

Newsletter

October 2004 Issue: 23 Page 1 of 6

2205 Career Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57107 • Phone: (605) 367-5640 • Fax: (605) 367-5643 • www.usdsu.org

Rigor and Relevance

Our goals for the curriculum at USDSU

At a meeting for Governor Rounds' 2010 Education initiative, I heard the phrase "rigor and relevance" used by someone discussing curriculum issues. It stuck with me.

Rigor – As a student at USDSU, you should expect the same level of quality a student attending on one of the three partner campuses would receive in each class and throughout your program. Likewise, faculty can expect to apply the same standards here as they do on campus with respect to work assignments, attendance and grading. The University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University and Dakota State University have outstanding reputations for quality programs. You should expect no less.

Relevance – The classes and programs here are designed to be relevant to your needs in many ways. First, we try to deliver programs here that are relevant to the local economy and your career goals. Next, we try to deliver the curriculum in a way that is relevant to and respectful of your very busy lives. Finally, we try to keep our curriculum development as focused as you are on your studies. In short, we know you want classes that lead to your degree, are offered on a convenient schedule and are meaningful to your goals.

As we work through this year, curriculum planning and development will be hot topics and rigor and relevance will be our guiding principles.

"3 STRIKES RULE":

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON COURSE ENROLLMENT

Recently the South Dakota Board of Regents instituted a policy that may have an impact on many academic decisions made regarding registration or drop/add. Basically stated, a student has three tries to pass a course—any grade, including a W, counts as a try. The following is taken directly from the BOR Policy Manual. If you have any questions about the policy or are unsure whether it will impact your registration decisions, please see a member of your advising team.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Registration **NUMBER:** 2:4

1. Students will be allowed a total of three takes for undergraduate courses (course numbers 001-499) for which credit is only counted toward graduation once. The student must petition the Vice President for Academic Affairs for permission to take an undergraduate course more than three times.
2. Students will be allowed a total of two takes for graduate courses (courses numbers 500 and above) for which credit is only counted toward graduation once. The student must petition the Graduate Dean for permission to take a graduate course more than two times.
3. Students will be allowed unlimited takes for an undergraduate or graduate course for which credit toward graduation may be received more than once (e.g., Independent Study, Thesis). All takes will count in grade point average calculations. Individual departments/majors may limit the number of credits allowed toward graduation in certain courses.

(Continued on Page Two)

“3-Strike Rule” (Continued)

4. The Audit (AU) grade is the only grade that will not be counted as a take of a course. All other grades, including a Withdraw (W) grade, will count as a take of a course.
5. Transfer courses and non-courses (e.g. CLEP, credit by exam) will count as a take of a course.
6. The count for retakes will begin with courses in which students are enrolled Fall 2003. Takes of a course prior to Fall 2003 will not be counted.

Source: BOR April 1997; BOR December 1993; BOR December 2003

Why am I doing this?

College costs a lot of time and money

Why am I going to college? After all, I am busy with work and maybe family. Plus, it costs a lot of money and time. Why put myself through this?

The following chart taken from the CNN website on September 21, 2004 is one reason you are here and more motivation for continuing your studies.

WHAT'S A DEGREE WORTH?		
	AVERAGE STARTING SALARY	CHANGE FROM YR. BEFORE
Chemical engineering	\$52,539	0.30%
Computer engineering	\$51,297	-0.10%
Computer science	\$49,036	4.10%
Mechanical engineering	\$48,578	--
Industrial/manufacturing engineering	\$46,036	-2.20%
Information science	\$42,375	10.70%
Civil engineering	\$42,056	0.90%
Management information systems	\$41,579	2.50%
Accounting	\$41,058	1.00%
Economics/finance	\$40,630	3.00%
Nursing	\$38,920	0.40%
Business administration	\$38,254	6.20%
Marketing	\$34,712	2.00%
Political science	\$32,296	3.60%
English	\$31,113	8.10%
History	\$30,344	-4.80%
Liberal arts*	\$30,212	3.70%
Elementary education	\$30,059	1.20%
Biological/life sciences	\$29,629	0.60%
Psychology	\$28,230	2.00%

*as a group
Source: NACE Fall 2004 Salary Survey

The article focuses on a number of areas and the earnings potential for those who receive a bachelor’s degree. And, these are starting salaries!

We do know that over a lifetime, statistics clearly show that more education means more income and less unemployment. In addition, we do know that some of the fastest growing employment opportunities will only be available to those with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

So, why are you doing this? It is because you have made a decision to invest in your most valuable asset—you. You have chosen not to sell yourself short. It is a wise decision and one that should reward you with a lifetime of opportunities.



WEATHER RELATED CLASS CANCELLATIONS

With winter fast approaching, there may be times when classes are cancelled due to the weather. When individual classes are cancelled by instructors, the cancellations are posted on the USDSU website (usdsu.org). Click on the class cancellation link to check if your class has been cancelled. If all classes have been cancelled, an announcement will be sent to the television stations—KDLT, KSFY, KELO.

WEB ADVISOR

Web Advisor provides students with online access to their own information on the student database. This includes grades, class schedules, unofficial transcripts, registration, add/drop of classes and program evaluation. Students who do have a Web Advisor ID or password may search for classes without the ID information. We encourage students to utilize this service; our staff is willing to assist with training and are available to answer questions and assist with any problems may occur.

FACULTY DIRECTORY

Beginning this semester, contact information for faculty who are teaching at USDSU is listed on the usdsu.org website. To locate this information, click on the Faculty and Staff link, and then on the Directory (Faculty) link.

ENGLISH is AWESOME!

GET CREATIVE!! Do you write poems in the margins of your Calc notes? If so, the English faculty invites you to submit your work for the newsletter. We’ll select one or two original poems for each issue and share the talent of our USDSU students! Submit your poems—along with your name, title of work, and a sentence or two about you, to any English faculty member, or email them to:

marcella.remund@usdsu.org,
patti.dimond@usdsu.org, or
robin.flom@usdsu.org.

FACULTY & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

In this newsletter we are featuring three faculty members: Patti DiMond, John Hollingsworth and April Semmler. We are also featuring Jay Bethke, Senior Secretary to the DSU Director.

Patti DiMond

Patricia DiMond received her BA *Summa Cum Laude* from Youngstown State University (1994) with focus in British Literature and her MA with concentration in American Literature, focusing on Contemporary Native American Poetry, from the same institution (1997). She is a fourth year Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Dakota and her area of specialty is Contemporary Native American Poetry. DiMond is also employed by USD as a full-time instructor at the Sioux Falls annex USDSU.

DiMond was a teaching assistant at Youngstown State in 1995. In 1996, she accepted a full-time position at Fitch High School in Austintown, Ohio, teaching British Literature, American Literature, Composition, and honors courses while working on her Master's degree. She was faculty advisor for Amnesty International and RDE (Reading, Development, Enrichment for gifted children). After receiving her MA, DiMond accepted a position at Dine' College in 1998 on the Navajo Nation Reservation in Tsaile, AZ, where she worked under Native American writer Anna Lee Walters. In 1999, DiMond took a position at Sinte Gleska University in Mission, SD, on the Rosebud Reservation, and in 2000, DiMond was accepted into the Ph.D. program as a teaching assistant at the University of South Dakota. She was hired as a full-time instructor by the University of South Dakota for the Sioux Falls campus annex in 2003. DiMond has delivered critical papers at the Native American Literature Symposium in Mystic Lake, MN, at the Southwest Texas Popular Culture Association in Albuquerque, NM, at the American Culture Association in New Orleans, and at the Fifth Native American Literature Symposium in Durant, Oklahoma. In addition, she has written academic articles on Native American authors for the Encyclopedia of Multicultural Literature and the Encyclopedia of Native American Literature. DiMond also has numerous creative small press poetry publications. She is currently working on her dissertation with an expected graduation date of Spring of 2005.

John Hollingsworth

After 15 years as an Actuary I decided to chuck it all and become a teacher. I had taught 2 years as a Teaching Graduate Assistant at Eastern Illinois University and remembered those days fondly compared to the life in the corporate world. I had continued taking classes and decided to get my teaching certificate in 1995 from Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois. I taught 4 years of high school mathematics before coming to USDSU in January of 2001 and have been here ever since. I received my B.A. and M.A. in Mathematics from Eastern Illinois University in 1979 and 1982. My wife and I moved here in 1998 from Prospect Heights (a northwest suburb of Chicago). Why would anyone move from Chicago to South Dakota? A question that we heard many times from many people. Her job asked her to and we both had grown up in small rural communities in southern (anyplace South of Chicago in Illinois) Illinois.

What do I like about teaching here at USDSU? I get to teach a variety of mathematics courses and of course the students. I find the most enjoyable part of my job is the contact with the many different students I encounter every day here at USDSU. A lot of my students come into math scared and determined that they can't do it and somehow we managed to fumble our way through the material each semester. It is exciting to see how USDSU has grown in the last 4 years.

My wife is a Financial Actuary for Midland National Life here in Sioux Falls. We have been married twenty some years. She previously worked for North American Company for Life and Health in Chicago which was bought by the same company that owns Midland which is how we actually ended up here in South Dakota.

My personal interests are gardening, reading non-fiction, and following the Chicago White Sox in their many struggles with the Minnesota Twins. My wife and I enjoy driving vacations when we can get away – I drive and she directs. We have no children but do have a 4 year golden retriever Jake, rescued by RAGOM (Rescue a Golden of Minnesota). Jake was abandoned at the Ellsworth Air Force Base and joined our household in November 2000.

April Semmler

My name is April Semmler and I am 27 years old. I am originally from a small town in central South Dakota called Ree Heights.

I graduated from Miller, SD in 1995 and went on to college at South Dakota State University. I received my Bachelor's of Arts degree in Communication Studies and Theatre in 1999. I then went on and obtained my Master's of Science degree in Communication Studies and Journalism in 2001. I taught one year in Morris, MN and then came to USDSU after that.

On August 1, 2004, my Army National Guard unit and I returned home from an eighteen month activation and a sixteen month deployment over in Kuwait and Iraq. I am in the 740th Transportation Company based out of Milbank, SD and Brookings, SD and we drive the line haul 18-wheeler semi trucks.

I currently reside in Sioux Falls and am teaching SPCM 101: Fundamentals of Speech here at USDSU.

Jay Bethke

Jay is a Sioux Falls native who has assisted students and staff at USDSU for over a year, originally as secretary to the advising staff and currently as senior secretary for DSU. Jay considers USDSU his most pleasant working experience thus far in life and is happy to be a part of it as it expands and grows.

Jay attended a wide swath of institutions in South Dakota, Minnesota, East Germany and Malta before completing his BS in English at MSU, Mankato in 2002. Since then, he has begun work on an MA in History through USD with a focus on Europe and Africa. Jay is intent on continuing his education beyond an MA but has yet to decide on a specific program or school.

Outside of school and work, Jay is an insatiable reader and writer, his favorite hangouts in Sioux Falls undoubtedly being Barnes and Noble and his own home office. He loves classical and world music and is hopelessly international and eclectic in his tastes. Consequently, travel to anywhere is a priority to Jay even though he considers himself profoundly fortunate to have roamed as much as he already has. In summer 2005 he is hoping to travel across Russia, the homeland of his wife, with both her and their newborn son.

DOWNTOWN ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The membership of the Downtown Rotary recently provided USDSU the opportunity to award a scholarship to students demonstrating academic excellence. Students must be enrolled in good standing at USDSU through one of the three partner institutions with a strong academic record.

Two recipients were awarded the Downtown Rotary Scholarship for this year. Rebecca Tews, an employee of Tea Steakhouse, is a part-time student pursuing a degree in Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies from USD. Sharon Drews, who works with the DSU Director at USDSU, is a full-time DSU student studying E-Commerce.



Become a STARR Student!

USDSU is pleased to introduce a new series of workshops designed to provide you with useful information as you work toward your educational and career goals. If you would like to see a topic covered, feel free to contact a member of your advising team at 367-5640.

Wednesday, Sept. 22** – **Introduction to College “Lingo”**

**Note date change! 12:00pm Room 270

Tuesday, Sept. 28 – **Note-Taking Made Easy**
5:30pm Room 182

Tuesday, Oct. 12 – **Make a “Major” Decision:
Choosing a Major** 12:00pm Room 278

Thursday, Oct. 28 – **Creating a Resume That Will
Get Results** 5:30pm Room 271

Monday, Nov. 15 – **Developing Your Test Taking
Skills** 5:30pm Room 281

Tuesday, Dec. 7 – **Making “Final” Preparations:
Studying for Finals** 12:00pm Room 278

SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR TEST ANXIETY



BEFORE THE TEST, TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF:

- **Be prepared.** Study the material in advance; do not leave cramming for the day before your test. Do not do a last minute review.
- **Get plenty of sleep.** It is hard to function at your best when overtired.
- **Have a moderate meal.** Fresh fruits and vegetables help reduce stress; avoid caffeine, sugar and junk foods.
- **Allow yourself plenty of time.** Arrive at the test location early.
- **Choose a seat** where you will not be easily distracted.
- **Use abdominal breathing** to help reduce anxiety.
- **Do a reality check.** How important is this exam in the grand scheme of things? Put it in perspective.
- **Use positive affirmations.** Say a phrase to help keep things in perspective, “I’ve done this before, I can do it again” or “I have all the knowledge to get this done.”

DURING THE TEST TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO:

- **When you receive your test** use the back to jot down all the information you are worried you might forget. Remember to ask first whether you can write on the test form itself.
- **Review the entire test.** Read the directions carefully.
- **Work on the easiest portions of the test first.**
- **Pace yourself.** Do not rush through the test.
- **If you go blank,** skip the question and go on to the next question.
- **Take short breaks,** tense and relax your muscles throughout your body.
- **Pause,** do a few abdominal breaths, say your affirmation.
- **Stay in the present moment.**
- **Remember,** there is no reward for being the first done.

AFTER THE TEST:

- **Try not to dwell on your mistakes.**
- **Congratulate yourself!** Indulge in something relaxing for awhile.

ENROLLMENT VERIFICATIONS (For In-School Deferments, Insurance, Etc.)

All enrollment verifications for previous student loans, insurance, housing and others will be handled through the National Student Clearing House. All forms that need enrollment verification can be sent to:

National Student Clearing House
13454 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 300
Herndon, VA 20171

FOOD!

We hope you have been enjoying the food vendors this fall. Uncle Ed’s has been offering pork or beef sandwiches on Tuesdays; Quizno’s serves subs on Wednesdays, with Bagel Boy serving bagel sandwiches on Thursdays

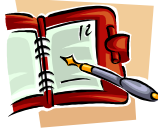
USDSU COOKBOOKS!

The faculty and staff of USDSU submitted their favorite recipes and have created a cookbook, which we hope will be enjoyed by all. Be sure to purchase your copy at the Cashier’s Office soon. The cost for each cookbook is \$5—they will make great stocking stuffers this Christmas!

CHILDREN

USDSU policy states that children are not allowed in classrooms, testing areas, laboratories or other instructional areas. In order to protect your children and enhance the educational experiences of yourself and others, we ask that you refrain from bringing children to class.

DATES TO REMEMBER



- October 11**—Native American Day, No Classes/
Offices Closed
- November 5**—Last day to withdraw from all classes
and be eligible for a partial refund
- November 11**—Veteran’s Day, No Classes/Offices
Closed
- November 16**—Last day to drop an individual class
OR withdraw from all classes and receive a grade of
“W” (no refund)
- November 25**—Thanksgiving
- December 21**—Fall Semester Ends
- January 11**—Spring Semester Begins



Laura Halverson, Senior Secretary to the SDSU Nursing Program in Sioux Falls, is appearing in the play “Bad Year for Tomatoes.” The play will be held at the Olde Town Dinner Theater in Worthing through October 16th.

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