

UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

MAGAZINE | FALL 2025



Upping Our Game

THE HEART OF USF

People of Impact



Hello & Welcome

Dear USF Alumni and Friends,

As I walk across our campus this fall, I am reminded of the vibrant energy our students bring to life that defines our University community. Whether enjoying the sounds of laughter and conversation among students traversing campus, witnessing the bustle of students gathering in the McDonald Center or observing the curiosity that fills our classrooms; one cannot help but recognize the spirit of shared purpose among our students, faculty and staff. For each of us that have the honor of serving this University and its students, these moments represent a time of reflection regarding the rich traditions of excellence that were set into motion by past generations of alumni and friends of the University.

Amidst the rapid pace of change within the higher education enterprise, we celebrate numerous achievements as we remain true to our mission-centric purposes. In late August, we welcomed a new and talented freshman cohort while simultaneously embarking upon new community partnerships that are transforming lives beyond our campus footprint. Some of these partnerships include: campus ministry outreach initiatives, specialized workforce development training such as a new certification program for trust professionals, as well as a refreshed Bridges English Outreach Program assisting over 100 new participants with English language proficiency training to improve their quality of life through greater engagement within the area. This sense of institutional value, vision and innovation has emerged and grown from a USF community that has contributed to building this culture through their commitment and relationships with our University.

Alumni and friends of the University continue to be our greatest ambassadors. Whether mentoring a student, supporting a scholarship or simply sharing your USF experience, you strengthen the bonds that unite us in our 142nd year of existence. Your continued engagement ensures that future generations can enjoy the same transformative experiences that shaped your own journey and relationship with our University.

As we look to the future, there are plans being formed for a new and more prominent welcome center, expanded workforce development programming to serve our growing community needs and a steadfast focus on maintaining the quality proposition of a USF degree. I invite you to stay connected, attend events, volunteer your time and share your USF story. Together, we make our University a place where ideas flourish and bright futures full of promise are forged.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment, your generosity and your pride in the University of Sioux Falls.

With warmest regards and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brett Bradfield".

Dr. Brett Bradfield
President, University of Sioux Falls

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SCAN THE CODE TO TAKE OUR READER'S SURVEY



UPDATES

2025 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2025 Alumni Achievement Award winners!

Alumni Pacesetter Award

- + Brandon Hanson '12, MBA '21
- + Brittany Hanson '13, M.Ed. '17

Lois Harchanko Distinguished

Music Award

- + Mandy Bowker '04

Dr. A.O. Larsen Distinguished

Alumni Award

- + Ryan Beier '98
- + Doug Hunter '79
- + Paul TenHaken MBA '05



JOHN AND ANN COLLIER LIVING CENTER

On September 25, 2025, the campus community celebrated and honored John and Ann Collier for their dedication to the University of Sioux Falls with the naming of a residence hall. Formerly North Residence Hall, the newly designated John and Ann Collier Living Center will serve as a landmark reminder of the profound impact they have made at USF.

USF LAUNCHES NEW EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

This new, online three-course leadership development program is designed exclusively for working professionals with a bachelor's degree. The comprehensive program delivers immediate ROI by strengthening leadership capabilities and management skills. In addition, successful participants will receive valuable graduate-level credentials.



Learn more!

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP - COMING FALL 2026

Starting in fall 2026, new full-time undergraduate students who have a parent or grandparent that graduated from USF will receive \$1,000 per year, renewable annually for the duration of the student's undergraduate program.



D O N O R

Spotlight

Beth Shipman-Habicht '66

"My heart came alive in the USF Music department. It still does."

Beth Shipman-Habicht, a 1966 music education graduate, credits Sioux Falls College with changing the course of her life. As the first in her family to attend college, she found opportunity and deep encouragement from professors who nurtured her musical gifts and her faith.

While at USF, Beth played saxophone and bassoon and sang in the choir. She joined the choir's first European tour the summer after she graduated—an unforgettable experience for someone from modest beginnings.

"We toured all the places I'd only dreamed about," she recalls.

Her teaching career began in Iowa, then took a pivotal turn two years later when a shortage of string instructors led the Worthington, Minnesota school district to hire her and fund her string training.

"I had always wanted to learn violin so this was an unbelievable gift," she says.

That gift launched 38 years of orchestra teaching, a master's degree and her own journey as a violinist and cellist in the Worthington community.

Today, Beth's legacy continues—not only through

music, but through her generous support of USF. She serves on the Board of Trustees, has taken two more trips abroad with the USF choir and gives faithfully through donations and estate planning.

"It all goes back to Sioux Falls College," she says.

"They opened the door to this amazing life. The only way to repay that is to pay it forward."

Beth's giving reflects her desire to preserve the spirit of God on campus and ensure future students feel the same sense of belonging she found

decades ago.

"It's a place that feels like home," she says. "I'm happy to be able to say thank you in this way."

After retirement, Beth continues to stay involved in music by helping establish the Great Plains String Quartet and the Worthington Area Symphony Orchestra, where you can still hear her play today. ■

*"IT ALL GOES BACK
TO SIOUX FALLS
COLLEGE.
THEY OPENED THE
DOOR TO THIS
AMAZING LIFE."*



REIMAGINING CORRECTIONS

A L U M N I S P O T L I G H T F E A T U R I N G

D R . R Y A N T H O R N E L L ' 0 7

"USF is about bringing together community and taking care of people," says Dr. Ryan Thornell, director of the Arizona Department of Corrections. "This philosophy directly impacts the work I do every day."

Thornell's path began as a freshman football recruit at USF, torn between law enforcement and physical therapy—until a pivotal conversation with Dr. Beth O'Toole during orientation changed everything. Her introduction to the criminal justice program sparked a lifelong calling that continues today.

"Dr. O'Toole told me about the coursework and opportunities within criminal justice at USF and I was sold," Thornell recalls.

Their connection deepened over the years. O'Toole not only mentored Thornell through his undergraduate years and early work at the South Dakota Department of Corrections, but also encouraged him to return to USF as an assistant professor after earning his master's degree in 2008. While teaching full-time, Thornell pursued a Ph.D. in political science, driven by a love of academia and a desire to shape future leaders.

Then life took a turn.

"I felt a pull to return to the field as a practitioner," he explains. "We have family in the Northeast so I applied for a job within the Maine corrections system."

Thornell quickly rose through the ranks, ultimately serving as deputy commissioner of the Maine Department of Corrections. After a decade of reform-driven leadership in Maine, he was appointed director of the Arizona Department of Corrections in 2023. Today, he oversees 15 prisons and the rehabilitation and reentry of more than 35,000 individuals—bringing vision, values and humanity to one of the most complex roles in public service.

His leadership is grounded in the same commitment to human dignity he discovered as a young student-athlete at USF.

"I learned the importance of servant leadership on a small Christian campus," Thornell reflects. "Today I'm simply trying to live out those lessons on a much bigger scale." ■



SHOOTING, THROWING, LEARNING AND THRIVING

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

KAMRYN WADSWORTH

Kamryn Wadsworth committed to the USF Women's Basketball team as a sophomore at Hamlin High School.

Already a standout, Kamryn continued down her path of basketball success, amassing 1,900 points, helping her team win a state title and earning recognition as the 2023 KELOLAND Sports Girls Player of the Year.

By the time she graduated high school, she was widely known for her basketball prowess and her dominance in track and field as one of the state's top female throwers.

"I know I committed early, but USF checked all my boxes," she explains. "I felt a real connection with the basketball coaches and was also offered a chance to participate in track and field. That sealed it for me."

While USF's proximity to home, Christian foundation, intimate class sizes and strong education department drew her to campus, the opportunity to grow her faith helped her feel at home.

"My freshman year I was in chapel, struggling with my decision and feeling a little homesick," she shares. "I had a clear moment when I felt God tell me I was in the right place. Everything just clicked after that."

Now a junior, Kamryn has more than proven she belongs at USF. Her accolades include:

- NSIC Freshman of the Year
- First Team All-NSIC
- CSC Academic All-District Team
- Multiple USF Athlete of the Week honors

As a dual-sport athlete she also continues to shine in track and field, competing in shot put, discus and javelin, where she earned the title of 2025 NSIC Javelin Champion.

Kamryn is majoring in elementary education and credits her academic and athletic success to an organized planner and a deeply rooted support system. She hopes to be a teacher and a high school basketball coach close to home after graduation.

"My mom and dad are at almost every game and every track meet," she says. "I lean on my teammates, my friends, my family and USF coaches and faculty who believe in me. I knew I would have to work hard, and it's so rewarding when it pays off. ■"



THE ART OF TEACHING

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

JOE SCHAEFFER

"You believed in me when I didn't believe in myself."

This handwritten note from a graduating art student, tucked into Joe Schaeffer's desk drawer, captures the heart of his vocation.

"I enjoy helping students grow into themselves," says Schaeffer, assistant professor of graphic design. "Sometimes it's just about giving them the confidence to carve their place in the design world."

Schaeffer has been sharing his motivation and talents with the USF Art department since 2020, using his own experiences as an accomplished artist to guide students through the rigorous program.

After earning his graphic design degree in 2013, Schaeffer immersed himself in agency life, learning the pulse of the industry. His return to USD for his M.F.A. in 2016 marked a turning point in his creative identity.

"I discovered a passion for teaching and joined USF in the spring of 2020—just as the world shifted. I had a challenging start but I love where this path has taken me," he says.

In addition to his role as an educator, Schaeffer keeps one foot firmly planted in the industry. He evolved into a serious fine artist during grad school, creating bold pieces that fuse design principles with abstract expression and the use of black ink, oil and acrylic. He has maintained an independent design practice for over a decade, served as chair of the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Committee, is actively involved in public mural projects and serves as USF's gallery director.

In 2024, Schaeffer helped launch Norse Art Space alongside co-owner Cody Henrichs, a well-respected artist and curator. His collaborations within the art community allow him to connect students with design inspiration, job opportunities, service projects and other artists.

"I would not be where I am without some instrumental connections," he reflects.

"Exposing students to people, places and opportunities helps them create their own story. It's rewarding to be a part of this chapter." ■



“EDUCATION IS FULL OF SMALL
VICTORIES. I’M BLESSED TO
WITNESS THEM EVERY DAY.
—DR. CHERI KOVALENKO”



THE HEART OF USF:

Professors Who Live What They Teach

USF prides itself on providing students with a vibrant liberal arts education through courses and programs that demand wider engagement with the world. The school's well-credentialed faculty are passionate educators who often choose to advance their knowledge and experience beyond the classroom, whether it's through research, hands-on service or work within their chosen fields.

Modeling a Commitment to Care

Professors like Dr. Cheri Kovalenko not only offer significant contributions to higher education, but also model rich, meaningful lives and a desire to serve others. The professor of nursing recalls the moment her path shifted into education.

"It was 2009, and my position at Avera Health was being eliminated just as USF was launching its nursing program. Family members encouraged me to apply, but I wasn't sure it was the right direction," she says. "I left it in God's hands and was offered the role as USF's first full-time nursing faculty member. It is the perfect place for me."

Sixteen years later, Kovalenko continues to shape the next generation of nurses at USF with a blend of clinical expertise and compassionate leadership. She's led two mission trips to Haiti and recently supported Dr. Lynde Thelen in implementing the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) into USF's nursing curriculum—a standardized tool that enhances clinical competency and gives students more hands-on experience.

"Education is full of small victories," she says. "I'm blessed to witness them every day."

Kovalenko still practices one weekend a month in the pediatric unit at Avera and fills in at Falls Community Health. Staying active in clinical settings allows her to serve patients and remain current in the field. Her students benefit directly from that dual role.

"I bring clinical examples into the classroom, making the material more relevant and applicable. Students respect that I maintain my license and continue practicing—they know I'm teaching skills they'll actually use in the real world," she explains.



Helping Students Discover Their Next Chapter

A professor of English since 1999, Dr. Kevin Cole has spent nearly three decades inviting students to see the miracles in everyday moments. He arrived in Sioux Falls after completing his Ph.D. at Baylor University.

“Being from deep South Texas, I had to look up Sioux Falls on a map,” he recalls. “After accepting the position, I never thought I would be here for 27 years.”

Cole’s career is marked by creativity and service. He’s worked with the Higher Learning Commission for 16 years, evaluating and accrediting colleges across the country. In 2015, he received a CIC Fellowship to study American slave narratives at Yale. And in 2020, his play “Loving Arms” was brought to life on the USF stage, thanks to a cast of talented student actors and director Joe Obermueller.

“Seeing my play come to the stage was a highlight,” Cole says. “But I also love walking into a classroom of English majors who, in their love of language, literature and writing, remind me why I spent four grueling years earning a Ph.D.”

Cole goes beyond his role as an English professor to elevate his craft and the program. In 2016, he published a book of poetry, “Late Summer Plums,” a lyrical observation of nature and its quiet revelations. After “Loving Arms,” he helped develop a playwriting course that teaches students the mechanics and structure of theatrical storytelling.

“Some of their original plays have gone on to win awards in local competitions,” he notes.

His work with the Higher Learning Commission also keeps him attuned to national trends in higher education.

“It allows me to contribute beyond USF and stay informed about innovations at the university level,” he says.

Teaching Beyond Textbooks

In the psychology department, Dr. Mike Grevlos blends academic rigor with a passion for performance and faith.

"I value USF's Christian mission and the opportunity to help students reflect on their faith in the classroom," he says. "I'm inspired by students who approach learning with humility, eagerness and a desire to grow."

Grevlos has been a professor of psychology at USF for 20 years, designing curriculum that challenges students to explore the psychological roots of behavior while considering spiritual implications.

"I'm grateful to work alongside colleagues who are deeply invested in our students," he says. "And I appreciate the freedom to create courses that stretch both the mind and the heart."

Beyond campus, Grevlos serves as a mental coach for high school, collegiate and professional athletes. His 2019

book, "The Motivation Game: A Course on the Psychology of Golf Improvement," blends performance psychology with practical insight. He and his wife, Lisa, also co-own a local golf course, staying connected to both the sport and the community.

"My consulting experience allows me to bring real-world insight into the classroom," Grevlos explains. "I use examples from the athletes I serve to show how psychological concepts unfold in real time. It helps students deepen their understanding of human behavior, motivation and performance."

Together, these three professors represent the soul of USF's mission: to educate students not only for careers, but for lives of meaning and service. You'll find dedicated educators like them in every department across campus—and out in the world, making a difference in our communities every day. ■





MAKING HER OWN WAY

A L U M N I S P O T L I G H T F E A T U R I N G

S A R A H K U R T E N B A C H ' 0 7

Sarah Kurtenbach is not your typical USF success story.

She chose USF for its affordability and paid tuition in cash, a decision grounded in discipline and foresight.

"I researched and applied for every scholarship, which made USF's tuition less than the public universities," she recalls. "They also made me feel the most welcome."

Raised with a strong foundation of fiscal responsibility, Kurtenbach credits two former USF professors for further shaping her trajectory: Dr. Monty Bohrer, who taught her the art of marketing, and Dr. Nathan Nassif, faculty emeritus, who gave her confidence as a public speaker.

"Those skills—and Jesus—got me where I am today," she says.

After the business administration major graduated in 2009, her life took an unexpected turn.

"I was relocating to Atlanta to start a job in commercial real estate," she explains. "My position was eliminated on my drive there."

That defining moment led her in a new direction, where she applied strategic insight and relentless hard work to help scale a small technology startup into a multimillion-dollar

enterprise. After its acquisition by Gannett, a Fortune 500 company in New York City, Kurtenbach became the media mogul's youngest vice president.

In 2015, love brought Kurtenbach back to South Dakota. She married Chad Kurtenbach and began building a life rooted in faith, family and financial freedom. Over the next decade, she launched two successful Sioux Falls businesses:

- The KB Group: A consulting firm helping startups and mid-sized companies grow through social media and influencer strategy expertise

- moveHER Money: A financial literacy platform founded in 2023 to empower young women with tools, confidence and valuable money management skills

"My second company fulfills a God-led passion to guide young women into mastering their own money," she says. "Financial independence changes lives."

Today, the Kurtenbachs provide their children, Pierce and Ava, with a front-row seat to the benefits of smart, intentional money habits. ■



FINDING HIS WAY AT USF

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

ISAIAS MEDELLIN

Isaias Medellin graduated from high school in 2013, earned an associate's degree in criminal justice in 2017 and then joined the United States Army. After five years of service, he was a young man searching for direction.

"My time in the Army took a toll on my body," he explains. "I spent long hours working on tanks and weapon systems—when I got out, I was ready for something completely different."

In 2023 the Texas native relocated to Sioux Falls, where he shares custody of his six-year-old daughter, Amelia.

"Everything I do is for Amelia. I want to make her proud and be a good example," says the devoted dad.

His desire to build a better life led him to USF's radiologic technology program, drawn by its blend of healthcare, science and technology.

"A friend told me about rad tech and it sounded so interesting," he shares. "When I saw USF offered the program, it felt like the right fit. I decided to go for it."

Despite initial worries about returning to the classroom, Isaias found a welcoming community at USF.

"People at USF are so helpful and friendly. The curriculum is tough but the faculty is amazing," he says. "People here want you to succeed."

That guidance includes helping Isaias secure a work-study position in USF's information technology department as he prepares his application for the final two years of his bachelor's degree. He is hoping to land a coveted spot at an accredited school of radiologic technology through Avera Health or the Sanford USD Medical Center.

The process is competitive—but Isaias is ready for the challenge.

"With hard work I can achieve anything," he says. "I plan to keep learning and moving forward to make the most of every opportunity." ■



DELIVERING COUGAR PRIDE

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

JENNIFER KNUTSON

When Jennifer Knutson spots someone in public wearing Cougar Central apparel, it's more than just school pride—it's personal.

"It's rewarding to see people representing USF in the world, especially when I recognize the item and know it was purchased from the campus bookstore," says Knutson, director of Cougar Central.

With over two decades of service on campus and a leadership role since 2014, Knutson is a familiar and trusted presence for students, parents, faculty, coaches, alumni and fans.

"No two days are the same," she shares. "There are three main functions of Cougar Central, and all of them keep us busy."

Those functions include:

- Curating Cougar spirit wear and merchandise that reflect the diversity and enthusiasm of the USF community.
- Managing campus mail operations, including the surge in online and subscription deliveries that support student life.
- Collaborating with faculty and eCampus.com to ensure students have seamless access to textbooks—whether digital, new, used or rental.

Over the years, Cougar Central has evolved to meet the demands of an increasingly digital world. The campus mailroom handles everything from futons to Hello Fresh deliveries to textbooks.

USF was also among the first universities in South Dakota to implement an online bookstore.

"Moving to an online bookstore created more space for the increase in packages in the mailroom and an expansion of retail services, including the addition of an online retail store on the usf.edu website," she explains.

When it comes to apparel and USF merchandise, Knutson listens closely to student feedback and keeps a sharp eye on trends across high school and college campuses. She also curates items that resonate with a diverse Cougar community, including parents and alumni.

"Cougar Central is more than a store or a mailroom," she says. "It's about fostering pride and connection, a place where everyone can celebrate USF." ■

— UPPING OUR GAME —

SAAC BRINGS USF ATHLETES TOGETHER FOR BETTER



SAAC Leadership L to R: Meghan Jochimsen, co-president; Carley Neumann, staff liaison; Logan Anderson, co-president; Brinley Green, vice president

Attend a USF athletic event this year and you might notice a difference—bigger energy, louder cheers, more high fives and a palpable sense of community among student-athletes. It's not just the thrill of competition. It's the result of a renewed focus on elevating the student-athlete experience, led by USF's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and a spirited initiative known as the Coo Cup Challenge.

Launched last year as a pilot program, the Coo Cup Challenge encourages friendly competition among all 18 USF athletic teams.

The goal? To foster camaraderie, boost attendance at sporting events and inspire student-athletes to serve their campus and community. This fall the challenge has evolved, transforming the culture of support across Cougar Athletics.

"Last year was our test run," says Meghan Jochimsen, co-president of SAAC and USF Softball player. "This year it feels like the Coo Cup Challenge is really taking off. The race to earn points is fun and creates unity among all student-athletes. When other teams show up to cheer us on, the noise and excitement make a difference."

Building Community Through Competition

The Coo Cup Challenge operates on a point system, awarding teams for attending each other's events, participating in service projects and achieving academic and athletic success. It's a simple concept with powerful results. Last year, the women's basketball team claimed the inaugural Coo Cup title — and the competition is heating up this year.

"The challenge is such a great way to incorporate Culture for Service," says Meghan. "It's rewarding to organize service events when you know people are willing and excited to be involved."

This year, SAAC set its sights on a major service goal: adopting a wish for a child through Make-A-Wish® South Dakota. The \$10,000 fundraiser kicked off during the football team's homecoming game against Augustana University on October 4. With competitions between quarters, donation tables and a "Pass the Bucket" challenge, fans from both teams were invited to give generously in a friendly rivalry to see which fan base could raise the most money.

More fundraising events are planned throughout the year, with hopes of presenting the wish to a child next spring. For SAAC, it's not just about raising money—it's about reflecting the heart of USF's mission.



Service That Resonates

In 2024, SAAC members completed 1,215 service hours across the Sioux Falls community. Their outreach included partnerships with:

- Feeding South Dakota
- Laura B. Anderson Elementary School
- Lifescape
- Make-A-Wish® South Dakota
- Project Warm-Up
- Sanford Children's Hospital
- Sioux Falls Youth Sports and Sports Authority
- Special Olympics South Dakota
- St. Francis House
- The Banquet
- YMCA



Whether it's tying blankets, crafting Christmas cards for hospitalized children or hosting a trunk-or-treat event, student-athletes show up with heart and humility.

"Giving back is important at USF," Meghan explains. "It's a great way to show our Cougar pride."

The 2025-26 SAAC initiatives include:

- Mental Health Awareness
- "It's a Slam Dunk – Don't Drink and Drive"
- Life after College
- Wellness & Belonging
- "Game of the Month" home game focus

A Positive Experience

SAAC's leadership structure includes two representatives from each sport, elected by teammates or appointed by coaches. These student-athletes serve as the voice of their teams, advocating for policies, organizing events and fostering collaboration.

The current leadership team includes:

- Meghan Jochimsen, co-president (softball)
- Logan Anderson, co-president (baseball)
- Brinley Green, vice president (wrestling)

All three attend regional or national SAAC conferences, gaining insight from other universities and bringing fresh ideas back to USF. Logan's involvement last year led to his selection for the prestigious NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum, where he joined the top .03% of student-athletes nationwide.

"It was one of the most impactful things I've ever done," Logan says. "The experience changed my perspective on my career path and gave me a whole new vision for my life."

The senior criminal justice and psychology major is now considering a career in athletics, possibly in compliance or serving as an athletic director.

Brinley, who plans to lead SAAC next year, is already thinking ahead. Inspired by national SAAC's focus on mental health, she's committed to making it a central theme of her leadership.

"Mental health is a serious issue among student-athletes," she says. "I'm already brainstorming new ways to involve our coaches and athletes."

Leading by Example

Behind the scenes, SAAC is supported by Carley Neumann, USF associate women's basketball coach/senior woman administrator and SAAC staff liaison. A former SAAC member as a student at St. Cloud State, Neumann brings firsthand experience and a deep commitment to student-athlete development.

"I was excited to get more involved with student-athletes from every sport on campus," Neumann says. "These are some incredible leaders, and it's an honor to support them in this way."

Neumann attends regular SAAC meetings, offering guidance while empowering student leaders to take the reins.

"Meghan, Logan and Brinley prepare and lead the meetings," she explains. "They do a great job—you can feel the momentum in the room."

With Meghan and Logan set to graduate next spring, Brinley is preparing to step into a larger role.

"I've got big shoes to fill," she admits. "But I also have a great support system, which is what being an athlete is all about."

Whether they're filling the stands, serving at The Banquet or raising awareness for important health and safety issues, USF's SAAC proves that when you play for something bigger than yourself, everyone wins. ■



COUGAR FAMILY MEMORIES

The USF family celebrated tradition and long-standing relationships at this year's Cougar Days, October 3-5. Toby Knutson and Charm Swatlowksi were crowned king and queen, alumni returned and reunited with friends and old classmates, and parents joined their students to celebrate homecoming. From the alumni milestone lunch and Alumni Achievement Awards to the family carnival tailgate and football game, the weekend was filled with shared memories and celebration.



Culture for Service Day

'25

Faithful to USF's mission of serving God and humankind in the world, the University has a long-standing tradition of encouraging students to integrate service into their everyday lives. To exemplify this spirit of service, USF devotes one day during the academic year-dubbed 'Culture for Service Day' to serving the community. On September 24, 2025, nearly 450 USF volunteers made an impact at over 20 local organizations.



CLAS NOTES

All notes are based on information received between March 1, 2025 and September 30, 2025. Send us your update today at usioxfalls.edu/keepintouch.

// CELEBRATIONS

Alumni

Mory Anderson '69 married Nancy Bean on Sept. 28, 2025

Brenda (Young) '89 married Adan Reyes on April 25, 2025

Lindsey (Mettler) '15 and Bryn Dubs welcomed Claire Eliana on June 2, 2025

Andrea (Manning) '19 and **Tyler Kopp '20** welcomed Lily Karen on March 7, 2025

Dana (Hein) '20 and **Reid Goeman '20** welcomed Elliott on Dec. 7, 2024

Charlotte (Lena) '20 and **Ben Heckmann '20** welcomed Elijah Thomas on March 7, 2025

Clara (Paul) '20 married Macabe Thoen on July 26, 2025

Grace (Bundesen) '22 and Preston Wilhelmi welcomed Hudson on June 24, 2025

Annika (Aho) '23 married Lyle Brownell on Nov. 8, 2024

// IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Lola (Bertsch) Awald '48, July 31, 2025, Colorado Springs, CO

Delores (Swift) Carey '51, April 29, 2025, Urbandale, IA

Gary Reif '59, June 8, 2025, West Lafayette, IN

Rosie (Lippert) Stoebner '59, May 15, 2025, Rapid City, SD

Erhard Knull '60, June 28, 2025, North Royalton, OH

Ron Mattice '60, May 29, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Joan Hooshagen '61, March 3, 2025, Bella Vista, AR

Brenda (Woodrick) Graves '63, July 6, 2025, Wauwatosa, WI

Sharon (Guy) Collyer-Claude '64, May 13, 2025, Rochester, MN

Ronald Schauer '64, Jan. 5, 2025, Bend, OR

Glenn Adler '66, Aug. 28, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Guy Varud '66, May 24, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Timm Ashley '69, May 1, 2025, Onalaska, WI

Robert Ebert '69, March 4, 2025, Denver, IA

Leland Hult '70, Aug. 18, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Joe Lusk '70, May 17, 2025, Fort Worth, TX

Dan Griffith '72, April 14, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Linda (Modica) Kraft '73, Aug. 11, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Cathy (Wetzberger) Griffith '79, July 15, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Steven Roeglin '79, May 6, 2025, Stuarts Draft, VA

John Richter '84, April 6, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

David Bozung '86, Sept. 3, 2025, Joplin, MO

Betty (Harris) Hilleson '87, Feb. 26, 2025, Veblen, SD

Keith Lapour '87, March 9, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Ann (Wreford) Kuper '88, July 22, 2025, Dell Rapids, SD

Sandra Baier '90, March 4, 2025, Delmont, SD

Kim (Van Kekerix) Bleyenburgh '99, June 29, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Benjamin Whitley '14, Sept. 29, 2025, Tea, SD

Andrew Nelson '16, Oct. 7, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Katherine McKenna '21, Sept. 10, 2025, Charlotte, NC

Friends

Rita Baker, March 21, 2025, Marion, SD

Virgil Burress, May 7, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Denny Davito, June 9, 2025, North Mankato, MN

Chip Kniffin, Aug. 30, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Craig Lloyd, Jan. 29, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Sarah May, Sept. 8, 2025, Sioux City, IA

Larry Schrag, Aug. 31, 2025, Ames, IA

Ev Shepherd, June 20, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Dick Sterup, April 6, 2025, Bentonville, AR

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