

# USD Rush Week Set For Next Week

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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With the first day of classes just weeks away, the Greek houses at the University of South Dakota are ready to welcome their new members.

Recruitment, formally known as Rush week, begins August 18 for sororities and the school is expecting about 200 potential members to move in early.

"A lot of our sorority members that are currently active are already moving back either this weekend or early this next week, so that will probably be about 400 women that will come back to town early," said Laura Roof, coordinator of sorority and fraternity life at USD. "Then when the sorority women that are going through the process — the potential new members we call them — come to town it will be about 200 more women that will come to town."

Women's recruitment into Greek life is a formal process and allows every potential member to get to know the current chapter members, as well as allowing the current chapter members to get to know the potential candidates.

"You can't bring somebody into your organization that you don't know," Roof said.

After they move in, the women visit each sorority house, four in total, to see what the house is like and to meet the current members. At the end of the night, both current members and potential members use a computer to rank who they like best or who they think is the best fit. The computer puts out a list of which recruit goes to which house for round two. This continues for three rounds.

"It's a very fair and equitable process in all of the chapters," Roof said. "A lot of times the individuals within the chapter don't even know where someone may fall on the list, they just know how they personally feel about it and how they reflected that, usually to their advisor team."

After the three rounds, the final selections are made and place the recruits into a



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

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chapter.

"During that time that if you've done what they call 'play fair', you've gone to all of the new chapters as a potential new member — someone looking to go into the community — if you've gone to all of the chapters you were invited to, you rank them all each night and then on our last night you go to all of the chapters and give them all a fair shake and you put them all on your preference card, then we can guarantee you placement in the community that next day," Roof said.

For sorority recruitment, the candidates are required sign up online beforehand in order for the school to properly prepare for the early arrivals so they can be at all events, which is why it takes place the week before class as not to interfere.

For the men interested in joining, the

process is less formal therefore begins the same day classes start.

"We don't use a computer process with them, it's just more the guys invite the guys to come over to the house each night and get to know them," Roof said. "The guys that are going through the process kind of figure out which chapters they like best and sometimes they'll just continue to keep going to the chapters they like best and stop going to the ones that they don't feel as much of a connection to."

The men also have the opportunity to see all the chapters, but it is not required. They can come and go as they please and the activities vary from house to house.

"Some of them will do barbecues in their front lawn. I've seen before a bull riding machine in their front lawn, I've seen people do slip-and-slides," Roof said. "I'm not 100

percent sure what all they'll be doing. But again, the men's is more relaxed and more come and go than the women's structured process."

Though the process may be different, both men and women have a mutual selection where both current and potential members choose the best fit.

"Then on both sides of the house they have what they call bid day where they extend invitations to members to join their organization," Roof said.

USD has 12 Greek life chapter on the campus, four sororities and eight fraternities. The sorority houses average around 120 members where the fraternities range from 16 to 90 members.

"Over the entire community, we will probably have about 300-400 new students that will join. Typically we have around 150-200 on the women's side and 150-200 on the men's side," Roof said.

Despite the stereotypes about Greek life, sororities and fraternities aren't all about having fun all the time. The organizations live by four core values.

"Particularly considering the press that sorority and fraternity life has gotten nationally it's a hard time to advocate for Greek life," Roof said. "All of our values state something about doing the best that we can and being awesome people and upholding great values, so when our students actually live up to their organizational values it is an impactful experience for them. Something that catapults them into the real world and develops them as a human being."

Leadership, academics, philanthropies and brotherhood-sisterhood are the values that Greek life students strive to live by.

"When you put all four of those things together, that's what creates fraternity and sorority life," Roof said. "When it's done right and when it's done well and they live up to their values, it can be one of the best opportunities a student has on a campus during their time on campus."

## Preparing For The University's Student Move-In Day

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN

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Vermillion is about to get a lot more crowded.

The University of South Dakota will welcome around 1,200 new students to campus for the school year next Friday, Aug. 21, for its official move in day.

"It's a pretty smooth process," said Kyle Schoenfelder, director of the Muenster University Center. "The student checks in at the Dakota Dome, that's where they get their residents hall room key, and then they follow the color routes and it's all based on which ever residence hall they live in. They arrive to the residence hall where there is an unloading zone."

USD has nine residence halls total, Coyote Village, Burgess, Norton, Brookman, McFadden Halls and Richardson, Olson, Mickelson and Beede which are all part of the North Complex. Current students are at each residence hall to assist in the move



in process and to carry items to the rooms.

"(We have) a lot of the fraternity and sorority students, student athletes and then any other students who just want to help out," Schoenfelder said.

With the influx of students, USD has been working with the campus police

and Vermillion Police Department on street closures to make to make the process more effective. Some streets around the USD campus will be closed during move in times, which is scheduled for 7:15 a.m. until about 4 p.m.

That Friday also begins welcome week for the students with convocation, the student's official welcome, and a block party.

"We have activities Saturday all the way through the following Sunday," Schoenfelder said. "There's a comedian, there's an illusionist. We're doing a double-feature outdoor movie on Monday night. We're doing grocery bingo on Monday. There are activities all week long for the students."

With the students returning for the school year, the bookstore, dining options and services on campus will also be reopening or extending operating hours.

Classes begin Monday, Aug. 24, following Friday's move-in day.

## NIH Grant Awarded To USD

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The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded South Dakota, through the University of South Dakota, a five-year grant renewal to support research infrastructure at higher education institutions.

In 2001, the federal government began a program to support states that receive less funding than others, and it included 23 states and Puerto Rico.

"They created this new program which became eventually known as IDEA for Institutional Development Award that allows multiple ways of getting money at states, like South Dakota, that don't get enough federal money," said Barbara Goodman, professor of basic biomedical sciences at USD. "One of those ways of getting money is now called INBRE, Idea Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence. It started out as something called BRIN Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network, which is why we are still called South Dakota BRIN, but we are funded by the INBRE program at NIH which is at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health."

That same year, South Dakota was awarded its first grant of two million dollars a year for three years. After the three years, a five year grant was awarded followed by another five year grant. After the two, five-year grants, USD did not achieve a score for an extension and was put on a one-year interim grant, but this year, the consortium successfully applied and has been awarded a new five-year grant for the program.

"The program is designed to support higher education institutions throughout the state of South Dakota. So, it needs a lead institution, which happens to be the University of South Dakota and the medical school," Goodman said. "This is the National Institutes of Health, which means most grants come through medical schools or institutes like medical schools."

The schools partnered with USD for the grant are Augustana College, Black Hills State, Dakota Wesleyan, Mount Marty, University of Sioux Falls, Oglala Lakota College and Sisseton Wahpeton College. These schools share a million and a half dollars a year to support research efforts. The money supports faculty members receiving summer salaries to conduct research with undergraduates in their labs, support for undergraduates, and improvement of research capabilities.

"The purpose is that the NIH realized that if you encouraged research learning at predominately undergraduate



Goodman

## Server

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their material also. So, we are borrowing a barcode reader from the Beresford School District to expedite the process, perhaps we could look at getting our own barcode reader. I am not sure of the cost."

Board member Shannon Fairholm questioned what the impact of the failure will be on teachers.

"I am not unsympathetic to the situation in the libraries, but I have to tell you I am more concerned that teachers lost their documents and will have to recreate them," she said. "That is a lot of hours of labor and love that have just gone to the wayside. It is disconcerting that they are having to start from scratch two weeks from before school starts. Is there anything we can do to assist our teachers to help them recover this information?"

Middle School librarian Sharla Krell, who was in attendance at the meeting, told the board that Jason Gault, VSD director of technology, has the Destiny system rebuilt.

"We are back on as far as the system is loaded and updated to its most current

level," she said. "Jolley, Austin and the High School have never been backed up to the cloud system. The Middle School they found out two years ago they did do a collection analysis that did back up about 12,000 titles. So, the middle school is sitting much better than the other schools. It doesn't take away from the magnitude of the failure — it is a catastrophic failure on every level. Every volume of every book has to be reentered into the system. We have to rescan every single book."

The board asked that Gault come and explain what had happened and what they could do to help mitigate the situation.

"On July 17, I received word that the server had gone down," he said. "When it went down it took two drives with it. The idea of having multiple drives is to prevent things like this from happening — but it happened, and we are really not sure why. In talking with Connection Point in Sioux Falls they said two things could cause this: the age of the drives — these drives were installed in 2009, the other thing is weather. We did have a storm that night but we can't be sure that is what caused it."

Gault said the system, which had been set up in

a Raid Array had not been backed up since 2010.

"Unfortunately when the drive went down it took out with it our backup of the same server," he said. "Library services and the middle school teacher documents were on this server. There is really no way we can get it back."

"I immediately emailed everyone impacted and let them know what was going on. I have been working with teachers to see if there is any way we can back track the documents — if they have them on desk tops, other storage devices, if they were emailed, if they were posted to the web, if we can scan a hard copy in."

However, he admitted it means a lot of teachers will have to recreate documents that they had planned on using at the beginning of the school year.

Fairholm questioned

what the board could do to help the librarians and teachers, suggesting even hiring additional staff to get through this situation.

It was noted that the district is looking to find out if the district's iPads could be used as a scanner to help rescan the book titles.

Yet, Krell said the issue is there is really three steps to loading the book information back into the system.

"You scan the barcode and it pulls up basic information about the title," she said. "Then we have to decide how much additional information we want to put back into the system."

It was suggested that the librarians contact the library science program at the University of South Dakota to see if any of the students would be available to help re-catalog the district's books.

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