DECEMBER 2015

Commencement

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

THE FORTIETH WINTER SESSION
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
DAKOTA DOME, VERMILLION, SD
DECEMBER 12, 2015
Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement

Dakota Dome
December 12, 2015 10:00 a.m.

The Commencement Procession
Dr. Susan Keith Gray, Professor of Music

The National Anthem
USD Chamber Singers
Directed by Dr. David Holdhusen

Welcome
Dr. Robin Ammon, Chair, University Senate
James W. Abbott, President

Commencement Address
Jeffrey R. Holcomb, President, Southeast Technical Institute

USD Chamber Singers
O Day full of Grace, arr. by F. Melius Christiansen
Directed by Dr. David Holdhusen

Authorization of Degree Conferral
Harvey Jewett, South Dakota Board of Regents
Hooding and Conferring of Doctoral Candidates and Presentation of Diplomas
  Doctor of Philosophy
  Doctor of Education
  Doctor of Audiology
  Doctor of Physical Therapy
  Doctor of Medicine
  Juris Doctor

Conferring of Specialist and Master Degrees and Presentation of Diplomas
  Specialist in Education
  Master of Arts
  Master of Business Administration
  Master of Fine Arts
  Master of Music
  Master of Natural Science
  Master of Professional Accountancy
  Executive Master of Public Administration
  Master of Public Administration
  Master of Science
  Master of Social Work

Conferring of Baccalaureate and Associate Degrees and Presentation of Diplomas

Alumni Welcome
  Kersten Johnson, Alumni Association

University Hymn, *Alma Mater*
  USD Chamber Singers
  Directed by Dr. David Holthusen

Closing Remarks
  James W. Abbott, President
  Dr. Robin Ammon, Chair, University Senate

Recessional

**Note to Guests:**
The audience will remain seated for both the Processional and Recessional and will rise for the National Anthem and Alma Mater. Only official photographers are permitted on the DakotaDome floor with the graduating class. Professional photographs by Lifetouch Photography will be available a week after the ceremony at www.usd.edu/registrar/commencement.cfm.

The program lists all persons who were candidates for degrees as of August, 2015. The commencement program is a list of candidates for degree. It is not an official listing of degrees conferred.
A South Dakota native, Jeff is from Long Valley, South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Jeff received his baccalaureate degree in German and Political Science and a Master’s in Public Administration from the University of South Dakota.

He began his career in education in 1985 as a legislative assistant to the Secretary of Education and Cultural Affairs continuing in a variety of program positions within the department until 1993. From 1993 until the summer of 1999, he served the state of South Dakota as the Chief Purchasing Administrator. He moved to Sioux Falls accepting an appointment as the Purchasing Coordinator for the City of Sioux Falls. In August of 2004, Jeff accepted the position of President/CEO of Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls.

Jeff is married to his lovely wife Robyn, head vocal director for Roosevelt High School for the Sioux Falls School District. They have three daughters Laurel, Elise, and Lily ages 18, 16, and 13.
**Stage Party**
James W. Abbott
President
Harvey Jewett
Board of Regents Representative
Jeffrey R. Holcomb
Speaker
Kersten Johnson
Executive Director, Alumni Association
Robin Ammon
Chair, University Senate
Jim Moran
Provost & Vice President, Academic Affairs
Michael Card
Dean, Graduate School
Mary D. Nettleman
Vice President, Health Affairs &
Dean, Sanford School of Medicine
Thomas Geu
Dean, School of Law
Matthew Moen
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Venky Venkatachalam
Dean, Beacom School of Business
Donald Easton-Brooks
Dean, School of Education
Larry Schou
Dean, College of Fine Arts
Michael Lawler
Dean, School of Health Sciences
Brandon Nutting
Reader, College of Arts & Sciences
Jennifer Thompson
Registrar

**University Marshal Corps**

**Head Marshals**
Michelle Van Maanen
College of Arts & Sciences
Leon Korte
Beacom School of Business

**Honorary Marshals**
Emeritus Professor Constance Hoag
Emeritus Professor Donald Potter

**Marshals**
Sherrie Bosse
School of Education
Scott Breuninger
College of Arts & Sciences
Steven Bucklin
College of Arts & Sciences
David Carr
Beacom School of Business
John Dudley
College of Arts & Sciences
Kurt Hackemer
College of Arts & Sciences
Gregory Huckabee
Beacom School of Business
Eric Jepsen
College of Arts & Sciences
Beverly Kennedy
School of Health Sciences
Peter Kindle
School of Health Sciences
Solveig Korte
College of Arts & Sciences
Jay Memmott
School of Health Sciences
Dave Moen
Beacom School of Business
Timothy Schorn
College of Arts & Sciences
Gerald Yutrzenka
Sanford School of Medicine

**Board of Regents**
Michael G. Rush
Executive Director
Randy Schaefer
President, Madison
Bob Sutton
Vice President, Pierre
Terry Baloun
Secretary, Sioux Falls
John W. Bastian
Belle Fourche
Harvey Jewett
Aberdeen
Kathryn Johnson
Hill City
Jim Morgan
Brookings
Joseph Schartz
Humboldt
Kevin Schieffer
Sioux Falls
Faculty in Attendance

Professor Mejai Bola Avoseh  Professor Kelly McKay-Semmler
Professor Mark Baron  Professor Jessica Messersmith
Professor Kathryn Birkeland  Professor Chad Newsawander
Professor Larry Bright  Professor Wade Nilson
Professor Brian Burrell  Professor Ranelle Nissen
Professor Stephen Butler  Professor Brandon Nutting
Professor Karen Card  Professor Seth Olson
Professor Shana Cerny  Professor Jason Porter
Professor Janet Davison  Professor Carolyn Prentice
Professor Ying Deng  Professor Randal Quevillon
Professor Carla Dieter  Professor Soonhee Roh
Professor Kathleen Eyster  Professor Amy Schweinle
Professor Cathy Ezrailson  Professor Shane Semmler
Professor Marvin Gamble  Professor Stacy Smallfield
Professor Elizabeth Hanson  Professor Carole South-Winter
Professor Angela Helmer  Professor Teresa Stephenson
Professor David Holdhusen  Professor David Swanson
Professor Moses Ikiugu  Professor Barbara Stolle
Professor Gera Jacobs  Professor William Sweeney
Professor Teddi Joyce  Professor Barry Vickrey
Professor Christina Keller  Professor Garreth Zalud
Professor Karen Kindle  Professor Shane Semmler
Professor John Korkow  Professor Frank Zavadil
Professor Clayton Lehmann  Professor Christopher Randle
Professor Gopinath Mani  Professor Brandon Nutting

Alma Mater

Words by Mabel Kingsley Richardson
Music by Winfred R. Colton

Alma Mater, Dakota, we drink thee a health
As we go from thy sheltering walls;
Younger feet shall come troup ing to gather thy wealth,
Younger voices shall ring through thy halls.
Keep us true to the type of the brave pioneer,
No hardship e’er daunted his quest;
Alma Mater, lead on to the untried frontier,
We follow the trail to the west.

Alma Mater, Dakota! How dear to thy children thy name,
How daring the tales oft retold
Of thy builders who first to thy wilderness came,
Thy named glory that never grows old.
O the pine crested peaks of the storied Black Hills,
The Missouri that ribbons thy plain.
Where the slant summer sunshine so lavishly spills
Over prairie and pasture and grain.

The writer of the Alma Mater’s lyrics, Mable Kingsley Richardson, graduated from The University of South Dakota in 1902 and directed USD’s library from 1907 to 1941. A pioneer’s daughter who loved South Dakota, she voiced in the Alma Mater the views of a woman of her time.
Doctoral Degrees
Graduate School
Presented by Dean Michael Card

Doctor of Philosophy

* Rosalie N. Ball, Woonsocket, SD
M.A., University of South Dakota
Psychology
Validation of the Nonsexual Multiple Relationship Scale (NSMRS)

Mohammad O. Bani Khaled
M.S., University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Materials Chemistry
Molecular Design of Air-Stable n-type Organic Semiconductor Materials Based on Perfluoroalkylated Transition Metal Complexes and ¶-Conjugated Molecules

Jacob Christian Bobby, Bowdle, SD
M.Div., Concordia Seminary
Political Science

Michael P. Flaherty
M.A., University of South Dakota
Counseling & Psychology in Education
A Phenomenological Study of the Experience of Job Related Stressors for Professional Counselors in Rural Community Mental Health Settings

Berit Linnehan Foss, Sioux Falls, SD
M.S., University of South Dakota
Biomedical Engineering
Chitosan Immobilized Titanium in a Co-Culture System: A Race for the Surface

* Yulun Han, Nei Mongol
M.S., University of South Dakota
Materials Chemistry
The Photofragmentation Mechanisms of Gas-Phase Rare Earth Complexes for Laser-Assisted Metal-Organic Chemical Vapor Deposition: Isopropylcyclopentadienyl and Trimethylsilylamido Ligand Examples

* Jennifer Fang Hsia, San Marino, CA
M.A., University of South Dakota
Psychology
The Moderating Role of Parental Monitoring in the Relationship Between Perceived Parental Approval of Drinking and Alcohol Outcomes Among College Students

* Uma Sambasivam
M.S., University of South Dakota
Materials Chemistry
Modulating Guest-Binding and Chemical Reactivity in a New Class of Synthetic Containers

Sanam Sane, Vermillion, SD
M.S., Baylor College of Medicine
Basic Biomedical Sciences
Ubiquitin-like Protein, UBXN2A, a Potential Anticancer Drug Target in Colon Cancer

* Denise Ann Schwery, Omaha, NE
B.A., Morningside College
Counseling & Psychology in Education
How do Mathematics Self-Efficacy and Gender Interact to Predict Mathematics Achievement in Fifth Through Eighth Graders?

Yangqing Wang, Shanghai, China
M.S., Hong Kong Baptist University
Basic Biomedical Sciences
The Interaction Between Endocannabinoid and GABA Signaling in the Control of Pain: Mechanisms to Functional Implications

Qiang Wei
M.S., University of South Dakota
Chemistry
Synthesis of Perfluoroalkylated fused-thiophene N-type Organic Semiconductor and The Study of The Crystallite Structure Materials

* Yufeng Zhang, Shijiazhuang
B.S., University of Electronic Science & Technology of China
Biological Sciences
Patterns and Mechanisms of Phenotypic Flexibility Associated with Flight Exercise and Shivering in Small Birds

* candidate for degree summer 2015
Jianqiu Zou, China  
B.S., Zhejiang University  
Basic Biomedical Sciences  
DNA Damage Response Proteins Regulate the Centrosome

Doctor of Education

Deborah Ann Bumpous, Bath, SD  
M.S., Northern State University  
Educational Administration  
The Relationship Between Advanced Placement® Participation and College Graduation Rates

Li-Hua Chen, New Taipei City  
M.S., Emporia State University - Kansas Curriculum & Instruction  
Taiwan High School Biology Teachers' Acceptance and Understanding of Evolution and the Nature of Science

* Mary Alice Christensen, Brookings, SD  
M.S., South Dakota State University  
Educational Administration  
Growth in Leader Efficacy Based on Participation in a College Student Leadership Development Program

* Peggy Ann Diekhoff, Wessington, SD  
M.S.Ed., Northern State University  
Educational Administration  
A Case Study of Organizational Change at One Midwestern Middle School

Marilyn Lange Eastman, Dakota Dunes, SD  
M.B.A., Washington University - St. Louis Educational Administration  
Does Twitter Fly or Fail in a Marketing Classroom? The Effect of Twitter on Student Learning Outcomes, Attitudes and Instructor Effectiveness Ratings

Todd M. Ecklund, Peosta, IA  
M.B.A., Minnesota School of Business  
Educational Administration  
Effective Practices of Faculty Evaluations in Iowa Community Colleges

Jacqueline Herrboldt, Scotland, SD  
M.Ed., University of Nebraska - Lincoln Curriculum & Instruction  
Teacher and Parent Perceptions of Common Core Standards in a Rural School in South Dakota

Todd L. Herseth  
M.B.A., University of South Dakota  
Educational Administration  
Business Ethics Education and Mezirow's Transformative Learning Theory

Michael A. Keegan, Rapid City, SD  
M.Ed., South Dakota State University  
Educational Administration  
Driving Change Initiatives in Student Affairs: Approaches Directors Use to Implement Change

Charles Leslie Knauer, Rapid City, SD  
M.A., University of South Dakota  
Educational Administration  
Department Chair Leadership in Higher Education: A Comparison of Transformational Leadership of Reserve Officer Training Corps Chairs Compared With Social Science Chairs in Leadership Programs

Daniel Robert Koopman, Baker City, OR  
Ed.S., University of Idaho  
Educational Administration  
Transformative Learning Experiences of Mentors and Ex-Offenders in an Oregon Faith-Based Community Corrections Program

Erin Elizabeth Lehmann, Rapid City, SD  
Ed.S., University of South Dakota  
Educational Administration  
Student-Centered Math Achievement: Standards-based vs. Traditional Assessment

Linda Marie Love, Omaha, NE  
M.A., University of South Dakota  
Educational Administration  
Leader Efficacy: Examining Readiness of Health Science Educators Following Interprofessional Leadership Development

Valentina R. Merdianian, Blacktail Deer Creek, SD  
M.A., Oglala Lakota College  
Educational Administration  
Tribal College Accreditation: Woiwanyanke Wounspe - A Case Study of Oglala Lakota College

* Thomas James Merriman, Beresford, SD  
M.S., University of South Dakota  
Educational Administration  
A Phenomenological Approach to Understanding Pro-C Level Teachers' Perceptions of Creativity

Toni Renae Palmer, Grand Island, NE  
M.A., University of Northern Iowa  
M.A., University of Nebraska – Kearney Educational Administration  
Examining the Differences in Student Achievement Among Seventh-Grade Mathematics Students in Traditional and Co-Taught Classrooms in a Midwestern Urban District

Pandi Pittman  
Ed.S., University of South Dakota  
Educational Administration  
Teacher Retention in Sparsely Populated South Dakota Rural School Districts

* Mary Kathleen Risacher, Slayton, MN  
M.S., Southwest Minnesota State University  
Curriculum & Instruction  
Self-Efficacy of Preservice Early Childhood Teachers Participating in an Online Environment Vs. Traditional College Setting

Anna Marie Schwan, Groton, SD  
Ed.S., University of South Dakota  
Educational Administration  
Student Motivation and Amotivation: Teacher and Student Perceptions

*candidate for degree summer 2015
Specialist & Master Degrees

Graduate School

Presented by Dean Michael Card

Specialist in Education

Camille Judith Barker, Sioux City, IA
M.S.Ed., Wayne State College
Educational Administration

Kathryn Renee Blaha, Avon, SD
M.A., University of South Dakota
Educational Administration

Jennifer Ann Bollinger, Watertown, SD
M.Ed., University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Educational Administration

May Jo May
M.A., University of South Dakota
Educational Administration

* Shannon Dodson, Alfred, NY
M.A., University of South Dakota
Educational Administration

* Victor Shands Henson, Sardis, MS
M.Ed., University of Mississippi
Educational Administration

* Marie L. Ivers
M.A., University of South Dakota
Educational Administration

* Robyn Rene Raszkowski, Sioux Falls, SD
M.S., Springfield College
Counseling & Psychology in Education

* Sarah Christine Voyles, Sac City, IA
M.A., Morningside College
Educational Administration

Professional Degrees

School of Law

Presented by Dean Thomas Geu

Juris Doctor

Spencer Daniel Austin
B.A., Augustana College

Chad Everett Dotson, Cedar City, UT
B.S., Southern Utah University

Toby Alexander Lutenegger
B.A., University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Michael Lee Pickett, Lead, SD
B.S., Black Hills State University

* Kaye Sorensen, Kearney, NE
M.S., University of Nebraska – Kearney
Educational Administration

Lecture Capture Accessibility on University Student Learning Outcomes and Student Perceptions in College Level Mathematics Courses

Erin Faith Stabnow, Sioux Falls, SD
M.A., University of South Dakota
Curriculum & Instruction

Increasing Pizza Box Assembly Using Task Analysis and a Least-to-Most Prompting Hierarchy

* Michael G. White
M.S.Ed., Wayne State College
Educational Administration

A Case Study of a Shared Value Multi-Stakeholder American College Testing (ACT) Preparation Program

Doctor of Audiology

Allison Townsend Root, Reno, NV
B.A., University of Nevada - Reno

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention: Evaluating the Current State of Knowledge Among Audiologists in South Dakota

* Cynthia Rae Barwick, Sheldon, IA
M.A., University of South Dakota
Educational Administration

* Michael Allen Hansen, Viborg, SD
M.A., University of South Dakota
Educational Administration

* Victor Shands Henson, Sardis, MS
M.Ed., University of Mississippi
Educational Administration

* May Jo May
M.A., University of South Dakota
Educational Administration

* Robyn Rene Raszkowski, Sioux Falls, SD
M.S., Springfield College
Counseling & Psychology in Education

* Laura Lee Welch, Lennox, SD
M.A., Augustana College
Educational Administration

* candidate for degree summer 2015
Master of Arts

* Stephanie Andell, Ofallon, IL
  B.A., University of South Dakota
  Educational Administration

* Jessica Rae Anderson, South Sioux City, NE
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota
  Special Education

* Lacey Megan Anderson, Pierre, SD
  B.A., University of South Dakota
  Educational Administration

* Miranda Jo Arnold, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota
  Special Education

* Patrick James Arzt, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Kinesiology & Sport Science

* Crystal Lee Aurich, Sauk Rapids, MN
  B.S., St. Cloud State University
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Jerri L. Birger, Tea, SD
  M.Ed., University of Sioux Falls
  Special Education

* Jill Summer Bischoff, Brookings, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Jennifer Marie Bodoh, Brandon, SD
  B.A., University of South Dakota
  Addiction Studies

* Stacia Ann Briard, Vermillion, SD
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota
  Elementary Education

* Chelsea Elan Josephine Brooks, Yankton, SD
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota
  Special Education

Andrew Thomas Burroughs, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.A., University of Minnesota – Morris
  Counseling & Psychology in Education

Margot Casson, Klamath Falls, OR
  B.A., University of Oregon
  Educational Administration

* Euodia En Ping Chua, Singapore
  B.S.Sc., Singapore Management University
  Psychology
  *Resilience in the Context of Self-Aspects: How Individual, Communal, and Relational Self-Aspects Predict Resilience and Hardiness

* Charles Joseph Clarke, Vermillion, SD
  B.A., University of California - Santa Barbara
  Psychology
  *The Role of Goal Direction in the Expression of Urgent Behavior

Tiffany Cordell, Gettysburg, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Special Education

Donica Jean Crichton, Vermillion, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Speech-Language Pathology

Paul Davies, Pilger, NE
  B.S., Morningside College
  Counseling & Psychology in Education

* Echo Deelstra, Marion, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Amber DeWeerd, Arlington, SD
  B.S.Ed., Dakota State University
  B.S., South Dakota State University
  Elementary Education

Maria Lynn Dokken, Spring Grove, MN
  B.S., Minnesota State University - Mankato
  Speech-Language Pathology

Hannah Kristine Downing, Yankton, SD
  B.A., University of South Dakota
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Kassandra Noel Dunn, Ida Grove, IA
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Addiction Studies

Trent B. Eckstaine
  B.A., Briar Cliff College
  Educational Administration

* Kathryn A. Ellingson, Sisseton, SD
  B.S., Southwest Minnesota State University
  Elementary Education

Kate Grayce Everson, Hartford, SD
  B.A., Augustana College
  Educational Administration

* Ashley Megan Fenner, Rapid City, SD
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota
  Special Education

* Olivia Ford, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Speech-Language Pathology

Alexander M.W. Galinsky, Sioux City, IA
  B.S., Briar Cliff University
  Psychology
  *A Quantum Approach to Word Association

Mark John Galpin, Kimball, SD
  B.A., American Public University System
  Secondary Education

* Amanda M. Gilman, Parkston, SD
  B.S.Ed., Dakota State University
  Educational Administration

Keri A. Halverson
  B.S., University of Wisconsin - River Falls
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Vanessa Marie Hamaker, Spearfish, SD
  B.A., University of South Dakota
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Amanda Joy Hanson, Groton, SD
  B.B.A., Mount Marty College
  Educational Administration

*candidate for degree summer 2015
* Jack Haydon, Saint Paul, MN  
  B.A., Metropolitan State University  
  Educational Administration  
* Kyle Hayes  
  B.A., Saint Anselm College  
  Interdisciplinary Studies  
* Talaina Hayes  
  M.S.W., St. Cloud State University  
  Addiction Studies  
Leslie Ann Hintz, Sioux Falls, SD  
  B.S., University of South Dakota  
  Addiction Studies  
Matt Hittle  
  B.A., University of South Dakota  
  Political Science  
  Grand Old Tea Party: The Tea Party’s Relevance to Republican Conservative Attitudes  
* Lynsey Nicole Hoines, Beresford, SD  
  B.S.Ed., Dakota State University  
  Special Education  
Katie Horstmeyer  
  B.S., University of South Dakota  
  Interdisciplinary Studies  
* Pamela Husk, Le Mars, IA  
  B.A., Morningside College  
  Educational Administration  
* Julie D. Jacobson  
  B.A., University of Northern Iowa  
  Special Education  
Christopher Wayne Johnson, Eden, SD  
  B.A., University of North Dakota  
  Educational Administration  
* Joshua Johnson, North Sioux City, SD  
  B.S., Morningside College  
  Educational Administration  
Tara Lynn Jones, Dayton, MD  
  B.S., Texas A&M University  
  Educational Administration  
Christopher Kaiser, Aberdeen, SD  
  B.A., Northern State University  
  English  
  If it Rains  
* Todd Kennedy  
  B.S., University of South Dakota  
  Educational Administration  
* Kelsi Anne Kinnunen, Irene, SD  
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota  
  Special Education  
Kora Knutson, Porter, MN  
  B.S., University of South Dakota  
  Counseling & Psychology in Education  
* Rebecca Marie Kuyper, Lennox, SD  
  B.S., South Dakota State University  
  Educational Administration  
Kris Lavallee, Vermillion, SD  
  B.G.S., University of South Dakota  
  Special Education  
Margaret Rene Lilebo, Presho, SD  
  B.A.E., University of Nebraska - Kearney  
  Educational Administration  
* Amanda Joy Lohr, Hawarden, IA  
  B.S.Ed., Dakota State University  
  Elementary Education  
* Emily Loughead  
  B.F.A., Temple University  
  Educational Administration  
* John Michael Lubitz, Perham, MN  
  B.S., North Dakota State University  
  Kinesiology & Sport Science  
* Cody Wilmot Lutes, Lakewood, CO  
  B.A., University of Sioux Falls  
  Educational Administration  
Gina Raphael Mairose, Kimball, SD  
  B.A., University of South Dakota  
  English  
Rebecca Joan Mangold, Albert Lea, MN  
  B.A., Northwestern College  
  Counseling & Psychology in Education  
Molly M. Martin  
  B.A., Augustana College  
  Counseling & Psychology in Education  
* Anastasia Maul  
  B.A., Carl v. Ossietzky University - Germany  
  Speech-Language Pathology  
Marisa Ruth Mayer, Stacysville, IA  
  B.A., University of Northern Iowa  
  Speech-Language Pathology  
Ryan Patrick McCarty, Alton, IA  
  B.A., Loras College  
  Interdisciplinary Studies  
Brenna Noelle McClarnon, Burnsville, MN  
  B.A., Augustana College  
  Speech-Language Pathology  
* Melissa Anne Miedema, Grand Forks, ND  
  B.A., University of North Dakota  
  Educational Administration  
Kasey Jo Miller, Hartford, SD  
  B.S., University of South Dakota  
  Special Education  
Caitlin Drew Mitchell, Fernandina Beach, FL  
  B.H.S., University of Florida  
  Speech-Language Pathology  
Jonathan A. Moll  
  M.Ed., DeSales University  
  Educational Administration  
Christopher Claytor Morris, Grand Island, NE  
  B.S.Ed., University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
  Kinesiology & Sport Science  
Betsy J. Mortinsen, Vermillion, SD  
  B.A., University of South Dakota  
  Special Education  
Michael R. Nelson  
  B.A., University of South Dakota  
  B.S., University of South Dakota  
  Secondary Education  
* Alisha Nettestad, Sioux Falls, SD  
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota  
  Speech-Language Pathology  
* Tony C. Norby, Elk Point, SD  
  B.S., University of South Dakota  
  Speech-Language Pathology  
* Eric James Norden, Corsica, SD  
  B.S., South Dakota State University  
  Educational Administration  
* Kayla Joy Orton, Rock Valley, IA  
  B.S., University of South Dakota  
  Speech-Language Pathology  

*candidate for degree summer 2015
* Melanie Petersen, Sioux Falls, SD  
  B.S., Benedictine College  
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Julie Alaine Peterson, Pierre, SD  
  B.S.Ed., Northern State University  
  Elementary Education

Elizabeth Ashleigh Pitcher, Gulfport, MS  
B.S., University of Southern Mississippi  
Secondary Education

* Courtney Evelynne Plath, Yankton, SD  
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota  
  Elementary Education

Rachel A. Prodanovich  
B.A., University of South Dakota  
Communication

Katherine Pudwill, Hartford, SD  
B.A., University of Sioux Falls  
Special Education

Steven Charles Reynolds, Phoenix, AZ  
D.D.S., University of Detroit - Mercy  
Educational Administration

* Jennifer Jo Rice, Gayville, SD  
  B.A., Augustana College  
  Educational Administration

Meighan Michelle Robbins, Brookings, SD  
B.S., Black Hills State University  
Counseling & Psychology in Education

Patricia Roberts-Pizzuto, Burbank, SD  
B.F.A., Ringling College of Art and Design  
Educational Administration

Ember Lynn Rohde, Roshold, SD  
B.S., University of South Dakota  
Counseling & Psychology in Education

Tobias Schantz, Sioux Falls, SD  
B.A., University of South Dakota  
Political Science

Jon Damon Schlienske, Spokane Valley, WA  
B.A., Whitworth University  
Addiction Studies

Julie K. Scott, Rapid City, SD  
B.A., Huron College  
Educational Administration

Allison Seger, Mission, SD  
B.A., Carnegie Mellon University  
Educational Administration

Kelli Serbin  
B.S., Boston College  
Educational Administration

Shahriaz Shaoon, Vermillion, SD  
B.Sc.E., NoaKahli Science and Technology University  
Interdisciplinary Studies

* Taylor Sharpe, Sioux Falls, SD  
  B.A., Augustana College  
  Speech-Language Pathology

Amber Lynn Sherman, Goodwin, SD  
B.S.Ed., Dakota State University  
Elementary Education

* Sarah Sylkhuus, Tea, SD  
  B.S., South Dakota State University  
  Elementary Education

* Tony Charles Sneierman, Waverly, IA  
  B.A., University of Northern Iowa  
  Educational Administration

Christine M. Summering  
M.A., University of South Dakota  
Counseling & Psychology in Education

* Nathan Sutton, Aberdeen, SD  
  B.S., Northern State University  
  Kinesiology & Sport Science

Eric R. Thien  
B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota  
Educational Administration

* Kaci Lorraine Thomas, Sioux Falls, SD  
  B.A., South Dakota State University  
  B.S.Ed., Dakota State University  
  Special Education

* Daniel Richard Thompson, Mapleton, IA  
  B.A., Buena Vista University  
  Kinesiology & Sport Science

Victoria Terrill Thompson, Sioux Falls, SD  
B.A., Augustana College  
Speech-Language Pathology

Eric Devlin Thurston, Wallingford, CT  
B.A., Roger Williams University  
Kinesiology & Sport Science

* Mary K. Travnicek, Scotland, SD  
  B.A., University of Northern Iowa  
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Melissa Vlastuin, Lennox, SD  
  B.S., South Dakota State University  
  Elementary Education

Emili Jayne Vondrak, Kingsley, IA  
M.Ed., Iowa State University  
Counseling & Psychology in Education

* Nathaniel James Weber, Sioux Falls, SD  
  B.A., University of South Dakota  
  Addiction Studies

* Douglas Warren Wedel, Spencer, IA  
  B.A., University of Iowa  
  Special Education

* Kennedy Kristin Welland, Winner, SD  
  B.S., South Dakota State University  
  Speech-Language Pathology

* Alyssa Anne Whetham, Garretson, SD  
  B.A., Mount Marty College  
  Elementary Education

Phylicia Marie White, Castlewood, SD  
B.S., University of South Dakota  
Secondary Education

* Danae Marie Widbin, Columbia Heights, MN  
  B.S., Northwestern College - St. Paul  
  Educational Administration

* John Wesley Yeary, Harrisburg, IL  
  B.A., Indiana University - Kokomo  
  English

* Cormac McCarthy’s Charnel Ground

*candidate for degree summer 2015
Master of Business Administration

Elise Marie Albers, San Jose, IL
B.B.A., University of Memphis
Laura Bremer, Elkton, SD
B.B.A., New Mexico State University
* Ingrid Maruix Carranza, Guayaquil, Ecuador
B.S., University of Central Florida
* Tyce Adam Daggit, Sioux Falls, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
Sarah Marie Donahue, Baltic, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
Brooke Briana Frey, Madison, WI
B.B.A., University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
* Kayla Haeder, Sioux Falls, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
* Philip Thomas Handke, Phoenix, AZ
B.S.B.A., University of Nebraska - Lincoln
* Charles Adrian Kurth, Brown Deer, WI
B.B.A., University of New Mexico
Ryan M. Lauseng, Pierre, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
* Lance Carl Lockwood, Rapid City, SD
M.Div., Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
* David Russell Luepke, Courtland, MN
B.S., Southwest Minnesota State University
Kyle Adam Nickles, Harrisburg, SD
B.S., Southwest Minnesota State University
* Michael Nour, Armour, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
* Stacey Lynn O’Connor, Sioux City, IA
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
* David Manny Place, Sandwich, MA
B.B.A., University of Massachusetts - Amherst
* Jared Joseph Sergeant, Waterloo, IA
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
* Evan Michael VerWey, Sioux Falls, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
* Matthew Todd Westra, Rock Valley, IA
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
Brandon Arnold Widman, Sergeant Bluff, IA
B.S., Morningside College
Andrew Joel Wismer, Omaha, NE
B.A., Northwestern College

Master of Music

John P. Patton
B.Ed., University of Alaska Southeast
Ryan T. Walker
B.A., Luther College
Lessons in Musical Excellence: The Pedagogical Contributions of George Whitefield Chadwick

* candidate for degree summer 2015

Master of Professional Accountancy

Devika Booth, Minnetonka, MN
B.S.B.A., University of Central Florida
Joshua Rodney Burgess, Marshall, MN
B.S., Brigham Young University - Idaho
Kimberly Nicole Campbell, Redmond, WA
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
Alexander Philip David, Grand Rapids, MI
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
Bailey Jean Fish, Brandon, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
Natalia Goukassian, Fort Lauderdale, FL
B.S.B.A., University of Central Florida
Karl Allen Honegger, Broomfield, CO
B.S., University of Northern Colorado
* Isaac John
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
Marty D. Katz
B.S.B.A., Kansas State University
* Romaine Robert Kocer, Sturgis, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
* Wei Lin, Fuzhou, China
B.A., Morningside College
Sailesh R. Pant
M.B.A., Chadron State College
* Samuel Richard Pfeiffer, Aberdeen, SD
B.B.A., University of South Dakota
Jessica Michele Popovice, Key West, FL
B.B.A., University of Miami
* Aaron Michael Sailer, Lincoln, NE
B.S., Concordia University - Nebraska
Wei Wang, Tianjin, SD
B.Ec., Hebei University

Executive Master of Public Administration

* Kelsey L. Baker, Sunburg, MN
B.S., North Dakota State University
* Ginger Moeller, Fort Worth, TX
B.A., Mount Marty College
Curtis Wayne Dean, Johnson, IA
B.A., Buena Vista University
Nichole Hair, Christiansburg, VA
B.A., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
* Colleen Anne McCarthy, Cincinnati, OH
B.F.A., University of Dayton
Raja Cochise Ratnayake, Tooele, UT
B.A., Brigham Young University - Hawaii
Gregory Watson, Santee, CA
M.S.W., California State University - Sacramento

* Aries Rivers Yumul, Santa Rosa, CA
B.A., University of California - San Diego
Educational Administration
Master of Public Administration

Dustin R. Garber
B.A., University of South Dakota
James Fitzgerald Caraway II, Topeka, KS
B.A., University of Wyoming

Master of Science

* Ahmed AL-Beheary, Minneapolis, MN
  B.Com., Cairo University - Egypt
  Administration

* Nahiya M. Anees Abdallateef, Mansoura
  M.D., Mansoura University - Egypt
  Administration

Amanda B. Armstrong, Kittery, ME
B.A., Norwich University
* Administration

* Jeannie Diane Baker, Hartford, SD
  B.A., Augustana College
  Technology for Education & Training

Katie Jo Beech, Slayton, MN
B.S., University of South Dakota
Occupational Therapy

Keshav Bhattarai, Vermillion, SD
B.S.C.E., Tribhuvan University
Computer Science

Emily Nicolina Blaalid, Yankton, SD
B.A., University of South Dakota
Administration

Katie Elizabeth Blaalid, Yankton, SD
B.S., University of South Dakota
Administration

Brianna J. Bridgewater, Edgerton, MN
B.A., Dordt College
Occupational Therapy

* Alex Cahlander-Mooers, Apple Valley, MN
  B.S., Minnesota State University - Mankato
  Biology
  Riparian Vegetation and Land Cover along the
  Great Plains' White River

* Tabatha Kay Carney, Ames, IA
  B.S., Iowa State University
  Administration

* William Benton Colson, Rapid City, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Administration

* Stacy Danielson, Philip, SD
  B.S., South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
  Physician Assistant Studies

Gordon L. Decker
B.S., National American University
Administration

Deanna Rae Dirkschneider, North Bend, NE
B.S., Nebraska Wesleyan University
Occupational Therapy

Jared William Doak, Chico, CA
B.A., California State University - Chico
Occupational Therapy

* Jeff N. Ekle, Pierre, SD
  M.A., University of South Dakota
  Administration

Rickey Ely, Ames, IA
B.S., Iowa State University
Administration

Heidi Elizabeth Enge, Yankton, SD
B.A., Mansfield University
Administration

* Trevor Engelson, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.S., University of Sioux Falls
  Physician Assistant Studies

* Amber Evenson, Scotland, SD
  B.A., Mount Marty College
  Physician Assistant Studies

* Jacqueline Evenham, Hubbard, NE
  B.S., Briar Cliff University
  Physician Assistant Studies

* Jessica Ann Failla, Omaha, NE
  B.A., Bellevue University
  Physician Assistant Studies

McKinzie Jean Fuoss, Miller, SD
B.S., South Dakota State University
Occupational Therapy

* Dawn M. Gelsi-Collins, Franklinville, NJ
  B.A., Villanova University
  Administration

* Chiranjibi Ghimire, Vermillion, SD
  M.S., Tribhuvan University
  Physics
  Understanding Fast Neutrons Utilizing a Water
  Cherenkov Detector and a Gas-filled Detector
  at the Soudan Underground Laboratory

Jeffrey Jon Gilchrist, Nevada, IA
B.A., University of Northern Iowa
Administration

Leela Prasad Goduguchinta, Charavaganapalli
B.E., Anna University - Chennai
Computer Science

* Mitch Gaylord Leroy Grieve, Mitchell, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Physician Assistant Studies

* Tracey L. Gunn, Craig, CO
  B.S., Everest College - Phoenix
  Administration

Alex L. Hamann, Lead, SD
B.S., University of South Dakota
Administration

* Nikol D. Handeland, Volga, SD
  B.A., University of South Dakota
  Administrative Studies

Steven Nathan Harding, Jefferson, SD
B.S., University of South Dakota
Mathematics
  Generalized Walsh Transforms, Cuntz
  Algebras Representations and Applications in
  Signal Processing

* Stephanie Leigh Haugen-Brown, Black Hawk,
  SD
  B.S., National American University
  Administration

*candidate for degree summer 2015
* Kimberly Erin Hayden, Rapid City, SD
  B.S., South Dakota State University
  Physician Assistant Studies
* Michael Steven Henneberg, Great Falls, MT
  B.S., University of North Dakota
  Administration
Brooke Jean Hillman, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Occupational Therapy
Amber Mae Hobert, Harrold, SD
  B.A., University of Sioux Falls
  Administration
* Mariah Marie Hoffman, Harrisburg, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Chemistry
  Photophysical and Chemical Processes
  Controlling the Fluorescence of
  Anthraquinone-18-Crown-5 Derivatives
Sydney Horton, Marion, SD
  B.S., Dakota State University
  Occupational Therapy
Md. Yeathad Hossan
  M.S., University of Dhaka - Bangladesh
  Chemistry
  Explaining the Nanoscale Effect in the
  Upconversion Dynamics of b-
  NaYF₄:Yb³⁺:Er³⁺ Core and Core/Shell
  Nanomaterials
Brianna M. Jackson
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Occupational Therapy
Jenna Lynn Kapels, Columbus, NE
  B.S., Doane College
  Occupational Therapy
Kimberly Ann Karras, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.A., Augustana College
  Administration
Alexandra Macie Klaahsen, Little Rock, IA
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Occupational Therapy
Duane L. Kraayenbrink, Sioux City, IA
  B.A., Dordt College
  Administration
* Joel Alan Kraayenbrink, Hull, IA
  B.S., Grand Canyon University
  Physician Assistant Studies
Erin Krause, Tekamah, NE
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Occupational Therapy
* Grant Arthur Lannoye, Churches Ferry, ND
  B.S., North Dakota State University
  Physician Assistant Studies
Christina M. Lapierre, Berlin, CT
  B.S., Kaplan University
  Administration
Myles T. Larsen
  B.S., South Dakota State University
  Technology for Education & Training
Paige R. Liess, Grand Island, NE
  B.S., University of Nebraska - Kearney
  Occupational Therapy
* Raychel Jo Lorenz, Vermillion, SD
  B.S., University of Nebraska - Lincoln
  Physician Assistant Studies
* Natasha Mae Luchtenburg, Estelline, SD
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota
  Technology for Education & Training
* John D. Ludwig, Le Mars, IA
  B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota
  Technology for Education & Training
* Jessica Lynde, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Physician Assistant Studies
Nicole Raelynne Madden, Pierre, SD
  B.B.A., University of South Dakota
  Occupational Therapy
* Tessa Lea McKenna, Mabel, MN
  B.A., South Dakota State University
  Physician Assistant Studies
* Chet McManus, Alexandria, SD
  B.A., Dakota Wesleyan University
  Physician Assistant Studies
Amanda Mentzer, Miller, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Occupational Therapy
* Marissa Kay Meyer, Mitchell, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Physician Assistant Studies
Kristine Leigh Meyers, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.S., University of Nebraska - Lincoln
  Occupational Therapy
Brittney Marie Mikkelsen, Lennox, SD
  B.A., Mount Marty
  Occupational Therapy
Kalyana T. Mondrell
  B.D.S., GITAM Dental College & Hospital
  Administration
* Kali Nicole Myrile, Larchwood, IA
  B.S., South Dakota State University
  Physician Assistant Studies
* Jordana Renae Neesen, Sioux Falls, SD
  B.S., South Dakota State University
  Physician Assistant Studies
* Ashley Lyn Neesen, Rapid City, SD
  B.S., South Dakota State University
  Physician Assistant Studies
Craig Alan Nyreen, Sioux City, IA
  B.G.S., Samford University
  Administrative Studies
Deirdra Ann Pappan, Macy, NE
  B.S.B.A., University of Nebraska - Lincoln
  Administration
Deanna Christine Parker, Lennox, SD
  B.A., University of South Dakota
  Administration
* Christopher Joseph Peluso, Wadena, MN
  B.S., Bemidji State University
  Physician Assistant Studies
Jelena Peric, Loznica
  B.S.N., Arizona State University
  Administration
* Kirsten L. Persson, Stickney, SD
  M.S.W., University of Kansas
  Physician Assistant Studies
* Jay Allen Pipes, Yankton, SD
  B.S., University of South Dakota
  Administration
Erin Christina Planting, Sioux Falls, SD
B.A., Augustana College Administration
* Matthew Jonathan Rabine, Portland, ME
M.A., Lee University Technology for Education & Training
Julian Matthew Ramos, Albuquerque, NM
B.B.A., Texas Tech University Administration
* Janessa Marie Randby, Sioux Falls, SD
B.S.Ed., University of South Dakota Technology for Education & Training
Roshay Ashley Reimers, Lakefield, MN
B.S., University of South Dakota Occupational Therapy
* Angela Mainola Rizzo, Woodstock, GA
B.A., University of Delaware Administration
Rachel Roth, Sioux Falls, SD
B.S., University of South Dakota Occupational Therapy
* Keri Ellen Simonds, Grand Island, NE
B.S., University of Nebraska - Lincoln Physician Assistant Studies
Anna Clair Smith, Laramie, WY
B.S., University of Wyoming Occupational Therapy
Lora Bea Smith, Fairfield, MT
B.S., Montana State University Occupational Therapy
Hannah Kathryn Softley, David City, NE
B.S., Nebraska Wesleyan University Occupational Therapy
Rajeshwari R. Solanki, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
M.Pharm., L.M. College of Pharmacy - India Basic Biomedical Sciences Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Altered Stress Sensitivity During Amphetamine Withdrawal in Male Rats
Li Song, China
B.N., Deakin University - Australia Administration
Nicole Andrianna Sowards, Rapid City, SD
B.S., University of South Dakota Occupational Therapy
* Angela Jo Sprague, Belle Fourche, SD
B.S., University of Wyoming Physician Assistant Studies
* Casaundra Bridges Stanley, Buford, GA
B.S., University of Alabama Administration
Lisa Elaine Stanley, Sioux Falls, SD
B.S., University of South Dakota Administration
Cindy Marie Syrovatka, Lesterville, SD
B.S., South Dakota State University Occupational Therapy
* Marc Joseph Tobin, Sioux Falls, SD
D.C., Northwestern Health Sciences University Physician Assistant Studies
* Danielle Collette Trageser, Lake Benton, MN
B.S., University of South Dakota Physician Assistant Studies
* candidate for degree summer 2015

Austin Robert Unruh, Minneapolis, MN
B.S., University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Occupational Therapy
* David Jon Van't Hul, Sheldon, IA
B.S., Franklin University Administration
Shelton Jesuraj Pragash Varapragasam, Vermillion, SD
M.S., University of Peradeniya - Sri Lanka Chemistry
Synthesis and Characterization of Hollow Structured Mn3O4 nanoparticles
* Rachele N. Vitero, Colome, SD
B.S., South Dakota State University Physician Assistant Studies
* Erik Matthew Wang, Woodbury, MN
B.A., Augustana College Technology for Education & Training
* Yang Wang, Redlands, CA
B.A., University of California - San Diego Administration
Taylor Anne Wheeler, Mitchell, SD
B.S., University of Sioux Falls Occupational Therapy
* Bryant Greg Wieking, Sioux Falls, SD
B.A., Northwestern College Physician Assistant Studies
Debra Lynne Wolff, Waukee, IA
B.S., Independence University Administration

University Honors Program

The designation of University Scholar is a unique and significant honor granted to an undergraduate student by The University. In addition to high level scholarship, it requires participation in the University Honors Program culminating in successful completion of a substantial senior project.

University Scholar

Presented by James W. Abbott

Shannon Rae Graham, Columbus, NE
Bachelor of Science, Economics, Mathematics
Murder, She Analyzed: Predicting Crime Television Viewership Using Content Analysis and Multiple Regression Analysis
* Brandon Joseph Hanten, White Lake, SD
Bachelor of Science, Biology
TRP Mediated Differential Modulation of Nociceptive and Non-Nociceptive Behavior by Endovanilloids
Baccalaureate & Associate Degrees

College of Arts & Sciences

Presented by Dean Matthew Moen

Bachelor of Arts

Stephen M. Almond
Media & Journalism

* Sara N. Benson
Political Science, Spanish, International Studies

* candidate for degree summer 2015
Bachelor of General Studies

Christopher Alan Bergeson, Gayville, SD
James Michael Borges, Fallbrook, CA
Stephanie Jo Darnell, Wausau, WI
Nicholas Jeffrey Jacobs, Delano, MN
Jason M. Jorde
Steven Rolf Kinsella, St. Paul, MN
Timeaki Sharhania McPhee, Hermosa, SD
Katie A. Rangel
Daniel T. Roberts, Sioux Falls, SD
Daniel Scott Rogotzke, Martin, SD
Susan E. Simpler, Yuma, AZ
Brian Christopher Tesch, Renton, WA
Christopher Thomas Tyler, Omaha, NE
Kerry J. Von Holtum, Worthington, MN

Bachelor of Science

Seryna Layne Adams, Pierre, SD
Roman Yuryevich Cherdenik, Sioux Falls, SD
Mikaela Marie Anderson, Wagner, SD
University Scholar Graduate
Catherine Celeste Beall, Scotland, SD
Trevor George Bertsch, Menno, SD
Sara Elizabeth Bethke, Sioux Falls, SD
University Scholar Graduate, Summa Cum Laude

*candidate for degree summer 2015
Karli Ann Jones, Britton, SD
Communication Studies
Cum Laude
Mitchell P. Kearns
Criminal Justice
Shan S. Khan
Contemporary Media & Journalism
Tyler Ryan Kittle, Rapid City, SD
Biology
* Samuel Krier, Herrick, SD
Criminal Justice
Jordyn Jean Larson, Fulda, MN
Medical Biology
University Scholar Graduate, Magna Cum Laude
Laura Mae Leiting, Worthington, MN
Biology
Hope Annette Lindstrom, Beresford, SD
Mathematics
Kyle Sean Loecker, Yankton, SD
Criminal Justice
Kendall W. Martin
Criminal Justice
Caitlin Elizabeth McAdarragh, Sioux Falls, SD
English
* Megan Kay McCann, Sioux City, IA
Psychology
Robert J. Mertens
Earth Science
* Alexander D. Miller, Sioux City, IA
Psychology
* Allison Elizabeth Miller, Porter, MN
Psychology
* Kia Marie Miller, Draper, SD
Communication Sciences & Disorders
Jaynie Mitchell, Louisville, KY
Psychology
Kendra Mulder, Canton, MN
Criminal Justice, Political Science
* Dannial Raymond Myers, Alexandria, MN
Criminal Justice
Madilyn J. Myers
Psychology
Emma C. Nilsen
Media & Journalism
Ojuol O. Ojjang
Philosophy
Erick Scott Peterson, Sioux Falls, SD
History
Magna Cum Laude
Abigail Jordan Pierce, Luverne, MN
Media & Journalism
Cum Laude
Colleen Marie Reeves, Rogers, MN
Mathematics
* Tyler Richardson, Rapid City, SD
Medical Biology
Courtney Rae Roberts, Niobrara, NE
Psychology
Chance J. Roth
Media & Journalism
* Kelli Jo Silvernail, Yankton, SD
Criminal Justice
Samantha Kay Sivertsen, Miller, SD
Psychology
Magna Cum Laude
* Pierce Jeffrey Smith, Alexandria, SD
Biology
Cum Laude
* Billie Jo Lynn Sowinski, Redfield, SD
Criminal Justice
Magna Cum Laude
* Jaime Lynn Spomer, Sioux Falls, SD
Economics
Jennifer Jean Spurlock, Livingston, MT
Psychology
Kyle T. Staples, Fresno, CA
Criminal Justice
Nicolas David Steilen, Alexandria, SD
Psychology
Jason Lee Thiel, Fort Morgan, SD
Political Science
Cum Laude
* Adam Nathan Campbell Thoseby, Melbourne
Computer Science
* Lena Thi Tran, Sioux Falls, SD
Communication Studies
Kelsey Sue Van Patten, Sioux City, IA
Criminal Justice
Emily Dawn VanGerpen, Avon, SD
Media & Journalism, Psychology
Brandon Vilhauer
Media & Journalism
Mitchell D. Wagner
Physics
University Scholar Graduate, Cum Laude
* Brooke Marie Weber, Sioux Falls, SD
Criminal Justice
* Emily Rebecca Weinstein, Vermillion, SD
Psychology, English
* Lee T. Wessel
Biology
Courtney Ann Whitlock, Jefferson, SD
Biology
Marysa R. Wilson
Biology, Psychology
University Scholar Graduate, Cum Laude
* Nicholas Paul Wullweber, Redfield, SD
Biology
Nathan J. Wynia, Canton, SD
Mathematics
Magna Cum Laude
Jackson Patrick Yates, Jefferson, SD
History
Associate of Arts
* Tyler Ronald Carter, Elk Point, SD
Troy Joseph Christians, Wilmont, MN
Debra Kay Erdahl, Bristol, SD
With Highest Honor
* Caitlyn Alexa O’Brien, Tigard, OR
With Honor
Stacy Ann Starzl, Yankton, SD
Christine Renee Sweers, Lead, SD
*candidate for degree summer 2015
Beacom School of Business
Presented by
Dean Venky Venkatachalam
Bachelor of Business Administration

Kyle Jens Anderson, Yankton, SD
Accounting
* MaKenzi Taylor Balukoff, Glidden, IA
Health Services Administration
Summa Cum Laude
Jori Amanda Bartlett, Timber Lake, SD
Health Services Administration
Rheann Flint Brekke, Sioux Falls, SD
Management Cum Laude
Sara Ann Burbach, Tabor, SD
Health Services Administration
Summa Cum Laude
Taylor John Casey, Rapid City, SD
Management Cum Laude
* Mary Charles, Howard, SD
Management
Macie Ann Coburn, Garretson, SD
Accounting
Ryan Comer, Rapid City, SD
Finance
Anna Mae Cramer, Huron, SD
Health Services Administration
Magna Cum Laude
Alexander Phillip David, Grand Rapids, MI
Accounting
Summa Cum Laude
Marisa Eliana Draper, Garretson, SD
Accounting
Magna Cum Laude
Victor Alfonso Duarte, Los Angeles, CA
Management
Drew Garret Engesmoe, Lennox, SD
Management
Cum Laude
Bailey Jean Fish, Brandon, SD
Accounting
Summa Cum Laude
Erik Jonathan Forman, Brandon, SD
Business Administration
Lacey Jane Fosheim, Webster, SD
Management
Brittani Michelle Gaether, Viborg, SD
Health Services Administration
Michael Robert Gallo, Barre, VT
Management
* Carly Gravning, Sioux Falls, SD
Accounting
Cum Laude
Laura Elizabeth Grinsell, Sioux Falls, SD
Finance
Matthew Haase, Brandon, SD
Finance
Katarina Leila Hammoud, Burnsville, MN
Marketing
Andrew A. Hanson
Management
Thuy Quyen Thi Ho, Vermillion, SD
Management
Collin Anthony Huether, Wall, SD
Management
* Jeremy Michael Jansen, Emery, SD
Accounting
* Samantha Angelina Kriech, Waubay, SD
Human Resource Management
Efrain Ernesto Lainez, Sioux Falls, SD
Finance
Melissa Jean Lange, Randolph, NE
Finance
Magna Cum Laude
* Aaron Joseph Lewis, Fargo, ND
Accounting
* Jeffrey Sean Loecker, Yankton, SD
Management
Summa Cum Laude
Nichole Ann Marie Mack, Le Mars, IA
Marketing
Joseph Christian Mason, Kingsley, IA
Health Services Administration
Jessica L. Matney, Vermillion, SD
Accounting
Nora Elaine Michel, Sioux Falls, SD
Accounting
Mariah Jo Miller, Hinton, IA
Management
Nicholas Phillip Monahan, Wayne, NE
Accounting
Summa Cum Laude
Tyler Monica, Sioux Falls, SD
Health Services Administration
Summa Cum Laude
* Mitchell Lee Nelson, Vermillion, SD
Management
Lanning Kenneth Norberg, Burke, SD
Management
Cum Laude
Tyler T. Osterloo
Management
Tiffany Pearson, Sioux Falls, SD
Accounting
Kami Rae Peters, Hartford, SD
Accounting
Ashley Pickner, Pukwana, SD
Accounting
Matt G. Snowden
Management
Marissa Leigh Sobaskie, Sioux Falls, SD
Accounting
Summa Cum Laude
* Allison J. Sonnenburg
Management
Adam D. Spektor
Finance
*candidate for degree summer 2015
* Lance Allen Steen, Valley Springs, SD  
Management  
Angela Swanson, Larchwood, IA  
Health Services Administration  
Magna Cum Laude  
Christopher Matthew Theobald, Sparta, IL  
Finance  
Cum Laude  
* Austin Ross Tschetter, Lennox, SD  
Accounting  
* Ryan Van Vugt, Orange City, IA  
Health Services Administration  
Bethany Vasek, Hancock, MN  
Management  
Cum Laude  
Emily S. Vasek  
Management  
Magna Cum Laude  
* Yunchao Wang, Hulunbier  
Human Resource Management  
Nicole Mitsuko Warns, Okinawa  
Accounting  
Alex Welding, Sergeant Bluff, IA  
Management  
Brandie Wenham, Sioux City, IA  
Management  
Jacquelyn Angela Wilson, Lemmon, SD  
Management  
University Scholar Graduate, Cum Laude  
Hunter Nelson Winklepleck, Sioux Falls, SD  
Health Services Administration  
Magna Cum Laude  
Keesha Kylea Witte, Fort Worth, TX  
Accounting  
Cum Laude  

School of Education
Presented by Dean Donald Easton-Brooks

Bachelor of Science

* Brandon William Bos, Markham  
Kinesiology & Sport Science  
Cum Laude  
* Dakota Daniel Clark, Orono, MN  
Kinesiology & Sport Science  
* Anthony Dadamo  
Kinesiology & Sport Science  
* Katherine Marie Dailey, Kansas City, KS  
Kinesiology & Sport Science  
* Katie Delaney Reid Dinning, Omaha, NE  
Kinesiology & Sport Science  
Tanner Dane Dowling, Le Mars, IA  
Kinesiology & Sport Science  
* Cody John Dozark, Delmont, SD  
Kinesiology & Sport Science  
Rebecca Lynn Dykstra, Brandon, SD  
Kinesiology & Sport Science  
Summa Cum Laude

* candidate for degree summer 2015

Bachelor of Science in Education

Alexandra Alyssa Ausland, Harrisburg, SD  
Elementary Education

Elizabeth Ellen Beall, Scotland, SD  
Biology Education

Samantha Rose Bialas, Parkston, SD  
Elementary Education  
Cum Laude

Makena Ryan Cameron, Cheyenne, WY  
Elementary Education  
Magna Cum Laude

Shannon Lorraine Daly, Groton, SD  
Elementary Education

Melissa Katherine Dellman, Sioux Falls, SD  
Elementary Education  
Magna Cum Laude

Jamie Allyn Eslinger, Garretson, SD  
Elementary Education, Special Education
Kayla Marie Freese, Huron, SD  
Elementary Education  
Cum Laude

Patrick James Gatzke, Newell, SD  
Physical Education  
Magna Cum Laude

Lindsey Ann Goodale, Harrisburg, SD  
Biology Education  
Riley Ann Haug, Omaha, NE  
Elementary Education  
Cum Laude

Tyler David Husby, Vermillion, SD  
Physical Education

Kathryn E. Keifer, Belden, NE  
Elementary Education  
Summa Cum Laude

Cassondra Rose Keller, Box Elder, SD  
Elementary Education, Special Education  
Cum Laude

Clara Irene Kolbo, Papillion, NE  
Physical Education

Kendall Marie Kritenbrink, Gretna, NE  
Elementary Education  
Cum Laude

Molly Kae Ladwig, Schuyler, NE  
Elementary Education, Special Education  
Shannon Lorraine Lehnberg, Groton, SD  
Elementary Education

Reese Jasper Lewon, Bronson, IA  
Elementary Education, Special Education

Allison Ray McCuen, Sioux Falls, SD  
Elementary Education, Special Education  
Amy L. McLaury  
History Education  
Cum Laude

Kaleigh Vaida Morford, Box Elder, SD  
Elementary Education, Special Education  
Cum Laude

Luxmi Marié Therese O'Connell, Eden Prairie, MN  
History Education

Jenna Alesie Phipps, Cherokee, IA  
Elementary Education

Taylor Rae Pirie, Okoboji, IA  
Elementary Education

Kaitlin Ali Porter, Prior Lake, MN  
English Education

Erica Brooke Vande Hoef, Rock Valley, IA  
Elementary Education, Special Education  
Magna Cum Laude

Megan Ann Waldner, Huron, SD  
Elementary Education  
Magna Cum Laude

Katelyn Wudel, Elmhurst, IL  
Elementary Education, Special Education  
Cum Laude

Hannah Grace Yoskovich, Milan, MI  
Elementary Education

* candidate for degree summer 2015

College of Fine Arts

Bachelor of Fine Arts

* Jill N. Clark  
Theatre

Gabrielle Eve Emmett, Sioux Falls, SD  
Art Education  
Cum Laude

* Angela Marie Meyer, Melvin, IA  
Art  
Cum Laude

Emmalene Aubrey Raasch, Norfolk, NE  
Art

Kelly J. Smith  
Art

Karlie Lane Valer, Huron, SD  
Art Education

Brooke Lynn Van Arsdol, Denison, IA  
Art Education

Nathanial Thomas Vogel, Glendale, AZ  
Theatre

Bachelor of Music

Joshua James Etherington, Albert Lea, MN  
Music Education

Rymma Maslova, Kiev, Ukraine  
Music Performance  
Cum Laude

Jacob Roy Matheson, Forest Lake, MN  
Music Education

Brian Andrew Rasmussen, Sioux City, IA  
Music Education, Music Performance  
Magna Cum Laude

Samuel Townsend Schroeder, Le Mars, IA  
Music Education  
Summa Cum Laude

Bachelor of Musical Arts

Dallas Jay Doane, Whiting, IA  
Cum Laude

School of Health Sciences

Presented by Dean Michael Lawler

Bachelor of Science

Emebet Tariku Abebe, Ethiopia  
Health Sciences
Yuliya Adamyan, Sioux Falls, SD
Health Sciences
Cum Laude

Sandra Arvay, Tampa, FL
Health Sciences

Courtney Lee Balliet, Rapid City, SD
Addiction Studies

Stephanie Joyce Beard, Yankton, SD
Health Sciences

* Elizabeth Braun, Yankton, SD
Social Work
Cum Laude

Lindsay Ann Brewer, Sioux Falls, SD
Medical Laboratory Science
Cum Laude

Jillian S. Bryan
Social Work

Molly Elizabeth Cape, Hot Springs, SD
Health Sciences

* Stephanie Faye Carnes, Beresford, SD
Health Sciences

* Cory Dean Carpenter, Powell, WY
Addiction Studies

Jasmine Renee Chaney, Atlanta, GA
Health Sciences

* Mollie Lynn Cole, Parker, SD
Social Work

Michelle Donelson, Lennox, SD
Social Work

Samantha Jo Draskovich, Marion, SD
Health Sciences

* Cianna Marie Eriksen, Northfield, MN
Health Sciences
Magna Cum Laude

Whitley Kaye Falar, Kimball, SD
Health Sciences
Magna Cum Laude

Blake Alan Frederick, Lincoln, NE
Health Sciences
Cum Laude

Courtney Marie Freng, Pierre, SD
Addiction Studies

* Lauren Furth, New Ulm, MN
Social Work

* Jamie Kimberly George, Atlanta, GA
Health Sciences

Shane Michael Gerlach, Yankton, SD
Addiction Studies

Sarah Gliese, Sioux Falls, SD
Addiction Studies

Cindy Granum, Sioux Falls, SD
Health Sciences

* Erika Ann Gravning, Sioux Falls, SD
Addiction Studies

* woman for degree summer 2015

* Kourtney Sue Hauge, White Lake, SD
Health Sciences
Cum Laude

* Brenda M. Higman
Health Sciences

Ryan Thomas Hillier, Lee’s Summit, MO
Health Sciences

Breanna Jorgenson, Colton, SD
Health Sciences

* Adrianna Megumi Jumping Eagle, Los Angeles, CA
Addiction Studies

* Isabel Grace Kirchner, Dundee, MN
Health Sciences

* Sara H. P. Koupal, Herrick, SD
Health Sciences

Carla Elizabeth Lauck, Crooks, SD
Health Sciences

Baljit Madhara, Fremont, CA
Health Sciences

* Alicia Julia Martens, New Ulm, MN
Social Work

* Kara Kristi Martin, Freeland, WA
Health Sciences

Alexander David McKee, Yankton, SD
Health Sciences

University Scholar Graduate, Magna Cum Laude

Taylor Medina, Torrington, CT
Health Sciences

Michelle L. Melin
Health Sciences

* Allison Elizabeth Miller, Porter, MN
Social Work

Jesse Miller, Pipestone, MN
Social Work

Audrey Joy Minner, Sioux Falls, SD
Health Sciences

* Flora Mpemba Mulenda, Sioux Falls, SD
Health Sciences

* Maria H. Nguyen, Sioux Falls, SD
Health Sciences

* Shelby Rae Olson, Aberdeen, SD
Addiction Studies

* Elora Alexandra Pebbles, Rapid City, SD
Addiction Studies

McKaila R. Pergeson
Health Sciences

Kendra Rae Powers, York, NE
Health Sciences

* Natalie Aileen Randall, Rapid City, SD
Health Sciences

* Heather Christyne Reikofski, Crescent, IA
Social Work
Summa Cum Laude

* Jason John Reitz, Rapid City, SD
Health Sciences

* Trista Marie Rollins, Le Mars, IA
Addiction Studies

Michael S. Ross
Health Sciences

Gloria Rowen, Pierre, SD
Social Work
Magna Cum Laude
* Jennifer Marie Schloendorf, Pipestone, MN
  Social Work
Kimberly Marie Schwint, Storm Lake, IA
  Health Sciences
Nathan Paul Semrau, Parker, SD
  Health Sciences
Judy Silva, Lindsay, CA
  Health Sciences
Julie Smith, Lake Norden, SD
  Health Sciences
Cum Laude
Tonya M. Spring
  Health Sciences
Alexia Stubbs, Orlando, FL
  Health Sciences
* Heather Anne Texley, Sioux Falls, SD
  Health Sciences
Nicholas Thomas Thielien, Elkton, SD
  Health Sciences
Kelsie Jo Thomas, Sioux Falls, SD
  Health Sciences
Magna Cum Laude
Emily Ann Tilberg, Mitchell, SD
  Addiction Studies
Allison P. Vogel
  Health Sciences
* Hannah Kay Wallin, Sioux Falls, SD
  Health Sciences
* Amber Marie Watson, Columbus, NE
  Social Work
University Scholar Graduate, Summa Cum Laude
  Amber Wightman, O'Neill, NE
  Health Sciences
Rebecca Wirth, Yankton, SD
  Health Sciences
* Reanne Zahn, Sioux Falls, SD
  Addiction Studies, Social Work
* Zebiba Mengisteb Zere, Sioux Falls, SD
  Social Work
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Jana Ruth Anderson, Westminster, CO
Samantha Lee Bachmann, Chaska, MN
Jennifer Jean Barber, Sioux Falls, SD
Magna Cum Laude
Dawn M. Berndt
Brittany K. Bielau
Elisabeth Biso, Sioux Falls, SD
Carly Donet Boom, Hartford, SD
Brittany Marie Brees, Sioux Falls, SD
Sara Ann Broders, Freeman, SD
Caitlin Joelle Broek, Watertown, SD
Hailey Jo Brown, Brandon, SD
* Ali Joan Bures, Sioux Falls, SD
Nick A. Christensen
Regan Claus, Inwood, IA
Jodie Lynn Colwell, Sioux Falls, SD
Angela Jean Cordell, Pierre, SD
John Michael Cotton, Wagner, SD
Teri Lynn Countryman, Sioux Falls, SD
Sara Lynn Dahl, Sioux Falls, SD
Allison DeCurtins, Arlington, SD
Brittany Eckman, Sioux Falls, SD
Jace A. Eckstaine
Brittany Edman, Volga, SD
Jennifer Joy Edwards, Worthing, SD
Lisa Elaine Ek, Willow Lake, SD
Hillary Renea Eke, Canton, SD
Kiley J. Elsinger
Michelle Erlandson, Watertown, SD
* Heidi R. Folden
Jill Marie Friberg, Beresford, SD
Kristi Jo Grace, Sioux City, IA
Vanessa Joy Gravedoni, Yankton, SD
Corina Marie Hanson, Marietta, MN
Rachel Kim Hanson, Renner, SD
Barbara Joan Hardwick, Viborg, SD
Adriane Lynn Hargest, Robbinsdale, MN
Jake Alexander Harms, Sioux Falls, SD
Jessica Lyn Hauff, Tea, SD
Anthony Scott Henderson, Vermillion, SD
Leah Lynn Herpst, Hawarden, IA
Danica Dawn Hoffman, Rapid City, SD
Abigail B. Hubble
MaKayla Dawn Hudson, Vermillion, SD
Casea Jo Hughes, Sioux Falls, SD
Valerie May Husby, Sioux Falls, SD
Tyler Jackson, Huron, SD
Helen Nicole Johnson, Avoca, IA
Rebecca Johnson, Summerset, SD
Matley Jade Jones, Lincoln, NE
Jennifer Lynn Jungemann, Wolsey, SD
Amber Louise Kelley, Worthington, MN
Ellyn Loiseau Kennedy, Vermillion, SD
Danielle Jenae King, Sioux Falls, SD
Kelly Louise Knappen, Ashby, NE
* Kelli Jo Korstjens, Milbank, SD
Amanda J. Kulish
Jami Lynn Larson, Pierre, SD
Dana Lynn Mach, Viborg, SD
Aaron D. McNeely
Andrea A. Miller
Sara J. Miller
Laura Ashley Mullen, Sioux City, IA
Ashlyn Lea Nase, Worthington, MN
Casey T. Nelson
Nicole Michelle Plueger, Le Mars, IA
Saviena Rago, Sioux Falls, SD
* Janet Marie Ray, Humboldt, SD
Mitchell Jacob Reif, Colman, SD
Suzie M. Richards
Cum Laude
Brittney M. Roby
Melanie Lynn Sargeant, Rapid City, SD
Kristen Lee Sayler, Yankton, SD
Magna Cum Laude
Caitlin Schenkel, Sioux Falls, SD
Cum Laude
Lea Emily Sedlacek, Harrisburg, SD
Matthew Alan Smith, Owatonna, MN
Cum Laude
Lara Jean Souhrada, Yankton, SD
Cum Laude
*candidate for degree summer 2015
Carrie Stewart Blanford, Phoenix, AZ
Sara Joy Strand, Hot Springs, SD
Julie Ann Sunde, Sioux Falls, SD
Samantha Dawn Taft, Rapid City, SD
Magna Cum Laude
Heather Rae Thomas, Clear Lake, SD
Brian Jeffrey VanMeeteren, Yankton, SD
Magna Cum Laude
Brandon Joseph Weber, Mitchell, SD
Cum Laude
Tanner Alan White, Sioux Falls, SD
Mary Elizabeth Wilch, St. Paul, MN
Cum Laude
Danielle Elise Winge, Minneapolis, MN
Abby Winkels, Watertown, SD
Cum Laude
Jessie L. Wolf
Kelsey Lynn Zastoupil, Fargo, ND
Summa Cum Laude
Emily Brooke Zeller, Elk Point, SD
Cum Laude

An academics and research leader in South Dakota and the region since 1862, The University of South Dakota is the state’s flagship liberal arts institution.

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*candidate for degree summer 2015
Academic Honors

To earn an honors designation at graduation, the baccalaureate-level graduate must have completed at least 60 hours of USD credit and must meet the following USD and cumulative grade point averages:

Summa Cum Laude equal to or greater than 3.9  
Magna Cum Laude equal to or greater than 3.7  
Cum Laude equal to or greater than 3.5

To earn an honors designation at graduation, the associate-level graduate must have completed at least 30 hours of USD credit and must meet the following USD and cumulative grade point averages:

With Highest Honor equal to or greater than 3.9  
With High Honor equal to or greater than 3.7  
With Honor equal to or greater than 3.5

Honor Societies

Honor societies wear specially designed stoles, cords or medallions. The designations are listed below:

Beta Gamma Sigma......................................................................Blue Ribbon with medallion  
Chi Sigma Iota................................................................................Blue & White honor cords  
Golden Key International Honour Society..............................................Blue & Gold honor cord  
Mortar Board...............................................................................Gold & Silver Interlaced honor cords  
National Society of Leadership and Success......................................Black & Platinum silk honor cords  
Omicron Delta Epsilon..................................................Blue & Gold honor cords  
Omega Delta Kappa..........................................................White, Black & Blue twisted cords  
Order of Omega...........................................................................White & Gold double cords  
Phi Alpha Sigma Theta..................................................................Yellow & Blue ribbons with gold medallion  
Phi Alpha Theta............................................................................Red & Blue honor cords  
Phi Beta Kappa Society..............................................................Light Blue & Light Pink honor cords  
Pi Alpha.............................................................................................Blue & Green honor cords  
Pi Mu Epsilon......................................................................................Purple & Gold honor cords  
Psi-Chi Psychology Club..........................................................Double Gold cord with Blue & Gold tassel  
Scholarship Pathways Program......................................................Gold Medallion with red ribbon  
Sigma Delta Pi..................................................................................Red & Gold honor cords  
University Honors Program............................................................Gold stole

Faculty wearing medals with a red ribbon are recipients of a Belbas-Larson Award, given as the university’s highest honor for teaching excellence; faculty wearing a red/white ribbon are recipients of Richard and Sharon Cutler Awards, given by the College of Arts and Sciences for promoting liberal arts education through teaching and research.
The tradition of academic costume has a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townsmen wore long flowing robes or gowns. The materials and colors varied greatly, according to wealth and rank of the individual, and were governed by royal decree. Gradually there developed distinctive gowns for the various professions, trades and guilds. They survive today in the gowns of religious orders, the judiciary and the academic regalia.

The gowns worn by the recipients of the various degrees vary somewhat in design. The sleeves of the gown worn by recipients of the baccalaureate degree are long and pointed, while the sleeves of the gown worn by the master's degree recipients are square at one end with a slit at the elbow. The doctor's gown has flowing sleeves with three bars of velvet and facing of velvet down the front of the gown.

Most distinctive of the academic regalia is the hood, which serves as identification of the graduate degree and the institution where the degree was awarded. The hood is lined with silk in the official colors of the institution. Thus, the hood of The University of South Dakota is lined in red. The trim is velvet, three inches wide for the master's degree and five inches wide for the doctor's degree. The color of the velvet border indicates the degree.

The academic cap was developed in the fifteenth century. Some caps were stiff, some soft, some square, some round, with a tuft in the center. The tassel used today is an elaboration of the tuft. While some institutions still use the round caps, most institutions have adopted the "mortar board" style which comes from Oxford. The tassel for graduate degrees may be black, except that a gold bullion tassel may be worn by recipients of the doctorate. The tassel's color indicates the discipline in which the degree has been earned. The tassel colors are shown below:

Arts and Sciences...............................................................White  
Business.............................................................................Sapphire Blue  
Education.................................................................Light Blue  
Fine Arts (Art and Theatre).......................................Brown  
Fine Arts (Music)..............................................................Pink  
Health Sciences..........................................................Green  
Law..............................................................................Purple  
Medicine.................................................................Green