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Bureau at USD hosts human trafficking conference

The Government Research Bureau and the W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership at the University of South Dakota are sponsoring a conference on human trafficking from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, at the Muenster University Center Ballroom.

Limited to 250 attendees, this event is open to the public while attendance is encouraged for law enforcement officials, social workers, 911 dispatchers, mental health professionals and victim/witness coordinators, the conference will educate the public on current human trafficking law, prosecution in South Dakota, historical background on case investigation and prosecution, and services

available to victims in South Dakota. "People need to be aware of human trafficking," noted Rod Hair, director of the Government Research Bureau, "because it's hard to stop it if there's no awareness. This is an opportunity for experts to share their experiences and discuss the serious nature of human trafficking in South Dakota."

The schedule includes a session on "South Dakota Human Trafficking Law" at 9:30 a.m., featuring Judge Joni Cutler of the 2nd Circuit Court for Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties and a graduate of the USD School of Law; and a 10:45 a.m. lecture about "Human Trafficking in Western North Dakota" from Paula Bosh, a victim specialist in the Minot

Resident Agency of the FBI's Minneapolis Division. In this position, Bosh works with victims of federal crimes from the northwest corner of North Dakota, including two reservations: Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation.

At 1 p.m., Kevin Koliner, appellate chief, United State Attorney's Office, District of South Dakota, will discuss "Effectively Prosecuting Human Traffickers" followed by a 2:30 p.m. presentation from James Legg, South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigations and current director of the South Dakota Fusion Center, on "Investigating Human Trafficking." The final session of the conference is at 3:45 p.m. and devoted

to "Working with Victims of Human Trafficking" from Susan Omanson, director of Be Free out of Sioux Falls.

"Human trafficking is at the forefront of law enforcement attention right now," added Hair, who noted that 5.75 contact hours have been approved for social workers, and hours are being requested for licensed counselors and law enforcement for conference attendees. "You can be working just one case but 15 victims might be involved, so it's critical that we educate and train people on the signs and awareness that lead to human trafficking issues."

For more information about the human trafficking conference or to register online, visit www.usd.edu/trafficking_conf.

Exhibition showcases USD alumnus' photography

The University Art Galleries at the University of South Dakota welcomes the return of alum Kirby James Pilcher, '04, for a solo exhibition at the John A. Day Gallery, today through Oct. 23.

Pilcher will showcase two different projects, "Seldom Is Heard," which features photography and video pieces based on the myths, land and history of South Dakota, and "Trivial Pursuit," which include photographs of objects and locations with underlying intimate or symbolic meanings.

In addition to the exhibition, a reception will be held for the artist at 5 p.m. on Oct. 4. He will also talk about his photography during an appearance at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, in room 172 at the College of Fine Arts.

Following graduation from USD where he received a bachelor of sciences degree in psychology, Pilcher earned his M.F.A. at the

Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, NY and taught at Wells College in Aurora, NY, the College at Brockport (Brockport, NY), and at the Rochester Institute of Technology where he is currently a visiting assistant professor. His work has been widely exhibited, both in solo and group shows throughout Rochester and at the Jen Bekman Gallery in New York City; the Center for Fine Art Photography in Fort Collins, CO; the Index Art Center in Newark, NJ; and at Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center in Buffalo, NY.

The exhibition, lecture and reception are free and open to the public. The John A. Day Gallery is located in the Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts and is open weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To learn more about the UAG programs, contact Alison Erasmus at Alison.Erasmus@usd.edu or by phone at (605) 677-3177.

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