

# UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

Magazine

// FALL 2019



# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall greetings from the University of Sioux Falls! Anyone on campus over the course of summer saw many improvements to grounds and facilities happening. While none of them were particularly glamorous improvements—HVAC units for the Cleveland Center, two new boilers for Jeschke and the Mears Library respectively, road improvements and more—these are indeed the types of improvements that keep our operations running smoothly and allow us to keep our focus on serving our students and our campus community well.

Like so much of what we do large and small at USF, such improvements are guided by a strategic plan that is built around supporting and executing USF's mission to foster academic excellence and the development of mature Christian persons for service to God and humankind in the world. In starting our new rendition of the plan this year, we must be more proactive and visionary than ever given the undisputedly changing times in higher education right now. We will continue discussions of the national and regional landscapes to inform and guide our trajectory. What will remain the same, as it has for 136 years of USF's existence, is our focus on family. USF means family, and families share the gift



of faith and fellowship with each new generation.

As we look to the future, we celebrate the hard-earned successes we have achieved. One that bears calling out is that USF has worked hard on the clarity and quality of the University's value proposition and has taken recent bold moves to this end, such as the tuition reset announced in 2017. Indications of its success include this fall welcoming USF's largest-ever student population onto campus, which bucks the trend universities are seeing nationwide.

On the drawing board right now are considerable improvements that would allow the entire Sioux Falls community access to an enhanced USF library space right in the heart of Sioux Falls. Also on the drawing board are finishing enhancements to fitness facilities at the USF Sports Complex located on 69th and Cliff.

We look to the higher education horizon with a sense of optimism and a hand open to building partnerships for the good of the entire community which supports us and the entire USF family.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Bradfield". The script is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Brett Bradfield  
President, University of Sioux Falls



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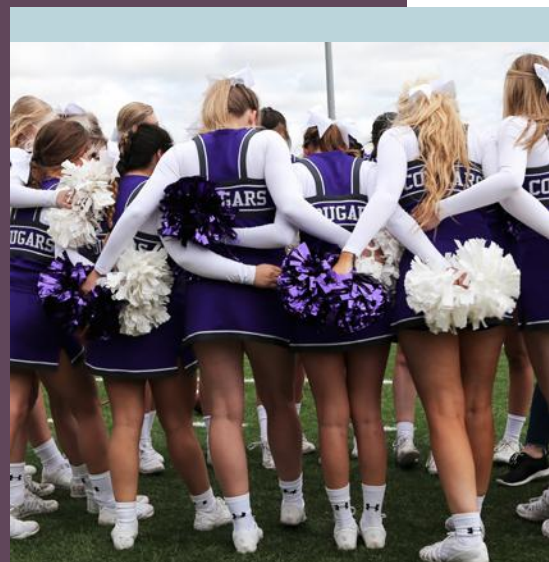
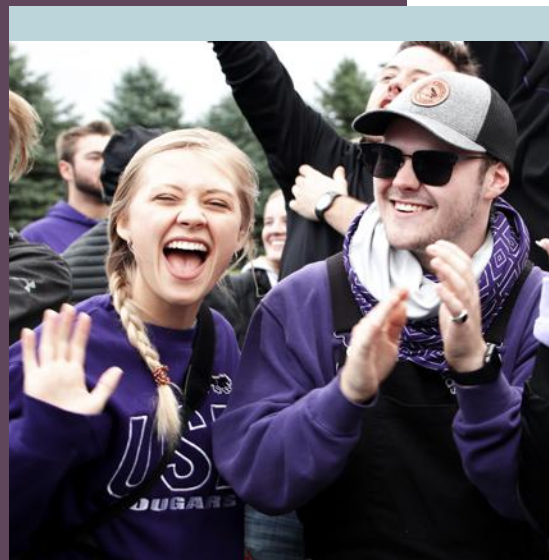
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Meet USF alumni who are impacting their communities and world.



*56th Annual*  
*Madrigal*  
DINNERS

DECEMBER 6 & 7 | 6:30 P.M.



LEARN MORE AT [USIOXFALLS.EDU/MADRIGALS](https://usioxfalls.edu/madrigals)





**USF  
Hosts**

**Research Event**

On October 11 and 12 USF hosted the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges Rocky Mountain Conference. Besides research posters, students from across the region participated in tutorials and were exposed to research talks on topics like developing mobile apps and cloud computing. The event provided research-based learning and networking opportunities.



**NEW  
Certificate  
Program**

A brand new social media marketing certificate program is now available for anyone who wishes to upgrade their basic social media marketing skills. The program includes classes in social media management, web design, web analytics, email marketing and more.



**USF**

**Alumni Association  
Continues to Grow**

The association added over 100 new members this summer! In 2018-2019, the Alumni Association hosted over 600 guests at nine events in Sioux Falls, Omaha and Minneapolis. Members enjoyed free appetizers, ice-cream, cupcakes and macarons; went for a spin at the ice rink with Cooper the Cougar; competed against each other in mini-golf and on go-karts; and so much more! Learn more about the USF Alumni Association at [www.usiouxfalls.edu/alumni/](http://www.usiouxfalls.edu/alumni/)



**Siblings  
Invited**

**to Campus**

Younger siblings of USF students were able to experience a taste of college life on October 4. During Cougar Days, students invited their siblings for the ultimate sleep over in the USF residence halls to kick off a weekend of tailgating, football and community.



# COUGARS Serve

CULTURE FOR SERVICE DAY

UNITES USF *family*



On a brisk early October morning, 430 students, faculty and staff gathered in the Stewart Center on USF's campus. A low hum of early morning chatter and the faint scent of warm coffee and fresh donuts filled the air—a family breakfast of sorts, before a big day ahead. The morning

marked Culture for Service Day, a much anticipated tradition for the USF family to walk out its identity on a practical level.

"This is one of my favorite days that USF puts together because this is one event that brings EVERYONE together—athletes, musicians, actors/actresses, and all types of

**"THIS IS  
ONE EVENT  
THAT BRINGS  
EVERYONE  
TOGETHER."**

academic students," says Mya Hanisch, a senior nursing student. "When we are together everyone is smiling, laughing and enjoying the service opportunities of Sioux Falls. It is quite an extraordinary event to be a part of."

Volunteers worked on a collective 27 different service





projects throughout the morning in the Sioux Falls community. These included construction projects, landscaping, picking up garbage, organizing, cleaning and even unique projects like helping elderly residents with technology troubleshooting. Yet Culture for Service

Day is more than a day of good deeds held once a year or a nice catch phrase. At USF this identity points to something bigger. It points to a heart posture that unites a campus into a family.

"What Jesus taught was a compassion ethic," says Reverend Dennis Thum, who

is Dean of Chapel at USF. "Serving hands are a mere formality if they do not come from caring hearts. What I appreciate about USF is

that I see on a daily basis a community of faculty and staff and students who truly care for one another and for God's world." ■

**// From building walls for a house with Habitat for Humanity (pictured left and middle bottom) to picking up garbage around the Sioux Falls community (pictured top center, top right and bottom left), the whole day of service was productive and FUN (bottom right).**









## CONNECTED BY

Christ

How nine friends  
became like family  
at USF.

Many college friendships come together through common interests like classes, music, sports and hobbies. At USF, one group of close friends finds Jesus at the center of their circle.

"Everyone in our group is actually very different from one another," explains Meghan Kramer '19, a mathematics major from Glenwood, Minnesota. "We have musicians, artists, athletes, hunters and people with all sorts of other hobbies. But we all love Jesus."

**//Left** Nothing says friendship like matching pj's. This group of friends lives for game nights and any excuse to celebrate.

**//Right** The friend group takes a moment to celebrate each others success after the annual Spirit of Excellence award ceremony as Tyler and Nathaniel receive the Purple Feather Awards and Meghan and Kelsie are recognized for outstanding work in their fields of study.

**//Bottom** The crew cheers on Benjamin as he plays in a Cougar football game.

The squad of nine friends includes five women and four men. The five women—Meghan, Kelsie, Andrea, Clara and Julie—lived in Grand Island Hall their freshman year and quickly came together through various campus activities. The four men—Benjamin, Nathan, Tyler and Nathaniel—started mixing in with the gregarious group of women their sophomore year.

“This group is different than friends I’ve had in the past,” says Benjamin Sokup, a business

## “This group is different than friends I’ve had in the past.”

administration and psychology double major from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. “This is the first time I have had close friendships with a group of girls, and not just all guys. This group also centers all its actions and behaviors around Christ and how He would like us to live. I’ve never had friends like that before, and through them I have grown my faith exponentially.”

Now that the friends are a little older and have moved off campus, finding time for one another is more challenging. They still make a point to get together frequently for game nights, movie nights, Bible studies and “other crazy ideas.”

“For Meghan’s 21<sup>st</sup> birthday we turned the girls’ apartment into

a dance floor and had a dance party. We also got custard from every Culver’s in town because Meghan could get free custard for her birthday. We actually drove around to all the Culver’s and filled up on free custards,” says Tyler Kopp, a theology and youth ministry double major from North Mankato, Minnesota.

While the group enjoys goofing off and having fun, they also share a great deal of mutual respect. Words like ‘intelligent’ and ‘caring’ and ‘spiritual’ are used to describe one another, and they all bring one collective quality to the table.

“We’re hilarious!” says Clara Paul, a secondary mathematics education major from Maplewood, Minnesota.

Being able to take a good joke is a must, but being real with one another is also important.

“These friends are so supportive, especially when it

comes to supporting me in my faith. We are comfortable sharing the good and the bad in our lives,” says Clara. “I think that’s one thing that sets this group apart from other friends I have had. It’s created such a deep, real and lasting bond between all of us.”

Because USF is a smaller Christian university, community and relationship are a big part of the college experience. The campus has fostered thousands of lifelong friendships over the years. Administration and staff make it a priority to connect students with one another through Welcome Week activities, abundant service opportunities, mission trips, hundreds of campus events and many student organizations.

“USF did a great job of pushing me out of my comfort zone and encouraging me to participate in activities,” says Nathaniel Spawn ’19, a nursing major from Platte, South Dakota. “USF radiates with

Godly love and gives its students an example of how to care for people. God has a way of bringing just the right people into your life at just the right time. I met my wife at USF through this friend group—first as her friend, then as her boyfriend and now as her husband.”

As this fun-loving crew prepares for life after USF, they are adamant about staying in touch and remaining friends forever.

“Lifelong friends stick with each other even when it’s hard. Our friend group has gone through lots of crazy changes, from conflicting schedules to new jobs to mission trips, but we always find a way to make time for each other. We’ll always be lifelong friends because we choose to be,” Meghan says.

In the end, her reasons for choosing these friends is pretty simple.

“They challenge me in my walk with God. They make me a better person. They are my family.” ■



// From left: Benjamin Sokup, Kelsie Sanders, Clara Paul, Nathan Kramer, Meghan Kramer, Andrea Manning, Tyler Kopp, Julie Spawn and Nathaniel Spawn



Students

# COUGAR FAMILY



**Mikayla Miller '20**  
Bridgewater, SD

"It is easy to say no and stay in your room. It is much harder to say yes and push yourself," says Mikayla Miller, a senior English major at USF. Mikayla hasn't chosen 'easy' during her time at USF. This summer Mikayla completed an internship as a stage manager in Seattle, Washington, for Taproot Theatre Company, and recently, Mikayla was hired as the stage manager for the Sioux Empire Community Theatre's fall production of "Mamma Mia!". Mikayla is thankful for professors and the supportive community at USF that have provided opportunities for growth. "If you tell a professor that you have a certain goal, they will do everything in their power to help you achieve that goal," Mikayla says. "USF Theatre is a community unlike many others. There is support, friendship, honesty and depth in the people who are involved in theatre. People here support you and are present with you. I want to take this kind of community-centered mind with me wherever I end up in life."



**Pete Wilson '20**  
Sturgis, SD

"I want to bring the best education to my community and school," says Pete Wilson, who is principal at Sturgis Brown High School and currently pursuing an Education Specialist-Superintendent degree from USF's Continuing and Professional Studies. Passionate about the community he currently serves in, Pete continues to grow in knowledge through the Ed.S. program while simultaneously preparing for future opportunities and the next step in his career. Yet for Pete, the Ed.S. program courses are more than a checklist to complete that gets him one step closer to his goals. "Because of the Ed.S. degree I'm pursuing, I have developed many new relationships with area administrators and college instructors that give me more resources especially when dealing with difficult issues," Pete says. A broadened network, friends in the field and a supportive cohort are all strengthening the experience and knowledge that Pete brings to his impactful role in education. "I believe educators can make a huge difference in students' lives, and I want to do my best for the students," he says.



**Hannah  
DeHoogh-Kliwer '21**  
Sioux Falls, SD

Hannah DeHoogh-Kliwer has been volunteering at Sanford since she was 16 years old. The biology major has served in areas including Acute Care, Pediatrics, Neonatal Intensive Care and Center for Joint Success. "Through my life experiences thus far, I've grown to understand that we are called to live our faith by serving others," Hannah says. "My various volunteer roles at Sanford have given me incredible opportunities to serve and grow in my understanding of patient care as a future health care provider." Hannah transferred to USF in January of last year and already feels a clear sense of belonging in the faith-centered community as she soaks in the academic knowledge needed to make her goal of becoming a doctor a reality. "In the short time I've been at USF, this culture has impacted my life by challenging me to really contemplate what it means to love our neighbors and strengthening my desire to pursue a career of service through health care," Hannah says. In August, Hannah was awarded Sanford USD Medical Center's volunteer of the month.

# FROM ONE Generation To the Next

JOE HIATT '20



#### Family members who attended USF (SFC)

Mom - Melissa Hiatt '93

Dad - Tim Hiatt '93

Grandfather - Charles Hiatt '71

Uncle - Jon Hiatt '97

Aunt - Stephanie Hiatt '97

*Joe and his dad have both lived in Burgess Hall. Concert Chorale, Singing Camerata and Madrigals are all activities Joe and his mom have in common.*

Joe Hiatt is a USF communication studies & theatre major minoring in both English and philosophy. His mom and dad (a former USF homecoming king) met at USF before they graduated in 1993. Joe's grandpa is a 1971 alumnus. His uncle Jon and aunt Stephanie graduated from USF in 1997 and both currently work on campus.

You could say the University of Sioux Falls runs in his blood.

"When I went for my first tour, many of the faculty and

staff knew who I was because of my family connections, which was nice because I felt like I was walking into a familiar place," Joe says. "My parents met here and got married the summer after their senior year, so I probably wouldn't even be on this earth if it wasn't for USF."

While USF takes great pride in creating a campus culture that feels like family, USF truly IS part of the family for some students.

"We have many students on campus who are first generation students, and



we also have those who are following in the footsteps of their parents, grandparents and even their great-grandparents," explains Dr. Brett Bradfield, President of USF. "They are creating a rich family heritage built on Christian values and cherished traditions. USF is part of their family legacy. I think that's pretty special."

Some of those strong family ties to USF have pulled students to campus from thousands of miles away.

Sarah Harrington made the decision to attend USF because

her parents are both proud USF alumni, even though her family now lives in Washington.

"My parents never wanted me to feel like I had to attend the same college they did, but I based my decision off of their great experience here. My parents made strong, long lasting connections at USF, not just with other students but with their professors as well," she says. "I was scared coming here from Washington state; it's a whole new environment and community, but I am so thankful for my roommate and the group

## CARLY KNUTSON '20

Y  
V



**Family members who attended USF (SFC)**

Dad - Todd Knutson '84  
Mom - Laurie Knutson '84

*Carly's parents were managers in Patterson Hall which was torn down and replaced by North Hall, where she lived her sophomore year.*

## SARAH HARRINGTON '23



**Family members who attended USF (SFC)**

Dad - Rob Harrington '86  
Mom - Louise Harrington '86

*Sarah's parents first met in the library on campus—Sarah says she can't help but think about this when she is studying there.*

of friends I have been blessed with. I have so much support all around me."

As Sarah was touring campus with her parents, she was struck by all the great memories they had and wanted to be part of the same experiences.

"USF has traditions that date back to 1921," says President Bradfield. "Anyone who graduated after 1963 can talk to you about the Madrigal Dinners. Alumni love coming back for Cougar Days. Today staff and students are making

fun new traditions, such as the USF Winter Olympics and the late night breakfasts served by USF professors during finals week."

**"WHETHER THEY COME FROM A LONG LINE OF USF GRADUATES OR ARE FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS, MOST EVERYONE ON CAMPUS AGREES THE FEELING OF FAMILY IS UNDENIABLE."**

Whether they come from a long line of USF graduates or are first generation students,



most everyone on campus agrees the feeling of family is undeniable. The small, Christian liberal arts community and Culture for Service atmosphere is designed to bring people together, no matter where they come from or how deep their USF roots grow.

Tristian Johnson, a business major from Sioux Falls, is the first person in his family to attend USF. Instead of following family members to schools that didn't feel right for him, Tristian chose USF based on the qualities he wanted for his life.

"I wanted the ability to form amazing relationships with others, and to be surrounded by people who wanted me to

be successful. Those are my golden reasons for choosing USF," he says.

Like many students, Tristian wanted to be a part of

a true university family and not just another number on a larger campus.

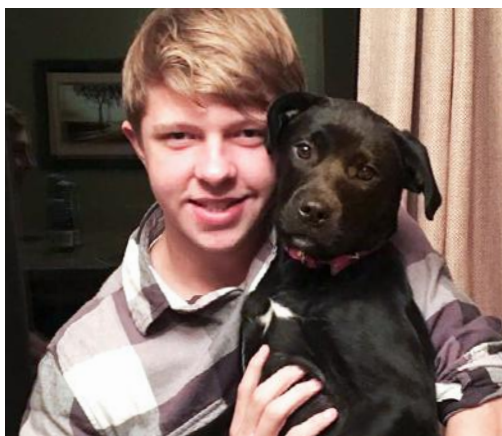
"Family means everything to me. It means these are

the people who love you unconditionally, and will always have your back no matter the circumstance," says Carly Knutson, a business and Spanish double major. "I've experienced family in a lot of places outside of my home, including USF. Being involved in various athletics over the years has given me a family, and the wonderful friends I have made will be part of me always."

There is an old saying that "friends are the family you choose."

USF prides itself on the number of students, faculty and staff who have abundantly grown their families here. ■

## TRISTIAN JOHNSON '23



Tristian is starting his own legacy at USF.

*Tristian wants to use his business major to pursue a career helping others.*

## MEET MORE LEGACY STUDENTS!

### ALEAH HOUCHIN '19

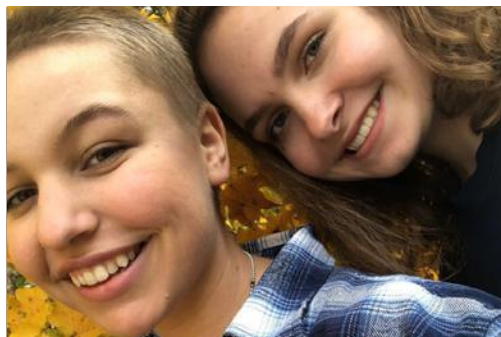


Family members who attended USF (SFC)

Dad - Steve Brenner '94	Aunt - Kimberly Brenner '91
Mom - Aimee Brenner '94	Uncle - Paul Brenner '91
Grandfather - Kurt Brenner '65	Aunt - Sheri Dickerson '92
Grandmother - JoAnn Brenner '66	

*Aleah lived in Grand Island, which was the same dorm that her cousin, sister, mom, grandma and aunt all stayed in during their time at USF.*

### CARLY RYSDON '20



Family members who attended USF (SFC)

Brother - Max Rysdon '18	Great Grandma - Lorraine Rysdon '31
Dad - Scott Rysdon '86	

*Carly tutors for one of her brother's favorite professors, a connection made when her brother Max introduced the two of them which led Carly to take a class with the professor.*



Faculty

# COUGAR

## FAMILY



**DR. BROOKE MURPHY**

Assistant Professor, Education

As she begins her third year teaching at USF, Dr. Brooke Murphy eagerly brings her research findings on the importance of understanding how environment, personality and other factors impact how students learn, to her classroom—which is useful not only to her students but also their future students. Her recent dissertation research explores the differences between learners in a traditional learning environment and those in a personalized learning environment. “I find inspiration in the fact that what we are doing as an institution and in the Fredrickson School of Education matters,” Dr. Murphy says. “It matters in the lives of our students, in the lives of the people with whom they will work, in our community and eternally. Lifting my horizons to remember the big picture of how we are all a part of something beyond ourselves and the present moment inspires me.”



**NICK POPPENS**

Assistant Professor, Media Studies

USF’s Media Studies Department is known for having a strong media program, and a key component of the program’s excellence lies with Nick Poppens. Poppens is embarking on his seventh year teaching at USF and brings field and academic experience, including his current work toward a Doctorate of Leadership. “The fields of media and digital art have changed dramatically because of the internet,” Poppens says. “Online graphics programs, easily available digital software and cameras on every phone allow all businesses to afford internal marketing positions and production.” Poppens along with Nancy Sutton, also an assistant professor of media studies, have worked hard to create a program that prepares students for change while equipping them with cutting-edge knowledge. Their work has materialized into a newly merged media and visual arts department, media studies minor and associates degree and a new concentration in social media marketing. “Every day presents a new challenge and opportunity,” Poppens says.



**DR. CHERI KOVALENKO**

Associate Professor, Nursing

Impacting a decade’s worth of nurses, Dr. Cheri Kovalenko was one of the very first faculty hired upon the USF School of Nursing’s inception in 2009. Since then, she has taught in all three nursing tracks: traditional undergraduate, Accelerated Nursing and RN-to-BSN. Dr. Kovalenko not only brings years of experience working in the ICU and as an RN but also continues to work as a family nurse practitioner while she teaches at USF—keeping pace with the ever-changing healthcare environment and bringing current, real life illustrations to her classroom. “I feel God really called me to serve as a faculty member at USF, and that makes this more than just a job, it is a vocation,” Dr. Kovalenko says. “If I can help students find *their* calling in nursing—a vocation, not just a job—that is my motivation! The world of healthcare needs the compassion and competence of our USF alumni.”

# Just Add Water

What happens when you bring 26 women from across the country and around the world together to form a swim team?

## **AT USF, THAT TEAM BECOMES A FAMILY.**

“A third of our team is from another country, and even the swimmers from the United States come from as far away as Alaska and Georgia,” explains head coach Chris Hamstra, who has been leading the women’s swim team since early 2018. “Most of these young women are thousands of miles from home, so they have really bonded. They are each other’s biggest supporters. It’s an incredibly rewarding atmosphere.”

Since its inception in 2016, the USF women’s swim team has been making a splash in and out of the pool.

**//Right** Friendship in the pool and out of the pool, this team sticks together like family.









# Meet the Team

Tori Bailey >> Casper, Wyoming  
Gigi Bario >> Cumming, Georgia  
Megan Burrows >> Eagle Lake, Minnesota  
Valerie Childs >> Big Lake, Minnesota  
Leah Eagleton >> Auckland, New Zealand  
Ursula Demarquet >> Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Abigail Ford >> Grand Ledge, Michigan  
Lauren Gallick >> Macomb, Michigan  
Nina Groene >> Vernheim, Germany  
Burke Henderson >> Owatonna, Minnesota  
Ella Johnson >> Southport, England  
Chantal Kasch >> Stade, Germany  
Makenzy Kennedy >> Ottawa, Canada  
Jenna Krahn >> Johnston, Iowa  
Giulia Marcon >> Juiz De Fora, Brazil  
Samantha Mullvain >> Saginaw, Minnesota  
Keelin O'Connor >> Columbus, Ohio  
Aleah Rohde >> Anchorage, Arkansas  
Sydnie Saddoris >> Highlands Ranch, Colorado  
Alex Sanchez Clark >> Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, Spain  
Elizabeth Spaans >> Brandon, South Dakota  
Lauren Tabbert >> Le Mars, Iowa  
Evelyn Vandemark >> Alma, Michigan  
Kyjana Webber >> Gulfport, Mississippi  
Julia Zanto >> New Hope, Minnesota

//**Right** Leah Eagleton helps teammate Gigi Bario into her swim cap before a meet.

In the pool, USF placed third at the NSIC Championship two years in a row and in the Top 25 nationally two years in a row. In the classroom, the team earned Scholar All-America honors in 2017 and 2018, which included a semester with the best cumulative GPA (3.8) in all of NCAA DII. There are also multiple championship and nationals qualifiers on the team.

Ask the women about their highlight moments, and they're just as likely to tell you about the support of their teammates as they are their own accomplishments.

"Their little words of encouragement always lift me up and give me the extra push I need to swim faster," says Chantal Kasch, a sophomore from Stade, Germany. "On top of that, we never fail to cheer our hearts out for each other! Knowing my teammates are genuinely happy for me makes me try

even harder."

With a practice schedule that includes training twice a day, six days a week, the women rely on each other to help balance academics and athletics with enough time for a little relaxation and fun.

"Our drive to succeed is as high in the classroom as it is in the pool," says Elizabeth Spaans, a freshman from Brandon, South Dakota (the only team member from South Dakota). "We care for each other in all areas of our lives and help each other be better people. Outside the pool we have movie nights, make pancakes, decorate cookies, go to campus events and just hang out. The team dynamic is amazing."

A supportive campus community is an advantage all USF students appreciate, but student-athletes find a level of support that's invaluable to their success.

"USF professors are very willing to work with our





athletes. They supply us with progress reports and do their best to help these women succeed,” explains Coach Hamstra. “We hold monthly meetings with each student to evaluate their academic progress, and if they need

to swim team members who might know little about South Dakota before they come here.

“I’m told I am the first student from Brazil to come to USF,” says sophomore Giulia Marcon from Juiz De

**“I LOVE WATCHING US GET STRONGER AT A COMPETITION... I DON’T THINK THAT IT IS ONLY OUR TRAINING, BUT ALSO OUR MENTAL EDGE THROUGH THE LADIES’ UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF ONE ANOTHER.”**

**- COACH HAMSTRA**

help, we turn to USF’s Thomas Kilian Academic Success Center and other resources.”

All of this extra support enhances the feeling of family at USF. Because USF is a small Christian liberal arts university, the women find it’s just as easy to make friends outside the pool. The inclusive nature of the campus and Culture for Service philosophy bring people together from a variety of backgrounds, which is especially important

Fora, Brazil. “I was welcomed right out of the gate, and this team has become my family. I have been invited to spend the holidays with a teammate from the United States, and that family is like my family, too.”

When asked how it would feel to spend a break or long weekend alone, Giulia only shakes her head with a smile.

“That would never happen,” she says emphatically. “We stick together.” ■



**//Top** USF’s 400 Medley Relay team became the first relay in school history to earn All-American honors at the 2019 NCAA DII Swimming and Diving Championships.

**//Bottom** Say cheese! The swim team takes a moment under water to show off some personality.

Photos courtesy of @usfcougarswim Instagram.

# COUGAR FAMILY



# Memories!

The USF family celebrated tradition and long lasting relationships at this year's Cougar Days, October 4–6. As time has gone by, Cougar Days has become the overarching title for many activities and celebrations taking place around USF Homecoming. Each year alumni return and reunite with friends and old classmates and parents join their students to celebrate homecoming with special family weekend events.

1

## ALL-CLASS BASH

Longtime friends gathered for the first-ever All-Class Bash to enjoy food, dancing, games, door prizes, laughs and community!

2

## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

USF's Alumni Achievement Awards ceremony honored (from left) Kyle Schock '11, Marilyn Carlson Aronson '60, Neil Ihde '94, Nancy Wilcoxson '85 and Tom Henderson '98 for their outstanding hearts of service and profession.

3

## CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF '69

Old friends took a walk down memory lane at a special brunch honoring the Class of 1969's 50-year reunion. Classmates shared laughs over wonderful memories made at Sioux Falls College.

4

## 5K RUN/WALK

The Cougar Family loved the family-friendly Cougar Days 5K Run/Walk! All proceeds from the event went to support USF Track and Field.

5

## FAMILY WEEKEND

Cougar Days weekend is for the WHOLE family! On Friday, families were invited to attend classes with their student, eat lunch in the 'caf' and siblings stayed the night in the residence halls. On Saturday, the USF family enjoyed the homecoming tailgate and football game. The weekend concluded with USF Sunday at First Baptist Church.

6

## COUGAR ROYALTY

**Queen:** Emily Magera, Communication Studies & Theatre

**King:** Sydney Boots, Psychology and Social Science

7

**Top row from left:** Nic Paulson, Sydney Boots, Dayne Versteeg, Joe Hiatt, Tyler Kopp

**Bottom row from left:** Molly Heyn, Addy Kenkel, Morgan Holien, Emily Magera, Emily Wiczorek



Don't miss out on next year's excitement! Subscribe to USF's monthly e-newsletter by visiting [usiouxfalls.edu/keepintouch](http://usiouxfalls.edu/keepintouch).





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# CLASSES NOTES

All notes are based on information received between January 1 and August 31, 2019. Send us your update today at [usioxfalls.edu/keepintouch](http://usioxfalls.edu/keepintouch).

## // CELEBRATIONS

### Alumni

**Annette (Goettsch) Brandt '01** and Matthew welcomed Isaiah Robert on Feb. 2, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Kristy Krumbach '01** married Bryan Beaudoin on June 1, 2019, in Spearfish, SD.

**Nicholas Fulton '03** and Becki welcomed Gwenna Rose on July 2, 2019, in Longmont, CO.

**Lynnelle Dirksen '05** married Michael Giddings on Nov. 17, 2018, in Clara City, MN.

**Bethany (Jones) Raab '05** and Nick welcomed Mathias James on Dec. 27, 2018, in Denver, CO.

**Alex Heinert '07** and Kelsey welcomed Kathryn Dese on April 19, 2019, in Grand Forks, ND.

**Keegan Warwick '09** and Suzie welcomed Connell John on April 29, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Kayla (Akland) Collins '11** and Josh welcomed Reagan Grace on March 29, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Alyssa (Boscaljon) Howe '11** and Forrest welcomed Savannah Sage on May 30, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Miranda Metzger '11** married Tyler Goodchild on Aug. 1, 2018, in Lester, Iowa.

**Andrew Ellsworth '12** and Liz welcomed Clayton Andrew on Aug. 3, 2019.

**Rashelle (Smith) Hoffman '12** and Andrew welcomed Winston Andrew on Aug. 26, 2019, in Omaha, NE.

**Jodi (Blackinton) Jones '12** and Kuraan welcomed Stella on July 30, 2019, in Fountain Valley, CA.

**Sherri (Jergenson) Rygh '12** and Nate welcomed Wesley Marvin on Feb. 18, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Kali Gottsleben '13** married Brett Denman on June 15, 2019, in Watertown, SD.

**Laura Gratopp '13** married Kenneth Machisa on March 2, 2019, in Lincoln, NE.

**Nicole Josephsen '13** married Ben Norton on July 6, 2018, in Sioux Falls.

**Leah Wensmann '13** married Ryan Anderson on August 25, 2018 in Aberdeen, SD.

**Raelynn (Neale) Haddix '14** and Jeremy welcomed Taylann Rae on Nov. 20, 2018, in Laramie, WY.

**Sarah Heijerman '14** married Trevor Lems on June 15, 2019, in Hollandale, MN.

**Davee (Johnson) '14** and **Blaze Kilian '15** welcomed Nevaeh Elizabeth on April 14, 2019.

**Brigitte (Gross) Valentine '14** and Tim welcomed Timothy John on March 7, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Elizabeth (Larson) Jensen '15** and Alan welcomed Jemma Marie on Aug. 6, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Pamela (Peterson) '15** and **Thomas Ryan '15** welcomed Judson Jay on June 16, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Leah Mulder '16** married Ayom Ayom on Feb. 9, 2019, in Canton, SD.

**Jessica (Waldner) Carlson '17** and Tim welcomed Camreigh Jo on Jan. 20, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Jill Langland '17** married Michael Kvanli on April 6, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Kayla Zylstra '17** married Jordan Buchholz on Sept. 1, 2018, in Sioux Falls.

**Allie Thiesse '18** married Nicholas LaFave on Aug. 10, 2019.

**Hannah Brenner '18** married Jared Anderson on June 1, 2019, in Columbia, TN.

**Maxwell Rysdon '18** married Taylor Krall on July 6, 2019, in Mitchell, SD.

**Kylie Boston '19** married **Shane Herman '19** on June 9, 2018.

**Chloe Lang '19** married William Howe on Dec. 15, 2018.

**Jeannie Oberkirsch '19** married Deontae Thorn on June 25, 2019, in Sioux Falls.

**Kaitlyn Plut '19** married **Connor DeJong '19** on July 20, 2019, in Watertown, SD.

**Makenna Rockeman '19** married **Kevin Fopma '17** on June 16, 2019, in Westminster, CO.

### Faculty & Staff

**Jared Berg** and Amanda welcomed Brea Rose on May 21, 2019, Sioux Falls.

**Kyle Halfpop** and Sarah welcomed Birdie Arcata on March 7, 2019, Sioux Falls.

**Brittany Domino** and Derek welcomed Elliott Grace on Feb. 2, 2019, Sioux Falls.

## // IN MEMORIAL

### Alumni

**Lois (DeKramer) Youells '47**, Jan. 22, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Ann (Funston) Damon '49**, Jan. 7, 2019, Bloomington, IN

**Meraleen (Huber) Kern '51**, April 2, 2019, Alberta, Canada

**Gordon Terwilliger '51**, March 2, 2019, Pflugerville, TX

**Jeanne (Mehlhaft) Bonander '52**, March 20, 2019, Valley Springs, SD

**June Anderson '54**, Jan. 17, 2019, Oak Park, IL

**Jim McLaughlin '54**, April 2, 2019, Minneapolis, MN

**Duey Renner '56**, Jan. 5, 2019, Indian Harbour Beach, FL

**Donna (Armstrong) Hodges '57**, June 25, 2019, Fargo, ND

**Ray Jesser '57**, Jan. 3, 2019, Mandan, ND

**George Schlittenhardt '58**, March 18, 2019, Valley City, ND

**Leota (Williams) Geigle '59**, June 16, 2019, Huntsville, AL

**Dale Schneider '60**, March 25, 2019, Volga, SD

**Betty (Kinney) Shelquist '60**, May 22, 2019, Mounds View, MN

**Ken Coddington '62**, March 10, 2019, Littleton, CO

**Verne Wortman '64**, March 10, 2019, Kerrville, TX

**Ron Toliver '65**, July 29, 2019, Churdan, IA

**Alan Cooke '66**, May 17, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Bob Clarke '67**, May 12, 2019, Midland, MI

**Sharon (DeHaan) Gerber '67**, June 10, 2019, Danville, IN

**Jerry Jacobsen '69**, May 2, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Margaret (Crane) Schmidt '69**, April 25, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Peggy Hanson '70**, Aug. 21, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Vera (Saylor) Ayotte '71**, Jan. 13, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Esther (Vanden Bosch) Cleveringa '71**, May 13, 2019, Rock Valley, IA

**Bernice Jorgensen '71**, March 24, 2019, Tea, SD

**Mark Kuehn '71**, May 9, 2019, Snohomish, WA

**Johnetta Dysart '74**, May 30, 2019, Grand Rapids, MI

**Jim Leggett '75**, July 4, 2019, Essexville, MI

**Carol (Gulbrandson) McIntyre '76**, April 20, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Barbara (Wolitsky) Heringer '80**, March 3, 2019, Beulah, ND

**Todd Ray '83**, April 18, 2019, Omaha, NE

**Brad Kiesow '95**, July 15, 2019, Olathe, KS

**Thomas Welsh '96**, Jan. 16, 2019, Mc Kinney, TX

**Jessi (Thompson) Pauna '13**, Feb. 10, 2019, Sioux Falls

### Friends

**Joshua Suhr '16**, March 7, 2019, Ankeny, IA

**John Bails**, Aug. 6, 2019, Sioux Falls

**John Gehm**, April 5, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Duane Harder**, Aug. 6, 2019, Trent, SD

**Gayle Idema**, Aug. 20, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Joyce Blount**, March 1, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Bethel Muetzel**, May 8, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Naomi Norberg**, Aug. 30, 2019, Sioux Falls

**Ralph Olsen**, April 20, 2019, Crooks, SD



Alumni

# COUGAR FAMILY

## Gay Anderson '15 | Child Nutrition Director at Brandon Valley School District



"If anyone would have told me that I could go up on stage and talk to a room full of over 7,000 people I believe I would have laughed at them," Gay Anderson says. Anderson is president of the School Nutrition Association (SNA) and the child nutrition director for Brandon Valley School District. Today over 60,000 SNA members look to Anderson for leadership in the realm of school nutrition. What makes Anderson unique is her passion for growth and change. When hired for her position in Brandon 17 years ago, a bachelor's degree was not a requirement. Even though she could have been grandfathered in without a degree, she chose to boldly pursue returning to school as a nontraditional student. "One of the two reasons I earned my degree when I did was that I had always promised my parents I would complete college," Anderson says. "I kept that promise. The other reason I went to USF was that along with the program working so well for me as one who works full time, it helped prepare me for the dream and goal I set to become SNA president." Serving in her roles locally and nationally, Anderson has influenced the White House and United States departments of agriculture and education to improve programs that serve healthy school meals. Anderson currently is pursuing her MBA at USF as she uses her passion and gifts to make a better world for others and pushes herself to make even more of the talents she has been given.

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## Kevin Grebin '80 | USF Tennis Head Coach/Director of Campus Safety & Security



Talented tennis player and legendary USF Tennis Coach Kevin Grebin was inducted into the South Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame on July 21, 2019. "I am humbled by this recognition and honor," Grebin says. "I am grateful to so many people." Grebin, who has been involved in tennis for over 50 years, played at Washington High School in Sioux Falls. But it was at USF as a student-athlete where Grebin upped his game. At USF, he played No. 1 singles and doubles for three years. With the Cougars, he was named all-conference and earned all-district honors in 1979. A two-sport standout with the Cougars, he was also an all-conference football player. Before moving to NCAA Division II, Grebin was a six-time coach of the year in the Great Plains Athletic Conference when both his men's and women's teams were conference champs from 2005-10. Five times his teams competed in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national tournaments. Since USF's transition to NCAA DII, the Cougars have qualified for seven women's post season Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference tournaments while being awarded Intercollegiate Tennis Association-All Academic Team honors three times. Kevin is the third member of his family to be inducted into the South Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame.

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## Allie DeJong '13 | Special Education Teacher at Lowell Elementary



"USF greatly prepared me not only to be a teacher, but to lead with a servant heart," Allie DeJong says. "I have always felt a call to help those around me, USF helped me realize how I could answer this call in various ways." From volunteering locally to building classrooms in Kenya for the Deaf, DeJong lives a life of Culture for Service that is grounded in faith and prioritizes caring for people. Beyond mission trips and volunteering, DeJong answers the call to serve daily in her role as a special education teacher. Recently, Lowell Elementary School received a \$3,700 Innovation Education Grant for sensory path integrations thanks to DeJong's passion to help students who struggle to learn. Sensory paths are fun designs laid on the hallway floors and walls that allow students to use various types of movement to integrate the senses such as jumping. After using the sensory path, students can return to class refocused with increased retention rates and cognitive function. As DeJong uses her education and gifting to help others she remains confident in her life calling. "The passion that I have to help others is one that will stay with me for the rest of my life," DeJong says.

# CONNECT WITH FAMILY

## November

- 3 **Fall Choral Concert and Chili Dinner**, First Baptist Church  
1401 S. Covell Ave., 4 p.m.
- 7 **Short & Sweet Gathering for Alumni & Friends**, CH Patisserie,  
7 p.m.
- 9 **Football** vs. Minnesota State, Bob  
Young Field, 1 p.m.
- 15 **Women's Basketball** vs. William  
Jewell, Stewart Center, 2 p.m.
- 16 **Volleyball** vs. U-Mary, Stewart  
Center, 12 p.m.
- 20-23 **World Premiere—TheatreUSF  
presents Heaven to Heaven: The  
Musical Life of Jesus**, Jeschke  
Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m.
- 24 **TheatreUSF presents Heaven  
to Heaven: The Musical Life of  
Jesus**, Jeschke Fine Arts Center,  
2 p.m.
- 26 **Men's Basketball** vs. Minnesota  
Crookston, Stewart Center, 7 p.m.

## December

- 6-7 **56th Annual Madrigal  
Dinners**, McDonald Center,  
6:30 p.m.
- 8 **Christmas at USF**, Jeschke Fine  
Arts Center, 4 p.m.
- 13 **Women's Basketball** vs.  
Minnesota-Duluth,  
Stewart Center, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 **Men's Basketball** vs.  
Minnesota-Duluth,  
Stewart Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 **Christmas Gathering for  
Alumni & Friends**, Country  
Club of Sioux Falls,  
5:30 p.m.



University of  
**Sioux Falls**

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For exact dates and times, please visit [usiouxfalls.edu](http://usiouxfalls.edu) // [usfcougars.com](http://usfcougars.com) // 605-331-6600 // 1101 W. 22nd Street