Med School Hosts Welcome Table

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December 2016

Aviso - December 2016

Marketing Communications & University Relations
Submit articles or ideas to: aviso@usd.edu

Submission deadline for next issue: Jan. 6, 2017

Next issue distributed: Jan. 11, 2017

Bringing people together is a defining characteristic of most holiday traditions. And for the past several years, the USD Sanford School of Medicine has had its own tradition organized specifically for that reason.

For its ninth consecutive year, the Sanford School of Medicine and USD School of Health Sciences hosted the Vermillion Welcome Table, an event that brings hundreds in the community together for a holiday meal. This year’s event was held Dec. 5 in the School of Medicine Atrium.

The School of Medicine and School of Health Sciences were assisted by other USD organizations including Reading Council, Phi Delta Theta, USD Athletics and Aramark, in serving food and drinks, doing children’s crafts, taking pictures and helping clear tables. Charlie Coyote and Santa Claus were also present for photos with fans.

Wendy Pederson, event organizer and graduate/education coordinator for the Department of Basic Biomedical Sciences, said they served 254 people. “People look forward to this event all year long,” she said. “This is a wonderful way for us to serve the community at a time of the year that promotes giving.”

The event was initiated in 2008 as a community service project by the university departments housed in the Lee Medical Building, but has evolved into USD effort that is also a celebration of the relationship the university has with the community of Vermillion.

It extends to more than the holidays, though; the Welcome Table occurs every Monday evening (5:30-7 p.m.) at the United Methodist Church in Vermillion. Although the Christmas collaboration occurs only once every year, the church and the Sanford School of Medicine work together year-round to collect food for the backpack program.
Gov. Dennis Daugaard has granted four hours of administrative leave for state employees starting at noon on Friday, Dec. 23. State offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 26.

USD Libraries in I.D. Weeks
Announces the Ninth Annual

Food for Fines Program
December 1 – 19, 2016

One food item = $1.00 in overdue fines

Each item of food will credit $1.00 toward your overdue fines
Fine of $4.00 = four food items
Fine of $4.25 = five food items

- Only unopened, pre-packaged, unexpired food will be accepted
- No Ramen noodles
- No perishable food
- Actual cost of food will not be considered in crediting fines
- Food accepted for overdue fines only, NOT for ILL or lost book charges
- Food donations will also be gratefully accepted

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE FOOD ITEMS
Canned fruits or vegetables  Soup  Canned meat or fish  Pork & beans  Jelly  Peanut butter
Boxed macaroni & cheese  Cereal  Pasta/canned sauce

All proceeds will be donated to the Vermillion Food Pantry. For more information, email circ@usd.edu, ask at the Circulation Desk, or call 605-677-5373

Over the holiday break (Dec. 23-Jan. 3) Creative Services will be unable to complete large format printing. All large format posters and prints need to be submitted before Dec. 20 if they are to be printed before the break.
Ornaments designed by USD student artists will dazzle President’s Park in Washington, D.C. as part of the 94th annual National Christmas Tree Lighting display at the White House. Student Art Alliance, a University of South Dakota student organization, was chosen to represent South Dakota.

Epiphany Knedler and Sophia Wermers from Vermillion, South Dakota, designed ornaments that showcase South Dakota’s landscapes. The hand crafted ornaments will adorn one of 56 trees representing each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia from Dec. 1 through Jan. 1, 2017 as part of the “America Celebrates” display.

“We are honored to be representing South Dakota and the National Parks Service,” said Epiphany Knedler, president of the Student Art Alliance. “It has been exciting to visually represent South Dakota’s unique landscape on both sides of the river.”

USD’s Student Art Alliance is comprised of a variety of students interested in fine arts. The USD students join local artists from each state, territory and the District of Columbia in designing ornaments for the National Christmas Tree.

The trees will be on display through Jan. 1.

Is Your W-2 Current?

Distribution of W-2s is fast approaching. Please verify that human resources has your current address by logging into the MyUSD Portal. Your permanent address will be listed under your profile information. If you need to make changes click on the address change form. Check the proper affiliation and hit the submit button. Make your revisions in the proper fields, then click on the submit change button. This will forward your change of address to the human resources/payroll office for processing.

If you opted to receive an electronic W-2, an email will be forwarded and you should follow the directions to view/print your document.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact human resources at 605-677-5671.

Do you know someone who should be USD’s Employee of the Month? Nominate him or her with the CSA Employee of the Month form at http://sites.usd.edu/csac/.
Relay for Life is Feb. 12

Hate Cancer? We do too.
USD Colleges Against Cancer would like to invite you to join our mission to save lives.
As an organization, Colleges Against Cancer works with the American Cancer Society to help raise money for lifesaving programs, services and research efforts to end cancer.

Visit RelayForLife.org to register for the 2017 Clay County and USD Relay for Life. Let’s rally friends and family to walk the DakotaDome track on Feb. 12, 2017. Together, we can support the American Cancer Society and the groundbreaking research and patient programs it fuels.
Contact Rebecca.Buechler@coyotes.usd.edu with any questions.
Safety Matters: Winter Driving

The leaves have finally fallen off the trees and we’re starting to wear our jackets on the way to work in the morning so you know what time it is: winter is coming. And naturally, that reminds me to make my annual visit to YouTube, and search for “winter driving fails” and waste about an hour watching cars slide, skid and crash into every conceivable obstacle on (or even near) a road.

It is important to keep in mind how much the roads will change during this time of year. Safe Winter Roads states that “24 percent of vehicle crashes occur on slushy or icy pavement and 15 percent happen during snowfall or sleet.” So let’s avoid slipping, sliding and unsafe driving this year by following these winter driving tips:

• Make sure to buckle up as soon as you get in your car. Though this may sound repetitive, it is important to be secure in your seat in case of an emergency!
• If you heat up your car before heading out on the open road, don’t let it run in an enclosed space (like your garage). Warm up your car on the street or in your driveway to avoid a buildup of fumes.
• Keep your gas tank at least halfway full, so that no matter what happens your car won’t get cold with you in it. No one wants a carsicle.
• Though it’s much easier to just sit and relax while you’re driving on the interstate, try and avoid using cruise control during these next few months.
• As fun as this looks, please don’t try it at home or even in the Wal-Mart parking lot.
• Drive more slowly, and take turns a lot easier.
• Leave a lot more stopping distance between you and the car in front.
• Keep some basic supplies in your car, like a good snow shovel. We can make the roads as safe as we want them, so let’s all work together to practice safe driving this winter.

Future topic suggestions or health and safety concerns can be directed to Kevin O’Kelley at 677-6265 or Kevin.Okelley@usd.edu.

Coyote Basketball Faculty and Staff Appreciation Nights

The USD Coyote men’s and women’s basketball teams would like to welcome USD faculty and staff and their families to our USD Faculty and Staff Appreciation Nights coming in January and February.

The first of these events is Wednesday, Jan. 11 at the Sanford Coyote Sports Center. The USD men’s basketball team will be playing North Dakota State at 7 p.m. Faculty and staff can bring their IDs for half-price admission ($8 adults, $4 youth) for them and their families. This is also the student-athlete academic recognition night, in which we honor our highest performing student-athletes from an academic perspective.

The second of these events is Wednesday, Feb. 15 at the Sanford Coyote Sports Center. The USD women’s basketball team will be playing Oral Roberts at 7 p.m. Again, faculty and staff can bring their IDs for half-price admission ($8 adults, $4 youth) for them and their families. For more information, contact the USD ticket office at 605-677-5959.