Shakespeare Festival Brings Community Together

The Comedy of Errors found new life in Prentis Park at the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival June 8-11. The production was directed by Rebecca Bailey, a teaching graduate and a recent M.F.A. directing graduate from the University of South Dakota.

She has served on the board for the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival in previous years and directed other USD pieces including: The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Venus in Fur, Rumors and Into the Woods.

The South Dakota Shakespeare Festival is an event and an organization dedicated to increasing the cultural, artistic and educational opportunities for the residents of South Dakota and the surrounding area.

The crew presented one of Shakespeare's earlier works: The Comedy of Errors, a comedy featuring two sets of twins separated at birth. One half of the pairs travel to the other half's home town and proceed to be confused with each other.

"Shakespeare's work is so poignant throughout history because even one of his lightest comedies, The Comedy of Errors, unifies us as human beings," Bailey said. "Tonight as the laughter fills the park, we can gather as one community, one family, and share the simple joy of being connected together in this journey."

USD students and faculty were fully immersed in the production. Many faculty members of the USD Department of Theatre offered technical guidance, photography skills or costume design. A plethora of USD theatre students and recent graduates were also involved.

The festival hosted a myriad of classes and workshops for ages 8-18. Younger acting students enjoyed improv classes and theatre games whereas more mature students interested in Shakespearian acting had the opportunity to learn about stage rhythms and unarmed stage combat.

The USD College of Arts & Sciences held...
a scholar’s roundtable in conjunction with the festival. The professors present were Darlene Farabee, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of English; Jillian Linster, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Iowa; and Bruce Brandt, Ph.D., an English professor at South Dakota State University. The festival featured something for everyone, whether that was the performance itself, youth workshops, roundtables or corn on the cob. Despite fighting against the heat, the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival presented an enriching and educational weekend for the community of Vermillion as a whole.

Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute Inspires Next Generation of Artists

Twenty high school art students will visit USD this week to participate in the 2017 Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute (OHSAI) from June 11-23. The institute is open to high school students with a demonstrated interest in the visual arts and American Indian culture. The institute provides artistic workshops for high school students to learn about contemporary Native American fine arts with a focus on Native American culture, history and traditions in sessions guided by their instructors.

This year’s instructors include Keith Braveheart, Paul High Horse, Jessica Growing Thunder and Marlena Myles. Students attend free of charge, including meals, housing, instruction and art supplies, thanks to very generous financial support. “Our goal by the end of the two-week session is that students produce many beautiful and expressive works,” said Cory Knedler, chair of the art department. “The students are highly productive.”

The OHSAI honors longtime USD professor and American Indian Northern Plains artist Oscar Howe by helping educate the next generation of Native American artists. Howe is widely recognized as one of the leading Indian artist of his generation and continues to serve as an inspiration to aspiring Northern Plains artists today.

Department of Music Hosts Directors Institute

The University of South Dakota Department of Music hosts its annual band, orchestra and choral directors institute June 21-23.

The institute will include conducting clinics, large ensemble reading sessions, master classes and clinic sessions that focus on a wide variety of teaching subjects for instrumental directors and choral educators.

New at this year’s institute is a dedicated orchestral component. “With the growth of high-quality orchestral programs in the Quad-State area, we decided to include clinics that could be beneficial for both band and orchestral directors,” said Luis Viquez, assistant music professor and institute director.

Vijay Singh, an internationally renowned composer and professor of music at Central Washington University, is this summer’s guest choral clinician. Brian Balmages, an award-winning composer and conductor, will return as guest clinician for the instrumental side.
Amy Schweinle, Ph.D., chair of the Division of Counseling and Psychology of Education, will become the first associate dean of research and graduate studies in the School of Education.

In the position, Schweinle's primary responsibilities will include increasing the capacity for research by mentoring faculty and assisting with research collaborations, data initiatives and funding.

“The School of Education is committed to developing professionals across a wide range of fields who are committed to lifelong learning and best practice,” said Schweinle.

Schweinle started at USD in 2003 as an assistant professor before becoming chair of the Division of Counseling and Education Psychology in Education in 2013.

School of Education Dean Donald Easton-Brooks spoke highly of Schweinle's new role.

“Dr. Schweinle’s leadership in research and graduate programs will move us to a level of rigor and research success that will enhance the scholarship and graduate student experience,” said Easton-Brooks. “She comes with a wealth of knowledge, experiences and ability to collaborate across the USD campus, state, country and internationally.”

Schweinle said she is excited for her next steps at USD. "The USD community is a tight-knit group of amazing professionals. We have committed faculty and dedicated students. I enjoy coming to work because of the people I get to work with,” she said.

The University of South Dakota announced the appointment of Michael B. Kruger, Ph.D., as the new dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Lohre Distinguished Professor.

“USD is thrilled to have someone of Dr. Kruger's stature join our faculty and administrative team,” said Jim Moran, USD provost. “He brings a wealth of experience working across disciplines, with high schools and internationally that will position the College of Arts & Sciences and USD for future success.”

Prior to joining USD, Kruger served as the associate dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City since 2013. He served as chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy for nine years and interim chair of the Department of Geosciences for two years. Kruger was awarded the highest and most prestigious academic rank, Curators’ Professor, in 2010 and won the UM System President's Award for Leadership in 2015. He joined the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1993, and earned his master's and doctorate degrees in physics from the University of California at Berkeley and bachelor's degree in physics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Kruger’s hiring is the result of a national search that occurred following the departure of previous Dean Matthew Moen, who left USD to become president of the Gettysburg Foundation.

“We would also like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Kurt Hackemer who served as interim dean over the past few months,” said Moran. “We look forward to welcoming Dr. Kruger to USD and the Vermillion community when he begins working on campus July 31.”
Construction has started on the USD Discovery District, an 80-acre contemporary corporate and academic research park under development in Sioux Falls. A public groundbreaking ceremony celebrated the launch of South Dakota’s first innovation community and the public/private partnerships that have made the historic project a reality.

“Great universities do three basic things each and every day. We teach, we foster research and we provide service to our state, region and students,” said USD President James W. Abbott. “Extraordinary universities help drive the state’s economy and that’s really what we’re here for today.”

The USD Discovery District is the result of private/public partnerships between the University of South Dakota, the Board of Regents, Governor’s Office of Economic Development, Forward Sioux Falls and the City of Sioux Falls.

“The concept for the USD Discovery District began more than 20 years ago, with leaders in business and education coming together to set a strategy on growing technology-based business in South Dakota,” said Rich Naser, Jr. president of the USD Discovery District. “Through studies, planning and collaboration and investment of these partners this concept evolved to a vision and today has become a reality.”

Former South Dakota Gov. George S. Mickelson, Sioux Falls business leaders and the University of South Dakota first proposed developing a university-related research park. Forward Sioux Falls revived that concept in 2000. In 2006, the Board of Regents acquired 252 acres through a gift from the Great Plains Education Foundation to establish the University Center. In 2009, the South Dakota Legislature enacted legislation authorizing the establishment of an 80-acre research park at University Center in Sioux Falls. The University of South Dakota Research Park corporation was formed in 2012 after the Legislature authorized research parks on lands controlled by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

The Discovery District projects a +/-25-year development horizon with facility construction value exceeding $314 million. At full build-out, the direct economic impact is projected to include 26 privately developed buildings with facility construction value exceeding $314 million and nearly 2,800 people employed by companies located in the district.

“It’s exciting to see our vision taking shape,” added Naser. “We are essentially now ‘open for business’ and things are moving quickly. The district is in the process of seeking a development partner for the first building and reviewing hotel proposals.”

The first building, a +/- 25,000 square foot multi-tenant research facility, is expected to be completed by Oct. 1, 2018.
The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved three new graduate business certificates at the Beacom School of Business. Graduate certificates are a way to specialize and gain a credential that can help an individual remain current and add value to their employer.

Designed with working professionals in mind, each certificate includes three to four courses and is delivered entirely online. Individuals with an undergraduate degree can apply credits toward a master's degree. Those with a master's degree will earn an additional specialization.

The Business Analytics Certificate spans the full cycle of descriptive, predictive, and prescriptive analytics to optimize business processes in manufacturing, customer relationship management and supply chain management. Graduates will lead organizations to achieve operational efficiency, anticipate trends in the marketplace and strengthen their competitive position.

The Operations and Supply Chain Management Certificate provides an in-depth study of network relationship integration, quality and process improvement methods, and project management. Operations and supply chain management prepares graduates to apply the science of getting things done to the practice of managing logistics, sourcing, quality, scheduling and production.

The Marketing Certificate includes the entire product development process from conception through rapid prototyping, forecasting demand, production and launch. It explores how to use data to identify high-value and/or high-risk customers, products and processes. Graduates can fill a variety of roles in helping a firm develop and market their products and services.

"As the flagship business school in the state, we are committed to providing opportunities to working professionals and senior executives to help their businesses achieve higher productivity and enhance their competitiveness. Graduate certificate programs are a way to recognize that knowledge continues to evolve," said Venky Venkatachalam, dean of the Beacom School of Business.

Samra Selected as National Fellow

Haifa Abou Samra, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Nursing, has been selected as a national fellow by the American Academy of Nursing.

Samra joins other fellows who are considered leaders in education, management, practice and research related to nursing with a goal of transforming and improving America's health system.

Samra has been at USD since 2014, previously serving as associate chair of research and evidence-based practice in the nursing department. She has served as chair since 2016.

Samra earned a Ph.D. in biological sciences and an M.S. nursing degree from South Dakota State University. She earned a B.S. nursing degree from American University, Beirut, Lebanon. She is internationally recognized for her prolific, meaningful research on neonatal care, children's health and rural health.
Yutrzenkas Recognized by Dakota Hospital Foundation

Barbara and Gerald Yutrzenka were the recipients of the 2017 Community Health Service Award from the Dakota Hospital Foundation of Vermillion, South Dakota. The Dakota Hospital Foundation established the award in 2001 to recognize members or organizations who have worked to benefit health and health care in the Vermillion community.

Barbara and Gerald (Jerry) Yutrzenka have contributed longtime service to the Dakota Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, and Jerry served as president of the board in 2007. Each has been deeply involved in numerous activities aimed at improving health care in the Vermillion community and region. Barbara Yutrzenka, Ph.D., joined the University of South Dakota as a faculty member of the Department of Psychology in 1984. From 1988 to 2015 she served as director of the USD clinical psychology doctoral program. She also served two terms as interim dean of graduate education at the university. She retired in 2015.

Jerry Yutrzenka, Ph.D., has been a faculty member of the USD Sanford School of Medicine’s Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences since 1984. Over the years he has held several leadership roles centered on building a more diverse health care workforce for South Dakota. In 2014, he was appointed associate dean for diversity and inclusion at the School of Medicine.

USD Wins $1 Million to Enhance Diversity in the Sciences

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

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

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

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

“This award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will allow USD to put in play several elements that will serve to attract, retain and enhance science education for an increased number of undergraduate students from groups that have tended to be under-represented in science,” said Jerry Yutrzenka, associate dean of diversity and inclusion at the USD Sanford School of Medicine.