

Academic thoughts among Peterson's primary concerns as USD advisor

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Sara Peterson's office is located on the first floor of the northeast corner of I.D. Weeks Library, part of USD's Academic Commons.

Peterson said it adds an extra layer of involvement with the students, whom she serves as an advisor with the Academic & Career Planning Center.

"This section of campus is where everybody is during the day, and it's so convenient for students," she said.

Prior to March 2011, the planning center was located in the Arts & Sciences building and she often saw students for appointments only.

Now she sees them – and interacts with them – every time she gets coffee at the Muenster University Center.

"It's really nice, because it just keeps those academic thoughts a part of their thinking," she said.

"Academic thoughts" are one of Peterson's primary concerns.

As an advisor she works with all first- and

second-year students, except those in the business school, elementary education and fine arts, to complete their necessary general requirements.

"It's my job to take you through the gen eds, to make sure you get your math all done, and your social sciences, and the proficiency exam, and the other parts along the way," Peterson said.

She also assists students in finding internships and other opportunities that will make them more marketable to potential employers upon graduation.

"After 45 credit hours, I'll send them over to their (respective) department and they're assigned a faculty advisor, who takes them the rest of the way," she said.

Peterson is a former USD student herself, graduating in 1991. She came back to work for the admissions office in 1997, and began with the planning center in 2004.

A brand-new aspect of her work is USD 101.

"It's a semester-long class, and the whole intention is to help

students transition to life at the university," Peterson said. "I have about 300 freshmen registered in six different sections, and my goal is to connect them to student organizations, to faculty and staff, to the resources that are on campus so they are aware of where they can go to get the help they need."

The class also will familiarize the students with the community as a whole.

"For our second class meeting, I've secured school busses, and we are driving all over Vermillion," Peterson said.

"I've had smaller classes like this, with 20 or 25 students, and it's just been amazing how many students are not aware of

what is in Vermillion.

"I just feel like that's important that you feel at home not only at USD, but in Vermillion as well," she said.

Along with pointing out the various stores, pharmacies, barber shops and banks, Peterson also shows the students the locations of the Missouri River and Clay County Park.

She said she has received a number of follow-up e-mails from students who utilized the outdoor recreation spots soon after the tour.

It's all about making a connection, she said.

"It only takes one connection, whether it be an upper-class student, a teacher, an organization –



if something makes them feel like they belong, they tend to stay," Peterson said. "So that is just what the whole purpose of the first-year experience is – to throw as many opportunities as possible out on the table so that they might find something that connects with them."

Peterson said she's glad to help students through that process.

"When students come in here, they often have a problem," she said. "They

don't know what to take, they don't know what to do with their major, they don't know where to go for help, they don't know how to get an internship, they don't know if their classes transferred or not.

"When they leave here, if (the problem) is not solved, we have a plan, and literally, 99 percent of them leave so happy because they needed answers," she said. "That is really, really satisfying."

Sanford Health giving USD \$20 million for arena

Sanford Health is giving \$20 million to the University of South Dakota for a new arena. It is the third significant financial move for the Dakotas-based health network in less than a week.

The university last year began raising money for a proposed \$50 million basketball and volleyball arena and adjoining sports medicine building that would connect to the existing DakotaDome. The university is "thrilled" with the Sanford donation, President Jim Abbott told the Argus Leader newspaper.

"We hope this goes a long way toward making our plans for an arena and an academic and sports medicine building a reality," he said. "We're going to be beating the bushes as fast and as fierce as we can to get our alumni to make their own commitments so we can move forward as soon as possible."

The donation is an extension of a relationship Sanford has had with USD's medical school, business school and athletic department and does not involve naming rights, Sanford spokesman Mike Begeman said.

"It looks like a gift of bricks and mortar but there is a lot more to it than that," he said. "It's really an investment in people. This is going to help us recruit future doctors and physical therapists as well as people from the business school. It's a very broad scope."

City officials announced late last week that Sanford Health, First Premier Bank and Premier Bankcard have secured the naming rights for the next quarter century for Sioux Falls' \$115 million events center under construction. That deal is for

nearly \$21 million.

Officials also announced last week that Sanford is giving \$10 million to South

Dakota State University for an indoor multisport practice facility. Sanford Health is

based in Sioux Falls and in Fargo, N.D. It has a presence in more than 100 communities in

seven states and bills itself as the nation's largest not-for-profit rural health care provider.

BIG IRON

ONLINE AUCTIONS
Experience the **POWER** of BigIron.com

ONLINE ONLY UNRESERVED AUCTION
www.bigiron.com

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

First Lots Scheduled to Close at 10:00 AM Central Time
NO BUYERS PREMIUM FEE & NO RESERVES!!

(44) Tractors, (11) Combines, (8) Skid Steers, (2) Wheel Loaders, (17) Semi Trucks, (1) Dump Truck, (18) Straight Trucks, (12) Grain Trailers, (3) Tanker Trailers, (3) Livestock Trailers, (12) Balers, Planting & Tillage Equipment, Livestock Equipment, Haying Equipment, Lawn & Garden, Vehicles & much more - **591 Lots Selling on this auction!**

Do you have equipment to sell?
Call 1-800-937-3558 for your local representative.
The next BIGIRON.com auction is September 12!
BigIron.com is a division of Stock Auction Company

Patricia Curry: 605-661-2860
Andy Curry: 605-261-1202
Archie Dunham: 605-366-4625
Also see us at
Siouxlandhomes.com

Dunham
COMPANY
www.dunhamcompany.com

Virtual Tours

<p>Elk Point, SD</p> <p>402 E. Rose Street - \$79,950</p> <p>2-bedroom, 1-bath, many updates in kitchen and bath. Oversized attached garage w/ work bench. Kitchen appliances and stacked washer and dryer included.</p>	<p>2007 Country Club Drive - \$164,900</p> <p>Top to walk out lower level finish! 1909 sq ft: 3 bed, 3 bath, April 2012 new carpet, fireplace, fenced yard w/ garden shed. Kitchen appliances stay, heated garage w/GDO. Shingles 2010. Close to school bus stop.</p>
<p>2008 Side by Side Duplex - \$209,000 301 & 303 S. Pearl St.</p> <p>Great Business Opportunity: live on one side, rent the other. 2 units each 2 bedroom, 1 bath 2 stall. Each unit with stainless steel stove, refrig, dishwasher, washer/dryer included. Professionally landscaped.</p>	<p>706 E. Clay Street - \$129,900</p> <p>Nice home, well cared for, recent updates. For your showing, please give 24 hour notice preferred. This home qualifies for a rural development loan, with no downpayment!</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: red;">SALE PENDING</p>
<p>203 Lexington St. - \$151,500</p> <p>2007 split home, 4 bedrooms, 1 bath. Stainless Steel Appliances stay. New floor in kitchen, new faucets. Lower walk out level future family room, future 2nd full bath, all set to go. Easy access to I29, school and down town.</p>	<p>10% OFF COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES/RESIDENTIAL LOTS IN ELK POINT</p>

Labor Day Early Deadlines

bp Broadcaster Press

Will be closed on Monday, September 3rd for the Labor Day holiday.

The deadlines for the September 4, 2012 issue are:

<p>Display Advertising: Thursday, August 30 at 11AM</p>	<p>Classified Advertising: Thursday, August 30 at 11AM</p>
---	--

THE POWER OF CLEAN, NATURAL GAS

MidAmerican ENERGY
OBSSESSIVELY. RELENTLESSLY. AT YOUR SERVICE.

MidAmerican Energy Company puts efficient power in your hands with clean-burning natural gas. From heating your home or business to cooking, natural gas remains a smart, affordable energy choice. At MidAmerican Energy, we're committed to keeping up with your energy needs and supplying energy in the safest, most reliable way possible.

www.MIDAMERICANENERGY.com