

# Spotlight On

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

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

Even though the University of South Dakota's spring semester is officially over, that doesn't mean classes have come to a stop.

The 2013 On-Campus Summer School began on May 6, offering students and teachers a number of educational opportunities.

"One of the strategies that students use with summer school would be, if they want to accelerate a degree program and graduate early, or perhaps they'll just want to take it

by itself in the summer," said USD's director of programming Gary Girard, who manages the summer school program. "It's an opportunity for departments to offer select courses that are unique and ... for students who are in a particular degree program."

Classes of varying lengths are held throughout the summer, he said.

"We have all kinds of start and end dates, so there's a lot of flexibility depending upon the kind of course," he said. "Some of the courses can be offered in an accelerated format, like a four-week course."

## Girard helps students with USD's summer offerings



Summer school programs are categorized in a variety of ways.

"One, students can take general education courses, and even upper-division courses to accelerated degree," Girard said.

Teachers and school administrators, as well as non-college-aged youth are the focus of other areas, he said.

"We hold camps and workshops for teachers and administrators, and then all kinds of youth camps where K-12 youth come to

get a college experience, or focus on a special academic topic," he said.

Among the youth-oriented programs is Kid's University/Early Scholars.

Kid's University is for early learners from ages 8-13, while Early Scholars is geared for high school students to develop their skills and to prepare for college. The goal of the program is to expand postsecondary education opportunities to promote and cultivate a college-going culture.

Summer school also gives USD students a chance to get a start on prerequisite courses or take refresher courses.

"There are a variety of courses that are offered in a hybrid format, where there are convenient offerings that would be a face to face experience along with an online experience," Girard said.

"The other thing that's nice about summer that's attractive to some students is that they can take ... one course at a time," he said. "Somebody could take one six-week course, and then

another six-week course, and they'll only be taking one course at a time. Or, they can mix and match that."

Girard said that although he does not know exactly how many students are utilizing the program this term, those students do have input in what courses are offered.

"We do survey the students prior to the start to see what kinds of courses they would look for," he said. "We try to get as much feedback as possible, and then align courses that way. Departments then will offer the courses accordingly."

The program offers benefits both to the school and the students, Girard said.

"It's an opportunity for departments to offer select courses that are unique and ... for students who are in a particular degree program," he said.

For more information, visit <http://www.usd.edu/summer-school/index.cfm>.

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**VETERAN HEALTH BEHAVIOR RESEARCH**

If you are an OIF/OEF veteran between the ages of 18 and 45, and drink alcohol at least once a week, you are being invited to participate in a research project. The purpose of the study is to examine past experiences with stress and current health behaviors.

Participation in this study involves completing a brief interview and questionnaire with a research team member. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and your responses will be confidential.

You will be given \$25 for completing the initial interview and eligible participants will be invited to participate in an ongoing study in which you may receive up to \$100 / week. You may receive up to \$1075.

The ongoing study consists of 10 weeks of self-monitoring over the course of 1.5 years. The self-monitoring is designed to not interfere with your daily routine. There is a brief appointment before and after each assessment week.

Though you may not experience direct benefits of the research program, you may find the self-monitoring interesting and will be assisting future veterans by participating in research aimed at improving veteran health.

This study is being conducted by Dr. Jerome Buchkoski at the Sioux Falls VA and Drs. Jeffrey Simons and Raluca Gaher at The University of South Dakota.

*If you are interested in this study, please call 605-677-3950 for more information.*

Hope to see you soon!  
The Veteran Health Behavior Research Team