

## As We Move Into Our Summer and Fall Semesters, University Center Introduces New Plans and Vision



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We at University Center are excited about the new developments and vision for a higher education partnership centered around the areas of academics, research, service and facilities. We are pleased about what we have accomplished and the impact we have on the Sioux Falls area, but in many ways, we are just getting started. Working together with the community of Sioux Falls our future is very promising. New developments and visions that have been introduced include:

**Academics**

- Nine new degree programs from five state universities including Construction Management, Geographic Information Systems, Industrial Technology and Psychology. This brings degree offerings at University Center to a total of 51.
- 18 additional proposed degree programs from all six state universities. The proposed degree offerings would cover a wide range of disciplines including: entrepreneurship, health care, as well as gradu-

ate level engineering and biomedical engineering.

**Research**

- Establish facilities and dedicate land toward fostering new research activities in Sioux Falls.
- A thriving research park will have an incredible, positive economic impact on the area.

**Service**

- Professional Development programs available to area businesses and organizations. Certificate programs, offered as non-credit classes, are available in supervision and leadership. Additional programs are being developed.
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will begin in the spring of 2007. Funded with a \$100,000 grant for each of the first three years, the Osher Institute targets people 50+. The program will offer a stimulating series of academic study around such topics as current events, international decisions, art history, literature, spirituality, philosophy, travel, science, and learning new skills. If membership goals are

met there is a possible \$1 million endowment available.

**Facilities**

- The classroom building and the Graduate Education and Applied Research Center (GEAR) are being planned on the regents land located in northwest Sioux Falls.
- Construction is slated to begin in spring 2007 with occupancy planned for fall 2008.
- Plans include retaining the two leased buildings on the STI campus and future construction of additional classroom and research facilities as demand warrants.

Our mission is to meet the broad educational needs of the community through a variety of academic programs and delivery methods. At the core of our mission is student success. We want to help individuals achieve their dreams in life

I hope you are as excited as we are about your future at University Center!

## Registration Frustration

You'd like to get in to meet with your advisor this week, but when you call to make an appointment you find out their next available appointment is two weeks away. One of the classes you were planning on taking is now closed and there are already four people on the waitlist.

Does this sound familiar? If so, here are some registration tips that can help you each and every semester!

1. View your priority registration date in WebAdvisor.

- Every student is assigned a registration date based upon how many credits they have completed. This means that the more credits you have, the sooner you are able to register.

2. Call in advance to make an appointment with your advisor, whether it be a face-to-face appointment, phone appointment or email appointment.

- Once you know your priority registration date, you can plan to meet with your advisor that same week... *Remem-*

*ber though, make this appointment in advance to ensure you get the time you want!*

3. Pay attention to important dates.

- Know when registration for current students is going on, and if you're not sure, keep an eye on the website for these dates or call your advisor.

If you follow these tips, registration will no longer cause you frustration!

## University Center Biology Club

All University Center students interested in biology or biology-related careers (agriculture, health sciences, medicine, etc.) are invited to attend the first meeting of the University Center Biology Club. The purpose of the Biology Club is to introduce students to the diversity of careers avail-

able in biology by inviting guest speakers from government agencies, private organizations, medical facilities, and universities to discuss their jobs and their own career paths. Field trips to local research centers, laboratories, museums and parks would also be encouraged. The first meeting

will be held on Thursday, March 1 at 7pm in room 276. For more information, please contact **Jamie Ladonski** at [Jamie.Ladonski@sd-universitycenter.org](mailto:Jamie.Ladonski@sd-universitycenter.org). or 367-8384.

## Give Yourself An Extra Christmas Gift—Take a Class During J Term!

University Center will be offering students the opportunity to take an extra class during the **New J Term**.

Next January we will be introducing the J Term. The J Term will provide students an opportunity to take a course in January that they might not have been able to take during their regular fall and semester semesters. J term will

be an intensive study experience that will be four to six weeks in duration.

Our partner universities will provide courses that will help you move forward in your degree completion.

What are the advantages to taking a J Term class?

- You can focus on one class

- Make your regular semester load lighter

- Complete your degree faster

We are currently in the planning stages for the J Term. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters and on our website.

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## Introducing the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University Center

In July of 2006, the University of South Dakota received a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation to start a Lifelong Learning Institute (known as OLLI) at the University Center. The mission of OLLI at UC is to provide intellectually stimulating lifelong learning and personal growth opportunities for people age 50 and older. OLLI exemplifies the University Center's commitment to community service and lifelong learning through its collaborative work with the partner institutions, academic and professional groups, and organizations devoted to engaging the minds and fostering the well-being of adults in our community.

OLLI will provide to its members courses, workshops, seminars, and symposia on a variety of topics. The framework of OLLI is tentatively divided into 5 categories: classes, social activities, membership activities, entertainment, and travel opportunities. The possibilities are endless! We are limited only by our imaginations and the desires of the members for the kinds of classes and activities that the program offers. OLLI is a membership driven organization, and it relies heavily on

the input, assistance and expertise of the members to function. Therefore, we have formed a Founders Steering Committee to forge the path for OLLI. This Committee will meet for the first time in January, and it will establish the basis for OLLI at the University Center, establish OLLI's Leadership Council, and assist with putting into place the policies and procedures that will shape the program. In March (exact date to be announced), we will hold an Open House to attract members and instructors to the program, and in April or May we will hold our first classes and events.

Membership for OLLI is targeted at 100 after the first year, 300 after the second year, and 500 after the third year. To be eligible for a \$1 million endowment from the Osher Foundation, membership must be at 500.

If you meet the membership requirement of age 50 or older, consider attending the April Open House to join OLLI, register for courses, and meet fellow classmates and professors. Encourage your eligible friends and family to attend too!

The program kickoff is scheduled for the month of June, with exciting activities and short non-credit courses planned on Fridays throughout the month. Also, if you or someone you know has an area of expertise and would like to share it, consider submitting a proposal to teach a course or hold a workshop. Course proposal forms will be available soon. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute welcomes *everyone's* comments and suggestions. For more information or to submit suggestions, contact **Lori Bonderson**, OLLI Director at 367-5226 or via e-mail at [lori.bonderson@sducenter.edu](mailto:lori.bonderson@sducenter.edu).

For more information on the Bernard Osher Foundation and the Lifelong Learning Institute concept, visit the following websites:

<http://www.usm.maine.edu/olli/national/>

<http://www.osherfoundation.org/>

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## Career Connections

**Butch Reinesch** from the South Dakota Department of Labor is here on campus in the Resource Center on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Butch has a wealth of information about career choices and resources to assist you when exploring possible career avenues.

For an overview of the labor market, check out the South Dakota Department of Labor, Labor Marketing Information Center website (<http://www.sdjobs.org/lmic>). This site includes the latest supply and demand of jobs, wage and earnings information, plus other career information which includes South Dakota as well as national statistics.

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## Do Your Taxes—Do Your FAFSA

Once you get your 1098T from the school and your W2's from your employer, you will be ready to do your 2006 taxes, and then you will be ready to do your 2007-2008 FAFSA. Remember the sooner the FAFSA is in, the

better your chance of receiving grants.

Don't overlook the education tax credits that are offered. Some of those would be:

- Hope credit

- Lifetime learning credit
- Student loan interest deduction

Any questions on tax credits should be directed to your tax consultant.

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## Completing the FAFSA

To qualify for Federal Financial Aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA will determine your need for student financial aid. This should be done as soon after January 1st as possible. You may complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

### FAFSA Tips

- For quickest results, get a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the U.S. Department of Education at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and have a parent get one too. You can use the PIN to electronically sign, make changes to, and check the status of your FAFSA.
- You (and your parent if applicable) should complete your U.S. Income Tax Return as soon after January 1st as possible.
- Complete your FAFSA (and any other financial aid forms)

prior to your university's priority date.

- Memorize your Social Security number. You will use it often to apply for financial aid.
- Use your full name as it appears on your Social Security card on all applications, not a nickname.
- Read the instructions carefully when completing the FAFSA—it can be very time consuming to make corrections after it is processed.
- Do not complete the FAFSA until after January 1st.
- Keep copies of all of the forms you use to apply for financial aid. Also keep copies of any forms or letters you receive or send that relates to your financial aid application.
- Student Aid Report (SAR) is a listing of the information you provided on your FAFSA. If there is an error,

contact your Financial Aid Office at the home institution to find out if they can make the correction electronically.

- If you included your email address on your FAFSA, you will receive an email when your SAR is ready to be viewed at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) (have your PIN handy!). If not, paper notification will arrive by mail.
- Learn the deadlines of the applications and forms you need to attend college and be sure to apply on time.
- For assistance in completing your FAFSA, contact **Vikki Van Hull** in the Financial Aid Office at 782-3233.

## Top 10 Ways to Save Money at College

Don't let college debt take over your life! Check out these easy ways to save money at college—you'll be glad you did later.

1. Don't buy what you don't need. It's easy to let money slip away on fun or convenient purchases. You'll be glad to have the cash available when you really need it.

2. Don't get a credit card! If you must have one, shop around for low interest rates and no annual fees. Then only use it for emergencies.

3. Save money on gas; walk, ride

your bike, and share rides with friends.

4. Get a roommate to share the expenses.

5. Long distance phone calls are expensive. Look into prepaid phone cards or use email.

6. Buy used books—either from the campus bookstore or from a student who finished that class last semester.

7. Find free fun. Check the calendar of events at your home university to take advantage of on-campus entertainment such as

concerts, plays, and sporting events.

8. Stop eating out—learn to cook!

9. Instead of going to the movies, rent one! Or better yet, see if your public library has a video section.

10. Stay on top of your finances. Bounced checks and late fees can quickly drain your money away.

Keep in mind that college isn't the time to splurge. Staying out of debt now will mean more money in your pocket tomorrow!

## Spring Tutoring

Free tutoring is available to you! Tutoring plays an important role in helping you succeed in your classes. To help you succeed, we have tutors available in Math, English, Chemistry, as well as basic computer skills. The tutors can help you understand material and concepts. And, best of all, tutors have been recommended by faculty and work with faculty to provide quality tutoring. You can sign up for a tutor in the Resource Center, Room 280E. Tutoring is scheduled for regular weekly one hour time slots. If you feel you need additional help, please visit with the tutor about extra time.

### ***TUTORING SCHEDULE***

	<b><u>Math 021, 101 &amp; 102</u></b>	<b><u>English 033, 101, 201 &amp; 210</u></b>
<b>Monday:</b>	11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm	11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 pm
<b>Tuesday:</b>	11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm	7:00, 8:00 pm
<b>Wednesday:</b>	11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm	11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 7:00, 8:00 pm
<b>Thursday:</b>	11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm	
<b>Friday:</b>	11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm	
<b>Saturday:</b>	10:00, 11:00 am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm	

**English Language Learning** (Room 283) Tuesdays & Thursdays — 9:00 am to 12:45 pm (A tutor is available to assist you with basic computer skills as well as study skills that will help you succeed in your classes.)

**Chemistry** (Room 188) Tuesdays — 9:00 am-12:00 pm

## University Center Welcomes New Employees!

Please join us in welcoming **Sarah Rasmussen**, the Assistant Director of Academic Coordination; **Lori Bonderson**, the Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; **Megan Scharnberg**, Admissions/Retention Coordinator; and, **Vikki Van Hull**, Financial Aid Advisor to University Center.

### **Sarah Rasmussen**

I recently joined the University Center team as the Assistant Director of Academic Coordination. I was born and raised in Manhattan, Kansas (home of Kansas State University). I completed 3 years of course work at KSU until I transferred up to the ever so cold St. Cloud, Minnesota to finish my degree at St. Cloud State University. There I completed my Bachelor degree in Education. After deciding that St. Cloud was much to cold, I moved to the tropic of Minneapolis where I student taught inner city 5<sup>th</sup> graders and went on to teach pre-k children.

Life then led me to Sioux Falls (a little closer to home), where I worked for Turning Point, an adolescent treatment facility, and Washington High School in an "At-Risk" behavior program. I then became a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor for both Adolescents and Adults at Carroll Institute. While at Carroll Institute I also was the Director of an Electronic Monitoring program which entitled managing and placing electronic ankle bracelets on particular offenders that were court ordered to wear them and

monitor their whereabouts. While working there I completed my Master's degree in Management with an emphasis in Criminal Justice.

While this was all very interesting and eye opening, higher education was calling my name. I accepted a position with National American University in Sioux Falls as the Dean of Student Services. From there I became hooked on working in the higher education field and seeing students reach their lifelong goals of earning a degree and bettering their lives, which led me to my current position at University Center. It is so exciting to be part of such a big picture and watch the growth that is going on everyday.

I have a wonderful husband and two children, with one more on the way. When not busy with work or children I enjoy staying very active with hiking, rock climbing and golfing.

### **Lori Bonderson**

My name is Lori Bonderson, and I am the Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at University Center. I am very happy to be on board and to return to higher education after being away for four years. The Osher Program is one of the most exciting ventures I have undertaken in my career. I think the program has huge potential to make a difference in the community of Sioux Falls.

Prior to coming to University Center, I was employed at Avera McKennan Hospital and Univer-

sity Health Center. My job title there was Education and Quality Coordinator, and I worked with the Admitting Departments and Business Offices of Avera McKennan and its owned and leased hospitals to design and deliver education programs related to the revenue cycle of the hospital. Prior to that I lived in Minneapolis and worked for the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management as an advisor, administrator and instructor. I currently teach a class via WebCT twice per year for the U of M's College of Continuing Education.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Education from USD and a Master's Degree in Counselor Education with a focus in Student Affairs from the University of Wyoming.

I have two children: Mack is 7 years old and in first grade, and Lily is 18 months old. My husband Dan is a product manager for John Morrell. In my spare time, I love spending time with my family and friends. I also enjoy reading, traveling (although I don't do so much of that these days because the kids are so small), gardening, and kickboxing.

### **Megan Scharnberg**

Hello to all the students at University Center, I am so excited the Spring semester has started! My name is Megan Scharnberg and I am new to the University Center staff, with my first day on the job being December 11, 2006.

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## University Center Welcomes New Employees! (Continued)

My position as Admissions/Retention Coordinator is a new one here at the University Center so it has been really exciting and challenging.

I grew up on a farm in Southwest Minnesota near Ivanhoe, a small town not far from the South Dakota border; we raised a lot of sheep! I attended South Dakota State University for both my undergraduate degree in History and while I was attending worked at CitiBank in Sioux Falls and was able to take advantage of their tuition reimbursement program, so I know how it is to juggle both work and school. After graduation I started working in the SDSU Admissions office and then started my graduate degree in Counseling & Human Resource Development with a specialization in Student Personnel Administration. I was very happy to graduate in December!

I have been happy to call South Dakota home since I started college and now live right here in

Sioux Falls with my husband, Mark and our two Yorkies, Roxy and Elvis.

If you as a current student ever have friends, family, or acquaintances who are interested in checking out the many opportunities that University Center offers, let them know they can contact me anytime at (605) 367-8463 or at [megan.scharnberg@sduniversitycenter.org](mailto:megan.scharnberg@sduniversitycenter.org) to set up an appointment or just ask questions about the many options that University Center offers to the Sioux Falls community and surrounding areas.

### Vikki Van Hull

Hello, my name is Vikki Van Hull and I have recently joined University Center as a Financial Aid Advisor. After nine-plus years as a Financial Aid Officer at another university, I decided I needed a change.

The years of experience in financial aid has given me an under-

standing of the true needs of the students and I look forward to making the financial aid process become a bit easier here at University Center.

I grew up in Hurley, SD, and moved to Sioux Falls after I graduated. I am married and have twins which gave me the ability to multi-task! I now have four grandchildren and enjoy my grandma time with each of them.

My hobbies are reading, traveling, playing with my dog Matty, and gardening in the summer.

I invite students to feel free to come and see me anytime. My office is on first floor at University Center. My telephone number is 782-3233 and my email address is [vikki.vanhull@sduniversitycenter.org](mailto:vikki.vanhull@sduniversitycenter.org).



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## HSBC Grant Awarded to University Center

University Center in Sioux Falls was the recipient of a \$7,500 HSBC grant. This grant will provide assistance to nontraditional students and ELL students as they pursue a degree in higher education.

The grant will be used to provide free tutoring to students who have been out of school for several years or whose first language is not English. Tutoring will include basic math tutoring, basic computer skills along with study

and time management skills to students.

## ***DATES TO REMEMBER***

### ***FEBRUARY***

**February 19** — President's Day Holiday – **NO CLASSES / OFFICES CLOSED**

### ***MARCH***

**March 5-11**—Spring Break – **NO CLASSES**

**March 12**—Spring Break Ends, Classes Resume at 8:00 AM

**March 29**—Last day to withdraw from the University (ALL CLASSES) and be eligible for a refund of University charges based on federal regulations and Board of Regents policy

### ***APRIL***

**April 2-27**—Pre-registration for current students by priority date

**April 6-9**—Easter Recess – Begins on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM – **NO CLASSES**

**April 10**—Easter Recess Ends, Classes Resume at 8:00 AM

**April 10**—Last day to withdraw from a full semester course, all classes or University and receive a grade of “W” – **NO REFUND**

### ***MAY***

**May 7-11**—Final Exams Week

The University of South Dakota  
2205 Career Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57107-1304

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