

Scholarship Recognition Day welcomes high school seniors to USD

The University of South Dakota will showcase its extraordinary academic and campus programs for high school seniors and their parents during Scholarship Recognition Day, Feb. 20-21.

Students and family members attending Scholarship Recognition Day will have an opportunity to meet USD faculty, receive information on the USD Honors Programs, learn about The U's study abroad programs and compete for USD's most popular scholarships.

"This is a showcase for the University as we engage these academically-gifted high school seniors with information about our facilities, our faculty and our academic programs," stated Joni Freidel, director of scholarship administration at USD. "While this is a great opportunity for them to see campus and learn more about The U, students attending Scholarship Recognition Day are also interviewing for some very significant scholarships."

Top scholarships available to incoming freshmen include the George S. Mickelson Scholarship and the USD Presidential-Alumni Scholarship. Both of these prestigious awards provide recipients with four-year, renewable scholarships given that students meet the conditions of the award. Students visiting USD for Scholarship Recognition Day will also have an opportunity to interview for various other scholarships, including the Rawlins Scholarship, the School of Law Honor Scholars Program, the Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Student Scholars Program, the Dorothy C. Schieffer Political Science Scholarship, the Al Neuharth Excellence in Journalism Scholarship and the Ulyot Lakota Scholarship, which is awarded to Native American students who are members of recognized tribes.

During Scholarship Recognition Day at USD, students answer a series of questions from a panel of interviewers. Each interview group is

a cross-section of campus life, including faculty, staff members, current scholarship winners and representatives from the community. Although these students represent the best of incoming freshmen who have scored a 27 or higher on their ACT and have accrued a high GPA, the interview process creates an opportunity for USD to evaluate applicants on more than test scores and grades. Leadership ability, extracurricular activities, community involvement and academic excellence are factors in determining scholarship recipients.

In addition to the interview process, students also participate in special sessions to learn more about undergraduate research at USD, pre-register for fall 2010 classes, and participate in academic showcases from the College of Arts & Sciences, the Beacom School of Business, the School of Education, the College of Fine Arts and the School of Health Sciences. The University Scholarship Committee will finalize its recommendations and recipients will be notified of their award by mid-March.

"It's an exciting time, not just for the high school seniors participating in Scholarship Recognition Day but for the campus community," noted Freidel, who added that more than 100 students are expected each day of the weekend to interview for scholarships and learn more about USD's academic and campus offerings. "There are many academic and student service departments coming together to make this event a success."

For more information about scholarships at USD, including a list of available scholarships to incoming freshmen as well as the university's new online scholarship application process, go to www.usd.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.cfm. Information about financial aid at USD is also available by contacting the Office of Financial Aid at (605) 677-5446 or you can visit www.usd.edu/financial-aid/index.cfm.

CHECK IT OUT

At the Vermillion Public Library
By Anne Marshall

Upcoming Events at the Library

February is Library Lover's Month! What do you love about your library? There are pink information forms located at the circulation desk for you to fill out and share your thoughts. Do you have suggestions that will improve the Vermillion Public Library? Responses will be used for a display to be set up later.

February is also National Children's Dental Health Month. Check out the display case behind the circulation desk celebrating these two special February events.

The Fun & Games program is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Community Room of the library. Play board games or put together jigsaw puzzles. Extra games and puzzles are welcome. This is an activity for adults and youth ages 12 and older.

Free Tax help by community volunteers can be found at the library. Trained volunteers using IRS material can provide certain services. Drop ins welcome on Saturdays, Feb. 27, March 20, 27, and April 10 during library hours. More information on the services is located at the circulation desk.

The Online Book Club is asking its readers to write and tell what they enjoy about this special library. E-mails can be sent to Susan@DearReader.com

The Friends of the Vermillion Public Library Used Book Sale is scheduled to start on Thursday, Feb. 25 and runs through Feb. 28. 2009 Summer Reading Program participants who earned Book Bucks may stop by earlier on Wednesday, Feb. 24 after 5 p.m. to use your Book Bucks to purchase a great selection of items.

DearReader.com Book Club

The DearReader.com Book Club offers many selections to Internet patrons. Each book runs for five days, Monday through Friday. Some genres offer selections every other week. Check out this service by registering at the library's Web site,

Do you need a gift idea?

Subscriptions to the Plain Talk make great presents.

Call 624-2695

http://vpl.sdl.net and clicking on the book club icon.

Online patrons can also find the club at www.supportlibrary.com/su/su.cfm?x=470596. The following selections for the week of Feb. 22 are:

AUDIO BOOK: The Art of Social War, by Jodi Wing.

BUSINESS: The Personal Credibility Factor, by Sandy Allgeier.

FICTION: The Last Queen, by C.W. Gortner.

GOOD NEWS: Tour De Force, by Elizabeth White.

MYSTERY: Trust Me, by Peter Leonard.

NON-FICTION: Promises I Made My Brother, by Sam Haskell.

PRE-PUB: Please check on-line for this selection.

ROMANCE: Dancing With the Devil, by Laura Drewry.

SCIENCE FICTION: Duplicate Effort, by Kristine Kathryn Rusch.

TEEN: Front and Center, by Catherine Murdock.

THRILLER: Blood and Ice, by Robert Masello.

New Adult Fiction from Bestselling Authors
Mickey Dade hates deskwork, but that's all he's

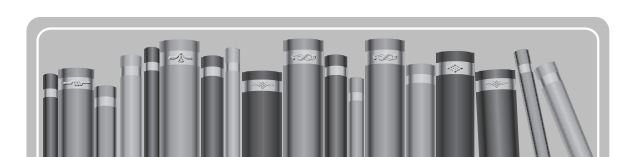
been doing at Wyatt Hunt's private investigative service, The Hunt Club. His itch to be active is answered when the body of Dominic Como, one of San Francisco's most high profile activists, is discovered. When Mickey and Hunt are pulled into a new case, they discover Como is involved in some highly suspect deals. Check out Treasure Hunt, by the "Master of the Legal Thriller", John Lescroart.

In the not-too-distant future, massive climate change has wracked the globe. China's rice-growing regions have been devastated by typhoons, while its western breadbasket is suffering from three years of drought. Riots threaten to tear the country apart. With the old-guard Chinese government paralyzed by the crisis, a young, charismatic party leader steps up. His solution to the unrest is a time-tested one, the conquest of China's neighbors, and after that, the world. Best selling author, Larry Bond is back with his latest novel, Red Dragon Rising: Shadows of War.

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Court Services Secretary

The South Dakota Unified Judicial System is inviting applications for a Court Services Secretary position in Vermillion, South Dakota. The salary range is \$10.81 to \$12.43 per hour. Duties include responsible and varied secretarial work. Work requires the exercise of confidentiality, considerable initiative, independent judgment and discretion in screening calls and visitors. Possession of a high school diploma or a GED certificate. Post high school education including secretarial, computer, and transcription training is desired. Benefits include paid health insurance, life insurance, generous leave, paid holidays and retirement. The closing date for this position is March 5, 2010. Successful completion of a criminal background investigation is required for employment. To apply: Submit a letter of interest and resume or state employment application (available at a South Dakota Department of Labor office and on the Internet at www.state.sd.us/jobs) to: PMB-2713-000, Director of Human Resources, Unified Judicial System, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501.



USED BOOK SALE!

Thursday, Feb. 25.....10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 26.....10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 27.....10a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 28.....1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Vermillion Public Library
18 Church Street • 605-677-7060

SILVER THREADS

History of the senior center
written by Nila Fostvedt

A fun and enlightening activity enjoyed by both Seniors and "Adopt-A-Grandparent" participants. The University Students interviewed seniors as an activity.

When our very own Merle Offerdahl, retired police chief and former mayor of Vermillion, was asked his choice of careers, he responded, "I wouldn't change a thing. I'd do it all over again." When he was 12, he wanted to be a minister. Merle enjoyed a happy childhood on the Union County farm with his sister, brothers and mom and dad. At age 91, Merle still enjoys reading, coming to the Senior Center with his wife, Eleanor, and enjoying good food and good company.

The Vermillion Senior Center would welcome you for activities, games and meals. You don't even need to drive. Just call Vermillion Transit for a ride to and from a destination, or go to 320 W. Main.

"All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism."

Go visit a senior today. There are many lonely ones — one may be your neighbor. Tell them about the many programs and nutritious meals offered at the Vermillion Senior Center. Come, you are welcome.

More history from Nila in the next Silver Threads.

Activities & Events of the center by Crystal McGuire, director

Thursday, Feb. 25, the center will be hosting their annual February Fundraiser with the assistance of the ESA Theta Omega. Our theme is Mardi Gras with lots of beads and masks to add to the colorful event. Punch, wine and appetizers begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner following at approximately 5:45 p.m. The menu includes BBQ Pork Boneless Ribs with potato, vegetable, salad and dessert. Tickets are \$10 (and we prefer you call

and reserve your ticket or pay in advance) so we have an idea of the count. We certainly appreciate the kindness of the ESA Theta Omega helping us to serve and clean up, plus they are preparing the desserts and salads for the dinner. Thank you, ladies. The Mardi Gras Dinner is open to the public.

The center's silent auction event continues with items added and removed as we get appropriate bids for the items. The center has also started a general store which contains items made or donated by members and friends of the center. We have many wonderful items including afghans, baby quilts, pot holders, gifts, glass dishes and more. If you have items you would like to donate call or bring the items to the center.

Medicare D (prescription) plan — We are searching for a volunteer that can be trained by the SD SHIINE staff to help seniors next year with their question on prescription plans. Please call the center if interested in learning more about this.

Activities available:

- Knit, Stitch & Portable Crafts every Friday at 10 a.m.

- Contact the center for other daily activities such as pitch, bridge, pinochle, dominoes and scrabble.

- Pancake Sunday is always the second Sunday of each month (except in May) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$4 for pancakes, sausages, coffee and juice and is prepared by the senior men of the center.

- Visually Impaired meet the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at the center. They meet to discuss options for different types of support and equipment for visual impairment.

- Third Wednesday of each Month, Vermillion Medical Clinic presents a program on health topics and checks blood pressure.

- Foot clinic is held on Tuesdays at the center by Sanford Vermillion Clinic,

call 624-2611 for an appointment.

- The Dakota Senior Meals prepares and serves food Monday through Friday in the kitchen and dining area of the center. The nutrition program is a separate program under the direction of ROCS and receive state and federal funds to help pay for a small portion of the meal cost. A donation for your meal helps support the program.

All members of the center receive a monthly newsletter with scheduled events and activities plus a menu from Dakota Senior Meals. Members are encouraged to participate in the daily activities and events, educational and health programs, share in the book and puzzle exchange, participate in fundraisers and other activities or events. Members need to be only 40 years of age and pay an annual fee of \$25 per year or \$250 lifetime.

The senior center is a non-profit organization that welcomes volunteers and financial donations. We sponsor monthly fundraisers and send out requests to businesses and organizations in the community as our means of funding. If you or your group would like to help sponsor a fundraising event, please contact the center at 624-8072. Be watching for more events and activities in the next "Silver Threads."

Volunteers needed:

- to sort greeting cards.
- line dance instructor.
- for morning or afternoon walk or exercise group.
- for fundraiser dinners to help serve and clean up.

Donations:

Donations or sponsors from businesses or friends of the center are needed monthly to help pay for the food and supplies for each fundraiser. Thank you for any financial support you can provide to the center. All donations and sponsors are recognized in our monthly newsletter. Your support is so appreciated.

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