

Dreams That Come From the Heart

As a youngster, Alissa VanMeeteren was far from Washington, D.C. But the governmental affairs taking place there were always close to her heart, stirring a love for political process that has led her to near completion of a political science degree at The University of South Dakota.

She's been putting her skill and governmental affairs expertise to work as USD's Student Government Association (SGA) President since last February. It wasn't as if she eyed the position for her four-year stay at the university. The desire to be involved emerged in a very gradual manner.

"In high school I was involved in so many activities, it really kind of burned me out," Alissa says. "As a freshman here, I was determined not to get involved in very much. I wanted to focus on my studies. That approach lasted about one semester."

While she assisted in planning USD's homecoming



activities, Dakota Days, Alissa found herself drawn to opportunities to work with USD alumni. Reminiscent sharing that came out of those interactions allowed Alissa to gain a broader perspective on potential experiences available to her at USD.

"I found myself becoming passionate about USD," Alissa says. "I felt like I was part of the USD family and that made me very happy that I had elected to go to college here. I had opportunity to



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