

# Newsletter

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## TOP 10 DEGREES IN DEMAND (CNN/Money; November 14, 2005)

A new survey indicates a brighter job outlook for new college grads compared with last year.

A majority of employers expect the job market for the class of 2005 to be more robust than last year, with more positions to fill and higher starting salaries.

Graduates with a bachelor's in business, engineering and computer-related fields will be in highest demand.

Those are some of the findings of the Job Outlook 2005 survey, conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, released Friday.

“We’re seeing a number of positive indications that the job market for new college graduates is improving,” said Marilyn Mackes, NACE’s executive director, in a statement. “For example, more than 80 percent of responding employers rated the job market for new college graduates as good, very good, or excellent. In comparison, last year at this time just over 38 percent gave the job market those ratings.”

The survey found that seven out of 10 respondents expect to increase starting salary offers by an average of 3.7 percent. Employers also said they would reassess their hiring needs more frequently. The largest group (33.3 percent) said they would do so annually.

When asked which new college grads they were likely to hire, the greatest number of employers said they were interested in hiring grads who majored in accounting, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, business administration and economics/finance.

Rounding out the top 10 list were students who majored in computer science, computer engineering, marketing or marketing management, chemical engineering, and information sciences and systems.

Of the 254 employers who took NACE’s survey, 45.7 percent were service-sector employers, 40.5 percent were manufacturers, and nearly 13.8 percent were government or nonprofit employers. Regionally 35.8 percent are from the Midwest; 30.7 percent are based in the South; 21.3 percent are in the Northeast; and 12.2 percent hail from the West.

In an earlier NACE survey this fall, nearly 61 percent of employers said they planned to hire more college grads from the class of 2004-05 than they did from the previous year’s class. On balance, NACE expects to see an increase in hiring of 13 percent.

TOP 10 DEGREES IN DEMAND	Approved for USDSU*
Accounting	✓
Electrical Engineering	✓
Mechanical Engineering	✓
Business Administration/Management	✓
Economics/Finance	✓ (Finance)
Computer Science	✓
Computer Engineering	
Marketing/Marketing Management	
Chemical Engineering	
Information Sciences and Systems	✓

Source: NACE Job Outlook 2005

\*Annotated by USDSU

## SALES AND MARKETING SCHOLARSHIP

Each year SMEI (Sales & Marketing Executives, Inc.) - Sioux Falls awards scholarships to sophomore, junior or senior level students continuing their business related education at an institution of higher learning in southeastern South Dakota. Scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence, community involvement and leadership. In recent years, finalists have received awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

In March 2005, the Scholarship committee is happy to announce that SME will be giving four scholarships with a total face value of \$8,000. The highest amount that can be received will be \$3,000.

To apply for these scholarships, visit:

<http://www.semsiouxfalls.org/YouthEducation.shtml>



USDSU has compiled a list of licensed child care providers. To view the listings on our website - [www.usdsu.org](http://www.usdsu.org) click on the Current Students link, then click on the Child Care Providers link.

Kristy at the Volunteer Help Line (211 or 339-4537) has an up-to-date list of child care providers. Also, the Resource Room has a Parent Resource Directory which details programs and services in the community that provides resources and support to parents.

## IMPORTANT DROP/ADD/WITHDRAWAL DATES

- Last day to drop a class for 100% refund: **1/20/05**
- Last day to add classes: **1/20/05**
- Last day to withdraw from ALL classes and be eligible for a partial refund: **3/24/05**
- Last day to drop an individual class and receive a grade of "W": **4/5/05**
- Last day to withdraw from ALL classes and receive a grade of "W": **4/5/05**

## SPRING BOOK DEFERRALS

Spring book deferrals may be available for those students whose aid will not be available during the first week of classes, January 10 – 14, 2005. Please check with the cashier's office to determine eligibility and to complete the necessary forms.



Patti DiMond had a paper entitled, "Breaking Stereotypes by Reclaiming Indian Identity in Sherman Alexie's *Indian Killer*" accepted at the Southwest Texas Popular Culture/American Popular Culture conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico to be held February 10-14, 2005.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FORUM

A Community Leadership Forum was held on Monday, November 8th. Dara Duguay, Director, Citigroup's Office of Financial Education spoke to those in attendance on the topics of Financial Literacy as well as Money Rules You Can't Afford to Break.



## FACULTY & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

This issue features three faculty members: Kurt Kemper, Barb Myers and Doug O'Neil; in addition to Sharlen Krause, the USDSU Student Services Coordinator.

### KURT KEMPER

Kurt Kemper received his BS in History from the University of South Dakota as a University Scholar in 1991. After working for a short time as a contract historian for the National Park Service, he completed an MA in American History at George Mason University in 1995, writing his Masters project on the Confederate use of slaves during the American Civil War. Completing his PhD from Louisiana State University in 2000, his dissertation consisted of a case study examining the role of student activism during the Cold War.

After serving as an instructor at LSU for two years, Kemper taught as an Assistant Professor at River Parishes Community College in Sorrento, Louisiana, before finally accepting a position with the USD history department to teach in Sioux Falls. In addition to teaching the American and Western Civ. survey sequences, he also teaches American Sports History, which is the source of his research agenda. He is currently working to finish his book examining the role of college football and masculinity in the Cold War. Additional publications include his chapter, "Dark Spirits: The Emergence of Cultural Nationalism on the Sidelines and on Campus," appearing in *Sports and Black Power*, edited by Michael Lomax, and his article "College Football and the Expansion of the Civil Rights Movement in the West," in the *Journal of Sports History*. He has presented his research at the annual meetings of the Southern Historical Association, the Western Historical Association, and the North American Society for Sport Historians. In 2002, Kemper was named as a fellow in residence by the National Endowment of the Humanities to attend a summer institute entitled Sports and Modern American Culture, co-sponsored by Northeastern Illinois University and the Chicago Historical Society.

### BARB MYERS

After graduation from high school, I married a man in the Air Force and we will soon be celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> year of marriage. This marriage, although it allowed me to see a number of countries (Germany, Italy, Spain, France, England, Austria, and Belgium) that I may never have had the opportunity to see, and the frequent moves delayed the pursuit of a college degree. Until shortly before my husband's retirement, I worked as a secretary. I knew early on that being a secretary was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

In 1987, I had the opportunity of working on a computer. A number of things happened, including a hard drive crash, which led me to the decision to take a computer class. All I really wanted at that time was to take a class which would help me determine what was wrong with the computer when it "acted up". I found this class so enjoyable, that I decided to pursue a degree. While looking at the degree choices from the universities in the area, I found that none of them offered a degree which could be pursued while working full-time. I decided to begin the pursuit anyway and hoped "something" would open up. In the process of talking to my advisor during my second year of college, I realized the school was discussing the possibility of offering several courses during the evening for those students that were working full-time. I guess you could say I was a pioneer in this field when I was in Mississippi because no other schools offered this option. Through student inputs and faculty coordination, the school was able to offer students the option of pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business with a concentration in Information Systems. Although I was interested in pursuing a degree in Math, this was not the option provided—so I decided on the only degree offered which I could pursue. The more I worked on this degree, the more I found I enjoyed Information Systems. I graduate from Mississippi University for Women (and smart men too), *Cum Laude*, in May of 1993 and immediately began working as a software support specialist.

I continued to work in software and hardware support positions until December of 1999 when, after a move to South Dakota and some more research into Master Degrees, I found I could pursue and obtain a Master of Science in Information Systems from Dakota State University virtually on-line. Once again, a relative pioneer, I was in the second or third group of students accepted into

*(Barb Myers-Continued)*

the newly developed program. I initially began pursuit of the degree in the fall semester of 1999, and left my full-time position to pursue the degree in December of 1999. In the fall semester of 2000, I began work as a teaching assistant. In May of 2002, I graduated from Dakota State with honors and my MSIS and concentrations in E-Commerce, Networking, and Data Mining.

I began teaching full-time for Dakota State University in September of 2003 and have been teaching since. I still keep my hand in the technical aspect of my field by helping with technical support issues when needed. I also began pursuit of my Doctorate in Educational Administration with a cohort group (the first in Sioux Falls for this degree) in the summer of 2003 with an expected graduate date in Spring of 2006.

Most of my spare time is involved in reading or knitting (I like to make Christmas and Birthday presents). Of course my son and his wife (currently living in Germany) have 2 children. Just making presents for the grandchildren and nieces and nephews keeps me busy knitting, knitting, and knitting.

#### *DOUG O'NEIL*

Dr. Douglas O'Neill, who teaches sociology at the US-DSU, was hired as a full-time associate professor by South Dakota State University sociology department at the beginning of the spring semester 2003. Prior to this he was an adjunct professor at Mt. Marty, University of Sioux Falls, SE Vocational and SDSU. Dr. O'Neill received his PhD in sociology in the spring of 1996, M.S. in geography in 1979 and B.S. in history in 1976 all from South Dakota State University. His dissertation for his doctorate dealt with widowers who deal with life after their spouse dies and how he the widower copes with raising school-age children as a single parent. His master thesis researched the history of snowstorms and blizzards in Easter South Dakota over a 20 year period and what impact they have had. Both papers have been published in either a magazine or book format.

O'Neill a native South Dakotan graduated from Watertown High School in 1969. After attending Northern State University for three semesters, he enlisted in the United

*(Doug O'Neil-Continued)*

States Air Force. While in the USAF he served at Williams, AFB in Arizona, Osan, Korea and Udorn, Thailand as an Aero-Vac medic. It was during this time frame that he states that he went from a teenage-adult to an adult. During this time frame he states that his life changed in ways that forced and allowed him to mature and to think out-side of the "me" syndrome that is so strong in America culture.

After receiving his M.S. in geography, Dr. O'Neill then went on to work in St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri for NIMA (National Image and Mapping Agency) under DOD for 13 years. In 1990 he moved back to Brookings, SD with his six children after the death of his first wife and there he earned his doctorate in sociology.

Current interests for Dr. O'Neill are to actively incorporate GIS (geographic information system) technology in his sociology courses in the near future. This will enhance the computer-based generation to better understand how sociology fits into many other disciplines with the power of thematic base maps of information. This information will help students better relate to correlations and the out come of countless variables that impact our society from numerous sectors. Along with this, he plans to continue writing and to promote the idea that a course on 'Death and Dying in Our Society', should be considered a must course for students. However, he admits that he is bias towards this subject since he does teach the topic matter.

Presently O'Neill and his wife Mary, who is a research scientist at SDSU, live in Brookings, with one of their six children who is in high school. Traveling and the sampling of all types of ethnic foods, are some of their interests.

*SHARLEN KRAUSE*

Sharlen attended Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD as a non-traditional student and from there she attended the University of South Dakota where she received her Masters of Arts degrees in Adult and Higher Education and Educational Psychology and Counseling. Even though she received her undergraduate degree as a non-traditional student, Sharlen has been in the field of education all her life. Presently, she is a student at USDSU and is pursuing her Ed.D. in Adult and Higher Education. Lifelong learning is a very important part of her philosophy and Sharlen wants to see all students become lifelong learners.

Sharlen's husband, Ray, teaches industrial technology at the Wakonda Public School and Irene Public School. She has four children and two grandsons. Traveling is one of Sharlen's hobbies. She likes to visit her children in Michigan, Oregon and Arizona. And, lucky for her, her son, daughter-in-law and grandsons live in Sioux Falls so she gets to watch her grandsons play soccer and football!

### USDSU COOKBOOKS

Get your copy of the USDSU Cookbook today! The Cookbooks are available for sale at the Cashier's Office for \$5.00.

Christmas is just around the corner—the Cookbooks will make great stocking stuffers!



### Establishing a Schedule



*Advising* – academic advising is critical! Each university has a general education advisor available to assist students with course selection. See your advisor regularly to make sure you are on track with your academic program, courses, etc.

*Register early* – do not wait until the last minute to establish your schedule. Access WebAdvisor early and figure out your registration priority date. Once the schedule is available to you, begin searching and create a tentative schedule. Make sure you have many options in the event one of your courses is full by the time you are able to register. You can monitor the course to see if it has become closed (the capacity has been met), via WebAdvisor. Either write down the information, or copy and paste the course information into Microsoft Word so you have the information readily available.

*Be aware of deadlines* – it is crucial that you familiarize yourself with university deadlines. If you miss one, it could cost you not just money but grades as well (ex. drop/add, fee payment, course withdrawal). The university posts this information throughout the campus and on their websites. If you are unsure of deadlines, call and ask either our main office (367-5640) or your home school's Enrollment Services office.

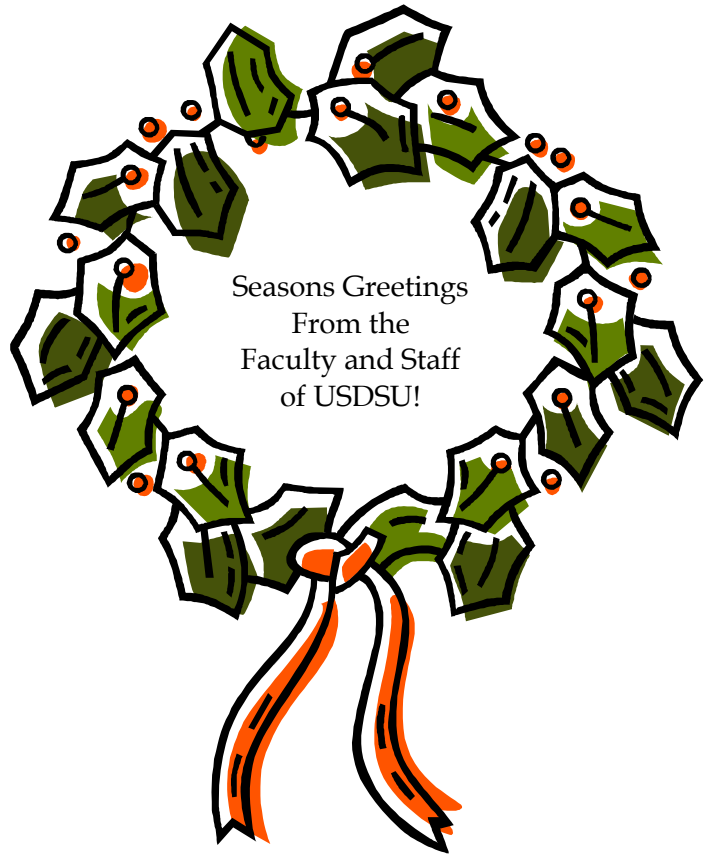
*Do not overload yourself, know your limits* – if you have many commitments outside of attending courses at USDSU, you may want to limit the amount of credit hours you take. Be realistic when setting a schedule. Don't over schedule yourself and allow your work, school family, or any other aspect of your life to suffer because of it.

*Familiarize yourself with your course catalog* – the catalog contains very useful information pertaining to your academic program and also the university's course offerings. Oftentimes you can locate a tentative schedule for your academic program to assist you in devising a schedule. The catalog is available online at your home university's website, or you can request a hard copy from your home university.



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- December 24—Christmas Holiday Observed (USDSU Offices Closed)
- December 31—New Year’s Holiday Observed (USDSU Offices Closed)
- January 11—Spring 2005 Classes Begin
- January 17—Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday (USDSU Offices Closed)
- January 20—Last Day to Drop a Class for 100% Refund
- February 21—Presidents Day Holiday (USDSU Offices Closed)
- March 7-11—Spring Break
- March 25-28—Easter Recess
- April 5—Last Day to Withdraw and Receive a “W”
- May 2-6—Final Exams Week



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