New Coyotes Move In Aug. 18

Aug. 18 is an important date on USD’s schedule, as about 1,200 new students will move into campus housing for the first time.

The director of the Muenster University Center and student programming, Doug Wagner, explained that Move-In Day will officially start at 7 a.m. First-year students living in North Complex or Coyote Village will begin at the DakotaDome where they will get the keys to their new rooms. Brookman, Burgess, Norton and McFadden halls residents will check in at residence hall front desks.

Moving in around 1,200 students is a team effort. Clear communication is a priority for everyone working to keep Move-In Day running smoothly. Many students help with the process, including various student groups who carry luggage and furniture.

Volunteers are needed in order for this event to be successful. The various positions include greeting students and families, collecting information, assisting with data entry, directing traffic and more, to create a seamless transition for students. Volunteer shifts run Friday, Aug. 18 from 7-11 a.m. and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Those helping will receive a Move-In Day T-shirt and water bottle for their assistance. Volunteers should arrive at their designated location 15 minutes prior to the scheduled shift. Please contact Lamont Sellers at Lamont.Sellers@usd.edu to sign up.

There is a full week of activities planned once Move-In Day comes to a conclusion, including convocation, entertainment, picnics and activity fairs, all to help students become acclimated to life at USD. It culminates with classes starting Aug. 21.

For the full schedule visit www.usd.edu/welcomeweek.
Facilities Management is rolling out a new ground-up strategy designed to empower facilities management employees in the problem-solving process. Facilities Management covers a wide array of issues and jobs across campus. With so many different skill sets and specialties in the department, communication and cohesive protocols don’t just magically happen.

The new strategy utilizes “big ideas” that are brought to fruition by employees. When an employee has an idea of how to improve a process in facilities management, they are encouraged to report it to the coordinating committee, who will help assemble a Strategic Resolution Team (SRT) to work on that specific big idea.

A great example of the implementation of this program is Marlowe McKee’s idea. McKee is a weekend roving janitor who is responsible for filling in all over campus as a substitute for different buildings when necessary. McKee noticed that there wasn’t a standard list of what chemicals and tools would be on janitorial carts in various buildings on campus, which meant lost efficiency as substitute janitors had to spend time hunting down different chemicals.

His big idea was a standardized janitor cart that would have a list of all the same tools and chemicals available in every building. Now, no matter who is assigned a location, they have the tools for the job. This one idea has also grown to a discussion about standardized janitor supply closets and set cleaning techniques that will make training new employees easier.

McKee’s strategic resolution team was made up of Facilities Management staff from all over campus who had different input on what was necessary for the new cart when working in their specific buildings. McKee said this has opened up communication lines between upper and lower management. “I was surprised how easy this process was, the SRT process really makes the idea of fixing problems in my job a lot less intimidating,” said McKee.

Aaron Vannoy, a Facilities Management supervisor who was part of the SRT for McKee’s cart, is excited for the big idea process. “This is not only a chance for employees to fix problems in their work environment, but also an opportunity for all of our department to work more closely together. Having people from every level working on solutions means everyone’s voice is being heard,” said Vannoy.

This new initiative is being paired with department “fuel-ups,” where the entirety of facilities management department gets together to explain updates and changes that have arisen from this process. The effort to keep everyone informed helps employees understand why changes are being made. All of this is working toward Facilities Management’s goals of becoming “the employer of choice on campus.”

Two accounting employees at USD have earned the Board of Regents Excellence in Accounting Award.

Heidi Bennett, senior accountant for financial services and Deb Jorgensen, facilities management budget and finance specialist, were given their awards at a Board of Regents meeting on campus July 11.

The Excellence in Accounting Award is given to staff members who play a key role in the auditing process for their institution. A requirement for the award is having a clean audit with no mistakes found by the Board of Regents.

Both Jorgenson and Bennett tracked millions of dollars in the last fiscal year.
The Allene R. Chiesman Fund for Civic Education invites grant proposals from full-time USD faculty for projects starting during or after the fall semester of 2017. The deadline for submission of these proposals is Sept. 15, 2017 and applies to projects that will be completed within the next 12 months. The Chiesman Fund Advisory Committee will announce its decisions on the proposals on or before Oct. 1, 2017.

The Chiesman Fund is authorized to: “(1) support research addressing the issues of citizenship and civic education; (2) fund research and studies on the ongoing 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.

The University of South Dakota’s online Doctor of Occupational Therapy program has been recognized as the nation’s second most affordable by the SR Education Group.

“The online program is designed for practitioners who wish to develop advanced skills in leadership, program development, clinical and academic teaching, and policy development,” said Barbara Brockevelt, chair of the occupational therapy department.

The online occupational therapy doctorate degree at USD is a 24 credit, four-semester program for licensed occupational therapists who hold a master’s degree in occupational therapy.

“This set of rankings represents online schools across the nation that are making an effort to provide economical options for students seeking a variety of health care degrees,” said the SR Education Group.

The online occupational therapy doctorate program was started in 2015, concurrent with the offering of a face-to-face occupational therapy doctorate program at USD.
University officials and members of the Vermillion community provided information to the Law School Relocation Task Force Aug. 7 in the Neuharth Center. The group also heard from the Legislative Research Council and the State Bar of South Dakota.

The task force was created by President James W. Abbott to study whether moving the law school to Sioux Falls would benefit students, the university and the state. Rep. Mark Mickelson, R-Sioux Falls, chairs the task force. A website at usd.edu/lawschooltaskforce lists the task force members and the schedule of meetings.

Law School Dean Thomas Geu testified that law school applications are down nationwide, and fewer students are passing the bar exam. The trend has resulted in smaller classes at the USD School of Law, which means less money to operate. Geu said the USD School of Law is one of the smallest in the nation and has fewer faculty and staff than the public law schools in surrounding states. Despite the school’s small size, Geu said USD students do well in national law competitions, which reflects the quality of their law education.

Emily Kerr of the Legislative Research Council confirmed that schools nationwide are seeing fewer applicants. She also reported on law schools around the country that have recently changed locations along with other law schools that operate in more than one city. Mickelson asked for LRC help in finding a consultant experienced with moving a law school to be invited to a future meeting.

Steven Huff, an attorney in Yankton, represented the State Bar of South Dakota and said the future of the law school is very important to the state’s legal and judicial structure. He said the number of newly licensed lawyers coming out of the school is not keeping up with demand in the state.

After a tour of the law school building, Mickelson said it was obvious the building needed upgrades. He asked Geu to outline the work that needs to be done at the current location and also to make a presentation on what kind of space would be needed if the law school moved to a new location.

Members of the community said moving the law school would hurt the Vermillion economy. Business owners said any reduction in programs at USD would cost them customers. Dean Venky Venkatachalam of the Beacom School of Business and Kurt Hackemer, chair of the Department of History, said other students at USD benefit from having the School of Law on campus. They and others asked what would happen to the nine joint degree programs that combine a JD degree with a master’s degree in another area.

The task force requested a long list of further information for its next meeting, Sept. 6 in Sioux Falls. The location has not been determined.

Library Implements 'One Search'

The libraries at the South Dakota Board of Regents universities are launching a new system for finding books, articles, government documents, archival collections and more. At the University of South Dakota, this new system is called “One Search.”

To learn more about One Search, you can view a video at www.usd.edu/library/ or visit http://libguides.usd.edu/primo.

One Search is a great starting place for research, but sometimes more specialized tools such as databases and the library catalog are needed. These tools are available at www.usd.edu/library.

Social Media Roundtable Sept. 12

Marketing Communications & University Relations will host its next social media roundtable Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. in the Al Neuharth Media Center, Room 220.

This gathering is intended to help all social media users on campus. Get-togethers, guest speakers and best practices will be shared, all to improve social media accounts associated with USD.

If you would like to be invited to these quarterly discussions, please email michelle.cwach@usd.edu.
President James W. Abbott will be recognized along with nine other South Dakotans for their contributions to the state at the South Dakota Hall of Fame ceremony in Chamberlain Sept. 8-9.

A welcome reception on Friday, Sept. 8, begins at 5:30 p.m. at the South Dakota Hall of Fame building. The banquet is Saturday, Sept. 9, at Cedar Shores Resort, starting with a social hour and silent auction at 4 p.m. Inductees will speak starting at 5:30 p.m. After the banquet, individuals may host their own receptions at the hotel.

The banquet is a fundraising event for the South Dakota Hall of Fame, which champions excellence as a core value. Visitors can learn about outstanding South Dakotans by visiting the Hall of Fame museum in Chamberlain. The South Dakota Hall of Fame also provides a state history curriculum for school teachers and runs the Acts of Excellence program to recognize deeds and actions that demonstrate excellence.

More information is available at www.sdexcellence.org.

The Academic and Career Planning Center, in coordination with Student Life, will host a work-study and part-time job fair to inform current and incoming students about employment opportunities, both on campus and around the community. The fair will be held Aug. 24, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the first floor of the MUC.

If your department would like to attend this event to promote your work study, graduate assistantships or part-time hourly positions available to students, please send an email to Kassandra.Girard@usd.edu no later than Friday, Aug. 11. Space is limited, so sign up will be first come, first serve.

You are also encouraged to post all student employment opportunities in Coyote Careers, which is USD’s online job searching site for students and alumni. Student employment opportunities include: work study, part-time hourly, graduate assistantships, internships and temporary employment opportunities.

To post a position, go to www.usd.edu/coyotecareers and click on “Employer Login.”

If you have never used the system before you will need to select the register and post job link.

Faculty and staff head shots are scheduled for Monday, Aug. 14, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Al Neuharth Media Center (main floor hallway). All faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to have updated photos taken. Those in Sioux Falls will have other dates and times, to be determined, for photos.

- Photos are taken on a first come, first served basis.
- 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.
- Signed photo releases are required.
- There are no fees or costs.
- Professional dress is recommended.
- Photos are retained by the Department of Marketing for USD publicity purposes.
- Individuals may request a digital file of a photo for professional use only.
- Photos may not be used or printed for personal use.
Ron Parsons, Jr., a 1997 University of South Dakota School of Law graduate, has been nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as U.S. Attorney for South Dakota. The nomination is subject to Congressional approval.

“It’s exciting to see a USD Law alum being nominated for this position,” said Liz Taggart, director of admissions at the law school. “Parsons’ success in and out of South Dakota is something that we are tremendously proud of and excited to share with our prospective students.”

Winner of the Edward W. Hope Award for the highest G.P.A. in his graduating class, Parsons clerked for 8th Circuit Judge Roger Wollman after law school before focusing on appellate and constitutional law at the law firm Johnson Janklow Abdallah Reiter & Parsons, where he is now a partner.

Parsons is a frequent guest lecturer at the School of Law. A short story author, Parsons received his undergraduate degree in English from the University of Minnesota. Parsons would replace Randy Seiler, also a USD School of Law graduate, who took the post in 2015.

The South Dakota Board of Regents has authorized the University of South Dakota to offer three new specializations in graduate biology programs starting in the fall of 2017. Doctoral students can now specialize in bioinformatics or integrative biology while Master of Science students in biology can specialize in conservation and biodiversity. Specializations within a degree program appear on a student’s transcript.

“Biology is a gigantic topic with everything from molecules to ecosystems and everything in between,” said Hugh Britten, professor of biology and chair of the graduate program. “A Ph.D., in particular, is a form of extreme specialization where students spend three-to-five years trying to answer one question on that spectrum. These specializations will help focus that research.”

The bioinformatics doctoral specialization concentrates on analyzing large data sets originating from a variety of sources. Courses will focus on biology, as well as mathematics, statistics and computer science, enabling doctoral students to collaborate on high-level research projects. The integrative biology doctoral specialization emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to the study of diverse biological systems.

The conservation and biodiversity masters specialization concentrates on content knowledge and research in ecology, conservation, and biodiversity. Courses will focus on the conservation and variability of organisms and their environment, equipping degree holders with a more specific set of marketable skills and competencies compared to a master’s degree in biology without specialization.

“We believe the specializations will allow students to better brand and market themselves,” said Karen Koster, associate chair of biology. “These programs combine our existing strengths and expertise with demand from current and prospective students,” said John Dudley, associate dean of Arts & Sciences. “We’re excited about what they offer our students.”
Two departments have moved into new academic space in the Sanford Coyote Sports Center over summer, and planning is underway to remodel the former commons in the North Complex to house a number of offices.

Physical therapy and occupational therapy have joined kinesiology in the classroom and lab space at the sports center. The departments are located in the one-story, south side of the arena building.

At the North Complex, design is underway to provide new space for USD Stores, U-Copy, Postal, Student Life offices, Veteran’s Affairs, Trio and the IT Desktop team. Construction is expected to be complete in fall 2018.

Other USD buildings receiving a spruce-up over the summer include Slagle Hall, Coyote Village, Delzell, McFadden Hall, Beacom School of Business and the Wegner Health Science Center in Sioux Falls.

Here is the full list of projects, all completed this summer unless otherwise stated:

- Akeley Lab 101 - Install ceiling and clean room exhaust system
- Arena - Finish build-out of OT/PT space at new arena
- Dakota Dome - New drinking fountains, new starting blocks at pool, new wall and door at Den area
- Sanford Coyote Sports Center - Refinish wood floors at main court and practice courts, install red lights at west side of building, retaining wall at east side of Dome/Arena Connector, new dishwasher at Arena Club
- Tennis Courts – Resurfacing of six existing courts
- Softball Field - Renovate infield, add new concrete pads and bleachers
- Beacom School of Business - Refresh 12 Smart classrooms
- Churchill-Haines/Pardee - Ongoing study of HVAC system
- Delzell - Renovate Rooms 107, 113 and 114
- ID Weeks - Replace third floor carpet
- Lee Medical - New water softeners and new boilers
- Muenster University Center - New water softeners, new audio/visual equipment and projection screens in ballroom
- Neuharth Media Center - Replace existing roof
- North Wellhouse - Install new well pump
- Noteboom Hall - Mechanical upgrades, flooring on first floor, windows in basement and first floor; replace fire alarm system, replace transformer
- Old Main Farber Hall - New audio/visual items installed
- Parking Lots - Annual re-striping of lines within the parking lots

Residence Halls

- Brookman Hall - Asbestos abatement and new flooring and baseboard in 33 resident rooms
- Burgess Hall - Install new electrical transformer
- Coyote Village - Replace flooring and water heaters in C Wing
- McFadden Hall - Replace light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, countertops, vanities in restrooms; new flooring at entrances and stairwells; paint and new signage. Design fall 2017 for exterior renovation including new siding, balcony railings and garage doors
- North Complex - Remove and repair solid surface in shower walls
- Richardson/Olson - Install new generator
- Sidewalk Repairs - Annual repairs to damaged sidewalks on campus
- Slagle Hall - Install new generator; replace south entrance doors
- South Dakota Union - Finish roof replacement; new windows, siding and trim for upper dormers
- Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts - New main entrance doors and hardware to be complete September 2017. Design new fire alarm system and IT upgrades to be installed Summer 2018
- Wegner Health Science Center (Sioux Falls) - Carpet replacement in all offices/hallways/classrooms and conference rooms. Design in Fall 2017 for fire alarm, LED lighting and controls upgrade
- Wellness Center - Window tinting at south upper windows next to track; fans in Multipurpose Rooms 108, 112 and 113; refinish wood floors in Rooms 112 and 113