

USD's coordinator for academic engagement is Karl Reasoner

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Spotlight



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

There's a familiar face at the University of South Dakota's Center for Academic Engagement.

Karl Reasoner is starting a full-time position as the center's new coordinator for academic engagement, but he had volunteered there as an undergrad, and worked there almost two years as a graduate assistant.

"I knew I didn't want a (graduate assistantship) where you're just doing work for a faculty member," Reasoner said. "I wanted something that was more involving, and I really believe in the programs they have here, so I was glad to get in."

And now he's in to stay, taking over for the former coordinator Whitney Siegfried, whose last day was Friday.

"Since I got back, it's been more or less shadowing Whitney," Reasoner said last week. "I have some base knowledge of what we do just because of my graduate assistantship, but mostly it's just getting to know the real inner-workings of stuff that goes on behind the scenes."

The center emphasizes

"learning outside the classroom" through hands-on experiences such as service-learning, the National Student Exchange and undergraduate research, among other fields.

As coordinator, Reasoner's duties will include serving as an advisor for the Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning (AWOL), a coordinator for the AmeriCorps program and working with various partners throughout the community.

He also will assist with IdeaFest and the National Days of Service – the most recent of which took place over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday last week.

"There's a lot of advising going on, and working with students in a professional capacity, where you're kind

of letting them take control but at the same time giving them guidance and taking care of some of the detail work, as well," he said.

Reasoner, 28, is a native of Iowa who moved to Vermillion as a teenager. He went on to attend USD, majoring in history.

"When I graduated ... I worked two shifts as an AmeriCorps student, so I was in Brainerd, MN, for a year doing conservation work, and I was out in Lander, WY, doing work with the National Outdoor Leadership School," Reasoner said.

"Working with non-profits, I realized that's what I wanted to get into – a similar type of young adult service activity, so I came back and got my masters in public administration," he said.

Reasoner's first



KARL REASONER

encounter with the Center for Academic Engagement came in 2006, when he participated in an AWOL alternative spring break.

Ironically, one of Reasoner's first jobs on returning to the center last December was to assist in an AWOL trip to Ecuador.

"They do one international trip during

winter break, as well as two to three domestic, and over spring break, I think we have ... six this year," he said.

These service-learning trips are part of what Reasoner is most looking forward to as coordinator.

"The spring break trips are a great time, because you can get away from the

office a little bit and witness students going through this experience-learning process.

"From my experience, it was life-changing," he said.

For more information on the Center for Academic Achievement, visit <http://www.usd.edu/academics/center-for-academic-achievement/>.

Yoga workshop set for Jan. 28 at Avera Professional Office Pavilion and Education Center

Come and experience the joy of yoga through a variety of yoga sessions and instructors from 8-10:45 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Avera Professional Office Pavilion and Education

Center.

The workshop is free for all Wellness Center members and \$5 for non-members, and is available to anyone for the purpose of improving physical and mental well-being

using yoga therapy techniques. The Experience Yoga Workshop will be held in the Atrium of the Professional Office Pavilion, located at the heart of the Avera Sacred

Heart campus. Call (605) 668-8357 to reserve your spot. RSVP as space is limited.

8 a.m. – Check-In at Atrium
8:30-9:00 a.m. – "Breathing - Do You

Know How?" with Jan Johnson

9-9:30 a.m. – "Yoga Flow for Well Being" with Gloria Pearson
9:45-10:15 a.m. – "Viniyoga for Wellness" with Dennis Menke

10:15-10:45 a.m. – "Power Vinyasa Flow" with Elizabeth Dooley
10:45 a.m. – Refreshments and light snacks

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