

Alums named to AmeriCorps VISTA program

The Center for Academic Engagement at The University of South Dakota announced that Brittany VanHove and Donielle Gustafson have joined the staff as part of the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

The federal Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program assists with the advancement and implementation of USD's mission to connect students with their community through various academic programs. Through these venues, VanHove and Gustafson will further the VISTA mission of addressing poverty and other community concerns.

VanHove, a native of Marion, and a 2008 graduate of USD, recently concluded service as an AmeriCorps member with City of Lakes AmeriCorps where she worked with disadvantaged children and families in Minneapolis, MN.



VanHove



Gustafson

Gustafson, from Pierre, graduated from USD in May and, as a student, was very active in the Center's AWOL (Alternative Week of Off Campus Learning) program.

VanHove and Gustafson are provided to the university through a grant from the Midwest Consortium for Service-

Learning in Higher Education. The Consortium, a group of more than 25 institutions of higher education in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, supports the development of academic and co-curricular service-learning programs in their institutions with their communities. USD has been

an active member of the Consortium since 2002, frequently acting as a formal mentor to other institutions in their service-learning programs.

USD's partnership with the federal Corporation for National and Community Service has been successful in connecting students with their communities. Since 2003, students in USD's innovative undergraduate graduation requirement, the IdEA Program, have contributed more than 65,000 hours of community support to agencies in their hometowns, Vermillion and in other states.

Students working in various academic disciplines have also launched several successful service-learning activities. This work is part of the commitment by USD to prepare students to be critical thinkers, leaders, lifelong learners and productive citizens in an increasingly diverse world.

Convocation welcomes new students to USD Move-In Day

Convocation will welcome new students to campus this weekend while all students enrolled for the fall semester ready for the start of classes at The University of South Dakota.

USD's fall semester officially begins with Move-In Day on Aug. 29, as students and their families arrive for check-in at the DakotaDome between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. The entire drive-through process, implemented last year to eliminate congestion and limited parking at the residence halls, means drivers don't have to leave their vehicles until they get to their designated residence hall where volunteers will assist with the unloading of vehicles.

"The concept of a drive-through, move-in process is more convenient for our students and their families," explained Jeffrey Baylor, associate vice president of enrollment and student services at USD. "After starting this process a year ago, we learned a lot to help us improve the efficiency of this year's Move-In Day."

During check-in at the Dome parking lot, USD welcome packets, residence hall keys and instructions on driving to the residence halls will be distributed making the process more quick and efficient for local and long-distant commuters. Baylor added that the efficiency of this procedure cuts down on confusion, waiting in long lines and avoids potential traffic jams. He said several colleges and universities throughout the United States have adopted the "drive-through" process with great success.

In addition with check-in at the Dome and moving into residence halls, first-year students enrolled as the Class of 2013 will be part of Convocation at 3:30 p.m. in the Dome. Convocation, included in this year's Move-In Day festivities to include family members, is an invitation of membership to The U's academic community.

"Convocation is a celebratory event symbolic of graduation, signaling the students' joining of our community," described Baylor. "It's also a reminder to our faculty and staff of the duty to educate our students, not just until graduation, but to assist them in their journey to become better citizens and contributing members of society."

More information about Move-In Day, including printable maps and a parent and family schedule, is available at www.usd.edu/academics/academic-advising/first-year-experience/move-in.cfm.

Keith Thompson is USD August Employee of the Month

Keith Thompson, department of ground services, was honored as the August 2009 Career Services Employee of the Month at The University of South Dakota.

Thompson has worked at USD for 14 years. He was nominated for the award by coworkers Duane Bos and Dave Grage. Both praised Thompson for his experience and hard work as well as an unending dedication to making the department operate more efficiently.

"His knowledge and experience has proven invaluable when it comes to operating machinery," said Grage in his nomination of Thompson. "His skill is displayed, especially when it comes to helping us with concrete work on campus. He is always willing to lend a hand to help finish, clean and properly

secure the job site."

Thompson was recognized during a reception at the North Lounge of the North Complex on the USD campus. Described as a knowledgeable worker who is always willing to lend a hand or go the extra mile to make sure a job is done, Thompson was surprised with the honor as well as the accolades from coworkers.

Added Bos, who noted that often times Thompson can be seen on campus going above and beyond his duties, "Keith is the go-to man," he said. "He's always willing to come in on off duty whether it's snow removal or making sure campus is looking its best before D-Days, graduation and other special events. Many times I have gone to basketball games when it is snowing out and there is Keith, busy clearing



Keith Thompson is presented the August 2009 Career Services Employee of the Month award by USD President James W. Abbott.

the Dome's snow so the game can go on."

Born and raised in Vermillion, Keith and his wife, Dawn,

currently reside in Vermillion with their children Carl, Carissa, Trevor, Tessa, Kaitlin and Madison.

Med student research highlighted at annual forum

Topics ranging from low health literacy to using social media in peer education to links between kidney disease and obesity will be highlighted on Friday, Aug. 28 at The University of South Dakota.

Twenty-three students in the Sanford School of Medicine will present research findings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Andrew E. Lee Memorial Medicine and Science Building on the USD

campus. The students are part of the Medical Student Research Program or the Scholarship Pathways Program.

"One of the core missions of the medical school is research," said Dr. Rod Parry, M.D., dean of the medical school. "These opportunities provide students a great opportunity to find information, analyze it and apply it to solve a defined problem."

The Medical Student

Research Program awards fellowships on a competitive basis based on student applications. Incoming and current medical students are eligible. Applications are judged on their scientific merit, research plan, scope and proposed learning experience. In addition, students can serve as summer research fellows as part of research grants obtained by medical school faculty.

The Scholarship Pathways

Program is an elective opportunity for medical students to enrich their education through rigorous independent scholarship and scholarly excellence. Twelve first-year medical students are chosen each year for the program based on their applications, which outline their proposed project centered on education, research or service.

Northern Iowa spoils USD soccer season-opener

A three-goal flurry at the start of the second half was the difference as Northern Iowa defeated The University of South Dakota women's soccer team, 3-0 in the 2009 regular-season opener for both teams in Vermillion.

The Coyotes (0-1) and Panthers (1-0) battled to a 0-0 half-time tie after a very competitive first half of play. Both teams had nine shots in the first half. The Coyotes had a couple of good scoring chances in the first half, including a shot by Erin Bello (R.Fr., Fort Collins, CO) that hit the crossbar at the 28:57 mark. Late in the first half, USD goalkeeper Jen Ogren (Jr., Raymore, MO) made a big save at the 43:30 mark to keep the game scoreless.

UNI's Kala Negus broke the deadlock with a goal just 1:46 in the second half, and Chelsie Hochstetler and Kiki McClellan added goals in a span of the next nine minutes to make it 3-0. Aside from the 10-minute stretch to start the second half, the game was very even. UNI had a 20-14 edge in shots.

Katie Quinones (Jr., Rochester, MN) led USD with five shots, while Rachel Greene (Fr., Onalaska, WI) and Bello each had three. Ogren finished with eight saves for the Coyotes.

USD resumes action on Friday, Aug. 28 at Creighton University. Game time is set for 7 p.m. in Omaha, NE.

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