Basic Biomedical Sciences Hosts Welcome Table, Serves 270

The holidays are meant to bring people together. And for the last decade, the USD Sanford School of Medicine has planned an event to help foster the spirit of the holidays. For its 10th consecutive year, the Sanford School of Medicine and USD School of Health Sciences hosted the Vermillion Welcome Table, an event that brings hundreds in the community together for a holiday meal.

This year’s event was held Dec. 4 in the School of Medicine Atrium. The Sanford School of Medicine and School of Health Sciences were assisted by other USD organizations, as well as the USD football team, Charlie Coyote and even Santa Claus.

Wendy Pederson, event organizer and graduate/education coordinator for the Department of Basic Biomedical Sciences, said they served about 270 people. “This is a great community-wide event as it involves various student organizations, as well as the football team, Charlie Coyote and community members. This is the time of year that people are missing families and loved ones the most. This event gives them a touch of the holiday spirit and is a comfortable and fun time for all.”

The event was initiated in 2008 as a community service project by the university departments housed in the Lee Medical Building, but has evolved into a USD effort that is also a celebration of the relationship the university has with the community of Vermillion.

The Welcome Table occurs every Monday evening (5:30-7 p.m.) at the United Methodist Church in Vermillion. The Vermillion Welcome Table helps our community year-round, in and out of the holidays.

Although the Christmas collaboration occurs only once every year, the church and the Sanford School of Medicine work together year-round to collect food for the backpack program.
Jeremy Bice was named November’s employee of the month.
Bice is a physical plant specialist, which means his team is in charge of the boilers, keeping the heat on during the winter and air conditioning running during the summer. Although that’s his official job description, he is known to pick up work and help out however he can.

Eric Jones, a coworker in the facilities management department, said he nominated Bice for a variety of reasons. “Jeremy has been a reliable co-worker and has been willing to come in on nights, weekends and holidays constantly. He takes a thought-out approach to his work, drawing on his previous experience and always attempts to do the job right. I have been the beneficiary of his flexibility during the work day and weekends.”

Bice is approaching three years at USD. Prior to working on campus he was a service technician in Sioux City for a boiler company. He takes joy in learning about new projects and trying out new skills, and the people around him take notice.
Jones added, "He is willing to pick up work when others are busy, assist others in projects and takes no issue doing dirty jobs. During my time with Jeremy, I have seen him be sensitive to others’ frustrations/concerns to a fault. He has stepped in on jobs where others have had issues and helped without being asked.”

Bice says he enjoys his co-workers. “My favorite part of my job is the people I work with. Also, learning new things about different trades on campus, like the cooling side of HVAC or helping and learning from the lock smiths, carpenters, electricians, painters and custodians. All are great! I have fun at work.”
The feeling is reciprocated by Bice’s coworkers. “Jeremy is patient, generous, knowledgeable, hard-working and perceptive,” Jones added. "I appreciate working with him every day, even though he calls me a 'putz'."

Bice receives his Employee of the Month award from USD President James W. Abbott.

USD to Offer In-State Tuition to New Nebraska Students

The University of South Dakota will offer new first-year and transfer students from the state of Nebraska in-state tuition in a pilot program approved by the South Dakota Board of Regents.
“Nebraska enrollment continues to be an important part of USD’s enrollment given that we are only 7 miles from the Nebraska border,” said Scott Pohlson, vice president of enrollment, marketing and university relations. “This decision by the BOR supports our goal of keeping USD competitive in Nebraska now and into the future.”

Building off the success of a similar pilot program with Iowa started in 2016, USD increased its Iowa enrollment by 27 percent since the start of the pilot.
“Quality education at an affordable price continues to be our focus, and with tuition, fees, room and board at $16,000 per year, I think the message is starting to resonate—which is great for USD’s future both in Iowa and hopefully Nebraska as well,” said Pohlson.
New Department of Sustainability and Environment Announced

At its meeting in early December, the South Dakota Board of Regents approved the formation of the Department of Sustainability and Environment at the University of South Dakota.

The new departmental designation focuses USD’s efforts to support undergraduate and graduate education in sustainability and strengthens the ability for faculty members to obtain programmatic grants to fund research and teaching activities. Broadly defined, sustainability is improving human well-being for current and future generations while enhancing the environment.

Located in the USD College of Arts & Sciences, the Department of Sustainability and Environment currently offers bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees and a minor in sustainability, as well as a minor in earth sciences. Pending Board of Regents approval in spring 2018, the department will also offer master’s and doctoral degrees.

“We’re excited about the new opportunities for USD students in this department,” said Meghann Jarchow, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biology who serves as program coordinator for the sustainability program.

Together with Jarchow, other full-time faculty in the department include associate professors Mark Sweeney, Ph.D., and Brennan Jordan, Ph.D., and instructors Jennifer Fierro, M.S., and Jeanne Fromm, M.S., all faculty members with the earth sciences program. Faculty from across the university will continue to be affiliated with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Jarchow said.

Designation as a department gives sustainability studies greater clout when faculty members apply for grants to support research and programs related to teaching and outreach, Jarchow said. Formerly the only faculty member administering the sustainability program, she added that the new department faculty members will enhance the advising and guidance given to undergraduates studying sustainability.

Jarchow said she sees a bright future for the department. “I came here in the fall of 2012 to start the brand new undergraduate major in sustainability,” she said. “It’s really exciting that now, less than six years later, we have a thriving undergraduate program and we’re going to start a master’s and Ph.D. program. We will also have better opportunity for programmatic grants for undergraduate and graduate research and broader capacity building. It’s fun to look back to see how far we’ve come.”
Alumni-Student Networking Dinner Held

Many students feel anxiety about getting a job after graduation. USD gives students a variety of opportunities, such as Career Wednesdays, discussing cover letters and interviews, and extensive job fairs featuring multiple industries. The USD Alumni Association organized a seniors networking dinner to help connect current USD seniors with USD alumni.

This networking event had a few more steps than most of the open career events that happen in the MUC. Seniors were contacted via email with a link to the application. Sami Zoss, engagement coordinator for University of South Dakota Foundation, explained, “Students were selected based on a blind application process. The names were removed and graded by three students and one USD foundation staff member based on the same rubric guidelines. Top candidates were then invited to the dinner.”

Once students were chosen, the USD Foundation’s staff went to work inviting alumni. “We try to match the interests of the students, but also we just have so many rock star alumni in this area that we like to invite as well. Sioux Falls is separated by one degree.”

In order to attend the event after being selected students had to attend a networking etiquette seminar where they received tips on what to wear to events such as this, how to politely enter and exit conversations and what was expected of students representing the university.

The application process chose a variety of majors from computer science to strategic communication. The USD Foundation and the Alumni Association were careful to reach out to alumni that covered a wide range of interests and potential careers.

This was the second time the USD Foundation has hosted an event like this, the first being in spring 2017. Zoss hopes to see higher impact in the future in this event continues, but said, “we get great comments about how impressive the students were, how easy-flowing the event was, or wondering when the next one is. The feedback we get tells me this is a great event.”

Sevening Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Diane Sevening, MAC, a licensed addiction counselor and assistant professor in the Department of Addiction Studies at the University of South Dakota, was presented with the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Coalition for Addiction Studies Education, an organization of professors, teachers, professionals and programs specializing in addiction studies.

The INCASE Awards committee noted the importance of Sevening’s work to aid faculty adjuncts in addiction studies across the nation to successfully transition from clinical work to academic work, and singled out her service as President-Elect of the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors.

Sevening has taught addiction studies at USD since 1982. She has been recognized by a number of regional and national organizations for her contributions to addiction studies, and was one of the founders of INCASE in 1990.
Faculty and Staff Appreciation Nights with the Coyotes

The USD Coyote men’s and women’s basketball teams would like to welcome USD faculty and staff and their families to the USD Faculty and Staff Appreciation Days coming up. All faculty and staff can get half-priced tickets to the following games:

- Saturday, Jan. 13, 1 p.m. (Women vs. Fort Wayne)
- Thursday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m. (Men vs. Fort Wayne)

Faculty and staff can get half price admission for themselves and their families on all of these dates. You can purchase in advance by clicking here and using the promo code “USDSTAFF,” and can also purchase tickets on the day of the game with a staff ID. If you purchase online, make sure you go to the “Group Sales” tab to enter the promo code.

For more information contact the USD ticket office at 605-677-5959.

BOR Recognizes Student Groups

At its December meeting, the South Dakota Board of Regents recognized three USD student organizations for their outstanding academic, community and organizational work:

- Award for Academic Excellence: The USD Speech and Debate Team uses competitive public speaking as a platform to form lasting friendships, while practicing the foundational habits of empathy, wisdom, moderation and courage. Students on the team gain factual knowledge, learn multiple modes of persuasion, and practice communication skills daily, inside and outside of the classroom.
- Community Service Award: Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity seeks to develop integrity, intellect and high moral character among its members. In 2016, the fraternity dedicated more than $25,000 to various charities and committed more than 8,000 hours to community service.
- Award for Organizational Leadership: Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) provides resources, networking, support and encouragement to women in STEM fields. Efforts to dispel negative stereotypes and discrimination are also emphasized. The group seeks to advance gender equity while helping its members to emerge as the next generation of leaders in a variety of STEM fields.

I CARE Introduction Panel Q&A
Come out and learn more about the I CARE strategic initiatives and ask your questions to the I CARE panel.
January 11, 2018 • 6–7:30 p.m. • Old Main • Farber Hall

I CARE Launch
The University of South Dakota invites you to the I CARE launch.
Come out and meet the I CARE team.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.
January 22, 2018 • Noon • MUC Pit

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate, please contact Disability Services 48 hours prior to attendance of the event at 605-677-6389 or email disabilityservices@usd.edu. This document is available in alternative formats, upon request from Disability Services.
USD Presidential Search Committee Finalized

The membership of the USD Presidential Search Committee has been finalized. The full membership includes the following:

- Regent Kevin Schieffer, Chair
- Regent Pam Roberts
- Regent Joan Wink
- Regent Bob Sutton (ex-officio)
- José-Marie Griffiths, System President
- Community: Nate Welch, executive director, Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce and Development Company
- USD Foundation: Ryan Taylor, partner, Cutler Law Firm, LLP; Judith Meierhenry, retired South Dakota Supreme Court Justice
- Alumni: Torrey Sundall, senior director of corporate contracting, Sanford Health
- Administration: Scott Pohlson, vice president for enrollment, marketing, and university relations
- Civil Service Employees: Binnie Goodwin, program assistant II, Civil Service Advisory Council president, and Regental Civil Service Advisory Council vice president
- Non-Faculty Exempt Employees: Cheryl Tiahrt, assistant vice president of technology
- Faculty: Allen Madison, associate professor of law; Beth Boyd, professor/director of clinical psychology program; Jewel Goodman Shepherd, assistant professor of health services administration, Beacom School of Business
- Students: Josh Anderson, Student Government Association vice president, junior political science and business administration major; Taylor Gubbrud, senior political science and economics major and Spanish minor
- Institutional Collaboration: José-Marie Griffiths, president of Dakota State University
- At-Large: Kevin Doyle, retired partner with Eide Bailly LLP, former Trustee for USD Foundation

Please be aware that these committee members were selected from nominees submitted by your campus constituent leaders. They will play an important part in the presidential search process, helping to select the candidates that will be ultimately interviewed by the campus community during the on-campus, finalist interviews.

The Board of Regents is working with Zachary Smith and Sophie Stava of the executive search firm, Witt/Kieffer, to identify and review candidates. The search process gets underway this month. Contingent on a successful search, the timeline calls for the new president of the University of South Dakota to be appointed this spring and begin duties on or around July 1, 2018.

BOR Approves New Online Criminal Justice Program, Health Care Analytics Certificate

The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved new academic program requests to meet emerging employment trends across the state. Regents this week authorized new delivery options for a University of South Dakota degree and a new certificate program at USD.

At USD, the bachelor's degree in criminal justice will be available for online delivery starting next spring. USD is the only public university in South Dakota authorized to deliver a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. It currently offers it in a face-to-face instructional format at the Vermillion campus and at University Center in Sioux Falls.

USD officials point to 281 online-only students taking criminal justice courses last year as evidence of demand for the fully online degree program.

USD also received approval to offer a new undergraduate certificate in healthcare analytics, focused on the systematic use of data to improve quality of healthcare delivery and to reduce costs. The 12 credit-hour certificate is aimed at health sciences majors who want to enhance their credentials with specialized knowledge in analytical methods.

Certificate programs usually require fewer credit hours to complete than a minor. They are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allows students to develop expertise within a focused area of study, addressing identified market and workforce development needs.