

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

Change is on my mind as we reflect on our accomplishments and look forward to the new year. The campus went through its regular shift from the quieter summer months to the hustle of Fall. At the same time, the world was wrestling with questions about how technology, like generative AI, will inevitably bring change to our lives and classrooms. As we welcomed students back, the college welcomed me as Interim Dean and Dr. Stacey Berry as the new Associate Dean. We thank David Kenley, who served as the Dean of the College from 2020 through the summer, for his leadership and continued work as a mentor, Professor of History, and Coordinator of General Education. These moments of incredible change remind me how important connections are to our success.

Change will continue to come. It is how we approach those changes that matter. Whatever you are working on this year, I look forward to working together.



DR. MARK SPANIER

RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS



The College of Arts & Sciences has some of the most active research faculty at the university. We advance change in the world through our connections with students - whether that be in a sound studio or the biology lab. These connections allow us to contribute to the campus community while we create pathways for student success. The academic year ahead

presents endless opportunities for our students through our commitment to creativity and discovery. Our college accomplishments remind us that we are actively engaged in the mission of the university to cultivate lifelong learners, problem solvers, and innovators.

The college grows through its partnerships and interdisciplinary projects, and we look forward to continued contributions to local and global issues in agriculture, AI, communication, and more. As we take on these topics, we look forward to working with our six new faculty members in biology, chemistry, geography, humanities, mathematics, and physics. Our newest faculty continue to push the boundaries of scholarly impact and pedagogy in Arts & Sciences. Their introductions in this newsletter remind us how diverse our interests are.



DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

INGRAM NAMED CTL DIRECTOR

Assistant Professor Matthew Ingram was named Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) this year.

The CTL is focused on building a tradition of teaching and learning excellence by offering opportunities for the academic community to strengthen teaching and assessment strategies and technology-enhanced learning.

The CTL hosts a variety of activities and events focused on the campus classroom and the online learning environment. Services are not just for faculty, but all who have roles in enabling the learning process.

As director, Ingram will continue to develop and share more resources, articles, and websites regarding best practices in teaching and learning. Additionally, Ingram has also been organizing and leading conversations about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) on campus for a CTL series to help determine DSU's posture on AI.

In this role Ingram works closely with the design team.

Ingram also helped develop a multi-session supervisor training program that earned the 2023 Knowlton Excellence in Quality. He worked with Wendy Simmermon, Brenda Merkel, Michael Roach, and Deb Roach. Sessions focused on culture, empathy, championing performance management, motivation, and evaluations.

The program created a positive direction within the first nine months of implementation. Ingram said, "It is empowering to hear the stories of our campus supervisors as they've shared their campus successes, charted opportunities for growth, and helped our team learn about the professional development opportunities and collaborations we can forge to support our campus colleagues."

He added, "I am honored to have had the opportunity to bring together supervisors and build a collaborative learning community of leaders."

The Knowlton award was instituted in 2017 to honor employees who make outstanding

contributions to improving processes and outcomes at Dakota State. It's named after former DSU President Doug Knowlton, a leader in implementing the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program at Dakota State in 2010.



NEW FACULTY HIRED

The College of Arts & Sciences welcomed six new faculty members for the 2023-24 academic year. The new hires filled positions in geography, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, and the humanities.

- ◆ Dr. Russell Graves is Assistant Professor of Geography.
- ◆ Dr. Daniel Spencer is Instructor of Humanities.
- ◆ Dr. Justin Schroeder is Assistant Professor of Mathematics.
- ◆ Dr. Alex Dececchi is Assistant Professor of Biology.
- ◆ Dr. Jeff Elbert is Assistant Professor of Chemistry.
- ◆ Dr. Peng Guo is Assistant Professor of Physics.



EXTERNAL PARTNER -WICHE

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) is a regional interstate compact & 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization based in Colorado. It is 1 of 4 regional interstate higher education compacts in the U.S. It was established in 1953 and is charged with helping residents of the west address higher education and workforce issues distinct to the region.

This region includes, Alaska, Ariz., Calif., Colo., Hawaii, Idaho, Mont., Nev., N.M., N.D., Ore., S.D., the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States, Utah, Wash., & Wyo.



SEWELL RECOMMENDED FOR SABBATICAL

Dr. William Sewell, an associate professor of English Education and Composition, has been recommended by President Griffiths to the Board of Trustees for a spring 2024 sabbatical.



THE IMPACT OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Dakota State University does not have an agriculture program, but that hasn't prevented undergraduate students from conducting groundbreaking agricultural research in alfalfa.

"My undergraduate research project mentored by Dr. Sathoff was the highlight of my bachelor's degree," said Jay Alexander, 2023 DSU graduate. "I'm applying to graduate schools, and it seems that my participation in research has helped me gain interest from research professors."

Alexander and Dr. Andrew Sathoff presented their alfalfa gene research at the National Plant Health Conference in Denver in August.

Undergraduate research opportunities aren't unique to Sathoff's classroom, as Dakota State has a long history of undergraduate research, which brings important benefits to the field and the students.

"Completing undergraduate research gave me the ability to finally showcase my analytical abilities and engage in independent interests outside of class," Alexander said.

"These experiences for students can be so impactful," Sathoff said. "Students hear about scientific research and read it in class, but my research students are performing the research and presenting it to other experts in the field."

It's a great way to see the importance of research. "You can see there is a community that really values this research."

The value of Alexander's research was evident at the conference.

"Our poster got a lot of attention because many conference attendees were interested in learning how to use Blast2GO, a bioinformatics software," Sathoff said.

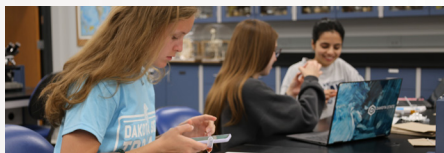
Blast2GO is a tool used for functional annotation and analysis of genomic datasets. Sathoff has been researching *Aphanomyces* at DSU since 2019. Some alfalfa cultivars

are resistant to the disease, while others are susceptible, but it's unknown what causes the resistance. By using this tool, they could identify genes resistant to diseases like *Aphanomyces* by identifying the gene functions.

"The goal of this work was to identify the genes associated with resistance to these diseases," Sathoff said.

Sathoff and Alexander found many genes involved were classic resistance genes. This information can be shared with plant breeders to introduce resistant genes into new alfalfa lines.

These results will be combined with other work completed by Dr. Deborah Samac, Sathoff's former advisor at the University of Minnesota. Samac provided the DNA sequence data set for this research project.



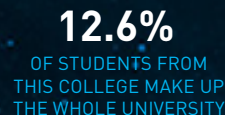
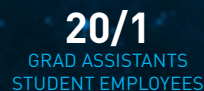
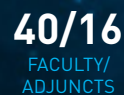
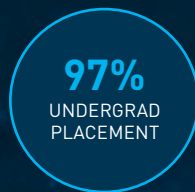
BEADLE HALL 2024 RENOVATION

Beadle Hall is Dakota State University's oldest building on campus, having opened in September of 1886. It was originally called West Wing and later changed to Beadle Hall to honor General William Henry Harrison Beadle, DSU's third president.

The building will be part of a yearlong renovation process beginning in the spring of 2024. The marketing department will be documenting parts of the renovation process throughout the year, so be sure to check in on our Dakota State social media pages for updates.

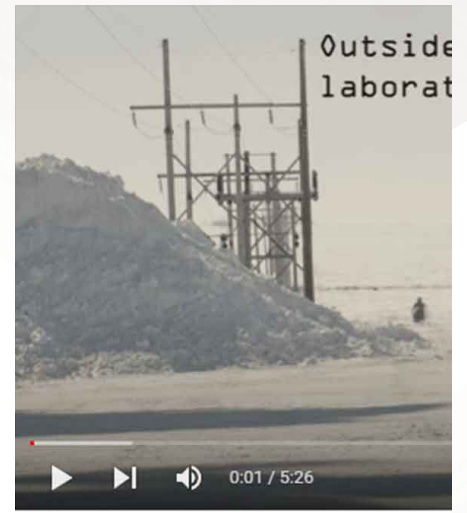


BY THE NUMBERS



WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARE COMING FROM





Agent 54 - Short Comedy Spy Film - 54



Lights Camera Action
42 subscribers

Subscribe

STUDENT NEWS

PEAK CONDUCTING SNAKE SKIN RESEARCH

After a friend spotted a snake with weird-looking scales on the outskirts of Sioux Falls, DSU student Adam Peak was intrigued.

“We researched it and discovered it was likely a rare infection that was going on,” Peak said.

That infection, commonly referred to as Snake Fungal Disease, is caused by the fungus *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola*, which is a threat to wild snakes, explained Dr. Andrew Sathoff, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Peak’s mentor on the project.

Peak, a senior biology major, started using assignments in classes to do more research on the disease.

“Adam gave an excellent disease profile presentation in microbiology,” Sathoff said.

The presentation inspired a research project that began with a literature review in 2022, which noted that the diseases had not been recorded so far in South Dakota. Most published research has focused on vipers, other venomous snakes, and Colubrids (typically nonvenomous) affected by the disease.

Through his research, Peak hopes to discover whether the Snake Fungal Disease can affect the Plains Garter Snake, South Dakota’s most common snake.

“From what we’ve been reading, the disease appears to have a very wide host range,” Sathoff explained. “That’s common for fungal diseases.”

To conduct the research, Peak has been collecting shed snakeskins and live samples from snakes and storing them in the refrigerator at about 4 degrees Celsius, which helps preserve spores.

Peak is currently working with Sathoff to complete cultures, swabbing the snakeskin and attempting to feed the fungus to encourage growth.

“I have noticed a lot of scarred scales along snakes because older specimens can survive it,” Peak said. His literature research indicated that “A lot of older populations have been found to have had trace amounts of the disease in their white blood cells, showing they fought the disease off.”

While the disease eats the scales of the snake, scales can also be removed through competition, fighting, and predator attacks. Peak’s research will help determine the cause of scarred and missing scales.

Many people may see snakes as pests, but they are an essential part of the ecosystem, and play a crucial role in leveling the populations of pests like grasshoppers, locusts, and even field mice, Peak explained.

Peak and Sathoff hope to do some soil DNA extractions as well. Regardless of the results, the research will produce a publication.

AWARD WINNING FOR LCA CLUB

The Lights Camera Action (LCA) Club had a successful 2023. The club received the South Dakota Board of Regents Organizational Leadership award.

This organization creates a student-led environment that encourages the students’ creative visions and helps them learn the simple wonders of storytelling and filmmaking.

The club collaborated with the Sioux Falls-based show *Late Night Boomin’* during the year. LCA members also earned multiple awards from the 54 Film Festival they entered with their film *Agent 54*.

They competed in the subcategory 5+4, which gave the students nine days to complete their film. The competition’s theme was spy, which inspired their five-minute comedy short.

DSU students Ben Anderson and Carson Knecht co-directed the production, working with a team of 10 to 15 to write, act, film, produce, add special effects, and edit the film. *Agent 54*, follows an anxious secret agent in a training mission to stop a corrupt corporation from unleashing performance-enhancing drugs into the world.

They earned the following awards: Best Student Directing, Best Trailer, Best Visual Effects, Best Student Visual Effects, Best Student Production Design, Best Student Wardrobe, Best Use of Music, and Student Use of Genre. Visit the LCA Club YouTube page to watch the film.

DSU HOSTS GLOBAL GAME JAM SITE

DSU hosted a Global Game Jam site the first weekend of February in The Beacom Institute of Technology.

Global Game Jam (GGJ) brings people together to spend 48 hours creating a game related to a central theme.

“Events like this bring together all levels of students for us,” said Erik Pederson, Assistant Professor of Game Design. “There are freshman involved who have never been on a development team, all the way up to graduates who come back to participate because it was fun.”

This event allows students to participate in and witness the development of a game from start to finish.

“Going through the process of conceiving, producing, and sharing an interactive product

is a greatly sought-after skillset for our graduates,” Pederson said. The weekend allows participants to experience innovative and direct learning environments that differ from lecture-based delivery and other traditional learning settings. Attendees can contribute to different areas of the game’s production, such as coding, creating artwork, and developing the narrative.

“The participants get to experience how the industry works at a level where there is no fear of failing, thus making it a learning opportunity that is unparalleled for them,” Pederson said.

The event was open to people outside of the degree program and Dakota State. Last year, there were students from other majors such as animation and networking. Additionally, the event was open to the public ages 18 and up.



5 A&S STUDENTS AWARDED SRI GRANTS

Each fall, DSU offers funded research opportunities to undergraduate students through the Undergraduate Student Mentored Research Initiative (SRI) program.

This program allows students to conduct hands-on research with a faculty mentor.

Five College of Arts & Sciences students received SRI grants for the 2023-24 academic year.

- Denyce Bravo, a Biology major mentored by Dr. Andrew Sathoff. Project title: “Exploring Antimicrobial Potential of Honey from Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) Against Both Human and Alfalfa Pathogens.”
- Rook Wiese, a Cyber Leadership & Intelligence major mentored by Dr. David Kenley. Project title: “Is Cybercrime More Prevalent in Individualistic or Collectivistic Cultures?”
- Carter Gordon, a Sound Design major mentored by Dr. Tate Carson. Project title: “Resonant Landscapes: Soundscapes of South Dakota.”
- Adam Peak, a Biology major mentored by Dr. Andrew Sathoff. Project title: “Surveying for *Ophidiicola ophidiomyces*, the Causal Agent of Snake Fungal Disease in South Dakota.”
- Alex Rachynska, a Biology major mentored by Dr. Kristel Bakker and Dr. Jeffrey Elbert. Project title: “Difference in the Chemical and Molecular Composition of Berries from Introduced vs. Native Woody Species Available During Fall Bird Migration.”



TOONBOOM HIGHLIGHT REEL

Three production animation students, Shelby Gary, Trudy Jones, and Victorie Wilson had their 2D animation “Gang Wars” highlighted in Toon Boom’s Educational Showreel for 2023.

Toon Boom’s software is for the animation and is used throughout the industry to produce movies, TV series, games, and advertisements.

Toon Boom Animation highlights their favorite clips from students who attended top leading schools. The clips featured include personal and academic projects. All of the work featured was created by using Toon Boom Harmony or Storyboard Pro.

The highlight reel is available on YouTube for viewing and “Gang Wars” can be seen at the 2:38 mark of the video.

FACULTY UPDATES

A&S PROVIDES OUTREACH YEARROUND

Arts & Sciences faculty conducted a variety of outreach events throughout 2023.

Dr. Andrew Sathoff worked with the SDSU extension office to host the Midwest Forage Association (MFA) Meeting on campus at DSU. This was the first MFA meeting in South Dakota.

Stacey Berry, Justin Blessinger, Andrew Sathoff, and Mark Spanier each hosted a session at the Dakota Dreams Summer Camp. DSU welcomed 7th and 8th-grade students to campus for a week over the summer. The camp is a partnership of the South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota technical colleges, South Dakota businesses and industry, and the South Dakota Department of Education.

Mark Spanier and Beacom Assistant Professor Andrew Kramer spoke at and provided demonstrations for the South

Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education (SDACTE) program showcase in August. The group consisted of teachers from the automotive, construction, STEM, and arts/AV divisions.

Tom Jones gave a demonstration to a group of K-12 teachers during the SDACTE conference. The instructors were thrilled to have the opportunity to learn about DSU's programs and see our various spaces.

Rich Avery led various math sessions for the Summer IT Institute with Oglala Lakota College. The first week of the institute was in Kyle, S.D. and the second week was on campus at DSU.

Alan Montgomery hosted an artist talk with Amy Haney in the First Bank & Trust Gallery in March. Haney, a professor at the University of Nebraska had her exhibition "Fly" featured in the gallery.

The Digital Arts & Design faculty hosted the Animation Show of Shows, a traveling selection of the years best animated short films worldwide, in March.



HIGHLIGHTS

Arts & Sciences faculty gave presentations and published their work throughout 2023. Read through a few of the highlights.

- ◆ *Dr. Kristel Bakker gave a presentation at the SD chapter of the Wildlife Society meeting in Chamberlain.*
- ◆ *Dr. David Kenley and Dr. David Zeng led a seminar titled "Huawei, 5G, and the China-US Technology Race for the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia."*
- ◆ *Dr. David Kenley gave two presentations at the Association for Asian Studies Conference in Boston, Mass.*
- ◆ *Dr. David Kenley and Dr. Jeff Bach published "Educational Crisis in Shanxi: An Analysis of Brethren Mission Schools in Republican China" in From Missionary Education to Confucius Institutes: Historical Reflections on Sino-American Cultural Exchange (Routledge Press).*
- ◆ *Dr. Matthew Ingram presented at the Macmillan Learning Tech Ed Week.*
- ◆ *Dr. Haley Larson published an essay "Grandfathered," in the Good Life Review.*



CREATIVE WORKS

Several DSU faculty members had their artwork featured and exhibited throughout the year. Read on for some of the highlights.

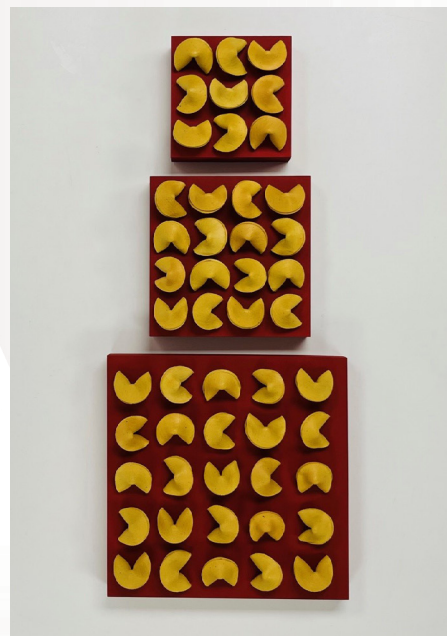
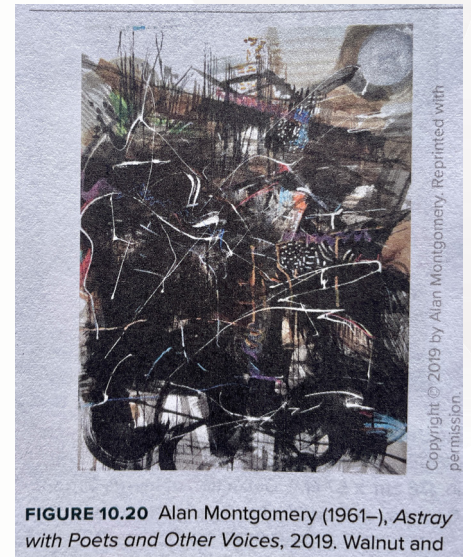
- Tom Jones & Angela Behrends have art featured in the South Dakota Governor's 10th Biennial Art Exhibition. Their work traveled to four venues around South Dakota. Behrends' piece is a ceramic work titled "Nobody Flies Alone." Jones' photograph, which he manipulated in the dark room is titled "Float Your Boat."
- "Nobody Flies Alone" was selected and purchased by the South Dakota art Museum's Museum Guild and becomes a part of their

permanent collection after the Biennial closes.

- Angela Behrends and Joe Ren made hundreds of ceramic fortune cookies. Three prototype cookie panels were juried into Delectable, a food-themed exhibition at d'Art Center in Norfolk, Va. that ran from May 27 to June 24, 2023.
- Angela Behrends had a piece accepted to the exhibit Navigating Narratives: Corps of Discovery in Tetonwan Territory at Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center in Chamberlain. Navigating Narratives is the newest exhibition by the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS)

and is contracted to travel for the next three years, making a stop at the South Dakota Art Museum in 2024.

- Alan Montgomery had two ink drawings selected for the third edition of the textbook "Drawing as Expression."
- Angela Behrends' piece "Buffaloed" has been selected by the SD Department of Tourism for permanent display in its newly renovated building.
- Wendy Romero had a solo art exhibition in Marshall, Minn. titled: Experimental Strata: Through the Investigation of the Landscape.





ALUMNI & PHILANTHROPY

FEEDING SD FUNDRAISER

Dakota State Digital Arts & Design (DAD) students and faculty held a fundraiser for Feeding South Dakota in April at Sundog Coffee.

“Because the fundraiser is for feeding people, the theme has always been food,” said Angela Behrends, Assistant Professor. “Everybody eats, everybody has to eat, so it’s an accessible idea in sculpture, 2-D digital and analog design, photography, almost any media or material.”

Feeding South Dakota is a mobile food bank serving all 66 counties in South Dakota. Behrends said that by fundraising for Feeding South Dakota, DSU students and faculty are supporting the larger South Dakota community and potentially helping family, friends, and neighbors directly.

DOUBLE MAJOR

Students interested in double majoring in Biology and Exercise Science can now do so for just 116 credits. Professors in both programs helped redesign the curriculum to allow for collaboration between the disciplines.

BLUE BYTES

Find out more about the current DSU student experience from [Damian Kortus](#). A December 2023 English for New Media graduate, Kortus was the first featured in the new student-focused video series.



TORDSEN RETURNED TO WRAP ATHLETICS CAREER

Extended eligibility due to COVID allowed Conner Tordsen (B.S. '22) to return to DSU for the 2023 spring semester as a student-athlete in track & field and to earn a third minor in business.

Since my first semester, athletics at Dakota State have been a big part of my life,” Tordsen said. “Being on the football and track teams has given me countless friends and memories and made my time at DSU very special.

In addition to his years of athletic play, Tordsen also involved himself in research projects on alfalfa with Dr. Andrew Sathoff, Assistant Professor of Biology and fellow Biology majors. Over several years he studied alfalfa pathogens and potential treatments, which led to Tordsen’s first publication in August of 2021.

Being able to do scientific research and publish papers, all while competitively competing on the national level, is something not many get to do as an undergrad student,” he said.

Tordsen ended the 2022 track & field season as an All-American hammer thrower, but didn’t reach all the goals he set with Assistant Track Coach Alex Glover. After a few conversations with Glover, Tordsen realized he wasn’t ready to hang up his shoes. “I wanted to come back and accomplish some of the goals that Coach Glover and I had set, including being a five-time All-American and winning a national championship.

When he returned for the spring track season, Tordsen also returned to the lab to continue alfalfa research while earning a business minor from the College of Business & Information Systems.

In May, Tordsen became DSU’s first National Champion in men’s discus in DSU’s outdoor track & field program.

I am so grateful for my time at Dakota State University,” he said. “I have been able to accomplish so much athletically and academically that I do not think I would have been given the opportunity to do elsewhere.

Tordsen is now attending the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry.



INTERN FOR SPPC

Recent Cyber Leadership & Intelligence graduate Olivia Armstrong was selected as an intern for the Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP).

The SCSP is a non-partisan, non-profit, three-year initiative launched by Dr. Eric Schmidt and led by CEO Ylli Bajraktari. The SCSP’s mission is to make recommendations to strengthen America’s long-term competitiveness for a future where artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies reshape our national security, economy, and society.



FROM A&S TO ENTREPRENEUR

Braderious Martin is originally from Atlanta, Georgia, but he ended up at Dakota State as a transfer student on a basketball scholarship.

While playing basketball with the Trojans, Martin cultivated an interest in the visual/audio realm as a Digital Arts & Design major.

"I love what media and entertainment provide," he said.

After graduating from DSU in 2013, Martin spent a brief period overseas playing basketball. But he ultimately returned to Atlanta, where he started his own business, EYA Sports. It started small, with Martin training one of his little brothers and a couple other clients who had goals of playing in college and professionally.

"I created a basketball program that was geared toward helping kids in my community, but it's grown into a multi-million-dollar program," he said.

He now works with athletes to help prepare them for competitive play in high school through training and camps. He has developed college recruitment camps, and NBA pre-draft and draft workouts. The success of these

training opportunities can be seen in the success of athletes in the programs. Martin has had athletes reach the professional level.

One camp featured 40 athletes, and 37 received full-ride scholarships to play basketball at the collegiate level. A young woman he trained was a Team USA participant and played in college at Louisville.

"Last year we had an athlete, Jabari Smith Jr., drafted third in the first round in the NBA Draft," he shared.

Martin uses the skills he developed at DSU to create EYA Sports' website, social media accounts, graphic content, videos, photos, and more for his business.

"We can use media and marketing to promote players and build relationships with agents to help get these players to the next level," he said.

An entire team of employees at EYA Sports does graphic design, photography, videography, and web design. They create content like highlight reels and player stats.

"Everything is about what you see," he said. "The visual content is everything."

Martin enjoys watching his clients advance to new levels of competition.

His advice to other entrepreneurs is to never give up and not listen to what others have to say. "If you have a vision and a dream, you can take it to that next level."

Throughout his time at DSU, Martin appreciated the relationships he formed with professors like Dr. Stacey Berry and his coach Gary Garner.

He hopes to return to the Madison area one day to run an EYA Sports basketball camp.

ALUMNA AT DREAMWORKS

DSU alumna Breanne Butters is a storyboard revisionist on Gabby's Dollhouse, a Netflix series produced by DreamWorks Animation. A 2016 DSU graduate, she went on to The Ohio State University for graduate school and interned at DreamWorks during the summer. As a revisionist she makes updates to the art, such as changing the direction the character is looking, or changing where everyone is standing. She hopes to become a storyboard artist and work on a feature film in the future.



MOTE WINS TECH INNOVATION AWARD

A love of teaching and technology led Viana Mote to Dakota State. Now an alumna (B.S. '20, M.S. '22), she shares that passion with her students at James Clemens High School, where she earned the Chiquita Marbury Technology Innovation Award after her first year of teaching there.

The award is sponsored by the Alabama Department of Education and Educational Technology section and is meant to recognize educators who are leaders in the use of technology. It was created to honor Chiquita Marbury's impact as a technology innovator in Alabama.

"I felt honored and thrilled to be recognized for something so meaningful," she said. "I love exploring new technology tools and apps with my students."

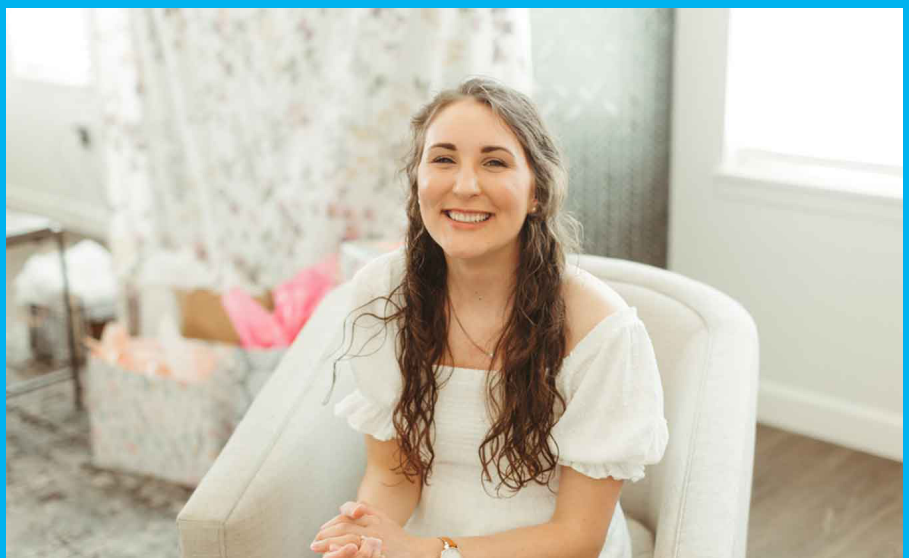
Mote sees innovation as a means of improving upon something, describing it as a continuous process that requires creativity, passion, and commitment. Technology is often at the forefront of innovation.

"Technology is such a big part of our world and the world our children will inherit," she said.

I feel that we are doing learners a disservice if we don't equip them with technology literacy skills.

Mote incorporates technology into lessons on essential English skills. Students learn the basics, like writing letters and effectively speaking in speeches, but they utilize digital formats like emails, podcasts, and explainer videos.

I try to show my students that the skills they've been building throughout their educational careers have a place and a purpose in our technology-rich environment, and I hope that they see that they will be able to adapt these essential skills no matter what technology looks like in the years to come," Mote said.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION



S-STEM GRANT

Rich Avery, Viki Johnson, Tom Halverson, Hannah Altmann, and Mark Spanier develop new scholarship funding for low-income students through a National Science Foundation grant of nearly \$1 million.

DSU students will have the opportunity to receive financial assistance and other support with Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) funding. This initiative is designed to support the academic and professional growth of talented STEM students, particularly from low-income backgrounds, such as those eligible for Pell grants.

The six-year grant program is a joint project between the College of Arts & Sciences and The Beacom College of Computer & Cyber Sciences. They created the program titled, "GROWSTEM: Building a Sense of Belonging for Talent, Low-Income Students through Engagement."

It will impact six DSU students in each of two cohorts, providing each student up to \$15,000 annually for up to five years, totaling \$75,000 in scholarships for reach student. Applications will be accepted in spring, with the first cohort starting in fall 2024.

The grant provides support structures to carry students through their studies, said Dr. Peter Hoelsing, Associate Vice President for Research & Economic Development. Examples include help with certain math courses, supplemental instructions, study groups, and intensive advising. Avery explained that the grant also provides for undergraduate research opportunities, including funding for conference travel and research publication costs.

Dr. Vicki Johnson, will track student progress and success. "It's important to have a social scientist involved," Hoelsing said. "This will provide a more intensive level of continuous monitoring than most sponsored programming, because it's all about student success."



BERRY AWARDED GRANT

Dr. Stacey Berry was awarded the Leaders in the Humanities two-year grant by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

The \$60,000 grant aims to create leadership opportunities for senior humanities faculty members by creating an administrative role at the university.

Berry began serving as associate dean in Arts & Sciences in August and will fill the position for two years.

"The College of Arts & Sciences is filled with incredible people and I am honored to represent them," Berry said.



SATHOFF HONORED

Dr. Andrew Sathoff won the student nominated award of Faculty Outstanding Contributor in 2023.

Many nominees referred to Sathoff as one of the best professors they have ever had. "Dr. Sathoff has consistently gone above and beyond in this teaching, providing a comprehensive understanding of course material, valuable insights, and guidance in my future career pursuits." Another commented on his mentoring ability: "Not many professors will sit with you and answer all your questions, but he will."



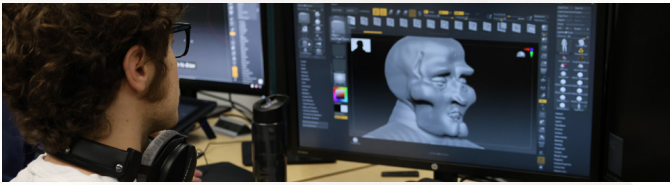
LANGNER HONORED

College of Arts & Sciences Administrative Assistant Susan Langner received the 2023 CSA Outstanding Contributor award.

Susan manages a huge volume of work with such grace and patience that most days I think that she must be super-human," said one nominator. Another stated: Susan is always so patient and kind with all of us, and she is always willing to help - even when the issue has nothing to do with her job.

This award recognizes a dedicated focus to customer service, commitment to quality improvement, outstanding skills and abilities, teamwork, and professionalism while enhancing the quality of work life for colleagues.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



MISSION CHANGE

February 29, 2024



As we eagerly approach the 40th anniversary of the Mission Change at Dakota State University, we find ourselves reflecting on four decades of transformative education and innovation. This significant milestone serves as a testament to our commitment to fostering academic excellence, technological advancements, and a dynamic learning environment. As we prepare to celebrate this momentous occasion, the excitement is palpable, and we invite the entire Dakota State community to join us in commemorating this legacy. Stay tuned for more details on the upcoming festivities and events that will mark this special anniversary. We look forward to sharing the achievements and memories that have defined our institution over the past 40 years, and we encourage everyone to be part of this remarkable journey.

RESEARCH WEEK

March 2024



Arts & Sciences faculty and students will present their research for DSU's annual Research Week in March.

Those who have conducted research for the 2023-24 academic year will present their research through posters and presentations in the Beacom Collaboration space.

Students and faculty will share their results at this event. The public is welcome to attend the annual session.

The week will also feature a keynote speaker.

DSUNITE

April 12, 2024



DSUnite, the annual fundraising event focusing on scholarship support returns on Friday, April 12, bringing together the DSU community and its supporters for a night of philanthropy and support. We invite you to join us at the Sioux Falls Convention Center for a dynamic evening of socializing, games, silent and live auctions, and more!

Scholarships are crucial to the growth of Dakota State University, as they provide deserving students with the resources they need to excel academically and make a lasting impact in their fields. At last year's event, 300 donors raised a record breaking \$510,000, with over \$100,000 raised from live and silent auction items.

SEND US AN UPDATE

College of Arts & Sciences alumni and supporters we want to hear from you! Personal or professional, we love to hear how you are doing and what is going on in your life. Please visit Trojansunite.org and use the contact us form. While you're at the site, don't forget to stay up-to-date on all the latest DSU Foundation & Alumni news.





SUPPORT COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Support DSU's Arts & Sciences and fuel innovation! Your contribution powers groundbreaking research, empowers student success, and ensures a legacy of excellence. Join us in building bridges to knowledge and making a lasting impact. Give today to fuel the brilliance of Arts & Sciences at DSU. Together, let's shape a legacy of innovation and academic excellence. Donate now by scanning the QR Code.



MAJORS & PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE

Bachelor

- Biology: Biology Education (BS)
- Biology: Integrated Biology (BS)
- Computer Game Design (BS)
- Cyber Leadership and Intelligence (BS)
- CLI Digital Forensics (BS)
- CLI World Affairs and Human Behavior (BS)
- Digital Arts and Design: Computer Graphics (BS)
- Digital Arts and Design: Digital Sound Design (BS)
- Digital Arts and Design: Production Animation (BS)
- English: English Education (BS)
- English: English for New Media (BS)
- General Studies (BGS)
- Individualized Studies (BS)
- Mathematics (BS)
- Mathematics: Cryptography Specialization (BS)
- Mathematics: Information Systems Specialization (BS)
- Mathematics: Intermediate Education Specialization (BS)
- Mathematics: Secondary Education Specialization (BS)

Associate

- General Studies (AA)
-

Certificates

- American Civic Traditions Certificate
- Digital Photography Certificate
- English for New Media Certificate
- Mathematical Foundations of Cryptography
- Multimedia Certificate
- Multimedia Design and Production Certificate
- Professional and Technical Communication Certificate
- Website Design and Development Certificate
- Graduate Certificates
- Advanced Mathematics Graduate Certificate
- Mathematics Graduate Certificate

Minors

- Art Minor
- Audio Production Minor
- Biology Minor
- Chemistry Minor
- Computer Graphics Minor
- Digital Photography Minor
- English Minor
- English for New Media Minor
- Film Production Minor
- History Minor
- Applied Mathematics Minor
- Mathematics, Elementary Education Minor
- Multimedia Web Design Minor
- Physics Minor

- Production Animation 2D Minor
- Production Animation 3D Minor
- Professional & Technical Communications Minor
- Sociology Minor
- Spanish Minor
- Speech Communications/Theatre Minor

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

Dakota State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), founded in 1895, and is one of several institutional accreditors in the United States. HLC accreditation indicates that DSU has the standards, processes, and assurance that it delivers quality educational experiences.