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Dear Alumni and Friends,

As a liberal arts institution, the university’s mission is to prepare citizens to be critical thinkers able to adapt to ever-evolving challenges and to persevere amidst ambiguity. In this issue of The South Dakotan, we will introduce you to individuals who are utilizing their USD educations to do just that—Brian Gramm ’96, an entrepreneur whose invention is changing lives in developing nations through his operations based in Sioux Falls, S.D.; Hannah Prentice and Kelsey Webb, both 2010 political science graduates, give insight to their adeptness of taking classroom theory to real-world campaigns; and students Tiffany Noteboom and Terrance Terry, along with Hee-sook Choi, current interim dean of the School of Education, are part of a revolution in the preparation of future teachers.

Keeping alumni connected to one another and to USD is serious—seriously fun! Don’t miss out. Make your way back for Dakota Days Oct. 2–3, 2015, attend events sponsored in your area or let us know and we’ll help you promote one of your own. If you enjoy travel, join us on the trip to Great Britain in June 2015 or Australia in 2016 (see details at www.usdalumni.com/events). If that favorite USD sweatshirt from the 1980s is getting just a little too ratty (or mysteriously shrunk), find a new favorite piece of USD apparel at our Wagner Center office or online at www.usdcoyotestore.com.

We extend our thanks to those of you who have supported the Alumni Association by becoming a member, attending events or purchasing merchandise from our USD Coyote Store. Your involvement is critical to maintaining a robust alumni program. To join or give a tax-deductible gift to the USD Alumni Association endowment, call us at 800-655-2586 or visit www.usdalumni.com.

We are your link to the past and to the future. Remember, wherever you go, the university goes with you—carry her banner with pride!

Kersten Johnson, ’87 B.A.
Executive Director
The USD Alumni Association
The University of South Dakota has awarded its prestigious President’s Research Award to two faculty members in chemistry and one in physics. USD President James W. Abbott, who presented each of the winners with a $3,000 grant and a plaque, said that research is an essential component of USD’s mission and one of the many ways USD contributes to the economic development of the state.

This year’s winners were reviewed based on research accomplishments, including criteria such as publications, presentations and maintenance of the present program. Awards were given in three categories: Research Excellence for Early-Mid Career Faculty, Research Excellence for Established Faculty and Research Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

The President’s Award for Research Excellence for Early-Mid Career Faculty went to Haoran Sun, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry. Sun’s main interests are energy conversion and drug development. His research involves students and helps them gain practical experience in synthesis, separation and characterization of various materials. Recently, Sun’s lithium battery project was funded by NASA in collaboration with SDSM&T and SDSU. Sun also has two patents pending.

The President’s Award for Research Excellence for Established Faculty was awarded to Dongming Mei, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Physics. Mei came to USD in 2006. His research is primarily based on underground nuclear and particle physics in search of rare physics processes, but he is also enthusiastic about astronomy and group theory for particle physics. Mei is currently director of the Center for Ultra-low Background Experiments at Dakota (CUBED) and works closely with the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF). He is also a leader of a diverse group of researchers that collaborates with many institutions around the country.

The President’s Award for Research Innovation & Entrepreneurship was presented to Stanley May, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Chemistry. May focuses on the synthesis and characterization of novel light-emitting materials and their applications to sensing, solar energy conversion and biomedical applications, and he published a paper on the topic in The Journal of Physical Chemistry. May is currently involved in several large research programs: The Northern Plains Undergraduate Research Center (NPURC), Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program: “Photodynamics and Materials at the Nanoscale,” Photo-Activated Nanoscale Systems (PANS) and Security Printing and Anti-counterfeiting Center.

March 27 Native American Alumni Dinner | Vermillion, S.D.
July 10–12 The Black Hills Playhouse Alumni Reunion and 70th Anniversary Celebration | Custer State Park
Hannah Prentice and Kelsey Webb are nearly mirror images of each other on paper. Both women enrolled at the University of South Dakota as bright-eyed freshmen in 2006, studied political science and Spanish during the four years they spent in Vermillion and graduated in the spring of 2010.

Four years later, the two shared another common thread—or rather, title: campaign manager for a South Dakota gubernatorial candidate.

Prentice, 26, began to work for Democratic State Rep. Susan Wismer nearly a year ago to kick off her gubernatorial run. Webb, 27, had more than three years working as a staff member for Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard before being asked to run his re-election campaign.

They worked for opposing political parties, but the academic roots to their political careers began in the same class—instructor Mary Pat Bierle’s POLS 100, American Government.

Prentice and Webb both decided on USD after attending South Dakota Girls State in Vermillion. They came to campus with the intention to become lawyers, but they credit the political science department, especially POLS 100, for arousing an interest in political campaigning.

“I was so intimidated by Mary Pat as a freshman that I did all the reading and work to stay on her good side. But I realized, after all she did and does as a mentor, that she was opening a lot of doors for us,” Webb said.

Prentice credits the political science faculty with providing her with a work ethic that can stand its own with 18-hour days on a campaign trail. Both women said when faced with difficult decisions during the election season, they were able to turn to mentors from the political science department for advice and assurance.

“I may have left USD, but I know I can always ask for help from the people who mentored me as a student. I don’t know if a lot of people can say that about their department,” Prentice said.
Prentice leaves Portland to manage ‘Susan for South Dakota’

Prentice said she fell in love with USD the week she spent on campus as a high school student. The Wessington, S.D., native’s decision to become a Coyote was almost instant, but her path to become a gubernatorial campaign manager was not a direct one.

Prentice said she was hardly involved with campus politics as a USD student besides taking courses to fulfill her major. She spent a year as a member of the Political Science League, a nonpartisan student organization, but said much of her involvement revolved around her sorority, Alpha Xi Delta.

She accepted the first job she was offered after graduation, which was in sales. But Prentice’s thoughts strayed back to her political science roots. She began to volunteer for local and state campaigns, including the 2010 re-election campaign of former Democratic Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin.

“I started to put in 15 to 20 hours a week just campaigning—plus my full-time job,” Prentice said. “I knew I loved campaigning right away.”

She first held the position of campaign manager for Democratic State Sen. Angie Buhl in July 2011. Buhl had won the general election unopposed in 2010 and would be re-elected in 2012 with Prentice by her side.

The USD graduate went on to develop fundraising campaigns with members of NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota until she accepted a finance associate position for Oregon United for Marriage, a same-sex marriage coalition based in Portland. But she would not make it a year in the Pacific Northwest. Wismer and her ambition to become the first female governor of South Dakota made sure of this.

Prentice worked with the state representative’s daughter, USD alumna Kelly Wismer, during the Matt Varilek campaign two years earlier in an attempt to oust Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., from office. When Wismer knew she wanted to
run for governor, her daughter suggested Prentice for the role as campaign manager.

“As a small town accountant, I’m used to doing everything myself. That part of allowing someone else to be in charge of a campaign was hard,” Wismer said. “But I trusted my daughter’s judgment.”

Prentice said she was genuinely surprised at the time to be asked to be Wismer’s campaign manager. But Wismer reassured the 2010 graduate that her reputation was highly regarded among state legislators who knew Prentice’s skills and work ethic through previous campaigns.

“It helps that our personalities are similar,” Wismer said. “We don’t sweat the small stuff. We trust each other to do our own thing.”

As of June, the biggest hurdle for Prentice in her role as campaign manager was the Democratic primary. Wismer faced Joe Lowe, former director of the state Wildland Fire Suppression Division, and won the election with 44 counties and more than 55 percent of the vote.

Prentice was not anticipating divisions within South Dakota’s Democratic party after the primary, but she said it was a challenge after Wismer’s win to encourage Lowe supporters to value party unity.

“As a party, we need to serve and support the candidate that won. And this became more difficult than I thought it would,” Prentice said. “We were calling Joe’s supporters for days to remind them that Susan still needs their support to win.”

Prentice’s connection to the University of South Dakota remains strong. She keeps in contact with fellow political science graduates and said they support each other through continually changing career paths.

“I don’t know if I considered myself the best student when I was at USD,” she said. “But the information I learned and the connections I made through the political science department stayed with me when I left Vermillion, which is huge.”

Even though she is no longer her student, Prentice said she still reaches out to Bierle on occasion for campaign advice.

“She’s one of the people my whole time there, when I had problems, I would go to her,” Prentice said. “I think it speaks a lot to the quality of professors in the department that they are able and willing to give advice once you leave campus.”

From keeping schedule to campaign manager

Webb, a Belle Fourche, S.D., native, thought she would go to law school when she started at USD, but soon realized she harbored a passion for politics and took up leadership roles in student organizations that included the Political Science League and College Republicans. She also interned with a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C., and worked as a legislative intern for Republican State Sen. Dave Knudson, who was majority leader at the time.

It was during her time in Pierre that Webb met Dusty Johnson, a mentor and fellow USD graduate who would help guide her to become the governor’s campaign manager. Webb joined Johnson’s campaign for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) after graduation in 2010. Johnson said Webb came to his campaign as a “driven, thoughtful and organized” individual, and said she worked 18 hours a day for nearly 150 days. Webb said she learned from Johnson how to run an effective and efficient campaign, especially in a race where not many people are familiar with the office.

“It wasn’t a high profile race, but it taught me the value of hard work because we had to work to inform voters about why PUC mattered,” she said.

Webb became director of constituent services for the governor’s office in November 2010. But for almost three years, Webb has held an even more significant role for the governor as his scheduler. She had to know where the governor was and needed to be throughout the day and that he had what he needed to be prepared for each event.

“I got to know the governor and first lady very well because that was part of my job,” she said. “When I was approached to be campaign manager, that was one of the main reasons they said they wanted me for the position.”

Webb had to take a leave of absence from the governor’s office to run his campaign. She had offices in Pierre, Sioux Falls and Rapid City, and typically spent four days of the week on the road, three days in Pierre. The constant juggling required hard work on Webb’s part but that is one of the reasons Daugaard said he wanted her to run his campaign.

“She is bright, enthusiastic and organized, and I trusted her to manage my campaign for re-election because she shares my values,” he said. “Linda and I are so appreciative she agreed to help.”

The 2010 graduate said USD taught her how to manage a busy lifestyle. Webb said her political science professors and classes showed her the value of working hard, being an efficient communicator and how to be a professional and responsible individual.

Johnson said Webb has left a remarkable impression in each position she has held in the past four years.

“I am buying as much Kelsey Webb stock as I can get my hands on. If she wants to be successful in business, she will be. If she wants to be successful in politics, she will be. If she wants to be president of a university, President Abbott better watch out,” Johnson said.
26 days and counting

Webb and Prentice were back in Vermillion Oct. 9 during the 100th anniversary of Dakota Days, but not to reconnect with fellow graduates and reminisce about their years as a Coyote. They were preparing their candidates instead for a live debate on South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

The months of campaigning were beginning to show. Both women questioned whether they would ever consider running a campaign of that scale again.

“You have to be a little crazy to want to campaign all the time, but people do it because they love that feeling and that pressure. But you lose a lot of control and you have almost no free time. It would be a hard lifestyle to live,” Webb said.

Dealing with public scrutiny and media coverage is a tactful part of the job that both women said they have had to develop on the fly at times. Webb said she thought the gubernatorial race was almost overshadowed by the competitive U.S. Senate race in the state, but her goal was to not leave people waiting for answers.

As the final election date neared, both graduates said their focus was on making sure their candidate’s name and values were known by as many South Dakotans as they could reach.

Life after election season

Prentice smiled as she stood next to Wismer during her candidate’s concession speech on election night. Daugaard, the incumbent, had won re-election with 70 percent of the votes, but Prentice said she was proud of the campaign she ran and the candidates she supported for governor and lieutenant governor.

She and Webb used November as a month of recuperation and election clean-up. Prentice spent time with family in Wessington through the holiday season and is continuing to work with the Democratic party as it gets closer to the 2016 election cycle.

“We knew going in it was a big uphill battle, and it was disappointing to lose, but I’m optimistic about the next two years,” she said.

Webb returned to the governor’s office in early December as a deputy policy adviser. She will be working on issues on a federal and state level, and said she sees the advanced role as an opportunity to “improve on good policy already in place.”

“I want to get back to the capital, because the people in the governor’s office — they’re like family. I’ve been gone for eight months and I’m ready to go home,” Webb said.

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Never underestimate the power of good will when considering the many different and often inexplicable inspirations for starting and continuing a business.

Brian Gramm wasn’t seeking some enlightened purpose when he noticed the absence of portable generators aiding tailgaters at a University of South Dakota football game. “I wondered why we couldn’t watch a football game on a plasma TV while we were tailgating,” he remembered.

At the time—several years ago—portable generators were rarely used in the tailgating area near the DakotaDome because gas generators create fumes and noise. Gramm later attended the game and forgot about his unfulfilled desire to watch football on television as a tailgater.

A couple weeks later he was jogging near his Sioux Falls home. He’s not a regular runner, but he’d discovered that running clears his head and energizes internal deliberations.
When he needs to evaluate a challenge or solve a dilemma, he’ll go for a run. Gramm was between assignments as a business consultant, and was contemplating appealing opportunities including a couple offers to manage start-up enterprises. He was relaxed, comfortable, and was cruising along at a leisurely pace.

Suddenly, without warning, a collection of images started to flow through his imagination. “They were crystal clear, and I have no idea why they started and continued,” he said later. In that series of thoughts he saw a solar panel folded into a black, suitcase-like apparatus, with a shoulder strap for transport. Gramm—possessing little technological knowledge—even envisioned the particulars of how the portable energy device and the single folding solar panel would function.

“The pictures I was imagining were completely life-like,” Gramm recalled. “The realism was startling. It felt like it was a message from a higher power.”

During that set of mysterious images Gramm not only visualized a new product, a portable solar generator, he also imagined its applications to developing nation populations needy for connections to electricity. “Those visions immediately and strongly conveyed to me that such a device had important applications to people who were desperate for access to power, for people who lived far from the grid,” he explained. “I was seeing images of this portable solar device powering small refrigerators cooling vital vaccines in isolated locations. I saw residents of developing nations powering and charging laptop computers. I saw health care workers using it to serve the sick, and street corner vendors using it to charge cell phones and hand-held devices. I saw a business opportunity vividly presenting itself.”

The alternative energy industry had already been part of Gramm’s life. As a business consultant, the USD Beacom School of Business graduate had dealt closely with a solar firm based in Ohio. But that company produced larger solar panels, not the small ones he’d seen in his vision.

No one has ever accused Brian Gramm of procrastination. The Parkston, S.D. native is a doer, a maker, a guy who can work comfortably with both high-level financiers and hands-on engineers. He describes himself as a serial entrepreneur. Within weeks, his portable electrical generator vision was moving toward reality. He’d already investigated the competition, and learned that other than clumsy, build-it-yourself solar kits brimming with problematic characteristics and inadequate power output, there wasn’t any.

He came up with a name for his company—Peppermint Energy, so chosen because he viewed his yet-to-be-developed product as reflecting a clean, fresh source of energy. And he sought help from the state of South Dakota, through its office of economic development. He then snatched up a couple of capable employees, solicited and convinced supportive investors, and moved his fledgling enterprise into the South Dakota Technology Business Center in Sioux Falls. After a year at the tech center, he and Peppermint’s growing team of employees moved into their own offices in southern Sioux Falls.

Dr. Mel Ustad is a commercialization expert for South Dakota’s Governor’s Office of Economic Development. In 2011 he began helping Gramm piece together expertise to create his product and launch his business. “We helped Brian use two important programs,” said Ustad. “The EPSCoRE program, a National Science Foundation program, helped Brian identify and utilize South Dakota-based experts in the areas of electronics and photovoltaics in order to create his product. And we also helped him with the Dakota Seeds program, and that helped him hire skilled graduate students who could work with Brian to advance his product and business.”

Gramm also attracted vital seed money for Peppermint using an online forum called Kickstarter. Gramm’s financial objective through Kickstarter was met and exceeded in just several days, and that affirmed the basic appeal and potential value of his idea. A compelling, short film created by a local Sioux Falls advertising firm and posted on the Kickstarter website was a key feature of the highly successful Kickstarter fundraising campaign.

The technology and hardware aspects of the invention moved forward at a slow but steady rate. Over several years, as many as 100 engineers and designers played a role in product development. The portable, solar-powered generator initially conceptualized by Gramm was slightly smaller than the technology that eventually came to fruition. Originally, he pondered creating a smallish, 20-pound device; the finished product—formally named Forty2—remains relatively compact, lightweight and easily toted. It grew larger, said Gramm, so it could offer greater energy for more uses,
including powering refrigeration. There are now three closely-related versions, with power storage via battery capability as the feature that distinguishes the different models. Weight ranges from 60 to 75 pounds. Each model measures 30 inches by 33 inches and is about five inches thick. A strong shoulder strap fastened to either end of the generator’s top edge—just like the strap Gramm saw in his dream—makes for easy transport by a single person.

Responding to a question about the product’s durability, Gramm opened the slender, black, suitcase-like device, laid it open on the floor, and stepped onto the flat, shiny solar collection component. The panel is dark with what looks like skinny wires visible inside the panel. And it’s rugged. That attribute was reinforced when Gramm jumped up and down on the panel—there was not a trace of damage. After he re-folded the case, snapping it shut like a laptop computer, he forcefully smacked his closed hand several times against the thick, hard plastic covering the generator’s exterior skin. “We make them extremely durable and mostly foolproof,” Gramm proudly explained. “We also make them simple to use, so just about anyone can use it without having to read directions.”

Tapping into the clean power of the Forty2 is indeed simple: Grasp the male end of a power cord or plug and insert it into the generator. There’s no churning of gears, no whirring of a motor. The power is created and delivered silently.

The Forty2 produces 160 watts of electricity, offering 24 volts of DC voltage and up to 1,000 hours of service. The all-important power storage system uses lithium ion batteries, similar but much smaller than the type of batteries used in a Tesla automobile. Users can plug in and run electrical devices immediately. The unit’s potent storage system ensures that users can enjoy electricity long after the sun goes down. Cost ranges from $1,750 for the basic Forty2, to $2,250 for the Forty2 pro, to $2,750 for the Pro+. Each unit has two AC outlets and a single USB port.

Gramm’s idea of helping others by providing them with clean, portable electricity is nuanced and respectful. “When we go to people in a developing nation we do not tell them what to do or what they’re missing by not living in a so-called developed nation,” he explained. “The people we meet in places like Haiti or Sierra Leone don’t view themselves as living without things we call amenities. We respect that. We simply show them the Forty2 and ask them if they can think of what they might be able to do if they had our product. We ask them to define their need and use, and they always do.”

Approximately 85 percent of Peppermint’s sales are to overseas customers, with a good share of that business coming from foreign governments. During the same week he was interviewed, Gramm and Peppermint entertained visitors from three African nations interested in purchasing the company’s portable electricity generators. Gramm is working to broaden the company’s customer base to include more charitable organizations, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. A number of non-profit organizations have acquired generators not only to serve their own power needs, but also to serve the needs of people in areas served by their missions. “We can definitely help charitable organizations pursue and satisfy their missions to help people,” said Gramm, before noting that more than one billion people lack access to electricity. “There is no shortage of prospective users,” he explained.

Indeed, sales are steadily increasing, Gramm declared, as more NGOs, governments and agencies, and other types of customers learn about the product. As of mid-October 2014, Peppermint had sold about 1,500 Forty2s.

Pam Plasier is executive director of Mission-Haiti, an evangelical organization that administers programs for the elderly and for general medical and educational purposes, as well as providing a ministry and missionaries in Haiti.

“We have been using Forty2s for more than a year now,” said Plasier. “In Haiti, we can go days without the government giving us electricity so we use them for things as simple as
charging our cell phones, as well as other purposes such as supplying electricity for the keyboards in our music classes and powering our water treatment machine. In the future we hope to use them to run our Aquaponic system, and in 2015 we plan to use them our school’s computer classrooms."

Not only is Peppermint revolutionizing portable power, Gramm’s business model for his company is unique, matching the charitable, heartfelt mission of its founder and CEO. Plaiser described the genuine interest shown by Gramm and Peppermint in the work pursued by Mission-Haiti. "We have a meaningful relationship with them," said Plaiser, referring to the company and its CEO. "Peppermint Energy and Brian have been a wonderful blessing to our efforts in Haiti," she explained. "They are making a huge difference in the lives of those we serve, and I think we have just scratched the surface of how the Forty2s will change life for people in Haiti."

It’s the perfect application for Gramm’s products and business. “We’re a for-profit business, of course,” explained Gramm, “but the principle driver for us is to help people. And I’m sincere about that.”

Gramm discovered that others in the business and high-tech community found his hybrid business model perplexing. “I spent some time in Silicon Valley discussing our business model with people there," Gramm related. “They said, ‘you’re either for-profit or you’re not.’ But I counter that by saying that it’s not that simple. You can define success in many different ways. You hear the phrase ‘second bottom line’ or ‘third bottom line.’ That refers to ways other than just making money to define the success of a business. Peppermint Energy needs to earn a profit, but we also need to do good things for people.”

Another admirable aspect of the Gramm philosophy is to grow his company and extend its successes to Sioux Falls and South Dakota. “We’re homers,” he declared. “Most of our product is manufactured or fabricated right here in Sioux Falls or in the Sioux Falls area. We aren’t interested in out-sourcing. Seventy-five to 80 percent of the costs in the product are traceable to the input of South Dakotans and South Dakota companies. One of the great rewards of this business is to partner with people I’ve known for many years. Some folks said I was foolish to not relocate this business to other places with bigger reputations for high-tech capital and expertise. But we have done very well with the resourceful know-how and generous investment right here in Sioux Falls and this area. I’m grateful and pleased with the interest shown by so many in helping us not only to grow, but also in helping us satisfy our mission of helping people in different parts of the world who benefit from our products. Our Midwestern investors genuinely care about that part of our business model.”

Gramm does not see himself as an ambassador for new energy, though he has come to recognize the value of clean, renewable energy sources.

“Is it better to replace a coal plant with a solar farm?” he asked. “Probably. But that’s not our cause,” he answered. “We’re using this form of green energy because it can help people who are off the grid. We’re relying on solar energy because of its portability. We can offer electricity to people who don’t have access to a big power plant or to the grid. We view our product not so much as alternative energy but as a solution to the problem of many people who don’t have access to conventional electricity. Our product offers electricity immediately. Without our product many people have no alternative; they cannot access electricity. The solution to their problem has less to do with offering them green or clean energy, and more to do with simply offering them a source of power. Solar makes that possible. Our product makes that possible.”

The impending importance of solar energy, as well as the varied and new sources and uses of electricity are merging in the life of Gramm. He excitedly describes his new car—a Chevy Volt—and how he notices other electric vehicles around Sioux Falls.

Expect to see and hear more about Brian Gramm and Peppermint Energy. Gramm’s altruistic attitude, his savvy business sense and the lifestyle and cultural impact of Peppermint products portend big things for this Sioux Falls businessman and his company. The paradigm shifts he is contributing to and participating in loom as significantly impactful on several important fronts.
How do you better prepare college seniors to become professional educators? “New teachers need more experience,” says Hee-sook Choi, Ph.D., interim dean of the University of South Dakota School of Education, “and student teaching was typically one semester.” Now, through a grant awarded by the Minneapolis-based Bush Foundation, USD has fully implemented a yearlong teaching residency.

A first year 5th-grade teacher at R.F. Pettigrew Elementary in Sioux Falls, Tiffany Noteboom says her 2013-14 student-teaching residency was invaluable. “It gave me the opportunity to succeed, to feel more confident.” Over the course of just one semester, Noteboom says, “I wouldn’t have been able to see students grow.” But during the one-year residency, “I saw progress. I saw failures. I saw success.”

The Bush Foundation is investing $40 million in an initiative that aims to transform teacher-preparation programs. Fourteen higher-education institutions in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota will produce at least 25,000 new, effective teachers from 2010 to 2020 — the projected number needed in the three states during that time. Based on the redesign of its teacher-preparation program, USD was the sole South Dakota university or college selected to participate.

And how do the Bush Foundation and participating programs define an “effective teacher?” One who ensures that each child learns at least a year’s worth of knowledge for every year spent in the classroom.

As a result of the success of USD’s new approach to teacher education, the South Dakota Board of Regents now requires adoption of similar programs by its schools within the next five years. “We were in the vanguard,” Choi says.

That has presented challenges, she acknowledges. Not the least of which is that students in the full-time residency have academic courses to complete—without that extra semester in which to do it.
Here's how it works: In addition to working with students and their teacher mentors, those in the residency program attend classes all day, one day a week at hubs in South Dakota—Vermillion, Sioux Falls—and in Sioux City, Iowa. Coursework is directly related to the residency: classroom management, assessment, use of technology. Choi says students are able to seek advice from professionals and from their peers.

“In college, the emphasis is on theories and teaching strategies,” says Terrance Terry. As the result of a full-ride football scholarship to USD, he is halfway through his residency, teaching sophomore English and modern literature at Sioux Falls Washington High School. “Taking classes at the same time is a lot of work, but the content is relevant to what we’re doing.”

Online assignments may explore what to do in specific situations; another examines mentor teachers’ techniques.

“I’m getting a true experience…dealing with attendance, parents, special education needs.” A former receiver for the Coyotes, Terry is a volunteer football coach at Washington High School, and he makes it a point to go to school events, plays and concerts.

Every student-teaching resident is observed and evaluated three times each semester by university and field supervisors, Choi says. Graduation requirements include passing a national examination.

Another aspiring English teacher, Alaina Cuka, a USD Presidential Alumni scholar, is at Beresford High School. “I knew the residency would be challenging,” she says, “but I thought it would be more observational.”

Definitely not, says Choi, “Students in the residency program are not helpers, they’re not substitutes. They’re teachers.”

They’re teachers from whom their mentors can also learn, says Terri Buechler, Ed.D., Cuka’s mentor. “Alaina brings things to the table.” For example, when the class read a story about slavery, Cuka showed illustrations of the cruel shackles once used in the South, so students weren’t envisioning the handcuffs used in police procedural TV shows.

When they taught Ann Bradstreet’s “Verses Upon the Burning of Our House, July 10th, 1666,” Buechler says Cuka brought the anguish of the poet’s loss into the present by giving students one minute to write down what they’d take in the event of a fire in their own homes. “If it’s not on the list, you lose it!” she said.

Those are techniques well worth adopting, Buechler says. “She’s building up her resources — and adding to mine.”

“We teach so totally differently,” Buechler says. “But she’ll connect to kids that I won’t and vice versa. I don’t want a little mini-me.”

For Cuka, the yearlong teaching residency is like tightrope walking with the security of a net. “If I don’t know how to handle a situation, I ask Dr. Buechler.

“Just watching her, I’ve learned so much.” Little things—like curbing conversation by moving next to a group of chatterers or quieting the class by speaking in a normal voice. “They’ll quiet to hear you.”

“Bottom line,” Buechler says, “the yearlong residency is good for students. Whether I’m in there or she’s in there, the kids just go on. She starts class when she sees I’m busy. And when students raise a hand, they get an answer twice as quickly.

“It’s not my classroom. It’s our classroom.”

As for Cuka, she looks forward to the 2015–16 school year with confidence. “My first year of teaching will really be my second year of teaching.”
The goal set for the public launch of the Onward Campaign was an ambitious $134 million. Suspense mounted at the Red-Tie Launch in anticipation of the announcement as, accompanied by Charlie Coyote and Head Coach Amy Williams (not pictured), USD’s Summit League Championship-winning women’s basketball team revealed the campaign to have exceeded that—with $135,223,415 raised to date.

Red-Tie Launch Moves $250 Million Fundraising Campaign Onward

What an evening! The Red-Tie Launch of the university’s $250 million Onward: The Campaign for South Dakota was a highlight of the October weekend that included the 100th anniversary of Dakota Days.

More than 700 USD supporters gathered in the newly expanded Muenster University Center to celebrate the University of South Dakota’s past, present and future. It was a demonstration of unapologetic pride in the state’s flagship university.

The event featured entertainment by students and 2012 Fine Arts graduate Cody Jamison Strand, star of The Book of Mormon on Broadway and on tour. If you were there, these photos will be a reminder of an extraordinary evening. If you weren’t able to join us, we hope they’ll convey a sense of the excitement and wonder of all who were there.

Onward!

Steve Brown, President and CEO
University of South Dakota Foundation
In just two years, Cody Jamison Strand has gone from USD student to Broadway stardom. The Brandon, S.D., native stars as Elder Cunningham in *The Book of Mormon*. He returned to campus to perform with current students at the Red-Tie Launch Event.

USD President James W. Abbott took the stage in a Muenster University Center that was transformed by lighting and decorations for a multi-media show that was broadcast on closed-circuit TV throughout the building.

“IT is remarkable how USD graduates express their gratitude through private giving to the institution,” said South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard ’75. “The state can provide base support, but the quest for excellence lies in the willingness of graduates to give back.”

Nancy ’77 and Tom Gallagher ’76, Onward: The Campaign for South Dakota co-chairs, also served as parade marshals for the 100th Dakota Days parade. At the Red-Tie Launch, they invited alumni to support the campaign. “Please think about giving new generations of students the same opportunities you had,” Tom said. “One thing you can be pretty confident of is that there will be a 200th D-Days, and any gifts you give now will still be having an impact then.”

In just two years, Cody Jamison Strand has gone from USD student to Broadway stardom. The Brandon, S.D., native stars as Elder Cunningham in *The Book of Mormon*. He returned to campus to perform with current students at the Red-Tie Launch Event.
From a media standpoint, the public phase of the University of South Dakota’s $250 million Onward: The Campaign for South Dakota began with a news conference in Vermillion. It drew print, radio and television reporters from Sioux City, Sioux Falls, Vermillion and Yankton.

“We’ve long described the Onward campaign as an expression of unapologetic pride in the university,” said Steve Brown, president and CEO of the University of South Dakota Foundation. “USD supporters obviously share that conviction.”

That statement was supported by a later announcement that the initial leadership phase of the campaign had surpassed an ambitious $134 million goal—with $135,223,415 raised to date.

In addition to many significant gifts made in the leadership phase, three from distinguished former faculty of the USD Sanford School of Medicine were revealed at the news conference. The announcement came from Mary Nettleman, M.D., dean of the USD Sanford School of Medicine, who praised the “generosity and purpose of these remarkable people who make our lives better.”

The gifts include the first endowed chair in the history of the University’s Sanford School of Medicine, established by a $1 million gift from the estate of Dr. Karl Wegner. The first recipient is Dr. Keith Hansen of Sioux Falls.

A second faculty chair will be endowed as the result of a $3.7 million gift by Dr. Charley and Elizabeth Gutch. The late Dr. Gutch was associate dean of the medical school from 1983–88, and retired as professor emeritus of the medical school.

Dr. John C. Sall committed more than $330,000 to establish the John C. Sall, M.D. Professorship in Medicine—the first professorship in the history of the School of Medicine.

Nettleman then introduced two second-year medical students who spoke about the impact of scholarships they’ve received.

Randall Waldner said financial assistance he’s received assures there will be a physician in Redfield, S.D., the town he calls home. Once he completes his clinical intern year, fourth-year rotations and a three-year residency, “I’m going back,” he said.
to practice family medicine or a related field. “Scholarships are an investment in students who want to go to small towns in South Dakota.

“It amazes me that someone who doesn’t know me would give me money so I can help others.”

— Brooke Fischer

“Medicine is a great way to give back to my community.”

His classmate Brooke Fischer of Sioux Falls agreed there are multiple benefits to every scholarship awarded. “Obviously medical school is so expensive,” she said. But beyond that, “Scholarships really correlate to better health care.”

“It amazes me,” she continued, “that someone who doesn’t know me would give me money so I can help others. They believe in us.”

Stewardship of donors’ gifts is a priority, Brown said. The USD Foundation endowment had strong performance returns during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The calendar year performance had a return of 19.3 percent (net of fees). The trailing three-year return was 11.7 percent, with the five-year and 10-year totaling 15.0 and 8.9 percent, respectfully.

Brown noted that endowment growth is a key initiative of the Onward Campaign. “Gifts made to the endowment impact students, programs and faculty now and in perpetuity. We recognize and value the trust that donors have placed in the University of South Dakota Foundation.”

Tom Gallagher of Spearfish Canyon, S.D., who co-chairs the campaign with his wife, Nancy, noted that 10,600 alumni and friends declared support during the two-plus year leadership phase of the campaign. “There are 138 whose gifts are of a magnitude that will truly transform the university.”

“Now we move from depth to breadth,” he said. “The success of the Onward Campaign will depend on the breadth of support from alumni and the community at large.”

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Thank You! The USD Foundation staff expresses gratitude to the staff of The Volante for its professional coverage of events leading up to and including the launch of Onward: the Campaign for South Dakota.
WORDS TO INSPIRE US ONWARD

Why support Onward: The Campaign for South Dakota? University of South Dakota Foundation volunteer leaders make a case for support of the University’s $250 million fundraising campaign.

Nancy Gallagher
Spearfish Canyon, S.D.
Onward Campaign Co-chair

LOOKING BACK
Forty-one years ago, I arrived at the University of South Dakota as a freshman. That same month, I met a sophomore named Tom Gallagher. On campus that same September was a law school student named Jim Abbott and a junior government major named Denny Daugaard. I know as sure as I’m standing here today that there is a future university president, a future South Dakota governor and many other success stories among the student body right now. But they need us.

Dan Kelly
Rochester, Minn.
Chair, USD Foundation Board of Directors

CAUSE FOR PRIDE
Just look at the campus—the building program that’s gone on over the last several years. The campus is very, very attractive. When kids come to look at college, those first impressions are really important.

Mary Jo Kelly
Rochester, Minn.

MORE CAUSE FOR PRIDE
The University of South Dakota is the oldest public institution of its kind in either Dakota. There’s a tremendous tradition of 150 years. You want the campaign to make the mark and exceed. You’re proud of what’s taken place and you feel like maybe you had a little part in helping to move that along.

Lorraine Hart
Minneapolis, Minn.
Chair-elect
University of South Dakota Foundation

SET FOR SUCCESS
The leadership of the University of South Dakota is in great shape. (USD President) Jim Abbott is a terrific person and wonderful leader for the University of South Dakota. He’s also very fortunate in having terrific deans in the various colleges. The whole school is set up for success for the university students that it serves. If you’re debating whether to make a contribution to the University of South Dakota, just think about the impact that a college education can have on the lives of young people today.

Doyle Knudson
Paradise Valley, Ariz.

TEAMWORK
Alumni can’t think that it’s going to be everyone else who is going to contribute to the university. It has to be a total effort.

Ted Muenster
Vermillion, S.D.
President Emeritus
University of South Dakota Foundation

$250 MILLION GOAL
The campaign has a preliminary goal of $250 million, and I think it will meet that and exceed that in the end. I see nothing but good things in the future. I’m very proud of what we’ve accomplished. I think 20 years from now people will look back and say, “Well they did OK back in 2014 but we’re even better in 2034!”
Marian Boekelheide Gunderson remembers her years at the University of South Dakota (1944–48) as a time of discovery. Coming from the northeast corner of South Dakota, she recalls, “I was somewhat shy; always a little scared.” But soon, “The university seemed like family. And I found out that I love to learn.”

An economics major, she found an avocation on the fourth floor of the South Dakota Union Building during her junior and senior years. Two closet-size rooms housed the campus radio station, KUSD. “It was a new era of broadcasting,” she says. “The university gave radio a life.”

Gunderson had been writing for The Volante student newspaper (under editor and classmate Al Neuharth), when she was persuaded to try speaking the news. Her popular what’s-happening-on-campus show aired every weekday from 5:30 to 6 p.m.

Once classes ended in early afternoon, she concentrated on gathering stories — by telephone, over coffee, at club meetings. “I wrote them and read them,” Gunderson says. “A girl getting pinned was always news!”

And if she ran out of stories, “We played jazz.”

Her show occasionally included national news. “I’ll never forget the day (Franklin) Roosevelt died,” she says. “I told the USD campus about that.”

Was Gunderson a campus celebrity? “No,” she responds. “But everyone knew who I was.” And while her unpaid gig was for the most part fun, “Every once in a while someone wasn’t happy with a report.”

Four years of academic and personal discovery at USD became part of the bedrock of a long and productive life that included marriage to Dexter Gunderson, the birth of two children and activism that brought positive change to the communities she called home.

“Tria learned a lot going to the university — about talking to people, selling yourself, about the way the world lives.”

Gunderson was a driving force in establishing a library in Irene, S.D. and the United Way of Yankton, S.D. She served on the boards of the Yankton Community Library, the Lewis & Clark Mental Health Board, the Yankton County Commission and the University of South Dakota Foundation Board of Directors.

Since 1996 she has provided funding for periodicals for USD graduate students in the Schools of Business and Education through the Gunderson Fund Endowment, named in memory of her husband. “I found a need and had money that would fix it, so I did.”

Once technology reduced the need for print materials, Gunderson redirected the Gunderson Endowment to USD’s I.D. Weeks Library’s South Dakota Oral History Center. Her generosity will assist in compiling and telling the ordinary and extraordinary stories of Gunderson’s beloved home state and its flagship university — much as she once did at KUSD.
OCTOBER 10–11, 2014

Theme: “Live the Tradition,” in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Dakota Days

Miss Dakota: Lindsey Montileaux of Tea, S.D.

Mr. Dakota: Brent Olinger of Emery, S.D.

Parade Marshalls: Tom ‘76 and Nancy Gallagher ’77

Football Game Results: Coyotes fell short to Northern Iowa Panthers, 27–16
Six Coyotes were inducted into the Henry Heider Coyote Sports Hall of Fame on Sept. 20 at the Muenster University Center. The group brings the Hall of Fame total to 290 individuals.

**BEN RIES**  Basketball (1996–2000)

Ries scored 1,252 career points and helped lead South Dakota to North Central Conference championships in 1999 and 2000. Ries earned all-NCC honors following his senior season and was a three-time academic all-NCC honoree. He made 290 three-pointers (third-most in program history) and shot 45 percent from beyond the arc. Ries, his wife, Amy, and their three kids, Carly, 8, J.J., 6, and Chelsea, 1, live in Norfolk, Neb. where Ries is the head boys basketball coach and assistant junior high football coach at Norfolk High School.


Radigan is the first female student-athlete at USD to earn All-America honors in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track in the same calendar year (1999). Radigan was a 12-time All-American who won the 2003 outdoor national championship in the 10,000-meter run. She was named Regional Cross Country Athlete of the Year as a sophomore. She graduated holding program records in the indoor 3,000 and 5,000 in addition to the outdoor 5,000 and 10,000. Radigan and her husband, Todd, have two daughters, Maya Jane and Callie, and own Maya Jane’s and Main Street Pub in downtown Vermillion.

**NATE TIBBETTS**  Basketball (1997–2001)

Tibbetts is the all-time assist leader in the 88-year history of the North Central Conference. He handed out 465 assists, or 6.5 per game, in conference play while leading the Coyotes to three consecutive NCC championships (1999–2001). Tibbetts earned all-NCC honors in 2001 and was named to the NCC all-tournament team that season. Tibbetts is currently an assistant coach with the NBA’s Portland Trailblazers and resides in Portland with his wife, Lyndsay.

**MANDY KOPAL**  Basketball (2000–2004)

Koupal is perhaps the most accomplished basketball player in Coyote history. She was twice named National Division II Player of the Year (2003, 2004). She’s a three-time All-American and the only player in North Central Conference history to win three consecutive NCC Most Valuable Player Awards. Koupal scored a program-record 2,142 points (23.0 ppg) in just three seasons. Koupal teaches and coaches in Wagner, S.D., her hometown.

**JOSH STAMER**  Football (1997–2000)

Stamer played six seasons in the NFL on special teams, five with the Buffalo Bills (2003–07) and the 2008 season with the Tennessee Titans. For the Coyotes, Stamer registered 152 tackles, 15.5 sacks and 36 tackles-for-loss in three seasons. Stamer twice earned all-NCC and academic all-NCC honors. In his senior year in 2000, Stamer led the team with 71 tackles, six sacks and 21 tackles-for-loss, the third-highest single-season tally in program history. Stamer lives in Raleigh, N.C. where he is a program manager at Lenovo, the worldwide leader in personal computers. He and his wife, Jessica, have one son, Maximus, 3.

**JUSTIN DEVLIN**  Swimming (1996–2000)

Devlin is a 12-time All-American who led the Coyotes to two NCC championships, four top-11 finishes at nationals, and became the first national champion in 2000 when he won the 200-yard breaststroke. Devlin was the NCC’s Rookie of the Year in 1997. He won three NCC breaststroke titles and set NCC records in the 100 and 200 during his career. His national championship time of 2:02.37 remains a USD record. Devlin currently works for Emergency Professional Services in Phoenix, Ariz.
Montileaux Teams with Nike to Help Native Americans

From the small South Dakota town of Tea to the Nike World Headquarters in Portland, Ore., senior track athlete Lindsey Montileaux affected thousands of lives this summer as a Nike N7 Intern.

Montileaux’s journey to the Nike World Headquarters began more than a year ago at the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) conference in California. The theme of the 2013 conference was sports and fitness, describing how to intertwine the two to make a better tomorrow in Indian country. The AAIP sponsored a 5,000-meter fun run, which Montileaux won. Winning that race put her in connection with a Nike N7 ambassador.

“One of the Native representatives at the race was Alvina Begay, a professional distance runner who also happened to be an N7 ambassador,” Montileaux said. “After the race I was able to sit down with her and chat. I was excited, because she is one of my role models.”

Begay introduced Montileaux to Sam McCracken, the general manager and visionary for Nike N7 brand. Montileaux then proceeded to go through a four-part process of being accepted into the Ignite Internship program through Nike. At the end of May, Montileaux began working as the Nike N7 Intern. Nike’s N7 program began in 2000, when McCracken had the idea to sell Nike products to Native American tribes to support health promotion and disease prevention programs. The program has since expanded and the collection is available for purchase. The proceeds of N7 are given back to youth sport and physical activity programs in Native communities across North America.

“It was such a privilege to work under Sam [McCracken],” Montileaux, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, said. “I learned so much from his dedication to our people, hard work and perseverance. He is truly a role model for our future generations and will forever leave a lasting impact on Native youth across North America.”

Last summer, Montileaux spent her time in the office reaching out to the grant recipients from 2013 to gain insight on how Nike’s investment in their program has impacted the lives of Native youth.

Through N7, Montileaux was able to work with Native American communities quite a bit. Outside of research, she assisted with different programs that the company has put on. One of Montileaux’s favorite programs was the Unity Conference, held in early July.

“We had more than 1,000 Native youth at the headquarters for the conference,” said Montileaux. “Interacting with the youth and seeing how important it is to get them active and keep them engaged at a young age is one of the most rewarding things I did at Nike.”

In the heart of Nike country, Montileaux had plenty of training partners and excellent facilities to prepare for her senior track season. Nearly all the interns are athletes, while the Nike World Headquarters provides its employees access to padded wood chip trails through the trees, a 400-meter track, fitness classes and Nike training club.

“I was surrounded by people who love sports,” Montileaux said. “I think the energy and the passion enabled me to get the most out of my summer training.”

Graduation next spring will not be the end of higher education for Montileaux. She hopes to attend medical school, allowing her to return to Native communities with a medical degree to help with health disparities or through Indian Health Services.

“Interacting with the youth and seeing how important it is to get them active and keep them engaged at a young age is one of the most rewarding things I did at Nike.”

—Lindsey Montileaux
Gary DuChateau ‘83 B.S.B.A., Loveland, Colo., is assembling a 40’ by 50’ replica of a woolly mammoth outside Hot Springs, S.D., home to one of the largest digs for woollies in the world. “During the Ice Age, there was a sink hole here,” sculptor DuChateau explained. “The animals slid down the banks to drink and then couldn’t get back out again.” The project will remind the 1.5 million tourists who pass through each year of the region’s prehistoric past. You can view the progress online at RaiseTheMammoth.com.

1950s

1960s
Francis Moul ‘64 B.A., ‘66 M.A., Lincoln, Neb., was recently elected vice president/president-elect of the International Assocation of Torch Clubs in the U.S. and Canada.

1970s
Daniel Burkey ‘72 B.A., Altoona, Iowa, is riding a unicycle one mile in all 95 state parks in Iowa to raise awareness and money for Meniere’s Disease research.
Kathleen (Murphy) Campbell ‘77 M.A., Glenarm, Ill., won the Inventor of the Year Award from Southern Illinois University for her work against the side effects of cancer therapies.
David Ganje ‘73 B.A., ‘76 J.D., Albany, N.Y., opened The Ganje Law Office in Rapid City with a focus on commercial law and natural resource matters relating to mineral, oil, gas and water laws.
Philop Hogen ‘70 J.D., Black Hawk, S.D., has joined Hogen Adams PLLC.
John Konenkamp ‘74 J.D., Rapid City, S.D., retired after 20 years as a South Dakota Supreme Court justice.
G. Mark Rice ‘78 B.A., West Des Moines, Iowa, was selected from Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C. for inclusion in “The Best Lawyers in America 2015.”
Cheryl (Walters) Swanson ‘77 A.A., Grand Forks, N.D., was the recipient of the Venues Today 2014 Women of Influence award.
Kevin Whitelock ‘77 B.S.B.A., Spearfish, S.D., was elected to serve on the South Dakota Bankers Association board of directors. He is the CEO of Pioneer Bank & Trust.

1980s
Norma Bowyer ‘84 M.P.A., Morgantown, W. Va., was nominated as White House Champion of Change for making a difference in local, state and national communities. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award.
Kurt Cambier ‘83 B.S.B.A., Arvada, Colo., a financial planner, was interviewed for Fiduciary News, Financial Planning and Bloomberg News. He was also a guest on Fox Business “After the Bell.”
Michael Day ‘80 B.S., ‘83 J.D., Belle Fourche, S.D., was appointed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard as South Dakota’s Fourth Judicial Circuit Judge.
Douglas Einsel ‘83 B.S., Brunswick, Ga., a special agent with the NIS/NCIS, retired after serving 11 different assignments at seven different geographic locations during his 30 plus years of service.
Stuart Larson ‘89 B.S.B.A., Lusk, Wyo., is the business manager for Niobrara County School District.
Jane (Lynum) Long ‘81 B.S., Hot Springs, S.D., was hired as an associate general counsel with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for her experience in Indian law.
Mary Milroy ‘81 M.D., Yankton, S.D., was elected president of the South Dakota State Medical Association, which includes 2,000 practicing and retired physicians, medical residents and students.
Thomas O’Boyle ‘82 B.S.Ed., Gering, Neb., was hired as the middle school/high school principal for Stanley County.
Shawn (Jensen) Pahlke ‘85 J.D., Rapid City, S.D., received a 2014 Attorney of the Year award presented by USD Women in Law.
Carol (Livermore) Ragan ‘88 M.S.S., Sioux City, Iowa, will retire this spring after 19 years with local elementary schools.
Bryon Schaefer ‘85 B.S.Ed., Bakersfield, Calif., is the new superintendent for the Kern High School District in California, the largest district in the state.
Darrell Shoemaker ‘83 B.A., Rapid City, S.D., accepted the position as communications coordinator for Rapid City.
David Snakenberg ‘83 M.M., Sioux City, Iowa, will retire from South Sioux City middle school after teaching music for 38 years.
Linda Thompson ‘86 M.S.S., Sioux City, Iowa, received an environmental educator award, presented by Gov. Branstad. She will retire after teaching for 38 years.
Kathleen (Felker) Trandahl ‘83 M.A., Rapid City, S.D., was appointed magistrate judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Custer County.
Shawn Bartel ‘98 B.S., ‘02 M.D., Colgate, Wis., has joined Avera Aberdeen Family Physicians and St. Luke’s Hospital.
Matthew Brown ‘99 J.D., Custer, S.D., was appointed magistrate judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Custer County.
Alan Christensen ‘97 M.D., Watertown, S.D., was elected to the Prairie Lakes Healthcare System board of directors.
For the first time in 15 years, Burke, S.D., has a medical doctor. Megan (Juran) Smith ‘11 M.D., Sioux Falls, S.D., returned to her hometown to work at Community Memorial Hospital, a Sanford affiliate and the town’s medical clinic. Smith is the first local doctor since at least the late 1990s. “When I thought of ‘doctor,’ I always thought of family medicine,” she said. “I get to take care of babies and grandmas and the years between.”
Marie Ruettgers ’04 J.D., Pierre, S.D., joined the Goosmann Law Firm as managing attorney.

Roger Schieferecke ’09 Ed.D., Hays, Kan., was named director of the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science program at Fort Hays State University.

Jennifer Schriever ’00 M.D., Sioux Falls, S.D., an educator for family medicine medical students and nurse practitioners at USD, has been named a childhood immunization champion by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sonia Shokeen ’09 Ph.D., St. Johns, Fla., a senior microbiologist at Medtronic Surgical Technologies, is now a registrant of the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists.

Ryan Slaba ’06 B.S., ’10 M.S., Sioux Falls, S.D., is a physician assistant employed with Sanford Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

Sonia Shokeen ’09 Ph.D., St. Johns, Fla., a senior microbiologist at Medtronic Surgical Technologies, is now a registrant of the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists.

Ryan Slaba ’06 B.S., ’10 M.S., Sioux Falls, S.D., is a physician assistant employed with Sanford Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

Kimberly Spaans ’08 B.S., ’13 M.S., Inwood, Iowa, has joined the staff of Murray County Medical Center as a physician assistant.

Byron Thomas ’09 B.A., Minot, N.D., was named interim head football coach by Minot State University.

Sarah (Sorensen) Wells ’03 B.A., ’11 M.P.A., Vermillion, S.D., was appointed as the district manager for the Union County Conservation District.

Tyler Wetering ’09 B.S., Parker, S.D., has joined Gunderson, Palmer, Nelson and Ashmore as an associate.

Ian Blake ’10 B.A., Fort Collins, Colo., accepted an English teaching position at Holyoke Junior/Senior High.

Kimberly Campbell ’13 B.B.A., Sioux City, Iowa, has joined Mosaic Business Services as a staff accountant.

Joshua Finer ’13 J.D., Aberdeen, S.D., joined the team of Richardson, Wyly, Wise, Sauck & Heb.

Kara Frankman ’13 J.D., Rapid City, S.D., joined Bangs McCullen Law Firm as an associate attorney.

Amy Gehling ’13 B.F.A., Sioux Falls, S.D., has accepted a position with Click Rain as an interactive strategist.

Trevor Gruis ’14 B.S., Vermillion, S.D., has signed on with the Swedish basketball club Jamtland.

Cody Hayler ’14 Ed.S., Canby, Ore., is a fifth grade core teacher at Seattle Girls’ School.

Tiffany Herron ’13 M.B.A., Merryville, La., is an assistant controller with Amerisafe, Inc.

Nicole Hintze ’13 M.P.A., Menomonee Falls, Wis., has joined McCrossan Boys Ranch as assistant director of development.

Braden Hoefert ’12 J.D., Mitchell, S.D., has associated with Jim Taylor in the general practice of law.

Laura Hofer ’11 B.A., ’14 J.D., Pierre, S.D., has joined the USD Foundation as assistant director of development.

Tyler Jerke ’13 B.A., Bismarck, N.D., was elected vice president of the Young Professionals Network.

Dillon Karras ’13 J.D., Spearfish, S.D., has joined the firm Hood and Nies in Spearfish, S.D. as an associate.

Kevin Kelly ’10 B.F.A., Aberdeen, S.D., is touring with Disney’s Beauty and the Beast and has performed as the bookseller in more than 450 cities.

Jared Mogen ’14 B.M., Yankton, S.D., is the new music teacher at Golden Lake Elementary School in Circle Pines, Minn.

Mitchell Morrison ’11 J.D., Sioux Falls, S.D., was recently promoted to a legal counsel/compliance officer at First Dakota Title.

Stephanie Moser ’10 M.A., Yankton, S.D., is director of the Yankton Convention & Visitors Bureau.


Megan Parrish ’12 B.F.A., Spencer, Iowa, is the head carpenter on the national tour of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast after completing the international tour — Shrek, the Musical.

Stephanie Petersen ’14 B.S.Ed., Jefferson, S.D., teaches fourth grade at Mapleton Elementary Center.

Demetrios Plomaritis ’13 M.S., Slayton, Minn., has joined the staff at the Murray County Medical Center as a physician assistant.
Regan Manning ’95 B.S.Ed., ’10 M.A., Sioux Falls, S.D., has accepted a new position as principal at Holy Spirit School in Sioux Falls, S.D. He took his first teaching position in Yankton in 1995, then in 2007 he became principal for both the St. Benedict Church and Sacred Heart Parish. His unconventional techniques, such as tenting on the roof of the school or letting students decorate him like an ice cream sundae, were implemented to encourage students to keep reading over the summer.

Seth Snakenberg ’13 B.M., Sioux City, Iowa, is the band director in Kingsley-Pierson, Iowa.

Tyler Starr ’13 B.S.R., Little Rock, Iowa, was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the seventh round (255th overall) of the NFL Draft.

Andrew Twinamatsiko ’13 J.D., Vermillion, S.D., has joined Demersseman, Jensen, Tellenghuisen & Huffman Law Firm as an associate.


Garrett Schnathorst ’11 B.F.A., Kalamazoo, Mich., is a theatre tech for the tour of Beauty and the Beast.

Sara (Schenkel) Bouzek ’09 B.F.A. and Brenton Bouzek ’08 B.S., were married July 27, 2013. They reside in Littleton, Colo.

Elizabeth (Lubbers) Lukonen ’08 B.A., ’12 M.A. and Mark Lukonen were married July 26, 2014. The couple resides in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Megan (Horacek) Mellion ’08 M.S. and Frank Mellion were married Oct. 4, 2013. They reside in Omaha, Neb.

Kelsey (Freidel) Nelson ’08 B.A. and Joel Nelson were married April 26, 2014. They reside in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Kristin Pfeiff ’05 B.S.Ed. and Matt Tostenson were married Sept. 13, 2014. The couple resides in Milbank, S.D.

Emalie (Kluth) Powell ’08 B.A., ’10 M.A. and Josh Powell were married June 14, 2014. The couple resides in Omaha, Neb.

Haiden (Gotch) Smith ’07 B.B.A. and Jennifer Smith were married July 26, 2014. The couple resides in Vermillion, S.D.

Chelsea (Klaas) Abrahamson ’11 M.B.A. and Chad Abrahamson were married May 23, 2014. The couple resides in South Bend, Ind.

Therese (Osborne) Broomfield ’12 B.F.A. and James Broomfield ’11 B.S. were married May 11, 2013. The couple resides in Mankato, Minn.

Ilsa (Bjordal) Harr ’11 A.S. and Tylor Harr were married in October 2013. The couple resides in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Laura (Van Beek) Leonard ’11 M.A. and Justin Leonard were married July 12, 2014. The couple resides in Primghar, Iowa.

Heather (Moline) Merchen ’14 M.D. and Aron Merchen ’14 M.D. were married May 1, 2014. The couple resides in Rapid City, S.D.

Tyler Schimmel ’12 B.S., ’14 A.S., and Dana (Jakeway) Schimmel were married June 21, 2014. The couple resides in Watertown, S.D.

Autumn (Ingwerson) Schultz ’11 B.M. and Nathan Schultz were married June 22, 2013. The couple resides in Avon, S.D.

Adam Shiffermiller ’14 J.D. and Cassie (McKie) Shiffermiller ’14 J.D. were married Oct. 4, 2014. The couple resides in Vermillion, S.D.

Janea (Hagen) Smith ’11 B.S.R. and Josh Smith were married Oct. 11, 2013. The couple resides in Belleveue, Neb.

Jenna (Lee) Smith ’11 B.B.A. and Alex Smith ’09 B.B.A. were married June 22, 2013. The couple resides in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Terrance Walth ’12 B.B.A. and Erin (Brubakken) Walth were married July 19, 2014. The couple resides in Sioux Falls, S.D.
In Memoriam

Faculty
Bernard “Beanie” Cooper '75–'81, USD football coach and athletic director, Sioux City, Iowa
Mac Goldman '68–'91, professor emeritus of the USD Biology Department, Buffalo Grove, Ill.

1930s
Dorothy (Lown) Adams '38, Dallas, Texas
Frank Anderson '37, Spring Hill, Fla.

1940s
Walter Bauer '49, Moorhead, Minn.
Clyde Buehler '48, '53, Ellensburg, Wash.
Leo Burd '43, Minneapolis, Minn.
Helen (Lockwood) Davenport '47, Sioux City, Iowa
Phyllis (Crisman) Erickson '47, St. Paul, Minn.
Garold Faber '49, Ventura, Calif.
Rus Fechter '45, Red Wing, Minn.
John Heemstra '44, Springfield, Mo.
Henry Gross '53, Ross, Calif.

1950s
Eugene Baker '52, Omaha, Neb.
Robert Bauer '52, Aberdeen, S.D.
Louie Beisser '52, Scottsdale, Ariz.
G. Robert Bell '51, Brandon, S.D.
Charles Berglund '55, Hamilton, Mont.
Ronald Boeding '59, Rolla, Mo.
Orville Brugger '53, Brooklyn Center, Minn.
James Calene '53, Tucson, Ariz.
Ronald Campbell '58, '60, Miller, S.D.
Leslie Carlson '57, Toronto, Ontario
James Combellack '57, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Catherine (Hansen) Cooley '58, Lincoln, Calif.
Donald Delzell '59, '63, Clarinda, Iowa
Wallace Dow '54, '57, Frederick, Md.
Kenneth Dregseth '51, Sierra Vista, Ariz.
William Emerson '59, Grants Pass, Ore.
Herbert Eschliman '55, Warrensburg, Mo.
Richard Flanery '58, Cave Creek, Ariz.
John Friese '58, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Franklin Gibbs '51, Springfield, Mo.
Henry Gross '53, Ross, Calif.
Donald Gillickson '50, Tucson, Ariz.
Gordon Haffeman '50, Cheyenne, Wyo.
George Haglund '53, Bonita Springs, Fla.
Robert Heck '51, '52, Oak Lawn, Ill.
Arnold Herrbold '50, Sheridan, Wyo.
Peter Hoffmann '58, Rhinecliff, N.Y.
Wayne Hoogestraat '53, Pierre, S.D.
Sara Kenaston '52, Jacksonville, Fla.
Gerald Kessler '58, Bellevue, Wash.
James Koehler '53, Monroe, Wash.
Beverly (Edson) Koplin '54, Green Valley, Ariz.
Walter Kralman '51, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Paul Larive '54, '56, Hood River, Ore.
Robert Law '51, Clear Lake, S.D.
Adolph Littau '51, San Diego, Calif.
Oscar Loe '54, '57, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Berthamay (Ostlad) Lyon '58, Westfield, Ind.
Elvin McCurdy '59, Indianapolis, Iowa
Wayne Merrigan '50, Vermillion, S.D.
Christopher Moller '56, '58, Brookings, S.D.
Dianne (Snyder) Moorey '57, Menifee, Calif.
William Nielsen '58, Clyde, N.C.
Frank O'Meara '58, Milwaukee, Wis.
Bette (Bruno) Pandak '54, Elburn, Ill.
Harold Peterson '52, Edina, Minn.
Stanley Rhinehart '52, Ellenton, Fla.
Will Robinson '54, Rapid City, S.D.
Gene Smith '50, Quincy, Ill.
Frank Speicker '53, Littleton, Colo.
Vernon Staum '52, Central Point, Ore.
Ruth (Kalamenny) Stivers '50, Pinckney, Mich.
Russell Tarver '53, '72, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Donald Wagner '50, Omaha, Neb.
Martin Weeks '50, Vermillion, S.D.
Franklin Weiss '59, Valley City, N.D.

1960s
Robert Burrell '66, Pierre, S.D.
Marion Clarke '66, Alachua, Fla.
Robert Colvin '67, Austin, Texas.
Lawrence Cross '60, Harrisonburg, Va.
Charlene (Thybo) Doolittle '65, Rapid City, S.D.
Clifford Ellis '69, Alliance, Neb.
William Elwood '61, Fremont, Mont.
David Gale '66, Richmond, Ky.
Connie (Kegaries) Godsell '60, Garwood, Texas
Raymond Hansen '64, Schererville, Ind.
Howard Hughes '61, '62, Slayton, Minn.
Arthur Janklow '67, Rapid City, S.D.
Sigurd Jensen '61, '65, North Haven, Conn.
Melinda (Grimes) Jones '63, Bigfork, Mont.
Leslie (Schindell) Kelly '68, Syracuse, N.Y.
Garron Klepach '66, Vero Beach, Fla.
Anatol Mazor '60, Northridge, Calif.
Myron Meyer '67, Archer, Iowa
Charles Mickel '60, '62, '68, Rapid City, S.D.
Young Moore '69, Vermillion, S.D.
Jerome Nicolay '58, Chester, S.D.
Craig Oden '65, '70, Guilderton, N.Y.
Larry Osburn '63, South Point, Ohio
Howard Peterson '69, Rapid City, S.D.
William Phelps '67, Iowa Falls, Iowa
Darwin Reiter '68, Cedar Falls, Iowa
Boyd Rist '68, Lynchburg, Va.
Arvid Rinning '61, '61, Stanwood, Wash.
Ardis (Lehfeldt) Ruark '66, Pierre, S.D.
Ronald Santema '66, Sun City, Ariz.
Judith (Seebach) Shaltanis '68, Sioux Falls, S.D.
William Sholes '62, 63, '68, Vermillion, S.D.
Raymond Stolaas '61, '61, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Lonna Sweet '64, Sun City West, Ariz.
William Thomas '67, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Eugene Todd '60, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Norma Vanness '65, Ferndale, Mich.

Delmar Westra '64, '64, Pella, Iowa
Dean Zart '60, Gilroy, Calif.

1970s
Jane (Harris) Ashbaugh '75, '75, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Matilda Black Bear '74, Saint Francis, S.D.
Robert Bode '74, '76, Bellingham, Wash.
Galen Busch '73, Mission, S.D.
Candys Cooper '70, Pensacola, Fla.
Dennis Finch '71, Rapid City, S.D.
Robert Findley '71, Savannah, Mo.
John Gavin '70, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Curt Hansen '77, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Charles Hayes '72, Cowley, Wyo.
Steven Heller '77, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Leroy Hieb '70, Carlsbad, Calif.
Billy Kulhavy '72, '86, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Ovila Laplante '78, Tucson, Ariz.
Norma Lethcoe '78, Yankton, S.D.
Donnie Long '70, Elk Point, S.D.
Corinne (Martin) Milburn '70, '70, Elk Point, S.D.
Dan Morton '72, Aman, Texas
Pamela (Ambur) Orelly '75, Rochester, Minn.
John Soderquist '71, Rapid City, S.D.
Charles Spencer '74, Vermillion, S.D.
William Stear '72, Englewood, Fla.
Monte Walz '79, Sioux Falls, S.D.

1980s
Carol Anderson '81, Centuria, Wis.
Thomas Braithwaite '82, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Kathleen Bream '87, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Loma (Herrmann) Cooney '81, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Danny Flaharty '81, Jesup, Iowa
Daron Fritz '89, Lake Mills, Iowa
Mary (Pecenka) Hockett '81, Fishers, Ind.
John Longtin '86, Saint Paul, Minn.
Dixie (Hansen) Norberg '82, Gillette, Wyo.
Terry Slaughter '82, Sioux City, Iowa

1990s
Warren Briggs '96, Wake Forest, N.C.
Rodney Hanson '95, Yankton, S.D.
Leann Henslin '98, Brookings, S.D.
Lois Hillestad '93, Abbeville, Ala.
Lawrence Holmes '97, Brookings, S.D.
Betty (Bartlett) Jensen '92, Plainview, Neb.
Elden Lawrence '90, Puever, S.D.
Marlene (Hauck) Nollet '90, Martin, S.D.
Judith (Norldt) Pylar '95, Great Falls, Mont.
Kari (Duhaime) Stroschein '87, Sioux Falls, S.D.

2000s
Annie Baggenstoss '02, Minneapolis, Minn.
James Enyart '02, Saint George, Utah
Ashley Johnson '05, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Dan Small '01, Aberdeen, S.D.
Ruth Ziolkowski '02, Crazy Horse, S.D.

CORRECTIONS
Ronald Kvam '70 M.A., Lake Ozark, Mo., was listed in error as deceased in our last issue. Additionally, Robert Colvin, Ph.D., '67 B.A., Austin, Texas, passed away April 1, 2014; not Robert Colvin '26 B.A. We regret the errors.
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By Kelly May ’89 B.A., ’92 J.D.
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