

CLUB NEWS

Rotary learns of Extension Service

The Vermillion Rotary Club held its weekly luncheon meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the Neuharth Media Center on the campus of USD. President David Lorenz opened the meeting and led us in the invocation and recitation of the Rotary 4 Way Test. This was followed by a round of singing, introduction of guests including two Vermillion High School seniors, and announcements.

Rotarian Barry Vickrey introduced Todd Kennedy and Larry Wagner as our speakers for the day. Mr. Kennedy holds the position of South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service Educator for 4-H and Youth. Mr. Wagner holds the position of Agronomy Educator for Union, Clay, and Yankton counties.

Mr. Wagner began by giving us a brief history of the Extension Service starting with the Morrill Act signed by President Lincoln. This Act authorized the sale of land in each state to fund a land grant college in each

state. In total 17.4 million acres across the United States were sold to raise 7.55 million dollars to fund the colleges. This changed the face of education from strictly classical to both classical and applied science.

The Hatch Act of 1887 set up agricultural experimental stations in each state leading to a growth in science based information to be applied directly to agriculture. The Smith-Leber Act authorizing agricultural extension services providing vocational education in agriculture and agricultural economics followed this in 1914.

The establishment of cooperative extension services provided for cooperation between county, state, and federal resources that contributed to a vast increase in food production during the time of World War I.

Other highlights of the effectiveness of cooperative extension services were: the introduction of 4-H in the 1920's which was, in effect, the first national after school program which included both boys

and girls; another highlight was the introduction of the school lunch program across the US.

Focusing on educating the youth was also an effective way of reaching the parents about advances in food production.

Other programs stemming from the cooperative extension service were advances such as: Rural Electrification, Dust-bowl Reconstruction, sustainable agricultural practices, weed and pest control practices, and recently encouraging and training people in the "Victory Garden" resurgence.

Todd reported that 4-H continues to be a strong and evolving program encouraging continued interest in agriculture and in the sciences. Operation "Military Kids" is an attempt to provide support for military families. He also reported a strong emphasis on science and education technology intended for the youth who are involved in 4-H but are more interested in science.

They concluded their presentation with a time for questions.

Physician Assistant Studies at USD: great start to great career

Students seeking one of the best jobs in the United States can get their start thanks to the Physician Assistant Studies Program at The University of South Dakota. Money Magazine is touting physician assistant as the second-best job in the United States. The ranking didn't come to a surprise to Wade Nilson, MPAC, PA-C, chair of the Physician Assistant Studies Program at USD.

"Money Magazine confirmed what we at USD have known for years," Nilson said. "A career as a physician assistant is very rewarding."

The magazine listed the 100 best jobs with systems engineer as the top job, physician assistant second and college professor third. The magazine said physician assistant ranked high for a number of reasons:

- PAs can perform 85-90 percent of the duties of a physician without the expense and time of medical school.
- PAs receive the reward of helping people without the avalanche of administrative



Jerry Schrier, a PA student at USD, performing an exam during the clinical phase of his training in Sioux Falls.

chores a physician faces.

- PA jobs are recession-proof and growing due to the ongoing shortage of primary care doctors, especially in rural areas.

USD's Physician Assistant Studies Program accepts 20 students annually in its rigorous 28-month master's program. Half of the time is spent in the classroom with the additional time spent at a clinical

training site. For several years, the program has had a 100 percent job placement rate. Last year's class received an average starting salary of \$73,000.

For more information about the Physician Assistant Studies Program, which is part of USD's School of Health Sciences, please visit www.usd.edu/pa.

State association honors USD medical school profs

Six professors with the Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota were honored recently by the South Dakota State Medical Association.

- Christopher Dietrich, M.D., of Rapid City, received the Outstanding Young Physician Award. He is a 2001 graduate of the medical school and a clinical assistant professor in family medicine. He was honored for making patient care a priority as well as initiating the process of prescription drug monitoring in South Dakota.

- H. Bruce Vogt, M.D., and Keith Hansen, M.D., both of Sioux Falls, received the asso-

ciation's Media Award. Vogt is a 1972 graduate of the medical school. He is a professor of family medicine as well as chair of the department. Hansen is a professor of OB/GYN as well as chair of the department. Both were honored for their dedication as co-editors of South Dakota's only peer-reviewed medical journal, South Dakota Medicine.

- Marvin Buehner, M.D., of Rapid City, received the Community Service Award. Buehner is a clinical assistant professor of OB/GYN. He was honored for his passion for women's health issues as well as his work to make South Dakota smoke-

free.

- William C. Fuller, M.D., received the Distinguished Service Award for his significant contributions to residency and medical school education as well as his consultative practice at community health centers in the region. Fuller is a professor of psychiatry at the medical school.

- Tony Berg, M.D., received the association's Past President's Award. He was honored for his last year as president as well as his previous service to the organization. Berg is a 1978 graduate of the medical school and a clinical professor of family medicine.

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about anything – and he'll respond," Ramakrishna said.

Within reason, of course. "Mr. Buffett doesn't give any stock picks or forecasts," Jankord said. "The only thing he really talks about is the overall outlook of the economy, and where he thinks it's headed."

"In that regard, he doesn't believe like a lot do that there's going to be a double-dip recession," Jankord said. "He does feel that we're going to continue to grow out of this phase."

Ramakrishnan said that overall, "it's a pretty open, wide-ranging discussion. He's a very, very wise man. He enjoys spending time with the students. You can see that he gets a lot of energy out of that."

Friday was the first time business student Jessica Burchill got the chance to meet with Buffett.

"When I went in, I really didn't know what to expect," she said. "I knew we'd have a question/answer (session) with him, but I didn't know how he would talk to our level. He has so much knowledge, and he made it understandable for people our age. He made it fun. ... He's a

very well-rounded, well-educated person, and that made it interesting."

Ramakrishnan said Buffett holds these sessions as a way of "giving back." It's also a way for him to put things in perspective.

"He started out with \$10,000," Ramakrishnan said. "With \$10,000 you have a lot more choices to make money, (not like) with the billions now in the funds that he has managed. He said, 'My world is limited because, unless I buy something massive, it doesn't make a difference in my results.'"

"So Berkshire can't really look at anything under \$500 million or so, because even if you bought something and doubled it, it wouldn't make a difference the portfolio is so big. But if you start with \$10,000, \$20,000 you can find a lot of smaller investments that would give you a good return."

Burchill said she came away from the meeting with the "realization that anyone can do anything with their life. You don't need to be someone big and have things given to you to own a business or to become successful. You can start from the bot-

tom and work your way up. You just need to be confident."

Ramakrishnan said that in meeting with Buffett, the students not only gain insight into the financial world, but also in how they can live their lives.

"What I like most about Warren is not just the fact that he's been successful for a long period of time, but he has retained his approachability," Ramakrishnan said. "He's a humble, nice human being. Overall, a good man. With that kind of money, he could do pretty much anything he wanted to do, but he still lives a very modest life. He still drives a regular car. And he looks at the money that he has as essentially belonging to society in some way, and he gives it back."

This makes Buffett a good role model for the students, Ramakrishnan said.

"We teach them how to succeed, how to make money and all that, but also how to deal with wealth and your obligation to society is important," he said. "Seeing someone who lives the talk has value, so that's what's so special about it in my mind."

Labor Department prepared for extended unemployment benefits

The South Dakota Department of Labor (DOL) is prepared to assist unemployment claimants in receiving 14 additional weeks of benefits. Last Friday, President Obama signed the legislation passed by Congress to extend unemployment benefits for jobless Americans.

DOL's Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division will directly notify all claimants who have exhausted their claims. Those claimants will need to contact the UI Call Center at 605.626.3179 to reinstate their claims.

Applicants still claiming benefits will be

notified by the UI Division when those benefits are exhausted. They can then contact the Call Center for the extension. There will be no waiting week.

Eligibility to start new extended unemployment compensation claims will end Dec. 26, 2009. Workers who exhaust their regular claims after that date will not be eligible unless Congress acts to extend the program.

If claimants have questions, they should call the UI Benefits Section at 605.626.2452. Information is also available at www.sdjobs.org

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