South Dakota State University live streamed its 2014 commencement ceremonies to extend the experience to friends and family of graduates who were not able to attend the ceremonies.

At its peak, 130 users viewed the May 10 ceremony. The viewers were from 27 states and 11 nations. While 32 percent of the viewers used a mobile device, the average viewing session was 41 minutes.

For the graduate ceremony, viewers were located in 12 states and nine nations. Recaps of the ceremonies have been viewed more than 3,000 times.

One of those individuals viewing the replay was SDSU Provost Laurie Nichols.

“I was impressed with the video quality, particularly while viewing on my phone,” said Nichols. “We have had great interest in our commencement exercises not only on campus, but also throughout the United States and the world. This effort allows us to share the ceremony with others and allows them to share it as well.”

As of May 12, the recaps have been played nearly 2,500 times on Facebook, reaching more than 19,000 people. On YouTube, the recaps have been viewed nearly 800 times.

On the day of the ceremonies, the webpage—graduation.sdstate.edu—was accessed nearly 2,000 times from 40 states and 22 nations.

As part of the live streaming, SDSU created the #sdstate14 hashtag on Twitter and Instagram to allow graduates to share their experience with friends and family.
S.D. Art Museum to host Lakota Arts + Identities workshop

Harvey Markowitz explains objects during the 2013 Lakota Arts + Identities workshop.

Culture, art, language and history remain sacred to the Lakota and will be the focus of an upcoming South Dakota Art Museum workshop and seminar.

Led by Craig Howe, director of the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies in Martin, the workshop and seminar welcome individuals interested in furthering their understanding of the Lakota culture.

“People interested in Lakota history and culture will appreciate the depth of knowledge the workshop presenters express,” said Howe. “And individuals interested in art museum collections will have an unparalleled opportunity to design their own exhibits using actual objects.”

The seminar, held June 17 from 8 a.m. to noon, explores approaches for understanding and teaching Oceti Sakowin history and culture. Participants learn about the Oceti Sakowin confederacy and Lakota spirituality and kinship, focusing on South Dakota tribes.

During the three-day Lakota Arts + Identities workshop June 17-19, participants work with objects in the museum’s collection and read excerpts from classic Lakota literature.

The Oceti Sakowin seminar is included in the Lakota Arts + Identities workshop. Participants create exhibits and classroom activities based upon the seminar’s themes.

“Lakota culture is complex and sophisticated, and over its countless generations, aspects of the culture have changed and other aspects have stayed the same,” said Howe.

“Guests will explore the cultural and historical complexity of the Lakota, through the art museum’s objects and works. Without the art and access the museum is providing, this type of workshop could not be achieved.”

“Our collection serves as an important resource for learning and inspiration. It provides the public with a greater appreciation and understanding of Native American traditions and culture,” said Lisa Scholten, South Dakota Art Museum coordinator of collections.

Both events emphasize the critical thinking requirements required by the Common Core Standards, and teach methods of incorporating Lakota history throughout classroom curriculum.

The workshops feature an array of educators specializing in American Indian studies including Harvey Markowitz, Ann Robertson, Peri Strain, Lisa Scholten and Lynn Verschoor.

The half-day seminar is $60, and the three-day workshop is $270.

Educators who wish to earn a continuing education unit from the half-day seminar may submit additional work online afterward, and those wishing to receive two hours of graduate or undergraduate credit for the three-day workshop pay an additional $90 June 17.

For registration and more information, visit the CAIRNS website or call 605-685-6484.

Contribute to IMPACT State

Is there something or someone in your college, department or unit that our colleagues should know about? Is a long-time employee retiring? Has someone received an award or published a book? Is there a story that should be told?

If so, send us a note at sdsu.news@sdstate.edu with the information, and we’ll consider it for publication in an upcoming issue.
South Dakota State, Sanford Health partner on human health, nutrition research

South Dakota State and Sanford Health have partnered to conduct collaborative research on human nutrition, weight management and other dietary-related areas. This research will address key objectives of the Profile by Sanford® program.

Profile is a weight-management program that uses customized meal plans and health coaches. It was developed by Sanford physicians and researchers.

Through the partnership, SDSU researchers will have opportunities to collaborate with investigators from Sanford Research on topics like metabolism, food choices and consumption, prenatal nutrition, genetics, food manufacturing and nutritional interactions with the human microbiome. Research findings relevant to Profile will be considered as the program evolves and expands.

Sanford Health will provide $250,000 annually for five years for the seed-grant program. Also, SDSU is requesting an additional $200,000 through the South Dakota Board of Regents Research and Development Innovation program to bring the total collaboration with Sanford to $450,000 for the 2015 fiscal year.

“This partnership really is about people and communities,” said Kevin Kephart, the university’s vice president for research. “By combining our efforts and resources, SDSU and Sanford are building on a solid foundation of ongoing research and a strong, existing relationship. The resulting synergy will help improve quality of life and better serve the public good throughout South Dakota and the region.”

The Profile system utilizes meal-replacement products, nutritionally complete foods, qualified health coaches and client tracking of body weight, blood pressure and physical activity through smart wireless technology. A clinical and scientific advisory board comprised of 10 Sanford physicians and researchers oversaw the development of Profile.

“The goal of this program is to expand our research and developing efforts with a world-class university; the collaboration between Sanford and SDSU is a natural fit because of the university’s mission as a leading land-grant research institution,” said Rich Adcock, president of Sanford Frontiers, which developed Profile.

2014 Common Read selection announced

Tim Nichols, dean of the Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College, announced that “The Good Food Revolution” will be the selection for the 2014 Common Read.

“The Good Food Revolution” was written by Will Allen, who played professional basketball and was an executive for KFC and Procter & Gamble. Allen cashed in his retirement fund to purchase two acres to create an urban farm in Milwaukee in the early 1990s.

Allen, who will speak at State Oct. 27 at the Griffith Honors Forum Lecture, is the founder and CEO for Growing Power, a national nonprofit organization and land trust supporting people from diverse backgrounds and the environments in which they live, by helping to provide equal access to healthy, high-quality, safe and affordable food for people in all communities.

“We felt coming off ‘The Heart and the First’ that our bar was high so we took some extra time in the selection process to make sure we landed on the right book,” said Nichols, noting “The Good Food Revolution” was one of 50 nominations.

Nichols said “The Good Food Revolution” brings a number of elements: diversity, public health issues and a connection to agriculture.

University to offer intensive ESL program

The Office of International Affairs and Outreach is taking applications for its first class in an intensive English as a second language (ESL) program starting with the fall 2014 semester.

The ESL program, which will be called the English Language and Culture Institute, is aimed at preparing students who speak a first language other than English to be admitted into nationally accredited higher education institutions. The program was recently presented to the South Dakota Board of Regents.

According to ESL director Nathan Ziegler, there will be 20 available spots at SDSU for students in September. He plans to have 20 additional spots in spring 2015 and summer 2015.

“With the implementation of the intensive ESL program, we’ve figured out a streamlined program that will prepare students in a 12-month period of time to enter the SDSU undergraduate and graduate programs,” said Ziegler, who will team with Rusty Wienk, an ESL program coordinator.

Students will spend 20 hours in reading, writing, listening and speaking programs in addition to taking a three-hour course to help acclimate them to American business practices, the culture and the differences in higher education. They will also spend two hours each week in a communications workshop.

Current SDSU students who want to improve a particular skill can register part time for the program and take that in coordination with their other courses.
Art Museum receives grant to survey 1,800 works

Dog-eared corners, mold, masking tape, and acidic mats causing yellow discoloration are issues affecting many of the 1,800 works on paper at the South Dakota Art Museum.

Through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the art museum has received $54,496 to have those works surveyed by two conservators from the Midwest Art Conservation Center. The grant also provided funds to properly rehouse and store the artwork.

The IMLS grant is highly competitive and after the third attempt of applying, the South Dakota Art Museum received one of the 244 grants awarded nationally.

“The grant will help the museum fulfill its mission and allow us to make sure the artwork is available for exhibitions, education and research,” said Lisa Scholten, South Dakota Art Museum coordinator and curator of collections.

“Many of the works were mounted using unstable materials such as masking tape, cardboard and acidic mats, causing discoloration and tears. Over the course of nine days, the two conservators, Scholten, and two SDSU student interns will survey each piece, and complete a written evaluation noting all condition issues that need to be addressed. The grant will help the museum fulfill its mission to make sure the artwork is available for exhibitions, education and research.”

Surveying the art

Elizabeth Buschor, senior paper conservator, and Dianna Clise, associate paper conservator, both from the Midwest Art Conservation Center, performed a detailed survey of the works April 2-10.

The two-year matching grant provides the needed resources for the museum to assess and develop a strategy for safeguarding the works on paper that make up part of the permanent collection. The conservation survey of the works on paper, conducted by Buschor and Clise, provided valuable information about conservation needs of the works.

The survey consisted of more than a quarter of the museum's overall art collection, which consists of nearly 7,000 objects.

Many of the works were mounted using unstable materials such as masking tape, cardboard and acidic mats, causing discoloration and tears. Over the course of nine days, the two conservators, Scholten, and two SDSU student interns will survey each piece, and complete a written evaluation noting all condition issues that need to be addressed.

“We noted which pieces need more urgent care,” said Scholten. “Mold and active flaking are conditions that need urgent care, while minor discoloration, folds and small tears are less urgent.”

The actual treatment of the works is not covered by the IMLS federal grant. The museum will have to apply for another grant and solicit public support in order to have the works restored.

“Some of the works will be treated in-house, but some pieces will need special equipment and expertise, which will require the pieces to be sent out,” said Scholten. “Treatment of the works will be a multiyear project, but we want these pieces to be enjoyed by many generations.”

During their time at the museum, Buschor and Clise conducted a training workshop for the South Dakota Art Museum staff and interns discussing the proper techniques for matting, framing and hinging works on paper.

Buschor and Clise also gave a presentation to the SDSU advanced printmaking class, discussing their work and career opportunities in paper conservation.

Goble collection a priority

The museum's 625-piece collection of Paul Goble's watercolor works on paper was a main priority during the conservation. “Many of Goble's pieces are glued to boards, have discoloration and old adhesive staining,” said Scholten.

Goble, a Caldecott Award-winning children's book author and illustrator, donated the collection to the art museum in 1995.

“This body of work is particularly important to us and our mission, because it's the only collection in the museum that represents a living artist and his entire body of work,” Scholten said.

“Goble's collection serves for exhibitions, but also research. Currently, a Canadian scholar is writing a book on Goble, and these paintings are essential to his research.”

The museum has an endowment fund for people wishing to donate money to help in the treatment and preservation of the artwork. Individuals can also “adopt” a piece of art, and help with preservation costs for a specific piece.
Wetlands may be the least understood ecosystem, but their value is immense, according to Distinguished Professor W. Carter Johnson of the Department of Natural Resource Management. “Anything that affects them will have a big impact on the landscape.”

For more than 40 years, the ecologist has studied wetlands along rivers and in the prairie pothole region that extends from Canada through the Dakotas to Iowa. In recognition of his contributions to wetlands conservation, the Environmental Law Institute has awarded Johnson the National Wetlands Award for Science Research. The award is presented to an academic, consultant or other individual leading scientific research on wetland values and functions, restoration or enhancement.

Since 1989, the National Wetlands Awards program has honored individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to our nation’s wetlands. The recipients provide wonderful examples of how individual citizens across the country can, and do, make a difference in wetlands conservation and restoration efforts.

“I am both elated and honored. This is about as prestigious award as someone in my line of work can get,” said Johnson, adding that he joins a distinguished group of scientists including his colleague, professor Carol Johnston, who received the award in 2009. He was honored at a ceremony May 8 at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C.

Understanding importance of wetlands

Through his wetlands research, Johnson has sought to help people understand their importance. “They have so much biodiversity and importance to the health of the landscape,” he noted, citing wetlands teeming with birds, amphibians and beneficial insects. In addition, wetlands retain floodwaters and filter water naturally.

South Dakota has a unique legacy in its mixture of lakes, wetlands and grasslands. “It’s an incredibly beautiful and productive landscape, and we haven’t treated it very well,” Johnson said.

Most of the river or riparian wetlands along the Missouri River were lost when the reservoirs were established, according to Johnson. He estimated that 80 percent of the riparian wetlands have been destroyed. The only sizable remnants in South Dakota occur below the Gavins Point and Fort Randall dams. These “retain much of their original biodiversity observed by Lewis and Clark,” he explained.

For his dissertation in the early ’70s, he studied the forests along the river. Two years ago, he looked at what has changed over the last 40 years. “The cottonwood is on the way out,” he noted, because they “require floods and new sandbars to regenerate.” American elm is mostly gone from Dutch elm disease and ash trees are being threatened by the emerald ash borer.

Restoring tall prairie grasses

Seven years ago, Johnson became one of the founders of the EcoSun Prairie Farms to demonstrate the viability of a “working grass farm,” as a means of restoring tall grass prairie and pothole wetlands. He and his cohorts formed the nonprofit organization and leased a section of land near Colman, where they began planting blue stem, prairie cord grass and other perennial species native to the area on retired cropland.

The farm generates income from three main sources—forage hay, native plant seed and, more recently, grass-fed beef. The native grasses require less input than rowcrops, while resulting in less erosion, better soil and water quality and more wildlife.

During the dry summer of 2012, he pointed out, “the grass farm didn’t show drought.” The plants were a bit shorter, but “nothing died, and it all came back the next year.” A recent analysis showed a net yearly farm profit of $60,000, and the highest income levels came from wetland acres.

“It’s a different way of farming,” Johnson admitted, but one that farmers who own 400 to 600 acres might want to consider. “I hope we can get it worked onto other farms.”

The awards program is administered by the Environmental Law Institute and supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA Fisheries and the Federal Highway Administration. ELI coordinates the awards program, while the federal agency supporters provide financial support, serve on the selection committee and/or participate in the ceremony.
Dealing with malaria is a fact of life for more than 91 million Ethiopians. Each year 4 to 5 million contract malaria, one of the biggest health problems in this poor country.

“I was sick twice a year,” recalled Woubet Alemu, an SDSU doctoral student and a native of Ethiopia. The mosquito-transmitted illness causes headache, chills and vomiting.

Alemu’s stepmother got malaria after childbirth. By the time the family took her to the hospital 18 miles away, it was too late. She died within a week.

The incidence of malaria was high when he was a child, then it drastically decreased, but within the last few years, it has become more prevalent, Alemu explained.

Despite improvements in the health-care system, transportation and poverty make combating the seasonal disease challenging, according to Michael Wimberly, senior scientist at the Geographic Information Science Center of Excellence.

Through a five-year, $1.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, he and a team of South Dakota scientists will combine environmental data gathered through earth-imaging satellites and surveillance data from public health professionals in the Amhara region of Ethiopia to anticipate malaria outbreaks.

Dealing with high risk, limited resources

The Amhara region has more than 17 million people, 90 percent living in rural areas with most of those engaged in subsistence-level farming. Alemu, whose family has farmed in the Amhara for generations, said the small grains they grow are used to feed the family. “We don’t have enough cash crops.” Consequently, they are unable to pay for medicine.

“This region has one of highest malaria burdens in the country,” said Wimberly, who has worked on early warning systems for West Nile Virus and malaria.

Other team members are senior scientist Geoffrey Henebry, SDSU computer scientist Yi Liu and Gabriel Senay, a research physical scientist at U.S. Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation and Science Center, commonly known as EROS. Senay is also a native of Ethiopia.

Considering source of infection

Only one genus of mosquito, Anopheles, carries the malarial parasite Plasmodium, Wimberly explained. He and his team examine factors, such as temperature and rainfall, which influence the mosquito population.

Peak times for malaria transmission coincide with the planting season—April through June, and harvest—September through December, according to Alemu.
“It’s a rural disease,” said Wimberly. Ethiopia has a monsoon climate so mosquitoes “are knocked down in the dry season and then have to build up their populations again” when the rains come, Wimberly noted. His team has found that what happens in the beginning of the rainy season provides some long-term indicators of transmission potential in terms of mosquitoes.

However, he cautioned, “climate is not the only driver, so we can’t always get very precise predictions.” If the malaria parasite is not present, high mosquito numbers alone will not result in an epidemic, but it’s something that must be monitored.

When infected workers travel from the lowland area to the highlands, he noted, “that can be the ignition to start the fire.”

**Tracking malaria cases**

This project will use a unique, two-pronged approach, according to Wimberly. Predictive software tools will be used to combine massive online archives of environmental data from earth-imaging satellites with disease statistics from Ethiopian public health officials through collaboration with the Amhara Regional Health Bureau; the Federal Ministry of Health; and the Health Development and Anti-Malaria Association, a local nongovernmental organization. The Anti-Malaria Association seeks to provide free medicine to villagers, according to Alemu, who once volunteered with the aid organization.

“By tracking malaria cases as they occur, we can look for anomalies or spikes in the case data, indicators of a bigger epidemic or peak,” Wimberly pointed out. However, disease data alone doesn’t provide much lead time for preventive measures.

Researchers have always shared their information with emergency management people, but Wimberly said, “our idea is to combine environmental and disease data in an integrated system. We bring [public health professionals] to the table up front and they teach us what they need.”

With this approach, the researchers hope to “come up with something more practical and usable than we’ve seen in the past.” The collaboration will help emergency managers decide what they’ll do if they have a six-, three- or even one-month lead time.

“That’s ultimately part of the research, taking the models and linking them to decision support,” Wimberly noted.

Then public health agencies can mobilize the resources to combat malaria where and when it’s most likely to occur and, ultimately, save lives.

**Researchers use BOR grants to improve electronics**

Two researchers—one in chemistry and another in mechanical engineering—will use South Dakota Board of Regents seed grants to improve the performance of electronic devices.

Materials chemist Cheng Zhang is developing organic materials containing chromophore as an active compound to make a device that will transform electrical signals into pulsating light.

Assistant professor of mechanical engineering Gregory Michna is working on a new method of cooling laptops and portable electronic devices called a pulsating or oscillating heat pipe cooling system.

**Electro-optical devices**

Zhang creates the material by suspending chromophore, an organic compound that has color, in a soft yet tough material called a polymer. A coating of this material is then typically placed on a glass or silicon substrate, much like making solar panels, and used to make electro-optical devices.

The bipolar chromophores Zhang is developing are only 3 nanometers long—barely visible under the best electron microscope—and act like magnets. When the tiny rods get too close together, they flip and stick together, Zhang explained.

An electric field is applied to align the poles in the same direction; however, the more chromophores that are loaded into the material, the more difficult this becomes. “This fundamental problem limits the concentration of chromophore that can be loaded into the polymer,” Zhang said.

His research work seeks to solve this problem by creating a protective ring around a portion of each rod to keep them apart. This may “prevent the formation of tight aggregates even at the highest concentration,” Zhang said. He demonstrated this on the first ring-protected chromophore, PCR1, and is applying the strategy to current state-of-the-art chromophores.

**Pulsating heat pipes**

Michna will evaluate the operation of pulsating heat pipes during startup and explore ways to miniaturize the cooling portion to fit in a small heat sink.

Current cooling systems use fluid-filled copper piping with a wick structure along with a fan called a heat pipe. With the pulsating heat pipe, a single tube loops up and down accordion-style from the hot to the cool part of the device, he explained. “The idea is to capture heat on one end and release it on the other.”

This capillary system does not require a wick structure and is partially filled with a working fluid. Used in combination with a heat sink, the fluid vaporizes when it absorbs heat in the hot section and then condenses as it releases heat in the cool portion, Michna explained.

When the temperature difference between the hot and cool ends exceeds a certain threshold, the fluid begins to oscillate in the thin tube. Thus, the passive system “doesn’t draw power,” Michna explained. The design’s simplicity increases its reliability and decreases its cost. However, these oscillations are driven by instability, which makes modeling the process difficult. Michna and his team will try to figure out which parameters affect performance the most.
Thirty-one South Dakota State University advertising seniors won first place at the District 8 National Student Advertising Competition in Minneapolis. The campaign focused on rebranding Mary Kay cosmetics for millennial consumers.

SDSU advertising students won the District 8 National Student Advertising Competition held in Minneapolis April 12.

Ten universities from South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin competed in the regional competition through the American Advertising Federation.

Second place went to the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, third went to Minnesota State University, Moorhead and fourth place went to University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Mary Kay sponsored the annual competition and asked students to create a campaign to increase awareness and consideration for its cosmetic line.

Thirty-one senior SDSU advertising students in the integrated marketing communication and campaigns course participated. Spark, SDSU’s student agency, presented its 20-minute “Better Than Basic” campaign before a panel of judges. Presenters were Aubree Cheadle, Minnesota, Minn.; Laura Hieb, Brandon; Jade Possail, Tyler, Minn.; Todd Western IV, Sioux Falls; and Rachel Wilson, Huntsville, Texas.

“We spent the entire semester working on this campaign with the end result being the competition,” said Jesse Widemark, Brandon. “Winning first place made the whole thing worth it. It was an amazing feeling.”

Originality and creativity set the team apart. The campaign focused on video elements, digital and traditional media, webpage design, package redesign, a mobile app, a value reward system, and collaboration with Caribou Coffee.

The overall concept for the “Better Than Basic” campaign stemmed from the idea that millennials challenge the expectations and limits the world places on them. Millennials view themselves as bold, driven, funny and responsive—but never basic.

Using this concept, the advertising students highlighted millennial women who are leaders and take initiative in their daily lives.

“Preparing for the competition was a learning experience—from working as one voice, to pulling all-nighters, to revising and more revising,” said Kayla Hoover, Sioux Falls. “The moment our school was announced the first place winner reflected months of hard work and commitment toward our campaign, and it was the most incredible feeling.”

The competition is part of the SDSU Department of Journalism and Mass Communication capstone advertising campaigns course, which was taught by Didem Koroglu this semester.

Roxanne Lucchesi taught the media research and planning course preluding Koroglu’s campaigns course. Students involved in the research course conducted a national survey with 365 respondents, 20 in-depth interviews, five social media audits of Mary Kay’s competitors and three focus groups.

The competition is the most prestigious competition in the industry and is highly regarded among professionals as an opportunity to gain real-world experience.

Other team members were Rena Berg, Mitchell; Caleb Bruynes, Luverne, Minn.; Megan Cutler, Groton; Shannon Dougherty, Sioux Falls; Alec Droptiny, Baltic; McKenna Dyer, Plymouth, Minn.; Erin Harris, Sioux Falls; Nick Hartness, Fargo, N.D.; Shawn Hilton, Mitchell; Marian Hooks, Aberdeen; Christian Huber, Sioux Falls; Brady Krumwiede, Watertown; Auston LaBlance Jr., Kansas City, Mo.; Luke Majerus, Owatonna, Minn.; Amanda McShane, Central City, Iowa; Danae Meinerts, Sioux Falls; Kassandra Nyreen, Alcester; Macy Pekas, Sioux Falls; Taylor Roehr, Britton; Erin Sailey, Peterson, Iowa; Paige Shafrath, Hampton, Iowa; Rachel Speiser, Brandon; Emma Struwe, Watertown; Jonathan Treiber, Beresford; and Laura Wolbrink, Marion.

Historically, the advertising students within the SDSU Department of Journalism and Mass Communication have placed among the top teams in the competition. They have ranked among the top four teams in 20 out of 23 competitions since 1991.
Online education among nation’s leaders

BY THE NUMBERS

ONLINE EDUCATION AT SDSU

33.5% of all U.S. higher ed students take at least 1 online course.
21% of all SD higher ed students take fully online courses.
7,339 SDSU students (33.4%) take online courses.
13,814 online credit hours were delivered at SDSU during spring 2014.

ONLINE VS. FACE-TO-FACE

77% of academic leaders rate online learning outcomes as the same/superior to those in face-to-face instruction.
77.5% of online S.D. State students complete courses at the same rate as face-to-face.

BENEFITS OF S.D. STATE ONLINE

Every 3 years, all courses are subject to a quality review.
100% of SDSU online courses are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission North Central Association.

South Dakota is among the top 10 states that provide 31% of all online U.S. enrollments.

Only 3.3% of U.S. higher education institutions serve 3,000+ online students. SDSU is one of them.

Online SDSU students receive the same diploma as on-campus students.
Board of Regents honors three student organizations

The Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College student organization, the FarmHouse Fraternity and the Nursing Student Organization were honored by the South Dakota Board of Regents for their outstanding academic, community and organizational work.

The Fishback Honors College organization received the award for academic excellence. It promotes community and service while maintaining academic excellence for its members. The group plans numerous social events and engages faculty in special activities designed to support students who are enrolled in the Honors College.

Community service has long been a focus of FarmHouse Fraternity, which received an award for community service. Through donations of time and monetary support, FarmHouse members create a better community and gain a greater understanding of the importance of community.

The Nursing Student Association, winners of the award for organizational leadership, is open to all prenursing and nursing majors at SDSU. The group mentors and fosters the professional development of future registered nurses, facilitating their entry into the profession through educational resources, leadership opportunities and skill building.

Students donate to Brookings Food Pantry

Several students in ceramic classes donated $1,865 to the Brookings Food Pantry following their efforts in an Empty Bowls Project. Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to help end hunger.

Each student enrolled in the ceramic classes makes five bowls, which were sold in March in the University Student Union, for the service-learning component of the class. For $7, people can pick out a bowl and have their choice of two soups and a roll. Aramark donated the food this year.
Conch salad and bison burgers are not one’s typical everyday menu items. But it’s not every day that the consul general of the Bahamas pays a visit. Paulette Zonicle, Consul General of the Bahamas, has a taste for the unique and her visit to South Dakota State University did not disappoint. Zonicle recently visited campus in an effort to extend collaboration and facilitate international exchange between the Bahamas and SDSU.

While attending a conference in Washington D.C., Greg Wymer and Song Hoffman from SDSU’s International Affairs Office paid a visit to the Bahamian embassy to meet Zonicle, the first female Bahamian diplomat. Zonicle was keen to set up a network and get a better idea of the Bahamian students currently studying in the U.S. Wymer and Hoffman invited Zonicle to SDSU and she immediately arranged a meeting.

“South Dakota State University is an awesome opportunity for Bahamian students not only because of the competitive tuition and the size of the university, but also because of the quality of the education. It is ranked among the top universities in this part of the United States,” Zonicle said. “For our students who are interested in engineering, agriculture, pharmaceutical sciences and nursing, this is a wonderful opportunity for them to come here. It is a smaller town and it is safe for our children. We are honored that the university has opened its doors for our students.”

With more than 700 islands and close to 400,000 citizens, the Bahamas reports a growing number of students traveling to the U.S. for college, with students and parents seeking higher education at a good value. While at State, Zonicle met with several key administrators including Provost Laurie Nichols and President David L. Chicoine.

“We would like to keep growing our international population and diversity is the key,” said Chicoine while meeting with Zonicle. “We would like to provide diversity on campus and to provide students an opportunity to learn more from the Bahamas. What can be a better way than having more Bahamian students on our campus?”

Zonicle also met with key faculty and staff, including Jill Thorngren, dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences, as well as Lewis Brown, dean of the Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering.

To bring her visit full circle, Zonicle spent an afternoon meeting six of the seven Bahamian SDSU students with a stop at the Dairy Bar to taste the famed Cookies ‘n’ Cream ice cream.

Zonicle was impressed with her visit to SDSU and intends to report favorably to her embassy and contacts in the Bahamas, namely the minister of education, president of the University of the Bahamas and key contacts in the country within the higher education sector. The International Affairs staff intends to propose a visit to the Bahamas in order to raise SDSU’s profile and further connect with international students.

“The good thing about South Dakota State University is that the price is right, which can be very attractive to Bahamian students,” Zonicle said. “We can’t wait to get more students to learn about this institution.”

Sashes distinguish international students

Forty-seven South Dakota State University international graduates celebrated their accomplishments and were honored in colorful fashion at the second annual Sash Ceremony May 9 at the McCrory Gardens Education and Visitor Center. The Office of International Affairs awarded each international graduate a sash honoring his/her home country in the presence of faculty, friends and family.

“The best way to continue to attract quality students is to treat our current students well,” said Greg Wymer, manager of international students and scholars. “The Sash Ceremony, in particular, is important to SDSU because it leaves a lasting impression on the international students as they leave the university.”

Gibril Vandy of Sierra Leone, a 2014 international graduate, gave the ceremony’s student address.

Students were recognized and came forward to receive their sash from President David L. Chicoine. Sashes were also allowed as a special honor at the 2014 SDSU Commencement the following day, highlighting the SDSU international student population.

Below: Angela Sarah Graham, of Ghana, receives her sash from President Chicoine. Sashes were sewn in the corresponding colors of each student’s national flag.
Ellens named Civil Service Employee of the Month for April

Sharon Ellens has been named the April Civil Service Employee of the Month at South Dakota State.

Ellens has worked in the department of biology and microbiology for eight years. As the department’s secretary, Ellens has responsibilities including copying and preparing the majority of the test materials for the department’s classes, at times copying exams for more than 350 students in a single day.

In letters of support, co-workers said Ellens is a friendly and helpful individual who completes her work in an efficient manner.

Co-workers also said Ellens excels in assisting students with questions or concerns.

Ellens and her husband, Dale, live on a farm near Madison. The couple had at least one child attending SDSU for 11 consecutive years.

Val graduated in 2005 with a degree in graphic design, Dave in 2009 with a degree in journalism with an advertising specialization, and Matt in 2012 with a degree in agriculture system technologies.

All SDSU Employee of the Month selections are determined through a nomination process by the Civil Service Advisory Council.

Each civil service employee of the month receives an appreciation monetary gift from the F.O. Butler Foundation.

The trustees of the foundation thank civil service employees for their exemplary service.

Nursing student wins essay contest

SDSU student Leland Murren was named the national winner of the Affordable Care Act essay contest, conducted by MJ Direct Consulting LLC. Murren was selected from more than 150 entries and won a $500 scholarship.

Murren, a sophomore nursing major, is the son of John and JoLene Murren, of Brandon.

Essays needed to be between 500 and 1,000 words. Applicants needed to be enrolled in a college degree program or a high school senior. His essay is below:

What do you believe will be the greatest challenge to the program’s long-term success?

The greatest challenge to the Affordable Care Act will be the extreme cost and red tape caused by the government bureaucracies. By removing the free enterprise system from health care, costs will be influenced by special interests and geographic areas with the highest cost of health care. With the free enterprise system, costs were based on what the market will bear and the tolerance of the local populations to pay those costs.

The government bureaucracies will require policies for the insurance and health industry that are complicated and incomprehensible. By comparing the V.A. Medical System, IRS Tax Code or Federal Contracting System to any private or local government policies, it is easy to see the difference between a large government bureaucracy and a simple comprehensive policy. The large government bureaucracy tends to complicate policies to cover a broad range of terms and contingencies that are not required for the majority of program and functions of a specific program or geographical area.

What, if any, tweaks would you suggest to ensure the sustainable success for all stakeholders?

The tweaks I would suggest would be to take the day-to-day decisions and payment policies out of the federal government’s control. It would be enough for the federal guidelines to cover who gets covered and establish maximum costs and provider liabilities. Allowing hospitals and insurance companies to negotiate the costs, acceptable tests and procedures will lower the administrative legal costs. The maximum liability for insurance and health-care providers must also be standardized. The malpractice and liability insurance costs are unrealistic. By standardizing liability for the industry, they can be managed at a minimal cost. By allowing courts and the legal system to file and pursue unrealistic payments for malpractice and long-term liabilities, the cost of the entire insurance and health-care systems are driven upward.

There is a need to move away from the ideology of free health-care or Affordable Care for everyone. The concept of Affordable Care has to make it possible for the health-care industry to reduce costs and not add to them with the bureaucracies’ broad policies. Health care is not free; someone has to pay for it. Whether the payment comes in the form of taxes, individual policy holders or hospital patients, the more the federal government policy makers are kept out of it, the less it will cost everyone.

In conclusion, in a capitalist society the more goods and services one utilizes, the more affordable and streamlined they become. If one uses more health care than someone else, a greater percentage of one’s income should be prioritized for health care. With the Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security System, we need to utilize those funds for only the populous that cannot afford to pay. Retired citizens do not need to be rewarded with health care if they can afford to purchase it on their own. The Social Security funds should be used only for the needy and not an automatic retirement or disability payment. If we view our payroll deductions for the Social Security program as a tax instead of an entitlement, we may avoid the extreme, complicated and unfair tax known as the Affordable Care Act.
South Dakota chosen to develop, transform teaching abilities

South Dakota State University will help implement training programs for educators to effectively teach students with diverse needs.

South Dakota was among five states to receive assistance to advance teaching methods for students with diverse learning needs.

The five states will collaborate with CEEDAR (Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform), which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, and directed by the University of Florida.

South Dakota, California, Connecticut, Florida and Illinois were chosen because of their competitive grant applications, written by higher education institutions and state school officials. Each state will receive $200,000 throughout the two development-planning years.

SDSU will join forces with Augustana College, Northern State University, University of South Dakota, local education agencies and K-12 school districts, forming a State Leadership Team to implement training programs for the expansion of special education teaching.

Jill Thorngren and Andrew Stremmel represent the College of Education and Human Sciences on the State Leadership Team.

The team will map out skills and support necessary to improve the educational outcomes for students with varied learning needs.

“I believe South Dakota was chosen because we have been successful collaborating with state institutions and schools,” said Thorngren, dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences.

“The emphasis will be placed on training all teachers to effectively work with students with diverse needs,” said Thorngren. “We will focus on taking into account social and emotional needs, attention deficit needs, autism spectrum and much more.”

Teacher development will include training for current and future educators.

“We are bringing together all the teaching entities in the state and deciding how to expand our teaching capabilities,” said Thorngren. “We will use the funds to plan and develop new programs for furthering teaching expertise for special education.”

CEEDAR is in the process of organizing development and networking programs, offering instruction support and online teaching resources, and helping states align their teacher preparation and evaluation systems with the highest professional standards. The assistance will help states refine teacher licensing and certification standards, preparation programs and evaluation systems.

Each year through 2017, five additional states will be selected to receive technical assistance.

“This collaborative effort will allow the special education field to take a giant step in improving the education of students with disabilities,” said CEEDAR Center Director Mary Brownell, a UF professor of special education.

Tvedt named Civil Service Employee of the Month for May

Kathryn Tvedt has been named the May Civil Service Employee of the Month at SDSU.

Tvedt has worked for the university for three years, first in the department of wildlife and fisheries, then in the department of natural resource management.

Her duties also include services as the primary secretary for the South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit as well as specific, assigned duties for the natural resource management department.

Tvedt and her husband, Dan, a farmer and financial planner, have a son and two daughters.

In her spare time, she volunteers with the South Dakota Volleyball Club, 4-H, Brookings Marathon and Sioux Valley school. She also directs music activities at her church. Her hobbies include music, sewing, reading, playing lifelong sports and camping.

In letters of support, co-workers said Tvedt is a dedicated employee and strives to create a welcoming and cordial working environment.

All SDSU Employee of the Month selections are determined through a nomination process by the Civil Service Advisory Council.

Each civil service employee of the month receives an appreciation monetary gift from the F.O. Butler Foundation.
Steve Pohl, professor for the department of agricultural and biosystems engineering, retired May 21 after 27 years of service to the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences.

Pohl’s SDSU Extension and research work in the areas of livestock, ventilation and environment with a focus on its effects on the health and performance of the livestock and agricultural workers has been paramount in establishing industry standards. Through his tenure in SDSU Extension, Pohl made more than 1,000 site visits and was invited to speak in China, South Korea and Vietnam.

Pohl has been a popular and effective teacher in the area of livestock structures within the department and the university, and he received significant acclaim from students, peers and industry leaders for his Ag. Systems Technology Rural Structures course. As an SDSU Extension specialist in structures and environment, Pohl developed and implemented statewide, regional, national and international Extension programming in the areas of agricultural structures and environment, housing, farmstead and grain storage systems planning and waste management, recognized by an SDSU Extension Specialist Association Distinguished Service Award and the Gamma Sigma Delta Extension award.

Gwen McCausland to lead State Agricultural Heritage Museum

The South Dakota State Agricultural Heritage Museum has named Gwen McCausland as its new director. McCausland started May 22.

McCausland has spent the past 12 years working in nonprofit organizations in museums, education, libraries and theater, including the past two years as the marketing coordinator and exhibit designer for the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County in Moorhead, Minn. She also served four years as the curator of collections for the Hubbard Museum of the American West in Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

“What impresses me most about Ms. McCausland is her extensive preparation for this role. She has just the right combination of degrees, experience and career background to lead our wonderful museum into the future,” said Barry Dunn, dean of South Dakota State University’s College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences and director of SDSU Extension.

She received her bachelor’s degree from North Dakota State University and added a master’s degree from Cardiff University in Cardiff, Wales.

The South Dakota State Agricultural Heritage Museum displays the important role of agriculture in South Dakota’s past, present and future. Its exhibits include tractors and farm equipment, an original 1882 homestead claim shack and a re-created 1915 farmhouse. Abundant historic photographs enhance the understanding of South Dakota’s rural qualities.

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance has awarded lecturer Kathryn Morrison with its Faculty Excellence Award.

Morrison, who teaches for the Great Plains IDEA family financial planning graduate program through SDSU, received the teaching excellence award at May’s Great Plains IDEA annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo. The award, which comes with a $2,000 prize, has been in existence since 2011.

“She has taught numerous family financial planning courses, and I can attest that she receives very high evaluations from students in her classes,” said Jill Thorngren, dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences. “This is not because she makes the work easy, but rather because she make her courses interactive, informative and challenging.”

SDSU is one of 20 member institutions in the Great Plains IDEA. Member universities collaborate to offer master’s degrees and certificates for eight human sciences programs and also graduate certificates, course shares and degrees in 10 agriculture programs.

Students enroll in one alliance member university as a home institution. Students then take online courses from member universities offering their program of study. Eight Great Plains IDEA member universities offer the financial planning program.
Fouberg named next Alumni Association CEO

Andrea “Andi” Fouberg, a former South Dakota State student body president, has been named president and chief executive officer of the SDSU Alumni Association, effective July 7.

Fouberg, 37, has worked nine years for U.S. Sen. John Thune in his Washington, D.C., office, the last five as his communications director.

Marc Mooney, chairman of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, said Fouberg will interact effectively with the board, the staff, alumni and other constituent groups, based on her experiences and her interview on campus last week.

“The Alumni Association, the Foundation and the university have set in place ambitious, shared strategic goals,” Mooney said. “Alumni board members are convinced that Fouberg is the right person to lead the association and to work daily with university leaders to achieve those aspirations.”

Fouberg, originally from Letcher, earned Bachelor of Science degrees in journalism and mass communications and in political science in 1999. Her work assignments for Sen. Thune also include three years as deputy communications director and another year in state and community relations. She worked at SDSU as a project coordinator for nearly two years and for the South Dakota Board of Regents as an admissions officer for two years.

“I am thrilled to be returning to Brookings and serving the alumni of SDSU,” Fouberg said. “I look forward to working with the Alumni Association board, the Foundation and the university on advancing their shared missions.”

Fouberg has worked as a national consultant, area facilitator and chapter adviser with the Alpha Xi Delta fraternity that she pledged as an undergraduate student. She was Students’ Association president her senior year at State and delivered the student commencement address later that year. She also was a member of the Pride of the Dakotas marching band.

Fouberg was selected from a pool of 19 qualified candidates in a national search, according to Hal Bailey, vice chairman of the Alumni Association board and chairman of its search committee.

“This search attracted several outstanding candidates from across the United States,” Bailey said. “As the board’s next chair, I look forward to working with her and together building a stronger Alumni Association.”

The eight-member search committee included representatives from the faculty, academic leadership, athletics, the Foundation and the alumni board.

Troelstrup named interim dept. head

Nels Troelstrup was recently named the interim department head for the department of natural resource Management pending approval from the Board of Regents.

Troelstrup has served as a professor and researcher within the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences since 1993 and assistant department head in natural resource management since 2011.

Specializing in biological monitoring and water quality, Troelstrup has focused much of his research on aquatic ecology and biodiversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates. He also manages the Oak Lake Field Station.

Troelstrup was asked to fill the role of interim department head for the department of natural resource management upon the untimely death of David Willis, this January.

Weber named South Dakota’s Young Dietitian of the Year

Mariah Weber was recently named the Young Dietitian of the Year by the South Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Weber, a registered dietitian, is a wellness coordinator at the SDSU Wellness Center.

The academy will honor Weber at its fall conference, which is held in conjunction with the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations conference, September in Rapid City.

“I didn’t know I was even nominated so it was a complete surprise,” said Weber, who received her bachelor’s degree in 2007 and master’s degree in 2010, both from South Dakota State. “It was a huge surprise and is an incredible honor.”

In addition to serving as SDAND’s new member liaison, Weber is the adviser to the HEROH (Helping Everyone Reach Optimal Health) student organization. She also is involved in the community by providing area schools, coaches and student-athletes information on nutrition as well as participating in various wellness events.

Weber was nominated by Kendra Kattelmann, who was chosen as SDAND’s Outstanding Dietitian of the Year in 2005.

“Mariah is an excellent role model for dietetics students desiring to establish a practice in health promotion and wellness. She is supportive of the dietetics academic program at SDSU,” said Kattelmann.
By David L. Chicoine
President, South Dakota State University

Change isn’t easy. In fact, it often meets resistance. However, when it comes to serving the needs of South Dakota—its people, communities and industry—change is a proven tactic, one that has demonstrated its continuing value for SDSU Extension.

Today, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which introduced Extension as the outreach arm of South Dakota State University, the state’s 1862 Morrill Act land-grant institution and leading research university.

In that time, SDSU Extension has evolved constantly to meet South Dakotans’ changing needs and challenges by providing stakeholders with timely access to research-based information and a highly skilled team of specialists.

Supported by federal and state funds, SDSU Extension is a means by which university knowledge and innovations are shared with families, communities and industries across the state. Bringing together research, education and outreach, Extension epitomizes the university’s historic land-grant mission.

As an essential part of the state’s landscape for a century, South Dakotans have come to trust SDSU Extension as a go-to resource for unbiased, research-based information.

But times change and the needs of our constituents have continued to change with them. Federal and state support have decreased. In response, the structure of SDSU Extension also changed—significantly—in 2011. The new system transformed Extension from a place- and person-bound system to a regional, technology-based system that delivers innovative outreach services demanded by its changing client base.

The reorganization was multidimensional, including hiring field specialists with master’s degrees in their areas of expertise. Regional centers opened throughout the state, featuring high-tech learning classrooms that utilize videoconferencing to connect learners to one another and to topical experts in real time. And the importance of youth programming was reinforced via 4-H advisors hired to focus solely on youth development education and volunteer development at the community level.

Perhaps the most visible change was iGrow.org, launched as a web-based learning platform that embraces a 24/7 “virtual Extension office” where clientele can access information at their convenience.

Every aspect of the reorganization was strategically designed to meet the changing needs of South Dakotans and to continue fulfilling the university’s land-grant mission.

Was the change successful? SDSU Extension hired a third-party marketing firm to find out by surveying 400 crop and livestock producers, selected at random from more than 10,000 throughout the state.

The SDSU Extension Benchmark Survey discovered that not only was SDSU Extension fulfilling that land-grant mission, but also that changes made to the delivery system through the reorganization were meeting the evolving needs of South Dakota’s agricultural producers.

While change isn’t easy, these results demonstrate that it was necessary. After 100 years, SDSU Extension continues to be a valuable, trusted and relevant resource for South Dakotans of all ages, incomes and industries.

SDSU repeats as a Tree Campus USA, honors Arbor Day

SDSU has been named a Tree Campus USA for the sixth consecutive year. The Tree Campus USA program, supported by the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota Motor North America, recognizes colleges and universities across America for excellent campus forestry practices and conservation efforts.

In celebration of Arbor Day, SDSU planted a Siberian peashrub in its Arbor Day Park.

Sixteen students were in attendance as was Rick Mayko, community forester with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. In order to become a Tree Campus USA community, State had to meet five core standards. These standards include maintaining a tree advisory committee, implementing a campus tree-care plan, having dedicated annual funding for campus trees, holding an Arbor Day observance and sponsoring student service-learning projects.

“Students are eager to volunteer in their communities and become better stewards of the environment,” said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Participating in Tree Campus USA at South Dakota State sets a fine example for other colleges and universities, while helping to create a healthier planet for all of us.”