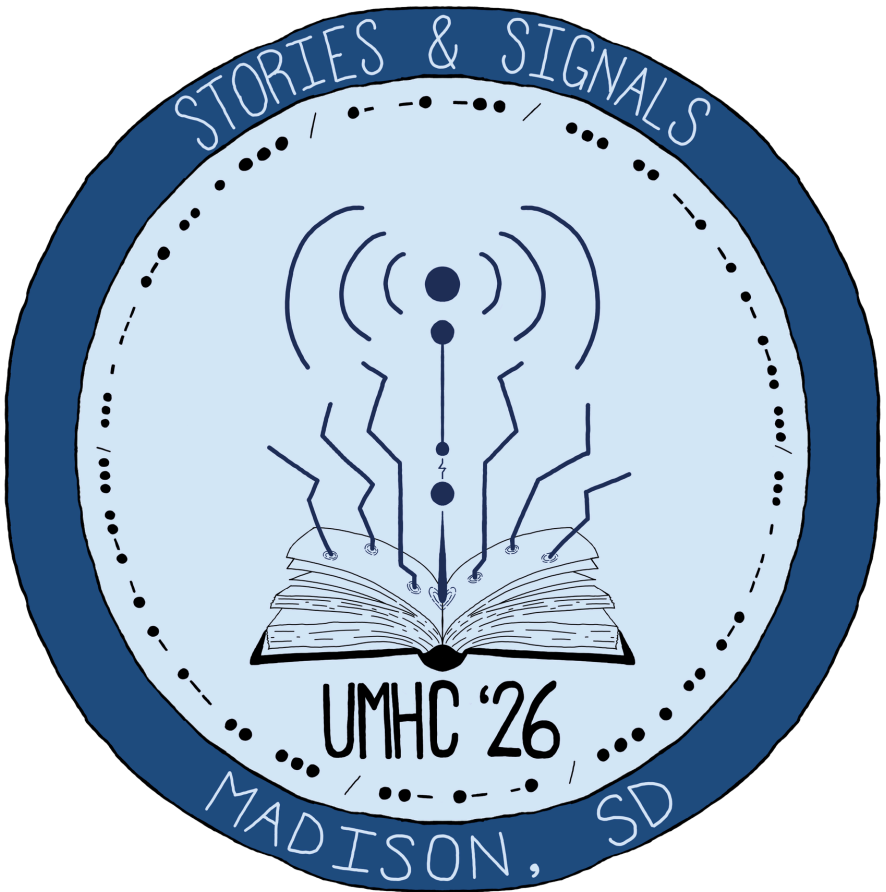


# UMHC

APRIL  
2026



Hosted By:

**DAKOTA STATE**  
UNIVERSITY®





## FRIDAY 4.10

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1:30 - 3:30PM | Check-in (Beacom Lobby)                 |
| 3:30-4:45PM   | Session 1<br>(Student Poster Session)   |
| 5:00-6:15PM   | Dinner<br>(Dakota Prairie Playhouse)    |
| 6:15-7:15PM   | Keynote Address,<br>Col. Erika Flanigan |
| 7:15-8:30PM   | Reception                               |
- 

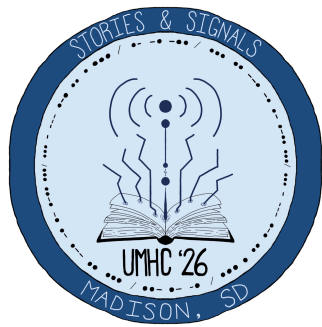
## SATURDAY 4.11

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8:00-9:00AM   | Check-in (Beacom Lobby)                                   |
| 9:00-10:15AM  | Session 2   |
| 10:30-11:45AM | Session 3   |
| 12:00-1:30PM  | Lunch & Three-Minute Thesis<br>(Dakota Prairie Playhouse) |
| 1:45-3:00PM   | Session 4 (Beacom Lobby)                                  |
| 3:15-4:30PM   | Session 5<br>(Student Poster Session)                     |
| 5:00-5:45PM   | Dinner<br>(Dakota Prairie Playhouse)                      |
| 5:45-6:45PM   | Keynote Speaker,<br>Shawn Carpenter                       |
| 7:00-10:00PM  | Receptions (Downtown)                                     |
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## SUNDAY 4.12

- |                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 8:30-9:30AM     | Business Meeting (Beacom) |
| 9:45-11:00AM    | Session 6                 |
| 11:15AM-12:30PM | Session 7                 |
| 12:30-1:00PM    | Closing and To-Go Lunch   |





**FRIDAY 4.10**

**SESSION 1**

**[STUDENT POSTER SESSION]**

**BEACOM INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

**Dental Implications from Resecting Permanent Teeth to Maintain Deciduous Teeth: A Case Analysis**

Presenter(s): Alexis Hopp, South Dakota State University

**Physiological Consequences of Mitonuclear Genome Incompatibility: Body Size and Feeding Behavior in *Drosophila* During Development**

Presenter(s): Ariana Edwards, University of South Dakota

**PAX: Apathy Invades**

Presenter(s): Ashlyn Johnson, Dakota State University

**Mitonuclear Incompatibility Impairs Cellular Protein Homeostasis in a *Drosophila* disease model**

Presenter(s): Brianna Deaver, University of South Dakota

**Biomechanical Analysis of a Flexor Carpi Radialis Brevis with Review of Orthopedic Implications**

Presenter(s): Connor Groen, South Dakota State University

**Targeting the complexation interface of *P. aeruginosa* protein PA0012**

Presenter(s): Emma M. Heckman, Graceland University

**Comparative Histopathology between Venous Aneurysms and Varicosities: Case Findings**

Presenter(s): Ethan Young, South Dakota State University

**Exploring the Nutritional Profile of Juneberries Juneberry Cultivars from Fort Berthold Indian Reservation**

Presenter(s): Gavin Smith, South Dakota State University

**Micro-CT Analysis of an Eagle Syndrome Styloid Process with Implications to the Styloid Apparatus**

Presenter(s): Joseph Anders, South Dakota State University

**Biomechanical Analysis of Asymmetrical Iliopsoas Muscles Due to Pelvic Obliquity**

Presenter(s): Joseph P. Osmundson, South Dakota State University

## **Can Static Analysis be Used to Find Bugs in Free Open Source Software**

Presenter(s): Kodiak McClure, Dakota State University

## **A Comparative Molecular Analysis of the Antibacterial Effects of Chlorhexidine and Coconut Oil on the Oral Microbial Community for Therapeutic Optimization**

Presenter(s): Lillian Heisinger, University of South Dakota

## **Applying Graphical Neural Networks for Multimodal Medical Classification**

Presenter(s): Max Donelan, South Dakota State University

## **Inequities of Drug Enforcement in the United States**

Presenter(s): Max Johnson & Ben Stadum, South Dakota State University

## **Evaluation and monitoring of cardiac cycle in male basketball and football players**

Presenter(s): Rita K. Momue, Graceland University

## **Biomechanical Investigation of an Accessory Oblique Distal Head of the Pronator Quadratus and its Impacts on the Distal Radioulnar Joint**

Presenter(s): Ryan Prohofsky, South Dakota State University

## **Biomechanical analysis and angular mechanics of bilateral accessory biceps brachii head**

Presenter(s): Tyler Groen & Gavin Sannes, South Dakota State University

## **DINNER**

**DAKOTA PRAIRIE PLAYHOUSE**

**5:00-6:15PM**

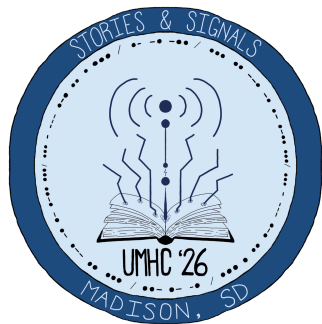
## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**"PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AFTER COLLEGE"**

As a 30-year combat veteran, Ericka Flanigan has seen life through a lens of both war and peace. As a national security executive, she continues to shape European strategy as a NATO/EU Advisor, published author and tech innovator. She calls the Midwest her home, but the world is her business.



**ERICKA  
FLANIGAN**



# SATURDAY 4.11

## SESSION 2

BEACOM INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY & EAST HALL

9:00-10:15AM

**ROOM 010**  
**WORKSHOP**  
**EAST HALL**

### **From Involvement to Impact: Stories Behind the Students**

Presenter(s): Isabella Pankratz, Halle Bortnem, Makaylyn Borecky  
South Dakota State University

**ROOM 108**  
**ROUNDTABLE**  
**EAST HALL**

### **From Classroom to Career: Translating Honors Capstones into Professional Assets**

Presenter(s): Ethan Snow, Noah Roerig, Kim Gustafson, Brittney Meyer, Sarah Mollman  
South Dakota State University

**ROOM 112**  
**STUDENT**  
**PAPERS**  
**BEACOM**

### **Discrepancies in Diagnosis Experience and Ongoing Care Satisfaction Between Pediatric and Adult Type 1 Diabetes Patients**

Presenter(s): Hayden Bentz, South Dakota State University

### **Longitudinal Impacts of Cadaveric Skin vs. Silicone Pads on Undergraduate Students' Confidence in Wound Closure Competency**

Presenter(s): Evan Feeldy, South Dakota State University

### **Biomechanical Analysis of Concurrent Iliacus and Psoas Major Variations Involving the Femoral Nerve**

Presenter(s): Joseph Osmundson, South Dakota State University

**ROOM 117**  
**STUDENT**  
**PAPERS**  
**BEACOM**

### **A Campaign for Suicide Awareness and Prevention on College Campuses**

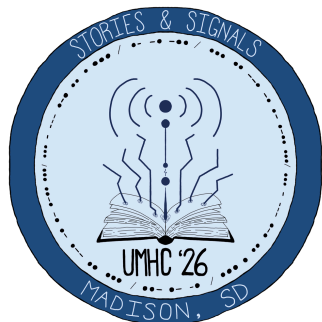
Presenter(s): Elise Hotzler, South Dakota State University

### **STEAM not STEM: Creative Outlets as Regulators for Healthcare and Scientific Burnout**

Presenter(s): Justin Severson, Graceland University

### **The Beauty of Questioning One's Beliefs**

Presenter(s): Kaci Young, Graceland University



# SATURDAY 4.11

## SESSION 3

BEACOM INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY & EAST HALL

10:30-11:45AM

ROOM 010  
PANEL  
EAST HALL

### **Stories and Reflections: Alumni Accounts of Honors**

Presenter(s): Hanna Holmquist, Natalie Buenger, Kelli Jobman, Nicholas Lorang, Benjamin Soloman  
South Dakota State University

ROOM 112  
STUDENT  
PAPERS  
BEACOM

### **Simulated Packet Schedulers Compared Against Differing Traffic Profiles**

Presenter(s): Landon Mohr, Dakota State University

### **Tuning Magnetocaloric Response in MnCoGe**

Presenter(s): Mason Pulse, South Dakota State University

ROOM 117  
FACULTY  
STAFF  
PAPERS  
BEACOM

### **From Application to Enrollment: How One Word Can Make a Big Difference**

Presenter(s): Ashley Singleton & Ginny Walters, Minnesota State University Mankato

### **Tackling Wicked Problems in Honors Through Community-Engaged Methods: Linking Course Design and Applied Graduate Research**

Presenter(s): Olivia Husmann, South Dakota State University

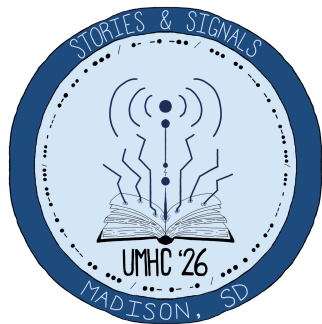
### **The Stories of Historical Artifacts: Promoting Active Learning While Serving the Community**

Presenter(s): Marie-Pierre Caquot Baggett, South Dakota State University

ROOM 202  
ROUNDTABLE  
BEACOM

### **Enhancing Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning from Afar**

Presenter(s): Sarah Mollman  
South Dakota State University



# SATURDAY 4.11

## SESSION 4

BEACOM INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY & EAST HALL

1:45-3:00PM

**ROOM 108  
WORKSHOP  
EAST HALL**

### **Reacting to the Past: It's More Than a History Lesson**

Presenter(s): Christine Larson, Noah Roerig, Hanna Holmquist, Teresa Seefeldt, Hayden Bentz, Brooke Henrichs, Max Johnson  
South Dakota State University

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**ROOM 112  
STUDENT  
PAPERS  
BEACOM**

### **A Postmortem Analysis of the October 7, 2023, Israel Hamas Intelligence Failure**

Presenter(s): Emily Helgeson, Dakota State University

### **Cutting Aid and Cutting Ties: An Examination of Perceptions of the United States after USAID Reductions**

Presenter(s): Kordiea Rerick, South Dakota State University

### **Scandinavian Food & Culture in the US and in Scandinavia**

Presenter(s): Torii Dokken, Minnesota State University Mankato

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**ROOM 117  
STUDENT  
PAPERS  
BEACOM**

### **What Is It Really Worth? A Multi-Method Valuation Analysis of Apple**

Presenter(s): Aidan Salmon, University of St. Thomas

### **Beyond Barriers: The Vital Role of Deaf Schools in a Hearing World**

Presenter(s): Faith Case, Graceland University

### **The Underpromoter's Riddle: A Computational Analysis of the Knight Promotion in Chess**

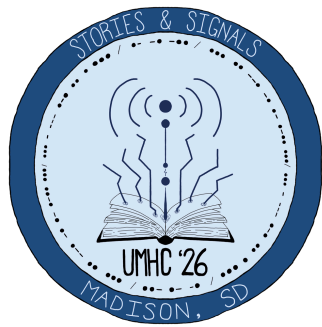
Presenter(s): Yelarys Seidin, Dakota State University

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**ROOM 202  
ROUNDTABLE  
BEACOM**

### **Effective Honors Advisory Groups**

Presenter(s): Jessica Smestad  
Minot State University



**SATURDAY 4.11**

**SESSION 5**

**[STUDENT POSTER SESSION]  
BEACOM INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

**3:15-4:30PM**

**Preventing Pressure Injuries in Adult Intensive Care Unit Patients by Implementation of Safety Huddles**

Presenter(s): Alicen Honner, South Dakota State University

**Language in music shaping performance during word-search tasks and cognitive processing tasks**

Presenter(s): Ann Sarah Paul, Northern State University

**Brine & Blood Educational Game**

Presenter(s): Anuska Pokharel, University of South Dakota

**Carceral vs. Public Health Responses to Substance Abuse in South Dakota: A Fiscal Analysis**

Presenter(s): Claire Koenecke, South Dakota State University

**Environmental Factors Affect Antibiotic Resistance Genes of Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa**

Presenter(s): Emma M. Heckman, Graceland University

**Bilateral Pronator Quadratus Muscles Exhibiting Twisted Morphology: A Kinematic Case Analysis**

Presenter(s): Evan Feeldy & Connor Singrey, South Dakota State University

**Measuring Ecosystem Services from Urban Agriculture**

Presenter(s): Fru Donatus Junior Nkwefor, University of St. Thomas, MN

**The Methanogen Ecosystem in the Bovine Rumen**

Presenter(s): Joel Suazo, Des Moines Area Community College

**A History of Ceramics: A Study in Japanese Kintsugi**

Presenter(s): Julya Licht, Madison Area Technical College

**Gross and Histological Examination of Persistent Thyroglossal Duct Tissue with Clinical Review**

Presenter(s): Madalyn Limesand, South Dakota State University

**Involvement of Vortex Vein Anatomy in Chorioretinal Diseases: A Multi-Resource Study**

Presenter(s): Maxwell Rost, South Dakota State University

**Synapse to Soul: Scientific vs. Symbolic Perceptions of Heart and Brain Function**

Presenter(s): Merci Arbach, South Dakota State University

**Modeling the Relationship Between Corruption and Economic Growth: A Theoretical Approach**

Presenter(s): Muhammad Karrar Hussain, University of South Dakota

**The Influence of Cultural Expectations on Academic Performance and Well-Being Among MNSU Hmong College Students**

Presenter(s): PQ Vu, Minnesota State University Mankato

**Parental Impacts on Body Dissatisfaction**

Presenter(s): Rachael Knecht, University of South Dakota

**Translational Analysis of Human vs. Mouse Lymphatic and Lymphovenous Valves**

Presenter(s): Robyn Dayton, South Dakota State University

**Anatomical investigation of a giant intramuscular lipoma in rectus femoris with clinical insights**

Presenter(s): Sophia Bass, South Dakota State University

**How to improve ER services in a hospital? What are the problems that ER nurses are going through?**

Presenter(s): William Don, Des Moines Area Community College



# SATURDAY 4.11

## DINNER

DAKOTA PRAIRIE PLAYHOUSE  
5:00-5:45PM

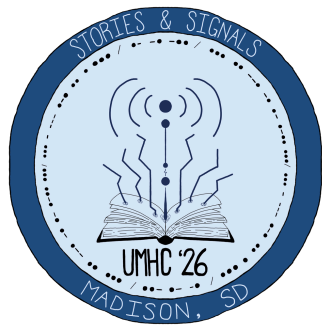
## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“SIGNAL THROUGH THE  
NOISE: FINDING YOUR PATH”

Shawn Carpenter is a veteran, entrepreneur, successful early-stage investor, and seasoned cybersecurity executive with over two decades of experience in national security, threat detection, and early-stage cybersecurity and technology startup investments. He has been globally recognized for discovering the Titan Rain Chinese cyber espionage ring, leading to significant contributions to U.S. government cybersecurity efforts. He holds expertise in pioneering incident response protocols, advising innovators, and building high-impact teams across federal agencies, intelligence communities, and private sectors. A strong advocate for establishing a National Cyber Academy that is structured similar to existing military service academies, he also shares his passion about applying technology, data science and artificial intelligence to the foster care system to improve outcomes for children.



SHAWN  
CARPENTER



# SUNDAY 4.12

## SESSION 6

BEACOM INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY & EAST HALL  
9:00-10:15AM

**ROOM 108  
WORKSHOP  
EAST HALL**

### **Thinking in Systems: Tools for Solving Complex Problems**

Presenter(s): Hanna Holmquist, Cailey Van Ruler, Max Johnson, Anneka Furstenau  
South Dakota State University

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**ROOM 112  
ROUNDTABLE  
BEACOM**

### **Honors Events: Sharing Ideas and Lessons**

Presenter(s): Klara Lybeck & Isabel Schumacher  
Minnesota State University Mankato

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**ROOM 117  
STUDENT  
PAPERS  
BEACOM**

### **How are Lawyers Prepared to Encounter AI-Evidence?**

Presenter(s): Enoch Martin, Dakota State University

### **Trauma-Informed Community Advocacy at the Intersection of Public Health and Justice**

Presenter(s): Favour Oguamanam, Minnesota State University Moorhead

### **From Connection to Crime: Social Bonds and Juvenile Delinquency**

Presenter(s): Isabella Pankratz, South Dakota State University

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**ROOM 202  
ROUNDTABLE  
BEACOM**

### **An Integrative Approach to Environmental Science**

Presenter(s): Joel Suazo  
Des Moines Area Community College



# SUNDAY 4.12

## SESSION 7

BEACOM INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY & EAST HALL  
11:15AM-12:30PM

**ROOM 010  
WORKSHOP  
EAST HALL**

### **Building Community in Honors**

Presenter(s): Christine Larson, Noah Roerig, Hannah Evenson,  
Kole Hawkins, Karli Heetland, Kate Pfeifle  
South Dakota State University

**ROOM 108  
ROUNDTABLE  
EAST HALL**

### **Ideas for the Upper Midwest Honors Conference 2027**

PPresenter(s): Hugh Smeltekop  
University of St. Thomas (MN)

### **For Students, By Students: Publishing in Honors**

Presenter(s): Brian White, Dan Platt, Justin Severson  
Des Moines Area Community College & Graceland University

**ROOM 112  
STUDENT  
PAPERS  
BEACOM**

### **Generative AI tools and The Future of Academic Integrity**

Presenter(s): Krish Kushwaha, Dakota State University

### **Funding the Future: The Relationship Between State Dual Enrollment Policies and Student Accountability**

Presenter(s): Lindsey Kopetzki, South Dakota State University

### **Improving Anatomy Preparedness and Learning Outcomes with Virtual Reality Pre-Lab Sessions**

Presenter(s): Gavin Smith, South Dakota State University

**ROOM 117  
STUDENT  
PAPERS  
BEACOM**

### **Flightless**

Presenter(s): Arnaldur Stefansson, Waldorf University

### **Extreme Blackness and Radical Joy: Applying Contemporary Art Theory to Campus Spaces**

Presenter(s): Daylen Jackson, Graceland University

### **Art, Dialogue, and Banned Books: A Student-Led Community Project**

Presenter(s): Lauren Boeckman, Loras College



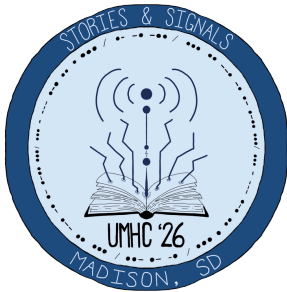
# UMHC

## ABOUT US

The Upper Midwest Honors Council (UMHC) encompasses institutions of higher education at all levels in northwestern Illinois, Iowa, northern Michigan, northern Nebraska, North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin and seeks to support a regional identity for honors education among member institutions.

The specific expression of that identity is the annual meeting, which allows undergraduates an accessible and inviting academic conference at which to present their work and interact with each other across institutional lines and for faculty and staff to present best practices and discuss the state of honors education.

## THANK YOU



**DAKOTA STATE**  
UNIVERSITY®

Thank you to faculty, staff, and students for attending the Upper Midwest Honors Conference at Dakota State University. We were truly excited to host such an outstanding group and to welcome you to our campus. Your engagement, curiosity, and collaboration helped make the event both meaningful and memorable. We hope you enjoyed your time at DSU and left with new ideas, connections, and experiences that will continue to inspire your work moving forward.

EXPRESS APPRECIATION  
FOR OUR SPONSORS

