

University In Residence Program Promoting Entrepreneurship

BY JAMES COOPER
For The Plain Talk

It used to be that popular thought considered entrepreneurs had to be born and not made, but according to Entrepreneur in Residence at The University of South Dakota, Ben Hanten, "we're finding out that that may be partially true, but entrepreneurs need to be cultivated, too."

The Beacom School of Business at USD began its Entrepreneurship in Residence Program in January of 2015 with one idea in mind; to, "engage with students and faculty to bring promising business ideas and innovations to market with commercial success."

At the start of the 2014 academic year, the Beacom School of Business at USD decided that they wanted to move in a direction that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Dean Venky, the new dean of the business school wanted to make a commitment to entrepreneurship, and he had reached out to myself and Sue Lancaster," Hanten said. "My role specifically is to be a mentor to students who have ideas that they wanted to turn into businesses or students who are already working on businesses that needed a little guidance..."

The two Entrepreneurs from South Dakota were asked to help front the program and offer students, one-on-one mentoring and/or speaking engagements to classes and student organizations. They are available to provide insight and guidance to USD students and faculty as they develop products and services with an economic impact for Vermillion, the region, and South Dakota.

Hanten, a resident of Yankton, has owned and operated nine businesses so far in his career.

He began building and selling computers in his parent's basement as a sophomore in high school and now owns Ben's Brewing Co., as well as The Copper Room in Yankton.

Sue Lancaster, a young entrepreneur who earned a B.S. in Biology in 2010 and a M.S. in Biomedical Engineering in 2012 serves as the Director for Business Development at South Dakota Innovation Partners and focuses her strengths toward creating research-derived innovations, as well as the agricultural and



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

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life science markets.

This new program goes beyond just helping students cultivate the skills necessary for running successful businesses. The resident entrepreneurs use their connections and experience to, "try to match [students] up with investors or customers, or other mentors that can help them get moving a little quicker."

This devotion to helping get new businesses off the ground and not only effecting economic growth, but a diverse market, seems to be a good direction to go for the University of South Dakota.

One of the best parts of this

program, aside from the invaluable mentorship and access to resources that had not existed before is that it is open to everyone.

"I set up a really simple website... any student can sign up for times, they don't have to be a member of the business school, they can be just any student on campus..." said Hanten when asked how he operates within the program.

With proper advertising, students who may have the passion, but not necessarily the business skills can take advantage of this opportunity to turn their dreams into a reality.

Bird Flu Outbreak Causing Concerns In The Area

HURON - The outbreak of avian influenza (bird flu) in poultry and egg barns has hit closer to home in South Dakota, leading to many consumer questions and concerns. Dustin Oedekoven, DVM, South Dakota State Veterinarian, addresses some of these concerns about the bird flu.

"In commercial poultry and egg barns, producers are increasing biosecurity measures to ensure their birds remain healthy," said Oedekoven. "This means boot baths, dedicated clothing, prohibiting non-essential people from entering the barns, limiting traffic flow to the barns, and in some cases, employees are wearing masks to protect the birds as it can be transferred in nasal cavities."

In South Dakota, nine counties -Beadle, Kingsbury, McCook, McPherson, Roberts, Spink, Hutchinson, Moody and Yankton -have been impacted by avian influenza. The majority of the cases have been in commercial turkey barns; however the most recent case was in a commercial egg layer facility, which was discovered on May 13, 2015.

"The commercial egg layer in Moody County impacted 1.25 million hens, and the turkey population in South Dakota has been reduced by 20 percent," said Oedekoven. "The avian influenza virus that we are dealing with now is a relatively new strain. At this point, it does not appear to affect humans. It's low risk to humans and there are currently no known human cases of avian influenza. It's not really a human health issue, and it's not a food safety issue. However, it's important to note that no poultry and egg products in the grocery store have come from barns that were impacted by avian influenza. This should not be a concern at all for consumers."

All poultry is potentially susceptible to this virus, said Oedekoven, and there are some considerations owners of backyard chicken flocks should consider to keep their birds healthy.

"Avian influenza has been found in some backyard flocks across the country, but there haven't been any cases in South Dakota," said Oedekoven. "From a disease control standpoint, all poultry exhibitions will be suspended until further notice. If owners are concerned about avian influenza, they should contact the state veterinarian office immediately. We have received a number of calls, but in all cases, we haven't found any avian influenza present. I encourage owners to look for other causes of health concerns in cooperation with their local veterinarian."

Symptoms of the bird flu in poultry include sudden death, fever, a drop in egg production, swollen waddle and comb, and huddling in isolated groups. For more information and updates on avian influenza in South Dakota, go to www.aib.sd.gov.

"I would like to stress that this is not a human health or food safety issue, but the lives and businesses of many individuals are being impacted by avian influenza," said Scott VanderWal, South Dakota Farm Bureau president.

"It's a terrible disruption not only to these businesses and families but also the food supply chain, and it may effect food prices down the road. As Farm Bureau members, we can help by reassuring the public that this is not a food safety issue."

VCT To Host Children's Workshop

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It is never too early to involve a child in an activity that just might turn into a lifelong passion.

In an age where technology is quickly replacing physical social interaction, it can be difficult to find outlets that help socialize kids, while allowing them the freedom to express themselves. Thankfully, the Vermillion Community Theatre has the answer. The VCT is hosting a workshop in tandem with the Dakota Players, an outreach of the Black Hills Playhouse, from June 15-19 that focuses on

helping children learn that, "the arts can inspire creativity, celebrate traditions, help reconcile differences, provide recreation, and contribute to the economic and social development of whole communities."

This year, the children of Vermillion can look forward to performing You Look Marvelous, a play written by local resident Steve Miller. If your child is interested in expanding their theatrical horizons, or even if you simply want to help them gain some experience they might not otherwise get, then signing up for the VCT Children's Workshop is as easy as going to the Vermillion Parks and

Recreation website and paying a minimal fee of \$30. If your children are grown or you simply love children's theatre, the production itself is taking place Friday, June 19 at 7 PM at Jolley School. The admission fee is \$5 for anyone over the age of five.

If there simply is not enough theatre in your summer calendar, the VCT summer production of Mary Poppins is cast and preparations are being made. The main cast is as follows: Mary Poppins - Gretchen Burbach, Bert - Matt Nesmith, George Banks - Kenneth Tice, Winifred Banks - Mecia Graham, Jane Banks - Ella Wittmuss, and Michael Banks - Mat-

thew Giorgio. Congratulations go out to all of those who auditioned and all of the cast and chorus. The performances will take place

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Service

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address by retired Air Force Major Lee Felder, a roll call of the citizens of Clay County who died while serving in the military, placing of the wreaths and a benediction by Pastor Sandy Aakre. The ceremonies concluded with a salute to honor the dead by the VFW Honor Guard.

"If we don't remember our history and who gave us that history then we won't

have anything to build our lives on," Aakre said.

This is the second year the First Baptist Church has hosted the event and Aakre hopes to continue to host because of the accessibility for those who require wheelchairs.

"I'm a veteran and this is the oldest church in town, so this is a veteran," Aakre said. "It looks like we will continue to have it here. We have a wheelchair ramp in the back and half a dozen people didn't know it so they didn't come here today."

The church also has a

project in place for a permanent memorial for veterans of Clay County whose names were read off during the roll call.

"We have a current project in the process of being written out," Aakre said. "We'll have a lot of display area with the very names of the men we read (Monday) so we remember them. They were young boys when they left for military. They never had a chance like you and I have to grow, to have families, to fall in love with somebody. That's just what it is."

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