deliver needed services, and young Maynard Seaman identified health care as the need he would address. "As a servant of God," explained Seaman, "I would provide health care to the people of Nepal, and I would also share my faith and message about salvation."

After finishing his first two years at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Seaman traveled to Texas, where he completed his medical degree from Baylor University College of Medicine, in Houston.

The overseas undertaking for the young physician started at a hospital in rural India in 1960. For eight years, not including his service as an auxiliary medical personnel, Dr. Seaman practiced medicine in a remote northern region of the country. His patients were native Indians and he had to provide health care to them in their own language, which was often difficult. Seaman remembered, "It was rather primitive," Dr. Seaman remembered. Their house had been built by a recently departed agricultural missionary, and a nearby spring had been cleverly tapped to provide water for drinking, bathing and a toilet. An open fireplace was used to prepare food. Later, a wood-burning stove was added to provide heat and cooking amenities, and friends improvised a solar system to deliver warmed water.

Seaman's office and clinic were housed in a plain building originally constructed as a hospital for leprosy victims. Lacking many basic medical tools such as X-rays, his health care practice was even more technologically unadvanced than his house. While at Baylor, Seaman had assisted during surgeries as a student alongside several of the most renowned heart surgeons in the world, including Drs. Michael DeBakey and Denton Cooley. In Nepal he conducted examinations and performed diagnosis using only his senses.

It was a level of medical care he had actually been trained for. "Fortunately, I had had professors who taught me to use my eyes, ears and hands," Seaman recalled, "and I learned how to put them to good use."

As time passed, Seaman's reputation grew, and long lines formed each early morning as locals sought treatments and advice. "The people in the local villages started to say that when they came to visit me, they would get better," Seaman related. "We brought a modern, more advanced thinking and approach to their health care, and that differed in a better way from the health care that was otherwise available to them."

Dr. Seaman and his wife, Dorothy, estimated, based on patient records, that they had treated some 150,000 different patients during their time in Nepal. Among those patients were 3,000 women who came to him for help delivering their babies, and within that group of patients he performed at least one hundred cesarean sections.

Surgery – sections as well as a number of other general and emergency procedures – were initially conducted with jerry-rigged anesthesia delivery, and a two-person surgery team consisting of Maynard as surgeon and Dorothy as the anesthetist and surgical assistant. As time passed the Seamans trained locals to help them during surgeries. Dr. Seaman had done a partial surgery residency in Ohio in addition to his medical education and work at Baylor, and he was not uncomfortable tackling that aspect of care. For a physician trained in ultra-hygienic operating suites equipped with the latest in technology operated by highly skilled technicians, the circumstances in his simple clinic and hospital were intimidating when he first began his work in Nepal. "I got used to it in a hurry," said Dr. Seaman, when describing the meager conditions he faced and overcame. "I had to."

Amazingly, very few surgical patients were lost in all the time they performed operations in such uncomplicated conditions, a result, Dr. Seaman believes, from prayer and faith. "We felt we were guided and aided by divine appointment," said Dr. Seaman. The Seamans lived for most of those many years in Nepal relying on gifts of money, food, medical supplies and other items bestowed on them by patients, neighbors and charitable individuals and organizations from around the world. "After we'd been there awhile we did charge a minimal, modest price for medicines, but just about everything we did was gratis," said Dr. Seaman. "There was a basket beneath my desk in the hospital where patients could put eggs or food, and they did. We lived without creature comforts, but we never felt deprived."

The Seamans left Nepal in 1995, returning to the United States, and continuing to serve remote, far-flung areas. Dr. Seaman contributed his medical skills to people in such places as Haiti, Tibet, China and Kyrgyzstan. For example, he made six separate trips to western China as part of a program to train doctors there. "I was teaching barefoot doctors in rural villages about modern medicine," he explained.

Not surprisingly, each of the Seaman’s children was forever impacted by their experiences growing up. The eldest daughter is a nurse, and she is currently in Nepal caring for the sick and elderly. Another daughter is a physician (Dianne Mathews, ’85 M.D.), and she is serving school children in Indonesia. Dr. Seaman described his Seattle-based son as “more Nepali than anything else.” His youngest daughter works in the airline industry. Travel, adventure and compassion are ingrained in each of them.

The Seamans now reside in Oklahoma, and it has been three years since 85-year-old Dr. Maynard Seaman and his wife last visited Nepal. One reason for the latter trip was to accept an award for their work presented to them by Nepal officials. The hospital he so devotedly nurtured is now operated by the government, and local people he helped train continue to provide medical care to area residents. As he encountered old friends and patients in Nepal, he enjoyed conversing with a young man he’d helped deliver into the world 30 years earlier. “This young man,” Dr. Seaman said, “has become a doctor, and is married to a doctor, and they’re starting a clinic in a remote area of Nepal to serve people who lack access to modern medicine.”*
Solving mysteries related to that affliction known as the “silent killer” has defined the work of Dr. John Hallenbeck. Hallenbeck, a 1964 graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Medicine (two-year program), occupies a prominent and critical place in the evolution of stroke research and science.

Under his direction, and resulting from his research, significant advances have been made in the understanding of strokes, particularly the mechanisms involved in the pathobiology of ischemic stroke damage. This work has helped guide efforts that resulted in improved treatment of strokes.

Dr. Hallenbeck’s interest in research began when he was a student at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. “I was offered a chance to do some work in a laboratory, and I found out that I really enjoyed it,” Hallenbeck recalled. During a subsequent residency in neurology at the University of Michigan Hallenbeck was able to once again work on research projects. That experience confirmed for him that research was an enjoyable, rewarding aspect of health care and medicine.

Despite advances in research and treatment, stroke continues to be a dangerous and worrisome health issue. Stroke ranks as the 4th leading cause of death in the U.S., and approximately 800,000 people in this country have a stroke each year. Only heart disease, cancer and chronic lower respiratory diseases are more deadly. There are three main types of stroke: ischemic strokes, hemorrhagic strokes and transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), also referred to as mini-strokes. Ischemic strokes are caused by a narrowing or blocking of arteries to the brain. Hemorrhagic strokes are caused by blood vessels in and around the brain bursting or leaking.
train naval physicians, and continued his involvement in research. When he retired from the Navy in 1991, after a busy 20 years of service, he literally walked across the street and began working full time as a senior investigator for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the National Institutes of Health.

“NINDS was very appealing,” Hallenbeck explained, “because they offered me the opportunity to conduct important research projects related to stroke in areas that could be characterized as high risk – high reward research.”

Hallenbeck was indeed offered a golden opportunity – he would be able to establish and direct a new research team focused on stroke. And so, in 1991, he organized a clinical investigations section and began a series of complex analyses related to states of natural and induced tolerance to brain ischemia. Later, a stroke diagnostics and therapeutics section was combined with the clinical investigation section and an NIH Stroke Branch was formed with Hallenbeck as branch chief. Early on the focus was basic stroke research, but soon the goal became translational stroke research. Hallenbeck has been at the helm of the Stroke Branch since the outset.

It’s been a fruitful 23 years. “When we began our research at NINDS,” recalled Dr. Hallenbeck, “it was generally held by the medical and scientific community that single factors caused strokes and stroke damage.”

Early on, Hallenbeck led research that revealed that inflammatory and immune system responses were involved in strokes.

Hallenbeck and his group of researchers recognized that there isn’t a single, dominant cause of physical damage during stroke. “We know now, for example, that the process by which the brain is damaged during a stroke doesn’t have a single determinant factor, but is instead multi-modal. We concluded that there are multiple mechanisms and many processes working in a network-like fashion during a stroke.”

This new insight – as pioneered by the Hallenbeck team and other investigators – guided further research, and helped the medical community better understand strokes. “I was a very early voice supporting the ‘systems biology’ idea, even when there were high levels of skepticism,” said Hallenbeck. “The scientific community has since come around to strongly support this idea.”

One of the central benefits of acknowledging the ‘systems biology’ multi-modal analysis, is reflected, according to Hallenbeck, in the rising interest in targeting network dynamics in therapies pursued by medical science to treat stroke victims. “We raised awareness that drug therapies aimed at a single protection of brain cells during stroke might have failed because they targeted only single factors, rather than considering the whole biological system.”

New drugs and protocols aimed at rapidly restoring brain perfusion are now limiting stroke damage, and helping patients recover from the severe effects of stroke. “We still need a lot more work to understand how to make brain cells more resistant to the stress of brain ischemia,” said Hallenbeck.

In recent years the Stroke Branch has been working to determine how to suppress strokes. Hallenbeck is a leader in efforts to study immune and inflammatory mechanisms as they relate to the initiation and progression of stroke, and also in the area of novel approaches to stroke prevention. His work uncovering the pathobiology of strokes and the mechanisms of strokes is considered seminal in the field.

“It has been exciting and rewarding work,” said Hallenbeck. “What drives everything is the hope that we can one day prevent strokes or secondary strokes. It is especially meaningful that my work has helped open paths toward minimizing disease, suffering and death.”

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), located in Bethesda, MD, was formed in 1887 as a laboratory to study bacteria. By 1922 the laboratory was working with many universities, and research subjects had significantly broadened. By the 1930s a series of institutes and centers had been created for specific research programs. Today’s NIH consumes nearly 1% of the federal government’s operating budget and controls more than half of all funding for health research in this country. Pictured is the NIH Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center.
circumstance. “They are the only family with three generations to attend the medical school since the school changed to a four-year M.D. degree program.”

It started with Lucinda’s grandmother Nancy Phipps’ completely unconventional path to and through medical school. Phipps started medical school much later than most, and as a woman was part of a distinct minority first in her medical school class and later on as a physician.

Nancy Phipps was born in 1935, the granddaughter of South Dakota Gov. Thomas Berry. She grew up on a cattle ranch south of Belvidere, S.D., attending a one-room school and then graduating from Kadoka High School. She attended South Dakota State College for one year before marrying a soldier. Phipps and her husband spent the next two years satisfying his Army obligations with post assignments in Georgia and Panama before returning to western South Dakota to her family’s ranch. They settled down and started a family.

Phipps had dreamed of working in medicine since she’d been a child. “As a young girl I thought I could be a nurse, but I never imagined that as a woman I could become a doctor,” she remembered. During her time at the ranch she and her children would move to Kadoka to be near a high school. It was during that time that she worked at a doctor’s office in the small community. That experience renewed her interest in medicine, and as she approached her 40th birthday it occurred to her that if she didn’t act on her dream it would pass her by. “By then I wanted to become a doctor, but it seemed an awkward time for me to begin my training,” she said, “but my feelings about going to medical school were strong, so I called the medical school and talked to Dean Karl Wegner. Dr. Wegner and I both

In spring 2013, when Lucinda Weaver left the stage clutching her diploma from Augustana College, her future plans were already set. She would soon begin medical training at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. Waiting to happily embrace her as she formally concluded her undergraduate education were family and friends, including her mother and grandmother, both physicians, and both graduates of the same institution where Lucinda would pursue her medical degree.

The three women now share a distinct and special bond—attending the same medical school—that practically transcends their bond as family.

Dr. Paul Bunger, dean of Medical Student Affairs at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, confirms the uniqueness of the Phipps-Weaver-Weaver
The same year Nancy Phipps received a medical school degree, her daughter Cynthia began her training at the USD medical school. Only 20, Cynthia had graduated early from high school, and entered medical school having taken all the college courses required for entrance into the medical school. Only 20, Cynthia had graduated early from high school, and entered medical school having taken all the college courses required for entrance into the medical school. She moved to Rapid City accompanied by her youngest daughter, Cynthia, who attended high school there while her mother took college courses.

Phipps was accepted to the University of South Dakota School of Medicine starting in the fall of 1976. Four years later, at the age of 45, she received her Doctor of Medicine degree, and in 1983 she completed an internal medicine residency in Rapid City. She is now retired after a long career that included private practice as an Internal Medicine Specialist in Temple, Texas. She is, according to her daughter, Lucinda Weaver, completely devoted to her work. "There are medical magazines and reports stacked in her house," Lucinda said. "My mom constantly studies to stay up-to-date on her field and on medicine, in general."

Cynthia Weaver is now raising her youngest child – 15-year-old Ben – in Duluth. Lucinda, Michael and Lucinda, are long out of high school, with Lucinda in her second year of medical school. While practicing in Rapid City, Cynthia served as president of the South Dakota State Medical Association, only the second woman to serve in that capacity.

Cynthia remembers having a circle of close friends while she practiced in Rapid City, many of whom were female physicians. That situation was noticed by daughter Lucinda. "My two oldest kids were quite young, maybe 6 and 8 old, and they were discussing what they wanted to be when they grew up," recalled Cynthia. "My daughter, Lucinda, announced that she was going to be a doctor. Then my son said he was also going to be a doctor. My daughter immediately responded: 'You can't be a doctor. Only girls can be doctors.'"

The little girls' impression of the profession was more than mildly distorted. Women were only beginning to enter the medical field as physicians in significant numbers by the 1980s. The fact that this three-generation feat involves a trio of women reflects the evolving and changing face of medicine.

Cynthia described the motivation she felt because of her mother's determination and passion about becoming a physician. "Like my mom, I had gone to a rural, one-room country school as a young girl, and wasn't sure about what I could do. But my mom motivated me. Her can-do attitude inspired me. She and others in my family instilled an attitude in me that I could pursue this career."

After graduating from medical school, Weaver specialized in rheumatology and practiced in Rapid City for 20 years. Several years ago she decided to join a practice in Duluth, Minn. She is, according to her daughter, Lucinda Weaver, completely devoted to her work. "There are medical magazines and reports stacked in her house," Lucinda said. "My mom constantly studies to stay up-to-date on her field and on medicine, in general."

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The University of South Dakota School of Medicine Class of 1978

SDSMA 7th District Honors the Late Dr. Karl Wegner

To honor the legacy of Dr. Karl Wegner, the 7th District of the South Dakota State Medical Association pledged $100,000 to establish an endowed scholarship fund which will be matched from the USD Sanford School of Medicine Endowment Campaign. Scholarships will be awarded to third or fourth year medical students intending to practice in the 7th District (including Sioux Falls and nearby areas) after they graduate.

“The district’s intent is to help underwrite the cost of medical education for students from South Dakota,” said Dr. Paul Amundson, chair of the 7th District Scholarship Committee. “We felt strongly about honoring Dr. Wegner, as many of our members had ties to Dr. Wegner, and because the medical community in this area and in the entire state owes so much to him.”

The medical school and the University of South Dakota Foundation appreciate the generosity and initiative of the 7th District. “We are deeply grateful to the members of the 7th District for establishing this scholarship for our deserving students,” said Dean Mary Nettleman. “He considered himself first and foremost a teacher, and the interests of our students were his paramount concern.”

Margaret Wegner, widow of Dr. Wegner, is elated at the generous and perpetual scholarship established in her husband’s name. She shared that “this ongoing scholarship program is especially gratifying and fitting because Karl considered his work as a teacher and the interaction he had with medical students to be the most important aspect of his professional life.”

For more information, contact Edd Storey, director of development for the USD Sanford School of Medicine/USD Foundation, at 605-357-1301 or Edd.Storey@usd.edu.

As 2014 closes, the Alumni Relations Council (ARC) is extremely grateful for the many gifts that alumni give. Every gift counts. Indeed, investments through the SSOM Alumni Endowment are growing closer to our goal of $600,000 needed to sustain current scholarships for our future physicians. SSOM students rely on scholarships to help defray the $30,000 in tuition and $60,000 in actual annual cost of attending medical school. Thanks to generous alumni, the ARC funds $14,000 for medical student scholarships and $4,000 for the Alumni Student Scholars Program annually. Your contributions have been wisely invested and are growing with a return of 6 to 17 percent annually to help sustain these gifts. Alumni gifts also allow the ARC to provide an orientation luncheon, scarves and ties, a White Coat Ceremony for the incoming class and student attendance at the annual SSOM reunion.

As Tao Te Ching said, “The heart that gives, gathers.” Scholarships and awards not only help students in very lean years financially, but show tremendous support and camaraderie from their future peers. This, in turn, encourages graduating physicians to stay near home. In fact, with 40 to 42 percent of graduates returning to South Dakota to practice, SSOM is ranked in the top five U.S. schools for graduates staying in their state. Furthermore, South Dakota hopes to expand the number of physicians entering the workforce, especially in rural areas where the need is so great. To accomplish that, the incoming class size will be expanded from 56 to 67 students starting in 2015. This year SSOM began the Frontier and Rural Medicine (FARM) program, which allows students to understand the complexities of primary care in rural clinic, hospital and extended care settings. These vital goals rely heavily on SSOM alumni for financial and professional support.

The ARC is especially thankful for our dedicated ASSP preceptorship mentors: Dr. Martin Christensen (Mitchell), Dr. Kevin Bjordahl (Milbank), Dr. Travis Henderson (Mobridge), Dr. Jason Wickersham (Armour), and Dr. Samuel Nyamu (Aberdeen). We also deeply appreciate the generosity of our FARM physician coordinators. They are Dr. Kevin Bjordahl (Milbank), Dr. Travis Henderson (Mobridge), Dr. Jason Wickersham (Parkston), Dr. Jerome Benton (Platte), and Dr. Anora Henderson (Winner). Each of these physicians exemplify Maya Angelou’s phrase, “When you learn, teach. When you get, give.” Thank you for giving.

The ARC is especially thankful for our dedicated ASSP preceptorship mentors: Dr. Martin Christensen (Mitchell), Dr. McKenzie Hanson and Dr. Carissa Pietz (Yankton), Dr. Michael Knapp (Aberdeen), Dr. Morgan Merrill (Armour), and Dr. Samuel Nyamu (Aberdeen). We also deeply appreciate the generosity of our FARM physician coordinators. They are Dr. Kevin Bjordahl (Milbank), Dr. Travis Henderson (Mobridge), Dr. Jason Wickersham (Parkston), Dr. Jerome Benton (Platte), and Dr. Anora Henderson (Winner). Each of these physicians exemplify Maya Angelou’s phrase, “When you learn, teach. When you get, give.” Thank you for giving.

Soon we will take down the 2014 calendar and replace it with the 2015 version. As we do so, please reflect on the year’s gifts with gratitude and take the opportunity to fill up each new box with purpose. One day in May, the ARC invites you to Sioux Falls to welcome our graduating Class of 2015 and to honor milestones classes (1965, 1990 and 2005) and anniversary classes (1970, 1980, 1985, 1995, 2000 and 2010). This holiday, please consider any contribution to the SSOM ARC as a gift that keeps giving back. Thank you!

Michelle Baack, ’95 M.D.
President, USD Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Relations Council

Scholarship Honors Memory of Classmates

It’s amazing what can be done by well-intentioned people when no one takes credit for the accomplishment. The Class of 1978, under the leadership of Dr. Robert Goodhope, created an endowed scholarship fund to honor the memory of their classmates Frank Harding, Richard Sample, Ronald Thune, Gregg Tobin and John Vanderwood.

Goodhope learned of the matching funds available for endowing scholarships right around the same time he heard the news of the death of his fifth classmate. “Our class, when made aware of the same, chose to join together and create a class legacy with a scholarship endowment memorializing those five,” shared Dr. Goodhope.

Generous gifts from the Class of 1978 have quickly exceeded the minimum match requirement of $25,000 to endow the class scholarship.

“I am in awe of their generosity and caring,” Goodhope added. “I believe our Class of 1978 may be among the first to endow a scholarship, but will not be the last to take advantage of the matching funds to leave a class legacy that will endure indefinitely.”

Thank you to the Class of 1978 for honoring your classmates and creating a greater legacy for future Sanford School of Medicine students.

From the Alumni Relations Council President

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”
— Pablo Picasso

Michelle Baack, ’95 M.D.
President, USD Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Relations Council

Alumni letter

Giving

Alumni

SDSMA 7th District

Memory of Classmates

Scholarship Honors

The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”
— Pablo Picasso

Michelle Baack, ’95 M.D.
President, USD Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Relations Council

Alumni letter

Giving

Alumni
The Value of a Scholarship

What did a year at the USD Sanford School of Medicine cost when you were a student? Today, it is nearly $52,000 a year (more than $83,000 for out-of-state residents).“

“The amount of money you have to borrow for medical school is terrifying,” says Deanna Lassegard, a fourth-year student in Rapid City. She expects to graduate with more than $200,000 in debt. It could have been more. Thanks to donors whose generosity created the scholarships Lassegard has received, some $17,000 of her educational expenses are paid in full. “I’m incredibly grateful for every dollar I don’t owe interest on,” she said.

Married and the mother of a son, born in September 2013, Lassegard plans to pay off “that giant iceberg of debt” as a physician.

Lassegard plans to pay off “that giant iceberg of debt” as a physician. “There’s never a dull moment. As soon as you get comfortable, something else will happen.”

That last sentence could also sum up Lassegard’s journey through 2013. Her mother’s breast cancer diagnosis prompted a frequent commute between Vermillion, where she was attending second-year classes, and Rapid City, where her mother was undergoing surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation. Then in September, Lassegard gave birth two months prematurely to her son, Liam. “Balancing being a new mom to a high-needs infant while attending medical school was emotionally very hard,” she says. “I felt like I could not give the amount of time and attention to each responsibility that it required and deserved.”

But the support of her husband, their families, SSOM faculty and her supervising physicians has kept Lassegard moving onward. The scholarship support has also taken on new meaning. “It’s been a vote of confidence,” she said. “To know that others think that I deserve to be here has been so inspirational and encouraging. I needed to be told that this year!”

A common perception, Lassegard added, is that scholarships are all about the money—and they do ease financial burden for deserving students. “That’s obvious,” she said. “But they also mean that somebody thinks you’re doing a fine job. That’s a huge confidence and morale booster.”

“T o know that others think that I deserve to be here has been so inspirational and encouraging. I needed to be told that this year!”

The scholarship support has also taken on new meaning to each responsibility that it required and deserved.

The most important influences in my life have been my parents (also USD grads), my church and the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. I am delighted with the extraordinary partnership with our graduates and friends,” said Mary Nettleman, M.D., dean.

Two goals of the matching gift campaign are to significantly enhance new scholarship offerings for medical students and to expand resources for faculty development and education. Additional scholarship support will lessen the debt burden that many students face upon graduation. The debt load for the 2013 graduating class exceeded $142,000 and this amount does not include any undergraduate debt. Dean Nettlemann added, “Securing new endowed scholarships benefits one of our greatest assets—our students. With everyone’s support, we will be able to help our medical students receive an outstanding education and fully prepare them for their careers as physicians. Also, it sends a message to our students that our alumni and friends care about their future success.”

Our faculty members are the foundation for the education of our students. Endowments for faculty support provide the School of Medicine with opportunities to enhance the teaching abilities of our faculty and to recruit and retain outstanding physician educators/practitioners. Tim Ridgway, M.D., dean of clinical faculty, said, “Having the financial resources available to develop faculty improves our ability to prepare student to practice in the modern era and enhances the ability of faculty to mentor students.”

Matching Gift Program

Every contribution that meets a particular giving level will be matched dollar for dollar through the University of South Dakota Foundation for the benefit of the USD Sanford School of Medicine. For example, a $25,000 pledge contribution will generate a $25,000 match to realize a $50,000 endowment, and a $50,000 pledge contribution will gain a $50,000 match to realize a total of $100,000 in support. To be eligible for matching dollars, a minimum pledge/contribution of $25,000 for a new endowment is required. The amount can be paid over a five year period.

Edd Storey, director of development for the USD Sanford School of Medicine/USD Foundation, will work with you on completing the pledge form in addition to an endowment agreement. The endowment agreement outlines your desires for the gift and the responsibilities of the USD Sanford School of Medicine as well as the USD Foundation. Endowments are funded create a return on income to support a specific purpose.

We invite you to participate in this extraordinary opportunity. To accept this invitation, contact Edd Storey or complete the pledge form on the next page and return it to:

Edd Storey
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
1400 West 22nd Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1570
605-357-1301 | Edd.Storey@usd.edu

The Sanford School of Medicine seeks to raise new endowments for student scholarships and faculty support. Contributed gifts will be matched dollar for dollar. “This campaign and the ability to match donations provide an opportunity for an extraordinary partnership with our graduates and friends,” said Mary Nettleman, M.D., dean.

Questions about the Reunion? Contact Nicole Plesec at (605) 357-1586 or Nicole.Plesec@usd.edu.

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine Matching Gift Endowment Campaign

Sanford School of Medicine\n
In our Future

Sanford School of Medicine\n
Investing in Our Future

Sanford School of Medicine Matching Gift Endowment Campaign

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Two goals of the matching gift campaign are to significantly enhance new scholarship offerings for medical students and to expand resources for faculty development and education. Additional scholarship support will lessen the debt burden that many students face upon graduation. The debt load for the 2013 graduating class exceeded $142,000 and this amount does not include any undergraduate debt. Dean Nettlemann added, “Securing new endowed scholarships benefits one of our greatest assets—our students. With everyone’s support, we will be able to help our medical students receive an outstanding education and fully prepare them for their careers as physicians. Also, it sends a message to our students that our alumni and friends care about their future success.”

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A common perception, Lassegard added, is that scholarships are all about the money— and they do ease financial burden for deserving students. “That’s obvious,” she said. “But they also mean that somebody thinks you’re doing a fine job. That’s a huge confidence and morale booster.”

The most important influences in my life have been my parents (also USD grads), my church and the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. I am delighted with the extraordinary partnership with our graduates and friends,” said Mary Nettleman, M.D., dean.

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Debanjana Bhattacharya, M.D., PGY IV psychiatry resident, received an APA/SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Award. Funded through a grant from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), Dr. Bhattacharya is working with the American Psychiatric Association’s Division on Diversity and Health Equity to hold a program in South Dakota to raise awareness about and strategize solutions to eliminate disparities in Native American communities.

Nathan Brakke, ’02 M.D., pediatric anesthesiologist at Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego, Calif., was voted one of San Diego’s 2014 Top Docs.

Ashley Briggs, ’01 M.D., was appointed chair for the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Committee for American Indian/Native Programs.

Hesham Elgonah, M.D., FACR, hepatologist and medical director with Avena Medical Group Liver Disease Sioux Falls, and associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, will mentor Rebekka Klemme, CNP, who has been selected for an NP/PA Clinical Hepatology Fellowship with the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. Klemme is one of four to be awarded the prestigious NP/PA Clinical Hepatology Fellowship and one of 16 overall selected to receive Research and Career Development Awards based on professional potential, experience and commitment of their faculty mentors, quality of the proposed research project or clinical program, and the clinical and/or academic environment of their institution.

Scott Baison, M.D., completed his Geriatric Fellowship with the Sanford School of Medicine in October 2014.

Keith Baumgarten, M.D., associate professor and orthopedic surgeon with Orthopedic Institute, was awarded the 2014 O’Donoghue Sports Injury Research Award. The prestigious award is given annually to the best overall paper that deals with clinical based research or human in-vivo research. This year’s winning research was entitled “Revision Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction Graft Choice Impact on Outcome in the Multi-Center ACL Revision (MARS) Cohort.” The study, which analyzed the impact of using a patient’s own autograft tissue versus a cadaver graft for ACL replacement, demonstrated better patient reported outcomes and a decreased re-tear rate if a patient’s own tissue was utilized.

Richard P. Holm, M.D., has been selected for advancement to Mastership with the American College of Physicians (ACP). ACP bylaws state that Masters shall be Fellows who have been selected because of “personal character, positions of honor, contributions towards furthering the purposes of the ACP, eminence in practice or in medical research, or other attainments in science or in the art of medicine.” Masters must be highly accomplished individuals. Evidence of their achievements can come from many types of endeavor such as research, education, health care initiatives, volunteerism and administrative positions. The Master must be distinguished by the excellence and significance of his or her contributions to the field of medicine. Dr. Holm joins a select group of South Dakota ACP members who have achieved Mastership status: Jack Barker, Donald Humphreys, Mary Nettleman, Rodney Parry and Robert Talley.

Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development: The Sanford team says it will work with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and partners in Rapid City to identify cultural factors that affect infant sleep practices and then develop strategies for intervention that are community-endorsed and culturally driven.

Michael Heim, ’95 M.D., has been appointed chief executive officer of Regional Provider Network (RPN) in Lincoln, Neb. Dr. Heim is a 20-year health care veteran with leadership experience in large integrated health care systems, rural primary care practices and inpatient and outpatient care settings, as well as academic medicine and clinical research. He most recently served as chief medical officer and vice president of medical affairs at CHI Health St. Francis in Grand Island, Neb. and prior, served in several leadership roles within the system’s Healthcare Administration (VHA), where he was instrumental in developing and deploying the patient-centered medical home model across the VHA.

Melissa Johnson, ’01 M.D., was appointed as the associate program director for the Sanford School of Medicine Surgical Residency Program.

Melissa Johnson, ’01 M.D., received the Anton Hyden Distinguished Professor Award in May 2014.

David Kovalske, M.D., FCCP has been elected to Fellowship in the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST). The Center for Disabilities has named Dr. Eric Kurtz as director of Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND), which provides long-term graduate level specialized training focusing on the interdisciplinary training of professionals for leadership roles in the provision of health and related services to infants, children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental and related disabilities and their families. There are currently 43 LEND programs in 37 states.

Jason Lenke, AHEC development specialist within the Department of Family Medicine, was elected vice president of the South Dakota Association of Fundraising Professionals board of directors. The term will begin in January 2015. He currently serves on the board as scholarship chair.

Julie Ann Linatos, M.D., has passed the exam for Specialist in Hypertension given by the American Society of Hypertension.

Janet Lindemann, M.B.A., dean of Medical Student Education and professor of Family Medicine, has joined the Marshfield Clinic Health System (MCHS) Board of Directors.
Vinod Parameswaran, M.D., internal medicine faculty, has been honored as one of the American Cancer Society’s Champions in the Fight Against Cancer.

Basanta Pathak, M.D., internal medicine faculty, has been named Rapid City Regional Hospital’s Physician of the Quarter for Customer Service Excellence.

Arvin Santos, M.D., FACP, FASN, has been elected to Fellowship in the American Society of Nephrology.

Timothy Soudry, M.D., was appointed to the executive council of the AACP (American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry) for a three-year term beginning October 2014.

Dennis Stevens, M.D., internal medicine faculty, has been named to the editorial board of NonRevius Plus, a publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is serving Jan. 1, 2014 – Dec. 31, 2018.

Steven Stocks, ’73 M.D., internal medicine, was chosen by the Rapid City students as the recipient of this year’s Professionalism Award sponsored by Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Henry Travers, M.D., clinical professor of pathology, was appointed historian of the South Dakota State Medical Association in August 2014.

Henry Travers, M.D., clinical professor of pathology, was elected treasurer of the World Pathology Foundation.

Vicki Walker, ’97 M.D., was chosen as a 2014-2015 Health and Aging Policy Fellow.

Gerald Yutzenka, Ph.D., Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences, has been appointed as the AAMC Central region representative to the GSA Committee on Student Diversity Affairs for a three-year term beginning November 2014.

The following internal medicine faculty have recently been elected to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians: Joseph Fasciullio, M.D., FACP, David Kovalskis, M.D., FCCP, FACPE, Fady Jamous, M.D., FACP, Mark Lounbey, D.O., FACP, Michael Pietila, M.D., FACP and Arvin Santos, M.D., FACP.

On June 3, the following faculty were recognized as 2014 ADP Award recipients: Jonathan Bleeker, M.D. - Clinical Faculty Teaching Award from IM Residents; Farzin Farajzadeh, M.D. - Academic Faculty Teaching Award from IM Residents; David Kovalski, M.D. - Department of Internal Medicine Service Award; Jennifer Hsu, M.D. - Department of Internal Medicine Chair Award and Golden Apple Awards from medical students; Beth Mikkelsen, M.D. - Yankton Campus; Alla Zammuto, M.D., Ph.D. - Sioux Falls Campus and James Bowman, M.D. - Rapid City Campus.

The annual meeting for the South Dakota Chapter of the American College of Physicians (SDACP) took place Sept. 10-12, 2014 in Pierre, S.D. and the following were recipients of 2014 awards:

- LuAnn Eidsness, ’87 M.D., FACP, professor and department chair of Internal Medicine, was awarded the 2014 South Dakota ACP Laureate Award. She practices hospice and palliative medicine at Sanford Clinic Palliative Care, is a member of AMA and RSNA, has been a member of the Resident Advocacy Committee, the prestigious award honors ACP Fellows and Masters who have demonstrated their commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research and service to their community, their region and the college.

- Jennifer Hsu, M.D., assistant professor with Internal Medicine, was awarded the 2014 SD ACP Early Career Physician of the Year. This award honors an internist who is practicing in the state of South Dakota and is within 16 years of graduation from medical school. The recipient demonstrates the ideals of the profession and maintains an active role in the SD ACP.

- Jitendra Thakkar, M.D., FACP, academic faculty with the Internal Medicine department, was awarded the 2014 SD ACP Teacher of the Year. Dr. Thakkar’s teaching is held in high regard by medical students and residents alike. This award honors a member who exemplifies talent, enthusiasm and professionalism in medical education.

Events

The 6th Annual Welcome Table was hosted by various academic programs in Lee Med and on campus on Dec. 8. In addition to the Welcome Table meal, there were activities for the children, goodies provided by USD Dental Hygiene, USD Reading Council, RBS Graduate students, photographs provided by the Lee Med Photography group and more. Santa Claus and Clarke Coyote were special guests.

In Memoriam


Thomas Bairnson, ’59 R.S.M.D., Minnetonka, Minn., died May 1, 2014.

Garold Faber, ’49 M.D., of Ventura, Calif., died May 29, 2014.


Paul Larive, ’56 M.D., of Hood River, Ore., died May 21, 2014.

Frederick Martin, ’64 M.D., of Bagley, Minn., June 2, 2014.


John D. Piersma, ’74 M.D., of Cincinnati, Ohio, died Feb. 6, 2014.


Selected Publications


Barr JL, Fessler GL, Unterwald EM. “Repeated cocaine enhances ventral hippocampal-stimulated dopamine efflux in the nucleus accumbens and also preferentially modulates NMDA receptor subunit expression.” Journal of Neuroscience. 2014; 130:583-590.
**South Dakota Medicine**

**Operates hospitals, senior care facilities and clinics in four states.**

Health, a regional, not-for-profit health care system headquartered in Rapid City that

Peters SJ, Hansen KA, Quevillon RP.

**Vaccination and Contraception Use in**

Peters SJ, Hansen KA, Quevillon RP. "Adolescent Human Papillomavirus".

**South Dakota Medicine**

South Dakota Medicine


Dr. Jerome Freeman, professor and chair of the Department of Neuroscience at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, is the author of Bringing Kindness to Medicine, a memoir one reviewer described as "a story of grace that transcends the field of medicine . . . [Dr. Freeman] shows us that kindness is redemptive and transforms even the most troubling of situations." Freeman is the author of three volumes of poetry, two books of essays and is the co-author of an anthology focused on issues of caring.

Presentation

Ray Rudolph, ’86 M.D., is a key physician on the breast disease management team at the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institutes (ACI) at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, Ga. In June, he presented findings regarding use of the intraoperative radiation therapy (IORT) as an international conference in Mannheim, Germany.

Melissa Spanggaard, D.O., has two abstracts accepted on "Mass Murderer Manifestos" and "Murder as Family Violence" for the International Association of Law and Mental Health meeting in Vienna in July 2015.
Vision Statement of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine will be a leader in educating students who with knowledge, skill, and compassion dedicate their lives to the well-being of their patients, their community, and their profession.

Mission Statement of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine

The Mission of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine is to provide the opportunity for South Dakota residents to receive a quality, broad-based medical education with an emphasis on family medicine. The curriculum is to be established to encourage graduates to serve people living in the medically underserved areas of South Dakota, and is to require excellence in the basic sciences and in all clinical disciplines.

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine is to provide to its students and to the people of South Dakota excellence in education, research and service. To these ends, the school is to provide educational pathways leading to both the Doctor of Medicine and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees; and quality health care for the people of South Dakota is addressed by undergraduate, graduate and continuing educational programs as well as by basic and applied medical research;

The School of Medicine should serve as a technical resource in the development of health care policy in the state and provide extension and research initiatives to improve the health care of the citizens of the state.

Diversity Statement of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine values diversity and its essential role in achieving the educational, scholarship, and service missions of the school. Therefore, the medical school is committed to both recruitment and retention of students, residents, faculty, and staff who through their diversity enrich the learning environment and promote inclusive excellence. We recognize diversity as relating to race, ethnicity, creed, rural background, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, age, and disability. In addition, we value persons with broad life experiences, with records of service to disadvantaged populations, and with other attributes that may enhance the learning community. The medical school has chosen three areas of emphasis on diversity to enrich the learning environment and promote inclusive excellence: American Indians, rural, and gender.

Mission Statement of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Relations Council

The mission of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Relations Council is to support the SSOM in the fulfillment of its mission and promote a mutually beneficial and enduring relationship between alumni and the School of Medicine, its students, residents, faculty and administration.