

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY, APRIL 1

- Hospital Auxiliary Meeting, 2 p.m. at Care Center Dining Room, 125 Walker St., Vermillion.
- Brown Bag Lunch Program: "Flying Forms in Concert," featuring Marc Levine, baroque violin and Tami Morse, harpsichord, 12:05 p.m. at the National Music Museum located on the USD campus, corner of Clark & Yale streets. Open to the public at no charge.
- USD Symphonic Band presents Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m. at Vermillion High School. Open to the public at no charge.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

- Boys Tennis at 9 a.m. in Yankton.
- Music Recital: Keith Nelson, Junior Alto Saxophone Recital, 2 p.m. in the Colton Recital Hall in the Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on USD campus. Concert is open to the public at no charge.
- Meals on Wheels Walk/Run Event, 9 a.m.-noon at USD Wellness Center. Pledge or raise money to help support the Meals on Wheels. Pick up forms at the USD Wellness Center or the Senior Citizen Center. If you are not a member of USD Wellness Center, day passes are \$5. For additional information, contact Karen Gibbs at 624-6164.
- Vermillion Annual American Legion Steak Night, 5 p.m. at The Eagles, 114 W. Main St., Vermillion. Admission is \$50 per couple or \$25 for single. Proceeds support the Legion Baseball boys. Tickets can be purchased from players at the door.
- St. Agnes School's 10th annual Classic Dinner and Dance, 6 p.m.-midnight in the St. Agnes School Auditorium. Cody's Steakhouse of Elk Point will be preparing a prime rib/chicken dinner with all the trimmings. A silent auction and raffle will also be held. Event tickets available at St. Agnes School, as well as trip raffle tickets.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

- Women's Tennis vs. North Dakota, all day at the USD Tennis Courts.
- Susanne Harmon, graduate voice recital, 3 p.m. in the Colton Recital Hall in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.
- Molly Woodard, senior clarinet recital, 5:30 p.m. in the Colton Recital Hall in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

- Community Education: Organizational Sustainability, 6-9 p.m. in the Muenster University Center Conference Room on USD campus. This presentation addresses the challenges that non-profit organizations, government agencies and community programs face in sustaining their operations in a highly competitive environment. The six topics to be covered include: Organizational Readiness, Marketing, Collaboration, Volunteer Development, Diverse Funding and Performance Accountability.
- Al-anon meeting, 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of Main & Linden streets. For more information, call 624-9764.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

- Boys Tennis vs. Luvern, MN, 4 p.m. at home.
- Vermillion Rotary Club meeting, noon-1 p.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room of the Al Neuharth Media Center.
- Track, 3:30 p.m. at Elk Point-Jefferson.
- Comedian Dan Cummins, 7 p.m. at USD Muenster University Center Grand Ballroom.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

- Booster Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Vermillion High School.
- USD's Chamber Orchestra, featuring Dr. Darin Wadley, director of percussion activities at USD, present their spring concert, 7:30 p.m. at the Colton Recital Hall in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

- Spaghetti Benefit Dinner for Big Friend-Little Friend, Inc., at the Eagles Club. Social from 5-6 p.m. with dinner served from 6-8 p.m. Tickets \$5 in advance and at the door. Tickets available at Hy-Vee, PrintSource, Vermillion Chamber, Eagles Club, Pioneer Drug (Elk Point), Vermillion Civic Council, WalMart and members of BE-LF.
- The Siouxland Trombone Festival hosted by USD all day through April 8 at the Muenster University Center Grand Ballroom. Please contact Dr. Alvis for cost and additional information.
- Girls Golf, 9 a.m. at Elk Point-Jefferson.
- Track Booster Club Invite, 2:30 p.m. at home.
- Pikes in the Park Charity Event: The gentleman of Phi Kappa Alpha will host the 5th annual Pikes in the Park event from 5-7 p.m. in Prentis Park. Food and entertainment will be provided. All benefits will benefit cancer research.

PLANNING AHEAD:

- APRIL 8 — The Maria Project: In Honor of 80 VOICES, 6:30 p.m., at Farber Hall, located in Old Main on USD campus. Standard ticket: \$20; student price: \$10; group price (four or more): \$15 each. Event website: www.themariaproject.com. To reserve a ticket and pay in cash e-mail: info@mariproject.com and then pay at the door. Sponsored by Domestic Violence Safe Options Services.
- APRIL 8 — Brown Bag Lunch Progra: "The Classical Guitarist," featuring Vladislav Blaha, 12:05 p.m. at the National Music Museum on the USD campus.
- APRIL 8 — Girls Golf, 2 p.m. at Madison.
- APRIL 9 — VITA Tax Assistance Program to offer free tax preparation from local IRS trained volunteers from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Vermillion Public Library, 18 Church St. For more information, contact Jane Larson 605-677-7060 or e-mail vpl@sdln.net.
- APRIL 9 — The seventh annual ESA Tour of Tables in the Father Wolf auditorium of St. Agnes School. Contact Barb Campbell at 624-4626 or bcampbel41@msn.com if you are interested in purchasing tickets or sponsoring a table.
- APRIL 9 — Dinner and Dance at the Eagles. Fundraiser for Vermillion Senior Citizen Services Center.
- APRIL 9 — Track, 11 a.m. at Dakota Valley.
- APRIL 9 — The USD Jazz Ensembles and Guest in Concert, 7:30 p.m. at the Colton Recital Hall in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

USD celebrates grand opening of Academic Commons

By Travis Gulbrandson

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It was standing room only at the grand opening/ribbon-cutting ceremony of the University of South Dakota's new Academic Commons, located on the first floor of the I.D. Weeks Library building.

The Academic Commons is a centralized learning center for the campus that Dean of Libraries Anne Cooper Moore, Ph.D., termed a "one-stop shopping environment for academic support."

During the ceremony, USD President James W. Abbott declared his enthusiasm for the work that's taken place on the commons over the past year.

"I've been absolutely amazed at the changes in this building, and how nice it is," he said. "I think back to when I was at the University of South Dakota. We didn't have stuff like this. We didn't have anything like this."

Provost Chuck Staben agreed, saying, "We're hoping that it helps us achieve our goals of bringing more students to campus and helping those students who come to our campus."

In addition to the library's current instruction and circulation services, the west side of the Academic Commons will include the Writing Center, the Presentation Center and Lab Consultant.

Services on the east half of the first floor include the Academic and Career Planning Center, Supplemental Instruction and First Year Experience Services.

The Academic Commons also will be home to the Center for Academic Engagement, Math Emporium and the Information Technology Services Help Desk.

"I've been working with a group of all the different service providers to bring this facility together, to try to bring as many academic support services as we could into a single location so that students can come in and do whatever they need to do," Moore said. "... The intention is that students can come in and not have to go outside of the Muenster University Center/Academic Commons complex in order to get anything they need."



USD President James Abbott remarks about the importance of the new Academic Commons in the I.D. Weeks Library Tuesday while strolling through the crowd of well-wishers who gathered for the commons' grand opening ceremony.

(Photo by David Lias)

Tim Carr, outgoing president of the Student Government Association, said he was impressed by the "attention to detail" on display in the commons.

"It makes student life more convenient, but I think it says a lot about the people that were involved with the planning of this building," he said. "They truly had students in mind when they were designing and constructing this facility. As a student, that really means a lot."

Moore added, "It's really about students being comfortable that this is a student space. ... It's about students and what they do together, creating new ideas, innovations, through being able to work together with technology and support."

Carr said the Academic Commons is a testament to the continuing progress being made at the university.

"From the time that I came here in 2007, obviously the campus has seen a remarkable change of scenery from the student center, the wellness center, the school of business and now the academic commons," he said. "We never stop making progress, we never stop working toward our vision — becoming the best small public flagship university in the nation built upon a liberal arts foundation."

Abbott expressed his gratitude to everyone involved in the planning and design of the Academic Commons, and to Moore in particular.

"I realize Academic Affairs and everybody else was involved with this, but I don't think everyone knows how special a dean of libraries who believes that libraries ought to be inclusive actually is, and who believes that these kinds of things should happen on an everyday basis — not just being quiet in various rooms," he said.

Staben echoed Abbott's view. "We're fortunate to have people at the university like Anne who have the vision to understand that the needs of students, the needs of the university change, and that we can use the resources that we have to serve our students better and serve our faculty better, and make this a place that really works for those students and those faculty (members)," Staben said.

Abbott joked that with a facility such as this, students have no option but to succeed at the university.

"If you can't do well here, it's not our fault," he said.

For more information about the Academic Commons, visit www.usd.edu/academiccommons.

CHAMBER CHAT

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116 Market Street, Suite 103
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-5571
vcdc@vermillionchamber.com
www.vermillionchamber.com

Chamber Business:

"Business After Hours" hosted by Great Plains Therapy, 1407 East Cherry St., is Tuesday, May 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. Please join us to make new contacts, socialize, and find out what Great Plains Therapy has to offer!

Tour de Kota: Hundreds of visitors will be in our community when Vermillion hosts the Tour de Kota on Thursday, June 9. Riders will be biking from Freeman to Vermillion and arriving here beginning the morning of June 9 and staying for the day and last overnight of the tour. Events will take place on the USD tailgate grounds between Coyote Village and Dakota Street south of the Dome. Watch for more details in the coming weeks — this will be a great opportunity to showcase our city and welcome

visitors!!

Business After Hours: Are you looking for an opportunity to showcase your business and network with your peers? Sign up to host a Business After Hours event! These events generally run from 5 to 7 p.m. on a weeknight and the hosting business provides hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. If interested, please contact Ann at: annb@vermillionchamber.com or at 624-5571.

Announcements:

Meals on Wheels Walk/Run Event, Saturday, April 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at USD Wellness Center. Pledge or raise money to help support the Meals on Wheels Program. Pick up pledge forms at the USD Wellness Center or the Senior Citizen Center. If you are not a member of USD Wellness Center, day passes are \$5. For additional information, contact Karen Gibbs at 624-6164.

Basketmaking 102, Saturday, April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a class for adults who want to learn to make baskets. It is suitable for beginners as well as those who were in our first class last fall. Participants will be introduced to the basket tools and techniques used to create baskets. The class will take a step-by-step approach to the materials and methods used. We will be making

a basket with feet! It is called a wool drying basket but is suitable for many other uses as well. This basket is woven out of flat reed and will have colored reed woven in and a special bow used for decoration. A light lunch will be provided. Materials will be provided. Location: other. Sharing the Dream June Trip

to Guatemala; June 27-July 7. Limit of seven people. Visit cooperatives, schools, the Elder Center, and share with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala. \$1,100 per person (includes everything in Guatemala). Airfare extra. Contact Diane at diane@sharingthedream.org for more information.

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Freeman	Dr. Watson	April 19

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