Get Your Valentine a Charlie Gram

Share the love with the special Yote fan in your life by giving a Charlie Gram. Choose from four specially designed Valentine’s Day baskets, perfect for spouses, children, friends and family.

**Sweets for My Sweet $19.99**
Make your favorite Yote feel special with our signature Victory water bottle filled with red Frooties and a USD mylar balloon.

**Tailgate Ready $39.99**
Treat your special someone to the ultimate game-day package with our new red embroidered baseball cap, red Coyotes koozie and bottle opener keychain.

**Fashion First $39.99**
This Valentine’s Day, make sure your Yote is decked out in the latest USD gear. This package includes our red oblong fashion scarf, a gray cable knit headband and our brand-new Go Yotes popsocket.

**Charlie & Chocolate $25.99**
Share some sweets with the best Valentine’s date – Charlie Coyote! Your Charlie plushie comes with a box of chocolates, a perfect Valentine’s Day gift for a Yotes fan.
Student Leadership Award Nominations Sought

The Division of Student Services is preparing for its university-wide President’s Celebration of University Leadership, which will be held April 28. At last year’s celebration, students were honored with awards from both academic and non-academic campus departments. The awards listed below were included in our celebration and we would like to include these awards, along with any additional awards that you feel should be included. Please email student.leadership@usd.edu by Feb. 26 if you would like to have an award presented at the celebration.

All nominated leaders, along with their parents and families, will be invited to the event. In an effort to notify parents in a timely manner, please send a list of each award’s nominees to student.leadership@usd.edu by March 12. The award winners will be due by April 2. Thank you for helping make this celebration memorable for our students.

Timeline:
Feb. 26: Confirm if award will be included in celebration
March 12: Provide nominee names
April 2: Provide award winner names

AWARD

"Best in Show" Stilwell Art Competition
Leadership Through Service Award
School of Education Outstanding Leadership (3 winners)
Dean Joseph H. Cash Award for Excellence in Writing (3 winners)
John W. Carlson Research Grant (3 winners)
Gary and Judy Marx Servant Leadership
School of Health Sciences Student Leader (2 winners)
Student Ambassador of the Year (2 winners)
New Student Leader of the Year
Dave Lorenz Senior Leadership
Unsung Leader
Outstanding Diversity and Leadership
Outstanding Leadership and Service
Service Learning Advocate
Community Spirit
Graduate Student Leadership
Fraternity President of the Year
Sorority President of the Year
Resident Assistant of the Year
University Housing Leadership Award
Residence Hall of the Year
Champions of Inclusive Excellence (3 winners)
Outstanding Advisor of the Year
South Dakota Board of Regents award for Organizational Leadership
South Dakota Board of Regents award for Academic Excellence
South Dakota Board of Regents award for Community Service
Fraternity of the Year
Sorority of the Year
Outstanding Intramural Participants of the Year (2 awards)
Spirit of Charlie
Mosaic Award for Inclusive Excellence (2 winners)
Leadership Seminar Series Participants
Fides: Outstanding Military Student of the Year Award
Honors Leadership Award
Honors Community Spirit Award
Outstanding Student Organization for Inclusive Excellence

SPONSORING DEPARTMENT

College of Fine Arts
Department of Theatre
School of Education
College of Arts & Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences
School of Health Sciences
Admissions
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
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Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
Student Life/Awards Committee
President’s Council on Diversity & Inclusiveness
Student Life (nominated by students)
Student Life/BOR
Student Life/BOR
Student Life/BOR
Student Life/Sorority & Fraternity Life
Student Life/Sorority & Fraternity Life
Student Life/Housing
Student Life/Housing
Student Life/Housing
Center for Diversity and Community
Student Life
Student Veteran Resource Center
Honors
Honors
Center for Diversity and Community
The University Art Gallery is hosting the 31st annual Stilwell Student Juried Exhibition in the John A. Day Gallery now through Feb. 23.

“Our students take the Stilwell Exhibition very seriously and most will enter the competition, which usually means approximately 200 entries,” said Cory Knedler, chair of USD’s Department of Art.

Those who enter have the chance to win prizes up to $500 for Best in Show, but Knedler said the real motivation is the chance to exhibit their work through a professionally juried show.

“The cash awards are an attraction, but the art students are really anxious to test their work in a juried show and learn from the lesson,” said Knedler.

This year’s Stilwell juror, Bryan Holland, an acclaimed multimedia artist from Minnesota, graduated from USD in 1997 with a master’s degree in painting. In addition to judging the exhibition, Holland presented a guest lecture earlier in the week. His advice to new artists is to keep moving forward.

“Try to do something art-related every single day,” said Holland.

“Don’t worry about making mistakes. Don’t second-guess yourself.”

Holland has worked professionally as an artist, graphic artist and college professor. His work has been in numerous exhibitions, from solo to regional and national juried and invitational exhibitions. Holland’s most recent work is a mix of painting, collage, found art, image transfer techniques and a variety of other experimentation.

The Stilwell celebrates and recognizes the diversity and quality of art created by USD students in the previous year through a peer-juried exhibition. Student work includes graphic design, photography, ceramics, sculpture, painting, printmaking and more. The exhibition will close Feb. 23.

Social Media Roundtable Slated

Trying to grow your following on social media? Looking for ways to get more coverage by the official University of South Dakota social media accounts?

Join University Relations & Marketing Communications Feb. 21 at 10 a.m. in Al Neuharth Media Center Room 220 for a conversation on ways to gain exposure through the official USD social media accounts.

Five takeaway tips will be provided on the kinds of content USD looks for when pushing out content to USD’s 25,000+ followers.

Please RSVP to michelle.cwach@usd.edu if you would like to attend this roundtable.

Mark your calendars now for the Benefits and Wellness Fair for USD employees April 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the MUC Ballroom. More details to come!

University offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 19 in observance of Presidents Day.
USD Theatre Presents 'Three Sisters'


“Three Sisters” follows the story of Olga, Masha and Irina as they traverse their predictable daily lives in pre-revolutionary Russia while contemplating their own purpose in their modern world.

Assistant Professor of Acting Tim Pyles said he is thrilled to be directing the play. “Quite simply, it’s a story of love and loss. Everyone can relate to that. Not to mention it has three of the best roles ever written for women.”

Pyles has enjoyed exploring the social and political connections between this play, written in 1900, and our current moment in history. He said, “‘Three Sisters’ takes place at a moment of extreme social unrest and dissatisfaction with the central government. Social and economic inequalities were massive issues. And at the same time, it’s a beautiful period piece.”

USD’s production of “Three Sisters” is based on a new translation by one of America’s foremost playwrights of the 21st century, Sarah Ruhl. Ruhl wrote this new version of the play in 2009, making it accessible to American audiences while remaining very faithful to the original Russian text. Ruhl brought out many of the comic moments in Chekhov’s original play that have often been overlooked by translators.

“Three Sisters” performs Feb. 15–17 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee performance on Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. in the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre on the USD campus. Tickets ($15 adults, $12 senior citizen [62+], $10 K-12 & non-USD students with ID, and $5 USD students with ID) can be purchased in the afternoons (12–5 p.m.) starting Feb. 8 at the USD Theatre Box Office or by calling 605-677-5400; tickets can also be purchased now online at www.usd.edu/theatre.

USD Hosts 53rd Annual Student History Conference

Graduate and undergraduate students from several regional universities and colleges will present research papers at the 53rd annual Student History Conference at the University of South Dakota Thursday, Feb. 15. The day-long conference will feature research in local, United States, European and world history.

Professor Laura Renée Chandler of South Dakota State University will deliver this year’s plenary lecture, “Woman’s Cause is One and Universal: Protest and Progress in the Work of Anna Julia Cooper,” at 12:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the USD Department of History and the Zeta Mu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society in history, the conference will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Muenster University Center. This event is free and open to the public.
Gutzman Named November Employee of the Month

University of South Dakota employee Tyler Gutzman has been recognized as the employee of the month of November.

Gutzman, who’s a communications network specialist for IT, was nominated by multiple individuals, including Associate Dean of Student Services John Howe. Howe said Gutzman excels at helping to set up large events and meetings.

“In short, if we host an event and Tyler is present, I have few worries,” Howe said. “I can instantly feel at ease and know the technology and sound for our event is in very capable hands.”

Laura Anderton, a coworker of Gutzman’s who works in Student Services, said he is someone she can depend on to make sure events run smoothly.

“Tyler is not one for showboating or demanding recognition, but in this case it is 100 percent deserved,” she said.

Gutzman said his favorite part about working at USD is the people and students he gets to interact with on a daily basis.

“It’s great to know that the work I put in is appreciated by others,” he said. “There are a lot of staff members who put in a ton of hard work to keep this place running and I think it’s neat that we can recognize them for their efforts. I’m honored to have been chosen as employee of the month, and look forward to continuing to serve USD in the future.”

Ketcham Named December Employee of the Month

University of South Dakota employee Lisa Ketcham was recently recognized as employee of the month for the month of December.

Ketcham, who’s a program assistant for Academic Affairs, was nominated for the recognition by coworker Beth Freeburg because Ketcham is “a team player and a diligent worker who is constantly working to make the university a better place.”

“Lisa improves work life for all by raising morale, offering support to the team and creating a positive environment,” Freeburg said. “Her willingness to go the extra mile and ability to take the initiative makes a huge impact.”

Ketcham started in the Office of Academic Affairs in June of 2015, but has lived in Vermillion since graduating from the School of Business in 1991. She said she’s humbled and honored to be selected for the award.

“It was especially meaningful to receive the recognition from President Abbott before he retires from USD,” she said. “There are many people whom I have the opportunity to work with each and every day all across campus who are very dedicated, caring and hard-working people, doing their very best for our students and the university. We have a great team here at USD, at all levels, and I feel very fortunate to be a part of that.”
USD Ranked No. 7 Military-Friendly School

The University of South Dakota has been ranked in the top 10 of “Military-Friendly Schools” according to a ranking by Victory Media that seeks to measure educational quality for military members, veterans and their families.

USD was ranked No. 7 overall in the tier two research universities category. The ranking analyzed academic policies and compliance, admissions and orientations, culture and commitment and military student support and retention among a variety of measurements.

The Military-Friendly Schools list seeks to measure a university’s commitment to providing not only opportunities for veterans, but those that lead to better outcomes.

Now in its 16th year, the Military-Friendly Schools list provides a comprehensive guide for veterans and their families using data sources from federal agencies, veteran students and proprietary survey information from participating organizations.

Institutions earning the Military-Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey completed by the school. For the first time, student survey data was taken into consideration for the designation. More than 1,300 schools participated in the 2017-2018 survey, with 849 earning the designation.

To learn more about the resources available to veterans at USD, please visit the Student Veteran Resource Center.

Sellers Appointed to NCORE Advisory Council

Lamont Sellers, associate vice president for diversity at USD, has been appointed to the National Advisory Council for the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE).

The annual NCORE Conference is planned and overseen by the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies (SWCHRS) at the University of Oklahoma and is the leading and most comprehensive national forum on issues of race and ethnicity in American higher education.

As a member of the council, Sellers will help provide recommendations to the SWCHRS and its executive committee for the planning and programming of the annual conference for a period of three years. The NCORE National Advisory Council is composed of six committees, each with its own charge and set of co-chairs, as well as three co-chairs for the council as a whole. Sellers will serve on the Chief Diversity Office & Executive Leadership committee.

Sellers said he’s excited to serve on the NCORE Advisory Council and believes the appointment will show that USD is a leading university on the national level.

“I am excited about the opportunity to be recognized on a national scale and advocate for continued change in higher education with regard to diversity, inclusion and equity,” Sellers said. “I have been involved with NCORE in my various professional positions over the past 16 years in higher education.”
The USD Discovery District and the Research Park at South Dakota State University awarded University of South Dakota President James W. Abbott the inaugural “State of Innovation” Visionary Award for making South Dakota a state of innovation. The award was presented Feb. 2 at the annual Research Park Day at the South Dakota Legislature.

“President Abbott exemplifies the dedication, collaboration and leadership that it takes to make decades-long progress for the benefit of our entire state,” said Richard Naser, Jr., president of the USD Discovery District. “This award recognizes the extraordinary commitment made by a true champion of research-driven innovation and economic development.”

The initiatives championed by Abbott have become the heart of the state’s growing research and bioscience infrastructure dating back more than 20 years. He has been a catalyst for growing health and medical related research areas, strategic workforce development and funding including:

- Establishing the USD Biomedical Engineering (BME) Program—a collaboration with South Dakota School of Mines and Technology-in 2006
- Opening of the USD Graduate Education and Applied Research Center (GEAR) in 2009
- Securing federal funds for South Dakota
- Supporting key legislation for the incorporation, infrastructure and funding of the USD Discovery District.

Instrumental in the foundation of medical research in the state, Abbott helped create the South Dakota Health Research Foundation, a partnership between then Sioux Valley Health System and the USD Medical School, with the goal to connect laboratory and clinical research. The initiative was a catalyst for the establishment of Sanford Research in 2007.

“President Abbott’s persistence and ongoing support has resulted in a strong foundation for others to build upon—making his impact one for today, tomorrow and future generations,” added Naser.

Abbott’s cooperative spirit has engaged other universities, communities and organizations in advancing opportunity throughout the state. The growth of USD’s chemistry and physics programs into multi-facility doctorates and related research institutes around those programs have changed the face of those disciplines in South Dakota.

The greatest example of collaboration is the USD Discovery District now taking shape in northwest Sioux Falls. The district is an 80-acre corporate and academic research park with the goal of providing access to research facilities and infrastructure for research business development and spurring innovation-driven businesses. The development is a private-public partnership among the University of South Dakota, the Board of Regents, Governor’s Office of Economic Development, Forward Sioux Falls and the City of Sioux Falls.

“It’s been my honor to work with President Abbott for more than 15 years,” Naser said. “The goal of the Discovery District is to strengthen the region’s capacity to support and grow innovation-based businesses. President Abbott has had this vision for a long time and is now seeing the realization of these efforts. We congratulate him on receiving this inaugural Visionary Award.”