Event Dedicates Sanford Coyote Sports Center, Marks 20 Years of Leadership

Among last weekend’s Dakota Days events was the dedication of a long-awaited campus project, the new Sanford Coyote Sports Center (SCSC), and a celebration of the past 20 years of campus progress.

Between the second and third sets of the Oct. 7 Coyote volleyball game, the SCSC dedication honored major contributors to the $66 million project. Approximately 1,000 alumni and friends gathered for the SCSC dedication and the University Celebration, a recognition of President James W. Abbott’s 20 years of leadership.

Following the volleyball game—and a Coyote win against the IUPUI Jaguars—a short program highlighted the past two decades of progress at USD with a look to the future.

Various speakers took to the podium to share what the past 20 years of campus growth means to them.

Kelly Stewart ’14, ’16, and a member of the 2016 women’s basketball WNIT championship team, spoke of her tremendous USD pride, both as a student athlete and as an alumnae.

Paul Hansen, executive vice president of Sanford Health-Sioux Falls, said, "This partnership between Sanford and USD is special and it’s only been nurtured by President Jim Abbott. We will continue to support USD any way that we can."

Other speakers included Athletic Director David Herbster, Alumni Association Chair Staci Stern, SGA President Nathaniel Steinlicht and chair of the Onward: Campaign for South Dakota Nancy Gallagher.
Swanson to Present Harrington Lecture

University of South Dakota biology professor David Swanson, Ph.D., will present “Metabolism Explains (Almost) Everything” at the 64th Annual Harrington Lecture at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18, in Old Main’s Farber Hall.

Swanson will review how birds use energy and the implications this has for their overall lifestyles. He will demonstrate how metabolic rates influence many aspects of the lives of birds and other animals. He also will showcase how the practice of science in general, and the study of metabolism in particular, can relate to liberal learning.

Swanson’s research at USD is based in the areas of ecological physiology, physiological adaptation in animals and ornithology. His specific research includes adaptation to cold and migration in birds, freezing tolerance and overwintering strategies in amphibians, and woodland and wetland habitat use by migrating and breeding birds in the Northern Prairie region.

Named in 1966 in honor of Elbert Harrington, professor of speech and dean of USD’s College of Arts & Sciences (1945-1970), the lecture is an annual event featuring a distinguished professor with long-standing service to the College of Arts & Sciences. Each year a faculty committee from the department recommends to the dean the name of a faculty member to deliver the Harrington Lecture. The faculty member must be a teacher and scholar, and the lecture must be non-technical, blending insight into liberal education with the faculty member’s work as a scholar. A reception will be held immediately following the lecture.

Human Resources Employee Fair is Oct. 17

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our first Employee Benefits and Wellness Fair on Monday, Oct. 17. From 9 a.m.–3 p.m., vendors will be on hand in the MUC Ballroom to provide information on benefits and wellness opportunities, as well as answer any questions you may have regarding your benefits.

Confirmed vendors include: AFLAC, Bureau of Human Resources, Community Credit Counseling LLS, Dakotacare, Delta Dental, Department of Social Services, Discovery Benefits, Health Management Partners, Horace Mann, New York Life Insurance, Risty Benefits, Sanford Profile, South Dakota Retirement System, SDRS Supplemental Retirement Plan, USD Vucurevich Children’s Center, USD Headstart, USD Dental Hygiene, USD Wellness Center, VALIC and Vermillion Chamber.

The following presentations will be available throughout the day:
- 9–10 a.m. Understanding SDRS Benefits (MUC Room 216)
- 10:30–11: 30 a.m. SDRS Supplemental Retirement Plan (MUC Room 211)
- 12–1 p.m. Understanding SDRS Benefits (MUC Room 216)
- 1:30–3 p.m. SDRS – On the Road to Financial Success (MUC Room 211)

Individual retirement sessions are available on Monday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m. to noon. To register for an individual meeting, please contact Human Resources at 677-5671.

The first 25 patrons will receive a free Coyote T-shirt.
Fall 2016 Enrollment Increases

Fall 2016 enrollment at the University of South Dakota rose by 67 students to 10,038, according to the South Dakota Board of Regents in releasing data from the state’s six public universities.

Statewide, enrollment in public universities was 36,531, up 92 students from last fall. “We are pleased that enrollment has again increased, although slightly. We are particularly proud of our strong freshman class, including robust enrollment in our honors program,” said USD President James W. Abbott. “I am also pleased to note that our student body, just like the state of South Dakota, is increasingly more diverse.”

Some key points about USD from the data:
- The university saw an increase in minorities over the past year: a 11.7 percent rise in American Indians, to 353 students, and a 9.5 percent increase of other races, to 1,295.
- Since 2010, Native American enrollment is up 39.5 percent.
- Enrollment of South Dakota residents increased slightly, while non-resident numbers were down slightly, though out-of-state enrollment has risen steadily overall since 2010.
- While total student numbers have been flat since 2010, enrollment of first-time freshmen has risen nearly 10 percent.
- The number of students taking online and other distance courses has increased 50 percent since 2010, while face-to-face enrollment has dropped 28 percent.

Sellers Promoted to Associate VP for Diversity

Lamont Sellers, who has served as director of the USD Center for Diversity & Community for the past two years, has been named the new associate vice president for diversity.

Sellers was instrumental in getting the center off the ground two years ago, developing programs to provide diversity and social justice training as well as multicultural leadership.

He has a bachelor’s degree in mathematics education from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and a master’s in higher education administration from the University of Denver.

Before coming to USD in 2014 he served as associate director and African American services coordinator at the University of Denver; associate director of the Diversity Institute at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania; and as senior academic adviser at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
USD Chamber Singers Release New CD

The University of South Dakota Chamber Singers, which tours the U.S. and Europe every year, will release its newest CD, “Let Me Fly,” on Oct. 14.

“I am very proud of this ensemble,” said David Holdhusen, director of choral activities and chair of the USD Department of Music. “I think this recording is a great showcase for these young musicians. We have built a very strong choral program here at the University of South Dakota and I think this CD is a testament to the efforts of all the students who have been a member of the Chamber Singers. To release a recording on a national label of this quality is very exciting. I hope the public will enjoy the beautiful music this CD has to offer.”

The CD is made up of recordings from a collection of performances from 2014-2016. The music is primarily traditional folk song and spiritual arrangements and new works from American composers. Many of the classic songs were given new arrangements to feature the talent of the singers.

USD Chamber Singers is made up of 40 undergraduate and graduate students selected through an audition process.

Details about the CD and a sample are available online.

Award-Winning Author to Present Schell Lecture

The Herbert Schell Lecture has been given on campus honoring the former dean for more than 20 years. This year’s Schell lecture will be given by Darrin McMahon, Ph.D. on Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in Farber Hall.

“McMahon is an expert in intellectual history. More recently, he’s been investigating broad questions and issues that cut across historical time periods. He looks at particular ideas and tracing how they develop over the course of Western civilization,” said Scott Breuninger, Ph.D., a professor in the history department.

McMahon will talk about idea of genius, which is the subject of his recent book, Divine Fury: A History of Genius. He discusses the origin of the concept of genius and how it has changed over time.

McMahon went to the University of California, Berkeley and received his Ph.D. from Yale. He is currently the Mary Brinsmead Wheelock Professor of History at Dartmouth College. In April 2016, McMahon was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in the field of Intellectual and Cultural History.

The Schell Lecture is sponsored by the USD history department and named after Dean Herbert S. Schell (1899-1994), who served the University of South Dakota and the State of South Dakota for more than 40 years. The lecture honors his service by spreading knowledge of history throughout the campus and community to which he was devoted. History department faculty are responsible for choosing a speaker whose research holds interest and importance to the department as well as the public. The lecture is free and open to all.
William Mayhan has been the dean of Basic Biomedical Sciences since March 2016, and is providing a “vision for the division” in the medical school.

Mayhan is from Omaha, Nebraska, and always enjoyed working and conducting research, even at a very young age. When he was around 10 years old, he went dumpster diving at a local physician’s office and found syringes and needles to take home, which he said he wouldn’t recommend. From there, he experimented with his mother’s flowers and killed them all, resulting in his parents buying him an actual chemistry kit.

Mayhan attended Creighton University for his bachelor’s degree. He then attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center for graduate school. He has a doctorate in physiology from UNMC and finished his postdoctorate at the University of Iowa. Finally, he went back to UNMC for his first faculty report. Mayhan worked at UNMC for 22 years before becoming the chair of Cellular Biology and Anatomy at Louisiana State University for five years.

Now at USD, Mayhan came for the opportunity to lead a more traditional division of basic biomedical sciences. Basic biomedical science is a unit composed of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and biochemistry.

Mayhan said he liked leading the division rather than an entire department, and also liked the research USD provided.

“It was a unique opportunity to be involved in the growth of this division,” Mayhan said. “I knew people here, I knew they did very nice, quality research here. We have an outstanding neurosciences division, and I do cerebrovascular research, so it was an opportunity for me to carry on my research, as well.”

Mayhan likes the closeness of the faculty and staff and working with students.

“I like dealing with the faculty,” Mayhan said. “We have all different types of faculty. I really like talking and working with them. I enjoy being with the students—I haven’t had the opportunity to teach yet, but I’ll probably start teaching within the year. I like interactions with students. It keeps you young.”

Something that Mayhan has noticed about USD is how close the community is and how the university is willing to move forward and grow in many aspects.

“I like the closeness of the faculty, staff and students,” Mayhan said. “It seems like a family—a very tight-knit community, which is very nice. Everyone here has been very welcoming, very friendly, very open to new ideas. USD is a very progressive campus.”

As a dean, Mayhan hopes to continue to get to know the faculty members and understand their research and the problems associated with their specific research programs. He also hopes to build interactions within the campus and across campuses within surrounding states.

“I hope to help build a research enterprise here and make a difference in medical education,” Mayhan said. “By no stretch of imagination will I do that by myself. We have other deans who are in charge of the education process, as well as in the research, so I hope to help them in providing some type of leadership towards a direction.”

Though he hasn’t been at USD for very long, Mayhan is glad he came to USD and is able to continue his own research and grow with the medical school.

“I think the diversity of the faculty...
here and the opportunities that have been presented is top-notch,” Mayhan said. “I’ve been at some bigger schools, and this program here is as good as any other school I’ve been to. I think they pay very close attention to the development of each other. There’s very much a caring of how students perform. That’s something I’ve noticed—faculty become really involved with the students, and I really like that atmosphere. They make my job easy.”

Mayhan is married, and has family in Omaha, and tries to go down to see them as often as he can. He also plays golf, and was asked to be in a golf league with other deans across campus during his first week at USD. He also enjoys walking and hiking.

Munkvold Named September Employee of the Month

September’s Employee of the Month is Jane Munkvold, a Board of Regents human resources generalist. She was nominated by her supervisor, Emery Wasley, for her positive attitude, cooperation with faculty and staff, and flexibility in the workplace.

“What I love best about my job is working one-on-one with employees on issues and answering questions they may have,” Munkvold said.

“Jane Munkvold is an instrumental member of the human resources/payroll team,” Wasley said. “Jane adds value by working with new employees on setting up payroll deductions and helping them register for health benefits, monitoring the deferred pay process for exempt employees, and reviewing all terminating payroll transactions. She is also responsible for scanning our terminated employee files in our effort to go paperless within the human resources office.”

Munkvold started working for USD as an HR generalist in July 2007. Before working at USD, she worked for the State of South Dakota, Bureau of Information and Technology (BIT) as senior claims clerk for three years, Polaris Industries as HR administrator for seven years and Hy-Vee as account coordinator for nine years.

“Jane’s efforts have been most remarkable and support the university’s goal of providing top-notch customer service and ensuring we stay on target with exceeding the tenets of our newly-minted HR strategic plan,” said Wasley.

When she isn’t working, Jane enjoys spending time at with her family and friends, going to the river and attending USD sporting and choral events.

Do you know someone who should be USD’s Employee of the Month? Nominate him or her with the CSA Employee of the Month form at http://sites.usd.edu/csac/.
Wellness Center Offers Many Benefits

During this busy time of year, many of us find ourselves pulled multiple in directions and juggling a multitude of projects and activities. The Wellness Center has many services to help you destress and find balance in your life.

- Wellness coaching: This is new to our list of services this year. Laura Kruger, our new wellness coach, can help you to discover ways to feel happy with your body, have the energy to perform daily tasks and enjoy an overall feeling of happiness and well-being. She is here to be a partner on the journey to becoming healthy and can provide a system of support and advice.

- Fitness opportunities: Whether you want to attend one of our 65 different group fitness classes, or you want to exercise on your own, the Wellness Center has an unlimited number of ways to include exercise into your life. Exercise is a great way to minimize stress and anxiety. Visit our website (www.usd.edu/wellness) to see all the classes and amenities we have to offer.

- Specialty events and classes: We offer many different personal development opportunities to our members. Some examples of specialty events you can experience this year include wellness seminars, boot camps, fitness incentive programs, nutrition seminars and more!

- Wellness days: Each month the Wellness Center staff partners with different organizations in Vermillion to provide opportunities for individuals to visit the facility and receive free or low cost services. This September Sanford Health will provide sick kits as we move into cold and flu season, and the Alcohol and Drug Studies program will have their "drunk goggles" available for students to get a real life view of how alcohol can have a negative effect on your body.

- Personal training: Several personal trainers are on staff and are excited to work with you to help you meet your goals. They are here to motivate you, push you to work harder than you may do on your own, and help you set new limits for yourself that you may not have thought were possible.

- Intramurals: Did you know that faculty/staff and their spouses are eligible to participate in intramural events? Some of the upcoming opportunities include dodgeball, floor hockey, basketball, Big Pink Volleyball and racquetball.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Wellness Center services and activities, please visit usd.edu/wellness. Faculty and Staff who purchase new memberships by Oct. 15 will receive a free Wellness Center T-shirt. Please see the above ad for more details.

University offices will be closed
Friday, Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.
Safety Matters: Slipping and Falling

Though we are in the midst of beautiful fall weather, we all know what is just around the corner. The Farmers’ Almanac says that “while winter officially starts on Dec. 21, predictions point to snow and cold conditions in mid-November in the Midwest.”

As snow comes around and ice covers the ground, it becomes a time where we see the most common injury for faculty across campus: Slipping and falling. It is important to be aware that it is not the facilities team, the maintenance staff or the landscaping crew who are going to make you safer, it’s you. Being aware of hazards and modifying your behavior to address them goes a long way.

We tend to slip and fall because the ground we are used to has changed and the way we normally walk betrays us. For most of the year we were walking on a concrete sidewalk, and now we are walking on ice. We used to be able to step over potholes and tree branches, and now they are hidden under a layer of snow.

So what do we need to do differently to walk safely on these altered surfaces?

Watch your step when you walk. “Well, duh, Kevin. We know that.” Then would it surprise you to hear that most slips and trips occur when we are not looking at the ground? Be aware of the fact that the next step you take might be onto a patch of ice, wet floor or hidden rock.

Don’t read or text while you are walking. As much as you all enjoy sending a quick text or checking your email as you’re walking to your building, a quick glance away from your surroundings could mean the next thing you notice is that you’re on the ground!

Wear sensible shoes. You all know I love my Jimmy Choos, but why would I want to ruin them in the snow when I can put them on once I’m indoors? Not all of us can pull this off.

Use the handrail on the stairs. Just that little bit of support helps prevent falls; don’t walk up the middle of the staircase where the floor might be wet, go up the edge and grab that rail.

Every year too many people get hurt slipping and falling on wet or icy surfaces, so let’s do our part to bring those numbers down.

Future topic suggestions or health and safety concerns can be directed to Kevin O’Kelley at 677-6265 or Kevin.Okelley@usd.edu.

Flu clinics will be offered on the following dates for all state employees, their spouses and dependents of any age who are on the state’s insurance plan. There will be RNs at each of these clinics to administer flu shots to dependents ages 6 months-18 years. Several evening clinics are offered to accommodate school and work schedules.

Walk-in clinics at the atrium of the Andrew E. Lee Memorial Building of Medicine and Science (Med School):

Thursday, Oct.13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct.18, 2-6 p.m.

Clinics by appointment only at Clay County Community Health (call 677-6767 for an appointment):

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 4-6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 27, 4-6:30 p.m.
When USD moved its volleyball and men’s and women’s basketball teams into the Sanford Coyote Sports Center, they also moved the weight room into the new arena.

The Dave & Paula Huftgren Family Weight Room was started from scratch and features new and unique pieces of equipment in the 7,500-square foot facility. It contains 24 racks, each with 2,000 pounds of weights, connected by a series of bridges; five high-speed treadmills that reach an angle of 30 degrees and a top speed of 30 MPH; and a nutrition area that is open to all athletes.

Behind the design of the weight room was strength and conditioning coach Jevon Bowman ’08, who is now in his seventh year in the position.

"The administration trusted me enough to let me run with it and build a weight room that is going to set us apart from everyone else," Bowman said.

The project started more than three years ago with Bowman going to the administration with a three-level wish list for the weight room. Level one consisted of things that they would need to open the weight room. Level two consisted of things that would be exceptionally nice to have. Level three items would set the weight room apart.

"I was hoping we would get all three levels, and we did," Bowman said. "I don’t know how hard it was for them, but it was easy for me to say that we need all these things and this would set us apart."

Bowman reached out to vendors, past and present coaches, and strength coaches to help guide his vision for the weight room.

"To say I designed it by myself would not be just," Bowman said. "Many people guided me in the right way and I was able to take their thoughts and put it into the plans."

The new facility can be used as a recruiting tool for all sports. Now that it’s up-and-running, Bowman’s focus is getting the athletes better and ready to play. The strength and conditioning program is one of the most important pieces of any athletics program. Athletes spend a lot of time with their strength and conditioning coaches, especially during the off-season when coaches take to the road to recruit.

"We do our best to take care of the athletes when the coaches can’t be with them," Bowman said. "We challenge student-athletes to be at their best for their coaches and our job is to keep them healthy and get them bigger, stronger, faster and quicker."

A former football player for the Coyotes, Bowman knows what it takes to get athletes ready to compete. He has been with USD since graduating in 2008. As a graduate assistant, Bowman filled in twice as interim strength and conditioning coach after the position was left vacant. He then took over full time after finishing his master’s degree and gaining his strength and conditioning certifications in 2010.

"A lot of guys want to come back and work for their alma mater and I was lucky enough to get out of school and start working for South Dakota right away," Bowman said.

Bowman visited and observed a few different schools and their strength and conditioning programs before deciding on his career.

"I wanted to stay in athletics," Bowman said. "I didn’t want to coach, but I still wanted to be a part of it. I had always been better at lifting than I was an actual athlete."

The best part of the job for Bowman is the athletes and watching them reach their full potential in sports and as people.

"The athletes are my favorite part of the job," Bowman said. "The bond you get to build with a lot of the athletes is a bond that is not easily broken. Our job isn’t just in the weight room, but our job is that when they are done with USD, they have had a great experience."