

Slagle Auditorium reopening to be celebrated today

The University of South Dakota is celebrating the grand reopening of Slagle Auditorium with two very special events on Friday, Oct. 7.

At 3:30 p.m., outside on the Slagle Hall and Old Main plaza, USD will host a ribbon cutting and donor recognition ceremony with a special announcement by President James W. Abbott that will include the unveiling of the new name of the auditorium. The auditorium will be named in honor and appreciation of a

major contributor to the project. At 8 p.m., the renovated auditorium will be on full display with a concert featuring the South Dakota Symphony along with the university's Rawlins Piano Trio and USD voice faculty. The concert is free and open to the public.

The \$8.2 million renovation of Slagle Hall Auditorium began in the fall of 2008 transforming the 38,000 square foot auditorium into a performance venue. Renovations to the facility

include upgrades to acoustics and seating, state-of-the-art technology as well as updated aesthetics to preserve the auditorium's historical elements. Constructed in 1925, the auditorium provides the university community with an elegant and exciting stage for large events, including musical theatre, orchestras and musical ensembles, soloists, dance companies and lectures.

Closed since the renovations began in 2008, Slagle Auditorium re-opened March 16, 2011 and celebrated

with 1,200 fans two days later at its inaugural concert featuring the rock band OneRepublic. For more information about the grand reopening ceremony or the free evening concert featuring the South Dakota Symphony, please contact the USD Alumni Association at (605) 677-6734 or email alumni@usdalumni.org. You can also visit the Alumni Association website at <http://www.usdalumni.com>.

FUNDS

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planning session with the Business Research Bureau, and a lot of work was done by the membership here and by Crystal to put together a vision for what they felt this center should be and would be for future generations," said Jennifer Steele, a member of the Dakota Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. "It's something to start now that will live on as a more updated facility. They looked at things like want the membership wants, what can be the best things to attract more members and to be a terrific asset to the community.

Fundraising activities kicked off a little more than a month ago when Crystal McGuire, executive director of The Main Street Center, and its board of directors sent a letter to banks in the community that includes a description of The Tomorrow Project and a request for pledges.

"We also personally visited with people at the banks," McGuire said. "That was our first step."

Last month, The Main Street Center also sent approximately 800 letters to community members and businesses requesting pledges to help finance the needed improvements.

"People are going to start knowing about us, and we have had people starting to call and offer their help," she said. "Somebody called the other day and wanted to volunteer his time."

Local architect Sandy Dickenson has developed a five-phase plan for improving the center's building. The first phase – an estimated \$11,500 project that includes completion of an exercise studio, gift shop display and a recognition wall, is scheduled for this fall.

Phase II, scheduled to be completed by March of 2012, includes replacing the roof of the facility, and the remodeling of its computer and multipurpose/dining rooms. By March of 2013, Phase III should be finished with the remodeling of the center's activity room and board room, and it's the enclosure of its lounge.

Phase IV and Phase V are scheduled for 2014. By March of that year, administrative offices will be remodeled, the north entry will be enclosed and a new sign will be in place at the center.

The last and most ambitious phase has a November 2014 completion date. It includes remodeling of the kitchen and restrooms, improvements to the building's east ramp, the repainting of the facility and the addition of new tables and chairs.

"The Dakota Hospital Foundation donation and matching of funds go along with that staging of the plan," said Tim Tracy, CEO of Sanford Vermillion.

The foundation committed \$10,000 upfront the Main Street Center during this first year of improvements to the facility.

"It then will match, dollar for dollar the next \$20,000 for the first year. If the center was successful then, and it's important that there is a partnership there – the foundation didn't want it as an outright gift without any community foundation; it was thought it would be important for there to be broadbased community support if the center is going to be

successful over the long term – so if they are successful in year one, year two begins with another \$10,000 donation and another \$20,000 matching dollar for dollar. Every dollar they (the center's members) raise will be matched by a dollar up to \$20,000," Tracy said.

This pattern of funding from the Dakota Hospital Foundation will continue through the third year of the project.

"Based on performance and community involvement, the potential (funding from Dakota Hospital Foundation) is up to \$90,000 over the three years," Tracy said, "but it really is predicated on performance. The project needs to progress and there has to be adequate funds raised from the community to supplement the rest of the project."

That means that besides raising funds to be matched by the Dakota Hospital Foundation, the center's members also must raise \$50,000 to meet the goals of the project over the next three years.

"As the Dakota Hospital

Foundation, we see the Main Street Center as being a really wonderful place to deliver health and wellness to our community," Steele said. "This is a hub and a meeting place and they have so many activities here. It is just kind of a natural process that we came together to help the center do something for the community to help in the areas of health and wellness."

The centers' building was constructed on Main Street in the 1970s using a very similar concept. Citizens interested in seeing a better Senior Citizen in Vermillion gathered financial pledges from local businesses and individuals, and also applied for grants to provide the revenue to construct the center. Two additions were added to the original building in the 1980s.

The building has been maintained over the years, but has never been renovated.

The center provides activities for senior members and is the site of the Dakota Senior Meals program. Its current membership is 206 annual members and 108 lifetime members.

"One of the things we're

trying to do is change our programming so that we stay up-to-date with the age group that we serve here," McGuire said, "and what they're interested in."

McGuire said people who wish to donate to the project may make financial pledges for each of the three years that the work will be taking place.

"In my eyes, I don't see this as being the end when we finish," she said, "because there are going to be more things that we can add or do. I do think the more that we get out in the community and make people aware of what we are here at the center, that is going to be a big indicator to us to what our needs are and what we can do in helping our community."

"I think part of the importance of this project is not only the improvements to the center, but also helping the community learn more. I think that the idea of making this place known to the community is almost the most important part of this project," said Maxine Johnson, a member of the Main Street Center's board of directors. "There will be a time when we all get to be senior citizens."

VL&P celebrates 25th Public Power Week

Vermillion Light & Power (VL&P) is celebrating Public Power Week, Oct. 2-8, along with more than 2,000 other electric utilities that collectively provide electricity on a not-for profit basis to 46 million Americans.

"Public Power Week is a chance for VL&P to articulate why the public power formula works in Vermillion. We are absolutely dedicated to providing top-notch service and the lowest rates possible," said Mark Koller, VL&P superintendent.

Public Power Week is a national, annual event sponsored in conjunction with the American Public Power Association (APPA) in Washington, DC. A tradition

that began in 1986, this year APPA and its members celebrate its 25th anniversary. APPA is the service organization for community and state owned electric utilities.

Vermillion Light & Power invites community members to participate in a variety of Public Power Week 25th anniversary events. Activities include:

- Lunch on Oct. 14 – (Brats, burgers, chips, cookies and pop) – along with give-aways.

"Vermillion Light & Power knows how vital electricity is for the people of Vermillion, and we continue to find ways to deliver it reliably, safely and with special attention to the environment," Koller said.

Wine and Whiskers set for Nov. 5

Heartland Humane Society will host its second Wine & Whiskers event Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Hillcrest Country Club in Yankton from 6 to 10 p.m.

The event, which funds the local animal shelter, will feature wine and beer tasting, hors d'oeuvres, live music and variety of live and silent auction items.

Tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased by contacting the Heartland Humane Society at 605-664-

4244, any Heartland Humane Society board member or emailing hhs@midconetwork.com. Donations may be sent to PO Box 585, Yankton, SD 57078 or dropped off at the shelter, located at 601 ½ Burleigh Street in Yankton.

Visit Heartland Humane Society online at www.heartlandhumanesociety.org et.

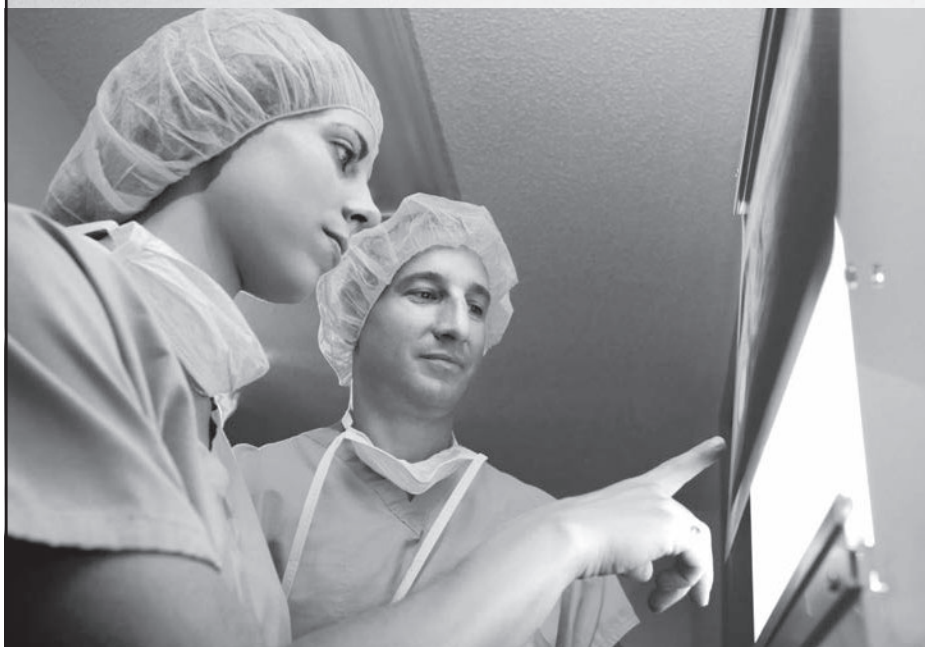
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