

# USD's future goals include more medical school students

By Travis Gulbrandson

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Representatives from the University of South Dakota named an expansion of the medical school as being among its top budget priorities for FY15.

The plan would include an expansion in the number of students taking classes at the USD School of Medicine, as well as new undergraduate and master's degrees.

The reps presented their case before the South Dakota Board of Regents at a hearing Thursday afternoon, May 20, in the Muenster University Center Ballroom.

One of the primary requests was the addition of 11 students per class at the medical school, which would equal 44 new students in all four years, freshmen through senior.

The amount requested was \$1,036,515. "Our request is a very fair one, actually quite modest and reasonable," said USD president James Abbott.

This expansion would not require an actual physical expansion, but rather an intake of students on the existing campuses and one new Frontier and Rural Medicine program site located in Milbank, Mobridge, Parkston, Platte or Winner.

"We'll have the first two years in Vermillion and the next two years in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Yankton," Abbott said. "We're not asking for another city. We've asked the three cities where we have students in the third and fourth year to take more students, and they have agreed to do so."

"It's a significant request to ask them to do that and to ask the facilities to say, 'Look at Sanford, look at Avera, look at Rapid City Regional. Would you please take three more students per year and have them, essentially, trail, follow or work with your clinical faculty, your physicians,'" he said.

According to documents provided by the board or regents, the student expansion is being driven by a report from the state department of health and the 2012 Governor's Primary Care Task Force, which reported a strong need for physicians.

Forty-eight new physicians are needed yearly to keep up with state needs, including rural care, an aging physician work force and an aging citizen population with increased health care needs, the report said.

Prior to 2012, USD reported having 52 medical students per year, equaling a total of 208 students, freshmen through seniors.

An increase would result in an entering class size of 67 students per year, totaling 268 students in the medical school overall.

Abbott said the university also hopes to make strides by offering new degrees.

"We would like to create an undergraduate biomedical engineering degree," he said. "We already have a graduate degree in biomedical engineering, so we're hoping to expand that, as we think that might be helpful for our state."

The degree program also would increase the number of students entering high-technology jobs in the state.

"We're looking for - I suppose every university is, actually - infrastructure for research, particularly in the hard science areas," Abbott said.

Another degree Abbott mentioned was that of Master of Public Health (MPH), which would be based at USD in partnership with SDSU.

"The MPH will provide working South Dakotans an affordable option for obtaining an advanced health degree," a board of regents document said.

Individuals who earn the MPH in South Dakota would promote and protect the public health by researching and preventing population-based illnesses, improving individual and community health, and lowering health care costs through illness prevention and health promotion, the document said.

Among other programs USD made requests regarding were the College-to-Career Success Center and the Institute for American Indian Studies.

There is no set date as to when the board of regents will make its final decisions public.



The kitchen in the basement of Dalesburg Lutheran Church was a hubbub of activity as women prepared the traditional ethnic meal served at the end of the first day of the annual Midsommar Festival. On the menu: Fruit soup, buttered potatoes and, of course, Swedish meatballs.

(Photo by David Lias)

## TRAD.

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That meant some people had to be patient as their ticket number finally gave them the go-ahead to get in line downstairs, with trays, plates and cutlery in hand, to begin choosing from a variety of ethnic dishes.

The Midsommar meal included potatis korv, meatballs, parsley buttered potatoes, several salads, fruit soup, and a variety of cookies, herring, cheese, pickles, and homemade bread.

People could either choose to dine at one of several tables downstairs, neatly adorned with tablecloths and centerpieces, or climb up another set of stairs that would take them outdoors for a more picnic-style experience.

Lundgren, now retired, lives in Arlington, NE, with his wife, Leona.

"She's Swedish in background, and I'm Swedish, so we fit right in," he said. "We're 100 percent Swedish," Mrs. Lundgren said, laughing.

Retirement has allowed the Lundgrens to make the trek up from Nebraska to Dalesburg Lutheran for five consecutive years now.

More than just food and music compel the Lundgrens to celebrate Midsommar at the church year after year.

"I really like coming back to meet the people, and to see them, and the memories,"

he said, while touching the back of one of the church's pews. "These pews were new back in 1973, and the organ has got to back to the beginning of this building, back in 1899."

Drought and Dutch Elm disease claimed most of the trees around Dalesburg Lutheran four decades ago. Lundgren and other church members planted hundreds of trees to replace them.

"One of the things that I really like observing outside when we come back here ... is to see those trees. Had we not planted those trees, it would have been really barren here," he said.

He worries that drought may once again be taking a toll on that newer generation of trees that he helped plant.

While Lundgren was serving as pastor at Dalesburg Lutheran back in the 1970s, he was also working on his doctorate degree. Mrs. Lundgren notes that his dissertation preserves a lot of the history and includes a lot of analysis of the Scandinavian homesteaders.

"My dissertation was on the use of Swedish ethnic activities in the renewal of this congregation, and in the 1970s, this congregation was already experiencing decline from the rural to urban migration," Lundgren said, "and by pulling all of this stuff together and using the ethnic activities, this congregation grew from 300 to 390 members. It really took off."

"Those were some good years, and it's fun to come back and celebrate with the people here," he said.

## OBITUARIES

### Kathleen Maher

Kathleen M. Maher, 79, of Vermillion, passed away Thursday, June 20, 2013, at Prairie Estates Care Center in Elk Point.

Kathleen Marie Kean was born Jan. 18, 1934, in Des Moines, IA, to Donald and Helen (Bahl) Kean. She grew up in the Des Moines area and graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Des Moines. She married John Thomas Maher on July 1, 1961, in Des Moines and they moved to the Vermillion area in 1970. The couple farmed for over 20 years.

She is survived by four sons, Thomas of Dell Rapids, William (Valori) of Sioux Falls, Ronald of Vermillion and John (Angela) of Brookings. She is also survived by one brother, John Kean; and one sister, Patty Dickey; three grandchildren, Joshua, Amber and Jordan; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral mass was 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at St. Agnes Catholic Church with burial following in Calvary Cemetery at Vermillion. Visitation was Monday, June 24, 2013, from 5 to 7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m. all at the church.

For online condolences and obituary visit

hansenfuneralhome.com.

### Lillian Williams

Lillian Nelson Williams, 91, passed away Monday, June 3, 2013, at the Sanford Vermillion Care Center.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 7, 2013, at Grace Baptist Church of Vermillion with Rev. Buck Hill officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior.

A committal service took place following the service at Danish Lutheran Cemetery in rural Gayville.

Lillian was born on Nov. 15, 1921, in Meckling, to Anton and Sena Nelson. She grew up on a farm in the Meckling area, attending rural Lincoln country school.

In 1948 she moved to Vermillion, spending 22 years on the Sorensen farm helping Harry raise five children to adulthood. In the 1970s she moved to Missouri and later to Texas where she met and married C. Howard Williams, a retired railroad worker, on April 11, 1987. She lived in his hometown until his death on Sept. 9, 1996. She moved back to Vermillion in November of 1996 where she continued the art of crocheting, keeping everyone in doilies and encouraging the kids to

stay the course in the journey of life. She was an excellent cook, making many meals at a local fraternity. The church was very important to her. She was a member of the Island Birthday Club and the Grace Baptist Church.

She is survived by her foster children, Arlis Johnson, Nels Sorensen and Karen Prusa, all of Vermillion, and Marilyn Trudeau of Sturgis; her step-son, Bill Waters of Council Bluffs, IA; her step-daughter-in-law, Cleo Eickhoff of Hartington, NE; her sister-in-law, Irene Nelson of Gregory; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Howard Williams; her infant son, Eugene; her sisters,

Margaret Jensen, Metha Hanson, and Clara Jensen; and her brothers, Randolph, Sabroe, Nels and Woodrow Nelson; her foster daughter, Norma Jean Mockler; her stepsons, Ray Waters and Jim Waters; and her step-daughter, Norma Jean McFate.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Grace Baptist Church or Vermillion Hospice.

Services have been entrusted to Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

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

### Matthew Williams

Matthew Williams, age 69, passed away at his home in Vermillion, on June 12, 2013. He leaves behind a son, Nehemiah Williams of Bend, OR;

and a daughter, Nekolina Griffin of Bristol, England. He is also survived by two brothers, Steven Williams of Sioux Falls, and Henry Morrow, Jr., of Charles Town, WV. A brother, Peter Dudrow; his father, Robert Williams; and his mother, Barbara Morrow; predeceased him.

Matthew was born in Hollywood, CA, and grew up in Shepherdstown, WV, and often spent time with his grandparents in Armonk, Westchester



Williams

County, NY. Matthew was a talented and accomplished musician and artist, with a deep love and passion for music, especially writing contemporary music, playing the piano and singing. For many years he worked as a builder, remodeler and home designer with a keen eye for creating and transforming existing structures with new and innovative architectural styles. Later in life, he obtained a degree in anthropology and traveled extensively in the United States.

A memorial service will be held at Towne Square Apartments on Friday, June 28 at 3 p.m.

**CITY OF Vermillion SOUTH DAKOTA**

The City of Vermillion is seeking interested citizens to fill the remainder of a five (5) year term on the Vermillion Planning Commission. The term will expire in June 2017. Interested Vermillion citizens can complete and submit a City board expression of interest form available at:

**www.vermilion.us**

Forms must be returned to City Hall, 25 Center Street, by noon on July 12, 2013.

Please call (605)677-7050 with any questions.

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