New Online Program
By Katie Grayson, Great Plains IDEA Coordinator

The 15-credit animal science graduate certificate program is designed to provide students with courses in the major disciplinary areas of animal science, serving as a basis for further study in a particular animal species.

“The graduate certificate allows individuals to further their education in a relatively short amount of time while continuing to work full time,” said Joe Cassady, department head of the animal science program. “Having the certificate online lets students continue with their careers and gives students who are place bound the means to further their education.”

The program is intended for individuals holding a bachelor’s degree in animal science or closely related field.

The certificate is offered through AG*IDEA, a national consortium of universities offering undergraduate and graduate programs in agricultural disciplines.

“The consortium allows students to really get the best of the best when it comes to faculty,” said Katie Grayson, SDSU Great Plains IDEA coordinator. “Great Plains IDEA and AG*IDEA give students the best instructors in their given field and allow them to take courses taught by true experts, regardless of their institution.” Read more.

To view all SD State Online offerings, visit www.sdstate.edu/online.
National Distance Learning Week 2014

Join the NDLW celebration during November 10-14. NDLW is sponsored by the United States Distance Learning Association and celebrates the growth and accomplishments of distance learning. Participate to win!

**Student Activities:**

**Daily Facebook Trivia**
Be the first person to correctly answer each daily question to win a prize.

**Food Drive**
Send us a photo of the items you will be donating to your local food pantry, homeless shelter, etc. We will be collecting items on campus as well and will calculate our final total.

**Student Stories**
Submit your SDSState Online testimonial and look for it on Facebook, Twitter, and our CDE homepage.

**Selfie Contest**
Let’s see your selfie. Submit a selfie (or simply a photo) of you in your SDSU gear and/or with your favorite study buddies for your chance to win one of the following awards:
- Most School Spirit
- Best Pic with Your Study Buddy

Winners will receive a $25 gift card to the SDSU Bookstore.

**Veteran Benefits Webinar**
Join us to learn about what SDSU can offer you as a member of the Military. Date and time will soon be announced. Contact us for more details.

**Social Plug-In**
Stay up-to-date on the latest trends in online learning. Get helpful study tips. Read up on interesting articles when you need a study break. And much more. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.
Congratulations, Dr. Patricia Ahmed!
Winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award at University Center-Sioux Falls

Dr. Patricia Ahmed was recently awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award at University Center-Sioux Falls (UC-SF). See what she has to say about teaching, Sociology, and her experiences at SDSU.

**What interests you about teaching online?**
I like the fact that the format challenges me to be innovative. I am a firm believer in active and collaborative learning which is hard, but not impossible to implement in an online course. You just have to think a little bit outside the box.

**What do students need to know before starting your program?**
Check in with your faculty advisor to learn about the program requirements. Students at UC-SF need to be especially mindful of the major course rotation and factor that into their long term academic planning.

**What can you gain from a Sociology degree?**
A sociology student gains a variety of marketable skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, research applications, effective communication, and an appreciation for diversity.

**What advice would you give students?**
Come up with a good time management plan and maintain close contact with your instructors. We are here to facilitate your learning, so take advantage of this. For University Center students, get involved in our university center club and take advantage of opportunities for internships and independent studies. These are great ways to network and build resumes, and expand upon interests. Read more.

Meet Martha (Marti) Koehl

Marti is a student from Morris, MN majoring in Agricultural Business on campus and earning a certificate in Agricultural and Environmental Law online. See what she has to say about her SD State Online experience.

**What do you like about online learning?**
I enjoy online learning simply because it enables a schedule that is flexible yet fast-paced while allowing you to be involved in many other activities as well.

**Why did you choose to further your education online?**
Choosing online learning to continue my education was a wonderful decision. It has allowed for me to travel and remain involved in our farming operation in my hometown as much as I’d like while getting my degree.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?**
I would like to be settled into an agricultural career in the Midwest that I am passionate about and am able to share my love for agriculture by being an asset to the nation’s largest industry.

**What piece of advice would you give new online students?**
Recognize that you are somewhat taking your education into your own hands. You have the ability to excel by staying motivated and focused on your online courses. Read more.

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**Did you know…**
Theodore Schultz, winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize in Economics, graduated from SDSU?
Hobo Day: Celebrating a Lost Lifestyle

By Kathleen Fairfax, Assistant Vice President of International Affairs and Outreach

Each year the SDSU community excitedly awaits Hobo Day, a 100 year-old homecoming celebration. Activities are held throughout the week preceding the big game, a community-wide parade takes place on Saturday morning, and some students even refrain from shaving for the entire month leading up to the event. This is not your typical homecoming celebration.

But what exactly is Hobo Day? One common misconception is that Hobo Day is derogatory to today’s homeless population, when in fact it is a celebration of a lost lifestyle. Homeless people today are not the same as the “hobos” of the early 20th century.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the hobo lifestyle was most often a chosen way of life that grew out of the emergence of the railroad as the primary means of transportation. Hobos were people who rode the rail cars from place to place, took odd jobs for short periods of time, then hopped on another train to a new location and started all over again.

A culture grew out of the hobo lifestyle, and that culture included language, traditions, and beliefs that were shared by those who chose the way of life.

Yes, hobos were most often poor and homeless. But the distinction from today’s homeless people is that most hobos chose that way of life; perhaps out of dissatisfaction with the opportunities before them, or maybe out of a sense of adventure. They valued the freedom of being their own boss, of choosing where to work and how long to work.

Celebrating Hobo Day is a way to commemorate the historical, independent culture of hobos that no longer exists. That being said, we invite you to don your hobo gear in pride. Go big, go blue, go Jacks!