

# Huber's research focuses on flu

By Travis Gulbrandson

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This past flu season has been one of the strongest and widespread in years, and researchers at the University of South Dakota are working to determine how to predict and prepare for other outbreaks.

Victor Huber, Ph.D. assistant professor of basic biomedical sciences at the USD Sanford School of Medicine, said part of the research is focused on understanding what makes the virus more severe, and secondary bacterial infections in particular.

"We have the ability to take these viruses and put them into models of secondary bacterial infections," Huber said.

"Specifically, we have viruses that are likely to cause secondary infections, and ones that are not likely to cause secondary infections, and we're comparing those two viruses."

In the lab, researchers can mix and match the components of the two different viruses so they can identify which proteins or genes are controlling the ability to set up that secondary infection, he said.

"We have the ability within these models with this technology to try and understand how these specific proteins are setting up that favorable environment for the bacteria to persist," he said.

Secondary bacterial infections are most often the cause of flu-related mortalities, Huber said.

"The virus comes in, it sort of weakens the immune system, and then bacteria comes in and has the ability to flourish and cause death," he said.

In stronger flu seasons, these secondary infections are all the more common, but thanks to the research being performed at USD and other institutions, knowledge of these virus-related proteins can be put toward

developing antivirals, and potentially vaccines.

Huber said it also can lead to the development of diagnostic tools so people can start treating with antibiotics before bacteria enters, thereby preventing secondary infection.

"Our lab also focuses on developing vaccines that are more broad against the influenza virus so that you instead of updating the vaccine every year, you could do the predictions and provide a more broad immune response," he said.

However, research takes a long time, and Huber said it could be "a number of years away" before people see some of these developing technologies become fully applicable.

"It's all part of the process," he said. "Usually, 10 to 15 years is when we see some of the stuff we're doing coming out."

Huber has been a researcher for approximately 14 years, with the past four being at USD. Prior to this, he worked at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN.

His USD lab receives funding from the national Institute of Health, and his work is performed in collaboration with the St. Jude Center of Excellence in Influenza Research and Surveillance and South Dakota State University.

Huber said that the best preventative measure against influenza and the possibility of a secondary bacterial infection is to get a flu shot – even if you already have had the flu.

"There's always a good boost to the immune system from getting the vaccine," he said. "Exposure to the virus in nature is going to be superior to what you would get in a vaccine ... but the more times that the proteins stimulate the immune system, the stronger it will be, and the less likely you'll be to get infected."

## Leona Holmes

Leona Beverly (Lane) Holmes, 84, of Elk Point, passed away on Jan. 18, 2013, at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Sioux City, IA.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013, at Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion, with Pastor Trisha Boese officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service.

A committal ceremony took place immediately following the service at BluffView Cemetery in Vermillion.

Leona was born on Dec. 16, 1928, in Gayville, to Art and Edna (Clark) Lane.

On Nov. 13, 1948, Leona married Herman Holmes, and they remained happily married until his passing.

Leona spent her life raising her two children and caring for the family home. In her free time she loved to visit friends, play cards and spend time with her family. It was well known that she was very proud of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She also loved to cook and was always looking for a new recipe. Once her health no longer allowed her to spend time in the kitchen she still fulfilled her passion for cooking

daughter, Nancy Certain of Sioux City, IA; her sisters, Diane (Tom) Kavanaugh of Elk Point, and Marcia Daniels of Sioux Falls; her brothers, Rodney (Dorthy) Lane of Meckling, and Marlin (Jan) Lane of Yankton; her grandchildren, Michele (Eric) Jacoby, Mark (Irma) Holmes, Tammy Hall, and Jonathan (Anna) Certain; and nine great-grandchildren.

## Harriet Green

Harriet Green, 101, of Winona, MN, died Friday, January 18, 2013 at Saint Anne Extended Healthcare, Winona, MN.

Harriet Tust Wood Green, was born in Winona, MN on May 20, 1911 to Louis and Rose (Aye) Tust. After graduating from Winona High School, she received her two year degree from Winona State Teachers College, and later earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Winona State Teachers College. She taught in several Minnesota school districts: Lewisville, Grand Meadow, Owatonna, Faribault, Lewiston, and Mable. In addition, she taught in Juneau, AK and Carson City, NV.

Winona students benefited from her expertise as an elementary teacher for over 30 years at Jefferson and Central schools. Harriet also supervised student teachers, and was named the Honor Teacher in Grade One by Winona State University. After retiring in 1975 she volunteered for 20 years working with first and second grade reading students. Community and education related services included Honorary Life member in the National Congress of Parent Teachers, Life membership in the YWCA of which Harriet's mother was a charter member; Eastern Star officer positions; and active participation in the



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by finding recipes to give to her family members. Leona was survived by her son, Mike (Kitty) Holmes of Elk Point; her daughter, Nancy Certain of Sioux City, IA; her sisters, Diane (Tom) Kavanaugh of Elk Point, and Marcia Daniels of Sioux Falls; her brothers, Rodney (Dorthy) Lane of Meckling, and Marlin (Jan) Lane of Yankton; her grandchildren, Michele (Eric) Jacoby, Mark (Irma) Holmes, Tammy Hall, and Jonathan (Anna) Certain; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman Holmes; her sisters, Donna Bye, and Verna Bursell; and her brother, Kenneth Lane.

Services have been entrusted to Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

Condolences may be posted online at [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com).

Retired Education groups' PTA, and the Christian Science Church of which she was an active member for 76 years.

Harriet was initiated Feb. 24, 1964 into the Iota Chapter of Delta Gamma Society International. She actively participated in many local and state committee activities and was named the Iota Chapter Women of Achievement in 2005. Her gracious manner and friendliness endeared her to all who knew her.

Harriet was preceded in death by her parents, husband William E. Green; three brothers; one sister; sister-in-law Mary Krueger, Idaho Springs, CO and brother-in-law Duncan Green, Winona, MN.

She is survived by her son Dr. Robert (Elizabeth) Wood; grandson William (Andrea) Wood; great granddaughters, Autumn and Gracie all from Vermillion; brother-in-law Ervin Krueger of Idaho Springs, CO, in addition to nieces, nephews and cousins.

Harriet was provided with loving care by the staff at Callista Court and Saint Anne Extended Healthcare.

Services to remember Harriet were 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013 at the Chapel of Our Lady, Saint Anne Extended Healthcare; 1347 West Broadway; Winona, MN with Pastor Tom Schoen, officiating. Placement into the niche will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona, MN.

Visitation began at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 22 at the chapel.

Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at [www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com](http://www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com). Services entrusted to Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Winona, MN.

## Maxine Iverson

Maxine Joyce (Severson) Iverson, 85, of Vermillion, passed away on Jan. 15, 2013, at Prairie Estates Care Center in Elk Point, where she lived for four years, after a six year battle with Parkinson's disease.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion with Dave Lorenz officiating.

Burial will take place at Evergreen Cemetery, rural Meckling, at a later date.

Maxine was the third child born to Charles and Goldie (South) Severson on Oct. 6, 1927, at their farm home five miles northwest of Vermillion.

Maxine attended Prairie Bell rural school and graduated from Vermillion High School in 1945. She loved the outdoors, and would often be seen as a young girl working in the fields with her father.

Soon after graduation she enrolled in beauty school in Sioux City, IA. After graduation she spent the next 25 years working for Gertrude Dahl, owner of the Vermillion Beauty Shop.

On Jan. 24, 1947, she married Junior Iverson at Bergen Lutheran Church, and to their union two children, Mary Ann and Bruce, were born.

Maxine continued working in Vermillion at local hardware stores for several more years. In 1976 she and Junior built their retirement home on their land in Norway Township near the Missouri River. She helped her husband with the farm work and was capable of operating most tractors and farm equipment. She was a lady of many talents. She spent her summers in her gardens

## Vernon Christiansen

Vernon C. Christiansen, 87, of Vermillion, passed away Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013 at the Sanford USD Medical center in Sioux Falls.

Vernon was born Oct. 18, 1925 to Ernest and Anna (Aalboe) Christiansen on the family farm near Irene. The youngest of seven children, he grew up in the Irene and Mission Hill area before the family moved to Yankton. In 1943 he entered the Navy serving during WWII. He was a member of the American Legion and the VFW.

On Nov. 9, 1947 he married S. Jean Freng in Yankton. Vernon worked for John A. Conkling Distributing until moving to Vermillion in 1957. Together they owned the Varsity Pub and a radiator repair shop for several years before opening the Korner Bootery Family Shoe Store retiring in 1987. He was a longtime member of the Trinity Lutheran Church and the Vermillion Volunteer Fire Department. He was also a member and past president of the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and an avid supporter of the USD Coyotes.

and many hours knitting mittens and slippers for family and friends in the winter. Everyone was welcome at her home and her guests were always treated to fresh cookies and coffee. She was a member of the quilting club at Trinity Lutheran Church and the church circles where she spent endless hours in the church kitchen serving wedding receptions, funerals and other activities being held at Trinity.

Maxine enjoyed water skiing with the family at the river and for five years the family followed stock car racing. She enjoyed accompanying her husband when he went trap shooting. She remarked many times that she wouldn't have gone anywhere unless she followed Junior on those trips. She and Junior enjoyed the yearly trips to the Black Hills in the winter to ride the snow mobile trails.

Maxine is survived by her husband, Junior, of Vermillion; her son, Bruce (Lee) Iverson of Hibbing, MN; her grandchildren, Seth Iverson of Hibbing, MN, Luke Iverson of Spokane, WA, and Ann Iverson; her great grandchildren, Wesley Iverson and Chloe Iverson all of Grand Bay, AL; her sister Twila Bensen of Glendora, CA; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Mary Ann Iverson; her brother, Dale Severson and her parents, Charles and Goldie (South) Severson. Services have been entrusted to Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

Condolences may be posted online at [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com).

He enjoyed family camping trips, fishing and golfing, and spending winters in Arizona. He especially enjoyed family gatherings and playing cards with family and friends.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife Jean of Vermillion; three daughters, Vicki Dunn of Scottsdale, AZ, Karen (Al) Sabers of Garretson, and Janet (Greg) Merrigan of Vermillion; and a son, Terry (Heidi Smith) Christiansen of Sioux City, IA; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Norma Christiansen of Yankton.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four sisters, Gladys Albrecht, Edna Knutson, Evelyn Eide and Mildred Freng; and two brothers, Stanley and Kenneth Christiansen; and a son-in-law, Maurice Dunn.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion with burial of ashes at a later date. Visitation will be Friday, January 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. [hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com).

# Wellness fair Feb. 2

It is important to be proactive about your health and participate in annual screenings. Early detection is vital for appropriately managing and preventing chronic health conditions.

Sanford Vermillion is once again partnering with students in health professions and business school programs at the University of South Dakota to host a community health and wellness event. The health fair focuses on the importance of knowing your individual "numbers" and understanding what they mean with respect to your overall health and wellness.

The Community Health & Wellness Fair will take place Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lee Medicine Building (corner of Dakota and Clark streets).

Free health screenings offered include blood pressure, blood sugar, body fat/body mass index analysis, lung/breathing test and oral cancer screen. Reduced cost screenings available include cholesterol - \$15 and PSA Blood screen for men - \$20 and a special health fair screen

including CBC without differential, lipid panel and basic metabolic panel for a package rate of \$55.

In recognition of Heart Health Month, several new options will be available this year. Sanford Heart Screen will be onsite to provide an Adult and a Youth Heart Screen. These screens should be scheduled in advance by calling (605) 33HEART. Participants are encouraged to walk through the Mega Heart display to learn more about how the heart works. In addition, there will be two varieties of CPR education available.

Community Blood Bank of Sioux Falls mobile unit will be onsite for blood donations. Participants are encouraged to attend one of the healthy cooking seminars; "Healthy Fats ... Really?," offered at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Also, parents should know this is a family friendly gathering with a supervised children's activity room and Youth Health Fair.

Check [sanfordvermillion.org](http://sanfordvermillion.org) for more details.

[www.plaintalk.net](http://www.plaintalk.net)



## Heart Screening

Date: February 2, 2013

Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Location:

University of South Dakota Health Fair, USD campus, Vermillion, SD

Cost: \$25 per screen

# Get on board. Get screened.

Schedule your Heart Screen or Heart of a Champion screen (ages 12-24). Call (605) 33-HEART (43278) or (888) 996-4673 to schedule an appointment.

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