

# GRADS

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the goal of receiving a university degree that day. "Boy, am I proud of you," she said. "There are so many hurdles that keep you from getting a good, quality education, and you guys stepped through it."

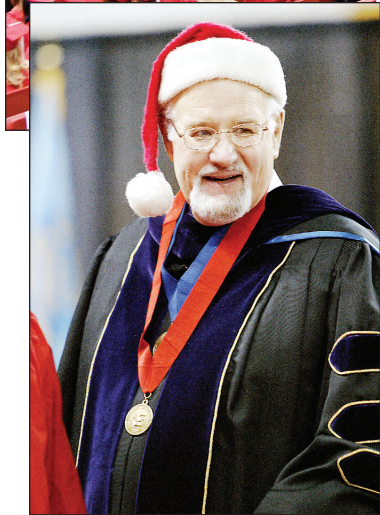
Noem said in preparation for her keynote speech that morning, she reviewed several commencement speeches on the internet made over the years by politicians, business leaders and other noteworthy personalities.

"I didn't want to make today's speech too sappy, or too optimistic," she said. "I think you are a unique generation. You don't know of a world without the internet. If you wanted to know something or question something your professor told you over the years, all you had to do is Google it. This makes you much more perceptive ... you can tell a fake when you see it - you know when a deal is just too good to be true."

"So I wanted to leave you with something today that you could use going forward," Noem added. "If I stood up here today and told you the rest of your lives were going to be lollipops and bubblegum, you wouldn't believe me. You know that there are going to be challenges ahead."

She chose to share a portion of the message that comedian and late night talk show host Conan O'Brien left with the spring 2011 graduates of Dartmouth College.

"So, at the age of 47, after 25 years of obsessively pursuing my dream, that dream changed. For decades, in show business, the ultimate goal of every comedian was to host The Tonight Show. It was the Holy Grail, and like many people I thought that



ABOVE: A queue of soon-to-be recipients of doctorate degrees from the University of South Dakota forms during Saturday's commencement as they wait to take part in a formal hooding ceremony on the stage in the DakotaDome.

LEFT: Instead of donning a traditional academic cap along with his robe, Greg Huckabee, associate professor of business law at the University of South Dakota, decided to wear headgear that fits the season at Saturday's USD commencement exercises in the DakotaDome.

(Photos by David Lias)

achieving that goal would define me as successful. But that is not true. No specific job or career goal defines me, and it should not define you," Noem said, quoting O'Brien. "...whether you fear it or not, disappointment will come. The beauty is that through disappointment you can gain clarity, and with clarity comes conviction and true originality. And there is no greater cliché in a commencement address than 'follow your dream.'"

Noem said O'Brien's speech also contained this message: "I am here to tell you that whatever you think your dream is now, it will probably change. And that's okay. Your path at 22 will not

necessarily be your path at 32 or 42. One's dream is constantly evolving, rising and falling, changing course. It is our failure to become our perceived ideal that ultimately defines us and makes us unique. It's not easy, but if you accept your misfortune and handle it right, you're perceived failure can become a catalyst for profound re-invention.

"Those are pretty wise words for a stand-up comedian," Noem said. "If you had asked me when I was age 16 what I would be doing with my life, I would have told you, 'I'll be working with my dad.' From the time I was a little girl, I can remember going out to the pasture with

him, checking cows, and telling him, 'When I grow up, this is exactly what I want to do.'

"I never dreamed, until the day he went into a grain bin on our farm and died, that my plans would change ... it was a tragic event in our lives; he was only 49 years old, and we had to make changes and adjustments.

"We've all heard the cliché that the only thing that is constant is change. Well, it's a cliché because it really is true. I know all of you have future plans, naturally," she said, "... but don't be surprised if they change. There's no telling where our plans will take us, and where our future will take us."

# SDSHS announces next Deadwood Fund grant

The South Dakota State Historical Society has announced that the applications for the next round of the Deadwood Fund grant program are due on Feb. 1, 2012 for work beginning May 1, 2012.

The program is designed to encourage large-scale restoration or rehabilitation of historic properties by individuals, organizations or public agencies, according to Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society, whose historic preservation office administers the program.

Grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The grant amount must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis from nonfederal and nonstate sources. Nonprofit organizations will be allowed to use in-kind services for one-half of their match.

In 2010, more than \$138,000 was distributed among 10 projects.

Funding for the program is from Deadwood gaming revenue earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects throughout the state and distributed by the State Historical Society.

The second round of 2012 applications will be due on Oct. 1, 2012.

For more information on the South Dakota State Historical Society's Deadwood Fund grant program, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone (605) 773-3458.

Grant forms are available online at <http://history.sd.gov/Preservation/FundingOpps/FundingOpportunities.aspx>.

# BIZ

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going to fit our needs really well."

Larson added that he has been overwhelmed by the reception offered by the community and its leaders.

"They've just kind of opened their arms and helped us figure stuff out. So, what you're seeing today is pretty incredible to me," he said.

A message of congratulations from Mayor Jack Powell was read, and a University of South Dakota flag from USD president James Abbott was presented, as well.

Along with the owners of the business, representatives from the offices of senators Tim Johnson and John Thune were on hand to offer their support, as well as other officials.

"Thank you for choosing this

location," said Alex Smith of the Governor's Office of Economic Development. "We look forward to many, many years of working with you."

Larson said he is looking forward to it, too.

"Somebody asked me today - and it's an important question to answer - 'What happens when this North Dakota thing plays out? What are you guys going to do next?' I think by that time we're hoping to be established enough here in Vermillion and in the area that we're going to start moving into some other commercial products," he said.

Howe expressed his thanks to Builders Choice, and to the members of the community who were on hand to welcome the business to town.

"This is a really wonderful show of support to a new company in our community," he said.

# TIME

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there's grace, there's opportunity for new life, for new beginnings."

Davoux has seen these transformations in his own life - notably in his father, whom he describes as an alcoholic prone to anger and violence.

"My grandpa was a minister, one of the greatest examples to me. But my dad was one of those rebellious kinds of guys who went his own prodigal way," he said. "I remember there was a point in my dad's life when there was a kind of spiritual rebirth in his life."

"He gave his life to Christ. There was a transformation that happened," Davoux said. "He went from drinking and being very angry all the time to (being) a very peaceful man."

Despite the influence of his grandfather - and despite earning a degree to become a pastor - Davoux resisted the call to work with the church himself.

"I felt called to be a pastor of some sort in late high school/early college years. I knew that God was kind of leading me that way, but there was another sense that I didn't want to do that,"

he said. "I was scared. I was terrified to do it. I hated speaking in front of people. I remember there were days when I would literally not sleep the night before I had to give a speech."

Instead, he became a fourth- and fifth-grade teacher in Kansas City, MO. But he felt something was missing.

"There's nothing wrong with being a teacher, but I just knew it was not going to be a long-term thing for me," he said.

Then in 2002 he attended a Steven Curtis Chapman concert, during which the story was told of a group of missionaries who were killed. On the stage was the son of one of the missionaries, and one of the actual killers.

"It broke in me, because I just saw the fruit of what they had done," Davoux said. "There was a whole village in Ecuador that was literally transformed because of the work that they did. That changed my life."

Shortly thereafter, Davoux came to the Cornerstone Church. He lives in Vermillion with his wife Jen and their four children.

Although he said he was nervous at first, Davoux came to embrace the "radical" change in his own life.

"I didn't feel like a pastor, but I knew that God had called me to be that," he said. "His grace has been so huge. He's blessed us beyond words and helped us every step of the way."

# GUARD

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with medical ambulances to quickly evacuate and provide continuing care to patient's en-route to a medical treatment facility.

The ASMC is further able to provide Echelon II care, of an emergent or inpatient/outpatient nature, designed to return service members back to duty or evacuate them on to definitive care as quickly as possible.

The unit is composed of combat medics, medical doctors, physician assistants, nurses, lab technicians, radiologists, dental technicians,

mental health technicians, and maintenance and support staff.

The 1978th and its four assigned members will deploy in November. The unit's mission is to plan for and coordinate all contracting functions at the brigade combat team level.

The unit will be responsible

for assisting with the development and administration/revision of contracting support plans and policy, annex and appendices in support of operational, contingency and deliberate plans associated within an area of responsibility.

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## Time for a Holiday

This holiday the staff at Sanford Clinic Vermillion will be spending time with our friends and family. We appreciate you and your business and that's why we want you to be aware of our holiday closure. We will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

20 S. Plum Street, Vermillion, SD  
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## RIBBON-CUTTING CELEBRATION



A ribbon cutting was recently held at Builders Choice, Inc. Builders Choice is located at 1212 North Norbeck Street in Vermillion.

The Vermillion Builders Choice plant produces modular units to serve a variety of commercial applications, from worksite housing, hotels and apartments, to office and administration facilities. Builders Choice, Inc. is based out of Anchorage, Alaska.

Local Manager is Greg Stirn and Vermillion Builders Choice, Inc. can be found at 1212 North Norbeck St., Vermillion. Office telephone number is 866-522-3214.