Native Visit Weekend April 7-9

On April 7, the USD clinical psychology program hosts its 20th Annual Building Bridges Conference. This event is part of a larger event, Native American Visit Weekend, with the theme “Realizing the Dream.” “The goal,” said Beth Boyd, director of the clinical psychology program, “is to create an opportunity to highlight annual Native American events on campus in an all-inclusive weekend and provide an opportunity for Native high schools to bring their students to campus. Everyone on campus benefits by Native students having a campus experience at a time when there are events happening that celebrate their cultural worldview.”

This year’s conference, which will be held in the MUC Ballroom beginning at 9 a.m., features Tanaya Winder and Tall Paul. Tanaya Winder is a poet, writer, artist and educator who was raised on the Southern Ute reservation in Ignacio, Colorado. She serves as the Director of the University of Colorado at Boulder’s Upward Bound Program and is the creator and CEO of Dream Warriors Management. Tall Paul is an Anishinaabe and Oneida Hip-Hop artist enrolled on the Leech Lake reservation in Minnesota.

After the conference, the 7th Annual Native American Alumni Dinner will feature Nick Estes, a USD graduate currently working for the University of New Mexico and as an educational consultant for a South Dakota Board of Regents laboratory school initiative. There will be a meet and greet at 5 p.m. with dinner starting at 6 p.m. The event is free for alumni and current students and $5 for non-alumni.

Over the following two days, April 8-9, The Tiospaye Student Council sponsors the 45th Annual Wacipi. Admissions is also hosting the 7th Annual USD Admissions "Native Visit Weekend" for Native American high school students. Housing and meals are provided for high school students and their chaperones.
On Jan. 28, the University of South Dakota held its annual Scholarship Recognition Weekend, awarding the highest scholarships USD offers. This year, 55 high school seniors attended the event.

“This day recognizes students who completed the top scholars scholarship program and have earned a premier scholarship at USD,” said Mark Petty, dean of enrollment at USD.

Some students who attended Scholarship Recognition Day were interviewing for the Glenn E. & Barbara R. Ullyot Lakota Scholarship, Al Neuharth Scholarship for Excellence in Journalism and the Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Student Scholars Program early admission program.

Students complete the University Scholarship Application during the fall and select students are invited to virtually interview for scholarships. The University Scholarship Committee selects the scholarship recipients in mid-December and those students are then invited to attend Scholarship Recognition Day.

These students are high achieving academically and hold many accomplishments during their time in high school. The top scholarship winners had an average of a 32.2 on their ACT, a 4.02 GPA and half were ranked first in their class.

Throughout the day, there were various sessions for students to attend depending on their interests, including sessions based on different majors and opportunities available at USD. “During Scholarship Recognition Day,” said Petty, “there is also special programming available for students to attend an academic showcase or learn about some of the special programs USD has to offer. Faculty have the chance to showcase programs in their areas while being able to meet students who are most likely enrolling on campus in the fall.”

### Community Wellness Day March 19

Bring your neighbors, bring your family, bring your co-workers! This Sunday, anyone can use the Wellness Center for free. Members who bring a non-member to the event will receive a free T-shirt and be entered for a chance to win a $25 or $50 gift card to the Wellness Center. On March 19 only, receive $10 off a 10-punch pass, limit one per person.

In addition to free access, there will be many activities going on throughout the day:

**Boot Camp Sampler (10:30-11:15 a.m.)**

- **Family Fitness (1-3 p.m.)**
  - Fruit & veggie tasting
  - Kids fitness testing
  - Obstacle course
  - Face Painting
  - Family Yoga
  - Games

- **Toddler Room Activities (1-3 p.m.)**

- **Open Rock Wall (1-9 p.m.)**

- **Health Fair (1-3 p.m.)**
  - Free fluoride treatments
  - Free vision screenings
  - Wellness activities
  - Child nutrition
  - Healthy lungs

- **Fitness Sampler (3:30-5:15 p.m.)**
  - LesMills BodyPump
  - Cycle
  - Row
  - Yoga
Congratulations to the following faculty and staff members who have recently received project awards:

Joseph Tinguely, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, on an award from the South Dakota Humanities Council for a project entitled "Radical Hope."

Sara Lampert, Ph.D., Department of History, on an award from the South Dakota Humanities Council for a project entitled "Ivan Coyote and Cultures of Change."

Carol Lushbough, Biomedical Engineering Program, on an award from the NSF for a project entitled "The 2020 Vision: Building Research, Education, and Innovation Partnerships for South Dakota."

Valborg Kvigne, Family Medicine, on awards from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska for projects entitled "Native American Public Health Act" and "Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country Program."

Samuel Sathyanesan, Ph.D., Basic Biomedical Sciences, on an award from the NIH for a project entitled "Characterization of Trophic Factor Induced Antidepressant Action."

Xuejun Wang, Ph.D., Basic Biomedical Sciences, on an award from the NIH for a project entitled "The NRF2-p62 Axis in the Cross-Talk between Proteasomal and Lysosomal Degradation."

David Swanson, Ph.D., Department of Biology, on an award from the NSF for a project entitled "Integrating sustainable social, ecological and technological innovation for achieving global climate stabilization through negative CO2 emission policies."

Dan Engebretson, Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering, on an award from the NSF for a project entitled "The Bioc-chemical Spatial-temporal NeTwork Resource (Bio-SNTR) Center."

Eric Kurtz, Center for Disabilities, on an award from the Kennedy Krieger Institute for a project entitled "Research Initiatives for Student Enhancement-Undergraduate Program (RISE-UP)."

Renowned Afro-Latina Slam Poet Coming to USD

Renowned slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo will be at the University of South Dakota on April 6 in celebration of National Poetry Month.

The multi-lingual, Afro-Latina performer will lecture at 10 a.m., host a writing workshop at 3 p.m., and perform at 7 p.m., exploring the theme of race and civility.

Acevedo holds a B.A. in performing arts from The George Washington University and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Maryland. She has been a featured performer on BET and Mun2, and she has delivered several TED Talks.

Acevedo is a National Slam Champion, Beltway Grand Slam Champion, and the 2016 Women of the World Poetry Slam representative for Washington, D.C. She is a Cave Canem Fellow, Cantomundo Fellow and participant of the Callaloo Writer’s Workshop.

She has written two poetry collections, Beaatgirl & Other Origin Myths (2016) and Medusa Reads La Negra’s Palm (forthcoming), and a novel, The Poet X (2018).

These events are co-sponsored by the Departments of Modern Languages and Linguistics, English, and Communication Studies; the program of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; the Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness; and the South Dakota Humanities Council.
Monica Tiahrt, program assistant for the USD College of Fine Arts, is February’s Employee of the Month. She was nominated by three co-workers, Raimondo Genna, Laurie Brown and David Holdhusen, and her supervisor, Larry Schou, for her willingness to “go the extra mile.”

Tiahrt has worked for USD for nine years. “I was a student tech fellow for the Ed School, then for the IT department. My first full time job was as a secretary for the Communications Studies Department. I then became a PAI for the Small Business Development Center in the School of Business. After several years with the SBDC I took my current position as the PAII for the College of Fine Arts.”

“No matter what time of day or how busy the week/day may have been for her,” said Brown, “she is willing to help with whatever issue I’ve brought to her. Not only does she act as assistant to the dean, and chief financial person to us all, she trains new staff, helps new faculty learn the ropes, and is there for this ‘veteran war person’ in the Music Department. After Monica had served in her current position for only a few weeks, I realized how lucky we were to have her.”

“Monica does outstanding work in the dean’s office,” said Schou in his nomination letter. “She is reliable and the go to person when secretaries, faculty and chairs (and the dean) have questions about revenue and expenses, about appropriate and expedient purchasing potential, and knowledgeable about university policies and procedures. She is always willing to provide that extra support to departments when they need assistance in understanding how to get things done.”

Tiahrt has lived in Vermillion most of her life and is married to Raleigh Tiahrt.

Seventeen of South Dakota’s middle schools and high schools are scheduled to compete in the 33rd annual South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament at the University of South Dakota on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

The schools scheduled to participate are: Brookings Mickelson Middle School; Brookings High School; North Sioux City Dakota Valley Middle School and High School; Elk-Point Jefferson Middle School and High School; Sioux FallsMcGovern Middle School; Sioux Falls Lincoln High School; Kyle Little Wound High School; Madison High School; Spearfish Middle School; Tea Area High School; Todd County High School; Vermillion Middle School; Yankton Sacred Heart Middle School; and Yankton Middle School and High School.

In addition to the ongoing individual challenges and team events, there will be open house activities during the day, including presentations and activities by Avera Health, the Center for Brain & Behavior Research and Women in STEM.

The state tournament will involve more than 200 middle school and high school students competing in several science events. The top teams from each division will be invited to the 2017 National Science Olympiad Tournament in May. All events for the Science Olympiad are determined at the national level. For the state tournament, faculty, staff, and students from USD organize and judge these events. A schedule of events can be found at http://sites.usd.edu/sdscienceolympiad/home.

For a brief description of the events, please visit www.soinc.org.
Fallan is January Employee of the Month

Julie Fallon, an advisor in the Department of Dental Hygiene, is January’s Employee of the Month. She was nominated by Ann Brunick, chair of the dental hygiene department, for going above and beyond what is expected of her.

“I am so grateful for all the work that Julie does for our department,” said Brunick in her nomination letter. “Julie’s responsibilities have evolved over the years, but she has always been one of the first faces that prospective students and parents see when they come to the university seeking information about the USD dental hygiene program.”

Fallan is the primary advisor for all pre-dental hygiene students on campus and registers all current dental hygiene students previous USD dental hygiene graduates in the new A.S. to B.S. degree program. She manages the information used in the student selections process, required immunizations, and is involved in the new student orientation sessions.

Fallan has worked at USD for 29 years, 16 of those with the dental hygiene department. “I love meeting new students all the time,” she said, “but also getting to know the 64 students that are in the program. My supervisor, the faculty, and my co-workers also make this a perfect place to work.”

“Julie has been a very dependable, hard-working, dedicated employee with our department for many years,” said Brunick. “She often takes the initiative to make changes that positively affect the department. Although she is not a dental hygienist, she passionately shares her commitment to health by acknowledging the importance of oral health as it relates to overall wellness. We recognize her as a vital part of our department team and are so fortunate to work with her.”

Fallan, a Vermillion native, has been married for 31 years and has two daughters and a grandson.

Tassler Named October 2016 Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for October 2016 was Darla Tassler, senior programmer analyst in the IT Department. Tamara Olson, who received IT training from Tassler, nominated her after Tassler provided the health affairs staff with training on a new reporting package.

“During her training she was engaging and explained everything very clearly,” Olson said in her nomination letter. “I was impressed with her interprofessional skills and how she was able to walk us through our questions in a very easy to understand way. She offered to create any additional reports we might need, offered to provide additional training, and offered to sit down to train folks individually if needed.

“I was very impressed with Darla’s professionalism, positive attitude, and her willingness to go above and beyond,” Olson continued. “She did not need to take those extra steps to make sure things were correct down the line, but she did. She is a great USD team member and I appreciate her dedication.”

Prior to joining USD in 2006, Tassler worked at Gateway for 13 years as a data analyst. At USD, Tassler runs reports, pulls data for customers and integrates new technology on campus. “I love learning the different applications,” she said.

Tassler, who is originally from Dimock, lives in Vermillion with her husband, Doug. Together, they have three children, Michael, Kaitlyn and Jenna.
Prairie Family Business Association to Host Conference

Prairie Family Business Association, an outreach of the Beacom School of Business at the University of South Dakota, will host the 25th annual family business conference March 30-31, 2017, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown.

Several hundred family business owners from across the region are expected to attend, including several businesses who were involved in the first conference in 1993. The conference will host a variety of presentations on topics like succession planning, cyber security, family offices, family governance, performance management, a panel of Prairie Family Business members, the family brand, honoring both family and business, and married-in leadership.

Keynote speaker Mike Abrashoff will present “It’s Your Ship – Achieving Breakthrough Performance.” His naval ship, the USS Benfold, went from the lowest performing ship in the Pacific Fleet to the highest performing in just 12 months. His presentation will focus on leadership and culture. Abrashoff will describe how these two areas are essential to family business success.

The family business success story will feature Tony Simmons, President and CEO of McIlhenny Company, the manufacturers of TABASCO® Brand Pepper Sauce. Simmons is the great-great grandson of Edmund McIlhenny, company founder and the inventor of TABASCO Original Red Pepper Sauce. His presentation will provide insights into how to create a sustainable, multi-generational family business.

In honor of the 25th anniversary, Prairie Family Business Association will present an additional family business success story featuring Howdy Holmes, president and CEO of JIFFY Mix.

To register and for more information, visit www.fambus.org or call 605-274-9530.

Speed Collaborating
April 13

Join your colleagues and the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs for speed collaborating on April 13, 2-4 p.m. in the Al Neuharth Media Center Conference Room. Come and mingle with other faculty, and perhaps find a research collaborator.

If you would like to participate please contact Ellen Hoyne at Ellen.Hoyne@usd.edu by March 17 to receive a PowerPoint slide template.
“Oh dear, another safety report just came out, and the safety guy is going to scold us.” No, I would never do that. Well, maybe just a little bit. It seems that the vehicle fatality rate went up again last year. It went up the year before that, too. There were more than 40,000 vehicular deaths in 2016. And yes, that bothers me. We only get one precious life each, and every highway fatality is a tragedy. This reverses a trend that has lasted for a couple of decades, of safer and safer travel. What is going on? I bet it’s these darned kids with their cell phones, all Instachatting and Face-cooking while they drive.

It is true that distracted driving accidents have increased, but these are not the primary causes of the rise in fatal accidents. Believe it or not, the majority of fatal accidents are caused by our old friends: speeding, drinking and/or not wearing our seatbelts and motorcycle helmets. Really? But we all know better than to do any of those things! Apparently not. I have a dear friend in Vermillion who only puts on a seat belt if going on the interstate. I have another friend who doesn’t wear a motorcycle helmet.

The speed limit on I-29 is 80 miles per hour. 80! Hit a deer on your motorcycle at 80 and you will be an organ donor in the morning. So why do we do these things?

Everything you really need to know about driving safely can be learned from reading the Harry Potter books. In The Chamber of Secrets Professor Dumbledore says, “It is our choices, Harry, that show who we truly are.” When you drive while impaired, don’t wear your seatbelt or helmet, or drive too fast for the road conditions, these are all choices you are making. They reveal who you are. You are choosing to accept an additional, usually unnecessary, risk. You have deliberately decided to decrease slightly the odds of living until tomorrow.

“But, Kevin,” you say, “It is such a pain to put on the seatbelt, or slow down, or ask a friend for a ride home.” Ah, but remember that in The Goblet of Fire Dumbledore says, “We must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy.” Dumbledore wants you do the right thing, and not the easy thing. Don’t disappoint him. Live up to his expectations.

Are you embarrassed to do the safe thing in front of your friends? Does peer pressure urge you to make unwise decisions? Think back to the scene in The Sorcerer’s Stone where the always amazing Albus says, “It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends.” Can’t you just see him looking down at Harry over his glasses and hear his voice? Carry this article in your wallet, and pull it out and quote the professor when your friends encourage rash behavior.

If you won’t listen to me, listen to Professor Dumbledore. Man, that guy really knew how to make the roads a safer place.

2016 Motor Vehicle Fatalities

Inclusive Excellence Award Nominations Sought

The President’s Council on Diversity and Inclusiveness is accepting nominations for 3 Champions of Inclusive Excellence awards.

These awards will be presented to a person, group or organization who has, through their actions, demonstrated a commitment to the goals of Inclusive Excellence at USD. Such actions might include (but are not limited to): supporting diversity activities and services; working to address issues of inequity; broadening the scope of inclusiveness on the campus; promoting respect for diverse backgrounds and worldviews; demonstrating advocacy for social justice and intercultural awareness.

All nominations for individual, group or organization for this award are due on March 27 by 5 p.m. and can be submitted here.
Theatre Presents the Drama 'Mud'

The University of South Dakota Department of Theatre presents María Irene Fornés’ adult drama “Mud” March 16-19 in the Arena Theatre of the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts.

In “Mud,” Mae and Lloyd live in poverty in a broken-down shack and barely survive from day-to-day. Their lives are complicated when Henry enters and becomes the third member of a love triangle. As Mae fights to escape, she feels herself being pulled down into the mud, with every struggle sinking deeper and deeper. “Mud,” like its namesake, is thick, sticky and hard to leave behind.

In USD’s production, Mae is portrayed by junior acting major Katie Meirose, Lloyd by senior acting major Trevor Hudson, and Henry by sophomore acting major Drake Zuschlag.

“The best thing about working on this show has been the cast. It’s been inspiring,” said Timothy Pyles, assistant professor of acting and director of “Mud.”

Pyles is excited to bring to USD the work of this major American writer whose plays are not often produced in middle America. “Fornés is important not only because of her huge body of work, but also because she was a woman and a Cuban immigrant in a field often dominated by white men. Language and knowledge has a very powerful and revered place for her, and especially in “Mud,” said Pyles.

“Mud” plays March 16-18 at 7:30 p.m. and March 19 at 2 p.m. in the Arena Theatre on the USD campus. Tickets are $15 for adults, $12 for senior citizens, $10 for K-12 and non-USD students with ID, and $5 for USD students. They can be purchased in the afternoons at the USD Theatre Box Office or by calling 677-5400; tickets can also be purchased online at www.usd.edu/theatre.

This play includes adult content and themes.

Sculpture Student Designs NBA All-Star Trophy

Tasha Determan, a University of South Dakota freshman studying sculpture from Alexandria, South Dakota, was selected to design the Taco Bell Skills Challenge trophy for NBA All-Star Weekend in New Orleans, Louisiana, hosted Feb. 18-19.

“It feels good. It verifies that I’m in the right field and I’m doing what I love,” said Determan, a 2016 Hanson High School graduate.

Tasked with designing a trophy that represented the New Orleans area, Determan took inspiration from the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis incorporating part of the iron-work design on the column. The trophy is topped with a basketball.

After the skills challenge, Determan was invited to center-court to present the award to winner, Kristaps Porzingis of the New York Knicks.

Determan, who plans to pursue an M.F.A., said she was encouraged by the experience.

“It was cool. When you put yourself out there, a huge amount of people will support you,” said Determan.