

Gesteland, Sik Receive USD Awards

Professors Tracelyn Gesteland and Sarah Sik are the recipients of the 2015 Belbas-Larson Awards for Excellence in Teaching at the University of South Dakota. They will be honored at the USD commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9, and each will receive \$5,000.

Candidates for the award are nominated by students and colleagues and selected by a faculty committee.

Gesteland, D.M.A., is an associate professor of music in the College of Fine Arts and was honored in the tenured category. She currently teaches Applied Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, and Diction, while also directing the USD Opera and holding the Walter A. and Lucy Yoshioka Buhler Endowed Chair. In addition to teaching, Gesteland is a professional singer who directs the South Dakota Vocal Arts Festival and serves as the District Governor for the South Dakota district of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS).

She received her bachelor of music in choral and general music education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1994; master of music in vocal performance and vocal pedagogy from Roosevelt University in 1999; and doctor of musical arts in vocal performance from the University of Houston in 2007.

"Teaching has always been my passion, so receiving such a prestigious award in recognition of my work with students means a great deal to me," Gesteland said.

Sik, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of art in the College of Fine Arts and was honored in the tenure-track category. This semester she is teaching World Art II, 20th Century Art, Art Theory and Criticism, and a faculty-led program to New York City focused on historical and contemporary art. During the summers of 2011, 2012, and 2013, she also taught art history at universities in China.

Her teaching interests include the history of fine arts, design, alternative media, aesthetics, and critical theory, with her primary research emphasis being French and German fine art and design, circa 1870-1918. She received her B.A. in English and art history in 2004, M.A. in art history in 2006, and Ph.D. in art history in 2010 from the University of Minnesota.

"In receiving the award, I am particularly mindful of all that I owe not only to my own teachers but to my colleagues here in South Dakota who work in concert to provide well-rounded and emboldening educations for students at USD," Sik said.

The Belbas-Larson Awards are made possible by a gift from Dean Belbas, a former vice president of General Mills and former chairman of the board of the USD Foundation, and his close friends Harold W. and Kathryn Larson of Scottsdale, Arizona.



Gesteland



Sik

City Council Adds Snow And Ice To Nuisance Ordinance

By Shauna Marlette
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The Vermillion City Council on Monday approved the first reading of a change to city ordinance 1329; declaring that snow and ice are to be added to the nuisance ordinance.

The ordinance previously addressed grass and weed violations, utilizing a progressive rate for properties found to be in noncompliance.

With the addition to the ordinance, any property owner found in noncompliance with the city's regulations regarding snow and

ice removal, as well as junk and debris nuisances, will be subject to the escalating fines currently established.

A first offense costs the property owner \$10 and each subsequent offense in the calendar year will increase the fine. If the city is required to hire the work to be completed, the fee will be the rate the city is charged by the contractor, plus a \$25 administrative fee, in addition to the fine.

The proposed change to the ordinance will have its second hearing at the May 18, meeting of the city council and, if approved, will go into effect June 18.

Other business at the meeting included:

- Approving a change in Ordinance 1328 amending the Community Oriented Healthcare Planned Development District, adding a section for hospitals and clinics. The change will allow a structure taller than the current 35-foot restriction. The change would allow hospitals and clinics to reach a maximum height of 60 feet.
- Designating disabled parking stalls along a portion of South Plum Street between East Main Street and Jane Street.
- Approving a request to close Shriner Street from

Cottage Avenue to the Wal-Mart parking lot on May 30 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for the Vermillion Police Department Bike Rodeo.

• Setting a public hearing date of May 18 for a retail on-off sale wine license for Bonnie K. Rowland for Raziel's at 13 West Main Street.

• Announced the Vermillion Public Pool will open on Saturday, May 23, weather permitting.

• Announced that a frequently asked questions brochure has been created regarding the updates to the daycare ordinance and is available on the city's website.

BSA Program Gears Up For Summer Adventure

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

What better way for kids to spend a summer in Vermillion than to have an adventure?

Located at Jolley Elementary, Beyond School Adventures (BSA) Summer program begins May 26 and runs 10-weeks until July 31.

"We've been running for about 15 years," said BSA Director Laura Dimock. "We started with a grant through the state of South Dakota. The grant was written initially by two counselors at the Middle School, Kathy Prasick and Ginny Talley. I think it was \$30,000 for three years. There was a need in the community for an after-school program."

During the school year, BSA operates as an after-school program at Austin, Jolley and Vermillion Middle School.

In summer, however, BSA is located at Jolley Elementary in cooperation with the school lunch program, which offers free lunch to all kids in Vermillion who want to come.

"In the mornings we do a variety of different activities involving reading, science, math, computer, art dance and fitness," Dimock said. "In the afternoons we travel. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday we travel to go swimming at the pool. On Tuesdays, we travel in town and go bowling or go to the movies or the museums or the rec center. On Thursdays, we travel out of town. We go to Sioux Falls, Sioux City and Yankton. We charter a bus and some of the places we go to are Wild Water West, the Butterfly house, the zoo, the ice skating rink in Sioux City, the Sky Zone."



April Science Fair At Jolley Elementary.

COURTESY PHOTO

Dimock has been director since the program's initiation 15 years ago.

She said she enjoys the job immensely.

"It's a variety of creative thinking," she said. "There's scientific thinking, there's activity thinking, the staffing, the scheduling. The variety of the different jobs that are involved."

Over the years Dimock said there have been some quite interesting field trips.

"We used to go to a place in Sioux City called Krull's Petting Zoo," Dimock remembered. "It was a family farm that was very different. In the back of her yard she had cages with lions and tigers and bears. They also had a snake house and a lot of different spiders

and snakes. She had a mix between a horse and a zebra. She had a lot of very bizarre animals."

Though the children themselves did not pet the animals, the owner did, much to the delight of the visiting students.

"We try to fit as many places in as we can," Dimock said. "We have a meeting with the staff. We just try to think of anything new and different we can go to. We have ten places to go and we try to keep it within an hour distance."

According to Dimock, education is a key factor in the choosing of the field trip locations and activities throughout the week.

"We go on a farm and see how cows

Sykes Wins Fulbright US Scholar Award

Andrew Sykes, professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry at the University of South Dakota, has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to conduct research at Lancaster University in England.

The Fulbright Program is the top international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States government, and is aimed at increasing mutual understanding between Americans and people of foreign countries.

Sykes and his research group are investigating chemical systems that fluoresce brightly when electrons are added to specific molecules in the presence of metal cations. The interaction of light and the simultaneous addition/subtraction of electrons is called spectroelectrochemistry. The researchers are trying to develop sensors that can detect specific cations that are of particular environmental or biological concern. Sykes says the chemists at Lancaster University are experts in electrochemistry and have the advanced instruments needed for this type of collaboration.

"Besides conducting research, part of my duties will be to travel to different universities within the United Kingdom and present our work, which will also include stories and pictures of what it is like living on the northern Great Plains," Sykes said. "I think the Fulbright is recognition that important science is ongoing in South Dakota, and that collaboration, even at the international level, is important for the advancement of science."

Sykes graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1990 with a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry. His research interests focus on fluorescence sensors and single-crystal X-ray crystallography.

Lancaster University, located in northwestern England, is a research university of about 12,000 students. The university admitted its first students in 1964 and today offers more than 280 undergraduate degrees along with post-graduate programming.



Sykes

Students To Study Delivery Services

The University of South Dakota will offer a new program that allows students to study health service administration in Cuba while also learning about the people, art and culture of America's island neighbor.

The first group of 15 students and their professor will visit Cuba during winter break, visiting hospitals and the university medical clinic, and observing community projects.

"We chose Cuba because it is known around the world for its national health system where all residents have access to cost-effective health care, and because it is a leader in providing health care for nearly a hundred developing countries," said Professor Carole South-Winter, who teaches health care administration in the USD Beacom School of Business.

"Cuba also has a world-renowned medical training program, making it an ideal location for USD students to compare and examine different health care systems and means of delivery," she said.

The students will enroll in a course entitled Health Services Administration Abroad, which will cover the formation and operation of public health policies. South-Winter points out that Cuba has a lower infant mortality rate than that of the United States and also has a life expectancy of 78 years, one of the best on the American continent.

Meeting-Notice Requirement Is 'Crystal Clear'

By Bob Mercer
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – A new law that takes effect July 1 across South Dakota might finally clean up the practices by some public boards and commissions for displaying meeting notices.

The Legislature tried to address the problem in 2012. Lawmakers said a public meeting notice with a proposed agenda needed to be "visible, readable, and accessible for at least an entire twenty-four hours" before at the principal office of the public body.

But where and how those notices were displayed weren't consistent.

Sometimes they were posted in windows at entrances to buildings. Other times they were posted on a wall or a window in spots, such as within a building, that passersby couldn't see.

The situation came to a confusing conclusion in November.

The state Open Meeting Commission ruled 3-2 that the Freeman school board met the 24-hour requirement by putting a meeting notice on a window inside the building for three days.

The Open Meeting Commission also ruled unanimously that Freeman violated another part of the meeting-notice requiring posting on the public body's

Internet site if it has one.

That led to the Legislature amending the law this year by adding the word "continuous" to the 24-hour requirement.

Rep. Burt Tulson, R-Lake Norden, and Sen. Ried Holien, R-Watertown, sponsored the new legislation.

They were the lead sponsors for the 2012 law too.

"I'm just a firm believer in open meetings. I've been in enough meetings people weren't aware of," Holien said Friday.

"The more we can do to spread the word, the better," he said.

The South Dakota Newspaper Association supported their legislation and testified at the public hearings last winter.

At Freeman, according to SDNA executive director David Bordewyk, the agenda was visible in the window of the superintendent's office inside the building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for three days in a row to meet the 24-hour requirement.

Bordewyk said that wasn't the intent of the 2012 law.

Gerry Kaufman, director of policy and legal services for the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, told House and Senate committees the organization supported the change to add continuous.

"It does clarify both the

intent of the legislation that we passed previously and the language," Rep. Dean Wink, R-Howes, said at the House hearing.

The 2012 amendment came in the wake of 2009 and 2011 cases about postings that were made inside buildings.

The commission ruled there wasn't a violation in those cases or in the 2014 Freeman case.

"There's not much change here but it looks reasonable. Let's move it forward," Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton of Burke said at the Senate hearing.

The measure subsequently won unanimous approval on the consent calendars in the House and the Senate.

Yet as recently as April, both practices were still used in state government, depending on the board or commission and the state department to which it was attached.

Tony Venhuizen, the governor's chief of staff, recently alerted officials in all bureaus and departments

in state government's executive branch about the need to comply with the new law.

The challenge he's facing is finding ways to post notices at the Capitol and at some of the other state buildings so they are visible to the public around the clock.

Relatively few people use the Capitol's second-story entrance, at the top of the building's classical front steps, along Capitol Avenue.

The Capitol's main after-hours entrance is at ground level on the north side. Many visitors use the entrance throughout the day because of the adjacent parking lots.

There are also entrances on the east and west sides at ground level that are open during business hours.

Venhuizen said he's talking with other state officials about what steps might be taken.

"This is particularly important because of the passage of HB 1125, which makes the legal requirement crystal-clear," Venhuizen said.

Dream

FROM PAGE 2

Nessulhof worked with did not know how to sew, and at first had to help teach them how to make simple items like scrunchies. This group has since broadened their range to sell various types of crafts in order to provide for their families.

Judy Zwolak, the organization's grant writer, has worked for the organization for about a year.

"People in the area can come in here and get gifts they wouldn't be able to find within a radius of 1,000 miles," said Zwolak. "It benefits the artisans and makes it extra

special to buy something here."

By making a purchase at Sharing the Dream, you are contributing to creating a living wage for these artisans and helping foster community development projects in Guatemala.

"We have a clinic in the jungle that supplies a health-care promoter to 14 villages and an elder center with 59 elders," said Nessulhof. "It's not a handout - our philosophy is to give the people a livelihood and then they can provide for themselves, and get a really beautiful product in the end."

To learn more about the organization at <http://www.sharingthedream.org/>

Thanks to family and friends for words of sympathy in the loss of my son, **Marvin Lefler.**
-Frances Lefler

Retiring soon? Let's talk.

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Member SIPC

NOTICE TO IRRIGATORS

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reminds irrigators to check their center pivots to ensure they are operating properly and are adjusted to spray only upon land authorized for irrigation by their water permit.

"It is important that irrigators do everything they can to avoid over spraying onto nearby roads or neighboring properties," said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. "Irrigation overspray can damage roadways, lead to unsafe driving conditions, and impact neighbors."

A water right holder is not allowed to waste water or operate an irrigation system in violation of state water law, which includes spraying water on land not covered by the water permit. Irrigation systems and especially end guns must be consistently checked to make sure it is not applying water to where it is not allowed. Irrigators who fail to prevent overspray can be subject to fines or required to appear before the Water Management Board for possible suspension of their right to irrigate.

South Dakota has nearly 5,200 active irrigation permits authorizing irrigation of up to 865,000 acres.