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# PLAIN TALK

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## Welcomed warmth



The glow of the faces of students from St. Agnes Elementary School lights up the 98th annual Dakota Days parade as they ride in their school's float down Vermillion's Main Street Saturday morning. Warm scenes like this were welcomed by the parade audience, which had to endure temperatures in the low 30s to participate in this annual tradition of the University of South Dakota's homecoming. (Photo by David Lias)

## Neuharth calls award winner one of his ‘best bosses’

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON  
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When Marilyn Hagerty first met Al Neuharth in the 1940s, she never would have guessed that one day she would be a recipient of the annual journalism award that bears his name.

And, she definitely would not have guessed she would receive it “because I wrote a review of the Olive Garden.”

“You just never know what’s going to happen,” she said.

Hagerty officially received the Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in Media in a ceremony Thursday night in Aalfs Auditorium on the campus of the University of South Dakota.

The award is presented jointly by USD and the Freedom Forum, and has been given to 25 journalists and media representatives since Walter Cronkite was its first

recipient in 1989.

“My name is going right there,” Hagerty said, pointing to the list of winners on the back of the award statue. “Under Katie Couric, Walter Cronkite, Garrison Keillor. And now it’s going to be, ‘Marilyn who?’”

Hagerty came to national prominence in March after she reviewed the Olive Garden for the Grand Forks Herald, a publication for which she writes five columns per week. At USD she served for a time as editor of the campus newspaper, The Volante. Upon graduating in 1948, she wrote for newspapers and worked in radio, and signed on as a full-time reporter for the Herald in 1961 – eventually becoming its features editor.

Hagerty officially retired from the publication in 1991, at which point she became a columnist.

“It’s just been a wonderful ride, and tonight, to me, is the

frosting on the cake,” she said. “It’s the greatest honor I could imagine. I thank Al Neuharth, and I thank the University of South Dakota because it was here when I was young and I needed a place to go to school, and there were people here I could ask for help.”

In turn, Neuharth thanked Hagerty for bringing him onto the Volante staff after his lone disastrous attempt at radio broadcasting.

“I had the great good fortune of having Marilyn Hagerty as my first boss, when she was running The Volante, and I was a young kid trying to get a start in journalism,” he said. “She was ... a tremendous guide, and one of the best bosses I ever had.”

Neuharth said he was proud to add Hagerty’s name to the list



Marilyn Hagerty takes a close look at the Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in Media presented to her Thursday night on the campus of USD. “My name is going right there,” she said, pointing to the list of winners on the back of the award statue. “Under Katie Couric, Walter Cronkite, Garrison Keillor. And now it’s going to be, ‘Marilyn who?’” (Photo by David Lias)

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## Coyote statue unveiled on USD campus

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON  
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The newest symbol of South Dakota’s flagship university was unveiled Friday morning.

Dozens of University of South Dakota alums and current students braved the chilly weather for the first official display of the coyote statue on the lawn east of the Muenster University Center.

The five-foot statue was designed by Cameron Stalheim, a 2010 USD fine arts grad, and was chosen by USD students

out of six finalists.

“I can’t tell you how proud I am that our very own students created this wonderful work,” said university president James Abbott. “Little did we know that when (former Student Government Association president) Tim Carr came up with this idea, we would end up with not only a wonderful ... symbol of pride, but also a work by an alum.”

Dr. Larry Schou, dean of the USD College of Fine Arts, echoed the president’s

sentiments.

“This is a very proud day for me, to see a new piece of artwork being unveiled on our campus,” he said. “I strongly believe that this statue will continue to confirm the high quality of art that we have produced in our department, and the high-quality faculty we have at the university.

For his part, Stalheim seemed a bit overwhelmed by the proceedings. “Never in a million years did

I envision that I would be standing here before you today,” Stalheim said.

Primarily, Stalheim said he saw the competition as an opportunity to practice writing proposals and serve as a creative outlet.

The entry called for a written proposal, résumé, portfolio of artwork and a drawing of what the finished statue would look



Cameron Stalheim, a 2010 USD fine arts grad, poses with the Coyote statue he created. He unveiled this latest addition to the university campus during a Friday ceremony. (Photo by David Lias)

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