

INSIDE:

■ Young musicians descend on USD,
Page 03

■ Post 1 on a roll entering playoffs,
Page 05



Serving our readers since 1884.

Vermillion

PLAIN TALK

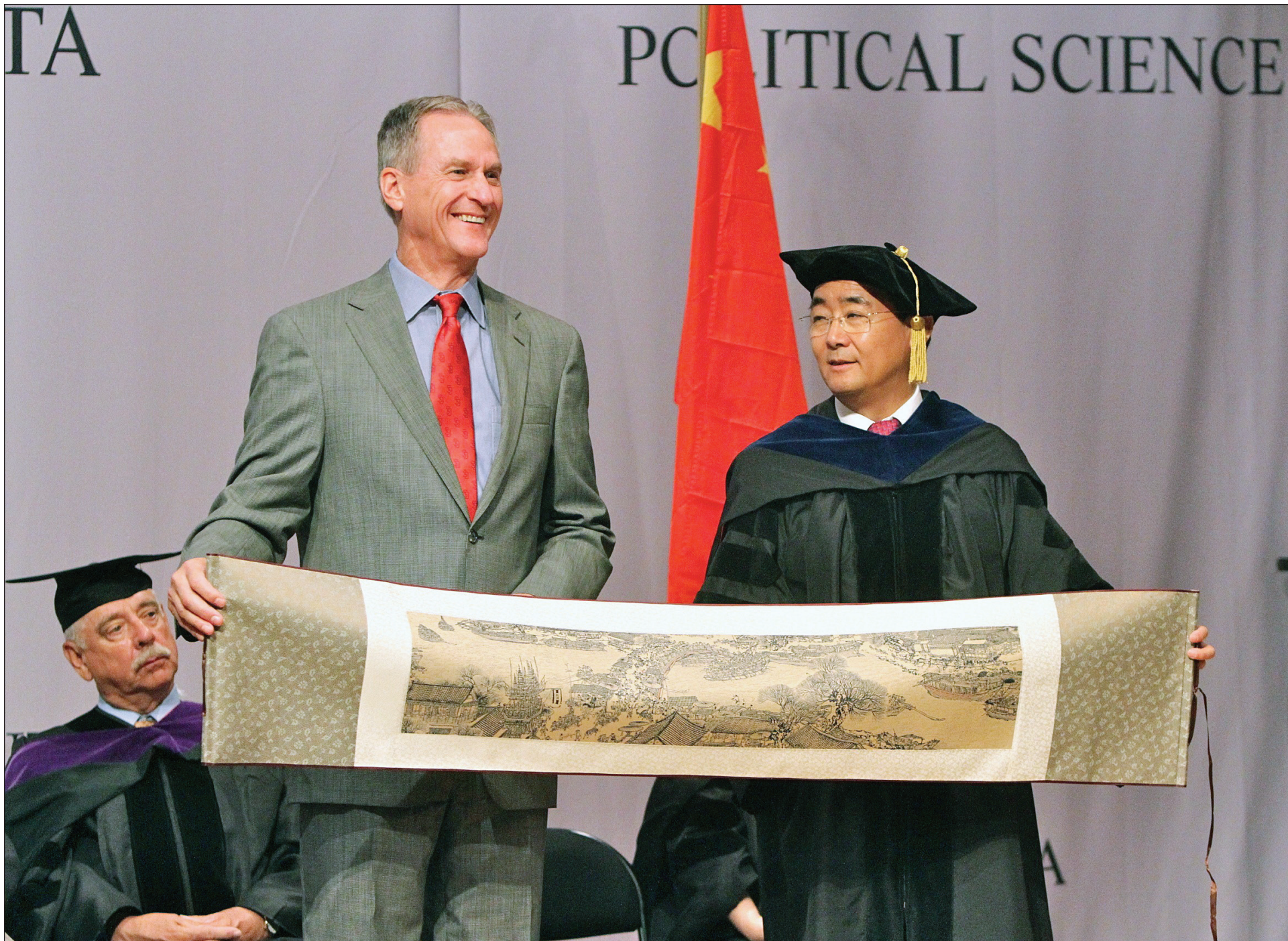
Friday,
July 12, 2013
Volume 128, Issue 28
USPS 657-720



© 2013 YANKTON MEDIA, INC., all rights reserved

www.plaintalk.net

75¢



Bingquan Lu, president and chief researcher of Beijing Bo Zhi Hang Research Institute of Commercial Real Estate in China, presents Gov. Dennis Daugaard with a gift of a beautifully embroidered scroll depicting a river scene as a way of showing appreciation for USD hosting an entrepreneurial institute for Chinese students this week.

(Photo by David Lias)

USD program strengthens state's ties to China

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

The second American Visiting Institute for Chinese Entrepreneurs ended Wednesday, July 10, on the University of South Dakota campus with more than just pomp and circumstance.

At the conclusion of a ceremony at Farber Hall in which the eight Chinese participants "graduated" from the institute, a

document was signed by USD and delegation officials indicating plans will be pursued to construct a new residence hall on the USD campus for students from China and other foreign lands.

"We've been talking for several years about how we at the University of South Dakota can work more closely with our friends," said Dr. Chuck Staben, USD provost, "and we've decided that one thing we'd like to pursue is the possibility of an

international residence hall near our campus."

Staben and Ming Liu, a representative of the institute, signed a memorandum of understanding, which Staben described as "the beginning of our planning process to build this international residence hall," Liu's wife, Dr. Ling Zhang, serves as USD's International Coordinator and also participated in Wednesday's ceremonies.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who spoke at Wednesday's ceremony, and Professor Bingquan Lu, whose friendship with former USD professor Eldon Nygaard of Vermillion helped launch the institute last year, both witnessed the signing of the document.

Lu, president and chief researcher of Beijing Bo Zhi Hang Research Institute of Commercial Real Estate, is considered a leading expert on business development.

"This is an agreement that President (James) Abbott has authorized me to sign on behalf of USD," Staben said, "an agreement that I'm sure would not have come to fruition without Professor Lu's help."

The eight institute graduates wore gowns and mortarboards for Wednesday's ceremony. Each student was also "hooded" by

■ CHINA, Page 06

Burn makes way for new growth

By Travis Gulbrandson

travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Area residents may have noticed smoke rising off Spirit Mound Monday afternoon, but they might not have known it resulted from the actions of Vermillion firefighters.

The fire was part of a controlled burn that is performed yearly at the request of the state as part of its schedule for land management.

"They're trying to burn the overgrowth and the dead vegetation off to give way for the new vegetation," explained fire chief Shannon Draper. "They don't do the whole area at once because of the natural prairie grass. If you burn it all at once, it would all come back as the same weeds and grasses, but if they do it in stages, they get a variety of plants out there."

"The process is typically doing some legwork, such as making sure the weather and the conditions are right, because we want to keep everybody safe, including the public," said Capt. Tony Klunder, head of wildland firefighting. "We have to make sure that we have enough people and resources, and make sure there's a



Members of the Vermillion Fire Department endure hot weather conditions as they kept watch over a controlled burn of vegetation at Spirit Mound July 8.

(Photo by David Lias)

control line around whatever needs to get burned. Then we pretty much just put fire on the ground, and try and (watch) the wind so it doesn't get out of hand."

Six members of the Vermillion Fire Department took part in the controlled burn, which took place from noon to 5

■ BURN, Page 11

Local inventors to be on 'American Farmer'

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

The entrepreneurial spirit of the Deb and Ron Hesla family of rural Wakonda will be featured in an upcoming broadcast of the television program entitled "American Farmer."

The program, featuring a six-minute clip of the Heslas and their invention, Pro Mags, will air twice - at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, July 13, and 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 16.

Saturday's broadcast of "American Farmer" can be seen on FamilyNet. The program is available via cable and on Channel 232 of the Dish Network.

Tuesday's re-broadcast of the program will appear on RFD TV, which is available on Channel 345 on Direct TV, and Channel 231 on the Dish Network. Midcontinent cable television subscribers in Vermillion who have

■ TV, Page 12