USD Honors Earth Day

The University of South Dakota will honor Earth Day with events throughout April including academic lectures, documentary screenings and community service opportunities.

“We have a strong water theme for Earth Days this year,” said Meghann Jarchow, coordinator for the Sustainability Program. “Some of our activities include helping the National Park Service build a trail along the Missouri National Recreational River, joining community members to paint drains in Vermillion to increase awareness about stormwater pollution and we will be bringing in internationally known Sandra Steingraber to talk about the linkages among water quality, human health, and environmental degradation.”

Steingraber’s keynote lecture will be Tuesday, April 25, at 7 p.m. in the MUC ballroom.

“We are very fortunate to have Sandra Steingraber deliver the Earth Days 2017 keynote lecture. She shows tremendous bravery in her advocacy work linking her own health struggles with cancer to the scientific information known about the links among different environmental contaminants and negative human health outcomes,” said Jarchow.

Earth Days is coordinated by the Sustainability Program and Greening Vermillion. The goal of Earth Days is to enhance environmental awareness and engagement by all members of the USD and Vermillion community.

The full Earth Days schedule is available at www.GreeningVermillion.org/earth-days2017.
Please join faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of USD to mark the anniversary of its founding on April 21, 1862. The day’s events will celebrate USD’s 155-year history, highlights of campus today, and hopes for the future. This year’s events will feature breakfast and a birthday party at the MUC - with appearances by South Dakota Gov. Daugaard, USD President Abbott and SGA President McNary – a Greek open house, and a choice of athletic and fine arts events on Friday night to appeal to everyone!

Registration is not necessary for any of the Founder’s Day events.

7:30 a.m.  **Founder’s Day Breakfast, Muenster University Center**
On April 21, 1862 Gov. William Jayne, along with the first territorial legislature, authorized the University of the Territory of Dakota to be located in Vermillion. Join faculty, staff and students in the Muenster University Center for a breakfast kicking off the celebration of our Founder’s Day.

12:30 p.m.  **USD’s Birthday Party, Muenster University Center**
USD is celebrating its birthday! What type of birthday celebration would be complete without cake? Join other faculty, staff, students and alumni as well as members of the USD community in the MUC Pit Lounge for birthday cake and the proclamation of “USD Day” by Gov. Dennis Daugaard. President Abbott and SGA President McNary will also speak.

2 – 4 p.m.  **Greek Open House, All Greek Chapter Facilities**
4 – 6 p.m.  **USD Heritage Club Launch Event,* Red Steakhouse, Ronan Room**
*This event is for retired USD faculty and staff only.

6:30 p.m.  **USD Spring Volleyball Game, Sanford Coyote Sports Center**
7 p.m.  **USD Spring Football Game, DakotaDome**
Tailgating lots will be open prior to the game.

7:30 p.m.  **Symphony Orchestra and Choral Concert, Aalfs Auditorium, Slagle Hall**

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**Free Faculty/Staff Professional Photo Shoot**
**Wednesday, April 19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.**
Law School State Bar Room (first floor)
Professional attire recommended.

Photos will be retained by Marketing Communications & University Relations for USD publicity purposes.
Congratulations to the following faculty and staff members who have recently received project awards:

Xuejun Wang, Director, M.D./Ph.D. Program, Basic Biomedical Sciences
Agency: National Institutes of Health
Project Title: The NRF2-p62 Axis in the Cross-Talk between Proteasomal and Lysosomal Degradation

Congestive heart failure is the final common pathway of virtually all heart disease and is the most expensive single diagnosis in U.S. health care. It is a highly lethal and disabling syndrome. Despite recent advances in its clinical management, it remains the leading cause of death in the U.S. This research project will help deepen our understanding on the molecular mechanisms underlying the progression from the hypertensive heart disease to congestive heart failure, which will ultimately facilitate the search for new measures to prevent or more effectively treat this common and yet life-threatening disorder.

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R01HL131667. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

Douglas S. Martin, Professor, Basic Biomedical Sciences
Agency: National Institutes of Health
Project Title: Cardiac sympathetic afferent reflex control of venous function

Hypertension is a disease that afflicts about 1/3 of the population in the U.S. but only about 40 percent of hypertensive patients are adequately controlled using currently available drugs, suggesting that new strategies for treating this disease are necessary. Moreover, recent public health studies suggest that improved hypertension control is a public health initiative with one of the greatest impacts on mortality. Improving our understanding of the mechanisms that contribute to the development and maintenance of hypertension, such as the role of the sensory afferents in the heart and their control of how much blood is returned to the heart, has the potential to reveal a new mechanism for blood pressure control and may open the possibility of new forms of treatment for hypertension.

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R01HL136741. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

ESPN's Chris Berman to Deliver Remarks on Campus

Chris Berman, long-time ESPN sportscaster, will present a public lecture at 6:30 p.m., April 24, at the University of South Dakota, where he will be recognized for winning the 2016 Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media.

Berman, who joined ESPN in 1979, has served as host on a variety of shows, including “SportsCenter,” “Sunday NFL Countdown,” “NFL PrimeTime” and “Baseball Tonight.” Berman is the first sports journalist to receive the Neuharth lifetime achievement award.

He will spend the afternoon in private sessions with USD students, offering tips on sportscasting and media careers, before holding a public press conference at 6 p.m. at the DakotaDome Club.

At 6:30 p.m. Berman will be honored at the Sanford Coyotes Sports Center arena with introductions from USD President James W. Abbott and Newseum Institute Director Gene Policinski. Berman’s speech to follow is free and open to the public.

The Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media is named for the late USA Today and Freedom Forum/Newseum founder Al Neuharth. It is co-sponsored by the University of South Dakota, Newseum Institute and Freedom Forum. Washington Post Executive Editor Martin Baron is the 2017 award winner.
Amanda Huber, March’s Employee of the Month, was nominated by three co-workers, Jamie Turgeon-Drake, Amy Nelson and Musheera Anis. Huber is the senior secretary for the Health Sciences Major.

“Amanda is amazing to work with,” said Anis in her nomination letter. “She always has a smile on her face and she always has a solution no matter what the situation is. She takes the initiative and has exceptional problem-solving skills. It as an honor to work with her.”

Huber, originally from Pierre, has worked at USD for two and a half years. Before coming to work for USD, she worked for an electrical contractor for 20 years. “My job is a jack-of-all-trades type of position which is what I love. I can’t sit and do the same thing all day long. My co-workers and faculty are what make my job truly great, every day is an adventure in the office!”

“Amanda is the hub of our department,” said Turgeon-Drake. “She successfully coordinates our meetings, takes minutes, sets up conference calls and provides all the information we need for everything. She always answers the students’ questions and my questions professionally and proficiently. Amanda also helps me in times of panic with a smile and grace that makes working with her so enjoyable.”

“I also take great pride in the fact that the department is training future health care workers,” said Huber. “The health care industry is changing at breakneck speed, which creates a challenge in ensuring that our courses are relevant for the students to enter the workforce, continue to graduate school, or benefit the students that are seeking a bachelor’s degree for career advancement.”

“Amanda is just amazing! She helps our whole team keep our focus, which is on promoting the best possible learning environment for our students,” said Nelson. “She definitely deserves this award and more!”

Huber and her husband, Rick, currently live in Hudson and will welcome their seventh grandchild in July.

Porter, Lane are Recipients of Belbas-Larson Awards

The winners of the 2017 Belbas-Larson Awards for Excellence in Teaching have been chosen.

Honored in the tenured category is Jason Porter, Ph.D., from the Division of Accounting and Finance in the Beacom School of Business; and in the tenure-track category is David Lane, Ph.D., from the Department of Anthropology & Sociology in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Recipients are chosen by a faculty committee based upon its review of portfolios submitted in support of the nominations received by students and colleagues. As is customary, Belbas-Larson awardees will be recognized at the May commencement ceremony where each will receive a framed certificate, a commemorative medal and a $5,000 tribute.
Danell Kindt, a program assistant in the ITS department, was December’s Employee of the Month. She was nominated by her coworker, Ryan Johnson, for her cooperative and positive attitude.

“Danell receives a wide range of questions and requests from inside and outside our department, and she always addresses them with enthusiasm and friendliness,” Johnson said in his nomination letter. “Ask Danell’ is a very common phrase within ITS, because even if she doesn’t know the answer to a question, she always finds an answer quickly and cheerfully.”

Kindt has worked at USD for over 13 years. Before working in ITS, she worked at Gateway as an Accounts Receivable Representative. She also worked as a Financial Aid Representative for USD. On a day-to-day basis, she works with scheduling, financial tracking and assisting management.

“Its works with every department on campus and I thoroughly enjoy meeting new people and working with people from all different areas.”

“Danell never hesitates to help when someone needs assistance,” said Johnson. “She is proactive in recognizing when this happens. Her ‘behind the scenes’ efforts make the rest of us better at our jobs and her persistently positive attitude really contributes to maintaining a positive environment within the department.”

Kindt is a USD graduate. Danell and her husband, Travis, currently live in Vermillion.

Wade Nilson, chair of the University of South Dakota Department of Physician Assistant Studies, has been recognized as a Distinguished Fellow by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA).

The Distinguished Fellow program was established by AAPA in 2007 to recognize exceptional contributions of PAs to the profession through professional achievement, leadership, professional interaction, learning and community service. Distinguished Fellows represent only 2 percent of the entire AAPA membership.

Nilson has been chair of the USD Physician Assistant Studies department since 2003. He is also a graduate of the program. In addition to his work as department chair, he continues to work clinically in a hospital emergency room.

The Charlie’s merchandise store in downtown Vermillion has temporarily moved to 6 W. Main for the summer. The store will be back in its original, remodeled location at 2 E. Main by fall.
Alyxis Perry, a nursing student at the University of South Dakota, has been named 2017 Student Nurse of the Year in South Dakota.

The award was announced at the recent South Dakota Nurses Association convention. Perry, a graduate of Frederick, South Dakota Area High School, was honored because of her passion for nursing and knowledge and appreciation of rural health care.

USD Nursing offers programs in Vermillion, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Pierre and Rapid City. Perry is a student at the Vermillion campus. She will graduate with a BSN degree from USD in May.

The newly created Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment, an organization formed at the University of South Dakota to implement the work plan produced by Jolene’s Law Task Force and Coalition, has hired a director, Carrie Gonsor Sanderson. She will direct and coordinate activities at the Center, including work to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse and child maltreatment in South Dakota.

Gonsor Sanderson previously worked as an assistant United States attorney in the United States Attorney’s Office in Pierre, South Dakota. She earned three degrees from the University of South Dakota: Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish, Master of Public Administration and Juris Doctor.

“The Center was developed to continue the excellent work of the Jolene’s Law Task Force and Coalition, improving our state’s capacity to prevent and respond to child maltreatment,” said Michael Lawler, dean of the University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences and a member of the Jolene’s Law Task Force and Coalition. “Ms. Sanderson is deeply committed to the health and wellbeing of South Dakota and her legal expertise will add a great deal to the new center. We are all eager to work with her.”

South Dakota State Senator Deb Soholt served as chair of Jolene’s Law Task Force (JLTF). The Sioux Falls legislator and her colleagues on the task force spent three years creating a work plan to address and prevent sexual abuse of children.

“JLTF created a 10-year plan to change the trajectory of child sexual abuse in South Dakota through the development of the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment at USD,” explained Soholt. “We are simply delighted that someone the caliber of Ms. Sanderson has accepted the director position. Her education and experience are exactly the right fit to move this important work forward and she will be an incredible statewide leader in this effort to save our children.”

The Jolene’s Law Task Force and Coalition was created to study the impacts of child sexual abuse in South Dakota and the Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment will carry on the work of the task force and coalition.

The University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences is home to the new Center. USD’s School of Health Sciences, possessing experts in relevant fields such as social work, nursing, physician assistants, public health, occupational therapy, physical therapy and counseling, and with access to other relevant USD expertise in medicine, law, business, education and psychology, is an ideal setting for the new organization.
Former IHS Director to Speak at USD

Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., former director of the federal Indian Health Service, is the featured speaker at the second annual “Distinguished Lecture in Native American Health,” April 24, at the University of South Dakota.

The first woman to serve as Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS), Roubideaux, a Rosebud Sioux, was appointed in 2009, serving to 2015. IHS is responsible for providing health care to approximately two million of the nation’s American Indians and Alaska natives.

Roubideaux is past president of the Association of American Indian Physicians. She received her undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard University. She also earned a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard. In addition to working in clinical practice on Native American reservations and her career in academic medicine and public service, Roubideaux has conducted extensive research on American Indian health issues, including diabetes.

Entitled “Improving the Quality of Healthcare for American Indians and Alaska Natives,” the presentation will be in room 111 of the Andrew E. Lee Memorial Medicine and Science Building at noon.

Lunch is available. Please RSVP to Pat.Mulloy@usd.edu by April 15. The program is also available via teleconference to USD Sanford Medical School campuses in Sioux Falls, Yankton and Rapid City.

Baron to Receive Neuhrarth Award

Veteran journalist and executive editor of The Washington Post Martin Baron is the recipient of the 2017 Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in The Media, to be presented June 19 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Baron has been executive editor of The Washington Post since January 2013.

The Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in The Media is named for the late USA TODAY, Freedom Forum and Neuharth founder Al Neuharth, and is sponsored by the Freedom Forum, Newseum Institute and the University of South Dakota.

Baron will be the 31st person to receive the Award for Excellence, which honors lifetime achievement in the media industry.

The award will be presented at an evening dinner during the weeklong Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference, an annual symposium at the Newseum that brings together 51 of the nation’s top high school students with an interest in journalism.

USD Veterans Club to Host 5K Run/Walk

The University of South Dakota’s Student Veterans Organization, in partnership with the Student Veterans Resource Center, will host the first annual 5K Remember Everyone Deployed “RED” Run/Walk April 22.

The event is intended to raise funds for care packages to deployed USD students and faculty and to support the Veterans Organization Emergency Relief Fund designed to help military-connected students in times of crisis. These packages, often containing items such as food and small gifts, provide a source of comfort to those deployed.

Awards and prizes will be given to the individuals and teams that wear the most red and dress most patriotic.

The 5K run will begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 22, at the northwest corner of Prentis Park in Vermillion. Participants can pre-register or donate online at AllSportCentral.com by searching “RED Run” or in person at the Student Veterans Resource Center located in the Temporary Student Center Room 117D. Registration can also be done the day of the event beginning at 9:30 a.m. Pre-registration cost is $25 per person or $100 for a team of up to five and will guarantee a T-shirt if registered by April 9. Registration on the day of competition will be $10 per person and T-shirts will be available for $15 while supplies last.

For more information about the RED Run, USD Veterans Club and Student Veterans Resource Center, please call 677-3944 or email SVRC@usd.edu.
Late Night Finals Breakfast Volunteers Sought

USD will host the semi-annual President’s Late Night Finals Week Breakfast on Sunday, April 30, from 9:00 to 10:30 pm in the Muenster University Center East Wing. The Late Night Finals Breakfast is an opportunity for students to come together before their finals begin as well as an opportunity for faculty and staff to wish students “good luck” on their finals. Staff and faculty are encouraged to volunteer to serve breakfast to students. The presence of faculty and staff servers in addition to an encouraging smile is very beneficial to their success during this stressful time. Volunteers can sign up for a 9-9:45 p.m. or 9:45-10:30 p.m. shift–or stay for both shifts. Please email Douglas Wagner@usd.edu if you are interested in volunteering.

Thank you for your help in making this semester’s Late Night Finals Breakfast a success.

Founding Director of the NMM Dies at 74

André Larson, founding director of the National Music Museum and professor emeritus of music at the University of South Dakota, died Thursday in Arvada, Colorado. He was 74.

André Larson helped launch the National Music Museum at USD in 1973, based on a collection of 2,500 instruments gathered by his father Arne B. Larson. Today the world-renowned museum has a collection of 15,000 instruments, many of them housed in the former Carnegie Library on the USD campus.

André Larson was born in Littlefork, Minnesota, and earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from USD in 1964. He received a master’s degree from USD in 1968 and a Ph.D. in musicology from West Virginia University in 1972.

He returned to USD and established what was then called The Shrine to Music Museum with help from USD and the South Dakota Arts Council. He was the museum’s first director, serving 38 years until his retirement in 2011.

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Thank you for your help in making this semester’s Late Night Finals Breakfast a success.

Beacom Hosts Invent-to-Innovate Competition

The University of South Dakota Beacom School of Business hosted high school and college entrepreneurship teams at the third annual Beacom School of Business Invent-to-Innovate (i2i) Business Model Competition March 31.

Competitors earned cash prizes and honed their entrepreneurial skills by reacting to the different types of challenges that occur during the startup process helping them learn what it takes to successfully launch a business.

“The idea of a business model competition is to encourage students to not only come up with ideas but to start making them happen. The entrepreneurial process is about learning what works and what doesn't,” said Howard Haines, an entrepreneurship instructor at the Beacom School of Business.

This year’s competition included guest judges John Meyer, Co-Founder/CEO of Lemonly, Chad Hatch, Partner at Bird Dog Equity Partners, Paul Ten Haken, CEO of Click Rain, and Sue Stoll, Regional Director of the South Dakota Small Business Development Center.
USD Theatre Presents 'Green Violin'

The University of South Dakota Department of Theatre presents the new and unique musical Green Violin, April 19 – 23, in the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre.

This is one of the first productions outside of New York of this show written by Elise Thoron with klezmer music written by Grammy-award winning musician Frank London. There will be a talkback with the playwright, composer and artistic team on Thursday, April 20, following the performance.

Associate Professor Chaya Gordon-Bland directs this movement-based musical, which tells the story of the passionate friendship and artistic collaboration between painter Marc Chagall and Solomon Mikhoels, the extraordinary leading actor of the first Soviet Yiddish Theater. The collision of these two men’s talents created the unique theatrical style of this extraordinary theater, for which Chagall painted murals in Moscow in 1920. Green Violin invites audiences into the rich and complex world of Soviet Yiddish history, arts, and culture as they play out on the world stage.

This production is part of an innovative and historically unprecedented initiative at USD: a campus-wide celebration of Yiddish art, culture and history that includes programs and events across the campus and throughout the community. To prepare, excite and educate audiences for this production, events have been and will continue to be taking place across campus that delve into the unique culture, history and art forms of the Soviet Yiddish world.

Behind the scenes there is a special Honors seminar, taught by Steve Miller, focusing in on the historical, cultural, religious and artistic contexts that gave birth to the world of Green Violin. Students from this class are serving as the dramaturges for the theatre production, and will be presenting their research to audience members in the theatre lobby throughout the run of the production, and at other venues across the campus.

This campus-wide initiative is supported by the South Dakota Humanities Council, and USD’s Center for Diversity and Community, Center for Teaching and Learning, College of Fine Arts, College of Arts and Sciences, Departments of History, Music, and Theatre, and the I.D. Weeks Library.

Tickets can be purchased in the afternoons (Noon – 5 p.m.) at the USD Theatre Box Office or by calling 677-5400; tickets can also be purchased online at www.usd.edu/theatre.

USD Hosts 52nd Annual Student History Conference

Graduate and undergraduate students from several regional universities and colleges will present papers at the 52nd Annual Student History Conference, April 20 at the University of South Dakota.

The day-long conference will feature undergraduate and graduate papers in local, United States, European and world history by students from regional colleges and universities.

As part of USD’s first Celebration of Yiddish Arts and Culture, Glenn Dynner, professor of religion at Sarah Lawrence College, will deliver the Student History Conference’s keynote address, “Jews, Liquor, and Life in Eastern Europe.”

Sponsored by the USD Department of History and the Zeta Mu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta and the national honor society in history, the conference will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Muenster University Center. This event is free and open to the public.