

# USD students gather outdoors to celebrate Earth Day

**By Travis Gulbrandson**  
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The air on the USD campus was filled with the smells of grilled burgers and kabobs, and the sounds of live music Monday as a group of students got together to promote Earth Day.

In cooperation with the Environmental Communication class, USD Students for Environmental Engagement spent 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the east lawn of the Muenster University Center providing food, entertainment and information regarding sustainability to passersby.

"We celebrate this almost every year," said Associate Professor Terry Robertson, who teaches Environmental Communication. "We try to gain an awareness for sustainability and things of that nature for the community. We try to use all local foods – most of this has been either homegrown from local farmers or the farmers market."

"We just try to remain local, celebrate the earth and just have a good time," he said.

"It's just to raise awareness and give people some things to think about," added student Erik Tyger. "(These are) things people don't ever think about, and we're just trying to get that message out and hope to make people step back and consider some other things for a little bit. We're hoping for a good turnout this year. It's a beautiful day."

Along with the food and entertainment, various signs were posted around the lawn that spread the message of conservation and sustainability, including a large mound of plastic bottles that illustrated how many of the containers one family goes through per year.

According to Robertson, the event – now in its eighth year – usually attracts

hundreds, if not thousands of students, and raises anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

Some of that money is raised through food sales, while some comes in through a silent auction and raffle. Another big fundraiser was a 5k walk/run, which kicked off at 5 p.m.

The money raised this year will be donated to the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

Shortly after 11 a.m. Monday, USD student Kelly Horazdovsky said she hoped this year's celebration would be a big success.

"We've had a couple hungry people come by, and it's kind of a mix of undergrad and graduate (students)," she said. "The undergrads know a lot of people, which is good, and a lot of the graduates are also teaching assistants for the communications program, so we have a lot of our students hopefully coming out, too."

Horadovsky said a lot of preparation went into the Earth Day celebration to ensure its success.

The Environmental Communication class broke into "about five" different committees which then planned and promoted the event, she said.

"I was with the media committee and I helped contact some of the surrounding area newspapers and TV channels," she said. "Now we're just helping carry out the events. The logistics committee did a lot of work, and so they're directing the work that we need to get done to make it a successful day."

"It's a community service project we're required to do, so this is for a grade as well, and we want to do well," Tyger added.

While the event promised a good time for those who attended, Robertson said he hoped the students



Associate Professor Terry Robertson turns some kabobs on the grill at the annual Earth Day Event hosted by the University of South Dakota Students for Environmental Engagement Monday. Money raised from the event will be donated to the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

would come away from it thinking about the issues behind it.

"I just hope that (they have) a time of reflection over some of the ideas about sustainability, about local marketing, even about helping Vermillion merchants. That's what the goal is," he said.

Horazdovsky agreed, adding, "We just want them to celebrate the idea of Earth Day and have fun with it, and we're hoping the excitement that we're creating today will work to get people thinking about Earth Day and engaging them in what they can do individually to make their lifestyles

more sustainable and better.

"There are a lot of things trying to get our attention today, so if we can make this a fun event and get people thinking ... that'll be a success," she said.

## ALL-SCHOOLS ART SHOW OPENS MAY 3 ‘Micawber Medley’ now on display



VHS student Mackenzie Stone with her chalk pastel drawing. The Vermillion All-Schools Art Show opens on Thursday, May 3, at Washington Street Arts Center, 202 Washington Street in Vermillion. Now in its 13th year, the annual exhibit features works by students from Austin and Jolley Elementary Schools, St. Agnes Parish School, Vermillion Middle School, and Vermillion High School. The elementary art comes from the Jolley School Art Block and from students whose teachers have included art in their curriculum. The middle school art is from Jennifer Stofferahn's program, and the high school art is from Janet Beeman's classes. Everyone is invited to a reception Thursday, May 3, from 4-6 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The public also invited to view the show on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 from 2-5 p.m. The free exhibit is sponsored by Vermillion Area Arts Council.

Prints, photographs and graphic design pieces created by five B.F.A. students graduating from the University of South Dakota in May are on display April 23-27 at the John A. Day Gallery in an exhibit titled "Micawber Medley."

Jamie Holmberg of Mitchell and Jodie Boss-Wachal of Columbus, NE, are showcasing their photography. Holmberg photographs a variety of subject matter often focusing on complex subjects such as mortality and age. Boss-Wachal's photographs, which are often nature shots and landscape portraits, are created through techniques such as long exposures and double exposures.

Samantha DeVries, a native of Vermillion, is completing her B.F.A. with an emphasis in printmaking. Her display includes various printmaking methods such as intaglio and screen printing, and focus on revisiting childhood memories.

Therese Osborne of Sturgis and Joshua Jorgensen of Parker are both students of graphic design. Osborne's exhibit incorporates decorative and traditional elements into her designs while Jorgensen's works showcase the various skills in graphic design he has mastered during his studies at USD.

A reception for the artists of "Micawber Medley" is from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, April 27. The reception and exhibit are free open to the public at the Day Gallery on the USD campus.

## Historian, author to speak on Native Americans and Missouri River

The University of South Dakota's Missouri River Institute and the South Dakota Humanities Council are presenting a lecture by historian and author Michael L. Lawson at 1 p.m. on April 30 at Farber Hall.

Lawson will discuss the impact of the dams built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Missouri River as part of the Pick-Sloan Plan. His lecture will provide a snapshot of how the Sioux utilized and adapted to the Missouri before the dams were built, and how these projects displaced hundreds of Sioux families, forcing them to move from their homes on resource-rich bottomlands.

He will also discuss how government management of the Missouri River has evolved under Pick-Sloan.

Lawson will conclude by describing how developments over the last three decades have allowed the Sioux tribes to gain additional compensation from Congress for their original losses and to finally realize more tangible benefits from the Pick-Sloan projects.

A partner in Morgan, Angel & Associates LLC, a historical and public policy consulting firm in Washington, D.C., Lawson is the author of "Dammed Indians Revisited: The Continuing History of the Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux."

Lawson's lecture, which is free and open to the public, was made possible with a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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