Students gain experiential learning opportunities through internships

The knowledge and skills that students receive at Black Hills State University are crucial to a successful career, but it is just as important for students to gain real-world experience in their fields. To help jump-start their career plans, many BHSU students took advantage of experiential learning through summer internships and learning institutes.

Coralea Baldwin, junior human services and sociology major from Ft. Pierre, worked with the South Dakota Department of Social Services as an adult services and aging intern. One of her responsibilities was to conduct focus groups with clients, a skill she learned in her Program Planning and Evaluation class at BHSU.

Ross Patmore, senior elementary education major from Winner; Tye Johnson, senior special education major from Pierre; Blaine Harrowa, senior history education major from Spearfish; Jamie Williams, senior music education major from Gillette, Wyo.; and recent BHSU education graduates Teri Decker from Spearfish and Karen Hartwell from Belle Fourche helped with the Summer Exploration Institute (SEI), a weeklong program hosted by BHSU for local students ages 8-10 to explore and examine the world around them.

Mathias Dosch, junior psychology and sociology major from Pierre, worked with the South Dakota Department of Health as the health information technology analyst intern. Dosch learned how important it is to work with a team as he helped establish a new vendor contract for the state’s Health Information Exchange (HIE) network.

Some of the many BHSU students who participated in summer learning opportunities were:

- Jesse Komes, senior outdoor education major from Newell, interned at the Rocky Point State Recreation Area located on the Belle Fourche Reservoir. Among other responsibilities as a state park staff member, she helped served as a camp instructor.
• Steven Seidel, senior biology major from Spearfish, interned at the McNenny State Fish Hatchery outside of Spearfish.
• Amanda Wachendorf, senior biology major from Rapid City, took part in an internship with Mount Rushmore National Memorial.
• Robert Dittmer, senior industrial technology major from Piedmont, had the opportunity to participate in two types of internships with the same employer. He worked at Glenn C. Barber & Associates, Inc., a general contracting company in Rapid City, in Project Management and Construction Technology.
• Jed Morgan, senior business administration-accounting major from Spearfish, interned with Pioneer Bank and Trust in Belle Fourche.
• Jessie Jamtgaard, junior business administration-human resources major from Gillette, Wyo., was awarded the opportunity to work in human resources with Cloud Peak Energy in Gillette. Her broad variety of duties included planning special events for all of the summer interns to compiling curriculum vitas (accomplishments) for the entire Cloud Peak Energy staff for their annual review process.
• Dan Olson, senior business administration-tourism and hospitality management major from Sturgis, interned with Western Transportation in Sturgis as a tour bus driver. In his spare time he volunteered to drive members from the Black Hills Workshop to the Special Olympics in Sioux Falls.
• Alex Reznikov, junior mass communication major from Spearfish, worked as an intern at the Spearfish Chamber of Commerce. He was able to practice his public relations skills as well as learn how the organization functions and operates on a daily basis.
• Lisa Simmons, junior political science major from Spearfish, interned at KNBN News Center 1, an NBC affiliate in Rapid City.
• Kalani Corpuz, junior mass communication major from Rapid City, worked for Fisher Beverage in Rapid City assisting with developing accounts and working with the marketing team.
• Tyler Diderrich, junior human services—probation and law enforcement major from Sheridan, Wyo., had the opportunity to intern with the Rapid City Police Department.
• Lauren Larson, senior human services and sociology major from Rapid City, worked as a juvenile probation intern for the South Dakota Department of Corrections-Juvenile Community Corrections. Larson learned the intake process for clients, performed curfew checks, and did casework for clients.
• Kelsey Adney, junior human services and sociology major from Pierre, interned for the South Dakota Department of Social Services-Office of Recoveries and Fraud Investigation.
• Lacey Livermont, senior human services and sociology major from Belle Fourche, worked with James Awbrey, assistant social science professor at BHSU, as a research intern. She assisted in the creation of a virtual portfolio as an assessment tool for the human services major at BHSU along with the program’s website updates and learned grant writing skills.

Hands-on work experience integrates the student’s classroom conceptual learning with practical employment. Throughout the internship, these work experiences complement and reinforce the student’s theoretical knowledge acquired from textbooks and lectures.

BHSU recognizes honorees during Swarm Week

Black Hills State University recently honored several individuals for their service and achievements at the annual Alumni Awards Luncheon held during Swarm Week. Those honored this year include (left to right): Darla J. (Talty) Crown, Special Achievement Award; Dr. Barry L. Jankord, Excellence in Education Award; George C. Rinker, Ph.D., Special Service Award; and Charles (Chuck) V. Sederstrom, Jr., Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Yellow Jacket Hall of Fame also inducted five individuals and two teams as part of the 2011 Swarm Week festivities. Individuals inducted for their athletic accomplishments while playing for the Yellow Jackets were: Jesse Dana, basketball; Traci (Schenk) Dana, basketball; Cori (Ringwood) Engelhardt, basketball; and Travis Thorn, football and track. Mike Olson was inducted for his success as the head men’s basketball coach for nine seasons at BHSU. The 1998-99 men’s basketball team and the 1973 golf team were also inducted.
BHSU Swarm King and Queen crowned

Evan Brindley, senior human services and sociology major from Belle Fourche, and Rhea Richards, senior human services, sociology, and psychology major from Gregory, were crowned Black Hills State University’s Swarm King and Queen.

Dr. Tim Steckline, associate professor of humanities, was chosen as Swarm Day Dad and Micheline Nelson, assistant professor of education, was chosen as Swarm Day Mom.

This year’s homecoming theme was “Swarm Spirit” with the Yellow Jacket (Sting, the mascot) showing his school spirit.

BHSU hosts transition program for Native American students

The Center for American Indian Studies at Black Hills State University used grant funding to host a unique six-day college transition program for Native American students.

This is the second year the Bridge Program has held its early move-in and orientation experience where freshmen Native American students participated in academic, professional, cultural, and social activities the week before classes began.

Launched in 2010, BHSU’s Bridge Program was originally funded by a short-term grant from the American Indian Education Foundation. The Bridge Program proved to be such a success in its first year that it has been expanded and supported this year by a long-term financial commitment from the South Dakota Department of Education’s College Access Challenge grant.

“The Bridge Program was developed to help freshmen Native students succeed here,” said Urla Marcus, BHSU Center for American Indian Studies director. “Many of the students who will participate are the first in their family to attend college anywhere. They face culturally unique challenges in pursuing higher education, and the Bridge Program is a way of helping them find solutions and resources to overcome those challenges.”

The program provides opportunities for students to participate in a coordinated extended orientation week that will include social activities, introductions to first year general education courses, individual meetings with faculty members, and information sessions with Native upperclassmen.

The goal of the program is to encourage active participation and graduation from BHSU, which has the highest percentage of Native students of the six state universities in South Dakota.

BHSU receives $15,000 scholarship donation from Pioneer Bank and Trust and the Clarkson Family

On behalf of Pioneer Bank and Trust and the Clarkson family, Jeb Clarkson (left), senior vice president and senior trust officer for Pioneer Bank and Trust, presents a $15,000 check to Dwight Hansen, director of development of University Advancement at Black Hills State University, to be used for scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year.
BHSU hosts a variety of events during photography week

Sept. 26 through Oct. 2 was photography week in South Dakota as proclaimed by Governor Dennis Daugaard. It was also photography week at Black Hills State University.

BHSU hosted a variety of photo exhibits by students, alumni, and local photographers on campus, as well as, in Rapid City.

Shutterbuzz, the BHSU photography club, hosted a lecture and discussion on rephotography by Dr. Robert Campbell, associate professor of history and geography at BHSU. Rephotography is the practice of returning to sites, usually in the landscape, using historic photographs as a guide in order to record a modern version of the image. Shutterbuzz also held a viewing of the previously recorded presentation from National Geographic and Canon Explorer of Light photographer, Sam Abell.

The MAC Group offered equipment demonstrations and seminars, as well as, equipment loans.

The week culminated with the Black Hills Photo Shootout and keynote speaker Canon Explorer of Light, David Stoecklein.

Stoecklein is a Canon “Explorer of Light” and has been recognized by the editors of True West magazine as the “Best Living Photographer of the West.” The distinguished award is given each year as part of the magazine’s “Best of the West” issue.

The 2011 Black Hills Photo Shootout focused on the Northern Black Hills with a base camp at BHSU. Photographers had the chance to explore and learn in places like Spearfish Canyon, Deadwood, Roughlock Falls, Devils Tower and Bear Butte. Two days of sessions provided instruction from top shooters and locals who know the lay of the land.

BHSU celebrates Constitution Day

Constitution Day 2011 was recently celebrated at Black Hills State University. The day was commemorated by remembering the events of ten years ago—the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

In the aftermath of those attacks, the federal government took actions that some Americans have labeled unconstitutional. Eric John Nies of Hood & Nies, P.C. gave a presentation titled “A Legal Perspective on the War on Terror.” During the presentation, Nies reviewed some of the more controversial American legal developments of the last decade, concentrating on the surveillance portions of the Patriot Act and the Guantanamo detainees. He also talked about why the developments have been so contentious and controversial.

Kathrine Switzer to speak at women’s business conference

The South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity (SD CEO), will host the Second Annual “From High Heels to High Places Conference” in Rapid City Oct. 26. The conference will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a keynote presentation by Kathrine Switzer, breakout sessions, a networking lunch, guest presenters, and exhibitors.

Hosted by the Black Hills State University School of Business, Switzer will kick off the morning with her keynote presentation, “Going the Distance in Business and Life.” Switzer, also well-known as the Marathon Woman, was the first female to officially run the Boston Marathon in 1967, where she was physically attacked and nearly ejected from the race by the event director.

After making huge social changes throughout her life, Switzer is now an Emmy-Award winning TV commentator, author, and inductee into the National Women’s Hall of Fame as of Oct. 1, 2011. Participants will hear her tell her rollicking and inspiring personal story to learn how you can succeed even in the toughest economic climate. She will demonstrate how fear can free you, how to turn negatives into opportunities, how to become bolder by being bold, and how to find inspired solutions even in tough times.

Guest presenters and breakout sessions will feature influential community leaders such as Linda Rabe, Priscilla Romkema, Tonya Johnson, and Ginny Wood Nelson. Presentations include Separating Emotion and Logic, The Savvy Businesswoman, Personal Branding, and Negotiation and Conflict Management.
Kelli Clarkson Memorial Scholarship Fund established at BHSU

The Clarkson family recently donated $10,000 to establish the Kelli Clarkson Memorial Scholarship Fund at Black Hills State University.

Kelli Clarkson was born March 4, 1953, and grew up on a farm east of Belle Fourche. She graduated from Belle Fourche High School in 1971 and married Alan Crago that summer. She worked for the Posy Palace in Belle Fourche and various flower shops in Spearfish and Boulder, Colo. An extremely gifted artist, Kelli created art using as many different mediums as her imagination could conjure. These included painting, photography, floral arrangement, jewelry, pottery, textiles, interior design, and gourmet cooking among others. According to Cathy Bennett, Kelli’s sister, it was truly a delight to see her many creations. Kelli also had a wanderlust from an early age and life’s travels took her many places including Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Tobago, Ethiopia, and many, many points in between. Kelli was diagnosed with cancer in February of 2010. The scholarship is designated for a sophomore, junior, or senior majoring in mass communication with an emphasis in photography.

BHSU named to military friendly school list

Black Hills State University was named to the 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools by G. I. Jobs. This list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s service members and veterans as students.

BHSU has a long history of working with the military to provide options for veterans and active duty military people to earn their degree. For more than 50 years, BHSU taught courses on the Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City. BHSU now offers more than 100 courses every semester at the University Center – Rapid City.

Many veterans and active military people also attend BHSU classes in Spearfish. The University provides services and advising to veteran students. The Vet’s Club, which was very active in the 70s, is making resurgence on campus as the number of veterans increases.

There are several BHSU students among the 842nd National Guard Engineering Unit which is being deployed. The University is working with these students to ensure they can reach their educational goals.

In its continuing effort to help student-veterans find the right school, G.I. Jobs incorporated a survey of student-veterans for the first time this year. This feedback provides prospective military students with insight into the student-veteran experience at a particular institution based on peer reviews and can be viewed on the web site. Michael Dakduk, executive director for the Student Veterans of America, agrees. “The Military Friendly Schools list is the go-to resource for prospective student-veterans searching for schools that provide the greatest opportunity and overall experience. Nothing is more compelling than actual feedback from current student veterans.”

The 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 8,000 schools nationwide. The 1,518 colleges, universities, and trade schools on this year’s list prioritize the recruitment of students with military experience. These schools are making the grade by offering scholarships and discounts, veterans’ clubs, full-time staff, military credit, and other services to those who served. Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) consisting of educators from schools across the country. A full list of board members can be found at http://militaryfriendlyschools.com/Article/advisory-board/.

BHSU named to top colleges for Native American students

Black Hills State University has been named one of the “Top 200 Colleges for Native Americans” by the editors of Winds of Change Magazine. Four-year universities from all across the United States were considered for the listing, which appears in the 2011-2012 college issue special edition of the magazine.

According to the story, the listing “reflects where American Indians are going to school in significant numbers and where the community, Native programs, and support are strong enough that students stay to enjoy college and graduate.” Winds of Change is the official publication of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

With more than five percent of the total student population, BHSU has the highest percentage of American Indian students of all of the South Dakota Board of Regents institutions. A primary source of academic, cultural, and social support for students at BHSU is the Center for American Indian Studies which was established by an act of the South Dakota Legislature in 1974.

Sara Elias, career counselor/internship coordinator, was elected to the South Dakota Association of College Career Centers (SDACCC) Board of Directors recently. Arlene Holmes, director of the Career Center, was selected to be the Black Hills Regional Job Fair Chair for the coming year.

Dr. Dave Siemens, associate professor of biology, was informed that his article titled “Water deficiency induces stress tolerance-chemical defense evolutionary tradeoff that may help explain restricted range in plants” was accepted for publication in Oikos-- a reputable international journal of ecology and evolution. The article is part of an ongoing study on the determinants of range limits in plants that was started and is mainly continued by graduate students in the ecological genomics course. Students from the course including, John Duvall Jisha, Jay Jacobs, Joseph Manthey, and Risten Haugen, as well as, Steve Matzner, a physiological ecologist from Augustana College, are co-authors.

Steve Babbitt, professor of photography, and Lynn Thorpe, adjunct art instructor, members of the professional group, Artists of the Black Hills, were recently honored by the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC). Babbitt and Thorpe each received a $5,000 Fellowship Award from SDAC. These prestigious awards are given to recognize excellence in past artistic achievement and to encourage future artistic growth.

Dr. Hee-Kwon Jung, assistant professor of marketing, was informed that his paper titled “The impact of perception factors on consumer reaction under product recalls” was accepted by the Academy of Business Research (ABR) and published in the Academy of Business Research Journal, Volume 1 (pp 73-92), 2011. All papers in ABRJ are double blind peer reviewed.

Dr. Brian Smith, professor of biology, and Hugh Quinn, adjunct researcher, have received a grant from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) to study anthropogenic threats to the reptiles and amphibians of South Dakota. Funding was provided by a federal match source called State Wildlife Grants and SDGFP Wildlife Division dollars to assist with the revision of the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan.

Dave Wilson, associate professor of art, and James Louks, recent graduate, have collaborated for an art exhibition of 30 paintings that displayed at the Laura A. Sprague Gallery at Joliet Junior College in Illinois. The exhibition is titled “Persona Non Grata” and the artworks de-construct the celebrity persona from two distinctly different generational perspectives. Louks is currently studying at the University of Montana in their master of fine arts program.

Kent Meyers, associate professor of humanities, had an essay titled “Naked Time” published in an anthology from the University of Texas Press, titled West 98: Living and Writing the American West. The editors invited noted writers living west of the 98th meridian to submit an essay that deals with some aspect of life in the American West. Meyers wrote about the ways that western landscapes make time visible through such things as erosion, geologic formations, and fossils, and how people living in the American West are therefore sensitive to time in ways that those living in other parts of the nation are not.

Don Altmyer, professor of business, wrote an article titled “Introducing Dr. Kevin Donnelly: Frisbee Golf’s First Modern Promoter” that was accepted for publication in DiscGolfer Magazine. Altmyer had the privilege of meeting Donnelly in a chance encounter this summer during his travels to the PDGA Amateur Disc Golf World Championships.

Dr. Byron Hollowell, assistant professor of business, had his article titled “Examining the Long term Performance of TARP Firms” accepted for publication in The Journal of International Finance Studies (JIFS) Volume 12, 2012. The JIFS is a peer-reviewed journal listed in Cabell’s Directories of Refereed Publications with a 25 percent acceptance rate. The JIFS invites papers with theoretical and conceptual research on topics related to international finance research and industry practice.
DSU Named Outstanding Public Employer

Dakota State was named the Outstanding Public Employer by the South Dakota Board of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Human Services. The Governor’s Awards Ceremony was held on July 26th in the Rotunda of the State Capitol to recognize individuals and employers for their contributions to the rehabilitation and employment of South Dakotans with disabilities. Vice President for Student Affairs, Jesse Wise, accepted the award on behalf of the University. DSU alum, Marc Thorson of Aberdeen (Class of 2001) was recognized as the Outstanding Employee with a Disability.

DSU’s Lynette Molstad Gorder, Professor of Business and Information Systems, received the Friend of Career and Technical Education Award at the annual South Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education banquet in August. The award was in recognition of her involvement in promoting and developing career and technical education.

HIT Workforce Development Training Program Surpasses Goal

DSU’s workforce training program in health information technology has surpassed their first year goals as approved by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

In cooperation with its two training partners, Mitchell Technical Institute and the University of Alaska-Anchorage, DSU has successfully enrolled 225 students in the HIT (Health Information Technology) Workforce Development Training Program. According to Mike Busch DSU’s HIT Recruitment and Placement Coordinator, “We feel really good right now on how quickly the EHR training has caught on in South Dakota healthcare facilities and other regional areas in the U.S. and we are proud to have met our year one milestones.”

“We feel really good right now on how quickly the EHR training has caught on in South Dakota healthcare facilities and other regional areas in the U.S., and we are proud to have met our year one milestones.”

--Mike Busch

Jesse Wise, DSU’s VP for Student Affairs, and Governor Daugaard

Molstad Gorder Recognized for Service
DSU Artists at Brookings Art Exhibit

Two DSU faculty, Angela Behrends and Linn Nelson, participated in the Brookings Arts Council’s 35th annual Fine Arts Exhibit. Behrends is a mixed media sculptor & installation artist. She entered two hanging landscape works made with felted hair on canvas. Nelson is a graphic artist and printmaker. The print she entered is a collagraph, monotype titled “Predator”. (pictured below)

DSU Receives CUPA-HR Award

Dakota State received the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) 2011 SunGard Higher Education Innovation Award. This award, sponsored by SunGard Higher Education, honors a team’s or an individual’s demonstrated human resource innovation. The innovation can be technological in nature, based in process improvement, a novel partnership that advances the profession, or a new approach to an HR department’s current challenge, but most important, it must advance the human resource profession or contribute to the overall excellence of the profession. Thanks to the generous support of SunGard Higher Education, CUPA-HR is pleased to offer a $3,000 contribution to an endowment or scholarship at DSU.

The award recognizes DSU for its new electronic leave reporting system. The new system allows employees to document leave requests for their supervisors and allows supervisors to document why leave was taken. Faculty members can also use the system for tracking professional development.

Once leave is approved, the system automatically updates the employee’s timesheet, feeds the information to HRIS and payroll and sends an e-mail to both the employee and the supervisor.

The South Dakota Board of Regents was so impressed with the new system that it worked with Dakota State University to migrate leave reporting for the entire South Dakota public higher education system (4,500 employees) into Dakota State’s system.

Dakota State also received the SunGard Higher Education Innovation Award in 2003.
New Faculty Hires

Five new faculty have joined the DSU campus this fall:

Yen-Ling Chang, Assistant Professor of Finance comes to DSU from Pacific Lutheran University. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Carmela Lanza, Assistant Professor of English, comes from the University of New Mexico where she was an English instructor. She received her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico.

Carla Miller, Instructor of Special Education, is currently working on her Educational Specialist degree at USD. She most recently worked at the Center for Developmental Disabilities University Affiliated Programs at USD.

Kyle Cronin, Instructor of Information Assurance is currently enrolled in the Information Assurance doctoral program at Capitol College.

Colleen Ryan, ESL Education Specialist/Instructor, earned her M.A. from Asbury University. She most recently taught ESL for the Marion County School District in Lebanon, KY.

Faculty Member Designs Website

Nathan Edwards, Assistant Professor of Audio Production, completed a redesign of the Prairie Village website this summer, just in time for the busy summer season at Prairie Village, including the annual Steam Threshing Jamboree. The project was overseen by PV manager, Stan Rauch, as well as DSU Director of Sponsored Programs, Mickie Kreidler.

Edwards and Kreidler saw the project as an opportunity to provide their skills in order to benefit the community. The new website can be viewed at www.prairievillage.org.

DSU in GetEducated.com Top 10

GetEducated.com is a consumer group that publishes objective rankings of the best online colleges and online degree reviews from real students in an effort to highlight the best online colleges and degree programs in the USA. DSU earned a double Top 10 ranking for its Master of Science in Information Systems (#5) and its Master of Science in Information Assurance (#10).

Dakota State has earned several best online college awards for affordability.
DSU Participates in One Book South Dakota

The DSU Office of Diversity Services, the Karl Mundt Library, and DSU Assistant Professor, Dr. Stacey Berry, are collaborating to participate in the South Dakota Humanities Council initiative, One Book South Dakota.

The goal of One Book South Dakota is to encourage regional conversations around a common text, and to provide understanding of cultural issues pertaining to the state and its history.

The 2012 book selection for One Book South Dakota is The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History by Joseph Marshall III. Best known for his prowess on the battlefield, the book gives a closer inspection of the life of Crazy Horse and reveals a complex figure made up of much more than war stories and heroic legends.

DSU to Host Writing Conference

Dakota State University will host the 15th annual conference of the Great Plains Alliance for Computers and Writing, Friday, October 21 and Saturday October 22.

The GPACW is an organization of regional colleges and universities dedicated to the investigation and advancement of computer assisted writing and writing instruction.

The keynote speaker at this year’s conference is Holladay Penick, Creative Director of GiantChair, Inc., a company specializing in metadata distribution for the independent and academic publishing industry. Penick will speak on the conference theme: New Ways of Reading / New Ways of Writing. This theme embraces all manner of digital writing environments and their influences on literacy practices in the computer age.

DSU Teams Top Business Strategy Game

Dakota State University student teams participated in The Business Strategy Game http://www.bsg-online.com/ as part of their business administration class over the summer. The simulation tracks the performance of student teams worldwide. One of the DSU teams ended in a tie for first among the 1,093 teams worldwide. Two of the other DSU teams were in the top three.

In The Business Strategy Game, 1 to 5 member teams are assigned to operate an athletic footwear company. Each company competes head to head with the companies of the other teams. Teams make decisions on production, capital improvements, worker compensation, shipping and inventory, pricing and marketing, and financing.

The game was used as part of the BADM 482 class this summer to give students a hands-on approach to managing a company in a global market.

Conservation part of DSU curriculum

Dr. Kristel Bakker, Associate Professor of Biology, and a group of DSU students participated in a bird watching tour this summer on the Headley Ranch near White Lake. Every year USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in South Dakota joins partners to coordinate a bird watching tour on a farm or ranch that participates in one of their voluntary conservation programs.
South Dakota’s 4th Annual e-Health Summit To Be Held in Sioux Falls

Dakota State University will be one of the hosts for South Dakota’s 4th Annual e-Health Summit. The event, which focuses on the most up to date health information technology happenings within the state, will be held in Sioux Falls at the Holiday Inn Downtown on November 7. This is the only summit of its kind within the region dedicated to advancing the role of health information technology (HIT) and the topic of health information exchange (HIE).

"This conference will bring together local, regional, and national innovators in the adoption and integration of HIT and HIE," said Kevin DeWald, the state’s Health Information Technology Coordinator. "We plan to create an opportunity to exchange ideas and information from hospitals, provider offices, and other professionals to foster new ways to use technology to change the way health care is delivered.

The conference will consist of educational sessions and recent updates to the stages of Meaningful Use. Ron Fovargue, Vice President of Technology for St. John’s Medical Center, in Joplin, Missouri, will deliver a powerful message about the need for electronic health and how its impact saved their community during the recent tragic tornado.

Numerous resource groups within the state in addition to Dakota State University are supporting the conference, including the Department of Health, HealthPOINT (South Dakota’s Regional Extension Center), Department of Social Services, the South Dakota State Medical Association and the South Dakota Association of Health Care Organizations. South Dakota Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (SDHIMSS) will also help sponsor the event along with numerous electronic health record vendors and exhibitors.

Art Exhibits

DSU Associate Professor of Art, Alan Montgomery’s work “Deepwater Horizon” has been accepted to the Carriage House National Juried Exhibit. The work is a three-panel mixed media painting, which is part of a series exploring the impact of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Over 175 entries were received from over 20 states. The exhibit will be in the Oak Park Art League Gallery in Oak Park, IL.

The Washington Pavilion will host Take the Day on October 1. The event features 44 artists, including DSU faculty Alan Montgomery, Giles Timms, Cassie Edwards, and Angela Behrends.

Hacking Workshop in Sioux Falls

On October 28-29 at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls, Dr. Pat Engebretson and Dr. Josh Pauli will be conducting the Hands-on Hacking Workshop. The workshop is geared toward area professionals who wish to better protect their own networks and systems. The classes stress the fundamental tools and techniques that are applicable to a wide range of systems. Participants with little to no prior security skills will learn how to become competent ethical network and web software penetration testers.
Citibank Establishes Endowment

Citibank has established a scholarship endowment at DSU in recognition of the ties between the bank and university. The Citibank Scholarship Endowment was established through a $50,000 pledge to DSU's 2.0 Capital Campaign, and will be paid to the university over 5 years. Recipients will be selected by DSU, with scholarships awarded to full and part-time students who come from low and moderate-income households.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Visits DSU

Several members of the CRST delegation are shown pictured with DSU personnel.

Seven representatives of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe visited campus September 12-13 to explore possible areas for cooperation. The visit of the delegation is the result of Kari Forbes-Boyte’s involvement with CRST related to her research work. Some of the areas discussed were course and internship opportunities, technology management, and cooperation with research projects. Since many members of the delegation were from the Cultural Preservation Resource Center, they also spent time with DSU's Archivist and audio production faculty to discuss records preservation techniques.

“Citibank has enjoyed a solid return on every investment we've made over the years with Dakota State University. We receive well-trained men and women who are ready to go on the job for Citi on day one, and South Dakota's communities and our nation benefit from students who received excellent training at DSU to become the leaders of the future.” --Jerry Nachtigal

DSU Awarded Military Friendly School Title

DSU has been recognized by G.I. Jobs magazine as a Military Friendly School. The 2012 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members and veterans as students.
NSU Receives National Recognition

NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY was once again named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the Best Higher Education Institutions in the Midwest. This is the fourth-year in a row NSU has been listed in this National Ranking. This year, NSU is rated number 2 and is the only South Dakota institution to be recognized in the undergraduate Midwest category.

This honor comes just months after U.S. News & World Report recognized NSU as the Most Affordable Higher Education Institution in the Midwest.

“We are honored to have been selected again and to have increased our place in these rankings. This fourth-year in a row selection by U.S. News & World Report verifies what students are telling us about the quality of educational experience here at Northern,” said NSU President Jim Smith.

“Our size, academic quality, curriculum offerings, level of athletic completion, and broad-based student activities platform make us the quality institution that we are. Obviously, as President, I am extremely proud of this national ranking and the recognition that follows.”

Home Donated to Northern State University

By John Papendick

CARMEN AND DON MEYER recently moved into Aberdeen, and then made a moving gesture to their university and community.

The former Northern State basketball coach and wife are donating their former home — in a prestigious housing development by a golf course — to the Northern State University Foundation. The Meyer’s 6,500 square-foot home recently was appraised at $430,000.

“It is a humbling gift for them to give their home for the university to sell,” NSU President Jim Smith said. “I was rather stunned. It tells you a lot about who the people are, and Carmen and Don are wonderful people.”

The foundation is preparing to sell the home, with the proceeds going to the current $3.2 million remodeling and addition project to the Barnett Center. The foundation has been working to secure the $700,000 that was left to raise on the project, so the home donation is a great boost.

The Barnett Center is home to Wachs Arena and Don Meyer Court, where Don finished his career in 2010 as the winningest men’s basketball coach in NCAA history. He is now a special assistant to Smith — a job that involves a lot of travel for the Meyers as Don is in high demand across the country as a speaker.

“All our lives, people have been so generous and giving to us,” Carmen Meyer said Monday. “I remember when Don was getting his doctorate degree at the University of Utah, and we were dirt poor with three little kids who needed pajamas. Without saying anything, a neighbor came by asking us if we wanted their kids’ pajamas that they had outgrown. All our lives, things like that have happened and a lot times, we couldn’t repay people. But we hoped one day we could pass on that generosity. This is one small way we can do that.”

The Meyers donated house is in the Prairiewood development near Moccasin Creek Country Club just northeast of Aberdeen. Smith said the location of the home “makes the magnitude of the gift that much larger. I know their home. It is lovely, and perfectly positioned along the golf course. If you want to live out by a country course setting, this is a great, great home to have.”

Genesis of donation

Carmen said the idea to move was ignited by a friendly intervention of family and friends, who told Carmen and Don that they needed to simplify and downsize their
lives. During a recent visit to Aberdeen, the Meyers’ daughter, Brooke, drove her parents into action.

When Carmen still resisted, saying it would be a hassle to sell their home and that she wished that she could make it simple and just give it away, Brooke’s response was just as simple: “Then why don’t you give it away?”

Don and the rest of the Meyer children readily agreed.

“That was pretty nice of Brooke and the rest of our children to agree to that,” Carmen said. “Our children said they just wanted to make our lives easier.”

The new house has accomplished that goal.

Servant leaders

Todd Jordre, executive director of the NSU Foundation, said the Meyers are shining examples of servant leaders. “They live out their beliefs. To have someone gift us such an asset is humbling and very inspiring. We hope to utilize that inspiration with other folks as well.”

Smith agreed. “Don and Carmen have a big heart. They really do believe in giving, and the whole art of stewardship is get other people to give as well.”

Carmen said that is why she and Don — with the encouragement of NSU — went public with their gift. They are hoping that this will encourage others to give to Northern State.

Smith also said Meyer’s nationwide fame as a basketball coach — writing a best-selling book with ESPN’s Buster Olney, setting national records, surviving cancer and a near fatal car accident and winning nationwide awards — will continue to help NSU as well. “The whole country knows who Don is. This story will get play nationally. That rachets it up another notch for us to get that kind of publicity.”

Smith and Jordre said they will make good use of the donation to the Barnett Center addition. “We have a pretty spectacular basketball arena now,” said Smith. “It is going to be jaw-dropping when we get it done.”

The celebration begins on Friday, November 4 with the premiere of Culturefest. This event will be held from 10-2 p.m. and 5-7:30 p.m. Students and community members alike will have the opportunity to speak with individuals who have lived and traveled all around the world. Some of these areas will be well known, others will be a bit more exotic and unfamiliar.

“As we continue to be a highly desired destination for undergraduate international students, this type of activity becomes more and more logical in the development of NSU, as a campus community, but it also reflects the development of the larger community as well,” said NSU President Jim Smith.

Opportunities to explore and learn about international destinations and their rich cultures will not be limited to college students and area residents; the Culturefest Committee is working to extend invitations to area K-12 students, especially those involved with NSU via the Statewide Center for E-Learning.

The second part of the two-day celebration includes the annual NSU Fall Powwow. Grand Entry is scheduled at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and will be a traditional wacipi with the goal that everyone will leave with something, whether placing in a dancing contest, prize from a raffle or a warm meal to feed their spirit. A meal open to the public will be served at 5 p.m.

Guests who have been invited to participate in the event sponsored by the NSU Native American Student Association include Tony Bob Tail Bear, Sr. of Little Eagle, as the Emcee/Eyapaha and Justin Miller, of McLaughlin as the arena director. The Host Drum will be Dakota Boys Drum from the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe.
International Conference

THE NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS (CEIB) will host the 18th Annual International Business Conference on Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, at the Radisson Hotel in Rapid City. This event is sponsored by Black Hills Power and Gunderson, Palmer, Nelson & Ashmore, LLP.

The conference, which will feature approximately 50 academic lecturers, representing 15 countries, will begin on Thu, Sept. 29, with a kick-off dinner and presentations on a variety of international business topics.

The Keynote Dinner at Mt. Rushmore National Memorial will be held on Fri, Sept. 30, at 5:45 p.m. Featured keynote speaker, Dr. Alan Krueger, will speak at 7:15 p.m.

Alan B. Krueger is the Bendheim Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University. He has published widely on the economics of education, unemployment, labor demand, income distribution, terrorism, subjective well-being, social insurance, labor market regulation and environmental economics. Since 1987 he has held a joint appointment in the Economics Department and Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. He is the founding Director of the Princeton University Survey Research Center and a Gallup senior scientist. In 2009-10 he served as Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy and Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and in 1994-95 he served as Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Labor. He was named a Sloan Fellow in Economics in 1992 and an NBER Olin Fellow in 1989-90. He was editor of the Journal of Economic Perspectives from 1996 to 2002. He was elected a Fellow of the Econometric Society in 1996, a fellow of the Society of Labor Economists in 2005 and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Economic Association in 2004. He was awarded the Kershaw Prize by the Association for Public Policy and Management in 1997 and the Mahalanobis Memorial Medal by the Indian Econometric Society in 2001. In 2002 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and in 2003 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. He was awarded the IZA Prize in Labor Economics in 2006. He earned a B.S. degree from Cornell University in 1983 and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University in 1987.

New Artist Collection

FANTASY AND REALITY COLLIDE in a new artist exhibition this fall at Northern State University.

Spokane, Wash., artist Katie Creyts’ work will be on display in the Lincoln Gallery Sept. 15-Nov. 4. An exhibition opening will be 6-8 p.m. Sept. 15. Creyts’ sculptures and installations are extracts and abstracts from fictive tales, according to her artist biography. Creyts, who has a master’s degree in fine arts, uses a variety of glass techniques she has acquired through working in glass art production and experimentation along with mixed media, according to the biography.

“My work is strangely resonant, yet idiosyncratic objects that challenge the difference between ‘reality’ and ‘fantasy’ by entangling both concepts,” Creyts said in her artist statement.
School of Mines Earns Designation as One of Top 10 State Universities by Salary Potential

The School of Mines has been designated one of the U.S.’s Top 10 State Universities by Salary Potential in a report release by PayScale, a market leader in global online compensation data. School of Mines’ graduates ranked fourth for their starting median salary of $56,700 and tenth for mid-career median salary of $96,300, earning the School of Mines an overall ranking within the top ten.

“This report further confirms that a degree from the School of Mines provides an excellent return on investment,” said Dr. Robert Wharton, President of the School of Mines. “Our students graduate with a strong foundation that prepares them well for success in their careers.”

PayScale’s 2011-2012 College Salary Report based its top-ten list on the annual pay for graduates who have earned bachelor’s degrees from 416 public universities. Starting graduates are defined as having two or less years of experience, and mid-career graduates as having fifteen years of experience. For more information about the report, see www.payscale.com/best-colleges/top-state-universities.asp

School of Mines’ Students Gain Valuable Work Experience through Summer Internships

Of the School of Mines’ students who reported seeking an internship, co-op or research position this summer, 70 percent were successful in obtaining a position, and 36 percent of the positions were located in South Dakota. A total of 275 School of Mines’ students worked for 127 employers in 34 states and Canadian provinces, which included 44 employers in 24 communities in South Dakota. Students earned an average of $16.58 per hour, and some employers provided housing stipends and relocation expenses in addition to earned wages.

“The availability of college graduates with relevant work experience is extremely important to economic development in South Dakota,” said Dr. Robert Wharton, President of the School of Mines. “The intern, co-op, and research opportunities available to our students contribute to their career advancement and to workforce development in our state.”

Organizations hiring School of Mines’ students include 3M, Barrick Gold, Bobcat, Cargill, Cloud Peak Energy, John Deere, Kiewit, Microsoft, Nucor, and Peabody Energy. In addition to Fortune 500 companies, students interned with South Dakota employers Black Hills Power, Daktronics, Innovative Systems, POET, Raven Industries, South Dakota Department of Transportation, Trail King, and others.

Seventy-five percent of School of Mines’ students gain relevant work experience prior to graduation. These experiences develop the professional skills that employers seek and contribute to the consistently high placement rate and average starting salary offer of School of Mines’ graduates. For the classes of 2009-2010, the placement rate was 97 percent within the first year of graduation, and the average starting salary offer was more than $56,700.
School of Mines’ Museum of Geology Receives Valuable Mineral Donation

Former Rapid City resident Dr. Clark Scovel of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, and Scovel’s friend and fellow mineral collector, Dr. Stephen Neely of Lebanon, Tennessee, donated mineral specimens that together represent one of the most valuable gifts the School of Mines’ Museum of Geology has received in its 126-year history. The specimens, which are scheduled to go on display at the Museum in late October, originated from zinc mines in Smith County, Tennessee, and feature dramatic combinations of calcite and fluorite crystals and barite spheres of unusual size and quality.

Scovel, who has been collecting minerals for about a decade after being introduced to the hobby by Neely, grew up in Rapid City and remembers going to the Museum of Geology as a child. During a trip to Rapid City last summer to visit family still residing in the area, including his mother Sandy, a former Rapid City public school teacher, father Al, an attorney and former state legislator, and sister Kari, a psychologist, Scovel took his two daughters to the Museum. He said that his own fond memories and his daughters’ enjoyment of the Museum prompted him to choose the School of Mines for his gift.

Neely, who had been considering gifting a portion of his mineral collection, decided to join Scovel in donating to the Museum of Geology in order to keep the specimens, which are related by their place of origin, together.

Prompted by the value of the minerals, Scovel drove the 1,390 miles from his home in Tennessee to personally deliver his and Neely’s mineral donations to the School of Mines on August 26, 2011. Dr. Laurie Anderson, geology and geological engineering department head and Museum of Geology director, said that the specimens will be available for viewing at the Museum of Geology on the School of Mines’ campus in late October. The Museum is open to the public Monday through Saturday. For hours and directions, please visit http://museum.sdsmt.edu/home/.

Poster Exhibit Features Engineering Research with Historical and Artistic Themes

The School of Mines’ Back to the Future Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) summer program hosted a poster exhibition in August featuring student research projects in metallurgy and materials science, many of which have historical, social or artistic themes.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, REU is a 10-week summer research program for undergraduate students. During the program, students participate in a series of seminars and workshops in art, history, and archaeometallurgy. These intersect with their prior academic training in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, and provide a unique historical and cultural framework for current research. The main objective of the REU program is to increase student entrance into graduate research programs.
School of Mines Earns Designation as Military Friendly School for Third Consecutive Year

The School of Mines has made the Military Friendly School list published by G.I. Jobs magazine for the third year in a row. The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to recruit and support America’s Veterans.

Cathy Payne, coordinator of the Veterans Resource Center at the School of Mines, said “I’m especially proud of our achievement this year since the evaluation process for earning a spot on the Military Friendly School list has become more rigorous. The fact that we are maintaining this designation shows that the support and services we provide to veterans continue to be among the best in the country.”

Eric Parry, an Air Force veteran majoring in electrical engineering, added, “The veteran representatives at SDSM&T made my admission a phenomenally easy process. Also, the Veterans Resource Center is an invaluable asset; it’s a place for camaraderie and a place for students from different majors to gather together.”

The School of Mines had 152 active duty and veteran students enrolled for the 2010-2011 academic year. Campus support personnel available specifically for veterans include an on-campus registration officer and Veterans Administration certifier. Support services include: a partnership with Western Nebraska Community College TRIO Veterans Upward Bound, a program funded by the Department of Education to help Veterans enter and succeed in postsecondary education; a Veterans Club chapter of the Student Veterans of America; annual Veterans Day celebrations; and a Veterans Orientation each semester.

Additional services offered through the Campus Veterans Resource Center include: tutoring; resume writing; assistance with job, internship and scholarship searches and applications; referral services for VA benefits, G.I. Bills, counseling services, and community Veterans organizations; academic and life skills workshops; and a lounge and study room for socializing and studying. For more information regarding the Veterans Resource Center, see http://vrc.sdsmt.edu/

School of Mines Receives $69K to Enhance Environmental Education in South Dakota

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded $69,000 to the School of Mines to carry out a watershed management and monitoring program with students of the Oglala Sioux Tribe at Oglala Lakota College on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The program will train high school and college students in water monitoring including sampling, field measurement, data analysis, and the presentation of findings in public meetings.

“Environmental Education grants are extremely competitive and this year’s grantees represent the best of the best,” said Wendy Dew, EPA Region 8 environmental education coordinator. “These are innovative projects that will advance community awareness and shape the next generation of environmental stewards.”

School of Mines’ faculty involved include the project leader, Dr. Jennifer Benning, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering; and project co-leaders Dr. Scott Kenner, professor of civil and environmental engineering, and Dr. Foster Sawyer, professor of geology and geological engineering.
President Wharton Appointed Co-Chair of APLU Energy Committee

President of the School of Mines, Dr. Robert Wharton, was appointed co-chair of the Energy Committee to the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Energy Forum in May 2011.

Horn Joins School of Mines as Vice President for University Relations

Ms. Christy Horn has joined the executive team at the School of Mines as Vice President for University Relations.

Horn brings to the School of Mines 30 years of demonstrated excellence in higher education and the private sector in the areas of public relations, human resource and project management, organizational development, and fund raising and sales.

Horn previously served as the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the University of North Alabama in Florence, Alabama. Prior to that, she was Director of Development for Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

Kliche Contributes Chapter to “Handbook of Choice” for Mining Engineers

Dr. Charles Kliche, professor of mining engineering, authored the chapter entitled “Slope Stability” in the recently published third edition of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) Mining Engineering Handbook. Kliche also was associate editor and technical reviewer for the handbook.

According to the SME website (www.smenet.org), the Mining Engineering Handbook has an international reputation as “the handbook of choice” for today’s practicing mining engineer. It distills the body of knowledge that characterizes mining engineering as a disciplinary field and has helped to inspire and inform generations of mining professionals.

Athletes Honored for Scholastic Achievements

Academic achievements of Hardrocker scholar-athletes for the 2010-11 academic year include: 42 percent of Hardrocker scholar-athletes earned Dakota Athletic Conference academic honors; 25 scholar-athletes received National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All American Academic status; six out of 12 teams won NAIA All Scholar Academic Team Awards; and the School of Mines’ women’s basketball finished 12th in the nation in academic standing out of 290 NAIA women’s basketball teams with a team GPA over 3.40, and women’s volleyball finished in the top 15 out of 280 NAIA women’s volleyball teams with a team GPA over 3.60.

School of Mines Honors Biofuels Expert

The School of Mines has awarded the 2011 Mines Medal, a national award honoring engineers and scientists who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation, to Dr. Lee Rybeck Lynd, co-founder of biofuels start-up Mascoma Corporation and Paul E. and Joan H. Queneau Distinguished Professor in Environmental Engineering Design at Dartmouth College. Lynd will receive the Mines Medal at the third annual Mines Medal Dinner and Award Ceremony to be held September 29, 2011, at the Rushmore Civic Center Plaza in Rapid City.

Duke University Professor Speaks About Environmental Genocide in Iraq

The Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the School of Mines hosted a public presentation in September by Dr. Curtis Richardson, professor of resource ecology at Duke University, about the environmental genocide that has taken place in Iraq’s Mesopotamian marshes.

Richardson reviewed the ecological devastation that has resulted from a systematic plan by Saddam Hussein’s Iraqi government to drain the marshes and discussed the future of the remaining indigenous Marsh Arabs, a 5,000 year-old culture whose population formerly numbered the hundreds of thousands.
American Chemistry Society grant supports SDSU program to analyze water samples from across state

Two South Dakota State University chemists received one of 20 national grants awarded by the American Chemical Society’s Division of Analytical Chemistry. During the International Year of Chemistry, ACS supports outreach projects that demonstrate the significance of analytical chemistry.

Analytical chemistry uses techniques to measure the chemical composition of substances. The applications range from measuring chemistry in food and health care products to monitoring substances in order to ensure environmental quality.

Brian Logue, assistant professor of chemistry, and Raj Bhandari, a chemistry graduate student, embarked on a familiar South Dakota topic: water.

“The Water Analysis To Educate and outReach, or WATER, program is an education/outreach program that will allow South Dakota K-12 and undergraduate institutions to gain access to highly technical instrumentation available at the SDSU Core Campus Mass Spectrometry Facility,” said Logue.

Program components

The grant will be used for supplies to collect water samples, materials needed to analyze those samples and a student hired to create and maintain a Web site on collected data. In addition, the tests run will provide a source of funding at $2 to $3 per sample.

“The findings from WATER research will have larger impacts in the education of multiple levels of students and will provide a service to the broader community,” said Logue.

Water operation

Through WATER, CCMSF will obtain water samples collected by high school or undergraduate students. SDSU chemistry students will prepare the samples in the new mass spectrometry facility for analysis. Data achieved through tests are compiled in an Internet-based program. Both SDSU students and students from the participating institutions can observe and study samples for chemicals of interest.

An ultimate benefit of WATER is being able to map chemicals of interest, largely from pesticides, in South Dakota water sources.

Logue said that examining water samples for pesticides is a relatively simple process. Therefore, if finding contaminated water results, further testing could encourage “action to create a healthier water source.”

Faculty/Graduate student oversight

A graduate student of Logue, Bhandari, was also interested in joining the study after reading about it in a Division of Analytical Chemistry publication.

“I was, and am always, interested to know what components are in the water samples around us,” said Bhandari. “After talking to Dr. Logue, I found out that he was about to do this WATER project, and I thought, ‘I should be involved.’ This project enables users to get familiar with a powerful piece of instrumentation, the LC MS/MS.”

“LC stands for liquid chromatography, which is a method of separation, and MS is mass spectrometry, which is the detector,” said Bhandari. “This powerful tool separates compounds so they can be readily identified in MS, which gives us not only the mass of a molecule, but also characterizes breakdown products to identify compounds.”

Logue and Bhandari are ACS members, and Logue is a member of the Division of Analytical Chemistry within the ACS. The Division of Analytical Chemistry is the world’s largest organization of professionals in this field with more than 8,000 members.
Facility uses high tech equipment to measure and analyze mass

The Core Campus Mass Spectrometry Facility on campus held an open house to showcase construction and renovation of the operation to include more space and more state-of-the-art equipment.

The mass spectrometry facility is located in the new Avera Health and Science Center on campus, north of the Administration Building in the lower level.

The expansion enabled the facility to acquire and commission two new mass spectrometers and open a proteomics sample preparation and analysis lab.

Mass spectrometry is the science of measuring the mass-to-charge ratio in charged molecules. The field can also be used to discover a molecule’s mass, elemental composition and chemical structures.

Using mass spectrometry can aid an array of research projects that includes drug discovery and testing, molecular interaction, metabolism studies, oil composition analysis, organic molecule synthesis and further testing.

Proteomics studies the structure and functions of proteins that are vital to the existence of organisms, forming cell components and metabolic pathways.

CCMSF provides research services for a fee and research training in mass spectrometry. Cutting-edge technology enables staff and students to characterize small and large molecules, proteomics and metabolomics.

Linhong Jing, CCMSF director, helps incorporate mass spectrometry into research projects, advises how the facility can be used in courses or assists in grant applications.

Aggressive technology transfer of research will continue at SDSU after founding director leaves

The SDSU Technology Transfer Office that increased the number of intellectual property disclosures from just nine during the year before establishment of the office to a total of 127 in last three fiscal years, plans to continue that aggressive growth to stimulate the state’s economy, but under a new director.

Denichiro Otsuga, the office’s founding director, who established the office in 2008, has taken a position as executive director at the University of Kentucky Office for Commercialization and Economic Development.

“Denny has set the stage by his creation of SDSU’s technology transfer office,” said Kevin Kephart, vice president for research at State.

“I am very grateful for his hard work and dedication, and I am especially proud of his accomplishments.

“Because of SDSU’s successes in commercializing technologies, the SDSU Technology Transfer Office will need to grow in order to manage the anticipated research growth at SDSU,” Kephart said.

The TTO at SDSU will continue to receive and process all intellectual property matters while a national search begins for a new director.

Two attorneys are under contract to assist with legal processes with regard to protecting university research.

An interim director will be named to facilitate plans Otsuga set in place to shift the focus from harvesting intellectual properties to process them by focusing on licensing and start-up formation activities.

An IP disclosure is the first step toward commercialization of SDSU research activity. During 2010, the majority of research disclosures at SDSU came from the College of Engineering with 16 disclosures followed by the Colleges of Agriculture and Biological Sciences with 14, Pharmacy with eight and Arts and Sciences with six. The College of Education and the office of the Vice President for Research’s Office each had one disclosure.

“It has been my privilege to be a part of the tremendous success and growth in research and creative activities achieved through hard work by faculty members and leadership at SDSU,” said Otsuga.

Four start-up companies based on SDSU research innovation have been formed through a partnership with South Dakota Innovation Partners, LLC, an early stage venture capital firm focused on accelerating science and technology-based economic development.

Since TTO was established in 2008, commercialization income based on SDSU research increased 71 percent for a record of more than $1.2 million in FY2011.
Rural landscapes of the future might have pyrolysis plants instead of grain elevators on every horizon — processing centers where farmers would bring bulky crops such as switchgrass to be made into crude oil.

Those pyrolysis plants would pass that crude “bio-oil” on to refineries elsewhere to be made into drop-in fuels and industrial chemicals; they would capture and use for their own energy needs a byproduct called syngas made up of hydrogen, carbon monoxide and perhaps carbon dioxide; and they would send farmers away with an important byproduct called biochar that could go back on the land to help rebuild damaged soils, sequester carbon and alter greenhouse gas emissions.

Researchers work with USDA

SDSU researchers are working with a U.S. Department of Agriculture colleague to explore how to get the most from such a production system. The USDA is funding the project with a grant of $1 million — $200,000 annually for the next five years — to help scientists design a feedstock production system for optimum energy production of “bio-oil,” but also to explore the possible ecological benefits from the use of biochar.

The grant was selected by the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s flagship competitive grants program as a sustainable bioenergy challenge. Typically fewer than 10 percent of proposals are funded.

“We’re looking at this from a whole system approach, and we’re looking at various components in the whole system,” said Tom Schumacher, the project director.

“Historically, the distributive nature of crop production gave rise to a network of grain elevators to separate and coordinate the flow of grain to the processing industry. A network of rail lines added new infrastructure to improve efficiency. For lignocellulosic feedstocks, a corollary to the grain elevator would be a collection point that would be within 10 to 30 miles of production fields.”

Collection points process feedstocks

Those collection points wouldn’t be for long-term storage, but to receive, sort and pre-process or process feedstocks using pyrolysis to break them down into bio-oil, syngas and biochar. Making crude bio-oil would densify the material to a liquid form easier to transport for further processing. Meanwhile, the biochar would likely be used in fields in the service area of the pyrolysis plant.

The pyrolysis process uses elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen to break down organic materials. The SDSU study will use a technique microwave pyrolysis to heat the feedstock by exciting the individual molecules, making it very accurate and easy to control.

Investigators span several colleges

Schumacher’s co-principal investigators on the project include professors Sharon Clay, David Clay, Ronald Gelderman and Douglas Malo and research associate Rajesh Chintala, all of SDSU’s Department of Plant Science; professor Jim Julson and assistant professor Lin Wei in SDSU’s Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering; and supervisory soil scientist Sharon Papiernik of the USDA North Central Agricultural Research Laboratory.

Process engineers and soil scientists are collaborating in the research project to learn what happens to bio-oil and biochar production when they vary the pyrolysis processing parameters.

Researchers hypothesize that biochar has different physical and chemical properties depending on the feedstock and the way it is processed. That could affect its usefulness as a soil amendment. They’ll examine the characteristics of biochar from three feedstocks: corn stover, switchgrass, and woody biomass.

“There’s a lot that’s unknown about specific types of biochar. There is no single characteristic that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of biochars,” Schumacher said.

Researchers will do laboratory and greenhouse studies, and ultimately field studies as well, to characterize different types of biochar in order to build a better picture of how a pyrolysis treatment plant could produce both bio-oil and biochar, in addition to the syngas that would be used for helping to supply the plant’s energy needs.
Annual EcoSun Prairie Farms tour draws interest

Members of the Pride of the Dakotas marching band, community health officials and volunteers tested the preparedness of Brookings to respond to a catastrophic event.

The Point Of Dispensing drill tests the efficiency of the community and its health system to distribute medications to a large population of potentially affected individuals. The outcome of the drill helps health officials improve plans before a disaster happens to aid as many victims as quickly as possible in the event of an actual catastrophe.

Frost Arena is designated by the South Dakota Department of Health as the POD site for SDSU faculty, their families and SDSU students. The Swiftel Center is the POD for Brookings city and county residents.

The POD exercise was a joint effort of the DOH, Brookings County and City agencies, Brookings Health System and SDSU groups, including the Student Health Clinic, Frost Arena and SDSU College of Nursing, along with other personnel from local medical clinics and agencies in the community.

Sun Grant Center recommends funding four alternative energy projects

The North Central Regional Sun Grant Center is recommending federal funding for four alternative energy projects that use a variety of feedstocks grown in the area.

“These four projects complement the existing research portfolio supported through the North Central Regional Sun Grant Center to optimize sustainable lignocellulosic feedstock production systems across a diverse landscape,” said James Doolittle, director of the regional center at SDSU.

The U.S. Department of Energy must give final approval before the projects are implemented.

• Using second-generation biofuel feedstocks to improve the carbon economy of U.S. agriculture. The University of Illinois study will examine the design of incentive-based policies to reward greenhouse gas mitigation. Researchers will also examine the costs of implications for the regional pattern of crop production, for the allocation of land between food and fuel crops, and for food and fuel prices.

• Improving production, resilience, and biodiversity of perennial grass mixtures and monocultures as biofuel feedstocks across environmentally heterogeneous landscapes. SDSU professors will study biomass production and species’ performance in fields of warm-season grasses and forbs planted one to three years ago. They’ll also install new controlled experiments to determine, by pairing numerous combinations of native prairie species, which species grow best together.

• Production and economics of perennial-based woody and herbaceous biomass crops under alley-cropping systems. The University of Minnesota study will determine productivity of woody and herbaceous biomass species in an alley cropping configuration and evaluate cover crops to control erosion and improve diversity. Researchers will also gather production data and refine enterprise budgets for alley-cropping and other perennial-based biomass cropping systems.

• Intensifying the corn-soybean rotation with the use of winter rye grown for biomass energy production. SDSU researchers will evaluate the potential of winter rye as a biomass crop. The rye would be planted in the fall after growing corn the first season, then harvested the next year in late May to early June, before soybean planting. Researchers will also evaluate the effects of this practice on corn and soybean yields to estimate the breakeven price matrix based on biomass production as well as corn and soybean yields and prices. The work will evaluate SDSU’s new winter rye variety for potential as a biomass crop in such a system.
International affairs and outreach has new director

Kathleen Fairfax is the new assistant vice president for academic affairs—international affairs and outreach.

“Kathleen brings 25 years of active engagement with international education,” said Provost Laurie Nichols. “Like other large public and land grant universities, we’re bringing together international affairs and outreach to support the university’s mission to extend education and create partnerships throughout the world. This unit will enhance access to those off campus and will create partnerships with universities throughout the world to enrich our educational and research opportunities.

“Kathleen Fairfax brings experience and leadership to develop an integrated, cutting-edge unit where access and global education come together to build synergy and take SDSU to the next level,” said Nichols.

Fairfax was involved in strategic planning and campus leadership in international programs at Arizona State University where she annually oversaw 1,500 study abroad participants and 4,500 international students and scholars. Before that, she directed the study abroad program at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich., where the university’s education abroad operation was ranked number one nationally among public universities.

Her experience with other land-grant universities included collaborations in program delivery and curriculum integration with colleges of agriculture and natural resources as well as other effective intra-university partnerships.

Fairfax also served as a foreign service officer at posts in Washington, DC, and Mexico City.

“I am delighted to have this opportunity to join with State’s outstanding faculty, staff and students to build on their considerable progress and momentum toward internationalizing the institution,” said Fairfax.

“By bringing together and building synergies among its various activities, and by maximizing how we use existing resources, I believe we’ll be able to achieve new levels of success in making SDSU a truly international institution.”

Alumni Association announces 2011 distinguished alums

There’s a distinctively South Dakota feel to this year’s group of eight distinguished people who will be honored by the South Dakota State University Alumni Association. All but two are current South Dakota residents.

Harold Bailey - Non-Alumni Award for Service to South Dakota

Bailey arrived on campus in 1951 as a new pharmacy faculty member with a doctorate from Purdue University. He left in 1985 as vice president emeritus of academic affairs.

He became the chief academic officer at State in 1961. No one has served longer in that position than Bailey. He carried out his work with such distinction that on his final day Gov. Bill Janklow designated it as Harold S. Bailey Jr. Day in South Dakota.

Betty Belkham - Service to Education

A life-long educator, Belkham has been superintendent of the 300-student Flandreau Indian School since 2000.

She is known for collaborating with outside entities, including SDSU, as well as securing grants to strengthen the seven-day-a-week boarding school. The school brings in students from tribes throughout the central and western United States, and Belkham is known for meeting the diverse needs of those students.

The former Flandreau Public Middle School teacher is credited for initiating the Flandreau Indian Success Academy partnership with SDSU.

Reid Christopherson - Service to South Dakota

Christopherson, executive officer of the 114th Fighter Wing in Sioux Falls, has nearly 37 years in the Air Force and Air National Guard. But he hasn’t let his extensive contributions to country crowd out a commitment to community service.

His name has been associated with a bevy of civic organizations.

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But most notably, Christopherson, of Garretson, has been involved with Boy Scout activities since the early 1970s and has received virtually every participant and leader award the 101-year-old scouting group offers.

Arlo DeKraai - Professional Achievement
A civil engineering graduate from Brookings, DeKraai has become a symbol of industrial success.
During his career, he founded 10 companies and was involved in more than 15 acquisitions and startup divisions. In 1994, he started Integrated Service Company (InServ), a Tulsa, Oklahoma-based downstream oil and gas construction, turnaround, maintenance and turnkey projects company.
As chairman, president and CEO, DeKraai transformed InServ into a global leader, working in more than 14 countries with more than $400 million in revenue.

Dustin Oedekoven - Young Alumni
In less than 10 years after receiving his bachelor’s degree, Oedekoven earned his doctorate of veterinary medicine and became the state veterinarian.
Oedekoven, who was raised in Sturgis, joined the South Dakota Animal Industry Board in Pierre as a staff veterinarian in 2003, became assistant state veterinarian in 2006 and state veterinarian in 2009. He oversees a staff of seven other veterinarians and is responsible for protecting the health of livestock in South Dakota.

JoAnn Olson Goodale - Professional Achievement
After working 14 years as a hospital nurse, Goodale took off a couple years to be home with her children, and then returned to the nursing field in a role that made her an expert as a senior rehabilitation nurse for major insurance companies.
Her knowledge of assessment and treatment procedures and discharge planning in trauma cases has gained her the respect of litigators, her employers and the Illinois Head Injury Association, which gave her a “special friend” award.

Jeffrey L. Nelson - Professional Achievement
Nelson started work for East River Electric Power Cooperative after he finished his four-year commitment to the U.S. Army in 1975 and has been there ever since, being promoted to general manager in 1989.
In addition to overseeing a wholesale power distribution entity serving 40,000 square miles, Nelson has been a strong supporter of renewable fuels development in the state and played a key role in establishing the South Dakota Value-Added Agricultural Development Center.

Walter Wosje - Service to SDSU
Wosje, who became a giant in the dairy industry, has served as a strong supporter and spokesman for the recently completed $9.5-million dairy plant expansion.
In addition to speaking on behalf of the dairy science program to gain additional industry support for the project, Wosje was among the early dairy science alumni to donate to the project. He also has supported the program via a Jackrabbit Guarantee Scholarship every year since 2005.
Wosje, a Volga native who returned to the area after semi-retirement, also supported the Pride of the Dakota’s trip to Pasadena, Calif., in 2007.

Banquet reservations needed
Distinguished Alumni selections are made by the SDSU Alumni Association from nominations received by June 1. Those chosen will be recognized at a Distinguished Alumni banquet at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4 at the Swifitel Center in Brookings on the evening before Hobo Day.
Reservations can be made and $30 tickets purchased from the Alumni Association by Oct. 28.
The University of South Dakota has been honored as a Military Friendly School. G.I. Jobs, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, designated USD as a 2012 Military Friendly School—a list that honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members and veterans as students.

The 1,518 colleges, universities and trade schools on this year’s Military Friendly School list prioritize the recruitment of students with military experience. USD made the grade by providing veteran students with assistance through the USD Veterans Club, the AmeriCorps National grant from the Colorado Campus Compact and the Fides faculty development program as well as offering scholarships and discounts, and other services to those who served.

In its effort to help student veterans find the right school, G.I. Jobs incorporated a survey of student veterans for the first time. This feedback provides prospective military students with insight into the student veteran experience at a particular institution based on peer reviews. The 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data driven survey of more than 8,000 schools nationwide.

Computer Science prof receives NSF grant for iPlant Collaborative

Carol Lushbough, assistant professor of computer science, is the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant of $725,789 for the project, Integrating the BioExtract Server with the iPlant Collaborative.

The BioExtract Server is a Web-based, workflow-enabling system that offers researchers a flexible environment for analyzing genomic data. Researchers with access to the BioExtract Server can share their data extracts, analytic tools and workflows with collaborators while the iPlant Collaborative was designed to solve grand challenges in plant science.

Sponsored by the NSF, the three-year grant will assist the project as it attempts to integrate the BioExtract Server’s functionality with the iPlant Collaborative Cyberinfrastructure as well as to make data, analytic tools, and workflows accessible, interoperable, easy to use, and applicable to research and education.

According to Lushbough, experts believe that the economic competitiveness in a knowledge-based global society is not based on who has the fastest computer but rather who has a platform of integrated common interface.
Alexa Duling named GWC’s top scholar-athlete for 2010-2011

Alexa Duling, a standout in track and field for the Coyotes, was named the 2010-11 Great West Conference Female Scholar-Athlete, the league announced earlier this week. The award is the single-highest individual honor awarded by the Great West, and recognizes outstanding academic achievement, athletic achievement, attitude and leadership of one male and one female student-athlete.

Duling, of Gregory, S.D., has thrived both in athletic and academic endeavors at South Dakota and also has been instrumental in implementing a “Girls on the Run” program on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. A biology major with a 4.0 GPA, Duling was named first-team academic all-district and to the Great West Academic All-Conference team for the second straight year.

With a desire to provide positive activities for young girls on the Rosebud Reservation, Duling organized “Girls on the Run,” during the summer months. She received the maximum 15 commitments for the program in just the first year and also helped form a 5K race which allowed families to come and watch.

Duling just completed her third season in the Coyote track and field program and had an outstanding campaign. She won the 400-meter dash at the Great West Outdoor Championships and added wins in the 400 meters and 200 meters at the Great West Indoor Championships, finishing with four All-GWC honors overall.

C-SPAN founder to receive award at USD

Journalist and media innovator Brian P. Lamb, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of C-SPAN, will be honored as recipient of the Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media, Thursday evening, Oct. 6, at USD.

Lamb is the 25th individual selected by the university and the Freedom Forum since the Al Neuharth Award program began in 1989. The award, recognizing lifetime achievement, is named for USA TODAY and Freedom Forum founder Al Neuharth, a South Dakota native and 1950 USD journalism graduate, who will be on campus to make the presentation.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 7 p.m. in the recently renovated Slagle Hall Auditorium on the USD campus. The 90-minute program will be telecast live on South Dakota Public Broadcasting.


Social Work Chair Lawler is honored

The National Staff Development and Training Association has chosen Michael Lawler, Ph.D., to receive the organization’s Career Achievement award at the NDSTA’s annual conference in Madison, Wis., Oct. 18.

Lawler, chair of the Department of Social Work at USD, is being honored for developing several social programs and his dedication to education and staff training throughout a distinguished career.

Previously, Lawler was director of the Center for Human Services, co-director of the Center for Public Policy Research and department chair at University of California-Davis Extension.
The following are informational Items:

**New Students:** We are pleased to welcome a number of new students to the SDSBVI this fall! Joining us for the 2011-2012 school year are Nick Bruhn from Berthold ND, a HS sophomore; April Dominick from Timber Lake, a HS sophomore; Jordan Houseman, from Chamberlain, 5th grade; and Blaine Jemming, Woonsocket, 1st grade.

**New Faculty/Staff:** Susan Egging has joined our staff as the new Western Outreach Vision Consultant. Susan brings a great deal of experience working with families and schools. Sue Spenst, who has been a substitute in the past, has accepted a full time position in the residential program.

**Lions Back to School Picnic:** One of the traditions that has evolved over the years is the “Welcome Back” picnic sponsored by the Aberdeen Lions/Lioness Clubs. Typically held the first Wednesday after Labor Day in September this get together continues to build upon the long held relationship between the Lions and our students.

**Student Council:** The Student Council met in mid-September and began some planning for the school year. One of the first “orders of business” was selecting their leadership team and SDSBVI committee representatives. Officers elected/selected were: Nick Bruhn, president; April Dominick, vice-president; and Jeremy Neuheisel, secretary. Committee reps for the following committees are: Arts and Special Activities, Kendra Terkildsen; Steering Committee, Emery Long Crow; Wellness, April Dominick; and Mayor’s Advisory Council, Jeremy Neuheisel; with Courtland Collins and Tylor Killspotted as alternate representatives.
The Student Council decreed the week of September 26-30 as our “Homecoming Week.” Students and staff members had a little fun with each day of the week designated to an activity or costume. The culmination of Homecoming Week was the Friday afternoon activities with our annual “Pioneer Day” fun and games complete with cheer team competitions, egg tossing, scooter races, wheelbarrow races, eating contests, and whatever else Mrs. Jodi Carlsgaard and her accomplices can come up with.

Residential Program: The residential group kicked off activities with a trip to Storybook Land where everyone rode the train, carousel, and the balloon ride in the Land of Oz. The older students go to the Red Rooster on Thursday nights for their weekly “fall out music and arts night” while the younger students are on campus playing Wii games. They attended the Fraternal Order of Police’s annual concert with a hilarious comedian and country singer Lorrie Morgan. We also enjoyed cake and ice cream at the Kiwanis annual Ice Cream Social at Melgaard Park. The Celtic Faire and a music festival downtown provided weekend entertainment as well as expanding cultural understanding.

Special Olympics / Bowling: Practice for our Special Olympics bowlers and our other students began in October. Event dates for the Olympians are NE Area Meet in Aberdeen on October 14 and the State Tournament (and related activities) in Aberdeen, November 11-13.

SDSBVI Advisory Council: The first meeting of the Advisory Council will be on the SDSBVI campus October 24, 10 AM – 3 PM.

SDAB: The SD Association of the Blind held their annual convention in Aberdeen September 17-18. A “traveling bear,” which is auctioned off each year, will be spending the next year with the staff and students at the school. He is already sporting a SDSBVI t-shirt, has a backpack for traveling, and a SD Foundation for the Blind pen to record his adventures.

American Printing House for the Blind: Through the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind, the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is allocated approximately $45,000 to purchase products from the American Printing House for the Blind. We use products for the students at the SDSBVI and, through our outreach program, loan them to school districts statewide. Superintendent Kaiser will be attending the annual APH meeting in Louisville, KY in mid-October. She is currently serving as chair of the Educational Services Advisory Committee and will be presenting the committee’s report to the Ex Officio Trustees.
Training for SDSBVI Faculty and Staff: Principal Mark Krogstrand attended the Don Meyer Leadership Training in August. Speech Language Pathologist Candice Lee attended the SD Speech Language Hearing Association Convention in September. Classroom teacher Lorri Peterson and Intervener Jeanie Schmidt attended training for Intervention Strategies for Children who are Deaf-Blind in September.

Principal Mark Krogstrand continues to serve on the Special Education Advisory Panel and Liaison for Services Dawn LaMee serves with the Aberdeen Area Diversity Committee, the Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities, and the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Partners in Community Pride.
Informational Items

Augustana College hosted the Midwest Conference on Deaf Education in July. SDSD staff, Naomi Mangan, Eileen Anderson, Marjorie Kaiser and Kim Wadsworth, attended the two day conference held on the college campus. Presenters from several states gave a variety of presentations each emphasized strategies for working with deaf and hard of hearing children. Topics addressed included: Assistive Technologies for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students, Educational Interpreter’s Role in IEP meetings, Literacy Development in ASL and English, Deaf Education; A Ton of Choices, and Practical Strategies and Intervention to Address Language and Communicative Proficiency Delays in Academic Settings. It was a great opportunity to learn from other educators who work with children with hearing loss.

SDSD in conjunction with Augustana College, Parent Connection, South Dakota Department of Education, and Communication Services for the Deaf provided a summer enrichment and socialization program for 17 students ages three to eleven with hearing loss. During the four week program, children were encouraged to use sign language for peer to peer interactions and to develop expressive and receptive language skills through communications with hearing and Deaf staff members. The program included Deaf role models, guest readers, volunteers, and field trips pertaining to educational themes and units.

At the Sioux Falls Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) picnic July 26th, SDSD’s mobile lab team was recognized as a nominee for an ADA award in the caregiver/advocate category. Official accolades were given by Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Heuther and South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard. Event attendees were served a meal of hot dogs, chips, beans, cookies, and lemon ices and children enjoyed face painting, science experiments, and craft activities while adults played baseball games on Frank L. Boyce Miracle Field.

Three members of SDSD’s outreach team, Julie Delfs, Sara Hansen, and Jodi Schnieder, have been accepted into the Mountain Prairie Upgrade Partnership: Itinerant (MPUP-I) program through The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This grant funded program provides graduate level preparation in teaching deaf or hard of hearing students that can result in either a Masters degree or post graduate teaching endorsement.

Service Coordinator, Sara Hansen, and Sioux Falls area outreach consultant, Jodi Schnider, visited with members of the Midtown SERTOMA Club of Sioux Falls on Wednesday, August 24th. After a noon meal, Sara and Jodi talked about SDSD’s evolving service model and provided information about SDSD’s outreach, mobile lab, and external evaluation services. Additional topics of discussion included the Auditory/Oral program in Harrisburg, the Bilingual program in Brandon Valley, and on-site audiology services at SDSD. A brief question and answer period followed the presentation and concluded with a reminder to SERTOMA members to encourage families of students with hearing loss to contact SDSD for support and intervention services.

SDSD Outreach hosted the Language is Power: Development of Language and Social Skills in Children conference August 9-10, 2011. The event brought parents and subject matter experts together in one venue and provided opportunities to learn more about language and social skill development in children with hearing loss. Conference attendees also had a chance to network, share common experiences, and visit with on-site representatives from a variety of organizations who serve children with hearing loss.

In her opening remarks, Superintendent Marjorie Kaiser welcomed participants, outlined the agenda for the two day event, and introduced renowned professionals in the fields of Audiology, Deaf Education, Psychology, and Listening and Spoken Language: Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, Dr. Patricia Sullivan, and Karen Rossi.

Olivia and Noah Hansen, daughter and son of Sara Hansen (SDSD Service Coordinator), enjoyed science experiments with the help of volunteers from the Washington Pavilion’s Science Center and craft activities in the children’s area at the ADA picnic.

Pictured above: Dr. Patricia M. Sullivan, Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, and Karen Rossi, presenters at SDSD’s Language is Power conference.
2 South Dakota School for the Deaf

Dr. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano delivered the keynote address and discussed listening strategies used by deaf or hard of hearing infants, barriers that affect development of auditory spoken language skills, and pragmatic skill acquisition in children with hearing loss.

Dr. Patricia Sullivan illustrated the difference between acquisition deficits and performance deficits in social skills, talked about the importance of receptive and expressive language in the acquisition of appropriate social skills, and imparted information about social skills training and intervention methods used with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Karen Rossi demonstrated the Listen Around the Clock curriculum, presented tips to increase infant listening and language development through parent-child interactions, and highlighted strategies that help uncover the origin of communication breakdowns.

The SDSD conference committee members would like to thank the presenters, attendees, and Outreach staff for making the conference a success.

From August 31st to September 5th, SDSD outreach team members collaborated with the South Dakota Lion’s Foundation to set up and run an exhibit at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron. The booth promoted awareness of noise-induced hearing loss, as well as, prevention measures to preserve individuals’ current hearing level. The booth featured hearing loss demonstrations and games highlighting hearing loss issues and hearing protection.

Pictured below is the interactive noise-induced hearing loss model (made from a mannequin and equipped with a sound level meter) displayed at the State Fair. With this display, fair-goers set the volume they typical use when listening to a personal MP3 player and then place the headphones/ear buds in the mannequin’s ears which in turn displays the decibel level output of the fair-goers volume choice. Participants were surprised to learn that the volume of common everyday sounds (like city traffic - 85 decibels) is the first level at which permanent noise-induced hearing loss can occur.

SDSD is pleased to welcome three new outreach consultants. Each brings expertise and experience that will strengthen our team’s ability to provide services across the state. Kami Van Sickle provides services to families and schools in southeastern South Dakota. She has degrees in elementary education and deaf education. Kami was previously employed by the Sioux Falls School District. Carol Johnson provides services to families and schools in north central South Dakota. She has a double major in elementary and deaf education. Carol was previously employed in Detroit, Michigan. Nina Ringstmeyer provides services to families and schools in western part of South Dakota. Nina majored in elementary education and special education and recently completed training in deaf education. Nina was previously employed by the Hot Springs School District.

Outreach Student Services

Outreach students are served in the family’s home, community agencies or in their home school districts:

- Birth to 2 yrs, 11 month ............... 19
- Students 3 yrs to 5 yrs, 11 months ... 53
- Students 6 to 21 yrs ............... 325

Total Students Served ............... 397

There is one new referral with the potential to become an outreach client pending completion of the required paperwork.

Outreach In-Services Conducted

The following report details the total number of in-services provided thus far in the 2010-2011 academic year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>In-services Conducted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Delfs</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Mangan</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Schnider</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Scholten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kami Van Sickle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Wadsworth</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Johnson</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Lingle</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Anderson</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina Ringstmeyer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total In-services Statewide</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### South Dakota School for the Deaf

#### On-Campus Audiology Services

The following report details audiological appointments provided to the public on the SDSD campus July 2011 to the present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Appointments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1-12, 2011</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Appointments</strong></td>
<td><strong>38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Completed Mobile Lab Visits

The following report details audiological services provided to the public via SDSD’s mobile lab from July 2011 to the present.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Screens</th>
<th>Evaluations</th>
<th>Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1-Sept. 12</td>
<td>1246</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year to date</strong></td>
<td>1246</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Hearing Screens Completed to Date

The following report details audiological services provided to children this academic year (2011-2012). Data provided covers July 1 through September 12, 2011.

- **Mobile Lab**
  - Total Individuals Screened: 1246
- **On-Campus**
  - Total Evaluations: 38
  - **Total (year to date)**: 1284

#### Upcoming Mobile Lab Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Andes</td>
<td>10/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marty</td>
<td>10/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyndall</td>
<td>10/24</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rosebud</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Webster</td>
<td>10/31</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>10/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waubay</td>
<td>10/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Wakpala</td>
<td>11/1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>McIntosh</td>
<td>11/1</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Britton</td>
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