The newest PayScale report for college graduates puts the School of Mines as 13th nationwide for starting salaries, behind the likes of three U.S. military academies and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The 2013-2014 PayScale College Salary Report, which examined salary figures for 1,106 colleges and universities nationwide, lists the average starting salary of School of Mines graduates as $62,400 with an average mid-career salary as $91,800.

In other highlights of the new PayScale report, Mines ranks:

- #2 in starting salary for Midwest Schools
- #6 in starting salary for State Schools nationwide
- #8 in starting salary for Engineering Schools nationwide

“We're in great company, and it's no accident. We prepare leaders in science and engineering with a rigorous curriculum and a lot of real-world, hands-on engineering experience. There is no easy degree at Mines – there's not a lot of fluff – but the rewards are tremendous. When many families are wondering whether college is worth the price, we have kept costs down, making us one of the best values in higher education in the country,” said Mines President Heather Wilson, D.Phil.

Annual tuition and fees at the School of Mines are $8,240 for South Dakota residents and $11,170 for out-of-state residents.

“We offer a great return on investment. Even out-of-state tuition at the School of Mines is lower than the in-state tuition of other schools,” Wilson said.

According to the annual report, the School of Mines average starting salary is again higher than that of Harvard University – and all eight Ivy League universities – a comparison which gained traction last year in a BloombergBusinessWeek news article.

The new PayScale report underscores the demand for engineering and science students. Besides the three military academies, most of the top-ranking universities for starting salaries are considered engineering or technological universities like the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. Others were Harvey Mudd College, MIT, California Institute of Technology, Colorado School of Mines, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Stevens Institute of Technology, Thomas Jefferson University, Loma Linda University and Montana Tech of the University of Montana.

Here is the link to the full report: http://www.payscale.com/college-salary-report-2014

Enrollment at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology has jumped nearly 9 percent this fall compared to a year ago, with a total enrollment of 2,640, an increase from 2,424 students a year ago.

Included in the overall figure is a 20.2 percent rise in first-time freshmen, from 460 to 553, compared to the same period last year, and a 47.2 percent spike in new transfer students, from 89 to 131.

This year’s overall 8.9 percent enrollment gain exceeds the university’s growth plan of a 5-percent-per-year increase for a student headcount of 3,500 by the year 2020.

“The nation needs more scientists and engineers, and we’re meeting the challenge. We offer one of the best returns on investment in the country, and prospective students and their parents value that more than ever now,” said School of Mines President Heather Wilson, D.Phil.

The university has a track record of helping students gain numerous opportunities for experience within industry, which can ultimately lead to career placement upon graduation. Last summer, for example, Mines students interned at more than 165 employers in 34 states, Canada and Germany. One-third of those students worked within the state of South Dakota for more than 60 employers.

According to the School of Mines Career & Professional Development Center, 98 percent of 2012 graduates landed jobs in their career field or enrolled in graduate school.

Enrollment between in- and out-of-state students is split virtually in half, with 50.2 percent coming from South Dakota and 49.8 percent from out-of-state. The out-of-state students come from 45 states and 37 countries. Significant out-of-state undergraduate growth areas are Colorado, California, Washington, Arizona and Texas.

Undergraduate enrollment this year jumped 10.8 percent, from 2,101 to 2,328. Other highlights of this year's official enrollment figures:

- Percentage of male students: 76.9
- Percentage of female students: 23.1
- Retention percentage rate from first-to-second year students: 79.0
Mines unveils new biochemistry lab thanks to 3M’s $200K gift

The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Department of Chemistry & Applied Biological Sciences recently unveiled its new 3M Biochemistry Laboratory, the result of a $200,000 gift from 3M.

The lab has allowed for a new two-semester biochemistry course with complementary lab experiences and new lab equipment to provide training to students. Received during the SDSM&T Foundation’s successful $50 million fundraising campaign, the gift is the result of continuous, active involvement of Mines alumni within the company, as well as the direct result of collaboration between the university, the SDSM&T Foundation and leadership within 3M.

"The generous gift from the 3M Company has allowed the Department of Chemistry & Applied Biological Sciences to outfit a modern laboratory for teaching biochemistry. This will increase the quality of education to a diverse student population at SDSM&T," said Richard Sinden, Ph.D., head and professor in the Department of Chemistry & Applied Biological Sciences. "The 3M Biochemistry Laboratory will provide hands-on research opportunities in biochemistry, as well as in genetics and molecular biology. This facility will develop the technological and innovation skills needed for graduate study or for entering the workforce."

City, Mines considered for World Finals site

Rapid City and the School of Mines are being considered as a destination site for what is known as the Olympics of computer science. The World Finals of the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) typically draws more than 1,000 university students and faculty members from throughout the world.

A Mines student team qualified for the event and traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, this summer, the fifth SDSM&T team to attend the World Finals. Longtime computer programming coaches Toni Logar, Ph.D., and Ed Corwin, Ph.D., were honored by ICPC organizers in Russia.

Logar and Corwin have been instrumental in Rapid City being considered as a finalist for the 2016 or 2017 event, according to Lisa Storms, sales and serving director for the Rapid City Convention and Visitor's Bureau, who helped organize a packed itinerary for the site selection team which recently visited from Baylor University.

She credited Logar and Corwin for persuading decision-makers to consider the School of Mines and Rapid City. "Without their enthusiasm, persistence and connections we wouldn’t be here at this time. The School of Mines has some very prestigious people not only locally but worldwide."

Oil & Gas Conference to be hosted Oct. 9-12

The School of Mines will host the ninth annual New Horizons Oil & Gas Conference on campus Oct. 9-12. The conference focuses on oil and gas activities in the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, especially as they affect the Williston, Powder River and Denver-Julesburg producing basins.

Public sessions on Thursday, Oct. 11, are open without a charge and are designed to provide a general audience with information on oil and gas development in the region. Topics for the technical sessions include: reservoir simulation, the impacts of petroleum development on regional water resources, the petroleum industry and regional economic development, best practices for petroleum as related to safety, well completion and the Niobrara Resource Play in the Northern Rockies.

The conference also features a short course, for an additional $265 registration fee, outlining the basic tools for shale exploration. Offered by Pure Earth Resources, the short course is designed for geoscientists, engineers and technical professionals interested in learning about shale plays, the type of petroleum development currently changing America’s status as an oil-producing nation.

The conference ends with a field trip to the southern Black Hills to visit exposures of strata which act as a reservoir and source rocks in the adjacent basins.

Students will have the opportunity to meet with companies during student poster sessions and a reception for all attendees. Standard registration is $315 per person. The cost for students to attend is $35. For registration information, visit http://www.sdsmt.edu/conferences/NHOG/

Staff to publish article

An article by Roger Johnson, Ph.D., (Math/CSC), Donna Kliche, Ph.D., (Institute of Atmospheric Sciences) and Paul Smith, Ph.D., (Institute of Atmospheric Sciences) has been accepted for publication in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society.

The article titled “Maximum likelihood estimation of gamma parameters for coarsely binned and truncated raindrop size data” provides a statistically optimal way to characterize raindrop size when only able to observe the number of drops within contiguous bins.

The article is expected to appear in late 2013 or early 2014.
M-Week
Four students at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology recently left the nation’s heartland to converge at its capital for the 27th annual conference on women’s leadership and career development.

Situated in College Park, Md., the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders – Leadership for Today and Tomorrow brought college women together to address important leadership issues. Its goal was to provide a transformative experience, readying young women to return home and improve their campuses and communities. For Harley Bauman, a mechanical engineering and computer science freshman, it was a chance to gain confidence along the way. “The conference provided many different opportunities for us to learn how to speak up and stand out.”

Sponsored by the Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing and Production (CAMP), students heard keynote speakers and attended numerous breakout sessions and a Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony. Attending were: Christine Gentry, a senior in mining engineering and management; Harley Bauman, a freshman in mechanical engineering and computer science; Jessie Allard, a junior in civil and environmental engineering; and Katharine Ross, a freshman in civil and environmental engineering.

Students toured Washington and the monuments surrounding the Mall, including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, war memorials and the Einstein memorial. They also toured the Smithsonian Air and Space, Natural History, Holocaust and American Indian Museums, as well.

Fortune 500 companies and other major employers from throughout the nation converged on the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology campus Sept. 24, for the annual fall Career Fair. In all, 115 employers from 26 states and British Colombia, including 25 South Dakota exhibitors, visited campus, some recruiting for the first time at SDSM&T. More than half of the employers conducted next-day interviews with about 1,200 students. Among employers attending were Caterpillar, Cargill, Dow Chemical Company, John Deere, Microsoft and Peabody Energy, as well as regional companies and engineering firms.

The School of Mines Youth Programs will offer high school students the chance to dive into the world of electrical and computer engineering from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays, Oct. 16 through Nov. 23. The Higher Steps program will immerse students in a seven-week session designed and taught by the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering.

For three hours every Saturday, participants will engage in hands-on activities like soldering, programming, building a working radio and robots with renowned faculty at the School of Mines. Students will learn about electrical and computer engineering (ECE) and the opportunities that come from earning an ECE degree.

Space is limited to 16 students, and the cost is $250, lunch included. Register at http://www.sdsmt.edu/Academics/Events-and-Outreach/Youth-Programs/Higher-Steps/ or call (605) 394-2693.

The CAMP ChemE Car Team took first place and an $800 prize in the Pumpkin Catapult Competition on Sept. 29 at Memorial Park.
Parker A. Norton, a South Dakota School of Mines & Technology doctoral candidate whose research has already proven a critical resource to experts in forecasting weather and climate changes, has been named the 2013 Mines Medal Graduate Fellow.

A key member of the climate-modeling team at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), where he began working in 2007 when he was a master’s student at the School of Mines, Norton’s research has yielded long-term simulations of North America’s climate. Among the projects to which he has contributed: developing a water budget for Sheridan Lake, analysis of stream flow trends in the Missouri River watershed, groundwater modeling and regional climate model studies in the continental United States and the Black Hills.

Norton will be formally recognized at the Fifth Annual Mines Medal Dinner & Award ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 3, at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, LaCroix Hall.

Anna Balazs, Ph.D., a pioneer in the area of predicting the behavior of complex polymeric materials through her theoretical predictions, will receive the 2013 Mines Medal medallion, a national award presented by the School of Mines to honor engineers and scientists who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation. Balazs is Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

The Mines Medal event also raises scholarship dollars for student research.

“The Mines Medal honors an exceptional leader in science and helps us raise funds to prepare the next generation of leaders in engineering and science,” said Heather Wilson, D.Phil., Mines president.

Norton earned his bachelor’s degree in computer science in 1992 from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif., and his master’s degree in computer science in 2008 from the School of Mines.

His mastery in computer skills coupled with his interest and studies in the physical sciences have helped Norton become a critical resource for the climate modeling community, according to William Capehart, Ph.D., associate professor of atmospheric science at the School of Mines. Capehart and John Stamm, Ph.D., USGS hydrologist and Mines adjunct professor, nominated Norton for the fellowship.

According to Capehart, the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) is adding one of Norton’s ‘desperately needed tools’ to its collection of support software for its global and regional models.

Norton is tackling problems of national importance and “has the potential to place SDSM&T in the national spotlight for his research,” Stamm said, adding that no one else at the USGS is doing the kind of work that Norton is “because it is so difficult. One simulation requires months of computer time on a supercomputer.”

Norton anticipates earning his doctorate in the spring and plans to continue his work with the USGS, particularly in climate and hydrologic modeling.

Climate modeling is important, Norton said, because it helps to improve “understanding of the earth’s system and how the many pieces of our planet interact and influence each other and how humans exert an influence on it. Climate modeling allows us to not only verify observed phenomena but also model what-if scenarios based on our understanding of behaviors of the physical world that otherwise would not be possible.”

The Mines Medal reception begins at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. and the award ceremony following at 8 p.m. To purchase tickets for the dinner award ceremony or to make a donation for student scholarships, please visit http://www.sdsmt.edu/About/Mines-Medal/

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**2013 Mines Medal Fellowship awarded to climate-modeling researcher**

**External review team studies Mines’ research strategy**

A distinguished panel of leaders from a variety of backgrounds recently visited the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology campus to conduct a comprehensive review of its research endeavors.

The eight-member team spent two days interviewing research faculty and touring facilities. President Heather Wilson, D.Phil., will take their recommendations to work with faculty and executive leadership to develop a strategy to counteract a climate in which federal research funding has shrunk for universities nationwide.

Individuals traveled from peer institutions, as well as from private and government sectors throughout the country, at Wilson’s request.

“This external review is the first step toward strengthening the School of Mines’ research program,” said Wilson, who has pledged to make research a top priority. “The team is conducting a top-to-bottom review of our strategies and processes, interacting with junior faculty members as well as center directors and others, and I look forward to hearing their feedback.”

Wilson has embraced fundraising for both research and scholarships since assuming the university’s presidency in June.

The research review team was comprised of:

- Dr. Raymond Bye, director of Federal Relations and Economic Development and former research vice president, Florida State University
- Dr. Timothy J. Collins, executive of Precision Engagement Business Area at Johns Hopkins University’s Applied Physics Laboratory
- Dr. Delores M. Etter, director of Caruth Institute of Engineering Education at Texas Instruments and distinguished chair at Southern Methodist University
- Gen. Peter Hennessey, vice president of business development, National Security Global Business Unit, Battelle Memorial Institute
- Dr. John Poate, vice president of research and technology transfer, Colorado School of Mines
- Dr. Van Romero, vice president of research and economic development, New Mexico Tech
- Dr. Paul Turman, vice president of research and economic development, South Dakota Board of Regents
President Wilson to be inaugurated Oct. 4

Heather Wilson, D.Phil., will be inaugurated as the 18th president of the School of Mines during a 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 4, ceremony in the King Center.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Finland Barbara Barrett will deliver the inaugural address. Dignitaries representing state and local offices will also participate, along with Mines students, faculty and alumni.

Wilson assumed the presidency in June after the South Dakota Board of Regents named her to succeed the late Robert Wharton, Ph.D., who passed away last September.

A former member of Congress and a Rhodes Scholar, Wilson is the first female president in the university’s 128-year history. She is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, where she was a vice wing commander and the first woman to command Basic Cadet Training. She earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in international relations from Oxford University in England.

She was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for Peabody Energy and serves on the Congressional Advisory Panel on Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise.

Wilson served New Mexico in Congress from 1998 to 2009, where she was on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and was the chair of the House Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence.

Before being elected to Congress, she was cabinet secretary for New Mexico’s Children, Youth, and Families Department, where she was chief executive of the state agency which had a $216 million budget and 2,000 employees. She also served on the National Security Council staff in Washington following her service as a U.S Air Force officer.

As president of Heather Wilson & Company LLC of Albuquerque, N.M., Wilson also worked as a senior adviser to top-tier national laboratories such as Sandia, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, the Nevada Test Site, Battelle Memorial Institute and others.

Barrett, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Finland from 2008 to 2009, currently CEO of Triple Creek Guest Ranch in Montana and serves on the governing boards of Aerospace, Sally Ride Science and RAND corporations, the Smithsonian Institution, Horatio Alger Association and the Lasker and Space foundations.

Until November 2012, Barrett was interim president of Thunderbird School of Global Management. She has been a teaching fellow at Harvard, CEO of the American Management Association, a partner in a large Phoenix law firm, an executive at two Fortune 500 companies, and a member of the boards of Raytheon, Exponent, and Piper Aircraft corporations, Hershey Trust and Mayo Clinic. She also served as senior advisor to the U.S. mission to the United Nations, deputy administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and vice chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board. She was president of the International Women’s Forum and chairman of both the Secretary of Commerce’s Export Conference and the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

Click on http://www.sdsmt.edu/inauguration/ for details on the ceremony and additional information about inaugural gifts.

Bring your backyard finds to Fossil Day

The Museum of Geology will celebrate Earth Science Week and Fossil Day from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, with rock and fossil identifications at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. The event is open to the public, and attendees are encouraged to bring an item they would like to have identified by student volunteers and museum staff.

Throughout Oct. 14-19, the museum will host activities revolving around Earth Week. This year’s theme, “Mapping Our World,” will involve hands-on mapping.

“We are always looking for more outreach activities, and this seemed like an ideal fit for the museum,” said Program Assistant II Samantha Hustoft, adding that the student chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists and the Paleontology Club will be involved in the identifications. This is the first time the museum will host an event for Fossil Day.

The Museum of Geology is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Athletic director search will resume in spring

The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology will resume its search for a new athletic director next spring during the more traditional hiring cycle, following an unsuccessful late summer/early fall search.

Tiffany McCampbell and Michael Gunn, Ph.D., will serve as co-interim athletic directors until a permanent athletic director is hired. McCampbell is head volleyball coach and senior women’s administrator/assistant athletic director. Gunn is associate provost for academic affairs and enrollment management.

The new athletic director will replace Dick Kaiser, who left July 31, for a position at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, Okla., to be closer to family.
Youth Programs is launching its 2013 Fall Science series for students in the third through eighth grades, to be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on the first four Thursdays in October.

Students will be grouped into two sections according to grade, with two sessions running simultaneously each Thursday. Registration is now open and will remain so until three days before the events. To register for third through fifth grade sessions, visit www.sdsmt.edu/FallScienceSeries3-5. To register for sixth through eighth grade sessions, visit www.sdsmt.edu/FallScienceSeries6-8. The cost is $10 per session.

Using only recycled materials, students in the third through fifth grade will have the chance to design and create a skyscraper and test it against nature’s fury. In “Mountain vs. Machine,” they will determine which wedge is the best tool to extract rock from a quarry and cut into pyramid blocks. Students will also learn about spiders and test a building of their own creation on a bed of gelatin in “Earthquake Engineering.”

Sixth through eighth grade students will design a landfill that can withstand the elements, capture dinosaur’s breath and discover an element that’s still present today. In the “Candy Coated” session students will design their own pill coating using candy simulations. “Recycled Speakers” challenges them to create radio speakers out of old yogurt cups while learning about electricity and magnetism.

For questions, contact the Youth Programs office at (605) 394-2693 or at youthprograms@sdsmt.edu

Geologists from the School of Mines and other area offices and organizations have pooled their resources to create a geologic interpretive sign in the Black Hills. The 8-foot by 4-foot sign has been erected along U.S. 16 on the way to Mount Rushmore and summarizes the geologic history of that area of the Black Hills. Perry Rahn, Ph.D., professor emeritus, provided the impetus to get the project off the ground. Other participating organizations were Black Hills National Forest, Black Hills Natural Sciences Field Station and Department of Geology & Geological Engineering, South Dakota Department of Transportation, South Dakota Geological Survey, South Dakota Section, American Institute of Professional Geologists, South Dakota Space Grant Consortium Foundation and the United States Geological Survey.
Richard A. Schleusener, Ph.D., former Mines president, died Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the age of 87.

Schleusener led the School of Mines from 1975-1986, serving as its 14th president. During his tenure, enrollment peaked to nearly 3,000 students, the King Center was completed and the institution celebrated its centennial.

His background was in meteorology and atmospheric sciences. Schleusener received an NSF grant for a key weather modification project in the 1960s while at Colorado State University (CSU), where he earned his Ph.D. and later served as assistant professor and research scientist.

In 1959, while still working at CSU, he began serving as a consultant to the School of Mines’ newly created Institute of Atmospheric Sciences, and in 1964 Schleusener became director of the Institute. In 1974, he was named dean of engineering and vice president. In 1975, he was appointed acting president, and in 1976 he became Mines president, a position he held through 1987.

During his presidency, enrollment grew from 1,682 to nearly 3,000 students in 1983. Schleusener awarded more than 3,000 diplomas to graduating students during his tenure as president.

Infrastructure also grew during his leadership. The $2.8 million King Center was completed, and Schleusener also secured authorization for the new Classroom Building.

View a photo chronicle of Schleusener’s years at the School of Mines courtesy of the Devereaux Library Archives at http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdsmt/sets/72157635499446218/

The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology’s Museum of Geology has received $149,028, with $150,000 in matching university funds, through the Museums of America grant program for a project to digitize its late Cretaceous-aged Western Interior Seaway (WIS) paleontological collections.

The museum is one of only two South Dakota museums to receive an award and among 231 museums receiving federal funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ (IMLS) competitive grant programs this year.

“The funding will improve accessibility to collections and archives and will also contribute to our research, education and public outreach efforts in the Museum of Geology,” said Laurie Anderson, Ph.D., director of the Museum of Geology and head and professor of the Department of Geology & Geological Engineering.

The project will create an integrated digital catalog, linking critical field information with collections data. Increased accessibility and interpretation of data will support research, teaching and public education.

The project will pave the way to digitize key specimens and georeference collections with geographical information system tools to inform public policy on issues such as global climate change. It will also link data to the research-community databases such as iDigBio (www.idigbio.org) and the PaleoPortal Collection Search (www.paleoportal.org/portal/), update the Journey Museum’s Western Interior Seaway exhibit and build a virtual field trip accessible online and at the SDSM&T Museum of Geology (www.sdsmt.edu/Museum-of-Geology/)

Out of the 597 applications requesting $67.25 million, the Institute of Museum and Library Services selected 170 projects to receive funding totaling $19.84 million. That’s only about 28 percent of the total proposals. The School of Mines also received the maximum request of any one award, $150,000, which then must be matched by the applying institution.

The museum’s WIS paleontological collections comprise approximately 40,000 lots and provide a record of ancient ecosystems, dynamic environmental history and scientific exploration dating to the late 19th century.

The Western Interior Seaway was a shallow seaway extending through the Western Interior of North America, from its initial encroachment onto the North American continent about 100 million years ago to its final retreat about 60 million years ago. Rocks from the Western Interior Seaway dominate the landscape of the northern Great Plains surrounding the Black Hills, although the rich paleontological record from these rocks is less well known by the public in comparison to various dinosaur discoveries in the state. Fossil discoveries from this region date to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and collections at SDSM&T began in 1925.

The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Museum of Geology has recently awarded $300,000 to digitize its paleontological collections.

Little scholars make big discoveries as they unravel the mysteries of history at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Museum of Geology, recently awarded $300,000 to digitize its paleontological collections.

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About Legacy News

Legacy News is produced by the Office of University Relations the first Wednesday of each month. The newsletter is largely a compilation of news releases, photos and Web articles.

To submit news or story ideas or to subscribe to the email distribution list, please contact Fran LeFort, communications manager, at 605.394.6082 or at fran.lefort@sdsmt.edu. For more School of Mines news, visit news.sdsmt.edu

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