

The Right Kind of Girl

BY DARIS HOWARD

Mike was telling me this week about meeting his wife, Melanie. He loved to go four-wheeling on the sand dunes near where we live, so his first date with any girl was to take her there to see if she enjoyed it as much as he did.

When he was set up on a blind date with Melanie, he, of course, took her there. After they had ridden in his dune buggy for some time, he asked her if she would like to drive. She nodded enthusiastically, so he turned it over to her.

"Let me explain everything," he said, pointing to the different parts of the machine. "This lever is the clutch. This one is the brake. This one is . . ."

"Mike," she said, interrupting him, "I've got this."

"Okay," he replied. "Let's see what you can do." Then, as she gunned the machine forward, he yelled over the roar, "You will want to stay on the small hills until you feel comfortable with everything."

Mike was quite sure that she rolled her eyes at his suggestion, and the next thing he knew they were sailing up one of the biggest hills. She drove, holding the machine to the steep sides of the dune better than any girl he had ever seen. In fact, if he was honest, he might even have to admit she was better than he was. But one thing he did know for sure; as far as he was concerned, he had found the right kind of girl for him.

As he told his story, I thought about how I would take girls I dated to the ranch where I grew up. Farm and ranch life can be dirty, sweaty, and tiring, but there is nothing like the hard work and life outdoors.

I had taken city girls to the ranch before, and shared what my life was like. Most of the time they were happy when we left and wouldn't go out with me again. Still, if I developed a relationship with a girl, I felt she needed to understand what kind of man I was.

When I met Donna, I was immediately drawn to her. She and I may have been different in about every way imaginable, but she was not afraid to try something new. We had dated for a while, so I decided it was time to take her to the ranch. I did so with great trepidation, considering how it had turned out with the other girls.

When we arrived at the ranch, I gave Donna a pair of coveralls to put on to keep her clothes clean. We then went out to milk the young cow that provided milk for our family.

The cow was very gentle and I would just take a bucket of grain out to the pasture and call her. She would come, and I would tie her to the nearest tree and milk her.

I showed Donna how to milk, and she struggled for a bit, but was soon getting a good stream. As we both milked, I squirted her. The milk dripped down her coveralls, and she laughed. She decided to see if she could get me back, but I figured I was safe since she was new at it. I was wrong. She sprayed milk at me, hitting me in the chest. I was surprised, and she was proud of herself. She laughed, and moved out about twenty feet, thinking there was no way I could hit her at that distance.

But I have milked cows most of my life, and I sprayed a stream of milk that hit her right in the face. That was the big test, and Donna laughed. With all of the commotion, the cow kicked over the bucket, causing Donna to laugh even harder. And she didn't rush to get away, but helped me calm the cow and finish milking.

That was when I knew I had found the right kind of girl for me.

Have a Great Day

SDSU/USD Online MPH Ranked Among Nation's Best



BROOKINGS, S.D. - Aug. 20, 2015 - The online master of public health program offered by South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota has been ranked 13th in the 50 Most Affordable Online MPH Programs 2015 by Top Master's in Healthcare Administration.

The firm highlighted the collaboration between SDSU and USD to form the highly regarded online and successful program.

"The idea behind this program is to take the collective strengths in the health sciences that both campuses have and build a program around them," said Dennis Hedge, dean of SDSU's College of Pharmacy. "A great thing about this program is that beyond a degree opportunity, it directly addresses public health issues right here in the state of South Dakota."

The MPH program started classes in January 2015. Students can pursue the degree on a full-time or part-time basis, which has interested undergraduates and employed health-care professionals looking for the next level of education. To receive the degree, students must take 42 credit hours—36 coming from core courses.

"We use an interprofessional approach to the MPH program so

that students learn from a wide range of public health scholars and practitioners at both campuses," said Mike Lawler, dean of USD's School of Health Sciences.

In addition to South Dakota State's College of Pharmacy, other colleges across the campus including the colleges of nursing, education and human sciences, and agriculture and biological sciences will also contribute faculty to teach classes and/or review projects. USD and its School of Health Sciences contributes expertise from programs such as addiction studies, physician assistant, occupational therapy, nursing and others. Both USD and SDSU can grant the MPH degree.

Top Master's in Healthcare Administration started the selection process by using College Navigator and Google to

search, check and confirm a list of all the public health master's degrees in the United States that are offered via distance education. To clarify, this means that we only considered full graduate programs (not certificates) that are available 90 percent or more online (a few campus visits for seminars or workshops were acceptable, but "hybrid" programs and ones with regular face-to-face sessions in the curriculum were not).

It also used College Navigator to collect each school's tuition rates for graduate programs, as well as to determine the associated fees for attendance. For the purposes of creating a ranking, the firm averaged each public school's in-state and out-of-state rates to determine a single approximate cost.

About South Dakota State University

Founded in 1881, South Dakota State University is the state's Morrill Act land-grant institution as well as its largest, most comprehensive school of higher education. SDSU confers degrees from six different colleges representing more than 175 majors, minors and specializations. The institution also offers 33 master's degree programs, 15 Ph.D. and two professional programs.

The work of the university is carried out on a residential campus in Brookings, at sites in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City, and through Extension offices and Agricultural Experiment Station research sites across the state.

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