The College of Arts & Sciences invites the public to a weeklong series of events that honors the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences.

Named “Celebrating the Liberal Arts and Sciences,” the event is Tuesday, Oct. 18 through Friday, Oct. 21, and includes lectures, roundtables and other student engagement activities that showcase the elements of liberal education.

The college’s annual lecture on liberal education, the Harrington Lecture, is a signature event during the week. David Swanson, professor of biology and director of research at the Missouri River Institute, has traveled the world studying bird physiology, including a year in Chile as a Fulbright scholar. The public is welcome to his lecture, which will blend liberal education and research, on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. in Farber Hall.

Jill Tyler, professor and chair of communication studies, is organizing the week’s activities, which she sees as a chance to underscore the value of an education in the liberal arts and sciences.

She cites examples from nationally-known author and Vermillion native Geoff Colvin, who will speak at USD during the week. Colvin authored the book *Humans Are Underrated: What High Achievers Know That Brilliant Machines Never Will* and argues that technology is unlikely to displace human skills and interactions.

South Dakota’s Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society installed its first members at USD’s College of Arts & Sciences on June 4, 1926. Ninety years later, it remains the only chapter in the state of the oldest and most prestigious of the academic scholastic societies, which is open to students who have excelled in the traditional liberal arts and sciences.

In the nine decades since its inception, Alpha Chapter has initiated 1,911 new members into the honor society, according to Clayton Lehmann, professor of history and the chapter’s secretary-treasurer.

Phi Beta Kappa’s origins date back to the College of William & Mary in 1776, and its members include 17 U.S. Presidents, 38 U.S. Supreme Court Justices and more than 130 Nobel Laureates.

Initiated into Alpha Chapter in 1926 were 11 USD students, including John H. Lawrence, who pioneered the use of radioisotopes in human cancer treatment, and Grace Beede, who became a classics professor at the university for 42 years. Faculty founders of the chapter included Robert F. Slagle, university president; Edward P. Churchill, professor of zoology, and Lewis E. Akeley, then dean of USD’s College of Engineering.

Among Alpha Chapter’s requirements for membership are a major in the liberal arts and sciences, a high grade point average and required courses in a second language, calculus, World or Western civilizations, upper level social sciences and laboratory science. Since 1926, the Alpha Chapter has initiated an average of 21 students per year, according to Lehmann.

In addition to electing members into the national organization, the Alpha Chapter contributes to the intellectual life on campus by hosting two annual events, the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar and the Lifto Amundson Lecture, both of which bring eminent scholars to the USD campus to give a public lecture and

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Next month we’re throwing a weeklong *Celebration of the Liberal Arts & Sciences*.

One highlight will be an address by Geoff Colvin—Vermillion native, well-regarded author and senior editor at *Fortune* magazine.

Another highlight will be the 64th annual Harrington Lecture, given by a member of the faculty of the College of Arts & Sciences whose record “as a teacher and scholar is in the best liberal (arts) tradition.” The chosen lecturer for 2016 is David Swanson, professor of biology and director of the Missouri River Institute.

This year’s Harrington Lecture environment will be special. For the first time, the lecturer will be provided a stipend made possible by an endowment set up at the USD Foundation by Rodney and Ilga Harrington; their gift honors Rodney’s dad, Elbert Harrington, who served as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences (1945–1970) and for whom the lecture is named.

Distributed on the evening of the Harrington Lecture will be a brief publication authored by USD alumnus A. Truman Schwartz, ’56 B.A. Truman was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford prior to enjoying a long and distinguished career as the DeWitt Wallace Professor of Chemistry at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. In retirement, Truman took it upon himself to read all of the Harrington Lectures and to write a history of the lecture series, along with a synopsis of the major themes over the decades.

We look forward to a great week on our campus. Thanks for your support of USD’s liberal arts and sciences through your thoughts, words and deeds.

Matthew C. Moen, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Lohre Distinguished Professor
Five College Faculty Retire in 2016

After 38 years at USD, Leroy Meyer retired from the philosophy department. Meyer taught 20 different courses and 11 different seminars during his tenure, developing numerous courses in the philosophy of religion, culture, ethics and science.

Meyer’s proclamation awarding him emeritus status describes him as a “thoughtful and conscientious instructor who cares deeply about his students and invests significant time and energy in their education, making new experiences available to them and encouraging the presentation of their research to audiences at and beyond the University of South Dakota.”

Marvin Gamble joined the mathematical sciences department in 1998, where he served as the elementary education specialist and taught courses covering math topics for teachers. He was a regular presenter and attendee at the South Dakota Council for Teachers of Mathematics conference, a professional development conference for high school math teachers across the state.

Carolyn Prentice retired after 11 years in the Department of Communication Studies. She taught a wide variety of courses on topics including family communication and organizational communication and she also served as the director of graduate studies in the department. Her research focused on the dialectical tensions found in family communication.

Elizabeth “Betty” Smith, associate professor of political science, joined the USD faculty in 1999 and taught courses in American politics and public administration, including the Campaigns and Democracy class, which introduced students to the theoretical and practical processes of running successful campaigns for elective offices at the local, state and federal levels. She served as associate director of USD’s Farber Center for Civic Leadership and is the recipient of numerous institutional awards.

Mary Pat Bierle retired from the political science department. While at USD, Bierle taught several foundation courses in the political science major, including the internship program that annually placed scores of top students in legislative and executive offices at all levels of government through her carefully developed networks of contacts. Numerous alumni in the Washington, D.C., area attended a reception in her honor in the nation’s capital in June.

Arts & Sciences Celebration

“What are some of these traits and perspectives that remain unique to humans?” Tyler asked. “Empathy, storytelling, team building and compromising—and we learn and practice those uniquely human dimensions in the liberal arts and sciences.”

Colvin will give a public talk on Thursday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. in Farber Hall. He will also meet privately with a small group of invited students and alumni who serve on the College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Council.

Other activities during the event include the Honors Program’s series of so-called “Flash Lectures,” which are short faculty talks, often on provocative topics, during the lunchtime rush at the Muenster University Center. Pairs of student and faculty research collaborators will also visit large introductory-level classrooms during the week to discuss their work and inspire newer students to take advantage of opportunities to engage with faculty across the disciplines.

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Phi Beta Kappa

meet with students. Distinguished Professor Emerita of History Judith Sebesta was president of Alpha Chapter for many years and has also served as a senator to the national Phi Beta Kappa Society. She said the chapter’s scholarly events are a great service to the university.

Karen Koster, professor of biology and current president of the chapter, stressed the rare honor of initiation into the centuries old national honor society.

“Election to Phi Beta Kappa recognizes distinguished achievement in the liberal arts,” Koster said. “It should also confer a responsibility to advocate for the liberal arts in education and society.”

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Political science alumni, faculty and guests packed the house at the US-Asia Institute in Washington, D.C., in June at the Farber Fund’s annual reception. At the event, attendees paid tribute to retiring instructor Mary Pat Bierle.

“Politics are a major issue in the United States today,” Koster said. “Because of the law school’s strong interdisciplinary studies curriculum, students are well prepared to meet the challenges facing the legal profession.”

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Meghann Jarchow, assistant professor of biology and coordinator of the sustainability program, is the 2016 recipient of the Blair and Linda Tremere Faculty Service Award.

It is presented annually to a member of the College of Arts & Sciences faculty who has demonstrated outstanding public service to the local community or to the state of South Dakota beyond their obligations as a faculty member.

Jarchow joined the USD faculty in 2012 to serve as the coordinator for the university’s new sustainability program, an interdisciplinary major and minor that emphasizes research and experiential learning to find solutions to real-world environmental, social and economic problems.

After moving to Vermillion, Jarchow soon began working with sustainability-related organizations in town. It was a natural fit.

“I am fortunate because my career is well-aligned with my professional and personal passions,” she said.

A long list of community organizations have benefited from Jarchow’s presence in Vermillion. She was instrumental in starting new sustainability events and programs on campus and in Vermillion. Some of these include coordinating the annual Earth Days celebration, a weeklong series of events that focuses on honoring and protecting our planet. She also helped form Greening Vermillion, a local non-profit organization that engages the community to conserve natural resources while enhancing social and economic prosperity.

All of these activities pair nicely with Jarchow’s research focus on prairie conservation and her professional duties as coordinator of the USD Sustainability Program.

“A lot of people do their work and then do other things they are passionate about,” Jarchow said. “I’m passionate about sustainability.”

The Blair and Linda (Schuller) Tremere Faculty Service Award was established in 2011 by Blair and Linda Tremere of Golden Valley, Minnesota, to encourage and recognize the valuable role that Arts & Sciences faculty play in the lives of their communities and state. Linda (Schuller) Tremere is a 1970 alumna from the USD School of Business (B.S., accounting) and a native of Amherst, South Dakota. Blair Tremere, a Sioux Falls, South Dakota, native, is a 1968 alumnus from the USD College of Arts & Sciences (B.A., government/journalism) and also received his M.A. in public administration from USD in 1971.

Elise Boxer, assistant professor of history and Native American studies, was recently elected president of the American Indian Studies Association.

“I am excited to contribute to the field of Native American and American Indian studies,” Boxer said. “My position also serves as a spotlight for our program at USD. This national platform will show that we have a growing program in Native American studies at USD.”

The American Indian Studies Association, hosted by the American Indian Studies program at Arizona State University campus in Tempe, holds an annual meeting that showcases research from faculty members as well as undergraduate and graduate students involved in Native American or American Indian studies programs at institutions throughout the country. Each year’s conference focuses on a different theme and the association invites people from the Native American community to present, Boxer said.

The American Indian Studies Association is the longest standing organization dedicated to the discipline of American Indian or Native American studies in the nation. Boxer joined the faculty at USD in 2014 and earned her doctorate in American Indian history and United States history from Arizona State University in 2009.
Arts & Sciences faculty Matthew Sayre, in the department of anthropology and sociology, and Dan Van Peursem, in the department of mathematical sciences, have received the 2016 Richard and Sharon Cutler Faculty Awards in Liberal Arts. They received a $4,000 cash prize payable through the University of South Dakota Foundation. The Cutler Awards are presented annually to faculty who advance liberal arts education through teaching and research over a three-year span.

Van Peursem, the recipient in the mathematics/natural sciences division of the College of Arts & Sciences, is a professor and chair of mathematical sciences. A member of the USD faculty since 1997, he has served as chair of the department since 2004 and currently teaches introductory calculus and modern geometry courses as well as the major’s capstone requirement. His research interests include analytical modeling of groundwater flow and mathematical modeling of population dynamics and the spread of disease.

Van Peursem said mentoring students, often on their honors research projects, is one of the most important aspects of his job. “Working closely with students is where I find my greatest sense of accomplishment and feel is our most important calling,” Van Peursem said. “If we can spark that interest in students to look beyond the obvious and ask the deeper questions looking for connections, I feel we are preparing them well for life as liberally educated citizens.”

The award in the Social Sciences Division goes to Matthew Sayre, assistant professor of anthropology and incoming chair of the department of anthropology and sociology. Sayre joined USD in 2011 and teaches courses in biological anthropology, archaeology and paleoethnobotany. Sayre is also a faculty member in the sustainability program.

Over three summers, Sayre has led undergraduate students on an archaeological field school in Peru at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Chavin de Huantar, the primary location of his research on the ecological, agricultural, economic and ritual practices of people in the Andes.

Exposing students to archaeological sites and the process of excavating and interpreting their discoveries is a crucial part of his role as a professor, he said. “Our field really requires this experience,” Sayre said. “It’s one thing to tell students about this 3,000-year-old temple in Peru, but it’s another thing to be there and realize how amazing it is that people were building something like this in middle of the second highest mountains on earth.”

The Cutler Awards were endowed in 2003 by Richard and Sharon Cutler of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to recognize distinguished faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences. A former member of the board of directors of Senior Companions of Sioux Falls, Sharon Cutler has been active in Sioux Falls community organizations. Richard Cutler earned a B.A. in history (’63) and a J.D. (’65) at USD, and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the university in 1997. He has been chair of USD Foundation, co-chair of Campaign South Dakota and chair of the board of trustees of the National Music Museum. He is an attorney with Cutler & Donahoe LLP in Sioux Falls.
Solveig Sperati Korte, an instructor in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, is the 2016 recipient of the Outstanding Instructor Award presented by the College of Arts & Sciences.

Korte joined USD in 1995 and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses as well as supervised students in the department’s speech clinic. Her favorite class to teach is phonetics, which has interested her from a young age.

“I remember in eighth grade doing a project on different accents and pronunciations,” Korte said. “I’ve always found that fascinating.”

Aside from teaching and supervising the clinical experiences of students at USD, Korte said she takes pride in her efforts to advise and mentor undergraduate students as they work toward completing the requirements for graduation and while they apply to graduate school in speech-language pathology or audiology.

Korte said she hopes her enthusiasm for her work and the field of speech-language pathology influences her students during their studies and clinical experiences.

“I try to generate passion in the students for our profession,” she said. “I do that in my classes as well as in the clinic while guiding them and sharing experiences that I have had. I don’t think many people would say that I am not passionate about what I do.”

The Outstanding Instructor Award is given annually to a faculty member in the College of Arts & Sciences who demonstrates outstanding classroom teaching and mentoring to students. The winner receives a cash prize, made possible through an annual gift of the Johnson family. Mary Elizabeth Johnson is a USD graduate in mass communication who served as chaplain at the Mayo Clinic for over three decades, working closely with women experiencing health issues and loss. Johnson completed graduate work at Seattle University and served as an adjunct member of the Mayo Medical School.

István Gombocz, a professor in the Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics, is the 2016 recipient of the Monsignor James Doyle Humanities Teaching Award, presented by the College of Arts & Sciences. Gombocz received the award at the 2016 Phi Beta Kappa Initiation/Lifto Amundson Lecture on April 20.

Gombocz, who teaches introductory and advanced German language courses as well as courses in the Honors Program, joined the university in 1989. In his nearly three decades of teaching at USD, Gombocz said he has never tired of encouraging students to broaden their cultural horizons.

“It’s a special challenge, but I like challenges,” Gombocz said. “There is no burnout in sight. Even after 27 years.”

Gombocz has seen great advances in educational technology over the past three decades. German podcasts, for example, feature prominently in his lessons on listening comprehension and to demonstrate different accents among German speakers.

The German and Honors Program courses Gombocz teaches all have a significant cultural components, he said. He currently team teaches a course on the Enlightenment and introduces translated novels and texts written by German philosophers.

His own research on German-Americana becomes a lesson in history and interpretation when he asks his students to identify the American national anthem from a German-language newspaper published in Eureka, South Dakota, during World War I. Gombocz explains to his class that this and similar newspapers had initially supported Germany and Austria in the first years of the war.

“When the United States entered the war, the German-American community in South Dakota felt obligated to show loyalty to its host country,” he said.

The Doyle award is made possible thanks to a gift from Monsignor James Michael Doyle, former chair of religious studies at USD and a prominent theologian inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame. The award is presented annually to an outstanding teacher in the Humanities Division of the College of Arts & Sciences.
McKeown Receives Belbas-Larson Teaching Award

At this year’s May commencement, the USD community recognized Sandy McKeown, associate professor and director of the Criminal Justice Studies Program, as the 2016 Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching in the tenured category. The award is the highest teaching honor USD bestows on its educators. A committee chooses award recipients from a pool of faculty members who are nominated by their students and colleagues.

McKeown, who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from USD in 1999 and a law degree from USD’s School of Law in 2002, teaches a number of courses on topics that include constitutional law, mock trial, juvenile justice and criminal prosecution and defense. She also teaches the capstone class on ethics in criminal justice, which is required of all program majors.

Her time in law school influences her approach to teaching undergraduates, McKeown said.

“The one thing I draw from the law school experience is that I have very high expectations from students in terms of performance,” she said. “I expect them to be prepared and engaged and to behave in a way that is befitting of a person who is going to enter into the criminal justice field.”

McKeown diverges from the typical law school classroom environment when she focuses on interpersonal relationships.

“I don’t think that education is necessarily competitive,” she said. “I would rather see students creating relationships with me and with each other. I focus a lot on storytelling as a pedagogical approach and we rely very heavily on humor in my classroom.”

To underscore the hearsay rule of evidence in her Mock Trials course, for instance, McKeown urges her students to get to heart of the doctrine by relating it to personal stories.

“We’ll talk about gossip in high school, for example, where stories told about you from another source might hurt your reputation,” she said. “Once we have a personal narrative in place and students understand the theory underlying the rule, the rule becomes a lot easier to understand.”

McKeown said one of the most rewarding parts of her job is seeing students take on difficult material in her classes.

“Constitutional Law, for example, is a very challenging course,” she said. “Seeing students work through their fears and the hurdles of the class and do what I knew they could do all along is very rewarding.”

Spanish Students Use Language in Context through Internships

Internships provide an opportunity for language students to use their skills in a professional context. This year students in the Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics leveraged their language proficiency in authentic contexts both locally and around the world.

Spanish and anthropology graduate Zachary Nelson, ’16 B.A., completed an internship at the prestigious Smithsonian Institution’s Recovering Voices program. The program strives to document, study and revitalize endangered indigenous languages. Colin Krysl, ’16 B.A., B.S., a triple-major in business, sport marketing and media and Spanish, completed his final college credits through an internship overseas in Valencia, Spain.

In a new partnership, Spanish majors Kally Westergaard, Ashley McKeown, ’16 B.A., and Uver Rodríguez interned with the USD School of Law Immigration Clinic. They interpreted and translated for Guatemalan clients seeking asylum and refugee status in the United States. Supervised by Ramón Ortiz from the law school and Laura Vidler, professor and chair of modern languages & linguistics, the program benefits students and clients, providing both professional experience and much-needed services.
USD boasted a record number of students who earned nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships in 2016. All of this year’s award recipients hail from the College of Arts & Sciences. National scholarships and fellowships, which offer significant prestige, educational and networking opportunities in addition to monetary benefits, require strenuous and lengthy applications. They are highly competitive and often draw hundreds of applicants for only a handful of such scholarships.

**FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Angela Luedke, ’13 B.A.**

**Hometown:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Details:** Three years after graduating from USD with a degree in international studies and French, Luedke applied for a grant from the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which offers awards to recent college graduates as well as current students. She will teach English in Morocco for 10 months starting this September.

**A full passport:** Her Fulbright year will mark Luedke’s second time living in Morocco. She spent a summer there during her junior year. She has also traveled throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Luedke said she wants to live abroad while she’s young. “I’ve been trying to have different experiences before I settle down and get a career and a family.”

**Christopher Zimmer, ’16 B.S.**

**Hometown:** Rapid City, South Dakota

**Details:** Along with Angela Luedke, Zimmer is one of two USD students to receive Fulbright grants to serve as an English teaching assistant starting this September. The history and political science graduate will teach at a high school in Athens.

**First hand exposure to current events:** Zimmer had already visited Greece through a USD program led by Clayton Lehmann, professor of history, and knows the language on a rudimentary level. He also keeps up with news of the country’s budget cuts and austerity measures caused by the current economic situation there. “It will be interesting to see the impact on average Greeks living through the crisis,” he said.

**UDALL SCHOLARSHIP**

**Tamee Livermont**

**Hometown:** Martin, South Dakota

**Details:** The Udall Foundation selects scholarship recipients based on their commitment to careers in the environment, American Indian health care or tribal public policy. Livermont, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who grew up on the Pine Ridge Reservation, was chosen for the scholarship based on her interest in becoming a neonatologist serving Native American newborn infants as well as their mothers.

**Giving back to her community:** The medical biology senior hopes to earn her medical degree in neonatology and work in an Indian Health Services hospital. “Where I grew up, I saw mothers using drugs and alcohol while they were pregnant and I could see the effect this had on their children, who were born addicted,” Livermont said. “I feel, as a neonatologist, I could be a first line of defense for those babies.”

**TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP**

**Joshua Arens**

**Hometown:** Yankton, South Dakota

**Details:** Arens is one of only 54 college juniors nationwide chosen from a pool of 775 nominated candidates for the Truman Scholarship, which provides $30,000 for college students to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or elsewhere in public service. After graduate school, this chemistry and math major hopes to use his scientific training to inform policy decisions while working at a public policy institute or a non-governmental organization.

**No lazy, hazy summers here:** During his summer breaks, Arens has secured fellowships and internships since his freshman year. He has studied in England as a Fulbright Scholar, interned at the Center for Sustainable Materials Chemistry at Oregon State University and performed research at the U.C. Berkeley Center for Sustainable Polymers.

**NSF RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES FELLOWSHIP**

**Martin Muñoz**

**Hometown:** Originally from Lima, Peru

**Details:** Political science and international studies senior Martin Muñoz participated in an eight-week program this summer at the University of North Texas to hone his investigative skills and receive training on analytical tools that will aid his research on civil-military relations and military violence in Colombia and Peru.

**Faculty help:** Muñoz credits his research mentor Eric Jepsen, associate professor of political science and international studies, for notifying him about the fellowship and guiding him through the application process. “I couldn’t be more thankful to my political science professors, who go out of their way to get to know their students and take the initiative to help us,” he said.
Christina Bushinger

Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Details: The U.S. Department of State awards Gilman Scholarships to college students who study or intern abroad. Bushinger, an anthropology and international studies junior, traveled to Peru in May through a USD faculty-led trip to Lima and Cuzco, where she took part in an intensive Spanish-language program. She then began a one-month internship with Potato Park, a land reserve outside of Cuzco dedicated to preserving hundreds of varieties of native potatoes.

Connecting nutrition, development and social justice: Bushinger’s anthropology classes and interest in nutrition provide the fuel for her research on poverty and food options. “In the U.S., you see a lot of fast food marketed, but fruits and vegetables aren’t,” she said. “It’s something I’ve been passionate about for a long time.”

Jenna Hayes

Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Details: The U.S. Department of State awards these scholarships to students who study a less-commonly-taught language of interest to U.S. national security. Hayes, an English and anthropology senior, spent this summer in the city of Vladimir, Russia, where she developed her Russian language skills and immersed herself in the culture there.

A literary connection: In preparation for her trip, Hayes translated parts of works by Russian writers Anton Chekhov and Leo Tolstoy. She hopes to eventually earn a doctorate in comparative literature.

“The application really helped elucidate what I’m currently working on,” she said. “I don’t know if many Goldwater Scholars actually get to test out their proposals.”

Kaleigh (Rose) McLaughlin

Hometown: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Details: Some of the languages included in the scholarship program require no previous years of study. McLaughlin, a sophomore international studies and history major, spent this summer in the city of Vladimir, Russia, where she developed her Russian language skills and immersed herself in the culture there.

An early start: As a toddler, two of McLaughlin’s first words were “Iran” and “Iraq,” and her interest in the Middle East grew throughout her high school years.

“I remember watching news of the beginning of the Syrian Civil War five years ago and seeing it get hijacked by ISIS and other fundamentalist groups,” she said. “It saddened me and made me more interested in studying the Middle East.”

Andrew Koch

Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Details: The NIH chooses only 20 students out of nearly 600 applicants to spend the summer in Bethesda, Maryland, where scholars work side-by-side with some of the world’s leading scientists on issues relating to health disparities. Koch, a medical biology senior, has participated in numerous research projects as an undergraduate at USD (and was featured in the college’s January 2016 newsletter).

Making it to “The Show”: “The National Institutes of Health is kind of like the major leagues,” Koch said. “I’m somebody who is thinking of going into a research career and getting a chance to see what that looks like at the highest level is exciting.”

Jade Fostvedt

Hometown: Vermillion, South Dakota

Details: The Barry M. Goldwater Foundation awards scholarships to college students who intend to pursue research careers in the sciences, math and engineering. Fostvedt, a senior majoring in chemistry, plans to obtain a doctorate in inorganic chemistry and conduct research in alternative energy and catalysis.

An enlightening application process: The Goldwater Scholarship application requires students to submit an original research proposal that will solve a significant problem in their field of study. Describing her current research project, which involves creating a molecule that can break down carbon-chlorine bonds in other molecules that pose harm to the environment, gave her additional insight.

“The application really helped elucidate what I’m currently working on,” she said. “I don’t know if many Goldwater Scholars actually get to test out their proposals.”

John Slunecka

Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Details: The Goldwater Foundation awarded 255 scholarships from a pool of more than 1,150 applicants judged on their accomplishments and aspirations. Slunecka, a medical biology and chemistry senior, will apply to M.D./Ph.D. programs and perform research on treating cancer using virus vectors and immunotherapy.

Combining research and patient care: Slunecka’s interest in research complements his plans to become a practicing physician.

“I think providing patient care will be very fulfilling,” he said. “Most M.D./Ph.Ds love research but also want to take that knowledge and apply it to helping people.”
Scholarship Spotlight: Ophthalmologist Brothers Support Science Students

As young boys growing up on a farm in Flandreau, South Dakota, Brad and Bryan Hammer spent long hours after school and on summer breaks milking and feeding cows and raising hogs. It’s these memories that Brad Hammer often recalled as he stayed up late studying for his classes when he became a biology major and then a medical student at USD.

“I used to tell my dad that when I had trouble studying, the thought of coming back and milking cows would keep me going,” joked Brad Hammer, who earned his undergraduate degree in biology in 1977 and his medical degree in 1981.

By the same token, he credits those chores with much of his success. “One thing that growing up on the farm gave me was a work ethic,” he said. “I always knew I wasn’t the smartest kid, but I felt that I could outwork just about anybody.”

Both Brad and Bryan, who earned a B.S. in biology from USD in 1984 as well as a B.S. in medicine ('86) and Doctor of Medicine degree in 1988, said they were fortunate to have the encouragement and support of their parents to pursue further education after high school. Attending USD also runs in their family: 17 members, many of whom received scholarships that enabled them to go to college, have degrees from the university. The Hammer brothers, now both ophthalmologists, established the Hammer Family Scholarship Endowment to help students have similar opportunities to further their education.

“We are so very grateful to Brad and Bryan for their generous gift,” said Matthew C. Moen, dean of Arts & Sciences. “They are opening up opportunities for motivated young people.”

The scholarship is awarded to students pursuing a degree in biology, medical biology or chemistry within the College of Arts & Sciences, with preference given to a student from Moody County, South Dakota.

“Education was an important part of our lives growing up,” said Brad Hammer, who attended the university on an Army ROTC scholarship and spent nine years of active duty in the military before moving to Des Moines, Iowa, to practice ophthalmology with Des Moines Eye Surgeons. “USD has made a big difference in our lives and really shaped our future. Our education gave us great opportunities to be very successful and we want to give other people the opportunity to realize their dreams.”

Bryan Hammer performed his internal medicine training in Wisconsin, his ophthalmology residency in Texas, and then fellowship training in Cincinnati, Ohio, before returning to Sioux Falls. He has practiced with Ophthalmology, Ltd., for more than 20 years and is a clinical associate professor with USD’s Sanford School of Medicine, where he teaches USD medical students during their clinical rotations. The brothers’ three sisters also joined the medical field and work in the nursing profession.

“USD is a fabulous place,” Brad Hammer said. “You can have farm kids like us go through the process and realize the sky is the limit.”

“I used to tell my dad that when I had trouble studying, the thought of coming back and milking cows would keep me going.” —Brad Hammer
Not many people would be thrilled to receive a tick from a friend who just returned from a recent hike, but biology doctoral student Lauren Maestas enthusiastically welcomes these eight-legged gifts.

"Everybody knows: if you have a tick, bring it to me," Maestas said, who wrote his master's thesis on Lyme disease in the southeastern U.S.

One such present of a member of the *Ixodidae* family helped this Ph.D. student make a discovery with potential health implications for residents and animals in eastern South Dakota. Maestas and fellow researchers documented an established population of deer ticks in Vermillion’s Clay County. Unlike dog ticks, which are more common in the area, deer ticks can transmit Lyme disease to domestic animals and humans.

“A friend of mine was out walking in Gunderson Backwater [just south of Vermillion] and he brought me back a tick,” Maestas said. “It happened to be a deer tick and there are not records of them as currently established in the state.”

As the primary means of transmitting the bacterium that causes Lyme disease as well as other pathogens, deer ticks are of interest to public health officials. Maestas, his dissertation director and biology professor, Hugh Britten, and undergraduate biology major Seryna Adams set out to determine whether they could find more deer ticks in Gunderson Backwater, a wooded area along the banks of the Missouri River.

Maestas and Adams spent hours in the woods dragging a white flannel cloth, one square meter in size, over the tops of the area’s vegetation in March and April of last year. Ticks seeking hosts grabbed the cloth, which the researchers examined periodically.

“Most of the time it was a bunch of dog ticks,” Maestas said. “But every once in a while we would pick up a deer tick or two.”

In all, the researchers found seven deer ticks through their efforts, which exceeded the number of six adult ticks necessary to qualify the deer tick population as established in Clay County. The team’s results were published this spring in the *Journal of Medical Entomology*.

Although Maestas considers this tick research a side project—his dissertation studies focus on prairie dogs and fleas—he said he wants to establish a tick information center at USD.

“I’m hoping to get a whole army of undergrads looking for ticks all over the place,” Maestas said.

Britten said Maestas’ accomplishments show the importance of robust graduate programs in the college.

“This project illustrates the importance of having graduate students in the lab,” Britten said. “One of the benefits is that they work closely with undergraduates, who can get really terrific research experience out of the deal.”
What does an English speaker look like? Is there such a thing as “good English”? What does being a native English speaker mean?

These are some of the questions Christopher Jenks, assistant professor of English, asks English-speaking individuals from across the world in his research on the social and cultural aspects of the global spread of English.

“I’m looking at how people construct what it means to be an English speaker, which varies from context to context,” he said. “You can’t really have a top-down approach because languages for millennia have developed and spread organically despite the efforts of governments and states to control certain aspects of language. Through my research, I have been able to demonstrate that people’s notion of what is ‘good’ and ‘bad’ English, for example, varies tremendously.”

Jenks has studied these perceptions in individuals from a variety of backgrounds, including students in his composition class at USD, participants in a course at a Hong Kong university, and Internet chat room users.

“But it’s always real people talking about real issues,” he said. Through his research, Jenks found that people’s concepts of English speakers is largely shaped by cultural and social forces. In a recent study that explored the opinions of undergraduate university students in Hong Kong, for example, he and his co-researcher found certain themes among these English speakers, almost all of whom were ethnically Chinese and spoke Mandarin and Cantonese as well.

One theme expressed is the students’ perception that mastering English with an American or English accent gave them access to a higher social class. Students also said that English proficiency offers economic benefits to a city or region.

These and other perceptions about English speakers have little to do with the way the language is structured.

“English is certainly more prevalent now than it was 10 or even five years ago because of online media, popular culture, globalization and free-trade agreements,” Jenks said. “There is nothing unique about English that lends itself to being a global language. It’s no easier to learn. It’s very unruly. It’s not considered the prettiest language. It’s all about power, culture, politics and money.”

Jenks grew up as a bilingual Korean-American in the U.S. and spent 11 years studying and teaching in England, South Korea and Hong Kong. He said his experiences have influenced his research and the way he sees the world. Understanding the social and cultural reasons behind the global spread of English can help decrease tensions emerging from people’s notions of how English speakers should sound or what they should look like.

“Exploring these issues reveals that although people have very strong emotional attachments to their language and their linguistic identity, there is so much that we really can’t say what is standard or what is right,” he said. “Moving beyond the limited view that the way someone sounds represents a larger issue can help people overcome these potential intercultural barriers.”
College Introduces New Multicultural Studies Minor and Physics and Philosophy Specializations

The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved a new minor in multicultural studies and two new specializations in the physics and philosophy departments.

The multicultural studies minor is an interdisciplinary program that furthers the university’s stated commitment to becoming a regional leader in diversity and inclusiveness, as well as its goals of graduating broadly informed and globally aware students and supporting the academic values of the liberal arts, including citizenship and social responsibility. Students minoring in multicultural studies will take a new introductory course in addition to classes in a variety of other departments and programs in the college ranging from anthropology to women, gender and sexuality studies.

Lamont Sellers, director of the USD Center for Diversity & Community, teaches the new introductory course for the minor, which is offered for the first time this fall.

“We will study diversity and inclusiveness from a broad perspective,” Sellers said. “Using a wide variety of resources, including programming on campus, we’ll look at what diversity and inclusiveness mean in society today.”

Students majoring in physics now have the opportunity to specialize in applied physics. The new specialization gives students experience with the department’s germanium crystal growth lab. Germanium is a rare element used in deep underground laboratory experiments to detect dark matter and also has other commercial uses.

“The applied physics specialization gives students some very practical skills in crystal growing, which could be a real benefit to them in their professional careers,” said Tina Keller, physics department chair and professor.

The physics department developed two new courses for the specialization: Semiconductor Materials: Fundamentals and Fabrication and Radiation Detection.

The Department of Philosophy also developed a new specialization in ethics, law and society.

“A significant number of our majors go into law and public policy or government jobs. This specialization will help meet their professional needs,” said Joseph Tinguely, assistant professor of philosophy. “A second, more principled, reason for the specialization is that critical thinking about how ethics and morals fit into law and society is key to a well-functioning democracy. These are the skills philosophy classes aim to develop.”

College Alum Lane Grindle Named Milwaukee Brewers Radio Announcer

Lane Grindle, who graduated from USD in 2004 with a degree in contemporary media and journalism (now called media & journalism), now sits alongside baseball legend Bob Uecker this season as one of three radio announcers for the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team.

Grindle, from Hastings, Iowa, started his new job this spring after 10 years with the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers as an announcer for a variety of sports and a member of the sports marketing team.

At 34, Grindle said he is one of the youngest major league announcers. He credits his experiences at USD with giving him a head start in the field. “I was able to get so much hands-on experience while I was still in college that I got a jumpstart on my career compared to a lot of other guys,” he said.
Anthropology: David Posthumus, assistant professor, presented “‘Dear Dr. Boas’: The Collaboration and Contribution of Ella Cara Deloria and Franz Boas” at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Denver, Colorado. He also participated in a roundtable discussion titled “The Familiar and Strange in Remaining ‘Native’ and Becoming an Anthropologist: Celebrating Dr. Beatrice Medicine’s Contributions to Anthropology.”

Biology: Jake Kerby, associate professor, was elected chair of the Diagnostics Committee of the National Bsal Task Force. Bsal is an emerging infectious disease killing salamanders in Europe and this Task Force is concerned with preventing its spread into the US.

The journal Botany published “Endemism in native floras of California’s Channel Islands correlated with seasonal patterns of aeolian processes” by lecturer Lynn Riley.

Biomedical Engineering: Science magazine featured the work of Yu Huang, assistant professor, and his fellow researchers on the development of a microscopic particle that can deliver cancer fighting drugs to tumors without damaging other cells in the body.

Chemistry: Graduate student Sunav Shrestha, working in the research group of Professor Ranjit Koodali, earned a prize for a poster about solar energy at the 2015 Women in Clean Energy Symposium held at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Shrestha, a native of Nepal, was among the 10 graduate student finalists selected for participation in the Fourth Annual Clean Energy Education and Empowerment Symposium.

Andrew Sykes, professor and chair, spent the 2015–16 academic year conducting research at Lancaster University in England through a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award.

Communication Sciences & Disorders: Kyle Brouwer, associate professor, was elected president of the South Dakota Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Professor Marni Johnson traveled to Tanzania in May through a non-profit organization to provide audiology services and teach local medical personnel about hearing healthcare. With Liz Hanson, associate professor, Johnson also brought seven graduate students to the South Dakota Special Olympics Summer Games in Spearfish in May to provide hearing screenings for the athletes.

Communication Studies: The University of South Dakota’s Speech and Debate Team concluded its successful 2015/2016 season at the National Forensics Association Championship in Muncie, Indiana. This season, the team traveled to 12 regional tournaments where members earned 101 individual awards and eight team awards. The team is coached by Shane Semmler, associate professor of communication studies.

Computer Science: Quoc-Nam Tran, professor and chair, published a book entitled Emerging Trends in Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, and System Biology.

Three students—Kurtis Van Gent,’16 B.S., Ben Erickson and Mitchell Peterson, attended the 2016 World Finals for the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest in Phuket, Thailand, in May.

Dean’s Office: Program Assistant Kathy Nelson retired this spring after almost 30 years of service to the College of Arts & Sciences’ Office of the Dean. Her organizational expertise and cheerful attitude helped the dean’s office run smoothly over the past three decades.

Earth Sciences: Mark Sweeney, associate professor, published, “Sand Dunes as Potential Sources of Dust in Northern China.” He also presented “Sand Dunes Exert Control on Base Level, Mojave Desert, USA” with former student Lucas Chabela ’14, B.S., at the Geological Society of America meeting in Baltimore.

Brennan Jordan, associate professor, presented “Learning About Volcanism and Living with Volcanoes: Iceland Volcanology Field Camp” at the same meeting.

English: The New York Times covered the “Shakespeare in South Dakota” symposium—part of the exhibit of William Shakespeare’s First Folio book at USD in March. English Chair Darlene Farabee was instrumental in bringing the exhibit to Vermillion, which was the only stop in South Dakota for the rare book on loan from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Instructor Marcella Remund’s poem, “Letter to My Father,” was selected as a finalist for the Nancy Hargrove Editors’ Prize in Poetry and will be published in the fall 2016 issue of Jabberwock Review by Mississippi State University.

History: Nicole Hamonic, assistant professor, gave an invited lecture, “Endowment of Chantries of the English Hospitallers as an Example of Memory,” at a conference in Palmela, Portugal, last fall.

Kurt Hackemer, professor and chair, presented “Wartime Trauma and the Lure of the Frontier: Civil War Veterans in Dakota Territory” at the annual meeting of the Society for Military History in Ottawa, Canada.

Mathematics: Yuhlong Lio, professor, is one of the co-authors for the research book Statistical Modeling for Degradation Data
that has been accepted by Springer and will be published next year. The book strives to bring together experts engaged in statistical modeling and inference to present and discuss issues of important recent advances on degradation data analysis and related applications.

**Media & Journalism:** Media and journalism students, under the guidance of instructor Todd Mechling, have begun the shooting phase of a documentary for the Dakota Hospital Foundation that will celebrate a community icon: old Dakota Hospital. While focusing on the creation of a commemorative sculpture that will be installed in a permanent display outside the new Vermillion hospital, the documentary will also present an oral history of soon-to-be-demolished Dakota Hospital as told by members of the community who either received care or gave care at Dakota Hospital over the years. The documentary is slated to be completed in the spring of 2017 and will be viewed on a permanent display near the sculpture.

**Modern Languages & Linguistics:** Kris Knisely, assistant professor, published “Language Learning and the Gendered Self: The Case of French and Masculinity in a U.S. Context” in the journal Gender and Language.

Armik Mirzayan, assistant professor, attended the 50th Conference of the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies, held in New Orleans this winter. He chaired a session on Linguistic Studies of Caribbean and Peruvian Languages and presented his research paper on “Acoustic Properties of Glottalization and Aspiration in Cuzco Quechua.”

**Military Science:** Brigadier General Ronald Place, the U.S. Army’s Assistant Surgeon General for Force Projection, spoke at the ROTC program’s Military Ball last spring. Place graduated from USD in 1986 with a degree in chemistry and was commissioned a second lieutenant as a distinguished military graduate of the ROTC program. He received a doctor of medicine with honors from Creighton University School of Medicine. Place heads the Regional Health Command-Atlantic in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

**Philosophy:** At a roundtable discussion on the Flint Water Crisis held on campus, lecturer Justin Moss addressed the issue from an ethical perspective with colleagues from the School of Law and the chemistry and sociology departments.

**Physics:** Two department faculty members worked on 2015’s Nobel Prize-winning topic in physics as graduate students, and one of them worked directly with Nobel winner Arthur B. McDonald. Ryan MacLellan, now an assistant professor of physics, was a graduate student of McDonald’s and worked with him at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) in Canada on neutrino oscillation experiments. Dongming Mei, associate professor of physics, also worked on neutrino oscillation experiments as part of his Ph.D. dissertation at a complementary experiment in Japan.

MacLellan, Mei and other USD faculty join scientists from around the world who are also researching neutrinos at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in South Dakota’s Black Hills.

**Political Science:** Bridget Diamond-Welch, assistant professor of criminal justice, presented research performed with two undergraduate students, Olivia Mann and Melissa Reihe, at the Academy of Criminal Justice Studies in Denver. Their research paper: “The Effect of Sexuality on Perceptions of Victim and Perpetrator Culpability in Sexual Assault.”

In March, Vern Halter, a Flandreau native and a USD alumnus who received a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics in 1971 and a law degree in 1977, returned to campus to discuss his experiences as a judge, a public defender and an Iditarod dog sled racer in Alaska.

Professor Matt Fairholm published an article entitled “Revitalizing the Spirit of Management Training.” He also published another article, co-authored with M.P.A. student Taylor W. Gronau, entitled “Spiritual Leadership in the Work of Public Administrators.”

**Psychology:** Jae Puckett, assistant professor, published “Predictors of Sexual Minority Youth’s Reported Suicide Attempts and Mental Health” in the Journal of Homosexuality.

The Psi Chi/Psychology Club student organization participated in a variety of events and service projects in the community, including yard work at the local senior citizens center, and volunteering to help with Children’s Storytime at the Vermillion Public Library. The group also provided information at the Muenster University Center during Eating Disorders Awareness Week and also teamed up with the suicide prevention organization Lost and Found to provide training in QPR, a suicide prevention model.

**Sociology:** This summer David Lane, assistant professor, begins his tenure as chair of the Social Problems Theory Division within the Society for the Study of Social Problems. SSSP is one of the largest sociological associations in the United States.

**Sustainability:** Six sustainability majors taught area fourth graders about prairies and prairie restoration in their capstone project this spring. Students Calvin Brink, Sydney Hancock, ’16 B.S., Alexa Kruse, Emily Roberson, ’16 B.A., Cody Sack and Sabrina Schnack employed hands-on games and activities to demonstrate how prairie plants prevent soil erosion, to explain the importance of bees and their ability to pollinate plants, and to show the animals that call the prairie home. Each elementary student left with a mud ball of prairie seeds to take home.
USD awarded grants for outstanding research to three faculty members—all from the College of Arts & Sciences—who were chosen by external reviewers for their research accomplishments, publications and grant success.

The 2015 award recipients received a $3,000 grant and a plaque. Z. Rick Wang, assistant professor of chemistry, won the President’s Award for Research Excellence in the “new-to-mid career” category. Wang’s research focuses on discovering molecules with unique structure and function for use in applications related to alternative energy production.

In the “established faculty” category, Yuhlong Lio, professor of mathematical sciences, was awarded the President’s Award for Research Excellence for his work in a variety of areas, including theoretical and pure mathematics, applied mathematics, industrial mathematics, medical mathematics and computational skills for mathematics.

The President’s Award for Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship was given to Grigoriy Sereda, professor of chemistry. Sereda’s research centers on the interdisciplinary areas between organic chemistry, nanotechnology and photodynamics.