

UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2026



Renovation Recap

TOGETHER IS BETTER

People of Impact



Hello & Welcome

Dear USF Alumni and Friends,

As we approach the end of another academic year witnessing the professional and personal growth of our incredible students, I am grateful for the many ways our USF community continues to honor its mission. We are encouraged by a bright future full of possibilities for the University in the ever-changing higher education landscape. This year has already brought meaningful milestones—each one a reflection of our shared commitment to student success.

Recently, we announced our latest placement rate statistics, which continue to affirm what we have long believed; our graduates are prepared to lead, serve and thrive. The strong outcomes reflected in these results speak not only to the quality of our academic programs, but also to the dedication of our faculty, staff and business partners. At a time when workforce readiness is more important than ever, we remain focused on equipping our USF students with both the knowledge and practical experience needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving economy.

This year marked a special milestone for our community as we celebrated the 10th annual GIVE2COO event. With “Legacy” as the theme, this year’s day of charitable giving marked a decade of generosity and collective impact. For 10 years, alumni, friends, faculty and staff have come together to support scholarships, programs and opportunities that shape the student experience. This year, our total achieved was just under \$310,000 over 48 hours of generosity among supporters of the University.

As we reflect on the theme of legacy, I would also take a moment to recognize former USF president, Dr. Owen Halleen, who passed on March 5, 2026. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, and we are deeply grateful for his commitment to USF’s mission over the years.

Looking to the future, we are excited to expand our academic offerings in ways that directly respond to workforce development. We have recently rolled out several industry-specific MBA concentrations designed to prepare graduate students for leadership in specialized fields. These programs reflect our ongoing commitment to aligning USF programming with career pathways that serve both traditional students and working professionals.

Of course, this commencement season also brings one of our most cherished moments as we celebrate the achievements of our graduates. On May 2, we will gather to recognize our newest graduates as they cross the stage and begin the next chapter of their lives. It is a moment of pride not only for them, but also for all of us who have been honored to play a role in this important journey.

Wherever this letter finds you, please know how deeply we value your continued connection to the University. Your engagement, whether through mentorship, philanthropy or simply sharing your story, sustains our Christian and academic community at USF. Thank you for being part of our legacy.

With sincere gratitude,

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

Dr. Brett Bradfield
President, University of Sioux Falls

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Take an in-depth look at how seven USF community members are using their lives to make an impact on the world.

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CLASS NOTES

Celebrate births and marriages of fellow Cougars and honor those who have passed.

Scan the code to take our reader's survey.



UPDATES

USF LAUNCHES ESPORTS WITH COMPETITION TO BEGIN IN FALL 2026

Collegiate Esports is competitive, multiplayer video gaming focused on some of the world's most popular titles. Esports is one of the fastest growing sports on college campuses, and USF will compete as a coed team, providing new avenues for student engagement, recruitment and scholarship opportunities. Esports offers gamers and non-gamers alike a space to work together in the pursuit of goals one cannot achieve alone. Libby Franken has been hired as USF's first Esports coach. She most recently was captain at Buena Vista University and brings four years of playing experience at the collegiate level to the USF Esports program.

NEW STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES AT USF

USF has expanded its study abroad opportunities, offering partnerships at more than 30 colleges and universities worldwide. Students can choose destinations ranging from Sydney to Barcelona to London and beyond. The study abroad program offers students the opportunity to earn academic credit while gaining real-world experience and global perspective.



Students interested in exploring opportunities are encouraged to connect with USF's Student Life office to learn more about available programs and begin planning their experience.

TWO USF ALUMNI RECOGNIZED IN SIOUXFALLS.BUSINESS 30 UNDER 30

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

- + **Olivia Boese '19** – senior project specialist, Maximizing Excellence
- + **Max Rysdon '18** – commercial sales director, Sioux Steel Company

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



**SCAN HERE
TO READ MORE**

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO RETIRING USF FACULTY MEMBERS

With an impressive, combined 119 years of teaching experience, the following faculty will be retiring after the academic year:

- Dr. Mike Grevlos, professor of psychology
- Dr. George Mwangi, associate professor of chemistry
- Dr. Bill Soeffing, professor of biology
- Jill Whitley, CPA, associate professor of accounting



**COMING
FALL 2026**

*Take your
game to the
next level!*

JOIN THE TEAM
usiouxfalls.edu/esports



*Cougar
Days*

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for Cougar Days 2026! See you on campus September 25-27!



FROM USF TO THE NFL

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 R E Y P I P K I N S ' 1 8

Watching Trey Pipkins anchor the Los Angeles Chargers' offensive line for the past seven seasons, it's hard to imagine this dynamic NFL force had just a single collegiate football offer.

That offer came from the USF Cougars in 2014.

"I was raised in an athletic household, but I was a late bloomer," he explains. "I shot up nearly a foot between my junior and senior year of high school but hadn't fully grown into my athleticism. The USF coaching staff saw potential and gave me a chance. It changed my life."

While at USF, Pipkins grew in both size and skill, developing the agility and explosiveness that drew NFL attention. The All-American was a third-round draft pick for the Chargers in 2019 and has been a versatile, powerful presence ever since.

Despite his success, Pipkins remains grounded in what matters most.

"My wife Taylor and I are blessed with four beautiful, crazy kids," he says. "I spend as much time with them as I can in the offseason."

He also values the relationships built during his time at USF, including some of his best friends, former coaches and USF supporters like Paul and Darlene Eidsness who "stood by me as a USF athlete and stand by me today."

Pipkins earned a sports management degree and credits his advisor, Lorri Halverson, for helping him stay focused.

"I was good at school, but I didn't love it," he admits. "Lorri helped me grind through my courses and I'm grateful for my degree."

His faith also deepened during college. "The most influential people in my life were strong Christians," he reflects. "They guided my path. Now, my wife and I do our best to model Christian values to our kids."

When asked what it takes to thrive in the NFL, Pipkins keeps it simple: "Have fun and enjoy the moments. If you love what you do, the work comes easier. I try not to get wrapped up in the pressure. I was made to smile and that's what I'm going to do." ■



ELSA GJERDE

JOSIE GJERDE

DOUBLE THE OPPORTUNITIES

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

ELSA AND JOSIE GJERDE

Growing up in the rural community of Sunburg, Minnesota, identical twins Elsa and Josie Gjerde did almost everything together. But when it came time to consider the future and college, their interests couldn't have been more different.

Josie was looking for a bigger-city experience and a program that would support her desire for an MBA. Elsa wanted smaller class sizes, friendly professors and a university that offered majors in both criminal justice and social work.

In the end, they both landed on the same solution: USF.

Elsa was the first to commit. She was excited by USF's tight-knit community and the opportunity to graduate in just three years thanks to USF's acceptance of college credits earned during high school. When Josie discovered the University's 3+1 MBA program, she felt called to USF as well.

"USF offers a path for earning an MBA in just four years," explains Josie. "I could not say no to that."

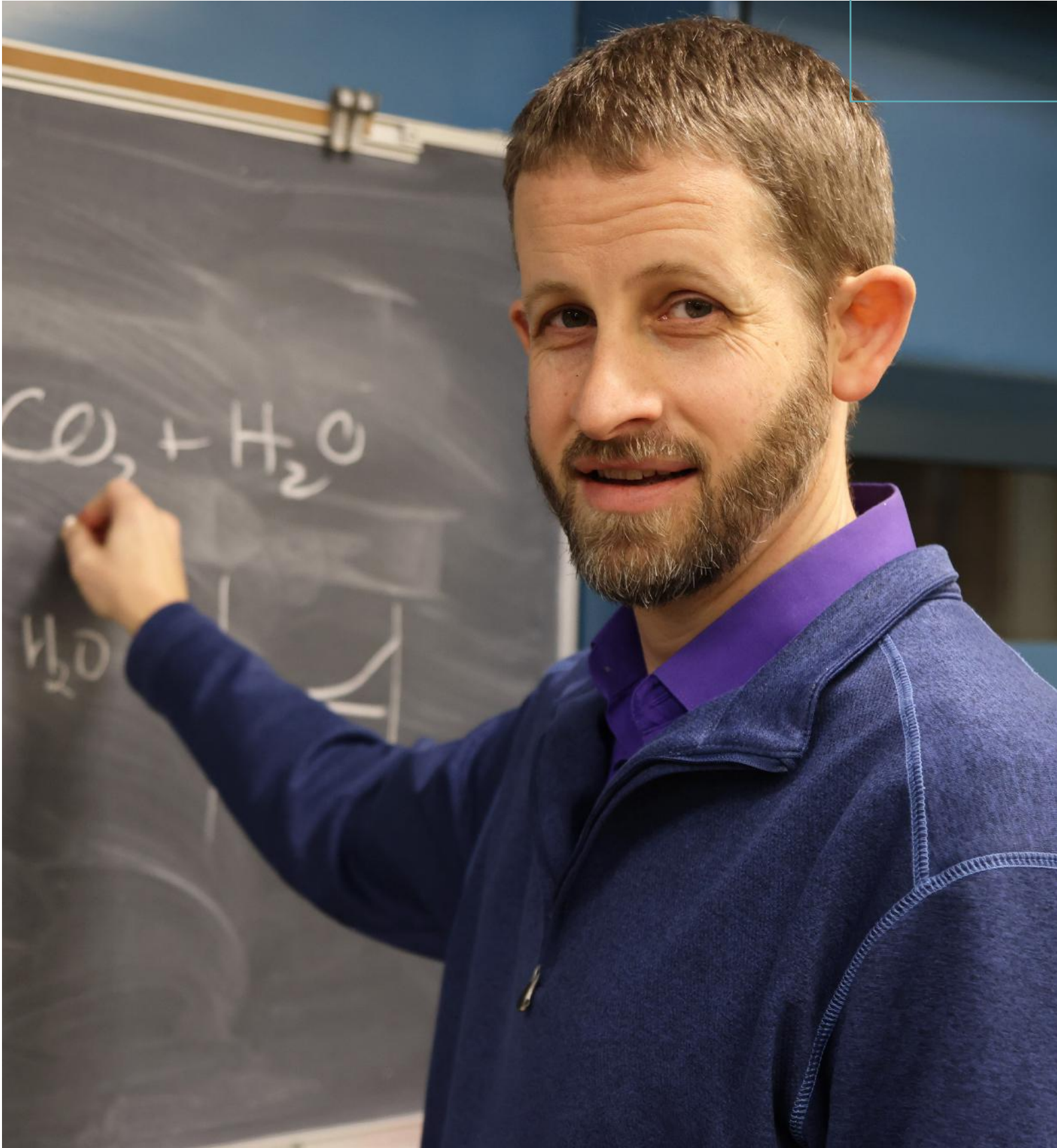
While Elsa jokes that Josie couldn't handle college without her, both women agree that USF was the right decision.

This May, Josie will earn degrees in accounting and business administration and is enrolled in USF's MBA program. She has been offered an internship at Eide Bailly in Sioux Falls next spring and hopes to receive certification as a CPA after she graduates with her master's degree.

Elsa will graduate with degrees in criminal justice, social work and social science in May. She interned at Prairie Lakes Youth Programs in Willmar, Minnesota, and enjoyed assisting in the boys group home. After graduation, she hopes to return to Minnesota for a position within probation while earning her master's degree online.

The twins lived together while at USF and recognize that their "identical" lives will soon take separate directions.

"Elsa is truly my best friend and I'm so glad we got to experience college together," says Josie. "USF helped us grow into our own people, and while we're ready to be independent, we'll probably still talk every day!" ■



THE SCIENCE OF TEACHING

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

DR. ADAM STURLAUGSON '07

When Dr. Adam Sturlaugson enrolled as a student at USF, he planned to become a large-animal veterinarian like his grandpa. He pursued a double major in biology and chemistry, discovering he had an affinity for chemistry.

"I decided to delay my career decision to attend grad school. I was accepted into the chemistry Ph.D. program at Stanford University where I focused on research," he explains. "While there, I realized I wanted to teach chemistry at the university level. My wife and I also wanted to return to the Midwest to raise our family."

As graduation approached, Dr. Sturlaugson reached out to USF and discovered his former chemistry professor was retiring. He applied for the position and joined the faculty in 2013.

"I love teaching. Seeing students learn and grow is so rewarding," he explains. "Chemistry can be difficult, so witnessing those lightbulb moments is pretty special. I also value the opportunity to share my faith and pray with my students."

In addition to teaching, Dr. Sturlaugson is the campus liaison for the South Dakota IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) program, treasurer of the South Dakota Academy of Science and is a national committee member for the American Chemical Society.

He leads an active undergraduate research program exploring the structure-property relationships of ionic liquids, using both experimental and computational approaches.

"Science is not rigid. It demands curiosity and creativity," he says. "It's good for my research students to see that I don't always know the answers and that science requires innovative thinking."

Dr. Sturlaugson motivates his freshman chemistry class with encouraging words he learned firsthand: "Hard work is often disguised as intelligence."

"I grew up outside a farm town of 250 people and never dreamed I would earn a Ph.D. from Stanford," he tells them. "But it's not about where you come from—it's what you do with what God's given you. Work hard and doors will open." ■





Together is Better

NEWLY-FORMED TEAM PROVIDES DIRECTION FOR USF'S GRADUATE PROGRAMS

"Every time this team meets, I leave smiling about what's on the horizon."

Lorri Halverson's enthusiasm for USF's newly-formed graduate program team is obvious as she describes the advantages the team brings to the University's graduate offerings.

"Instead of operating in silos focused on each of our individual programs, we come together to collaborate on ideas that elevate the graduate experience as a whole," says the University's MBA director.

Great from the Start

The graduate program team was formed in 2025 to help align all of USF's graduate programs, strengthen the student experience, expand community partnerships and maintain a high level of leadership expectations across every graduate degree. The cohesive team includes four specialized program directors who help shape the vision for the graduate school.

"By working together, we have strengthened our support system and expanded our resources," says Dr. Matt Manes, director of doctoral studies. "Already the team approach has instituted positive changes that are evolving our department and creating more consistency through things like standardized pricing and a unified academic calendar."

Exchanging Ideas

The graduate program team meets monthly to discuss the program and brainstorm ways to enhance it. One recently implemented idea is "The Adjunct Exchange."

"We bring all graduate-level adjuncts together virtually for one hour each month to offer support and gather feedback," says Maddie Voegeli, director of education specialist. "We focus on different topics, such as graduate-level writing expectations. Our goal is to ensure the best student experience possible."

Other focuses include new certificate programs, additional concentrations and more streamlined processes.

"We also created welcome videos for each of our programs to send with our acceptance letters," says Dr. Jamie Juhl, director of master of education programs. "We want to create that personal connection so students feel like they know us before they even start."

All four directors agree that the greatest advantage to earning a graduate degree from USF is the personal, accessible experience paired with powerful, relevant course content.

"It's our first year together and we're still building a foundation, but we have big dreams," says Dr. Juhl. "As educators at USF, we're committed to growing, learning and serving. We take that responsibility very seriously."

MEET THE TEAM

Each member of the graduate program team offers content expertise and a unique perspective.



Lorri Halverson, MBA Director

USF offers a general Master of Business Administration degree as well as four industry-specific MBA concentrations including adult & higher education, healthcare, management and trust & wealth management.

Halverson stepped into leadership of the MBA program in 2024 after serving the USF community for more than 14 years. Her career includes extensive experience in the financial industry before transitioning to higher education. She joined the USF faculty full time in 2012 after first lending her expertise as an adjunct. She teaches courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, consumer behavior and international business, earning her MBA from USF in 2004.

“The USF MBA program offers a high degree of flexibility for students, with pacing that works around busy lives. The courses are fully online but offer a very human experience,” she says.

Dr. Jamie Juhl, Director of Master of Education Programs

Dr. Juhl leads the Master of Education program at USF, providing graduate students with three specialized degree options: M.Ed. in educational administration/adult and higher education, M.Ed. in educational leadership and M.Ed. in teaching.

She earned her Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction for special education in 2023 and her M.A. in special education in 2019. She currently teaches both undergraduate and graduate-level courses as an assistant professor of special education. Prior to teaching at USF, Dr. Juhl taught K-12, serving in a variety of teaching and coaching roles.

“There is just a sense of home and community at USF that offers our graduate students a feeling of support,” she says. “I assist students in the M.Ed. program with whatever they need and meet them where they are.”





Maddie Voegeli, Director of Education Specialist

The Education Specialist degree at USF provides professionals in education with two different pathways to executive leadership: the Ed.S. in education administration with a focus on becoming a principal and the Ed.S. in education administration with a focus on becoming a superintendent.

Voegeli earned her Master of Educational Leadership degree from USF in 2021 and joined the faculty in 2024 after the former graduate studies director encouraged her to apply for the position. Prior to joining USF, Voegeli taught middle school and high school students and was honored as her district's 2021-22 Teacher of the Year.

"This program prepares the next generation of principals and superintendents with practical, intentional leadership skills taught by people who understand today's educational landscape," she explains.

Dr. Matt Manes, Director of Doctoral Studies

USF's Doctorate in Leadership (Ed.D.) provides an interdisciplinary perspective of ethical leadership to a diverse sector of doctorate students.

Dr. Manes is a local business owner and began teaching at USF as an adjunct math professor in 2020 after earning his master's degree. His passion for teaching and love for USF led him to earn his doctorate degree while serving as an instructor. He was offered the role of director of doctoral studies in 2025 and is committed to making a meaningful impact.

"USF's doctorate program offers a Christian liberal arts background with access to professors who are highly accredited and committed to holistically developing students," he says. ■





D O N O R

Spotlight

Donna Harr

Donna Harr didn't attend USF. Neither did her husband, her kids or any of her extended family.

Yet when she was approached about an opportunity to financially support USF through a friend in the development office, the idea of giving to the faith-based university immediately felt right.

"Todd Knutson (USF development officer) talked to me about providing a financial gift. I like schools, especially when they offer a Christ-based education," she explains. "At the time, USF had just lowered their fees and I appreciated that they were trying to make tuition more affordable."

Harr married her husband John (Jack) in 1962 and built a life in Sioux Falls, raising four boys and helping her husband and his brother launch Harr Construction in 1964. She managed the bookkeeping for the growing business until 1980.

"They built a lot of houses and apartments," she says. "Jack was very generous and liked helping people. I like helping people, too."

Harr is a dedicated member of Faith Lutheran Church, where her family has been in attendance since 1960. She continues to serve the church as a volunteer and is an active member of the congregation. Her humble spirit and charitable heart have guided her through every season. Even after Jack passed away in 2012, the couple's shared commitment to giving back continued.

"He left me with a bank account and I don't plan to hold onto it," she says simply. "I want to use the money to make sure people and places that need it can continue to do good work."

In addition to leading a generous life, Harr appreciates spending time with family, exploring genealogy, gardening, sewing and cross-stitch. Now 85, she admits to slowing down, but her enthusiasm for faith, service and sharing her life's blessings remains strong.

"It's an honor to give to a school like USF. If that donation can make a difference, that's just wonderful." ■

LEGACY

2026 RESULTS

From March 17-19, the USF community came together to support the legacy of the University of Sioux Falls and the lives of our students. Thanks to hundreds of generous donors from across the country, a record-breaking \$309,324 was raised in just 48 hours during our 10th annual giving days.

GIVE2COO

48 HOURS

41 CHALLENGES

542 DONORS

\$309,324



Our community
has given over

\$2.2 Million

during our
annual giving
days!

148

NEW
donors!

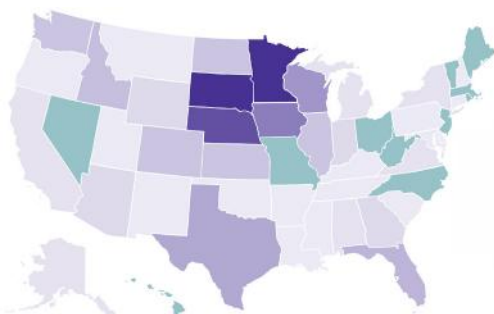
WHAT AN IMPACT!

- + ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS \$18,785
- + FINE ARTS \$28,515
- + ATHLETICS \$105,372
- + BASIC NEEDS \$13,664
- + CAMPUS MINISTRIES \$2,080
- + USF FUND \$140,908

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 **39 states!**



\$186,750

in challenge funds unlocked

Donors chose from any of the 20+ 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!





TURNING LOSS INTO A LEGACY

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

M I C H A E L “ M I C K E Y ” W O O D D E N ’ 6 3

When his older brother died in a tragic plane crash in 1966, Michael “Mickey” Woodden wanted to honor his brother in a way that would help others.

His brother, Merle Woodden, attended Sioux Falls College before graduating from Central Baptist Seminary in 1963 with a ministerial degree. He went on to serve as pastor of the Burke-Lucas Baptist Parish until his untimely passing.

“My mother was a devout southern Baptist and was so proud of Merle,” explains Mickey. “I set up the endowment so a part of him could live on.”

Over the decades, the Merle F. Woodden Endowment has grown substantially, fueled by Mickey’s contributions and years of matching funds from the Maytag Corporation, where Mickey worked as a regional manager until retirement.

“I graduated from Sioux Falls College with an English degree in 1963 but used those skills to sell appliances,” he laughs. “I was never the best student, so I am grateful for the opportunity to earn a degree. Maytag would not have hired me without it.”

Mickey has remained one of USF’s most loyal supporters, serving on the board of trustees for 12 years and helping launch the first alumni phone-a-thon.

A passionate Cougar fan, he maintained a close friendship with Coach Bob Young and tells stories of driving Young and former Coach Kalen DeBoer to football recruiting events. After Young’s wife passed away, Mickey drove him to medical appointments and delivered his groceries.

“The good Lord has been good to me and I try to do the same for others,” he explains. Mickey lost his beloved wife Marilyn in 2024 after 66 years of marriage. The two met at Camp Judson as teenagers and married when Mickey was a freshman in college. The couple raised their family in Sioux Falls, faithfully attending First Baptist Church and countless Cougar home games. ■



FINDING HERSELF IN KOREA

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

ELIANA GREGG

While Eliana Gregg holds many fond memories of her time at USF, her most transformative experience didn't take place on campus. Instead, it unfolded over 6,000 miles away in her birthplace of South Korea.

There, Ellie rediscovered herself in a place that felt both familiar and foreign through a life-changing study abroad experience at Handong Global University in Pohang.

Ellie was born in Korea and adopted at three months old. She grew up in Sioux Falls with her parents, Brian and Julie Gregg, and her younger brother. After graduating from Roosevelt High School, she chose USF for its integration of faith and scholarship.

"I've been fortunate to attend a university where my professors genuinely care about me academically and personally," she says.

"Their mentorship shaped my undergraduate experience and showed me the importance of an engaged and supportive environment."

Although Ellie had visited Korea before, her semester abroad allowed her to not only return to the land of her birth, but it also became a season of joy and spiritual renewal.

"It was the most amazing thing I've ever experienced," she says. "I saw how faith and openness can transcend boundaries and bring people from all over the world together, which led me to be baptized. I am so grateful to carry my story and my testimony of God's goodness."

What began as a simple journey back to her roots grew into a deeper calling to serve others, something she hopes to continue fostering in graduate school and her future career.

"I fell in love with psychology at USF because of the beauty and strength within people, and because it gave me a better understanding of myself and others," she explains. "I am hoping to pursue a Doctor of Psychology degree after graduation." ■



AN UNEXPECTED CHAPTER

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT FEATURING

ANNIE STERNBURG

When Annie Sternburg retired from O’Gorman High School in 2013, she thought she’d closed the book on her career as a librarian.

God had other plans.

In 2018, USF needed a substitute librarian for the Norman B. Mears Library, so Sternburg stepped up to offer temporary assistance.

That was over seven years ago.

“Circumstances changed and USF needed a full-time, permanent director of library services, so I came out of retirement,” she explains. “It’s been extremely rewarding to serve USF college students and faculty.”

Sternburg works alongside one full-time staff member and 18 work-study students. The library is open 72 hours each week with a 24/7 online presence that is essential for modern academics.

“Our library website is just as important as our physical space,” she says. “We were fortunate to receive a grant through the South Dakota Humanities Council to fund a powerful search tool that easily allows people to access the library’s full range of digital and physical resources.”

Digital technology has transformed the traditional role of librarians, but the demand

for relevant and updated information keeps Sternburg and her staff busy. The library also offers two video recording studios, funded through another grant, to help students make and record professional videos.

While Mears Library has access to thousands of resources, information can also be obtained from libraries across the country through Interlibrary Loan. This system allows students and staff at USF to seamlessly borrow books and digital articles from anywhere.

“I love working with people one-on-one to discover information that may be hard to find. It’s like solving a mystery or putting together a puzzle,” she says.

Whether helping students track down obscure sources or supporting faculty research, Sternburg approaches every interaction with care.

“The USF library is not just a place to store books. It’s a dynamic space that’s alive with activity. We strive to anticipate the changing needs of our community and are here for them with all kinds of support. Every day is different. That’s what makes it so fun!” ■

RENOVATION RECAP

Campus Improvements Enhance the USF Experience

USF South Campus Sports Complex Plans



This fall the University of Sioux Falls celebrates 143 years as a Christian liberal arts institution, a milestone that reflects both longevity and purpose. Yet honoring such a legacy requires more than celebration. Preserving historic campus buildings while simultaneously building boldly for the future demands care, stewardship and a clear vision for USF to continue shining as a leading academic institution.

Updates and Upgrades

"In 2017, we took a thoughtful inventory of our campus, especially our more established facilities," recalls USF President Dr. Brett Bradfield. "While we take pride in maintaining a clean, beautiful community, we recognized that parts of campus were beginning to show their age. It was time for a comprehensive review of maintenance, safety and aesthetics." To lead this effort, Dr. Bradfield appointed Dr. Julie Gednalske, vice president of human resources, security and facilities. She immediately began orchestrating a campus-wide renewal.

"Some of the most essential improvements are the ones people rarely see, yet they are foundational to the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff," explains Dr. Gednalske. "New roofs, fire suppression systems, HVAC upgrades, plumbing and electrical modernization—these aren't flashy upgrades, but they are absolutely vital."

Over the past nine years, USF's main campus has undergone significant revitalization across residence halls, classrooms, shared spaces, infrastructure, historic buildings and the Mears Library.

"Dr. Gednalske has done an extraordinary job identifying needs and stewarding our resources wisely," says Dr. Bradfield. "We work intentionally with local partners who share our commitment to quality and care of USF."

Resurfacing and Reimagining

As part of this broader renewal, the University also evaluated the USF Sports Complex on the south campus (6200 South Cliff Avenue), assessing both immediate maintenance needs and long-term opportunities to enhance the student-athlete, spectator and community

experience. These insights informed a transformative master plan for the future.

"Athletics is one of many highly visible dimensions of university life and influences recruitment, community engagement and overall public perception," Dr. Bradfield notes. "We are proud of our athletic programs and our student-athletes, and are addressing the most critical needs first, while keeping our eyes on exciting opportunities in the next phase."

“
THROUGH COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS, A
SUPPORTIVE DONOR
BASE AND STRATEGIC
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY,
WE ARE COMMITTED TO
ADVANCING BOTH OUR
MAIN CAMPUS AND OUR
SOUTH CAMPUS, WHERE
THE USF SPORTS COMPLEX
IS LOCATED.”

Prioritizing upgrades at the USF Sports Complex required a careful balance of safety, with overall student well-being paramount above all else, performance and equitable access across all programs. Among the top projects are:

- Renovations to multi-use outdoor field #3, finalized last October, including grading and field resurfacing and the integration of a softball field into the soccer field to better serve female student-athletes participating in softball.
- Enhancements to the main stadium concourse to improve traffic flow and expand capacity for private and public events.

- A new women's soccer locker room and a new visitor's locker room scheduled for completion August 2026.
- A full resurfacing of Bob Young Field featuring new athletics branding and color schemes. This new, high-grade turf will optimize safety and athletic performance and will be ready for use this fall.

"The stadium field was last resurfaced 12 years ago and not only serves USF athletes but also area soccer teams, high schools, FCA football, community fundraisers and more," says Jon Hart, director of intercollegiate athletics. "Replacing the turf with state-of-the-art materials will help reduce injury potential and strengthen athletic performance."

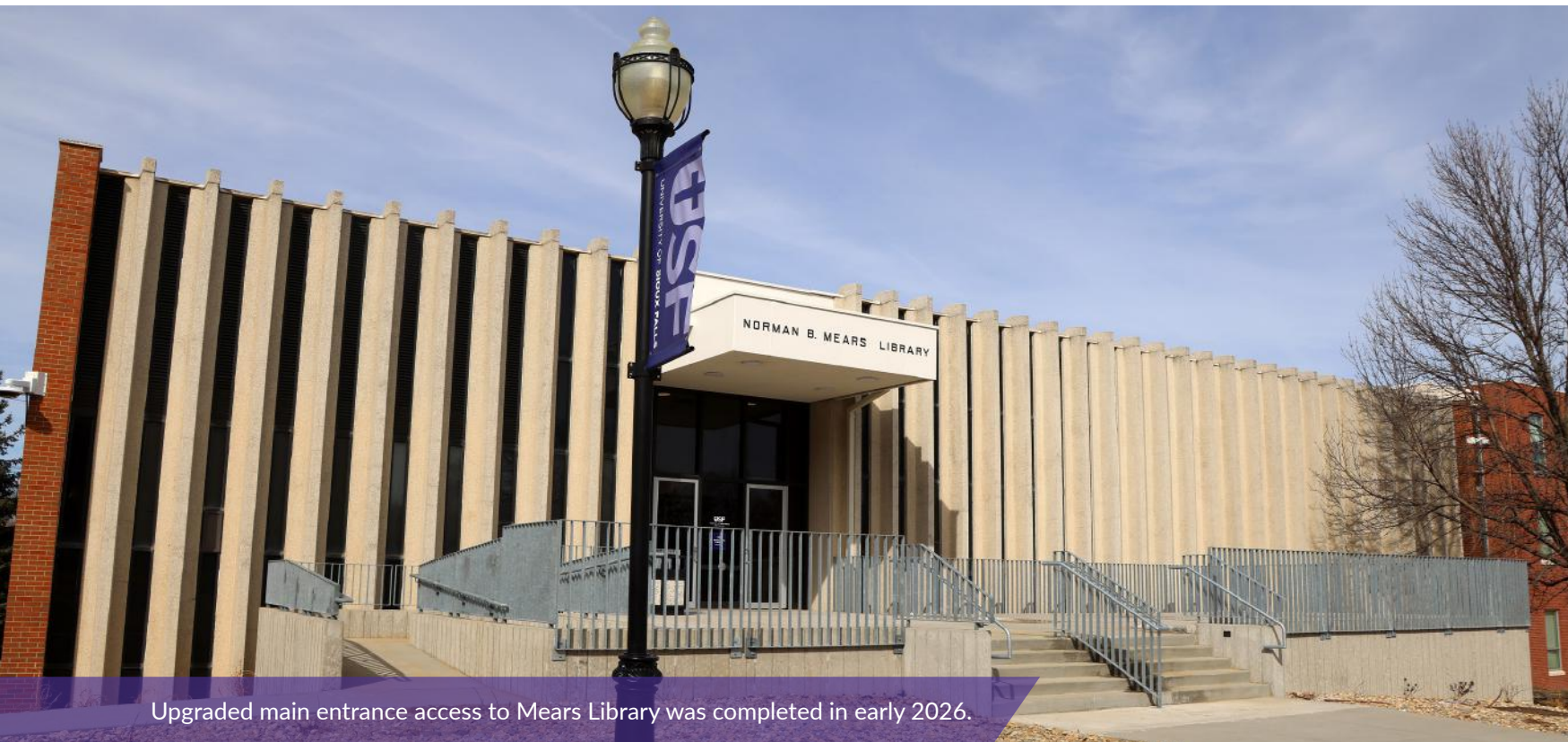
Looking ahead, a key objective for the USF Sports Complex is to attract more high-caliber events to Sioux Falls and elevate the University's capacity to host premier athletic competitions. Future plans include a new indoor facility/fieldhouse with optimal square footage to support training, competition and overall wellness. This indoor performance center would accommodate a wide range of functions,

including a full-size soccer field, expanded strength and conditioning space, locker rooms, athletic training areas, offices, meeting rooms and more.

"Many universities across the nation are striving to do more with less, and USF is no different," Dr. Bradfield reflects. "Through community partnerships, a supportive donor base and strategic fiscal responsibility, we are committed to advancing both our main campus and our south campus, where the USF Sports Complex is located. While this vision is long-term, it remains a key component of our overall plan for USF."

Dr. Bradfield notes that naming opportunities, ranging from buildings to benches, are always available for thoughtful conversation with those who wish to invest in USF's future.

"USF is honored to celebrate and recognize our supporting partners," he explains. "These are the individuals, families and organizations who help shape what comes next. Their generosity strengthens our mission and ensures that faith-based higher education continues to flourish in South Dakota." ■



Upgraded main entrance access to Mears Library was completed in early 2026.

NOTES

All notes are based on information received between October 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026. Send us your update today at usiuofalls.edu/keepintouch.

// CELEBRATIONS

Alumni

Rachel (Heeney) '11 and Justin Wittler welcomed Reagan on Dec. 5, 2024

Brittany (Kurtenbach) '13 and **Brandon Hanson '12** welcomed Juliet Lorraine on Aug. 14, 2025

Emily (Rommann) '16 married Greg Beesley on Nov. 29, 2025

Amy (Hanson) '18 and Josh Wolf welcomed Graham and Grayson on Sept. 23, 2026

Kennedy (Clark) '19 and **Grant Sweeter '19** welcomed Cutler John on Oct. 31, 2025

Madison (Jons) '19 married Levi Mitchell on June 20, 2025

Kelsie (Sanders) '19 and Logan Heath welcomed Lucy on Oct. 30, 2025

Anna (Buxengard) '20 married **Ricky Quintana '19** on Oct. 11, 2025

Sadie (Merchant) '20 and Zachary Zuccaro welcomed Malachi Zachary on Jan. 22, 2026

Whitney (Norberg) '20 and Mason Reynolds welcomed Samuel Elliott on Nov. 10, 2025

Miranda (Blom) '21 and Braden Held welcomed Lyla Mae on Nov. 28, 2025

Taryn (Ceglowski) '21 and **Steven Brown '20** welcomed Vanna Cindy on Jan. 26, 2026

Rachel (Klassen) '21 and **Anthony Reese '21** welcomed Walker Lane on Jan. 25, 2026

Anna (Peters) '21 and **Jaden Brockel '19** welcomed Laine Anne-Marie on Dec. 26, 2025

Evelyn (Vandemark) '21 married **Bryce Couch '21** on Aug. 2, 2025

Autumn (Harlow) '22 and Thomas Woods welcomed Harper Grace on Nov. 9, 2025

Jacob Knopf '23 married Emily Burkley on Jan. 2, 2026

Employees

Lanessa and **Madie Brink** welcomed Coleman Wayne on Nov. 25, 2025

Danielle and **Jon Hart** welcomed Holden Jeffrey on Feb. 17, 2026

// IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Vernon Hansen '42, Dec. 14, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Ruth (Ehrenberg) Schmidt '44, Feb. 28, 2026, Sioux Falls, SD

Darleen (Heitzman) Hicks '50, Jan. 5, 2026, Deadwood, SD

Dick Hubble '51, Oct. 18, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Alice (Auch) Barnick '52, July 11, 2025, Denison, TX

Ruby (DeBoer) Rott '55, Sept. 15, 2025, Taylors Falls, MN

Elizabeth (Gilbert) Lanning '58, Mar. 16, 2025, Decatur, NE

Nina (Hendricks) Larson '61, Jan. 5, 2026, Sioux Falls, SD

Alfonso Sanchez '62, Nov. 12, 2025, Raymond, WA

Linwood Schroder '62, Oct. 28, 2025, Tea, SD

Jim Bell '63, Jan. 24, 2026, Columbia, MD

Rosalee (Mashek) Smith '63, Nov. 17, 2025, Monument, CO

Bob Johnson '64, Jan. 18, 2026, Wilmont, SD

Sharon (Anderson) Jolivette '64, Feb. 2026, Sioux Falls, SD

Kent Gillette '65, Jan. 9, 2026, Worland, WY

Jim Guy '66, Oct. 18, 2025, Laingsburg, MI

Cheryl (Polly) Hluchy '66, Feb. 10, 2026, Sioux Falls, SD

Roger Hansen '67, Jan. 26, 2026, Centerville, SD

James Kruschwitz '67, Nov. 23, 2025, Gurnee, IL

Glen Poppinga '67, Dec. 12, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Keith Perkins '70, Nov. 12, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Joyce Knudson '71, Nov. 4, 2025

Anna (Johnson) Schmidtman '71, Aug. 30, 2025, Spring Valley, CA

Julia Schuur '71, Nov. 23, 2025, Luverne, MN

Bill Kostner '72, Nov. 23, 2025, Mukwonago, WI

John Quinn '72, Nov. 15, 2025, Lyons, KS

John Gritts '73, Oct. 19, 2025, Golden, CO

Doyle Robison '74, Mar. 6, 2026, Albert Lea, MN

Mary Jacobson '84, Dec. 10, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Bruce Johnson '86, Jan. 8, 2026, Kansas City, MO

Jere Michalsen '86, Feb. 12, 2026, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Craig Shea '87, Jan. 27, 2026, Sioux Falls, SD

Darlene Walker '00, Jan. 24, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Clark Kelley '01, Nov. 18, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Barbara Larson '04, Dec. 22, 2025, Garretson, SD

Julie Day '07, Dec. 18, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Brandon Swenson '08, Oct. 23, 2025, LaPine, OR

Friends

Lynn Aspaas, Nov. 28, 2025, Sioux Falls, SD

Sharon Cool, Jan. 19, 2026, Sioux Falls, SD

Char Erickson, Dec. 7, 2025, Yankton, SD

Owen Halleen, Mar. 5, 2026, Sioux Falls, SD

Sharon Herron, Dec. 5, 2023, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Karen Viotor, Jan. 3, 2026, Dell Rapids, SD

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