

New music degrees to broaden career opportunities for USD students

The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved two new master's degree options through the University of South Dakota's Department of Music. Beginning fall, graduate students will be able to specialize in collaborative piano and instrumental/choral conducting. USD is the only school in South Dakota to offer these degrees.

According to Timothy P. Farrell, D.M.A., chair of USD's Department of Music, the degrees will provide

invaluable opportunities to interact with world-class musicians, which will prepare them for a wide range of career pathways.

The two new graduate degrees join the music department's curriculum offerings that include specializations in music education, music history, performance and the history of musical instruments.

For more information about USD's Department of Music, visit www.usd.edu/fine-arts/music.

Open Government Task Force created

Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Attorney General Marty Jackley today announced formation of an Open Government Task Force that will study open record and open meeting laws in South Dakota to ensure maximum public access to state government business.

"The workings of government should be as transparent as practicable," the governor said. "Unless there is a compelling reason otherwise, I believe government information should be open and easily accessible."

The task force includes media; city, county and state officials; representatives of various organizations; law enforcement; prosecutors; and others.

"This task force will continue work that has been done in the past decade that led to creation of the Open Meeting Commission and an open meeting statute that presumes most state government records are public," the attorney general said. "Reviewing the current process with those who deal with open records and meetings each day is invaluable and should be considered."

The Open Government Task Force will meet several times this summer and fall, and then report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and

Attorney General. The initial meeting of the group will be Aug. 22, at 1 p.m. CDT, in the Capitol Lake Visitor Center at Pierre.

A likely result of the study will be legislation that would continue to improve and update open record and open meeting laws.

Members of the Open Government Task Force: Diane Best, assistant attorney general, Office of the Attorney General; Dale Blegen, publisher, De Smet News; Jim Bolin, state Representative, Canton; Dave Bordewyk, general manager, South Dakota Newspaper Association; Pat Butler, managing editor, Rapid City Journal; Jonathan Ellis, journalist, Sioux Falls Argus Leader; Jason Gant, Secretary of State; Tena Haraldson, director of communications and media relations, University of South Dakota; Joe Kafka, press secretary, Office of the Governor; Maricarroll Kueter, executive editor, Argus Leader; Shawn Lyons, executive director, South Dakota Retailers Association; Jack Marsh, president and chief operating officer, Al Neuharth Media Center, University of South Dakota; Al Novstrup, state Senator, Aberdeen; Bob O'Keefe, deputy state's attorney, Davison County; David Owen,

president, South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Dave Pfeifle, city attorney, Sioux Falls; Wade Pogany, executive director, Associated School Boards of South Dakota; Sara Rabern, public information officer, Office of the Attorney General; Bobbi Rank, assistant attorney general, state Department of Education; Mark Roby, publisher, Watertown Public Opinion; Lisa Rothschild, chair, South Dakota Open Meeting Commission; Greg Sattizahn, director of policy and legal services, Unified Judicial System; Yvonne Taylor, executive director, South Dakota Municipal League; Kevin Thom, sheriff, Pennington County; Seth Tupper, editor, The Daily Republic, Mitchell; Tony Venhuizen, director of policy and communications, Office of the Governor; Tim Waltner, publisher, Freeman Courier; David Wiest, deputy secretary, state Department of Revenue; Bob Wilcox, executive director, South Dakota Association of County Commissioners; Steve Willard, president, South Dakota Broadcasters Association; Susan Wismer, state Representative, Britton; Diane Worrall, executive director, South Dakota Association of Towns and Townships; Terry Woster, public information officer,

■ GOLF

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here," he said.

The governor wouldn't specifically reveal which businesses were being courted on the Dakota Dunes links. "Some of them are existing businesses here who are looking to expand, and some of them don't really want it to be known that they are looking because they have other competitors that they don't want to be aware of that."

"It's very interesting, because in some cases, we are dealing with companies who are competitors with one another," he said. "Suffice it to say, it's really a range of companies - from manufacturing, to bio, to professional services and information technology. It's really quite a diverse mix of companies."

Daugaard said the golf classic offers opportunities for valuable "face time" between government and community officials and business representatives.

"It's very important. We have one company whose business was impacted by the lean finely textured beef publicity and the unfortunate consequences of that," Daugaard said. "We connected them with an alternate firm with whom they are hopeful of doing some significant business and regaining some of the workforce that they had to lay off."

"These kinds of things evolve as you have opportunities for relationship building," he said. "Sometimes it's with existing companies that just don't know one another, and sometimes it's with new companies coming in that are looking for local companies to help them establish themselves and access services that are already being provided here in Siouxland."

More than just the opportunity to play on the renowned Dakota Dunes links lured businesspeople from throughout the nation to the event.

"South Dakota really offers a very good tax environment," the governor said. "We have no corporate income tax, no personal income tax, no business inventory tax and no inheritance tax. Our low tax environment is very attractive."

"Companies want to come where they are welcomed, and South Dakota has its doors open to business," he said. "Plus, our good environment for business is likely to be that same good environment in the future."

Daugaard noted that South Dakota is today in good fiscal conditions by addressing budget problems in the last year.

"We also have no long term problems that are going to force us to raise taxes," he said. "We have one of the best-funded employee benefit plans in the nation. Illinois is in deep trouble with employee benefit problems. Some states have promised public employee retirement health commitments that they can't fulfill. South Dakota doesn't follow that path; we allow our public retirees to participate in our health plan but they pay their way. They pay a premium just as any of us would pay a premium for our health insurance."

South Dakota also doesn't have any general obligation debt on its balance sheet, unlike

other states.

"So, even though other states may be able to say they have a good environment today, I question whether that good environment may be as good tomorrow when they have to somehow meet their financial obligations somehow - likely through raising taxes," Daugaard said.

The governor said that "by most measures," South Dakota has recovered from the recession, with a 4.3 percent unemployment rate.

"At the same time, I think we need to look at employment numbers, because the unemployment rate only looks at those people who are looking for work. It fails to look at those people who have become discouraged and have stopped trying and are no longer counted in the unemployment numbers," he said.

When the recession hit the nation in late 2008, South Dakota experienced 18 out of 19 months in a row through 2009 and into 2010 in which its job numbers fell, when compared to the same months a year earlier. "Since that time, we've had over 20 months in a row where we've seen an increase," Daugaard said. "We've seen those job numbers recover, and this last month, June, for the first time we exceeded the 2008 peak from which we fell."

"By that measure, you may say we've recovered," he said. "However, I want to see that continue to happen. I want to see the July (2012) number beat last July's number; I want to see August (2012) beat our August (2011) peak before I say we're fully recovered."

Businesses that would hire anywhere from 30 people to hundreds of people are currently eyeing South Dakota, Daugaard said.

"It's all over the board, and we know a good mix of business includes a mix of sizes," he said. "You don't want too many very large employers because then one large employer can have too much of an impact on a community. It's better to have a diverse mix of smaller to medium-sized companies, and let them grow."

■ TEENS

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slam home run in the top of the fifth inning broke open a close game, and from then on Vermillion was on cruise control en route to a 15-1 first-round win over Irene in Lennox Monday night.

Starting pitchers Colin Olson of Vermillion and Jack Huether of Irene dueled through four innings, and it was still anybody's game at that point. Vermillion scored once in the first on Pete Haught's hit, Jay Munger's sacrifice and Olson's infield grounder and once more in the second on Ty

Iverson's walk and stolen base and subsequent walks earned by Seth Miller and then by Haught with the bases full.

Huether struck out 10 Vermillion batters in his four innings of work, fanning the side in the second, third and fourth innings, yet he trailed when he left the game.

Olson, on the other hand, lived dangerously but rose to the occasion, surviving one crisis situation after another. Irene left the bases full in the first and second and stranded two in the third and fourth innings. Olson got two strikeouts in the first after Irene loaded the bases with one out. In the third Olson picked a runner off second base to end

that threat. In the fourth a great catch by Ben Houser in right field helped Olson survive two infield errors. In all, Olson stranded 10 runners on base in his four innings of work.

Despite all of that, Vermillion still led 2-0 going into the fifth when Ty Martz took over on the mound for Irene. Seth Heine's double started it all, and he eventually after two walks and a hit batter. Then Bendesky launched his moon shot into the darkness behind left field, and suddenly the game was out of Irene's reach at 7-0.

Vermillion picked up three more runs in the sixth on hits by Olson, Heine and Ty Iverson, two more walks and a

hit batter. A five-run seventh featured hits by Iverson, Jack Brown, Bendesky and Haught, three more walks and an infield error.

Haught finished the night with three hits while Olson, Heine, Iverson, Brown and Bendesky had two each. Bendesky's productive night earned him six RBIs.

Ethan James relieved Olson, who fanned five and gave up four hits, for the final three innings. James struck out four, walked two and allowed only one hit over that stretch. Irene spoiled a shutout with a sixth-inning run on a hit batter, a stolen base, a balk and a wild pitch.

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 06/29-07/20-26/2012
 Ethan Paul Kitto, 53430 889 Road, Niobrara, NE; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs
 Leaf Edwin P. Rattling, 6104 W. 66th St., Sioux Falls; Speeding other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs
 Blake Alan Schnell, 3115 SW 35th St., Ankeny, IA; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
 Richard Neil Plendl, 1901 S. Maple Street, Sioux City, IA; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
 Scott A. Vogel, 430 West Broadway, Vermillion; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs
 Karin Monzel, 601 Lewis St., Vermillion; Careless driving, \$54.00 plus costs
 Darin John Domesy, 121 S. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls; County speeding, \$39.00 plus costs
 Matthew Moore, 415 Jefferson St., Vermillion; Use/purchase smokeless tobacco by minor, \$120.00

Joseph Mazour, 530 Oakmount Drive, Vermillion; Municipal speeding, \$70.00 plus costs
 Ruth Ann Rater, 1204 Eagle Drive, Elk Point; Failure to stop, \$54.00 plus costs
 Barbara Vanderwerff Forehand, 7042 Lo Chalmers Ln., Garland, TX; Speeding other roadways, \$79.00 plus costs
 Brent J. Denker, 408 D. Street, Sergeant Bluff, IA; Speeding other roadways, \$79.00 plus costs
 Mitchell Hass, 529 Cottage #1, Vermillion; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
 Lorena Reichert, 322 Tamarack Dr., Rapid City; Speeding other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs
 Austin Douglas Druin, 30911 457th Ave., Volin; Renewal registration during assigned month, \$54.00 plus costs
 Carl Thompson, 4864 Highway 50, Cherokee, IA; County speeding, \$39.00 plus costs
 Kelly Lane Korslund, 44532 301st St., Volin; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs
 Kyle Lee Joachimsen, 1907 John Street, Yankton; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$54.00 plus costs
 Ross Elliot Loebs, 510 11th Ave., Britton, SD; Speeding other roadways, \$79.00 plus costs
 Danielle C. Columbus, 205 B. Street #C7, Sergeant Bluff, IA; Speeding other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs
 Douglas Lloyd Ganschow, 45619 306th Street, Wakonda; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
 Thomas Neil Taggart, 912

Cottage Ave., Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
 Teena Barrett, 1208 E. Clark #103, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00; Passengers between 14-18 required to wear seat belts, \$25.00
 Terrance Hagen, 1904 Mulberry St., Yankton; Careless driving,

\$54.00 plus costs
 Elizabeth Ann Boyd, 311 S. Yale St., Vermillion; Municipal speeding, \$19.00 plus costs
 Ryan Lawrence O'Connor, 2902 Peterson Road, Vermillion; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

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