CLASS OF 2017
Medical students celebrate the present and prepare for their futures

A PROFOUND BOND
Graduates share medical training and motherhood

STUDENT PROFILE
Sharleen Yuan embraces intense study

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On the cover
Six members of the class of 2017 and an M.D./Ph.D. student were photographed as Pillar 1 students in 2014. Left to right: Danielle Thornburg, Hannah Statz, Mason Ruthford, Charis Noteboom, Ashley Osenga, Lucinda Weaver and Mitch Patrick.

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Contributions and feedback are welcome. sdmd@usd.edu

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Administration
James W. Abbott
President, University of South Dakota
Mary D. Nettleman, M.D., M.S., M.A.C.P.
Vice President of Health Affairs,
Dean, Sanford School of Medicine
Tena Haraldson
Director of Marketing Communications
& University Relations

Editorial Staff
Kim Lee
Editor
Peter Carrels
Managing Editor, Principal Writer
Nicole Plesec
Contributing Writer
Eric Dalseide
Layout and Design, Photography

Special Thanks
Carmen Hammond
Edd Storey

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is our pleasure to present the most recent issue of South Dakotan M.D. This issue covers a lot of ground with stories about students, faculty, alumni, donors and more. Yet, underlying it all is the sense of community that pervades the medical school. Students develop friendships and bonds in medical school that are deep and lifelong. Some students already have friends in their class when they arrive, but most are strangers to each other. In medical school, they share experiences and support each other through stressful times. We are proud of the collegiality of our students, who are known for reaching out to help each other. In this issue, we highlight two friendships among many. You will read about two students who delivered each other’s babies and graduated together this past May. Also, we tell the story of two students who shared an experience in Vietnam assisting Dr. Jerry Popham ’85 with ophthalmologic surgeries. It’s easy to see that these students will cherish their friendships with each other for the rest of their lives. Friendships often run deep among students. Among the 2017 graduating class listed in this issue, there are a number of students who married fellow students during medical school.

Students from the class of 2017 have now become alumni of the school. We have a generous and supportive group of alumni, and this issue shows some of the many ways they remain a vital part of our community. Many returned for their class reunions, telling lively stories, renewing friendships, inspiring students and reminiscing about their medical school days. Many teach our medical students and set an example for the next generation of physicians. Generous alumni have funded scholarships and these gifts give our students an incredible boost when they need it most. We are proud to present our list of donors, and we are all deeply grateful to them.

There is much more to read about in this issue. Examples include the award-winning research done by students and faculty, and the medical school’s work in running the Health Occupation Student Association (HOSA) with its 785 South Dakotan high school students. There is so much going on! Thank you for being part of it.

Mary D. Nettleman, M.D., M.S., M.A.C.P.
Vice President/Dean
The Regional Health Rapid City Campus of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine has moved to a downtown location. The official address is 520 Kansas City Street, Suite 200.

Before relocating downtown, the campus was housed in southern Rapid City.

“The new Rapid City campus of the USD Sanford School of Medicine provides an updated facility to meet the curriculum needs of the USD medical students who are receiving clinical training here,” said Dr. Matt Simmons, dean of the Rapid City campus. “This new campus is centrally located in Rapid City, and is nicely positioned to support the medical education community while also engaging with the community at large.”

Dr. Simmons noted that USD’s medical school has educated nearly 200 of the physicians either practicing or retired in the Rapid City area. The school’s faculty includes about 260 area physicians serving as teachers to medical students, including 59 physicians who serve as core faculty.

“The impact of the medical school in Rapid City and the Black Hills is profound,” said Dr. Simmons. “Our new campus will allow us to better serve our students, the city and western South Dakota.”

A formal opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new campus location will be held Aug. 23.
Congratulations to the Class of 2017

Thomas J. Huber, ’77 M.D., clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine and physician in Pierre, South Dakota, served as 2017 graduation convocation speaker. Following are excerpts of his speech to the 51 graduates and to the 600 people in attendance.

The profession of medicine holds a special place in American society because of our education, experience and demonstrated competency – so be humbled by the society you serve.

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The professional physician strives for excellence in six areas:
- **Altruism** – patients come first rather than self-interest
- **Accountability** – to patients, society in matters of public health and members of their profession
- **Excellence** – commitment to lifelong learning
- **Duty** – commitment to service
- **Honor and integrity** – fairness and truthfulness with patients and the profession
- **Respect** – for patients and their families, and for other physicians and team members, and students, residents and fellows

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Know what you know, but more importantly know what you don’t know. Stay a lifelong learner. Keep a nimble mind and a warm, open heart.
Six graduates who had previously committed to military service were administered a military oath reflecting their promotions to captain after serving as second lieutenants during medical school.

Congratulating the students is Dr. Jack Wempe, chief of staff of the Sioux Falls VA Healthcare System and a retired Army Medical Corps colonel. New M.D.s are, left to right, Jed Assam, Kelsey Bean, Tyler Gilliland, John Person and Benjamin Lancaster. Not pictured is Meredith Shama.

The military commitment for each graduate is commensurate with one year of military service for each year the student enjoyed the military-based Health Profession Scholarship Program (HPSP) during medical school. There is a three-year minimum for such a military commitment, and the commitment begins upon completion of residency training.

The HPSP pays tuition, expenses related to books and supplies, plus a monthly stipend of more than $2,000 to medical students committing to military service following medical school. HPSP students also have opportunities for clinical rotations at military teaching hospitals during medical school.
ANNUAL AWARDS

The USD Sanford School of Medicine and its Alumni Relations Council recently presented the following annual awards:

Alumni Student Scholars
Daniel Davies, M.D.
Collin Michels, M.D.
Kristin Wempe, M.D.

Anton Hyden Award
Shahid Ahmad, M.D.

The Chester McVay Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research
Lori Hansen, M.D.

Class of 1958 Basic Science Faculty Award
Doug Martin, Ph.D.

Class of 1983 Clinical Faculty Award
Suzanne Reuter, ’00 M.D.

Claude K. Lardinois Endocrinology Award
Kaitlin Branick, M.D.

Dean’s Academic Achievement Award
Ethan Young, M.D.

Donald L. Alcott, M.D., Award for Clinical Promise
Daniel Davies, M.D.

2017 Distinguished Alumni Award
Tim Ridgway, ’84 M.D.

George Rinker Award for Excellence in Anatomy
Rebecca Cooper, Class of 2020

Glasgow-Rubin Citation for Academic Achievement
Emily Nachtigal, M.D.
Brooke Fischer, M.D.
Keely Krolakowski, M.D.
Kirstin Hockhausen, M.D.
Hannah Statz, M.D.

James E. Ryan, M.D., Department of Family Medicine Award
Ryan Buse, M.D.
Randall Waldner, M.D.

2017 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award
Sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation
Jed Assam, M.D.
Cara M. Hamilton, M.D.

Satish Koneru Award for Excellence in Physiology
Elle Anderson, Class of 2019

Scholarship Pathways Scholars
Dominique Boudreau, M.D.
Kaitlin Branick, M.D.
Peter Chang, M.D.
Samuel Evenson, M.D.
Michael Frost, M.D.
Eric Jones, M.D.
Collin Michels, M.D.
Ashley Osenga, M.D.
Daniel Parrott, M.D.
Danielle Thornburg, M.D.
Trevor Watson, M.D.
Kelly Wong, M.D.

Warren L. Jones, M.D., Class of 1954 Faculty Award
Valerie Hearns, M.D.

Class of 2017 Characteristics

There were 51 graduates, including 21 females and 30 males.

Graduates hailed from 16 different hometowns in South Dakota.

Approximately 44 percent of graduates grew up in a town of fewer than 10,000 population.

Graduates hail from six different states, including South Dakota, California, Iowa, North Dakota, Minnesota and Indiana.

No graduate had yet been born when the USD Sanford School of Medicine graduated its first class of M.D.s in 1977.
Match Day, a Day of Lasting Impact

Match Day represents one of the most dramatic and fulfilling events in higher education. Practically every soon-to-graduate medical student in the nation learns on the exact same day and at the same time where they will perform a residency and in what medical specialty that residency training will be. Match Day 2017 was held March 17. On that day USD SSOM students and their families and friends gathered at locations in Sioux Falls, Yankton and Rapid City to find out about their residencies.

It is true that a residency can influence a medical career. Students carefully apply for residencies, knowing their own specific interests and ambitions. But acceptance into a favored residency is not certain, and the process of determining who is assigned to each residency is highly competitive.

This year’s class will enter 16 different specialties at medical locations in 21 different states. Leading residency specialties for the graduates include family medicine with eight, internal medicine with six, obstetrics/gynecology also with six and pediatrics with five. Surgical residencies were selected by four graduates, and two graduates will be training in orthopedic surgery residencies. Nine of the 2017 graduates will be doing residencies in South Dakota.
Matthew Hustrulid – RADI/_DIAG
Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Brooke Jensen – FAMP
Hometown: Humboldt, SD
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
Sioux Falls, SD

Michael Neison – ANES
Hometown: Yankton, SD
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE

Meredith Shama – OGYN
Hometown: Fishers, IN
Creighton University Affiliated Hospitals
Omaha, NE

Eric Jones – PEDS
Hometown: Escondido, CA
Nationwide Children’s Hospital
Columbus, OH

Andrea Sherman – VASCULAR SURG
Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics
Madison, WI

Trevor Kindle – TRAN
Hometown: Yankton, SD
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
Sioux Falls, SD
PGY2 – OPTHAL
Mayo Clinic, Department of Ophthalmology
Rochester, MN

Karah Odegaard – PATH/ANAT & CLIN
Hometown: Rapid City, SD
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
Sioux Falls, SD

Hannah Statz – PTRY
Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
Rush University Medical Center
Chicago, IL

Keely Krolikowski – OGYN
Hometown: Wanblee, SD
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Danielle Thornburg – SURG/GEN
Hometown: Yankton, SD
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
Sioux Falls, SD

Benjamin Lancaster – ORTHO
Hometown: Crofton, NE
University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita
Wichita, KS

Randall Waldner – FAMP
Hometown: Redfield, SD
Texas A&M – Bryan/Collge Station
Bryan, TX

Jens Lillevold – MEDC
Hometown: Yankton, SD
Hennepin Co Medical Center
Minneapolis, MN

Trevor Watson – OGYN
Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
Creighton University Affiliated Hospitals
Omaha, NE

Benjamin Meyerink – FAMP
Hometown: Geddes, SD
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, MN

Lucinda Weaver – PEDS
Hometown: Rapid City, SD
University of Alabama Medical Center – Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

Collin Michels – EMR
Hometown: Yankton, SD
Stanford University Programs
Stanford, CA

Kristin Wempe – SURG/GEN
Hometown: Mitchell, SD
Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners
Grand Rapids, MI

Emily Nachtigal – MEDC
Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, WI

Jordan Schild – FAMP
Hometown: Yankton, SD
University of Minnesota Medical School – Mankato
Minneapolis, MN

Ethan Young – ANES
Hometown: Harrisburg, SD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN

Ashley Osenga – MEDC
Hometown: Yankton, SD
Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines
Des Moines, IA

Daniel Parrott – MEDC/PRE
Hometown: Yankton, SD
Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine
Great Neck, NY
PGY2 – RADI-DIAG/Research
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School – Dallas
Dallas, TX

Paul Rozeboom – SURG/PRE
Hometown: Sergeant Bluff, IA
University of North Dakota School of Medicine
Grand Forks, ND

Karah Odegaard – PATH/ANAT & CLIN
Hometown: Rapid City, SD
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
Sioux Falls, SD

Ashley Osenga – MEDC
Hometown: Yankton, SD
Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines
Des Moines, IA

John Person – PTRY
Hometown: Hartford, SD
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
Sioux Falls, SD

Paul Rozeboom – SURG/PRE
Hometown: Sergeant Bluff, IA
North Dakota School of Medicine
Grand Forks, ND

Karah Odegaard – PATH/ANAT & CLIN
Hometown: Rapid City, SD
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
Sioux Falls, SD

Emily Nachtigal – MEDC
Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, WI

Jordan Schild – FAMP
Hometown: Yankton, SD
University of Minnesota Medical School – Mankato
Minneapolis, MN

Ethan Young – ANES
Hometown: Harrisburg, SD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN
Expressing Empathy Through Poetry
While engaged in a four-week clerkship, Pillar 3 medical student Sam Evenson examined a young patient demonstrating what he viewed as abnormal behavior. “I want to be clear,” said Evenson, “that one person’s normal behavior is not necessarily normal behavior.”

Following that examination Evenson wrote a poem about the young patient, and he contrasted that patient with an imaginary patient as a means to express his own feelings. The poem was submitted as an assignment in Evenson’s Medicine and Humanities course, taught by Ellen Schellinger and Dr. Luann Eidsness. Schellinger later referred to Sam Evenson as “a prime example of the thoughtful, talented students we have in the course.”

Evenson’s poem reflects a notable sensitivity and expressive ability. Evenson, a Sioux Falls native, received his M.D. degree in May and soon enters a residency in psychiatry at the University of Vermont Medical Center. “I like the empathy and engagement of medicine,” he explained. “That’s what appeals to me about psychiatry.”

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**Parenting**

*by Sam Evenson*

She is 5 years old and
She is broken

She cannot walk
She cannot talk
She cannot see

She drags her left loose leg numbly as
She steps on and off the scale
on and off
on and off

She smiles, vacant—her left eye lost as
She looks at something past me

She sits
Her clothes are dusty
Her hair is greasy
Her lungs say “Whoosh”
Her nails are caked with dirt

She lives in a world where
Thieves believe
That trees need smoke;
Fees and keys

Robbed of her mind
Robbed of her future

She sits
She believes in trees that
Sip sunshine and
Say it’s ok
To be

Free
She blossoms

And the parent watches.
And the parent watches.
At a ceremony held May 4, 2017 in Sioux Falls, the South Dakota Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society inducted 10 medical students, one faculty member, two alumni and one medical resident from the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. It was the chapter's 40th annual installation of new members.

Five students from the medical school’s Class of 2017 were elected, including Peter Chang and Joshua Rezkalla of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Kirstin Hockhausen of Rapid City, South Dakota, Trevor Kindle of Yankton, South Dakota, and John Person of Hartford, South Dakota. Five students from the Class of 2018 were elected: David Christianson of New Suffolk, New York, Nathan Jacobson and Dane Schroeder of Rapid City, South Dakota, Ashley Schmidt of Mitchell, South Dakota, and Garett Steers of Miller, South Dakota.

In addition to the students, the chapter elected faculty member Dr. Joseph Zenel, Jr., alumni Dr. John Hallenbeck and Dr. Byron Nielsen and medical resident Dr. Natalie Dvorak.

Tim Ridgway, M.D., councilor, provided special remarks at the program. Dr. Ridgway acknowledged the original founders of AOA in South Dakota, including Dr. Costas Assimacopoulus, Dr. Edward J. Batt, Dr. Lawrence Finney, Dr. Robert Quinn, Dr. Robert Tally, Dr. Lonnie Waltner and Dr. Loren Amundson. Ridgway, director of the Endoscopy Unit at the Veterans Hospital in Sioux Falls, and executive dean/dean of faculty affairs and dean of the Sioux Falls campus of the medical school, also provided a history of AOA at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. He pointed out that membership to AOA was a major development in scholarship at the school of medicine.

The South Dakota chapter of AOA at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine was granted its charter in 1978. AOA recognizes and perpetuates excellence in the medical profession. It is organized for educational purposes, and it honors high standards of character and conduct among medical students, faculty and medical graduates. AOA specifically recognizes high academic achievement among students, as well as gifted teaching and leadership in academia and the community.
Classroom Dedicated to Dr. Talley

On March 1, 2017, existing Sioux Falls classroom HSC 106 was formally dedicated as the Robert C. Talley M.D. Classroom to honor the beloved, respected teacher and dean who passed away in October 2016. Dr. Talley began his career at the medical school in 1975 as chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, and he served as dean of the medical school from 1986 to 2004, the longest tenure of any dean in the med school’s modern era.

More than 600 Attend South Dakota HOSA State Leadership Conference

The State Leadership Conference of South Dakota HOSA took place April 6-7 in Sioux Falls, continuing the organization’s outstanding record of engagement, participation and membership growth. The gathering allowed more than 600 HOSA members from across the state to meet one another, listen to a variety of speakers and learn from professional health care providers. Members also engaged in competitions and breakout sessions, and they learned EMT procedures and information about disaster training. HOSA members also toured local health facilities.

As an organization, HOSA provides a comprehensive, rigorous and relevant program aimed at encouraging students to pursue careers in health-related occupations.

“HOSA is really starting to take off from a member standpoint,” said South Dakota HOSA state advisor Brock Rops. “I think students share with others just how much HOSA has helped them in their pursuit to work as a health professional.”

Kelsi Snyder, South Dakota HOSA state president and a junior at Harrisburg High School, said, “HOSA has allowed me the opportunity to investigate a multitude of health career options. Having this opportunity has solidified my intent on working with kids as a pediatrician.”

Marisa Morris, a senior at Harrisburg High School, noted, “Through the clinical specialty event offered by HOSA I was able to shadow a genetic counselor and was able to find out how much I enjoy the genetic side of health care. I plan to pursue that career path.”

One impressive highlight: more than 130 South Dakota HOSA students have qualified for the 2017 International Leadership Conference, to be held in late June in Orlando, Florida.

New FARM Sites Open

Two new Frontier And Rural Medicine (FARM) sites, located in Pierre and Spearfish, opened in April 2017, boosting the reach of this nationally-recognized rural medicine program.

FARM places selected third-year medical students at a rural hospital/clinic for nine months to help prepare them for medical careers serving rural and frontier communities. Pierre and Spearfish join five other FARM sites located across the state.

HOSA’s Trajectory of Impressive Growth

South Dakota HOSA continues to grow. The number of members has increased steadily since the statewide group was formed in 2012. Here are recent statewide membership statistics.

- 2015: 509 members
- 2016: 665 members
- 2017: 785 members
USD Sanford School of Medicine Recognized for Family Medicine Contributions

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine has been rated 15th out of 134 M.D. degree-granting institutions in the nation for placing its graduates into family medicine residencies. The information comes from an American Academy of Family Physicians analysis that examines the number of medical school graduates placed into residencies during three years, ending in 2015. This is the most recent period of review.

Slightly more than 15 percent of USD’s medical school graduates entered family medicine residencies during the researched timeframe. This compares to a national average of 8.7 percent. As the U.S. struggles with a shortage of primary care physicians – it is expected we will face a shortage of 33,000 primary care physicians by 2035 – this significant contribution by the USD Sanford School of Medicine is critical to the health of all Americans. Family medicine physicians are an important part of the country’s primary care physician workforce.

The USD Sanford School of Medicine prepares its medical students to practice in all fields of medicine, and is particularly recognized for its reputation in family medicine and rural medicine. The school of medicine’s mission statement includes an emphasis on family medicine. The analysis prepared by the family physicians’ academy reveals that South Dakota’s only medical school is accomplishing that objective.

South Dakota One Health Addresses Vaccine-Preventable Diseases of People and Animals

Health care providers, veterinarians, livestock producers, animal caretakers, government and health officials, researchers, academics and students gathered April 26, 2017 at the medical school in Sioux Falls to explore and discuss the differences and similarities between vaccine strategies used by health care providers and by veterinarians to keep their patients healthy.

This was the latest meeting convened by South Dakota One Health, a collaborative network with programming led by Dr. Susan Anderson, chair of the medical school’s Department of Family Medicine. The network brings together animal experts and producers with public health practitioners and officials, filling a unique, significant niche in South Dakota.

Among the speakers were animal health experts from South Dakota State University, public health researchers from the University of South Dakota, a veterinarian from the Great Plains Zoo, South Dakota’s state epidemiologist and researchers from Sanford Health and Avera McKennan.

Partners with the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine for this seminar were South Dakota State University Extension Service, South Dakota Animal Industry Board and the South Dakota Department of Health. South Dakota One Health was established using a grant provided by the Bush Foundation.

Dr. Nettleman on AAMC Board of Directors

Mary Nettleman, M.D., M.S., M.A.C.P., vice president of health affairs and dean of the school of medicine, has been elected – effective November 2017 – to the board of directors of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The board provides oversight and direction to the work of the AAMC. AAMC is dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. AAMC members comprise all 147 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic and scientific societies. AAMC represents 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students and 115,000 resident physicians.

Accreditation Update

Medical schools are evaluated for accreditation every eight years, and the USD Sanford School of Medicine’s review will happen this September, when officials with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) visit campuses.

Formal preparations for accreditation began in October 2015, and those preparations, including a “self-study,” constitute a productive and beneficial process that allows schools to review educational programs to ascertain that the school exceeds medical education standards.

The final step in preparations includes a mock visit by external experts that occurred in June. Accreditation is a necessary and meaningful process, and earning accreditation is a significant, vital aspect of providing expert medical education to students who will become competent, caring physicians.
USD Wins $1 Million to Enhance Diversity in the Sciences

The University of South Dakota has been awarded a $1 million grant by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) as part of their Inclusive Excellence Initiative to enhance the participation and retention of underrepresented minorities in the natural sciences.

“We are excited and honored that USD has been chosen as one of the institutions to be funded by the HHMI-Inclusive Excellence program,” said Brian Burrell, associate professor in the school of medicine’s Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences who led the faculty team at USD behind this effort. “For scientific advances to truly benefit all members of our society we will need all members of our society to be fully engaged in the scientific enterprise. The faculty, staff and students at USD are committed to making institutional level changes that will expand the diversity of students engaged in the sciences.”

In the 2017 competition, 511 schools of all types submitted pre-proposals to engage more students in the sciences on their campuses. Over multiple stages of peer-review by scientists and science educators, HHMI identified 24 schools for Inclusive Excellence 2017 awards.

The grant, spread over five years, will assist USD faculty from the College of Arts & Sciences, Sanford School of Medicine, School of Education, School of Health Sciences and the Center for Teaching and Learning develop culturally aware mentoring skills for faculty and staff, and create culturally-relevant introductory science courses for students.

“This award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will allow USD to put in play several elements that will serve to attract, retain and enhance science education for an increased number of undergraduate students from groups that have tended to be under-represented in science,” said Jerry Yutrzenka, associate dean of diversity and inclusion at the USD Sanford School of Medicine.
‘...experiencing one of life’s purest joys together turned out to be the perfect representation and culmination of our medical school journey.’

– Dr. Meredith Shama, Class of 2017

‘Meredith and I have shared many experiences together over the last four years but none so life-altering as when we welcomed each other’s newborns into the world.’

– Dr. Kirstin Hockhausen, Class of 2017
Medical students certainly devote themselves to their studies and to the process of preparing to become physicians. But we tend to downplay or overlook the reality that their lives outside the classroom or clinic are rich and meaningful, and their interests and responsibilities extend beyond the demands of medical school’s intense, necessary training.

When individual members of the medical school’s Class of 2017 walked across the floor at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls on May 5 to participate in the graduation convocation’s hooding ceremony one of their graduating classmates was absent.

Meredith Shama was in Rapid City, resting and tending to her new baby born several days earlier. “I knew my delivery date posed a possible conflict with graduation,” said Shama, “so I was prepared to miss the event. The school was very understanding about that.”

Shama enjoyed her own one-person convocation in Rapid City on May 9, with Rapid City campus dean Dr. Matt Simmons conducting the hooding ceremony.

Shama’s delivery was unique in that her infant son was brought into this world by her friend and fellow medical student Kirstin Hockhausen.

“I was honored when Meredith asked me to help with her delivery,” said Hockhausen. “It was exhilarating to be with her when she delivered her first child.”

Adding dimension to this heartfelt story; six months earlier Hockhausen’s baby was delivered by Meredith Shama. Shama was visiting a very pregnant Hockhausen in the hospital when intensive labor began. Hockhausen asked Shama to stay with her while she gave birth, and to assist in the delivery.

Delivering babies is an important part of the medical school experience, and students are never without the presence of a physician when delivering babies, but it was extra-special to help
a friend during childbirth, said Shama.

“It’s amazing, of course, to bring new life into the world,” she explained. “It was especially magical to be with my friend for that. We heard the baby’s first cry together. Our experiences with each other during childbirth, and helping with the birth of each other’s baby are unforgettable.”

“Kirstin is precisely the type of presence you want to be with you during your most courageous and most vulnerable moment,” added Shama. “Bolstering each other’s confidence during delivery, and experiencing one of life’s purest joys together turned out to be the perfect representation and culmination of our medical school journey.”

Hockhausen described her recollections from the two deliveries. “Meredith and I have shared many experiences together over the last four years,” she said, “but none so life-altering as when we welcomed each other’s newborns into the world. Those are memories that I will cherish my whole life, and there is so much extraordinary joy in having experienced it all alongside one of my best friends.”

Both of these newly-minted physicians had received their undergraduate degrees as part of the same class at South Dakota State University. And although they didn’t know each other very well while in Brookings, they were in the university’s honors college together.

Shama, an Indiana native, was recruited as a high schooler to attend South Dakota State University and participate on the university’s nationally competitive equestrian team. She rode jumping horses for her first four years there as part of the varsity Jackrabbit squad, and spent her fifth year at SDSU as a student coach. She earned her B.S. in chemistry.

Hockhausen arrived at SDSU after Dr. Meredith Shama graduated from medical school in a special “one-graduate” ceremony that her friend Dr. Kirstin Hockhausen helped organize in Rapid City. Shama missed the formal convocation in Sioux Falls with her classmates because she had just delivered her first child. Dr. Matt Simmons (right), associate dean of the Rapid City campus, performed the hooding ceremony.

Photo by Chris Huber, Rapid City Journal
graduating from Stevens High School, in Rapid City. Her interest in attending medical school was aroused when her husband was treated for leukemia while they were both undergraduates. “Being involved with his care, and seeing how his treatments were conducted got me interested in medicine as a career,” she explained. Hockhausen’s undergraduate degree is in biology. She and her husband have three children.

The Shama – Hockhausen friendship flourished as they became study partners during their first year in medical school. They also performed community service together, including visiting high schools in the Rapid City area to talk with students about health topics.

“These past four years have continually tested me,” Shama recalled. “I am forever appreciative for Kirstin’s advice, reassurance and faith in my abilities.”

At Shama’s impromptu one-person graduation, her friend, Dr. Kirstin Hockhausen, wore her own graduation gown and regalia to help recreate the feeling of them graduating together.

Dr. Shama was commissioned as a captain in the United States Air Force upon graduation from medical school. She will perform her residency in OB/GYN at Creighton University’s affiliated hospitals in Nebraska.

Dr. Hockhausen will pursue a transitional residency starting in Sioux Falls, and she will eventually specialize in dermatology with a residency at the Marshfield Clinic and St. Joseph’s Hospital, in Marshfield, Wisconsin.
STUDENT PROFILE

‘I like the pressure of intensive academic work.’

Medical student Sharleen Yuan, with a long history of academic achievement, was honored for her research and research poster about pain pathways and opioid use.

By Peter Carrels
Sharleen Yuan earned three impressive degrees (undergraduate, master’s and doctorate) before entering medical school. And she began working toward her Ph.D. in biomedical neuroscience from the University of South Dakota without a thought about becoming a physician.

Her academic journey preceding the neuroscience program had already been rigorous, including earning an undergraduate degree in psychology from Vanderbilt University and a master’s degree in forensic psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

“My degrees have all been neuro-related,” Yuan explained. “My studies about behavior, the brain and the chemistry of the brain were connected. It has seemed like a logical progression of learning to me,” Yuan explained. “I like the pressure of intensive academic work.”

It was during Ph.D. research about alternative ways to treat pain that she began pondering application to medical school.

“I started thinking,” said Yuan, “that I could apply all that I had already learned to medicine. It occurred to me that biomedical research and clinical medicine are two sides of the same coin.”

Yuan’s long journey in higher education was nurtured from a young age. “My mom described me as a lifelong learner,” Yuan said. “I enjoy school, and find it to be lots of fun. Education was a big deal in my home as I was growing up, even though neither of my parents attended college. My only sibling and I are first-generation immigrants, and also the first college graduates in my family.”

Yuan remembered weekends as a youngster doing involved, demanding educational projects. Her parents – both are Chinese – had migrated to the United States from South Korea. “I was born in Phoenix,” Yuan recalled, “but we moved to Rapid City when I was nine years old.” Yuan graduated from Rapid City Stevens High School in 2001. Her brother, Jason, was also academically inclined.

When Yuan strolled across a stage in 2013 to accept her Ph.D. degree, she shared the dais with Jason, who received his M.D. degree from USD on that very same day. She began her studies as a medical student at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine in 2014. Jason now works as an emergency physician.

Yuan is in Pillar 3 of the medical school’s curriculum, and she is studying at the Yankton campus.

Earlier this year Yuan was one of only five medical students in the nation to be honored for her research and research poster presented at the American College of Physicians’ national conference in San Diego, California. Her project, titled “The Mechanisms of NMDA-Dependent Long-Term Potentiation in Nociceptive Synapses,” investigated pain pathways and how to decrease pain signals, with potential alternative approaches to opioid use. Although Yuan commenced her research while pursuing a Ph.D. degree, this project was part of the Medical Student Summer Research program.

She acknowledged her project advisor and mentor, Dr. Brian Burrell, for his meaningful input to her research project, and also for influencing her life. “His hands-on assistance and advice was terrifically helpful, and many others at USD and in Yankton have also been helpful,” she described, adding that medical school has been both challenging and rewarding. “Every day I wake up excited to learn and to prepare myself to become a doctor.”

Yuan expects to receive her M.D. degree in May 2018, and like so many of her classmates she is contemplating her residency and her specialty. “I am debating,” she explained, “between emergency medicine and internal medicine.”
As a little girl, Yvette Roubideaux dreaded visits to Sioux San hospital, the federal Indian Health Service (IHS) facility in Rapid City, South Dakota. Of course, it’s not unusual for a child to be reluctant to visit a hospital, but every time Roubideaux and her mother went there they would sit and wait. And wait some more. Years later she acknowledged that those visits, particularly her observations about what she saw and the overworked but generous health care providers she met there, were a compelling motivation to pursue a career in health care.

In April, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, physician and public servant, including a long stint as director of the Indian Health Service (2009 to 2015), returned to her home state to present the second annual “Distinguished Lecture in Native American Health,” delivered at the school of medicine on USD’s main campus in Vermillion.

Her message focused on identifying and solving the challenges facing health care providers wanting to serve American Indians and Alaska Natives. She recalled her visits to Sioux San, and the shortage of physicians and health care workers that hobble care to Native Americans in many places. She described the lack of resources allocated for Native American health care, as well as increasing chronic diseases among Indian people, old health care facilities in Indian country, the rural and remote settings.
Many non-Indians do not understand the remarkable cultural diversity found among the 567 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes that are recognized by the federal government.

Native Americans live in some of the most remote locations in the country, and also in urban concentrations in cities such as Minneapolis, Anchorage, Albuquerque, Denver, Seattle, Oklahoma City, Los Angeles and Phoenix.

‘Health care must be culturally appropriate.
Cultural humility is a critical aspect to treating American Indians.’
– Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., Distinguished Lecture in Native American Health

where many American Indian people live, and the severe difficulties recruiting and retaining medical providers to serve Native Americans.

Roubideaux explained the vastness of the IHS system. “There are,” she stated, “about 15,000 employees serving 567 tribes in 600 hospitals, clinics and other facilities located in 35 states. Still, IHS reaches only about 58 percent of all self-identified American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“According to the 2010 U.S. census, there are about 5.2 million American Indians and Alaska natives,” she told the group assembled for her speech, “but only 2.2 million of them have access to IHS assistance.” Couple that, she added, with the fact that per-capita investment provided by IHS to American Indians and Alaska natives is very low, comparative to other groups in the United States, and the depth of the problem is revealed.

Roubideaux, born in Pierre and raised in Rapid City, is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Her service to Native Americans has been ample and notable. One typically doesn’t receive a call from the White House asking you to lead IHS without an appropriate background. She not only earned a medical degree from Harvard University, she also secured her undergraduate degree and a Master of Public Health from that institution. Her work path had her serving several remote Arizona reservation communities, and later being named president of the Association of American Indian Physicians. She also spent a significant chunk of time researching Native American health issues, with an expertise on diabetes. Her medical specialty is internal medicine.

“Health care must be culturally appropriate,” declared Dr. Roubideaux. “Cultural humility is a critical aspect to treating American Indians.”

Cultural humility, she later explained, is a strategy for providing medical services to diverse communities. “Cultural humility helps the provider respect each person and patient as an individual,” she noted. “If you rely instead on categorization or assumptions you can miss solutions and make mistakes.”

Her foundational understanding of American Indian health care was developed while serving as an IHS physician on the San Carlos Apache Indian reservation in Arizona. That experience had her working on broken bones, intense injuries, infant delivery and a wide range of other medical applications outside internal medicine. Fortunately, her medical training had been broad enough so she could provide such diverse services. But the biggest and longest-lasting lesson she learned at San Carlos was that she needed to develop a cultural understanding of the people she helped. “It was totally different than the Indian culture I had known in South Dakota,” she explained. “I needed to learn about their culture, and to have cultural humility to work in that environment.”

At her second Arizona assignment, Gila River, she encountered a diabetes epidemic. Her work as a researcher helped her serve a major diabetes project that benefited countless American Indians across the United States. “The budget for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians was a robust $150 million per year, but because of that important national program diabetes outcomes were improved among Indian people. I learned how important it was for a program to partner with the tribes to increase the chances for success. I saw how necessary it was to tailor strategies to communities.

“The best way for our government to improve Indian health,” she concluded, “is to partner with the tribes.”

Cultural humility is a critical aspect to treating American Indians.”

– Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., Distinguished Lecture in Native American Health
Rewarding Service Reunites Friends

Medical Students Visit Vietnam to Aid Local Needs

By Peter Carrels

‘There was a benefit to having a close friend along with me. It made me feel more comfortable about going to an unfamiliar place and not knowing what to expect.’

– Nicole West, Pillar 3 student
Nicole West (left) and Andrea Petersen
TWO PILLAR 3 STUDENTS, close friends who met during the first weeks of medical school, recently embarked on a service and learning trip to Vietnam that yielded personal, practical and philosophical benefits.

Each student aspires to practice in the field of ophthalmology, and the trip they took offered eye care and other learning opportunities galore.

It also offered them the chance to rekindle their friendship.

“We were at different campuses during Pillar 2,” said Nicole West, “I was in Yankton, and Andrea was in Rapid City.”

Andrea is Andrea Petersen, West’s pal and fellow world traveler. “After being apart for so long,” Peterson explained, “it was a lot of fun to start Pillar 3 by going on such a meaningful adventure with Nikki. This trip was an amazing learning opportunity for us as medical students interested in ophthalmology. Sharing this experience with Nikki has formed a special bond between the two of us that no one else will fully understand.”

The work and service they performed during their trip to Vietnam also was qualified as an “elective” by medical school officials, so the two students were able to gain academic credit for the experience.

Though each graduated high school in Sioux Falls – West from Lincoln, and Petersen from O’Gorman – they’d not met until starting medical school at the University of South Dakota. After high school West earned an undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri, and Peterson received her diploma from the University of South Dakota.

The trip would not have happened had West not met Dr. Jerry Popham, a 1985 medical school graduate and an oculoplastic surgeon in Denver. For more than 20 years Popham has annually visited Vietnam as a member of a larger team of physicians and other health care professionals to provide maxillofacial surgeries and other treatments to needy people, especially children. Popham estimates he has performed or assisted on 1,000 procedures in Vietnam, all done at no cost to the patient. He also trains surgeons in Vietnam. A charitable foundation he has created to serve that medical work in
Vietnam, called About Face, covered costs connected to the trip for Petersen and West.

In May 2016 Dr. Popham visited the medical school campus in Sioux Falls to deliver the convocation speech at the medical school’s graduation ceremony. During that visit he also met with several student groups. His messages during his speech and with students highlighted the opportunities and responsibilities associated with being a physician. Popham implored students and graduates to share their good fortune with the less fortunate, and that advice resonated with West, whose father had not only graduated from the school of medicine with Dr. Popham, he’d also chosen to specialize in ophthalmology.

“Nikki attended one of the student discussions in which I participated while visiting the med school,” remembered Dr. Popham. “I knew immediately that she was the daughter of my medical classmate, David West, an ophthalmologist in Sioux Falls. They look so much alike! So, I felt a natural affinity toward her, and even more so as she explained her interest in ophthalmology. I spoke to her about my work in Vietnam, an upcoming service trip to that country, and about the possibility that she participate. She responded that she was very interested.”

Petersen was subsequently invited to accompany the medical group to Southeast Asia, and the two students joined the medical team at a hospital in Hoi An, a community with a population of 120,000 that is situated on Vietnam’s central coast. Hoi An was founded by Asian and European traders at least 2,000 years ago, and it retains a traditional market district that is so remarkably preserved that this section of the city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

“Working in Hoi An,” explained Dr. Popham, “is like taking a step back in time, to a simpler and quieter existence.”

Petersen and West concurred. “The scenery and the city are gorgeous,” recalled West. “The people were warm and welcoming,” said Petersen.

“It was new and exciting to work in such a setting,” Petersen added. “Dr. Popham taught us so much. We assisted with treatments and we got the full experience of being real doctors. Dr. Popham had us prep the patients’ eyes for surgery and administer local anesthetics. He showed us the steps leading to different procedures. We were even able to perform surgery while he stood by and monitored us.”

One surgical procedure that both Petersen and West performed was a frontalis silicone sling for a condition known as congenital ptosis. “Most children receiving this procedure,” explained West, “have dysgenesis of...
‘Getting lost in service to others is a good path to happiness.’

– Andrea Petersen, Pillar 3 student

‘Our experience in Vietnam reminded us why we went into medicine.’

– Nicole West, Pillar 3 student
the levator muscle and poor function of the eyelid. This can interfere with vision and could cause amblyopia.”

The two also removed congenital nevi (moles), especially those in the vicinity of the eyelid. These moles can become malignant and turn into melanoma.

After performing or assisting on surgeries, the two accompanied the group’s physicians on rounds in the hospital. Here they discovered the sincere gratitude of patients and families alike. “Even though there were language barriers,” reported West, “the people showed us they were very grateful. They shook our hands, gave us hugs and took photos to express their appreciation.”

Dr. Popham was pleased he’d invited the two medical school students to join the group in Vietnam. “They are outstanding young people who demonstrated excellent knowledge, skills and compassion. I believe that both Nikki and Andrea would be able to perform a few complex eyelid surgeries after assisting on many cases in Vietnam,” said Popham. “I am hopeful that both of them will be able to use this experience in their future careers, both at home and in developing countries.”

Not only did Petersen and West provide valuable service and learn important lessons during their trip to Hoi An, they also acted as trailblazers. Though fellows in ophthalmic plastic surgery had accompanied Dr. Popham during previous service trips to Vietnam, West and Peterson were the first medical students to accompany him there. Would he consider taking medical school students in the future? According to Dr. Popham, “I have an interest in sharing the joy of providing care to the needy with others, so part of my mission is to share that experience with others, and I hope to inspire them to make giving to others a part of their professional life. I hope to take other students from the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine if the interest and opportunity remain.”

Serving the needy is now a priority for Petersen and West. “Medicine is a calling,” said West. “Our experience in Vietnam reminded us why we chose to go into medicine.

“It was a humbling experience,” West continued, “to see the great need in a place like Hoi An. We both realize there are people in need all over the world, and as future physicians we want to continue with mission work.”

“We saw Dr. Popham and the other physicians in action, and we now know how well this kind of work can be done,” noted Petersen. “Our experience in Vietnam reminded us that there are many opportunities and possibilities to help others. Getting lost in the service to others is a good path to happiness.”

The day after Andrea Petersen returned stateside from Vietnam she started an ophthalmology rotation in Rapid City.

“After spending a week in Vietnam immersed in the world of oculoplastics,” Petersen said, “I was thrilled to discover that an oculoplastic surgeon – Dr. Kristin Tarbert – would be in Rapid City during my time there. Spending a couple of days with this surgeon was the perfect transition from performing international work to coming home.”

Dr. Tarbert, based in Seattle, regularly visits Rapid City to see patients and perform surgeries. That circumstance was certainly a useful coincidence for Petersen. But there is more to the story.

Petersen not only enthusiastically described the service work she had performed in Vietnam to Dr. Tarbert, she also mentioned her specific surgical experiences while there, and shared photos of before and after surgical patients. Dr. Tarbert then phoned Dr. Jerry Popham to discuss certain eye surgery procedures.

“I discussed surgery with Dr. Tarbert,” said Popham, “and she, in turn, expressed an interest in joining our efforts in Vietnam on an upcoming trip.”

Thanks to Petersen another skilled physician may soon be joining Dr. Popham’s collective of caregivers journeying annually to Vietnam to donate health care to local residents.
In his book, *The Origin and Education of a Doctor*, Dr. Brooks Ranney described the responsibilities and opportunities associated with being a physician. “Those who have had the privilege of earning a Doctor of Medicine degree not only may practice medicine,” he wrote. “Originally, the name ‘doctor’ implied that one was highly qualified to teach. Most doctors feel this additional responsibility to educate the next medical generation, and to instruct patients concerning their individual problems.”

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine exists because many physicians across the state of South Dakota adhere to Dr. Ranney’s mantra: A doctor is also a teacher. Few physicians in South Dakota were more generous with their time and more skillful at educating our state’s emerging physicians than Dr. Alden Brooks Ranney.

Dr. Ranney’s life was a tapestry of contributions and triumphs. He blended an extraordinary array of pursuits as a husband, father, neighbor and citizen, as well as medical scientist, clinical physician and medical instructor.

Ranney demonstrated even as an Illinois high schooler an impressive level of involvement and proficiency in many activities. He helped write the school newspaper, acted in plays, sang in the choir, played a musical instrument and competed in athletics. On one occasion he fought off a group of bullies preying on his younger brother. The half dozen boys were subdued one by one by Ranney’s ju-jitsu skills.

His busy schedule continued at Oberlin College where his academic prowess was complimented by achievements on the track and field team as a pole vaulter and long jumper.

During his time at Northwestern University’s school of medicine he did what the medical school dean told him not to do: he found a job. He’d been regularly employed throughout his undergraduate years and was accustomed to long days, little sleep and not much leisure activity. Ranney was undaunted by a demanding schedule. And so each evening, after classes and study and in exchange for room and board, he manned a switchboard and did janitor chores at a residential building for students studying music, theater and the arts.

After securing his M.D. degree he married and began a residency, only to see that part of his training interrupted by World War II. For the next four years he served as an enlisted medical officer in the United States Army, and his assignment for much of that time was as a surgeon to the 181st Engineer Heavy Pontoon Battalion. Ranney recalled this part of his life in another book he authored, titled *To Cross the River Barriers*. In this book he profiled that battalion’s soldiers during training and later as they undertook and completed dangerous, critical bridge-building missions across conflict-ravaged Europe.

After the war, Dr. Ranney completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology, and in 1948 he and his wife, Ruth, journeyed to Yankton, South Dakota, where he joined the fledgling Yankton Clinic, an historic medical enterprise founded several years earlier by Drs. Chester McVay and F.J. Abts. The clinic gained notoriety as the very first multi-specialty medical clinic in South Dakota.

What especially drew Ranney to Yankton was the opportunity to practice and teach medicine, a combination that was hard to find in that era. In those days it was part of the Yankton medical culture – practicing, teaching, serving.

Ranney’s life and impact in Yankton reached more than medical students and patients. During the 1960s he was elected to two three-year terms on the Yankton city commission, and also served as mayor of the community for one year. He gardened, sail boated and helped lead vacationing tour groups on travels to far-flung locations.

Yankton’s reputation as a regional center of top-
notch medicine was reinforced with the emergence of Dr. Ranney as a national figure in the field of obstetrics. In addition to publishing some 75 research papers based on clinical trials, he was a founding fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, an organization he later presided over as its president. He devised a method to turn breech babies for a safe birth, and this approach became accepted practice across the U.S. His innovative method of treating endometriosis with surgery was hailed in the treatment of infertile patients who had endometriosis. During his 50-year medical career he delivered more than 7,000 babies.

In his early years of practice Ranney was a faculty member in USD’s two-year medical school. Preparing students to leave South Dakota’s program and transfer elsewhere to complete their degrees was a responsibility Ranney and other faculty took seriously. “We provided, in a very local manner,” Ranney explained, “what medical students were getting in their first two years anywhere in the country. We made darn sure they -USD medical students- were well enough qualified to go to Harvard and finish up.”

Ranney led the effort to create an OB/GYN residency in 1970, one of the first residencies supported by USD’s medical school. For many years he served as chair of that department. Because of his service in so many fields, but especially his successes and accomplishments in medicine, he was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2000.

He and Ruth had three children, and one son, David, became a physician. In 1979 Ruth died, and two years later he married Vi.

Following Dr. Ranney’s death in December 2016 at the age of 100, the American College of Gynecology (ACOG) issued a statement honoring one of their founders. Here is an excerpt:

“The ACOG family is extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Brooks Ranney, a devoted doctor and scientist who dedicated his life to advancing women’s health care. He is remembered for significant contributions to the field of obstetrics and gynecology... As a faculty member at University of South Dakota’s School of Medicine, and a leader at ACOG, he is also remembered for his emphasis not just on the fundamentals of clinical care, but also the necessity for doctors to treat patients with kindness and empathy.” •
The USD Sanford School of Medicine is fortunate to have a rich history of strong leaders, committed faculty, outstanding students and dedicated alumni. These are valuable components of the school’s success and evident in this issue of the magazine.

I was pleased to see so many of these individuals at the alumni reunion in May. The class of 1967 marked their 50th class reunion with a strong turnout (18 of 20 traveled from outside of Sioux Falls) and a weekend full of activities. We celebrated the classes of 1963, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2007. With 103 alumni from 22 different states registered, along with spouses, leadership, faculty and friends of the medical school, we saw a record attendance at both events. It was a memorable day for all.

While the reunion is still in my recent memory, I ask that you take a moment to reflect on your own medical school memories. Whether it was hours spent in the lab, away rotations, or study breaks in the lounge, today’s students are creating similar memories. Many are walking in the exact paths we did; narrowing the focus on a specialty and navigating through the residency process. As alumni, we have the opportunity to share our insight with students while they are traveling for away rotations and residency interviews. It’s an excellent way for us to provide career advice, share our specialty knowledge, and discuss the health care community in which we live and work.

I encourage you to reach out to the newest group of physicians you see in this issue – the Class of 2017 – especially those relocating to your area or working at your health care institution. Congratulate and welcome them as they begin their residency training this summer.

Please note that classes ending in “3” and “8” should save the date for next year's alumni reunion on May 4, 2018.

If you are interested in getting involved with your reunion class or connecting with students, I encourage you to reach out to Nicole Plesec in the alumni relations office at Nicole.Plesec@usd.edu or 605-357-1586.

I hope this issue of South Dakotan M.D. leaves you feeling proud.

Regards,
David Arend, ’03 M.D.
Alumni Relations Council President
More than 100 alumni, from nine classes, attended the 2017 alumni reunion on Friday, May 5, 2017 in Sioux Falls. For some, it was their first time back to South Dakota since graduating. Others are still actively involved in the medical school. The day honored the milestone classes – 1967, 1992 and 2007 – as well as the classes in attendance: 1963, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987 and 1997.

The event opened with the alumni luncheon at the Health Science Center. One hundred and one alumni, spouses, faculty, staff, students and friends of the medical school met for a memorable afternoon. Medical school dean Dr. Mary Nettleman opened the luncheon with an update on the medical school, including the school’s mission, curriculum changes, board scores and pass rates. Following lunch, former Gov. Harvey Wollman gave a special presentation on the 40th anniversary of the first four-year M.D. graduating class, the Class of 1977. He described the need for a four-year program and the countless hours and individuals involved to make the idea a reality. The audience also heard from students in Alumni Student Scholars, Frontier and Rural Medicine (FARM) and Scholarship Pathways programs. Following the luncheon, alumni were provided tours of the Parry Simulation Center.

One hundred and sixty-five alumni, spouses and guests attended the alumni reunion dinner and awards banquet that evening. A distinguished group of 20 alumni from the Class of 1967 were presented with the Order of the Golden Staff certificates. Members from the Classes of 1963, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2007 were also recognized. The Class of 1977 was grateful to have former professors Drs. Loren Amundson, Pat McGreevy and Milt Mutch in attendance. Many stories and memories were shared throughout the evening.

On Saturday, 30 alumni and spouses drove to Vermillion for a tour of the Andrew Lee Medical Building and USD campus. The tour cruised Vermillion’s Main Street (the Charcoal Lounge is still there!) before returning to Sioux Falls.

Save the date for the 2018 Alumni Reunion – May 4, 2018!

– Nicole Plesec, Alumni Relations
CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS, FACULTY AND ALUMNI
On May 5, 2017, the following were recognized for their accomplishments in learning, teaching and the practice of medicine.

Left to Right: Doug Martin, Ph.D., Suzanne Reuter, M.D., Rebecca Cooper, Elle Anderson and Tim Ridgway, M.D.

Satish Koneru Award for Excellence in Physiology
Elle Anderson
The award was created by the late Dr. and Mrs. Koneru in honor of their son, Satish. Elle Anderson, Class of 2019, was selected by the basic biomedical sciences leadership for her achievements in physiology, as well as her leadership, aptitude, participation and research contributions.

George Rinker Award for Excellence in Anatomy
Rebecca Cooper
The award was first presented in 1987 to honor long time anatomy professor Dr. George Rinker, and is supported by the late Dr. and Mrs. Koneru. Rebecca Cooper, Class of 2020, was selected by the basic biomedical sciences leadership for her excellence in anatomy coursework.

Class of 1958 Basic Science Faculty Award
Doug Martin, Ph.D.
The award recognizes a Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences (BBS) faculty member who has shown excellence in teaching or research, and demonstrates service to the school of medicine. Dr. Martin was selected for his significant impact during 20 years with the division. He maintains a research laboratory with funding from agencies including the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Martin contributes to the scientific community through peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and service on committees. He also is an outstanding medical educator committed to students who describe his ability to present complex material in a clear, concise manner, his helpfulness, and his enthusiasm.

Class of 1983 Clinical Faculty Award
Suzanne Reuter, ’00 M.D.
The award recognizes the critical role of our clinical faculty in preparing physicians. The recipient has a clinical practice, is active on the medical school faculty, and shows leadership in his/her department. Dr. Suzanne Reuter is associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics and assistant dean for medical student affairs. She is a highly productive academic clinician, practicing neonatology, teaching medical students and residents in pediatrics, mentoring junior faculty, and pursuing scholarly efforts in her field. Dr. Reuter serves on numerous hospital, departmental and medical school committees, and is a reviewer for several journals.

Distinguished Alumnus Award
Tim Ridgway, ’84 M.D.
The Alumni Relations Council annually honors an alumnus who actively demonstrates pride and loyalty to the medical school. This year’s recipient, Dr. Tim Ridgway, tirelessly gives his time and talents to patients, colleagues, students, co-workers and health care advocacy organizations. He is a poised, principled leader in medicine yet is humble and kind to all. As director of gastroenterology at the Sioux Falls VA Hospital, Dr. Ridgway’s dedication to his patients is matched by his passion for medical education and teaching. He has given countless presentations, teaching seminars and clinical lessons to medical students and residents. As executive dean and dean of faculty affairs, his contributions to the medical school and his leadership and mentorship have earned honors and awards.

Class of 1954 Warren Jones M.D. Faculty Award
Valerie Hearns, M.D.
The Class of 1954 created this award to honor Dr. Warren Jones and recognize an outstanding full-time, medical school faculty member who upholds the tradition of excellence in teaching basic medical science. Dr. Valerie Hearns is vice chair of family medicine and associate professor in basic science medical education. Like Dr. Jones, Dr. Hearns is an alumnus of the School of Medicine at Temple University. She came to USD in 1997, and worked with Dr. Jones at University Physicians. Dr. Hearns has served as clerkship director for family medicine since 1998, as chair of the clerkship directors subcommittee for many years, and as OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations) director for nearly 15 years. She serves on numerous departmental and medical school committees, has published and presented on varied medical education topics, is a respected, skilled clinician, a member of AOA, and an active voice within the Department of Family Medicine and the school of medicine.
The Class of 2017 is celebrated as the 40th in this medical school’s history of producing M.D.s, and Harvey Wollman deserves acknowledgment for his prominent role advancing the school.

In 1973 and 1974, when the medical school aggressively sought to convert from a two-year to a degree-granting, four-year institution, we found an effective and energetic ally in the South Dakota legislature – State Sen. Harvey Wollman, a farmer from Spink County who was also the Senate’s majority leader. Sen. Wollman worked closely with Karl Wegner, medical school dean, and with other public-spirited people from across the state to promote the medical school and develop a comprehensive plan for expansion.

Wollman presented that plan to the South Dakota Senate in January 1974. He spoke for a full hour explaining how the medical school would function if it were expanded from a two-year to a four-year institution, and how that change would benefit the people of South Dakota. When he finished the presentation his fellow senators voted 35 – 0 to endorse the expansion. That was the beginning of a successful effort to pass legislation enacting the four-year medical school, a bill signed into law by Gov. Richard Kneip on Feb. 15, 1974.

“Those of us who were concerned about the fate of the medical school also worried that the state suffered from a shortage of physicians,” Wollman recalled. Indeed, South Dakota’s physician to resident ratio ranked last among all 50 states in the early 1970s. “To examine the problem,” explained Wollman, “I suggested a study group, a blue ribbon committee of supporters and opponents, weigh our options. We knew convincing everyone was a challenge, but Dr. Wegner was a persuasive, passionate and intelligent advocate for the medical school. I believe the idea of expanding the medical school was born out of logical necessity, but Dr. Wegner made a difference in solving the dilemma.”

Starting in 1975 Wollman served as South Dakota’s lieutenant governor, and when Gov. Kneip left office in 1978, accepting an appointment to become United States’ ambassador to Singapore, Harvey Wollman became the 26th governor of South Dakota.

It is fortunate that the Honorable Harvey Wollman understood the importance of a full medical school in the state, and that he devoted so much time and skill to help make that happen. For his important service, he was presented with the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine Award for Friendship at the medical school’s Alumni Reunion, held May 5, 2017.
AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS & HONORS

Matthew Barker '02 M.D., F.A.C.O.G., earned membership into the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons (SGS) at the organization's annual scientific meeting in March 2017. SGS membership is highly selective, with just more than 250 members nationally. Dr. Brooks Ranney, a South Dakota obstetrician and gynecologist and former president of the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology, was asked to help be a part of the development of this organization. Since then, no other South Dakoter has been awarded membership into SGS until Dr. Barker. Dr. Barker is an academic associate professor at the USD SSOM in the Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Internal Medicine. He is also the director of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery at Avera McKennan Hospital & University Center.

Adam Bledsoe ’14 M.D. received the 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award for the Internal Medicine Residency Training program at Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education. This honor is awarded to four of the 48 members of the graduating internal medicine class each year, and is based on clinical competency, professionalism, scholarly activity and contributions to the residency program. Dr. Bledsoe completed his residency at Mayo Clinic in June, and will begin a gastroenterology fellowship at Mayo Clinic in July 2017.

The USD Sanford School of Medicine Interventional Cardiology Fellowship Program received initial accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). One position will be available annually. Scheduled to begin July 1, 2017, fellowship training will include areas such as coronary diagnostic and interventional procedures, including percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, stent placement, intravascular ultrasound, fractional flow reserve, percutaneous valve implantation and repair, as well as ASD closure procedures. This new program is one of just 147 interventional cardiology fellowship programs approved by ACGME for physician specialty training in the United States.

The Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology Fellowship Program graduated third-year fellows Shenjing Li, M.D. and Amorpol Anuwatworn, M.D. Dr. Li will advance as the first interventional cardiologist fellow in the new USD Sanford School of Medicine Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program. Dr. Anuwatworn has been accepted in the 2017-2018 advanced cardiac imaging program at the University of Kentucky.

The I-PASS team at Sanford Children’s Hospital, led by Dr. Vishnu Kanala, assistant professor of pediatrics, received the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award from the Joint Commission and National Quality Forum. I-PASS improves patient safety by standardizing provider communication with a specific focus on improving transitions of care.

The internal medicine team won the 2017 Residency Bowl, a second straight win for the program, at the GME holiday party on Jan. 20, 2017. They defeated the family medicine team in the championship round.

Mariangeles Avila, a Fulbright International Ph.D. student, will intern with the South Dakota BRIN Proteomics Core Facility housed in the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences during summer 2017.

Kassidy Boyd, ’17 M.D., received the Outstanding Medical Student award in pediatrics.

D. A. Brechtleibauer, M.D., Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency, USD SSOM Department of Family Medicine and Geriatrics, has been selected to participate in the South Dakota Alzheimer’s/Dementia fellowship program. The group is charged with developing an Alzheimer's disease plan for South Dakota.

Archna Chatterjee, M.D., chair of the Department of Pediatrics, was elected to the board of directors of the Association for Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs.

Richard Xuesheng Feng, M.D., Ph.D., passed the Neuroimaging Board Certification exam and became one of a few quadruple board certified neurologists in the nation. As a navy reserve, Dr. Feng is also board certified in neurology, sleep medicine and headache medicine. He practices at the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System.

Maheedhar Gedela, M.D., PGY3 internal medicine resident chief, was appointed to the 2016-2017 American Medical Association Resident & Fellow Section (AMA-RFS) Committee on Medical Education. This committee works on medical education issues that relate to resident and fellow physicians, and assists the AMA governing council in developing policy positions, writing reports and educating resident and fellow members of the AMA about critical issues related to graduate medical education.

Paula Hicks, ’89 M.D., retired from Willcockson Eye Associates, P.C. in Yankton, South Dakota, on Dec. 31, 2016. Dr. Hicks was born and raised in Yankton. She practiced with Willcockson Eye Associates, P.C. since completing her ophthalmology residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota in 1994.

Mark K. Huntington, M.D., Ph.D., FAAFP, professor, Department of Family Medicine and director of the Center for Family Medicine, traveled to western Africa in March 2017 as part of a delegation sponsored by the Fundo Sobero de Angola. The purpose of the delegation was to assess the medical education and health care delivery systems in a consultation on the development of family medicine as residency-trained medical specialty in the Republic of Angola.

Valborg Kvigne, coordinator in the Department of Family Medicine, has been named the 2017 recipient of the South Dakota Diabetes Coalition’s Estellene Zephyr Service Award. Kvigne was honored for her work with diabetes and wellness programs in Native American communities. She has worked at USD SSOM on Native American health and wellness issues since 2004.

Ross Miller, ’10 M.D., has been approved as an expert panel member for the evidence-based guideline Appropriate Collection and Handling of Thoracic Specimens for Laboratory Testing; The College of American Pathologists, in collaboration with the American Thoracic Society, American College of Chest Physicians, American Society of Cytopathology, Association for Molecular Pathology, Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology, Pulmonary Pathology Society, Society of Interventional Radiology and Society for Thoracic Radiology. Dr. Miller will be one of a handful of experts who will review the evidence and write the guidelines as part of this endeavor by nine national and international societies made up of cytopathologists, pulmonary pathologists, molecular pathologists, pulmonologists, medical oncologists, oncologic surgeons and radiologists.

Robin Miskimins, Ph.D., associate dean of Sanford School of Medicine Research, received an award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) via University of Nebraska for a project entitled “Great Plains IDE-A-CTR.”


Robert Morecraft, Ph.D., of the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences, has been invited to be part of a research team of faculty from the University of California San Francisco, University
of California Davis and University of California Berkeley to develop an experimental model to test the effectiveness of a new device designed to improve the recovery of movement following stroke. The work will be conducted at the California National Primate Research Center.

**Brock Rops, M.Ed.**, state advisor for HOSA – Future Health Professionals in South Dakota, has been elected chair of the national board of directors for HOA-Future Health Professionals. HOSA was founded in 1976 to encourage and inspire secondary and post-secondary students to pursue careers in health care. Currently, HOSA’s nationwide membership exceeds 200,000 members in 4,300 chapters. In South Dakota, HOSA membership totals more than 700 high school students in 29 chapters. Rops has been the education coordinator for the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at USD since 2011, and has led South Dakota HOSA since its start in 2012.

**Bassel Salam, M.D.**, was awarded the Department of Neurosciences Chairman’s Award for excellence in teaching and curriculum development in April 2017.

**Jeremy Storm, D.O.**, is relocating his medical practice from Rapid City to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Storm Clinic opened on June 5, 2017 specializing in inpatient and outpatient infectious disease consultation, antibiotic stewardship, infection control, travel medicine and telemedicine.

**Shelie Vacek** began her appointment as health sciences librarian and head of the Wegner Health Science Information Center on March 6, 2017. Vacek has served as a health sciences librarian at USD Libraries since 2013.

**Mick Watt, Ph.D.**, of the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences, was appointed as the Donald S. MacKay Distinguished Professor of Research, effective July 1, 2017. This professorship was established by Mercedes MacKay, a USD graduate, who was the librarian for the State of South Dakota from 1939 to 1973 and is credited with significantly increasing literacy in the state. Ms. MacKay’s bequest reflects her interest in improving health through research.

**Sharleen Yuan, Class of 2018**, won a national award for her research presentation at the annual meeting of the American College of Physicians (ACP). She was among several students who were awarded a national title for “Top Research Poster by a Medical Student.” Yuan’s poster title was “The Mechanisms of NMDA-Dependent Long-Term Potentiation in Noxious Synapses” and her faculty mentor was Dr. Brian Burrell.

**Gerald Yutrzenka, Ph.D.**, received the AAMC Central Group on Student Affairs (CSGA) “2017 Outstanding Service Award” in recognition and appreciation for service and leadership to the CSGA. The award was presented at the AAMC CGSA conference in Rochester, Minnesota, April 21-23, 2017.

**Barbara Yutrzenka** and Gerald Yutrzenka were the recipients of the 2017 Community Health Service Award from the Dakota Hospital Foundation of Vermillion, South Dakota. The Dakota Hospital Foundation established the award in 2001 to recognize members or organizations who have worked to benefit the health and health care of the Vermillion community. Barbara and Gerald “Jerry” Yutrzenka have contributed long service to the Dakota Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, and each has been deeply involved in numerous activities aimed at improving health care in the Vermillion community and region.

Barbara Yutrzenka, Ph.D., joined the University of South Dakota as a faculty member in the Department of Psychology in 1984. From 1988 to 2015, she served as director of the USD clinical psychology doctoral program. She also served two terms as interim dean of graduate education at USD. She retired in 2015.

Gerald Yutrzenka, Ph.D., has been a faculty member of the USD Sanford School of Medicine’s Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences since 1984. He has held several leadership roles centered on building a more diverse health care workforce in South Dakota. He served as president of the Dakota Hospital Foundation Board of Directors in 2007. In 2014, he was appointed associate dean for diversity and inclusion at the school of medicine.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**


**Baumgarten KM, Osborn R, Schweinle WE Jr, Zens MJ, Helsper EA.** “Are Pulley Exercises Initiated 6 Weeks...
Does Setting “Healthy Weight” Benchmarks Prior to Bariatric Surgery Improve Weight Loss Outcomes?

Team: Sue Davies, Ph.D., RDN (principal investigator) and David Fromm, M.D. General surgeon student investigators Kevin Hofer and Brady Coburn received a grant from the school of medicine for research equipment.

The main study focus is to set realistic weight loss expectations for the patient at the beginning of bariatric treatment (pre-surgery) with cumulative weight change targets (10, 25, 50, 75 and 100 percent) based off the patient’s desired “healthy weight” at specified timed intervals of pre-surgery, and one, three, six and 12 months post-surgery, respectively.

The USD Institutional Review Board recently approved this five-year study (May 2017 to April 2022).


Studies have shown hip arthroscopy to be a highly effective treatment for symptomatic femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) in a wide range of athletes; however, the return to play (RTP) rate and length of career following hip arthroscopy in professional football players has not been reported. In our study, 51 professional football players underwent hip arthroscopy for FAI, and return to play was defined as a player competing in a pre-season or regular season professional football game following surgery. Our findings demonstrated 87 percent of athletes returned to play after surgery. Linemen were less likely to return compared to other players, and the need for a concomitant microfracture procedure did not significantly affect the RTP rate. These findings support hip arthroscopy as an effective procedure to treat FAI and related pathologies in high-level football players with the goal of returning to their prior level of sport.

Steven Powell, ’06 M.D., co-authored the Keynote-055 study, which was published in the March 22, 2017 edition of the Journal of Clinical Oncology. The report describes the benefit of pembrolizumab, an immunotherapy, in patients with advanced head and neck cancer. It was based on a study that opened in October 2014 and was the first of now many immunotherapy clinical trials offered through Sanford Research. In August 2016, pembrolizumab was granted FDA-approval for use in these patients.


Basic Biomedical Sciences undergraduate and graduate students presented oral and poster presentations summarizing their recent research at the 2017 IdeaFest held April 5-6 at the University of South Dakota. BBS students from a variety of disciplines presented 25 oral presentations and 15 poster presentations.

Paul Bjordahl, ’07 M.D., and Danielle Thornburg presented at The Southwestern Surgical Congress in Maui, Hawaii, in April, on “Pretransfer CT Scans are Frequently Performed but Rarely Helpful in Rural Trauma Systems.”

XJ Wang, M.D., Ph.D., FAHA, has served as co-chair for and gave an invited lecture to the American Physiological Society (APS) entitled “Ubiquitin and Ubiquitin-Like Proteins in Cardiovascular Physiology and Disease,” during the annual Experimental Biology (EB) meeting held in Chicago, Illinois, April 22-26, 2017.

Also attending and participating in this meeting:

• BBS Associate Dean Dr. Steven Waller gave an oral presentation about webcasting as part of an APS panel titled “Examining the changing landscape of course delivery and student learning.”

• Associate Professor Dr. Manas Das co-facilitated two histology education roundtable sessions.

• BBS Dean Dr. William Mayhan and his lab presented three posters.

• A group of undergraduate mentees from the lab of BBS Assistant Professor Lisa McFadden presented a poster titled “Methamphetamine-Induced Changes to Serotonergic Markers in the Frontal Cortex.”

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Brenna Bray, a Ph.D. candidate in the lab of Dr. Forster of the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences, was awarded a fellowship from the International Meeting on Steroids and Nervous System to present her research in Torino, Italy in February 2017.

The Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology Fellowships program director Dr. Adam Stys and Program Coordinator Darla Fjerstad attended the American College of Cardiology (ACC) Scientific Session in Washington, D.C. on March 16-19, 2017. Three fellows presented seven abstract posters.

Three fellows from the Cardiovascular Disease and Interventional Cardiology Fellowships program presented four abstract posters at the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) Scientific Sessions in New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 10-13, 2017.

Valerie Hearns, M.D., presented at STFM 2017 Annual Spring Conference in San Diego, California, on May 7, 2017 on “Promoting Student Interest in Family Medicine through National Conference Attendance.” Authors are Ben Meyerink, MS IV, Valerie Hearns, M.D., Susan Anderson, ’97 M.D. and Wafa Akkad, M.D.


Benjamin Jorgensen, ’13 M.D., PGY4 general surgery resident, presented “NSQIP Best Practice Guidelines: The Utility of NSQIP and an Institutional Database to Identity and Improve CAUTIs in a Single Institution General Surgical Population” at the South Dakota/North Dakota chapter meeting in April 2017.

Ross Miller, ’10 M.D., has been selected to present on “Emerging Issues in Lung Cancer Predictive Biomarkers: Complementary Perspectives from Pathology and Medical Oncology” at CAP 17 the pathologists’ meeting, Oct. 8–11, 2017, in National Harbor, Maryland.

Whitney Roling, M.D., PGY1 pediatric resident, will present her paper “Losing Sight- A Rare Parasitic Infection” at the Pediatric Hospital Medicine 2017 conference July 20 – 23, 2017 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bula-Rudas, M.D. and colleagues had a paper titled “Guarding the Future: Implementing a Pediatric Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in Sioux Falls, South Dakota” accepted for presentation at the 8th Annual International Pediatric Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference.

Kelsey Stevens, instructor in the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences and a member of the HAPS Cadaver Use Committee, will present an oral presentation with other members of the committee at the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS) Annual Conference, May 27, 2017. The talk is titled “Using HAPSI Lab (Interactive Lab) as a Model for External Use of the Cadaver Lab.”

Hassan Turaishi, M.D., PGY4 general surgery resident, presented “Implementing Methods Using NSQIP Data to Reduce VTE Incidence Project: VTE is Unacceptable Outcome” at the South Dakota/North Dakota chapter meeting in April 2017.


Grants

Doug Martin, Ph.D., of the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences, has been awarded a new NIH R01 grant titled “Cardiac sympathetic afferent reflex control of venous function.”

Marilyn Moor, R.N., M.A., education coordinator for the Sioux Falls campus, received a grant from the Avera McKennan Foundation to support a student project in the Spirituality and Medicine Pillar 3 elective.

Xuejun “XJ” Wang, M.D., Ph.D., FAHA, of the Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences and the M.D./Ph.D. program, has been awarded a new NIH R01 grant entitled “The NRF2-p62 Axis in the Crosstalk between Proteasomal and Lysosomal Degradation.” Starting April 1, 2017, this four-year grant has an approved total budget of more than $1.4 million. Dr. XJ Wang’s other two active NIH R01 grants investigate the inadequate coupling between ubiquitination and proteasomal degradation in proteotoxicity and the COP9 signalosome in controlling cardiomyocyte fate.
## ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

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<tr>
<td>Lee Baugh, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Susan Anderson, ’97 M.D.</td>
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<td>Manas Das, M.D.</td>
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<td>Kameswaran Sureshkar, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Shawn Van Gerpen, ’03 M.D.</td>
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## CLINICAL PROMOTIONS

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<td>Sarah Sarabia, M.D.</td>
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<td>Kathleen Schneekloht, M.D.</td>
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<td>Susan Schrader, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Michael Schurrer, ’84 M.D.</td>
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<td>Syed Asif Shah, M.D.</td>
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<td>Renee Siegmann, M.D.</td>
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## Pathology

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Dr. James Burns, ’66 B.S.M.D., of Albert Lea, Minnesota, on Jan. 14, 2017. Dr. Burns was a general practice physician at the Albert Lea Medical Center for more than 40 years.

Dr. Harold Frost of Rapid City, South Dakota, on March 3, 2017. Dr. Frost was a founding partner in what is now the Clinical Laboratory of the Black Hills. He practiced pathology in Rapid City for 32 years.

Dr. Kenneth Halverson of Yankton, South Dakota, on March 13, 2017. Dr. Halverson was a faculty member in the Department of Surgery from 1975-2009 and a longtime physician in Yankton. He was a founding board member and board president of Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Services for nearly 50 years and held leadership roles with Yankton Clinic, Yankton Medical Clinic and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital boards.

Dr. Stuart Leafstedt ’61 B.S.M.D., of San Antonio, Texas, on Dec. 7, 2016. Dr. Leafstedt was a retired general surgeon who practiced at St. Luke’s Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

Dr. Larry Lemaster, ’78 M.D., of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Oct. 27, 2016. Dr. Lemaster practiced family medicine in Duluth, Minnesota for decades.

Dr. Raymond Lynn, of Vermillion, South Dakota, on May 4, 2017. He earned a Ph.D. in medical microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania and did post-doctoral work with Dr. Jonas Salk in Pittsburgh, where he was part of the team that developed the polio vaccine. Dr. Lynn joined the faculty at the medical school in 1961. He taught immunology and microbiology, mentored graduate students, and authored or co-authored many national and international journal papers. He served on multiple local and national boards, was a faculty fellow and dean of students before retiring in 1997.

Dr. Charles Monson, ’57 B.S.M.D., of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Jan. 13, 2017. For more than 35 years in Parkston, South Dakota, Dr. Monson cared for thousands of patients, delivered more than 1,700 babies and made countless house calls with his trusty black bag at his side.

Dr. Josephine Moore of Vermillion, South Dakota, on Nov. 11, 2016. Dr. Moore joined the medical school’s Department of Anatomy in 1966 and served as the director of the Neuroanatomy Division for many years. She was known for her exceptional teaching and established an international reputation in her field, presenting seminars throughout the United States and abroad. Dr. Moore retired from USD SSOM in 1991, at which time she was granted professor emeritus status.

Dr. William “Bill” Nelson, ’68 B.S.M.D., of Longview, Washington (formerly of Lake Preston, South Dakota), on Nov. 15, 2016. Dr. Nelson was a family medicine physician in Longview from 1973 until his retirement.

Dr. James Philp, ’56 B.S.M.D., of Federal Way, Washington, on March 23, 2016. Board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology, Dr. Philp practiced at the Veteran’s Administration in Portland, Oregon, Vancouver, Washington and Denver, Colorado, and later at Fresno Community Hospital in Fresno, California. He also practiced dermatology in Bellevue, Washington. At one time, Dr. Philp was only the second person west of the Mississippi to be triple board certified in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology and dermatology. Prior to retirement in 2015, Dr. Philp practiced medicine for 53 years.

Carol Pullman, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on March 13, 2017. Carol was an education coordinator on the Yankton Campus.

Dr. Brooks Ranney of Yankton, South Dakota, on Dec. 22, 2016.

Dr. Lloyd Scheffel of Park Ridge, Illinois, on Oct. 18, 2016. Dr. Scheffel was a retired obstetrician/gynecologist of more than 40 years. On staff at St. Elizabeth Hospital and Lutheran General Hospital, he delivered more than 20,000 babies during his career.

Dr. Harold Stensby, ’77 M.D., of Reno, Nevada, on Dec. 21, 2015. Dr. Stensby spent 27 years practicing family medicine in Arkansas.

Dr. Donald Weatherill, ’51 B.S.M.D., of Scottsdale, Arizona (formerly of Mitchell, South Dakota), on April 4, 2017. Prior to retirement. Dr. Weatherill was a surgeon at the Mitchell Clinic.

Dr. Ronald Wyatt, ’63 B.S.M.D., of Big Stone City, South Dakota, on Feb. 3, 2017. Prior to retirement, Dr. Wyatt was a partner in Orthopedic Associates LTD in Sioux Falls, South Dakota where he specialized in total joint replacements. He personally performed more than 1,000 total knees.
Reducing stress, while securing a healthier future for South Dakota and beyond. Thank you for providing for the future – and present – of health care.

For more than a century, the USD Sanford School of Medicine has been dedicated to educating emerging physicians in the art and science of healing. Through it all, our supporters have played a pivotal role. Your generosity provides opportunities to deserving students, easing the burden of medical school and reducing stress, while securing a healthier future for South Dakota and beyond. Thank you for providing for the future – and present – of health care.
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Mr. Aaron and Mrs. Lisa Maguire
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Dr. David and Patricia Malter
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Mr. Marshall Miller
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Dr. Robert Nelson
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Dr. Patricia and Mr. Scott Peters
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Dr. Elizabeth Zorn

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Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society
Association of American Medical Colleges
Avera Health System
Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center
Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center

Avera Queen of Peace Hospital
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Avera St. Benedict Health Center
Avera St. Luke's Hospital
Avera St. Mary's Hospital
Black Hills Medical Society
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Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation
South Dakota Academy of Family Physicians
South Dakota ACP
South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care
South Dakota State Association Alliance
South Texas - Money Management Ltd
The Orthopedic Center of St. Louis
The Saint Paul Foundation
the KFORD group
Thomson Family Foundation
Tracy’s Market
University of South Dakota Foundation
USD SSOM Class of 2013
Watertown District Medical Society
Winner Regional Clinic
Wintz Funeral Home Inc
Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith P.C.
Yankton Medical Clinic

For any questions, comments, or gifting opportunities, please contact Edd Storey, Director of Development, at (605)357-1301 or edd.storey@usd.edu
‘Students are the heart of our institution’

– Mary Nettleman, M.D.,
Dean, USD Sanford School of Medicine
Vision Statement
of the USD 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.

Diversity Statement
of the USD 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 sex, race, color, creed, rural background, socioeconomic status, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, gender, gender identification, transgender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, genetic information and veteran status. 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 USD 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.

Mission Statement
of the USD 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.