## Forum discusses impacts of **Snowden's actions**



**Bv Travis Gulbrandson** travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Is Edward Snowden, the former National Security Administration (NSA) contractor who stole approximately 1.7 million top-secret files and turned them over to the media, a traitor or a hero?

Short answer: It's complicated.

Snowden's acts and their potential repercussions, positive and negative, were the topic of discussion at an International Forum held Monday afternoon in Farber Hall on the USD campus.

"I think that the question some of you should be thinking about is whether Mr. Snowden has done us a service in revealing information that wouldn't normally come into the public domain, and if the nature of this service mitigates his unlawful conduct?" said Gregory Huckabee, associate professor with the Beacom School of Business.

In the past, cases such as Watergate and the Pentagon Papers brought about positive change via the cooperation of whistleblowers and the national media, he said.

However, Huckabee added that all of these cases need to be taken on an individual basis, and that it is too soon to know in the Snowden case.

A big part of the issue revolves around the sheer number of files Snowden took, said Tom Martin, former head of the USD ROTC program.

Beacom School of Business. Do you think you're going to find that one person? They're a literal needle in a

haystack." There is a responsibility on the side of the journalists, as well, said Tom Sorensen, associate dean of the USD School of Law, and a former journalist himself.

"There is a real balancing act here," Sorensen said. "What are the consequences of what you do? Who decides?'

Sorensen said most journalists would tell you that they have made no decision, they're just reporting the facts – even if that isn't quite the case.

"Too often, the media are in the parade instead of covering the parade," he said. "There are responsibilities on both sides, but the law says this person is charged and deserves a proper hearing in the court of law."

Martin said the entire case is a matter of "the birds coming home to roost."

Before he came to USD in 2009, Martin was assigned to major military operations that sometimes required intelligence, after 9-11 in particular.

With the increased need for intelligence, more independent contractors were used, such as Booz Allen Hamilton, Snowden's former employer.

Because so many intelligence workers are needed, background checks are not often as thorough as they should be, Martin said.

"These people doing the background checks are under pressure," he said. "They need to meet quotas, they need to keep producing. Do a few people slip through the cracks? Sure. I don't think Mr. Snowden was one who slipped through the cracks.

But, just to make you feel really safe, just think of how easy it is for someone to lie about things and get into a position where they have access to this type of information if the really wanted to do some damage, or wanted to sell secrets?" he said.

Martin did add that – to his knowledge – Snowden has not sold any of the files he stole.

The panelists said the Snowden case also raises concerns about the role of the NSA in national defense - specifically whether the office is overstepping its bounds.

"I think the Patriot Act got a foot in the door that I wasn't comfortable with, even though I value my safety and my security. I also value my privacy," Sorensen said.

"I don't really feel any safer knowing that the NSA is doing this, because a lot of times people forget there's an enemy out there," Martin said. "Our enemy happens to be al-Qaida right now. The enemy is not stupid. The enemy gets bugged. If you think that al-Qaida operatives that are currently in the United States don't think that their telephone conversations might be monitored, I've





Tom Martin, former head of the USD ROTC program, Tom Sorensen, associate dean of the USD School of Law, and Gregory Huckabee, associate professor with the Beacom School of Business participate in Monday's International Forum on the USD campus.

got a couple bridges in different locations that I can sell you. These people are not stupid." While the overall

damage done by Snowden is "miniscule," Martin said, he has broken the law. "If you steal from a thief, are you still a thief?"

he asked. Huckabee compared Snowden's actions to those of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the George W. Bush White House official who "outed" then-CIA operative Valerie Plame.

Because of Libby's actions, other CIA operatives were subsequently killed after their cover was blown, Huckabee said.

"Just as that leader did not care about those CIA

กโร

670-8682

operatives' lives, Snowden does not care about the lives of national security personnel, military and civilian, he has placed in harm's way," Huckabee said. "When you balance the freedom to know with the freedom to live, I know which one I favor more. We have laws for just this purpose.

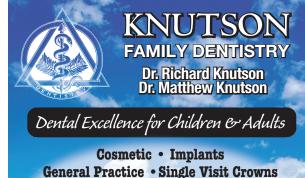
(Photo by David Lias)

Snowden enjoys his new life in Russia. He sold his own country for his selfappointed purposes, and lives have been jeopardized. He does not care about that, but we do."

The International Forum was moderated by Benno Wymar and sponsored by the Beacom School of Business.







There's so much information, it can't be sorted, he said.

"Just think of the volume of information that we're talking on just the wiretaps," Martin said. "Put yourself on the 50-yard line at the DakotaDome, and the DakotaDome is filled to maximum capacity with spectators. You have all these people in the crowd, and you're supposed to find one person who's holding up a pen from the

## One & two bedroom apartments. **Scotland Apartments**, 821 Main St. Scotland, SD 57059. Laundry. Rental assistance available to those who qualify. For appointments or applications please call **605-624-5218** or visit www.oakleafpm.com.

🚹 Equal Housing Opportunity 🖧

Pro-ON	vned Speela
	2011 Chevrolet Equinox AWD
2013 Ford Taurus Limited	80,000 miles <b>\$15,900</b>
14.000 miles	2011 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Lariat

14,000 IIIIIes	
2013 Ford Fusion Leather Seats	D
19,200 miles\$20,995	2
2013 Ford F-150 SuperCrew King Ranch	7
23,500 milesJust Arrived	2
2013 Ford F-150 SuperCrew XLT	4
6 ½ Box, 45,850 miles\$27,995	2
2013 Ford F-150 Supercrew Platinum	A
24,700 miles\$38,995	2
2012 Ford Focus SE	5
7,000 miles\$16,495	2
2011 Toyota Rav 4 AWD	5
Loaded, 44,350 miles\$18,995	2
2011 Ford Expedition Limited	A
57,000 miles\$32,995	2
2011 Ford F-150 SuperCrew Lariat	A
51,000 miles\$29,995	2
2011 Ford Edge SEL	A
FWD, 38,000 miles\$22,995	2
2011 Ford F-350 CrewCab Lariat	8
Diesel, Long Box, 82,000 miles\$36,995	SE
-	

101 West Cherry Street, Vermillion, SD  $_{\parallel}$ 

605-624-8624 • 800-624-6690

2011 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Lariat	
Diesel, 84,000 miles <b>\$36,995</b>	
2011 Ford F-150 SuperCrew Lariat	
70,000 miles <b>\$27,995</b>	
2010 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer	
44,000 miles\$22,995	
2010 Ford Edge Limited	
AWD, 67,000 miles\$19,995	
2010 Lincoln Navigator	
59,000 miles\$30,995	
2010 Chevrolet Malibu	
57,000 miles\$12,995	
2009 Ford Flex SEL	
AWD\$15,595	
2008 Ford Edge Limited	
AWD, 96,000 miles\$16,495	
2007 Mercury Mountaineer	
AWDJust Arrived	
2006 Ford F-150 SuperCab FX4	
84,000 miles\$15,995	
SEE THEM ALL AT WWW.VERMILLIONFORD.COM	
ONNY STEWART DAN VAN OSDEL TOM TAG	CADT
IUNNY SIEWARI DAN VAN USDEL IUM IAU	

661-1320

## Vermillion School District Spring 2014 PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

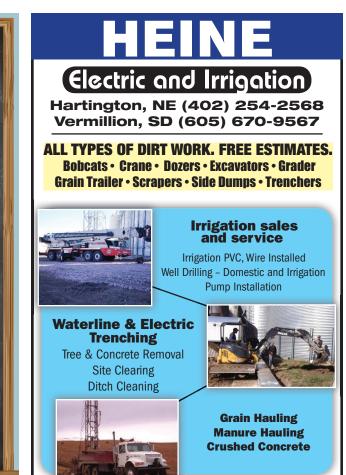
Monday, February 10th 2:30pm - 8pm

Students will be dismissed on Monday, February 10th as follows:

Austin and Jolley Elementary Schools - 1:50pm

Middle and High Schools - 2pm

day, February 12th – 1pm – 6pm "There will be no school on Wednesday, February 12th." Feacher In-Service will be held from 8am – noon and conferences will begin at 1pm.



202-0424



**Gary Madsen Auction Services** Sunday, February 9th, 2014 at 12:30 pm 820 Cottage Ave. Vermillion, SD (beside Ace Hardware)

Jack & Phyllis Noble- antique couch, wicker couch and chairs, sitting chairs, library tables, tea cart, blue recliner, antique chairs, old music, encyclopedia's, globe, music books, small wooden chest, Oscar Howe drawing, piano bench, wooden tables, kitchen table, large assortment of pictures, hymn books, stereo w/record player and 2 speakers, rugs, antique easel, Nikon camera, old toys, corner shelfs, hutch, drop leaf table, sofa, Vermillion year books, coyote books, lamps, hanging lamps, electric fire place, knick-knacks, VCR's, TV's, silver set, kitchen pots & pans, kitchen utensils, TV stands, kitchen aid mixer, bowls, vases, sewing kits, buttons, painted plates, games, Harmony house fine china set, outside wicker furniture set, console radio, queen size bed and bedding, antique dressers, desk w/leather top, old canes, twin beds, antique rockers, secretary desk, night stands, kitchen table w/chairs, old rocks and fossils, Fridgaire over under washer & dryer, laundry bins, folding tables, antique Iron Rite, Boy Scout medals, less than a year old, LG over under washer & dryer, 10 ga crock, little crocks, many more. **Guest-** 2 boxes of pop bottles, gun safe, gun rack, bike and skate board

Thelma Lind- entertainment center, wooden toy box, swivel rocker, recliner, misc. dishes

Tillie Lane- Roper heavy duty dryer, Kenmore washer, safe, chest, dishwasher, fertilizer spreader, snow scoops, oak chairs, small rocking chair, antique bedroom set, wood file cabinet, tables and chairs, secretary desk and boxes of misc.

## **Madsen Auction Service** (605)638-0643 Gary Madsen Hazen Bye **Jim Brady**