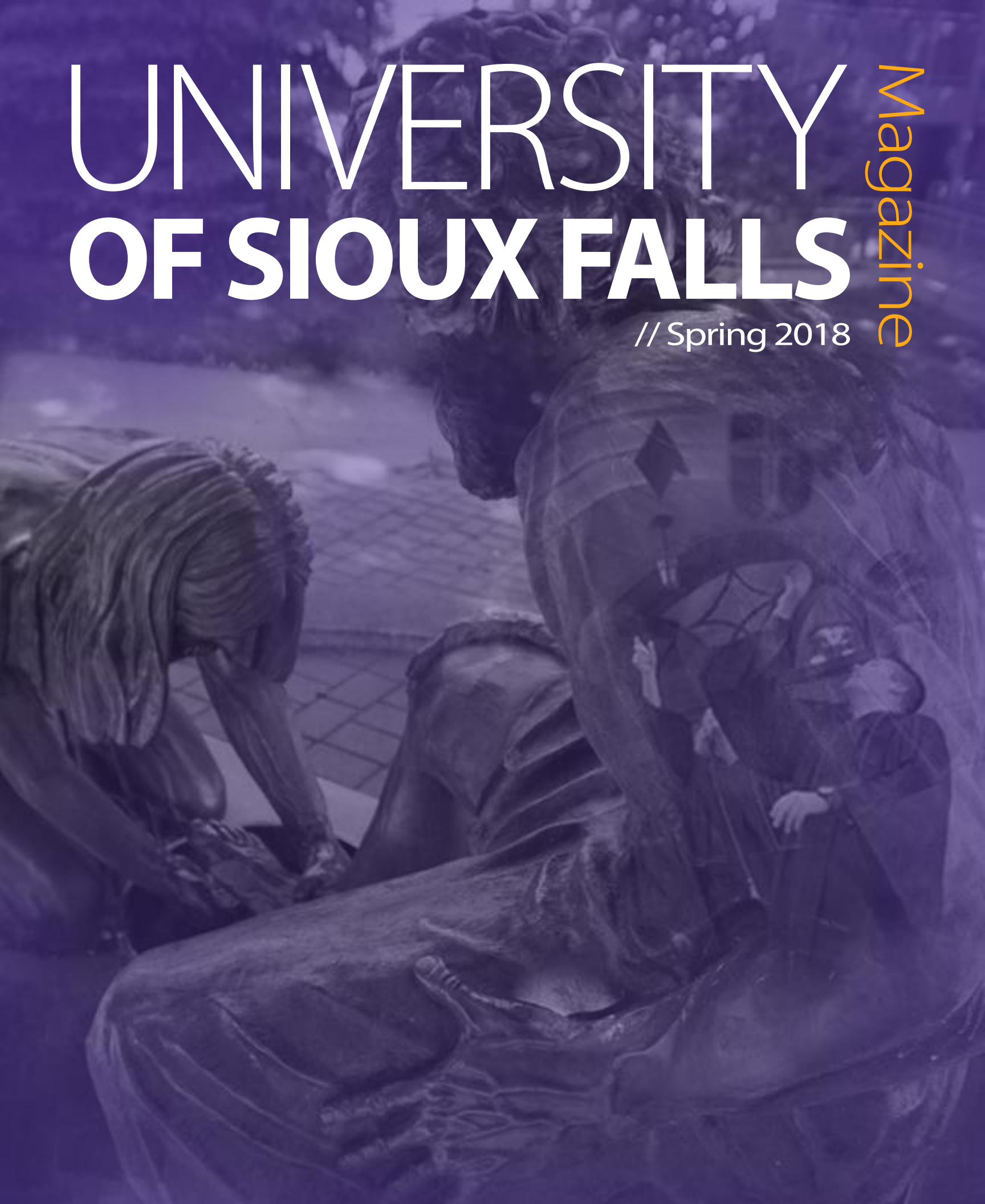


# UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

// Spring 2018

Magazine



## A NOTE FROM *the President*



Dear Alumni & Friends:

Greetings from the University of Sioux Falls. The faith and academic community of USF has had many successes to celebrate during the 2017-2018 academic year, including the best spring enrollment in 10 years. The University finds itself well-positioned to expand its Christian and academic footprint in the community, state and region it serves.

On October 5, 2017, the University made an unprecedented announcement to implement a tuition reset that lowered tuition by \$10,000 effective fall 2018. The combination of affordability and commitment to high quality programming has placed the University in the positive position of anticipating strong enrollment for our incoming freshman class and increased retention among currently enrolled students.

A recent survey indicated 87

percent of USF graduates last year found gainful employment within a 30-mile radius of Sioux Falls. It is evident that the University is a significant player in workforce development for the community and region. We are extremely proud of our alumni who admirably serve in their workplaces, churches, community organizations and families.

And at a time when workforce is such a crucial need for the region and cultural diversity continues to grow, USF was proud to make the mission-centric move of taking on the operation of the Bridges Program last year. Enrollment has exceeded expectations. The need is critical for such educational opportunities for the international population, especially in terms of the English language instruction necessary for meaningful community interaction and gainful employment. A labor of love for

our institution, this program represents just one of many ways USF remains committed to the greater good. If you are interested in learning more about the Bridges Program and how you may support it, please contact Dr. Randy Nelson, Bridges Program director.

On behalf of the entire USF community, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support of the University. Be assured that the support we consistently receive from alumni and friends of the University is never taken for granted. Blessings to each of you and your families.

Sincerely,

*Brett Bradfield*

Dr. Brett Bradfield  
President, University of Sioux Falls

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## BRIDGES PROGRAM CELEBRATES EARLY SUCCESS

Serving 65 students from approximately 15 countries, the new Bridges Program is experiencing solid success in its first year at USF.



## COUGAR BULLETIN

Read up on the latest campus news, Partner of the Year Award, institute for Scottish philosophy and more.



## COUGARS AROUND THE GLOBE

Students grow during Interim trips around the globe.



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ROARS

More and more alumni are reconnecting and walking through life together thanks to new momentum in the USF Alumni Association.



## COUGAR FAMILY—ALUMNI

Read about alumni who are impacting the world in Fortune 500 companies, the NFL and their communities.



## GRADUATES SEE STRONG OUTCOMES

USF celebrates another year of exceptional students and a 98 percent placement rate.



## COUGAR FAMILY—STUDENTS

A nurse at Sanford. A care coordinator at Avera. An aspiring actor taking a bite out of life. And they're all still students.



## RUNNERS BECOME TEAMMATES THEN FRIENDS

See the impact of friendship in three cross country athletes, and read about the successful basketball season.



## EVELYN MCKILLOP LEAVES LEGACY

The legacy of Evelyn McKillop lives on through her estate gift impacting elementary education majors at USF.



## T. DENNY SANFORD ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to T. Denny Sanford a new scholarship is open for extraordinary students to attend USF.



## CLASS NOTES

Celebrate births and the marriages of fellow Cougars and honor those whose service on this earth has ended.



## COUGAR FAMILY—FACULTY

A TV special, penitentiary writing program and new community partnership—here are faculty pushing the envelope.

//ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION/  
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION DR. RANDY NELSON SPEAKS  
ON THE SUCCESS OF THE BRIDGES  
PROGRAM.

## BRIDGES PROGRAM *Celebrates* EARLY SUCCESS

"Our university is dedicated to a vibrant future where every member of our campus thrives," says USF President Brett Bradfield. "The Bridges Program is a win-win for the Sioux Falls community. It helps students further their education to find meaningful employment and improve their lives, and it provides employers in the Sioux Falls community with a highly productive and qualified workforce."

Bridges Program Director Randy Nelson, who is also Director of International Education at USF, says the community also benefits when these students are able to share the richness of their lives and their respective cultures.

"The Bridges Program is tremendously important," Dr. Nelson says. "Embracing USF's Culture for Service motto, Bridges quite simply helps people by offering them an affordable opportunity to learn critical skills."

While the program is very much in line with USF's mission, it is also filling an important need for the area workforce. With Sioux Falls area unemployment at a low 2.7 percent, programs such as this help feed and grow the region's workforce pipeline.

In addition to celebrating the Bridges Program launch last fall, USF also cut the ribbon on its newly renamed Thomas Kilian Academic Success Center. The center emphasizes USF's dedication to students from all walks of life by, among other things, providing students with free services in support of their academic and personal goals.

**C**urrently serving 65 students from approximately 15 countries, the Bridges Program at the University of Sioux Falls is experiencing solid success in its first year of operation.

As part of USF's and Kilian Community College's historic agreement, USF assumed ownership of Kilian's Bridges Program in 2016, and on October 2, 2017, the first classes began at USF. The program currently teaches English at the beginning and intermediate levels, with plans to expand to the advanced level, to students who want to pursue a higher degree. By perpetuating Kilian's mission and continuing the program, USF has filled a void in the community and reopened opportunities for students.

## *What the Bridges Program means to me...*

// KEFYALEW WELDEMEDHIN | Originally from Ethiopia, Kefyalew now lives and works in Sioux Falls.

“ People who see a long journey ahead and want a better life know learning is very important. Communication with each other by improving language is my first step. I want to become a medical doctor. ”



# COUGAR

// BULLETIN

## USF named Partner of the Year by PMI

The Sioux Empire Chapter of South Dakota Project Management Institute recognized USF as 2017 Partner of the Year in January. The special honor is a testament to USF's emphasis on community partnerships and giving back. PMI is an association specifically geared to enhance the careers and improve the success of management professionals in the Sioux Falls community.

## Math on the Northern Plains to be hosted at USF

In April undergraduate students from across South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and beyond will gather at USF to present research they've been working on. The annual, regional conference offers a great opportunity for math students to build oral skills and prepare for graduate study in math.

## SDSNA among many nursing events this spring

*The New York Times* best-selling author—and nurse—Theresa Brown will keynote the 10th annual USF Research Symposium on April 19; the general public is welcomed to attend. This follows USF hosting nearly 150 nursing students from across the state in February for the South Dakota Student Nurses Association Conference.

## Scottish philosophy comes to USF Princeton

University was formerly its home, and now the Institute for the Study of Scottish Philosophy officially makes its move to USF as Dr. James Foster, now at USF for five years, also takes over as editor of the *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*.



# COUGARS

## // Around the globe

On these pages students tell first-hand how experiences during January Interim are helping them learn and serve the Lord around the world.

### ITALY EMILY MAGERA '20 TOURED WITH USF CONCERT CHORALE

"This trip  
was absolutely incredible!

I honestly could see myself living in Rome!

For me, the most meaningful part of the trip was singing at mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican City. Being Catholic standing in the middle of St. Peter's Square was a monumental moment. Having the opportunity to go to mass and add to worship with the choir was just amazing. Even though the mass was said in Italian, I knew the order of the mass and could follow along. It was an extremely special moment for me.

When I was younger, I had the opportunity to travel to Asia and tour Japan. Now having the opportunity to travel to Europe and tour Italy, I am in awe of the Lord's creation. Italy features incredible paintings and unique marble sculptures done by world-famous artists like Michelangelo. The talents Michelangelo had to sculpt "The David" and the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel are obviously from God. The Concert Chorale shared our God-given talents throughout the trip as well, performing in some of the world's most beautiful cathedrals. Traveling the world as a college student gave me a sense of independence. In the free time we had to explore Florence, my friend Gillian and I walked all around the city. We walked on the road less traveled and ended up seeing sights that were not so popular to the tourists. We walked up by a castle, enjoyed espresso and biscuits in a local coffee shop, and even tried Lampredotto, a local specialty sandwich. **Traveling abroad with your friends is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I am so thankful USF has given me the capability to put stamps in my passport alongside my incredible friends."**



# JAMAICA

**RACHEL OTTENBACHER '20**  
SERVED WITH USF CAMPUS MINISTRIES

"My trip to Jamaica was something that I will never forget. I was exposed to a very different culture that opened my eyes and caused me to reflect on my own life."

# ISRAEL

**MYA HANISCH '20** | TRAVELED WITH FELLOW USF STUDENTS, ALUMNI & FRIENDS

"The Bible became more real to me here. I began to truly know my heavenly Father, the creator of heaven and earth. . . because I walked where he walked, stood where he taught, and walked the path in which he lived."



# EL SALVADOR

**ABILENE HEIBERGER '18**  
VOLUNTEERED WITH USF NURSING DEPARTMENT

"The trip was eye opening and inspiring in so many ways! At first the poverty was heartbreaking, and it left many of us feeling guilty. However, once we began focusing on the resilience and the faith of the population, we began to see how much we had to learn."

*We are Brave.*

*We are Faithful.*

*We are Courageous.*



**// FRIENDS RECONNECT**  
AT THE DECEMBER  
ALUMNI GATHERING.

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION *Roars*



We are brave. We are faithful. We are Cougars. This is the motto you will find at the heart of the USF Alumni Association, an organization gaining momentum.

The association exists to cultivate USF's greatest strength—community—among the 15,000 alumni across the country by drawing us together, our stories and experiences, and creating more than a network: an extended family.

"Invigorating the alumni association stemmed from the desire to see the tight knit bonds that are created while students are on campus be sustained throughout their entire lives," says Kelsey Friedel Nelson, director of alumni relations. "Re-engaging old friendships and creating a space to sustain new friendships allows our USF family and alums to create a network bigger than themselves where they can all grow and learn from one another."

Alumni's lives are a window of USF's narrative in action. Through alumni's careers, community involvement, families and their decisions, the mission and values of USF translate from concepts learned and practiced on campus into global impact. The USF Alumni Association seeks to create a dynamic space for alumni to continue the relationships that transformed them during their time on campus and grow new connections among the vast USF family for even greater impact.

Darlene Eidsness '66, is a very active member of the USF Alumni Association and deeply values the opportunity to reconnect with long-time friends and share with the younger generations of alumni the way USF transformed her.

"What it really comes down to is relationships," Eidsness says. "As years go by you forget about grades, who won games and certain awards, but what leaves a lasting memory are the relationships and people who were there for you. Our alumni have special place at USF and an opportunity to tell a story academically, emotionally and spiritually as we continue to encourage one another's faith journey and walk through life together."

The alumni association provides an opportunity and space for the USF family atmosphere to flourish through events where alumni can reconnect with old friends and see and hear what's happening straight from faculty and students.

"I want to stay connected with fellow alumni because my four years there were the best of my life," says Colleen Thompson '16, a member of the alumni association. "I owe so many deep friendships, my liberal arts education, countless memories and the rich deepening of my faith to USF, so I whole-heartedly want to stay in touch with the community that has impacted me so much!"

Thompson wrote by email, "Now that I'm not a current USF student anymore (\*tear\*), I have an enormous amount of pride saying that I attended the University of Sioux Falls. You will find me at the alumni functions, football games, track meets, musicals & choir concerts because I believe that God was moving in & through the University while I was there, is still very

**"ALUMNI'S LIVES ARE  
A WINDOW OF USF'S  
NARRATIVE."**



USF graduates are automatically alumni but joining the *Alumni Association* requires **registration**.

## REGISTER TODAY

1. Visit [usioxfalls.edu/alumni](http://usioxfalls.edu/alumni)
2. Click "Join Today"
3. Fill out your contact & billing information

\$50 annual *membership*

\$1000 *lifetime membership*

FREE membership for first *five years* after graduation. Registration still required.

present & will certainly continue His faithfulness to USF."

Exactly 50 years separate Eidsness' and Thompson's graduations but the transformative experience and lifelong family that both have gained from USF speaks to the steadfast identity of the University.

"For me personally, USF has always been like family," says Jeff Veltkamp, chair of the USF Alumni Association board. "Our hope is that the alumni association will help you feel the same way for years to come. Four years on campus pales in comparison to a lifetime of being an alum. And as a University, one of the greatest markers of our success is the quality of our alumni."

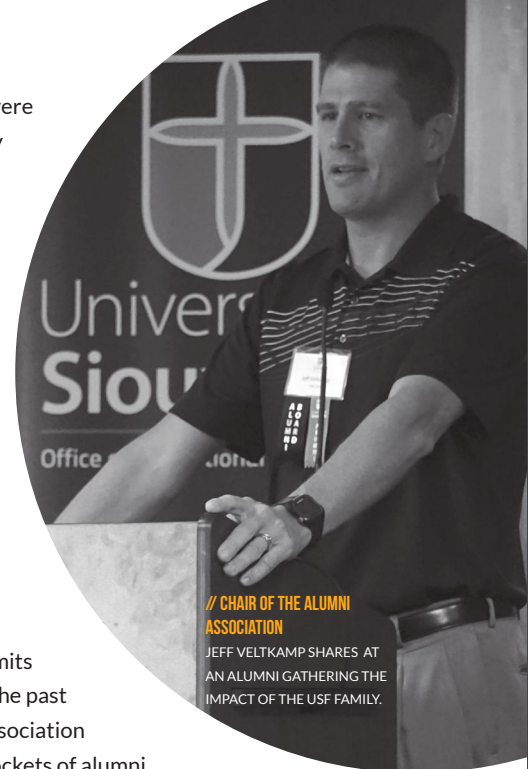
And increasingly, organized service, a part of nearly every alumnus' on-campus experience, is also part of the alumni equation.

In December for example, the USF Alumni Association partnered with Volunteers of America and hosted a toy drive at the Minnehaha Country Club. The evening was filled with soft violin music played by current USF students and alumni, delicious holiday treats and a familiar hum of old friends catching up and new friendships forming. Alumni heard from a Volunteers of America representative about opportunities to serve in the

community and were given a University update from USF Vice President for Academic Affairs Joy Lind on academic research events.

And events are happening more and more beyond the campus grounds of USF and city limits of Sioux Falls. In the past year alone, the association has traveled to pockets of alumni in Yankton, Omaha, Minneapolis and Arizona, and with such positive and enthusiastic feedback this year, next year will look into branching out even farther, potentially to California, Florida, New Jersey and Kansas City. And you will find a wide variety of ages, occupations of alumni attending these events.

"Our alumni are making a difference in the world each and every day," Veltkamp says. "I believe that the alumni association is a great vehicle to tell our alumni's stories, while also creating a network with real influence. I would argue that USF alumni are our greatest strength."



**CHAIR OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
JEFF VELTKAMP SHARES AT AN ALUMNI GATHERING THE IMPACT OF THE USF FAMILY.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Connect with the board at [usfalumniandfriends@usioxfalls.edu](mailto:usfalumniandfriends@usioxfalls.edu)



Chair | Jeff Veltkamp '97, '07



Vice Chair | Larry Lang '79



Secretary | Ashley Maturan '01, '15



Brittany Hanson '12, '17



Laurie Knutson '84



Ken "SID" Kortemeyer '74



Mike Kuiper '98, '03



Melinda Larson '76



Lisa Stahl '16



Matt Stange '05

# Alumni SPOTLIGHT

# COUGAR

## // FAMILY



### // LUTHER HIPPIE '87

Minnesota Vikings Director of Operations  
and Team Travel | Chanhassen, MN

Turning your business degree into a career in the NFL is an aspiration many only dream about, but for USF alumni Luther Hippie, this dream career is a reality. Serving as the Minnesota Vikings director of operations and

**"I TRY TO PASS THE CULTURE OF  
SERVICE FORWARD EACH AND  
EVERY DAY AND TRY TO MAKE  
ONE PERSON'S DAY BETTER."**

team travel, Hippie has excelled in his career, and his success is

propelled by an undergraduate degree in mass communications from USF and a master's degree in sports management from Minnesota State-Mankato. Hippie says he cherishes the many relationships from USF that turned into lifelong friendships, the small classroom sizes that fostered an environment for growth and the overall culture that prioritized helping and caring for others. This culture has influenced Hippie as he assumes the high responsibilities of coordinating the constant travel of a multi-million dollar NFL team. "I try to pass the culture of service forward each and every day and try to make one person's day better, even if it is a small gesture," Hippie says.



### // KELLY RAE HASKELL '98

Edward Jones Principal and Financial Advisor  
Aberdeen, SD

As principal at a Fortune 500 company, Kelly Rae Haskell has experienced the value of a diligent work ethic and the impact of continued scholarship. A USF graduate with a degree in Business, Haskell was one of 59 individuals chosen from more than 43,000 Edward Jones associates across the United States and Canada for principal this January. "The quote on the wall of my office reads, 'Excellence is never an accident. It's always the result of high intention, sincere effort and intelligent execution.'"

**"ULTIMATELY, THE BEST WAY TO  
IMPACT OTHERS, PERSONALLY  
OR PROFESSIONALLY, IS TO SHOW  
THEM GOD'S LOVE."**

Haskell carries great responsibility in her role at Edward Jones as she

financially advises her own clients and provides guidance for those in her firm on assisting their clients. Yet Haskell lives to work with a servant's heart and prioritizes the same mission of Culture for Service found at USF. "Ultimately, the best way to impact others, personally or professionally, is to show them God's love, be His hands and feet. In order to do that, we must be fully present wherever we are," Haskell says.



### MIKE SHAW '02

NBC Actor | Chicago, IL

NBC's "Chicago Fire", "Chicago Med" and "Chicago P.D." are just a few of the television shows in which alumnus Mike Shaw works as a background actor. "My time at USF helped to build a strong foundation to prepare me for

**"MY TIME AT USF HELPED TO  
BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION  
TO PREPARE ME FOR MY  
ACTING CAREER."**

my acting career," Shaw says. "English courses with

professors like Beth O'Toole taught me a lot about effective ways to communicate in writing while utilizing my own voice, which is a needed skill to be effective with casting directors and with my agent." Shaw also volunteers on the steering committee for the Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium, a volunteer-run group that strives to advance accessibility and inclusion across the Chicago region's cultural spaces to visitors with disabilities. "The culture of promoting the importance of service work at USF instilled a lifelong desire to do my part in carrying each other's burdens, giving back to the community and simply doing what I can for others," Shaw says.



*Graduates see*

**STRONG OUTCOMES**



# 98%

of undergraduate grads are pursuing **graduate studies** or are **employed** in their **chosen fields**.

# 87%

of undergraduate grads who found **employment in SD** reported that they **lived in Sioux Falls** or within 30 miles of Sioux Falls.

# 15/2

Class of 2017 graduates reported **working in 15 states** and **2 countries** around the world.

A new survey shows 98 percent of University of Sioux Falls graduates from the undergraduate Class of 2017 were either employed or attending graduate or professional school within six months of graduation. In addition, students reported 100 percent placement rates in 89 percent of majors.

For master's degree programs, the same study found 99 percent of graduates secured a position or continued their education within six months of graduation. Masters of Business Administration and Education Specialist programs boasted 100 percent placement rates.

"We are proud of the success our graduates have as they launch their careers," says USF President Brett Bradfield. "Our graduates tell us that our high-quality, intensely personal, Christ-centered educational experience empowers them to do more and be more, long into their lives and careers. With this year's tuition reset, we took tangible steps to help even more students pursue their dreams in a more accessible and affordable manner."

Additionally USF's new online employment database Purple Briefcase offers a platform for employers to recruit USF talent. All students and alumni have access to the easy-to-use, no-cost platform. Employers wanting to get started should contact [asc@usiouxfalls.edu](mailto:asc@usiouxfalls.edu).

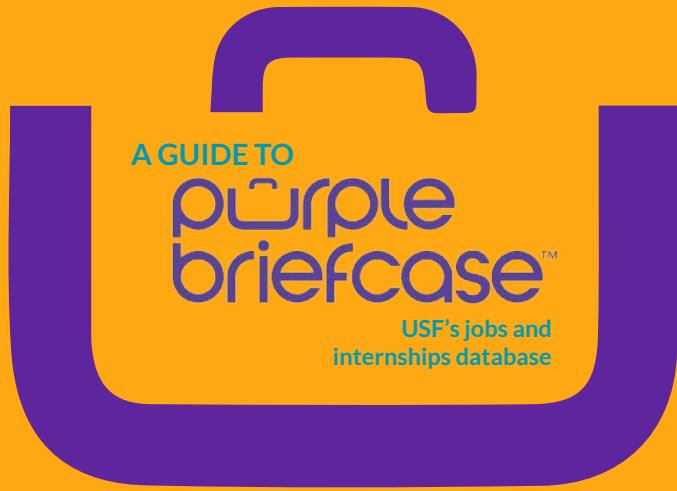
"From helping me refine my resume to practicing interview skills, the Thomas Kilian Academic Success Center at USF was a great resource for me as I prepared to find a job after college," says Jessica Akland '16, who is a tax associate at Eide Bailly.

USF Career Services partners with faculty, alumni and community partners to help students locate positions, write resumes, prepare for interviews and apply to graduate school.

And while at USF students have many opportunities to engage in a variety of professional growth opportunities. In fact over 85 percent of students do just that, in the form of internships, volunteer experiences, campus-based research, practicums, clinical experiences, field experiences and/or student teaching experiences.

Other highlights of the new report include 77 percent of 2017 grads started their careers

**"OUR GRADUATES TELL US THAT  
OUR HIGH-QUALITY, INTENSELY  
PERSONAL, CHRIST-CENTERED  
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE  
EMPOWERS THEM. . ."**



## Purple Briefcase is USF's new jobs and internships database

- ▶ **3,500** part-time jobs, internships and careers are posted annually for students and **alumni to access.**
- ▶ Discover powerful tools and numerous ways to **connect as students, employers and alumni.**

## To access Purple Briefcase:

1. Visit: [siouxfalls.edu/purplebriefcase](http://siouxfalls.edu/purplebriefcase).
2. Click on Purple Briefcase to sign in.
3. Click on New User.
4. Select University of Sioux Falls from the pulldown list and enter your name/email and click Find Me.



in South Dakota and 87 percent of 2017 grads who found employment in South Dakota lived in Sioux Falls. USF grads reported working in 15 states.

"We have found that an increasing percentage of our students choose to start their careers right here in Sioux Falls," says Jessica Carlson, assistant director of the Thomas Kilian Academic Success Center. "We believe that this is one of the great benefits of being positioned in a city with such a strong economy and abundance of opportunities."

Sioux Falls is a powerful economic hub within the state and region that continues to have high demand for workers in many fields. USF remains committed to prioritizing community partnerships, especially in the city that is proudly reflected in the university's name. This year USF celebrates 110 years as a member of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, since officially joining the Chamber on June 1, 1907.

"USF has been not only a great charter Chamber member, but even more importantly, an excellent asset to the Sioux Falls area business community as a whole," says Mike Lynch, director of investor relations for Forward Sioux Falls. "Through its contributions to the city's workforce, as well as the outstanding education USF provides to its students, this institution has played a vital role to augment the workforce dynamic throughout the Sioux Falls area."

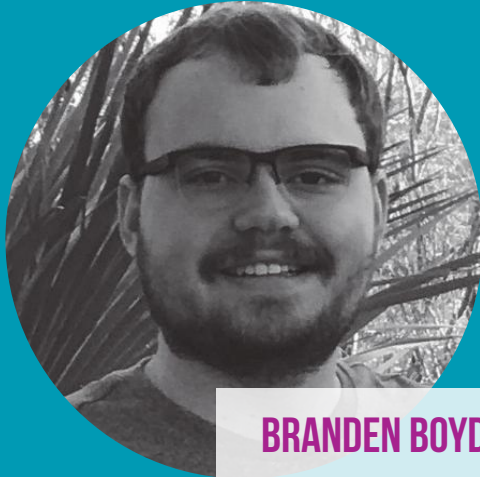
The city's remarkably low unemployment rate of 2.7 percent means that as USF equips students with the skills to succeed in a thriving workforce community, that more job opportunities are available when they graduate.

Each year USF Career Services staff surveys the graduating class to assess their post-graduation activities. The methodology of this survey aligns with best practices that are outlined by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

# Student SPOTLIGHT

# COUGAR

// FAMILY



**BRANDEN BOYD**

"I feel prepared to start my career as a RN because of the way USF faculty and staff invested in my education and because of their efforts to go above and beyond investing in my life," says senior Nursing major Branden Boyd. The future is bright for the May graduate who has already accepted a registered nurse position at Sanford USD Medical Center. Nursing faculty nominated Branden for the Outstanding Nursing Student of South Dakota presented by the South Dakota Student Nurses Association, and Branden completed his service-central capstone experience at the Rosebud Indian Reservation, and a previous summer externship at Sanford USD Medical Center. Branden says his experience at USF has facilitated not only academic growth but also personal growth. "One important part of my USF experience has been the ability to take some Bible classes as part of our liberal arts core," Branden says. While at USF Boyd has experienced one-on-one relationships with faculty, making memories with friends and even meeting his fiancée. These have all fostered an experience that has prepared Branden to excel in growth, readying him for his future.



**ANGELA SCHOFFELMAN**

In 2008 a car struck Angela Schoffelman at 40 mph as she walked through a crosswalk. The recovery that followed was intense—hospitalization for 15 days, off of work for a year, multiple surgeries and physical therapy for two years. After recovery, Angela started pursuing a career in healthcare to give back and help others in the same way she experienced respect and love as a patient. Fast-forward to today, ten years later, Angela is Avera Medical Group's quality coordinator care specialist and just started her MBA at USF this spring, and she's determined to make a difference in the healthcare industry. "I had been thinking about going back for my MBA for some time," Angela says. "Years, actually. In fact, several years ago at a PMI [Project Management Institute] symposium, a coach for USF spoke with so much passion and conviction, and I thought, 'If I ever go back to school, that is where I want to go.'" Despite promotions and award nominations nodding to her success, she still felt something was missing in her personal development plan. During another more recent PMI symposium, Angela again felt a connection to the USF mission and values. That connection prompted her to investigate the MBA program and eventually led to her enrollment at USF. "I knew I was in the right place, with the right culture, and I'm now attending my first class of the USF MBA program!," she says.



**JOE HIATT**

"Holy cow, I'm going to Juilliard, where some of my heroes studied," Joe Hiatt remembers thinking last summer when he was selected to attend The Juilliard School in New York City for the Artist as Citizen Conference. It's been a banner year for the Communication Studies & Theatre and English major. On top of a week at Juilliard, Joe was cast for the lead role in the film "Poor Mama's Boy", which was filmed in the rural foothills of the Ozark Mountains. Alongside professional actors Joe navigated the challenges and complexities of his role. "I learned so much not just as an actor, but how to handle myself professionally on a movie set," he says. "It was the most fun I think I have ever had." Joe plans to go to New York right after graduation, and has his sights set on attending Juilliard for graduate school; he wants to be an actor working in both theatre and film. He also enjoys film making and writing and is currently working on a novel. Joe says he finds great value in being immersed in creativity. "I think it is so important to be creating all the time," he says. "Like Joe Obermueller, a professor of theatre here at USF says all the time, 'you have to create your own work.'"

// KYLIE, LAURA AND RACHEL

COMPETE SIDE BY SIDE IN A CROSS  
COUNTRY RACE THIS PAST FALL.



# Runners become teammates then *friends*

**“OUR FRIENDSHIP AND  
FAITH WILL GROW EVEN  
MORE BECAUSE OF  
WHAT WE EXPERIENCED  
TOGETHER.”**

When they cross the graduation stage at the Washington Pavilion in May, Kylie Herlihy, Laura Kunz and Rachel Huffman, who have shared so much life in a short span, will end their time together at the University of Sioux Falls.

Their remaining days at USF will undoubtedly be filled with both happy and sad tears for the three USF Track & Field/Cross Country teammates. Yet these best friends have an unbreakable bond which will tie them together for a lifetime.

From competing in athletics, rooming together, developing their faith, and learning the value of service, Kylie, Laura and Rachel have a bond that radiates like a diamond in the light.

“Our friendship has been so much sharing and connection,” says Laura. “It has been a beautiful experience. With friendship and living together, you experience life and are there for each other.”

The trio arrived at USF unknown to each other from across the country including Laura of Oklahoma, Kylie of California and Rachel of Nebraska.

Initially, the three women stayed to themselves, trying to adjust to college life, including challenges of time management, new teammates and coaches and a new home.

In time, the three student-athletes, who all have a passion for running, began interacting with each other at practice and at competition.

After Christmas as freshmen, Kylie and Laura, both business majors, discovered they had a lot in common and became friends, which led to rooming together.

At the same time, Kylie, who proved to be the catalyst in the friendship, was establishing rapport with Rachel, who was focused on training, studies as a Psychology and Social Sciences double major and her job as a resident assistant. It wasn't long before Rachel and Laura, through a little persuasion from Kylie, began talking and finding they, too, had a lot in common. By the time they were juniors, the three women were roommates.

“Finding friends that I can talk to about the ups and downs of life has been the biggest blessing,” says Kylie, noting the three women will spend spring break together at Rachel's home in rural Gering, Nebraska. “We love cooking together and grocery shopping. And we really like to play card games, although that can get competitive.”

Sometimes, as friends do, they do goofy stuff. “Kylie and I like to go on easy runs and just act silly and obnoxious while running. We call ourselves the “goofy goobers,” and laugh until it hurts,” Laura says.

As happens in relationships, two years of living together can test friendship. From learning to live together, boyfriends, mixed training schedules and work, they have weathered difficulties to become even closer.

“At one point, we questioned if our friendship was seasonal, but we had a deep underlying love for each other and





// **KYLIE HERLIHY** competes in the 1,000-meter run at the NSIC Indoor Track & Field Championships in Mankato, MN.



// **RACHEL HUFFMAN**, a member of the distance medley relay, ran the mile and 5K in helping USF finish a program-best sixth at the NSIC Indoor Track & Field Championships.



// **LAURA KUNZ** was part of the distance medley relay squad that finished eighth at the NSIC Indoor Track & Field Championships in Mankato, MN.

didn't want our friendship to fall away as it means so much," Kylie says. "Our faith has helped us bond as it is a part of our life, and we are able to grow in together and know we have each other to help along this walk."

As the 2017-18 academic year approached, the friendship faced a major test as Laura and Rachel faced a crossroad on whether to graduate, move on or come back for another year.

"In talking with Laura and Kylie, we wanted to stay together another year and not rush through life too quickly," says Rachel, who after a conversation with her parents chose to come back to USF. Laura also made

the decision to return and enrolled in USF's MBA program.

Subsequently, the year has seemingly flown by with graduation fast approaching on May 19. It has been a time of bonding, celebrating athletic accomplishments, and reaffirming their Christian faith through a commitment of giving.

Laura and Kylie led USF to its second-best finish ever at the NSIC Cross Country Championships. In February, all three women helped USF to a NCAA DII program-best at the NSIC Indoor Track & Field Championships. And the outdoor season is underway.

With Christ-centered lives, the women have embraced USF's Culture for Service, including feeding the needy at The Banquet in Sioux Falls and working at a Christian summer camp.

For Rachel and Kylie, service work will continue as they have decided to venture to Ecuador to work in an orphanage and bed-and-breakfast run by Kylie's aunt.

"We feel called to do that together and experience more of the heavenly joy and love in serving together," Kylie says.

But as their USF experience draws to a close, Laura, whose future plans are personal in nature, hopes one day to join her friends in Ecuador. Regardless, she knows the friendship is unshakable.

"USF has meant so much to us, including making us more authentic believers in Christ," Laura says. "Our friendship and faith will grow even more because of what we experienced together."



// **DREW GUEBERT** PULLS UP TO CASH A BASKET ADDING TO HIS 19.9 POINTS PER GAME AVERAGE.

## USF BASKETBALL TEAMS HAVE SEASONS to Remember

From last-second, game-winning shots to all-conference and academic accolades, the University of Sioux Falls basketball teams had seasons to remember.

The Cougar men's basketball team, led by Head Coach Chris Johnson, recorded 20 wins (20-9) for the first time at the NCAA Division II level with both Drew Guebert and Trevon Evans earning first-team All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference honors. Evans, who was named NSIC Newcomer of the Year, and Guebert were the only duo in the league to finish in the Top 4 in league scoring.

"I am exceptionally proud of this team," Johnson says. "They exhibited great chemistry to put together a great season—our best at the DII

level. Despite a couple of key injuries, our guys stepped up for a truly outstanding season."

The men's team earned a No. 3 seed and hosted a first-round tournament game for the first time.

And for the third straight year, the USF women's team advanced to the NSIC Tournament semifinals led by Head Coach Travis Traphagen. Sophomore guards Kaely Hummel and Mariah Szymanski were named All-NSIC in USF's 16-13 season. Junior Jacey Huinker was named to the All-NSIC Defensive Team and became just the third USF student-athlete to earn All-NSIC Elite 18 honors as the student-athlete with the highest GPA at the league championships.

"This team battled through a lot of adversity but exhibited fight, resilience and heart to finish with a strong season," Traphagen says.



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EVELYN MCKILLOP

# Leaves Legacy



*The McKillop Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship Fund, established in 2017, will benefit generations of educators.*

Thanks to a generous estate gift of \$720,000, about a dozen new \$3,000 scholarships will be available to Elementary Education majors every semester at the University of Sioux Falls.

The new McKillop Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship Fund goes beyond honoring the memory of Evelyn McKillop, who taught over 40 years within the Sioux Falls School District and passed away in May 2017. It also paves the way for future generations of educators to lead a lifetime of service and leadership within the communities they serve.

Until her passing last year McKillop was USF's oldest living graduate. Although transitions have occurred at the University since her time here as a student, the core values that gave McKillop her foundation as an educator remain steadfast. These values of service and character development continue to shape the students who walk through USF's doors. With McKillop's generous gift many will have the opportunity to find their purpose and be a light to our community and the world.

"Evelyn's story is one of quiet greatness," says Jon Hiatt, who helped coordinate the scholarship fund's formation at USF. "I've known her for many years, and she embodied the fruits of the spirit. This gift helps ensure USF Fredrikson School of Education graduates continue to be leaders with strength of character and compassion in their classrooms and their communities."

Elementary Education alumna Kali Gottsleben '13, is a prime example of USF's top-notch education program. She was named 'Hood Magazine Teacher of the Year for 2017.

USF has a strong reputation for graduating some of the area's top teachers. Of the 2016 Elementary Education graduates, 100 percent secured employment or attended graduate school within six months of graduation.

# Giving with

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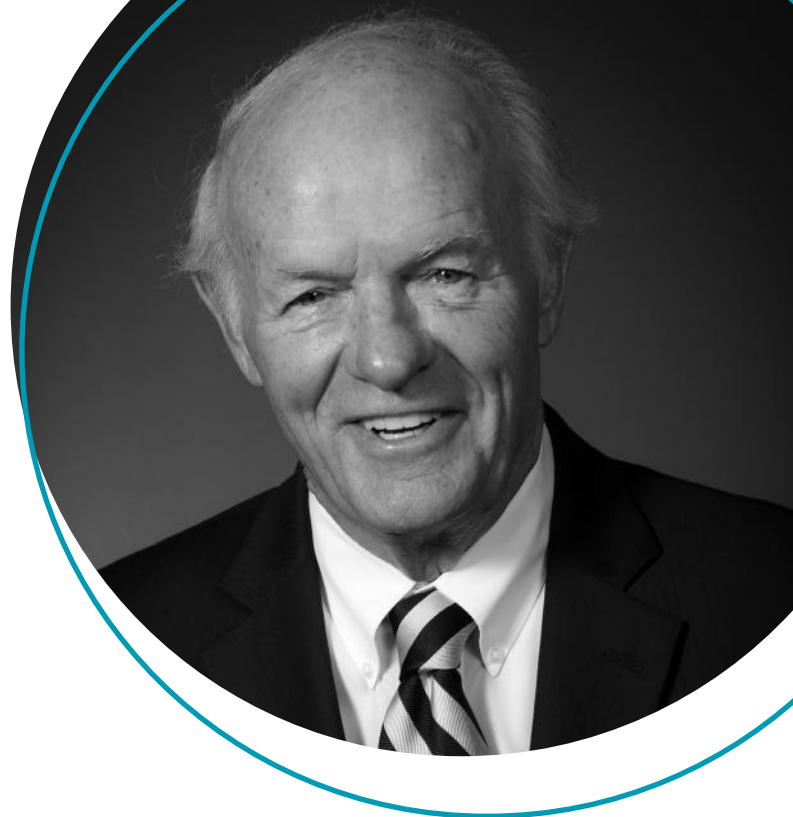


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# *\$1.5 Million donation* FROM HORATIO ALGER-DENNY SANFORD Scholarship Program to help *Extraordinary Students*

Attend USF



High school students looking to attend the University of Sioux Falls can benefit from the creation of the Horatio Alger-Denny Sanford Scholarship Program. The program was created as a result of the largest single gift ever made to the Horatio Alger Association, a nonprofit educational organization—\$30 million to its endowment from Horatio Alger Member, philanthropist and chairman of the board for United National Corporation, T. Denny Sanford.

The generous donation totals \$1.5 million over the course of 10 years for the USF. That's \$150,000 per year for students who might not otherwise be able to pursue higher education.

"Denny Sanford has helped so many people, and we're humbled by his confidence in our institution to do good in the world with his philanthropic dollars," says USF President Brett Bradfield. "We're proud to be a part of transforming people's lives for the better through this incredibly generous gift. And the focus of the dollars aligns well with our University's service-oriented mission, given the focus is on students who give back to their communities and who likely would not be able to afford higher education otherwise."

The scholarships are for students who have financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming

personal adversity.

Two routes to receiving this new specialty scholarship award exist. Students may apply directly to the Horatio

Alger National and State Scholarship Programs and, if selected, enroll at USF qualifying them for the Horatio Alger-Denny Sanford Scholarship, or students may apply to USF and subsequently be identified by admissions counselors in collaboration with the association as being eligible for the scholarship program's criteria.

"What an extraordinary blessing this generosity is from Denny Sanford to USF and to students with resilient hearts and minds who just need an opportunity to achieve their dreams of higher education," says Julie J. Iverson, director of institutional advancement at USF. "Together we can help transform the lives of these students in such a significant way."

The Horatio Alger-Denny Sanford Scholarship Program will benefit Horatio Alger Scholars beginning in the 2019-20 academic year. For more information regarding Mr. Sanford's landmark gift to the Horatio Alger Association, please visit [horatioalger.org](http://horatioalger.org). For more information on scholarships at USF, visit [usioxfordfalls.edu/scholarships](http://usioxfordfalls.edu/scholarships).

**"WE'RE PROUD TO BE A  
PART OF TRANSFORMING  
PEOPLE'S LIVES THROUGH  
THIS GENEROUS GIFT."**

# CLASS

# Notes

Based on information received between July 1 and December 31 2017. Send us your update today at [usioxfalls.edu/alumni/](http://usioxfalls.edu/alumni/)!

## // CELEBRATIONS

### Alumni

**David Noess '04** married Erin Pitsor on Sept. 3, 2017, in Chaska, MN.

**Kaylee (Hartung) Herreid '04** and Justin welcomed Amara on Sept. 8, 2016, Aberdeen, SD.

**Marissa (Moore) Weinreis '06** and Garrett welcomed Zayd Garrett and Zaybrie Marissa on Sept. 6, 2017, Scottsbluff, NE.

**Tyler Muth '07** and Jessie welcomed Claire Elizabeth on Oct. 16, 2017, Sioux Falls.

**Corinne (Jones) Brouwer '08** and Steven welcomed Caleb Steven on July 28, 2017, Orange City, IA.

**Ty Severson '08** and Tanya welcomed Clara Lenore on Oct. 10, 2017, Cheyenne, WY.

**Keegan Warwick '09** and Suzanne welcomed Lydia Elaine Christine on July 14, 2017, Sioux Falls.

**Mindy (Walton) Johnson '10** and Brian welcomed Nicholas Richard on May 12, 2017, Omaha, NE.

**Amanda (McKinney) '10 and Timothee Bryan '11** welcomed Lincoln River on Nov. 8, 2017, Sioux Falls.

**Amanda (Parker) '10 and Andrew Oines '11** welcomed Benjamin Timothy on Sept. 6, 2017, Sioux Falls.

**TJ Ross '11** and Jenna welcomed Ella on Dec. 7, 2016, Folsom, CA.

**Stephanie (Tulibaski) Holwerda '15** and Anthony welcomed Audrey Leigh on Nov. 27, 2017.

**Amanda Foulks '17** welcomed Maddox Kade and Madelyn Reed on June 14, 2017, Sioux Falls.

### Faculty & Staff

**Larissa Hargens** and Scott welcomed Hewitt Thune on Dec. 29, 2017, Sioux Falls.

**Brad Lowery** and Rachel welcomed Martin Monroe on Oct. 17, 2017, Sioux Falls.

## // IN MEMORIAL

### Alumni

**Bonnie (Bonacker) Rice '41**, Sept. 29, 2017, Alexandria, VA

**Mardella (Christensen) Cook '42**, Oct. 10, 2017, Brandon, SD

**Tressa (McFarlin) Ziegahn '42**, Jan. 14, 2017, Saint Paul, MN

**Ruth (Bolyard) Batschelet '50**, Sept. 26, 2017, Spencer, IA

**Shirley (Brown) Herrstrom '50**, Sept. 2, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Eldora (Johnson) Arndt '52**, Nov. 1, 2017, Minneapolis, MN

**Almus 'Spike' Larsen, Jr. '52**, Aug. 7, 2017, Des Moines, WA

**Fayann (Armstrong) Cain '53**, Dec. 31, 2017, Kimball, NE

**Dave Smith '57**, July 1, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Ray Camp '58**, Oct. 16, 2017, Cary, NC

**Nancy (Larson) Tabbelle '59**, Nov. 7, 2017, Blooming Prairie, MN

**Max Kuhn '62**, Nov. 4, 2017, North Platte, NE

**James McCord '63**, March 23, 2017, College Park, MD

**Marion McCoy '63**, Sept. 26, 2017, Huxley, IA

**Jerry Klaus '65**, Oct. 31, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Mary Denevan '67**, Oct. 24, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Tom Lillibridge '67**, Aug. 26, 2017, Bonesteel, SD

**Larry Burma '68**, July 11, 2017, Tea, SD

**Bob Axtell '69**, July 27, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Don Russell '69**, July 19, 2017, Des Moines, IA

**Dorothy (Splonskowski) Boldt '70**, Sept. 26, 2017, Marion, SD

**Dale DeVries '70**, Sept. 25, 2017, Franklin, TN

**Susan (Walker) Wilske '70**, Dec. 16, 2017, Flandreau, SD

**Nancy (Wallner) Anderson '72**, July 15, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Harriet (Vink) DeVries '72**, July 26, 2017, Chester, SD

**Lorraine (Harden) Jastram '72**, Dec. 6, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Larry Tuttle '72**, Dec. 14, 2017, Bella Vista, AR

**Jon Swanson '73**, Sept. 10, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Craig Martinek '77**, Dec. 2, 2017, Sioux Falls

**James Graver '80**, Nov. 23, 2017, Dover, DE

**Harry Bunker, III '81**, July 21, 2016, Sioux Falls

**Shari (Hyronemus) Reynolds '89**, Nov. 11, 2017, Dallas, TX

**Nita (Clark) Davis '91**, Dec. 25, 2017, Peoria, AZ

**Arlan Engeseth '93**, Dec. 31, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Mary Zoelle '94**, Nov. 27, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Amy (Dawes) Burcham '98**, July 10, 2017, Saint George, UT

**Rose Benson '99**, Sept. 2, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Dean Robinson '99**, July 2, 2017, Sioux Falls

**Kari (Stormo) Dolge '11**, Nov. 16, 2017, Baltic, SD

### Friends

**Kerchal Armstrong**, Dec. 12, 2017, Indianapolis, IN

**Lewis Hiigel**, July 18, 2017, Peoria, AZ

**Lois Michael**, May 17, 2017, Moscow, ID

## Remembering Dr. Kerchal Armstrong

Distinguished Christian music educator, performer, pastor and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather Dr. Kerchal Armstrong peacefully entered Glory on December 12, 2017, at the age of 86.

In 1972 Dr. Armstrong accepted a position at Sioux Falls College where he chaired the Fine Arts Department. Here he taught, mentored, conducted and eventually authored a conducting textbook. An integral part of the music community, he organized and directed the annual Messiah Sing Along, founded the semi-professional group the Sioux Falls Master Singers, participated in the American Choral Directors Association and was the principal trombonist with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and Sioux Falls Municipal Band. He also led the institution's choir on two separate tours of Europe. With great joy, he led worship and the sanctuary choir First Baptist Church throughout his years in Sioux Falls. But above all, his devotion was fixed on his Savior, Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of his faith. As an instructor Dr. Armstrong was loved by his students, many of whom went on to be church music leaders, professional

musicians and teachers. Of the many comments his former students and colleagues mentioned that he always wanted the music to "Glorify God, and not to entertain".

Kerchal is survived by his wife Janice Armstrong; his children Kris (Jon) Peterson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Laura (Mike) Adair of Overland Park, Kansas; Peterson grandchildren Katelynn (USF '13) (TJ) Doochen of Sioux Falls, Jennifer (and great-grandchild Angelica) and Joel; Adair grandchildren Ilene, David and Becca; the three Helmer family stepchildren with their spouses, many step grand- and great-grandchildren; a brother, sister and four sisters-in-law. Kerchal was preceded in death by his first wife Ilene Armstrong; three brothers, five brothers-in-law, and five sisters-in-law.

There is a scholarship in Dr. Armstrong's name at USF, that helps future music educators with tuition expenses.



# Faculty SPOTLIGHT

# COUGAR

// FAMILY

## DR. DAVID DEHOOGH-KLIEWER | ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC / DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES



Dr. David DeHoogh-Kliewer knew early on in his life that he was called to serve God through music. As he walks in his twelfth year of teaching as the director of choral activities at USF, Dr. DeHoogh-Kliewer structures his music program to reach deeper and go far beyond singing: The program finds its cornerstone in striving for excellence in honoring God and serving others in the local and global community. In December the Concert Chorale made an international impact as it embarked on its sixth trip to Europe. The 11-day tour through Italy allowed students to share God's love and worship with their audiences in prestigious venues like St. Mark's Basilica and St. Peter's Basilica. Additionally this year, thanks to generous donors, the Concert Chorale taped a Christmas special that South Dakota Public Broadcasting Television aired on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Another unique performance opportunity comes this spring when the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra's performance of *Candide* features the USF Concert Chorale on April 21 and 22. As the program flourishes under his leadership, Dr. DeHoogh-Kliewer's greatest desire for his students is personal growth. "It is my hope that our students will leave our program as better musicians who've learned to engage their hearts with choral music," Dr. DeHoogh-Kliewer says. "I want them to depart not only with an understanding of the true meaning of teamwork, but as individuals who will continue the pursuit of excellence for God's glory throughout their lives."

## BETH O'TOOLE | PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

From teaching creative writing to convicted drug offenders at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, to leading "7 Days of Service" at St. Francis house in December, professor Beth O'Toole models the example of how the top-notch faculty at USF balance academic excellence and service in the community. Recognizing this servant leadership, the South Dakota Council of Juvenile Services elected long-time member O'Toole as its chair in December. The council works to help establish South Dakota's policy for juvenile justice issues and funding. Passionate about all aspects of criminal justice, O'Toole's creative writing project at the penitentiary works with people nearing the ends of their sentences and preparing to return to the community. "Beth's community involvement in her field is a living testament to what she is teaching in her classroom," says Joy Lind, vice president for academic affairs at USF. "Like so many professors at USF, she is multifaceted and outstanding on many fronts." Additionally, O'Toole leads students on an annual educational trip to Hawaii during USF's January interim semester.



## LORRI HALVERSON | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



Lorri Halverson thinks economics research is best taught when real research challenges are part of the equation. This means she strives to partner with organizations—national and local—that are seeking concrete solutions to real-world problems. To this end, she forged a new research partnership with Avera's Center for Pediatric and Community Research. Her students will work jointly with an Avera research team seeking to understand socioeconomic effects of poverty on health outcomes right here in South Dakota, including Sioux Falls, Rapid City and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. "So often we use carefully constructed problems or case studies for students where all of the information needed is compiled for them," Halverson says. "When we take these crutches away, students are better able to experience what they will encounter as working professionals." Halverson explores the value of such experiential learning in a book chapter published last fall called "Intuition, Trust, and Analytics", which she co-authored with a colleague from the American Institute for Economic Research, another organization she's partnered with to bring applied research experiences into her classroom. Giving back to the community which sustains USF is an important part of its mission, so partnerships extending beyond academics and into the service of others are exemplary of its Culture for Service.



# GET INVOLVED!

PLAN A DATE NIGHT >> ENJOY A FAMILY WEEKEND >> RECONNECT WITH FELLOW ALUMNI

## APRIL

- 6 **Track & Field** vs. Augustana, Vance Butler/Rick Greeno Duel, Lillibridge Track
- 7-8 **Tennis** vs. St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, Minnesota
- 8 **USF Music** Spring Chorale Concert, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church
- 14-15 **Women's Golf** Augustana Spring Invitational, Prairie Green Golf Course
- 21-22 **USF Concert Chorale** with South Dakota Symphony Orchestra "Candide", Sat 7:30 p.m., Sun 2:30 p.m., Washington Pavilion
- 21-22 **NSIC Tennis Championships** Minnetonka, Minnesota

- 25 **Softball** vs. Augustana, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., Sherman Park
- 25 **Baseball** vs. Augustana, 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sioux Falls Stadium
- 25-26 **Men's Golf** Cougar Cup, Elmwood & Prairie Green Golf Course
- 27 **Football Spring Game** 6:30 p.m., Bob Young Field

## MAY

- 2-6 **USF Theatre** presents *Into the Woods*, Wed-Sat 7 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Meredith Auditorium

- 4 **Track & Field** Howard Wood Relays, Howard Wood Field
- 4-5 **Baseball** vs. Concordia-St. Paul, Sioux Falls Stadium
- 13 **USF Music** Masterworks Concert, 4 p.m., Meredith Auditorium
- 20 **Graduate Commencement Ceremony** 10 a.m., Washington Pavilion
- 20 **Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony** 2:30 p.m., Washington Pavilion

## JUNE

- 22 **SID Shootout** golf tournament at Spring Creek Golf Course

For exact dates and times, please visit

[siouxfalls.edu](http://siouxfalls.edu) || [usfcougars.com](http://usfcougars.com)

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