

# UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2024



New Athletic Director

**BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE**

People of Impact



# Hello & Welcome

Greetings USF Alumni and Friends,

Incredibly, we are just weeks away from celebrating our 2024 commencement exercises on Saturday, May 18. Throughout this academic year, the campus community has been a hub of positive activities with our residence halls either at, or near capacity and representative of the most students ever residing on the USF campus over its 140-year history of existence. It is truly an honor for those of us that have the unique opportunity to meaningfully interact with our students on a daily basis.

Beginning on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. (CT), our annual giving days launched and continued over the next 48 hours, eventually culminating in a new record of raising over \$293,000 in support of USF's greatest needs and specific programs operated under the auspices of the University. On behalf of a grateful University, I extend our most sincere appreciation to all of our alumni and supporters that took time to generously participate in this important endeavor. Your commitment is never lost on us. Be assured your generosity will be honored and used exclusively for its intended purposes.

The University is very proud of its students and how they demonstrably embrace our traditional motto of Culture for Service. Recently, nearly 100 USF students that are part of our USF Concert Chorale and Collegiate Choir spent their morning volunteering to support the noble mission of the St. Francis House in Sioux Falls. The expressed mission statement of the St. Francis House is: Moving people from homelessness to hope. In this act of care for humankind, our students and staff provided their labor and caring interactions to those that the St. Francis House serves, all of which was grounded in our Christian faith. Perhaps most impressive is that our students engaged in this service effort before providing a beautiful concert at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph that same evening. While USF excels at providing high-quality educational programming, equal emphasis is placed on serving God and humankind as part of our mission-centric purpose that drives the USF experience.

As we prepare to conclude the 2023-24 academic year, we reflect on the extraordinary Christian and academic legacy of this University. Thank you for being the University's greatest ambassadors to the external world! Blessings.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Brett Bradfield

President, University of Sioux Falls



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The COOcommunity rallied together for 48 hours of giving in support of students' transformative USF experiences.

TAKE OUR READER'S SURVEY: [USIOXFALLS.EDU/MAGSURVEY](https://usioxford.edu/magsurvey)



# UPDATES

## FREDRIKSON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CAEP ACCREDITATION

The Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP) is an organization in the US that evaluates and accredits educator preparation programs, ensuring they meet rigorous standards for quality and effectiveness. To become accredited, the Fredrikson School of Education (FSOE) underwent a comprehensive review process that included a self-study, documentation of evidence and a site visit by trained evaluators. The evaluation focused on program outcomes, faculty qualifications, candidate assessment and continuous improvement efforts. If a program meets CAEP's standards, it earns accreditation signifying its commitment to producing competent and effective educators.

After a rigorous, but successful recertification process, the FSOE is celebrating accreditation through 2030, which indicates a significant achievement and commitment to maintaining high standards in educator preparation. USF is the only private university in South Dakota to achieve CAEP accreditation.

## THREE USF ALUMNI RECOGNIZED IN SIOUXFALLS.BUSINESS 30 UNDER 30

In the second annual listing of the SiouxFalls.Business 30 Under 30, recipients were chosen who showed clear early career achievements and promise for future leadership, strong engagement in the community beyond their workplace and innovative passion projects. Three USF alumni were named to the list:

- + **Angelica Mercado-Ford '22** – Educator and coach, Sioux Falls School District
- + **Jae Kelsey '24** – Human resources director/executive assistant, Sioux Falls Area Humane Society
- + **Kristin Kotas '22** – Resident director and coordinator of housing & operations, University of Sioux Falls



Congratulations on your accomplishments and thank you for inspiring a Culture for Service in all you do!



## SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for Cougar Days 2024! See you on campus October 17-20!



# D O N O R

## Spotlight

John and Ann Collier



The Lord works in mysterious ways.

Ann and John Collier are a great example of that mystery. The Colliers are among USF's most generous donors, yet the couple didn't attend college at USF. In fact, Ann and John came to campus for the first time in 1999, three years after their retirement from distinguished careers on the east coast.

During that visit, they saw why USF was a special place for John's mother, Mary Collier Baker. Ironically, Mary didn't graduate from USF either, though she claimed Sioux Falls College as her alma mater.

"My mother graduated from Des Moines University, which was a private Baptist college," explains John. "When the university closed, student records were relocated to Sioux Falls College. Years later, the president of Sioux Falls College invited my mother to visit. She fell in love with the campus and was thrilled when they asked her to be on the board of trustees. Her husband, Raymond Baker, developed an affinity for USF as well, and the school became one of their favorite charitable causes."

After Raymond and Mary passed away, the Colliers inherited stock from Pioneer Hi-Bred

International where Raymond served as director of corn breeding. They felt called to gift part of that inheritance to USF to help fund various projects, including the construction of Mary Collier Baker Hall. The apartment-style residence hall stands as a permanent reminder of Mary's commitment to USF.

In 2000, John was invited to join the USF Board of Trustees and continues to serve on the board today.

"It is such an honor to serve this University," he says. "We are Christians and like the fact that USF is authentically Christian, with strong values and great leadership."

In 2023, the Colliers were awarded USF's Perisho Award for altruistic Christian leadership and service. The couple traveled to Sioux Falls from their home in Mukilteo, Washington, to receive the award.

"We really enjoy Sioux Falls. Visiting the USF campus is always energizing and we have great friends here," says John. "Receiving the Perisho Award was special not just for us, but for my mother and Raymond as well." ■



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# A GAME PLAN FOR LIFE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

## KALEN DEBOER '98

When Kalen DeBoer moved into his new office at the University of Alabama, one of the first things he unpacked was a large manila envelope overflowing with letters, cards and notes collected over the years, dating back to his time at USF.

"Some of the most important relationships of my life came from USF," says DeBoer, a former USF football player (1993-1996) and highly esteemed Cougar football coach (2004-2009). "My college teammates are like brothers. I had a special relationship with Coach Bob Young. I stay in touch with former players, and enjoy connecting with alumni, donors, coaching staff, faculty and people all over the state."

Most South Dakotans take pride in knowing the coach replacing Alabama's legendary Nick Saban got his start here. But that pride goes both ways.

"I grew up in Milbank where I played every sport and was surrounded by support," he says. "I had strong coaching influences in high school and came alive under Bob Young. Coach Young created a passionate environment, built around a positive team culture and strong servant leadership. He poured his soul into USF's football program, so we did too."

After college, DeBoer enjoyed time as an assistant high school football coach and then returned to USF as the Cougar's offensive coordinator. He became head coach when Young retired in 2005. He led the Cougars to three NAIA National Championships before rising through the ranks of college football, eventually landing his coveted role at one of the most prestigious NCAA Division I programs in the country. Through it all, he relies on a philosophy that's worked from the beginning.

"I surround myself with the right people and give them everything I have. If I have faith in them, they'll have faith in me," he says.

To illustrate his point, DeBoer refers to a recent Crimson Tide recruitment slide. It showcases a photo of 12 USF alumni football players who traveled to Washington to watch DeBoer coach the Huskies on to victory over the Oregon Ducks. The men who started it all continually show up for their coach—in person, on the phone and in their cards and letters.

"That photo is my why," he says. "That's the reason I do what I do." ■







# A SPIRIT FOR SERVICE

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

## ADDISON BRENNER

Addison Brenner was in seventh grade when she leaned over to her grandma in church and whispered that she wanted to be a hospital chaplain someday.

That someday is within reach.

This spring Addison graduates from USF with degrees in theology & biblical studies and psychology. After graduation she will take online courses at Fuller Seminary and begin working toward her Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree.

"Once I complete my master's degree, I plan to work as either a hospital chaplain or a hospice chaplain," she says. "I have faith I will be called where I need to be."

Addison's faith has shaped much of her life, and it shows in her interactions with others. She models USF's Culture for Service motto and can always be counted on to offer spiritual guidance, a helping hand or a caring heart. She gained valuable experiences through her involvement in Campus Ministries, where she was a campus ministries advocate her sophomore year and president her junior and senior years.

"My involvement with Campus Ministries gave me the opportunity to serve on the USF Executive Council, help facilitate meetings for spiritual life, organize retreats, lead worship

nights and chapel events and help guide weekly Bible studies in all the residence halls," she explains.

She credits Dean of Chapel Dennis Thum and Campus Ministry Assistant Austin Ludens for helping her grow her faith and for opening the doors of opportunity.

"I appreciate the ability to form personal relationships with the USF faculty. They have been a big part of my spiritual journey," she says.

She counts a retreat at Swan Lake with some of the USF theology faculty as one of her favorite USF memories. Another fond memory is her inclusion on USF's homecoming court. In 2023, she was honored with the Thomas F. Johnson Distinguished Service Award and the Purple Legacy Award.

Addison grew up in Sioux Falls and is a 2020 graduate of Sioux Falls Washington High School. She met her husband, Josh, at Camp Judson when they were in middle school and the couple lives in Sioux Falls with their dog, Oaklee. ■





# ON A HIGH NOTE

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

## DAVID DEHOOGH-KLIEWER

Dr. David DeHoogh-Kliewer has a gift for bringing people together.

The well-respected professor of music and director of choral activities (known as Dr. D-K) has led USF's choral groups to nine countries and 13 states in his 18 years on campus. With raised voices and generous spirits, the singers are ambassadors for USF and for God, performing worship music and hosting concerts in churches, schools, various shelters, hospitals and retirement centers.

"We use our music to serve others through performance. We also participate in service projects as the 'hands and feet of Jesus' in the communities we visit," he says.

Dr. DeHoogh-Kliewer was drawn to USF because the Christ-centered liberal arts university provides him an opportunity to praise God collaboratively through music. His love for the arts is contagious, and USF's choral program thrives under his direction. Dr. DeHoogh-Kliewer received the Outstanding Faculty Award in 2015-2016, a testament to his hard work and dedication.

Not only is there growth in the number of choir participants on campus, but innovative programming led to unique outreach opportunities.

"In 2006, we created the University Singers," he explains. "The ensemble's purpose is to tour high schools, provide inspirational performances and encourage high school singers to consider participating in the arts at the university level."

After nearly two decades at USF, Dr. DeHoogh-Kliewer has built relationships with countless students and he enjoys the opportunity to reconnect with them through the department's reunion events.

"In 2023, we celebrated our Madrigal tradition by inviting all former Madrigal singers back to USF. We also convened an alumni choir as part of our homecoming festivities, celebrating 115 years of choral singing on our campus," he says.

The tenured professor has a bachelor's degree in music education, a master's degree in vocal music education and a doctoral degree in conducting. He serves as a guest clinician and music contest adjudicator, is a professional vocalist, is active in the community and First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls and serves as the area chair for visual and performing arts at USF. ■

# Building an International Bridge

## USF BRINGS ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM TO A DIVERSE SIOUX FALLS COMMUNITY

Before each new semester, Dr. Randy Nelson visits approximately 45 locations across Sioux Falls to hang posters promoting the USF Bridges English Language Program. He travels to businesses, churches and places of employment known to serve immigrants and refugees and talks to people about the program's goal of helping non-native speakers become more proficient in speaking, reading, writing and listening in English.

"I have great respect for anyone who comes from another country to advance his or her life in the United States," says Dr. Nelson, a professor of education at USF who also serves as the director of international education and leads the Bridges Program. "Language acquisition opens the door to more employment and educational opportunities and allows people to communicate intelligence and identity. Language is a key component of our identities."







## New Beginnings

The Bridges Program operated at Kilian Community College for years but came to a halt when the college closed in 2016. USF reopened the program in 2017 as part of its commitment to Kilian Community College and as part of USF's Culture for Service motto.

"The loss of the program left a significant gap in community services," says USF President Brett Bradfield, who served on Kilian's board of trustees at the time of the school's closing. "There were no other programs that taught entry-level English language classes to adults, and there was a huge need for that in Sioux Falls."

Leaders at USF decided to bring the program to campus under the direction of Dr. Nelson, who has a bachelor's degree in English and German, a master's degree in English and a doctoral degree in educational leadership. In addition to 45 years of teaching experience (17 at USF), the esteemed professor travels yearly to Liberia, West Africa, to educate teachers through a pedagogy program he developed himself.

"We originally committed to the Bridges Program for two years because we just didn't know how it was going to go," says Dr. Bradfield. "Dr. Nelson has done an incredible job of taking on this program, making it our own and building upon its success for the past seven years. But because the program isn't financially sustaining, we were seeking new ways to help us continue providing this valuable service to the community."

“ WE ARE CURRENTLY  
TEACHING ABOUT 80  
STUDENTS PER YEAR FROM  
ALL OVER THE WORLD,  
AND IT'S EXCITING TO BE  
PART OF THIS MISSION.”

## A Generous Grant

Recognizing the opportunity the Bridges Program presented in contributing to workforce development in the community, Dr. Bradfield engaged in conversations with Mike Lynch, program director of Forward Sioux Falls, and Jeff Griffin, president & CEO of the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce in the fall of 2023 regarding the possibility of Forward Sioux Falls providing funding support of the program. Dr. Bradfield was invited to present a proposal in January 2024, at which time the funding was generously approved. USF was awarded a grant for \$112,000 to assist in operating the Bridges Program through 2026.

"The people who enroll in this program primarily want to improve their career prospects or further their education," says Dr. Nelson. "We are currently teaching about 80 students per year from all over the world, and it's exciting to be part of this mission."

The cost for enrolling in the Bridges Program is \$100—not enough to cover the basics but enough to help students feel like they are investing in themselves.



Dr. Randy Nelson, director of international education and professor of education, leads the Bridges Program.



# AROUND THE WORLD

- Bridges Program students have come from 17 countries spanning the globe.



## Successful Outcomes

Visit Jorden Hall room 317 when a Bridges course is in session, and you will see a mix of people from places like Ethiopia, South Sudan, Guatemala and El Salvador. Classes are held in the mornings and evenings to accommodate busy schedules. Just one example of the program's success is a physician who immigrated to the United States and spoke little English.

"This physician was unable to practice medicine because she wasn't licensed in this country, but she wanted to work in an area hospital or clinic," explains Dr. Nelson. "Through the Bridges Program, she was able to achieve a level of fluency that allowed her to apply for a position at Avera Health, where she now works in a medical capacity."

Dr. Nelson indicates that many highly educated people come to Sioux Falls from other countries, but the language barrier often prevents them from fully utilizing their talents in the workforce.

"Some are fleeing war, poverty or natural disasters," he says. "In addition to helping them build a better life through improved English skills, we want to give them hope, encouragement and a fresh start. It's incredibly rewarding to see our Bridges students thriving in the Sioux Falls community." ■





# FAMILY FAR FROM HOME

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

## DOMÉNICA SOLANO OCAMPO

Doménica “Dome” Solano Ocampo grew up in Ecuador, never imagining she would attend college in the United States. God had other plans, and a special coach connected Dome to USF, where she was offered a scholarship and the opportunity to swim competitively.

She took a leap of faith and arrived on campus the day before classes started in 2020.

“Language was a challenge at first, but people were so friendly and helpful. I found many beautiful people here and some true angels,” she explains. “I came to USF to swim, but I stayed because of the people.”

Four years later, Dome leaves a mark on the swim team and in the classroom, earning many accolades along the way. She will graduate this spring with degrees in exercise science and psychology and was accepted into the master’s program for human kinetics at the University of Ottawa, Canada.

“USF prepared me well. The faculty is extremely supportive, and I am grateful for the Academic Success Center,” she says. “I was also blessed by a research opportunity at the Avera Human Performance Center, and I have an amazing alumni mentor.”

Her sophomore year, Dome became a resident assistant (RA) in North Residence Hall, where she is known for her cheerful outlook and vivacious nature. Her experience as an RA opened doors to clubs like Latinos Unidos and First Gen, along with new ways to serve and volunteer.

“I grew as a leader,” she says. “I made friends from all walks of life and love supporting them in their activities.”

Supporting others comes naturally to Dome. She grew up in a large, close-knit family that includes her mother, father and brother as well as grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. While at USF, Dome was “adopted” by a second family that includes teammates, coaches, faculty, friends and people from her church and community.

“I have been surrounded by love and support my entire life, so God gave me a new family to love,” she says. “I was meant to come to USF, and I thank Him for that every day.” ■





# CREATING A PATH

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

KYLE SIMONS '13, '17

"Graduation is one of my favorite experiences at USF. Each one of those grads began the journey as a prospective student and ended with a college diploma. It's extremely rewarding," says Kyle Simons, USF's director of admissions.

Simons began his own journey at USF as a student-athlete recruited from Colorado Springs to play soccer. The business administration major began giving campus tours his freshman year and continued working in the admissions office through college. After graduation in 2013, he became a full-time undergraduate admissions counselor.

Simons worked his way up until he was promoted to lead the department in 2021. Along the way, he earned his MBA from USF.

"I bleed purple," he admits. "I met my wife here, and we had our wedding on the steps of Jorden Hall. USF is my family, and I feel fortunate to be here."

An authentic passion for USF drives Simons to excel at his job. In 2023, the University achieved a record-breaking freshmen class and the largest full-time traditional student population in USF history. But for Simons, success means more than numbers.

"Our goal as a university is to recruit students and then help them grow into people who will make an impact," he says. "We teach values, character and leadership along with academics. Organizations who hire USF grads notice the difference."

While 2023's enrollment numbers made USF history, the admissions team is preparing for challenging times ahead.

"Everyone in higher education knows about the 2025 cliff," he says. "In 2025, institutions across the country will be competing for a smaller pool of incoming freshmen. USF has been preparing for years, but I'm confident my team, the USF faculty and our strong leadership will get us through."

While the landscape is becoming more competitive, Simons says the secret to recruiting new students to USF is simple.

"Once students meet our faculty, see our campus and feel the sense of community, it's an easy 'yes' for those who want a smaller, more personal experience," he says. "USF has strong academic programming. We're a small Christian university in a large, vibrant city. We just have so much to offer." ■





# FINDING HERSELF IN SIOUX FALLS

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

T E N L E Y   S C H W A R T Z   ' 1 8

"This is where I belong."

Tenley Schwartz felt it the moment she stepped onto campus. The Wells, Minnesota, native was touring USF with her high school friend, a potential cross country recruit, when she somehow just knew.

"The coach was telling my friend about USF's strong culture and community, how the team was like a family," she explains. "I was also a distance runner but hadn't considered competing in college. In the end, my friend chose another school. I came to USF and ran all four years."

That noteworthy college visit opened doors that led Schwartz to new passions, exciting opportunities and a busy life in a city she proudly calls home.

"USF was a safe landing place for me. I was homeschooled, so college was a big jump in my independence," she explains. "The faith-based campus gave me permission to be myself while allowing me to grow and try new things."

That growth helped Schwartz step into the Sioux Falls community as an advocate, an artist and a creative leader. The 2018

graduate majored in art with a minor in English and concentrations in graphic design, print making and painting. After an inspirational internship and a year as a freelance designer, Schwartz joined the staff at Downtown Sioux Falls. As marketing director, she was a driving force behind popular local events and worked tirelessly to promote the vibrant downtown community. While she loved the work and the people, she was ready for a new challenge and recently accepted a position at Matt Jensen Marketing. It's a role she's thoroughly embracing.

"I love being in a place that connects so many talented people," she says. "You don't need to be in a big city to live a big life."

In addition to a rewarding career, Schwartz fills her cup with smaller-scale community building and self-directed projects. She's the volunteer president of AIGA South Dakota, the professional association for design, which is an organization dedicated to advancing the state's creative network. She also enjoys sketching, reading, writing and exploring Sioux Falls every chance she gets. ■



# FROM TIGER TO COUGAR

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USF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR JON HART



## THIS PAST JANUARY, USF WELCOMED A NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TO CAMPUS.

Jon Hart came to the University of Sioux Falls from Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, where he successfully led the Tigers to their first national championships in 2018 and 2019 and helped raise over \$15 million for capital projects and an additional \$900,000 annually for athletics. The Alexandria, South Dakota, native served as assistant athletic director for DWU for four years before his promotion to athletic director. He led the well-respected department for seven years, overseeing 18 sports and approximately 450 student-athletes.

Prior to that, Hart played both football and baseball at DWU and graduated in 2011 with degrees in sports management and business. He later went on to earn a master's degree in administration and educational policy.



### GET TO KNOW JON HART

#### Why did you decide to move from DWU to USF?

My wife works at Avera in Sioux Falls and had been commuting between Mitchell and Sioux Falls for years. When this career opportunity presented itself, we knew we had to consider it. While it was hard to leave DWU, the path to USF was easy because everything just fell into place. Doors opened, and we felt really welcome here.

#### Why do you think you are the right person for the job?

My vision aligns with USF's vision when it comes to athletics and the student-athlete experience. I have confidence in my ability to lead and I feel really connected to this area. I am excited about the challenges of a new job, and I try to bring that excitement with me every day. I also understand the dynamics and challenges of a private, Christian university and believe in USF's faith-based mission and Culture for Service motto.

#### How does that faith-based mission align with your goals for the athletic department?

I want faith to be at the center of everything we do, but we don't want to force it on anyone. USF does a great job of being an example of faith and service and demonstrating how to treat others. Student-athletes will continue to be models of service in our community, and we will continue to

capitalize on partnerships with various internal and external faith-based organizations such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

#### You had some big successes at DWU. How will that help you in your role at USF?

I'd like to help bring USF's athletic culture to the next level. I want the entire campus and the local community to be invested in our success. I want to bring new energy to the department, from improved facilities to an enhanced fan experience to more community engagement, possibly revitalizing the brand and logo. Creating more community excitement and support for USF Athletics is a top priority.

#### Where do you see the future of USF Athletics?

I see USF as one of the most respected and competitive DII athletic programs in the country. We have a high-caliber coaching, administration and staff, plus we are part of a tremendous community and a strong conference. There's no reason we can't be among the best of the best.



**What are your plans for recruiting and retaining quality student-athletes?**

My philosophy is to recruit the student first because academic success is most important. It's also important to make sure the student-athlete is the right fit for USF. Finally, as far as retention goes, we'll work hard to make sure they have a rewarding and holistic experience while they are here.

**Tell us more about your philosophy on academic success and the student-athlete experience?**

Success in the classroom translates to success as an athlete. In my mind, it's always student first, athlete second. Those efforts are reflected in USF's high cumulative team GPAs and the great collaboration our department has with the faculty on campus. One great perk of a small private college is that help is always available.

**What kind of legacy do you hope to leave at USF?**

When it's time for me to retire or move on, I will go with the cliché: I want to leave the department and University better than I found it. My goal is to take USF Athletics to new

levels of success. I hope to build lasting partnerships within the community and to help student-athletes achieve more than they ever thought possible.

**What do you enjoy in your free time?**

I like spending time with friends and family. I enjoy golf, fishing and hunting, and of course I like to attend anything competitive. I spend a lot of time following sports!

**Tell us about your family and how they have adjusted to being Cougars?**

Our family has adjusted extremely well. We are currently residing in Dell Rapids, where my wife Danielle grew up. We have twin daughters, Harper and Henley, who just turned four and are wrapping up their first year of preschool. We also have a one-year-old son, Hawkins. Our entire family loves coming to USF events and being around the students and campus community. USF feels like home and we are really happy to be Cougars! ■



# TRAVELING *A broad*

This January USF students had the opportunity to travel to the Czech Republic, Austria and Germany to spread their musical ministry across the globe.

Performances took place at the Christmas Market and during mass at St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague (Czech Republic); at cathedrals in Vienna, Linz and Salsburg (Austria); and in Germany where students performed with a German choir called Jungen Kammerchor Lucente at St. Canisius Church.





# CLASS NOTES

All notes are based on information received between October 1, 2023 and February 29, 2024. Send us your update today at [usf.usiouxfalls.edu/keepintouch](https://usf.usiouxfalls.edu/keepintouch).

## // CELEBRATIONS

### Alumni

**Trina (Trotter) '02** and Jared Elrod welcomed Gracyn Leigh on May 3, 2023.

**Libby (Fritz) '03** and George Lee welcomed Vivien on Oct. 20, 2023.

**Jessica Lindahl '04** married Trent Dillon on Oct. 21, 2023.

**Mary Fritson '05** married Kirk Petit on June 11, 2022.

**Reid Johnson '07** and Jessi welcomed Rowen James on May 28, 2023.

**Jessica Dalton '11** married **Kendall Sailer '18** on Oct. 12, 2023.

**Katelynn (Peterson) '13** and TJ Doohen welcomed Micah Jude on Nov. 2, 2023.

**Nicole (Josephsen) '13** and Ben Norton welcomed Dean on Nov. 19, 2023.

**Lily Gullickson '14** married Bryce Bills on Dec. 1, 2023.

**Andrea (Micek) '15** and Sam Nichols welcomed Charles Alan on Nov. 30, 2023.

**Shae Hoskins '16** married Zane Zentic on Oct. 7, 2023.

**Gretchen Ahrens '17** married Anthony Huntsman on Nov. 3, 2023.

**Abby Folk '17** married Kyle Groeneweg on April 28, 2023.

**Laura (Ebbesen) '17** and Jeremy Nettifee welcomed Charlotte Ruth on Nov. 5, 2023.

**Erica (Zieglowsky) '17** and Trenten Tharp welcomed Theo Nash on Dec. 23, 2023.

**Madison (Snelling) '18** and Josh McBeth welcomed Theo David on Oct. 13, 2023.

**Megan Van Voorst '18** married **Jason Byre '20** on May 7, 2022 and welcomed Jordan on Oct. 13, 2023.

**Molly Heyn '20** married **Devin Green '19** on Sept. 2, 2023.

**Taryn (Ceglowski) '21** and **Steven Brown '20** welcomed Arcadia Sue on Sept. 28, 2023.

**AbbyRose (Miller) '22** and Isaac Vinales welcomed Gabriel on Nov. 17, 2023.

**Jenelee Buehring '23** married Josh Bakker on July 16, 2023.

**Katelyn Grangaard '23** married Donovan Peterson on Feb. 3, 2023.

## // IN MEMORIAM

### Alumni

**Jerry Larsen '48**, Dec. 3, 2022, Burnsville, MN

**Paul Reeder '52**, Dec. 28, 2023, Billings, MT

**Gaylord Larsen '53**, Dec. 31, 2023, Ventura, CA

**Dottie (Bibelheimer) McGrath '58**, Dec. 29, 2023, Valencia, CA

**Larry Winter '60**, Dec. 3, 2023, Overland Park, KS

**Paul Edens '63**, March 1, 2023, Portland, OR

**Grace Hough '63**, Dec. 11, 2023, Brandon, SD

**Cynthia Strom '63**, Oct. 24, 2023, Sedona, AZ

**Jerry Smith '64**, May 31, 2023, Sheboygan, WI

**Clazina (Fluit) Burggraaf '65**, Oct. 6, 2023, Inwood, IA

**Sandy Scott '65**, March 10, 2023, Olmsted Falls, OH

**Sandra (Splonskowski) Tieszen '65**, Feb. 19, 2024, Marion, SD

**Marie (Gifford) Pearson '66**, Dec. 23, 2023, Kansas City, KS

**Arlene (Bruns) Gerber '67**, Nov. 7, 2023, Luverne, MN

**Gene Carpenter '68**, Jan. 27, 2024, Washington, IA

**Joan (Sorensen) Friessen '68**, Jan. 15, 2024, Sioux Falls, SD

**Larry Lloyd '69**, Sept. 15, 2023, Memphis, MO

**Karen Fritz '70**, Nov. 8, 2023, Sioux Falls, SD

**Patricia (Johnson) Hoffman '71**, Feb. 25, 2024, Lodi, CA

**Deborah (Douthit) Bolger '72**, Feb. 8, 2024, Sioux Falls, SD

**Ada Buseman '74**, Dec. 9, 2023, Canistota, SD

**William Kluckman '74**, Oct. 9, 2023, Sioux Falls, SD

**Jean Novak '75**, Feb. 14, 2024, Sun City West, AZ

**Robert Lommen '76**, Nov. 17, 2023, Sioux Falls, SD

**Nancy (Lammert) Semmler '76**, Dec. 19, 2023, Sioux Falls, SD

**Linda (Nielsen) Easthouse '79**, Feb. 22, 2024, Spearfish, SD

**Mike Cullen '06**, Feb. 13, 2024, Maple Grove, MN

**Chuck Knutson '06**, Jan. 20, 2024, Trent, SD

### Friends

**Dr. Franklin Barry Haber**, Feb. 23, 2023, Seattle, WA

## USF DATA VERIFICATION & ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

All alumni have a story and we want to hear yours. That's why USF is partnering with PCI to embark on a new oral history project to collect the stories of alumni in their own words. We're excited to get started soon so watch for postcards and emails prompting you to verify your alumni data and share your story!

# GIVE2COO

## 2024 RESULTS

48 HOURS

38 CHALLENGES

591 DONORS

**\$293,100**

March 19-21, the USF community came together to transform our campus and the lives of our students. Thanks to hundreds of donors from all over the country, a **record-breaking** \$293,100 was raised in just 48 hours during our 8<sup>th</sup> annual giving days.



Our community  
has given over

**\$1.5 Million**

during our  
annual giving  
days!

139

**NEW**  
donors!

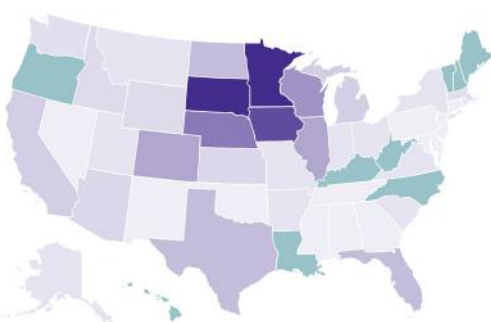
### WHAT AN IMPACT!

- + ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS \$22,037
- + FINE ARTS \$24,560
- + ATHLETICS \$93,395
- + STUDENT LIFE \$4,125
- + USF FUND \$148,983

### SMALL GIFTS = BIG IMPACT

Nearly 70% of gifts were \$100 or less. Together, gifts of every size, from every person add up to make a big impact!

Gifts were received from **41 states!**



**\$146,730**

in challenge funds unlocked

Donors chose from any of the 25+ areas to support, and special challenge funds amplified their donations to have more impact than at any other time of the year!

Watch videos and  
see the impact of  
**GIVE2COO!**



UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

# *Alumni Achievement* **AWARDS**

Alumni Pacesetter Award

Dr. A. O. Larsen Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Firman A. Early Distinguished Ministry Award

Lois Harchanko Distinguished Music Award

**Submit your award nominations before June 1**  
[usiouxfalls.edu/awards](https://usiouxfalls.edu/awards)

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