Healthcare Careers Camp Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine held its 10th annual Healthcare Careers Camp June 19-24.

The camp, which began in 2006, was started as a way for South Dakota to grow its health care professionals, due to a national decline.

The Healthcare Careers Camp offers 40 high school students—upcoming sophomores, juniors and seniors—the opportunity to stay on campus for one week and take a “crash course on as many different areas of health care as we can fit in,” explained by Kathy Van Kley, camp coordinator. This year, 39 students from South Dakota and communities in Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska attended.

Because the program is competitive, and more than 100 students applied, Van Kley said the camp typically chooses the older students, usually seniors, before the younger ones because they wouldn’t have the opportunity to apply the following year.

Cost for the camp is $100, which covers housing and meals, but Van Kley said there are scholarships available for students who need assistance. The camp also provides transportation to and from camp for those prior to attending the camp.

“A lot of times, they’ll come with one idea in their head, but after learning about all the areas that they could possibly go into, they get excited about something else,” Van Kley said.

The students go on many tours at camp, such as around the Gross Anatomy Lab, the Sanford USD Medical Center and the Southeast Technical Institute campus in Sioux Falls. The students also participate in activities at the Parry Center for Clinical Skills & Simulation. Every student also becomes CPR certified while attending the camp.

Every year, Van Kley said the camp tries to add onto different programs.

“The intensity of it has grown a lot,” Van Kley said. “I’m always looking for ways to adjust or add a different program to it.”

Van Kley said the response for this year’s camp was “very good,” and she sees many opportunities for the university in terms
Alumni Association Aligns with Foundation

Following more than a year of discussion, the University of South Dakota Alumni Association and the University of South Dakota Foundation are moving forward to more closely align alumni engagement efforts. This action reflects a desire to enhance the lifetime relationships between nearly 70,000 alumni and friends of USD through a unified pathway for their continued involvement with the university.

“Our goal is simple. We want to nurture the bond between alumni, donors and friends – young and old – to this great university,” said USD President James W. Abbott. “The university, its alumni association and the foundation have a shared commitment to do just that. This alignment will increase our coordination and expand our outreach capabilities.”

A volunteer and staff leadership team will be appointed to lead the integration. Based on the feedback and ideas gathered in these discussions, the alumni association and foundation will together consider and implement new or enhanced avenues of constituent engagement.

“We’re committed to asking our alumni for their guidance to find out what’s meaningful to them. And by taking action on those ideas, we can move USD onward,” Abbott said.

The alumni magazine, The South Dakotan, will continue to be a signature vehicle for alumni engagement and will regularly report on the progress of the integration.

Established in 1889, the USD Alumni Association aims to maintain lifelong connections between the university, alumni and friends of USD. The association publishes The South Dakotan alumni magazine biannually, which informs alumni, parents and friends of the university about the latest events and happenings at USD.

The USD Foundation, an independent nonprofit organization, aims to inspire the alumni and friends and secure support for the development of the University of South Dakota, including campus improvements, faculty support and scholarship support for the university’s students. Onward, The Campaign for South Dakota, is the foundation’s current campaign that will advance four key priorities for the university: educational opportunities for students, faculty support, student and faculty enrichment, and the renovation and expansion of numerous facilities on campus.
Grant Proposals Sought for Chiesman Fund

The Allene R. Chiesman Fund for Civic Education invites grant proposals from full-time USD faculty for projects starting on or after the fall semester of 2016. The deadline for submission of these proposals is Sept. 1, and applies to projects that will be completed during the 2016-2017 academic year. The Chiesman Fund Advisory Committee will announce its decisions on the proposals on or before Sept. 15.

The Chiesman Fund is authorized to: “(1) support research addressing the issues of citizenship and civic education; (2) fund research and studies on the on-going problems of American democracy including but not limited to economic and social problems; (3) fund studies of issues concerning the Constitution of the United States in particular and the legal systems in the United States in general; (4) sponsor studies of public policies with particular focus on policies relating to the role of citizens in our political system and consumers in our economic system; (5) support the publication of material produced through the aid of the fund; (6) provide awards for contests promoting civic education; (7) make grants to organizations promoting civic education (for example, Boys and Girls State); (8) support conferences, meetings and forums designed to educate people about civic education matters; (9) work with educational institutions to develop civic education materials and programs for students at all levels; [and/or] (10) coordinate activities of the Fund with other organizations and institutions for the purpose of maximizing efforts to promote Fund goals.”

Proposals for grants should clearly and specifically address one or more of these purposes. Proposals of three to six pages specifying the research question, method of inquiry, significance of the project, timeline for completion, a very detailed budget (which will explicitly define how any funding will be used) and the intended means by which the results will be disseminated should be submitted to: Chiesman Fund Advisory Committee, c/o William D. Richardson, Farber Center for Civic Leadership, 116 Dakota Hall. Electronic submissions are preferred and should be sent to chovorka@usd.edu.

Jacobs’ Book Teaches Mental Health Assistance

A University of South Dakota professor summoned to Nepal after last year’s massive earthquake has published a book based on a program he used there and elsewhere that teaches everyday people how to provide mental health assistance to each other.

After the April 2015 temblor that killed more than 8,000 people and injured countless more, the American Psychological Association (APA) called in Gerard Jacobs, Ph.D., professor of psychology and director of the Disaster Mental Health Institute at USD. He has responded to numerous global disasters, including the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center and the 2005 tsunami in Southeast Asia.

For the earthquake response, Jacobs and an associate in India worked with the World Health Organization and the United Nations to correspond with a committee of psychologists in Nepal. After months of preparation, they and other colleagues assembled in Nepal last November and certified 27 psychologists as trainers in what’s called community-based psychological first aid. Those psychologists then trained people throughout the country who help each other cope with the disaster.

“It was a real collaboration with the local people who worked with us to help us design the training and decided what they needed,” Jacobs said.

He first came across the concept in the mid-1990s while developing a psychological support strategy for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Jacobs was so impressed with the model, first used in Denmark, that he and the Red Cross chose the approach to help developing countries that were just beginning to set up a system of psychological support.

Since then, Jacobs has trained groups and individuals on the concept in more than 30 countries. His new book, available on pre-order, “Community-Based Psychological First Aid: A Practical Guide to Helping Individuals and Communities during Difficult Times,” outlines the approach and is aimed toward a general audience.
ESPN Anchor Chris Berman Receives Neuharth Award

Chris Berman, recipient of the 2016 Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media. Veteran ESPN sports broadcaster Chris Berman received the 2016 Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media during a celebration held at the Newseum.

The annual award was presented June 21 by the Newseum Institute during the week-long Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference. It was the first time since the award’s inception that the ceremony took place outside of the University of South Dakota.

The invitation-only evening kicked off with a reception, followed by a dinner in the New York Times Great Hall of News. Gene Policinski, chief operating officer of the Newseum Institute and senior vice president of the Newseum’s First Amendment Center, welcomed guests and spoke about the annual award’s history. The 2016 Free Spirit class was joined by fellow program alumni; two alumni — Cyrus Moussavi, class of 2005, and Mary Pilon, class of 2004 — talked about their personal accomplishments. James W. Abbott, president of the University of South Dakota and chair of the Newseum Institute’s board of trustees, gave opening remarks that were followed by a video highlighting Berman’s successful career.

Jan Neuharth, chair and chief executive officer, Freedom Forum, and Neuharth’s daughter, drew comparisons between her father’s sports journalism career and Berman’s, which spans nearly four decades. Berman, who joined the start-up sports cable network in 1979, has served as host of a variety of ESPN programs, including “SportsCenter,” “Sunday NFL Countdown,” “NFL PrimeTime” and “Baseball Tonight.” He has covered 34 Super Bowls, 30 MLB All-Star Games and Home Run Derbys, and 29 World Series. The host of ESPN’s NFL Draft telecast since 1987, Berman has served as emcee for the Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony 16 times. He also covered golf’s U.S. Open for 29 years, serving as both host and play-by-play announcer from 2003 to 2014.

The award is named for the late USA TODAY and Freedom Forum/Newseum founder Al Neuharth, and is co-sponsored by the University of South Dakota. Neuharth, a South Dakota native, was a 1950 graduate of USD, which is home to the Al Neuharth Media Center. Berman is the first sports journalist to receive the lifetime achievement honor, which was first presented to legendary CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite in 1989.

Faculty/Staff Photo Shoot Aug. 15

All faculty and staff are encouraged to have updated head shots taken at the USD professional photo shoot on Monday, Aug. 15, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Photos will be taken in the Al Neuharth Media Center’s main floor hallway.

- Each photo session will take about five minutes.
- Due to heavy traffic flow, the photographer will be unable to show you previews of your photo.
- Individual photos only, no group shots.
- Signed photo releases are required.
- There are no fees or costs.
- Professional dress is recommended.
- Photos will be retained by marketing for USD publicity purposes.

- Individuals may request a digital file of a photo for professional use only by emailing web@usd.edu.
- These photos may not be used or printed for personal use. A copy for personal use can be purchased from the photographer Aaron Packard.
- Sioux Falls campus will receive a separate email regarding available times in Sioux Falls.
Accountant for the University of South Dakota’s Nursing Department, Julie Rajdl, has earned the June 2016 employee of the month award.

Rajdl was nominated by supervisor Jeremy Aylward for being reliable, dependable, accountable and taking the initiative to complete her duties.

“The Department of Nursing is fortunate to have Julie as our accountant,” Aylward said in the nomination form. “She takes pride in her work and displays talent, enthusiasm and commitment in all she does. She is always in a good mood, helps boost the morale of the department and is enjoyable to work with.”

Rajdl was also nominated for being able to complete any project that is last minute without complaints, and has accommodated her schedule and less-demanding projects to work well with these more demanding and urgent tasks of the department.

Aylward said Rajdl follows all instructions and tasks given to her, but is also not afraid to speak out against a policy or procedure that she finds doesn’t work.

“Julie is consistent, dependable and accurate in carrying our responsibilities to successful conclusion,” Aylward said. “Not only does she complete her daily tasks, but also handles and deals with irregular tasks that arise. She is willing and able to assist when called upon and is known to be dependable and supportive.”

Rajdl said she did not expect to earn employee of the month.

“I felt very blessed and very thankful,” Rajdl said. “I was surprised that I received it.”

Her main duties at her job include reconciliation of ledgers, accounts receivable and entering payroll ePASSEs.

Rajdl, prior to USD, started working at the University Center in 1993, then got her position at USD in July 2012. She works at the Sioux Falls Health Sciences Center.

“I thoroughly enjoy working for USD,” Rajdl said. “They empower their employees and they are a team-based university.”

Rajdl has been married to her husband, John, for 29 years. They have two children, Amanda and PJ. When she is not working, Rajdl enjoys gardening, reading and riding around South Dakota and surrounding states with her husband on their Harley-Davidson.

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/.
Shoppers in Sioux Falls soon will have one stop for spirit gear representing both the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University. The two schools are working together to open a store in The Empire Mall named Jack & Charlie’s after their beloved mascots.

The 3,000-square-foot store will open this summer across from the new Red Robin restaurant, offering apparel, accessories, gifts, souvenirs and more.

“USD and SDSU are fierce rivals in NCAA Division I athletics, but so many South Dakota families have ties to both schools,” said Tena Haraldson, director of marketing communications at the University of South Dakota. “It will be fun for them to shop at one location. Together the two schools have tens of thousands of alums right here in Sioux Falls.”

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Carla Dieter has retired as chair of the University of South Dakota’s Department of Nursing, a position she has held since 2011.

Dieter, Ed.D, R.N., F.N.P-B.C., guided the USD nursing program to offer four-year, bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degrees at four of the five USD nursing campuses across the state as well as an online RN-BSN. She also led USD’s effort to integrate interprofessional health care education into all 10 departments in the USD School of Health Sciences.

Dieter is credited with leading health care institutions and teaching programs throughout the state to emphasize interprofessional practices and education, and her passionate service in that regard has established South Dakota as a national leader in the field.

Interprofessional health care is widely acknowledged as the next major advance in the improvement of health care delivery.

Dieter received a doctor of education degree from USD, post-master’s certificates in family nurse practitioner specialty and parent-child nursing specialty from South Dakota State University, a master of science degree from SDSU, a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and an associate degree in nursing from the College of St. Mary.

Prior to heading the nursing program at USD, she was director of nursing education scholarship at USD.

“The opportunity to partner with USD allows us to come up with creative opportunities that could tie into various community or statewide efforts,” said Derek Peterson, director of South Dakota State’s business and auxiliary operations. “This is a great opportunity for both institutions and we look forward to working together.”

Jack & Charlie’s will open this month.