

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

STORY TIPS

University News Service

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January 2, 2008

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U OF M RESEARCHER SHOWS WHY CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS OF U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES MATTER ON THE EVE OF THE IOWA CAUCUSES

Oprah Winfrey's recent endorsement of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has raised questions about the reach of celebrity appeal in American culture. Although a variety of political pundits and academics have dismissed celebrity endorsement in politics, University of Minnesota researcher Rebecca Kuehl says that Oprah endorsing Obama is significant based on her status as an American icon. In fact, Kuehl, a doctoral student and Graduate School Fellow in communication, has developed a theory of why celebrity endorsement in U.S. politics matters.

For a video of Kuehl explaining her work, visit:

<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/storytips/index.html>

Kuehl theorizes four functions of celebrity endorsement and accounts for its influence on voters by using Social Comparison theory. Whenever we make important decisions, such as choosing who should be our country's next president, we ask ourselves questions such as: Who do I respect? What do they think? Social Comparison Theory explains that in making decisions, individuals often compare their potential decision to the decision of others in their social group. They do so to validate their own decision or to reduce uncertainty about making the decision.

Social Comparison theory explains why people sometimes look to celebrities for insight, even about political candidates. The four functions of Kuehl's theory of celebrity endorsement include:

- Celebrity endorsement increases awareness/publicity for the candidate. In the case of Obama, Oprah's recent stumping in both Iowa and South Carolina has generated a lot of publicity for him.
- Celebrity endorsement transfers positive evaluations from the celebrity to the candidate. The positive views people hold about Oprah transfer to Obama with her endorsement.
- Celebrity endorsement influences undecided and independent voters to (re)consider the candidate. Oprah's

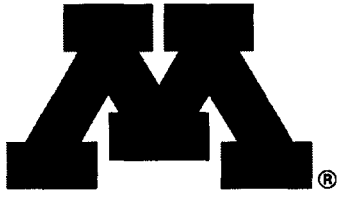
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

endorsement has influenced undecided and independent voters to (re)consider Obama, especially since women over the age of 50 (Oprah's largest viewing segment) typically tend to compose the highest percentage of undecided voters. These voters have shifted from supporting Hillary Clinton to considering Barack Obama.

- Celebrity endorsement has a greater impact if the celebrity is a first-time endorser. Oprah's status as a first-time endorser of a presidential candidate is persuasive to voters, because Oprah has nothing to gain from this endorsement and, in fact, has much to lose.

To interview Kuehl about her theory and celebrity endorsements, contact Justin Ware, News Service, (612) 626-1720, dswain@umn.edu or Drew Swain, News Service, (612) 625-8962, dswain@umn.edu.

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IOWA CAUCUSES HEATING UP AND COUNTING DOWN

Our state to the south has been the center of national attention the past few months as presidential hopefuls traverse the cornfields and small towns, vying for the nomination of their party. The polls are showing that both Democrats and Republicans have no clear leader in the contest, a historically vital step in the run for the presidency. University of Minnesota political experts who can break down what might happen are:

Kathryn Pearson, political science professor at the University of Minnesota

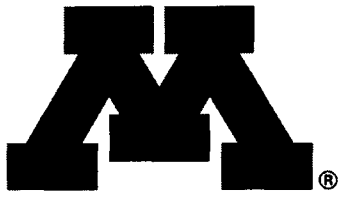
Pearson is available to discuss the primaries, what we can expect and, once the results are tallied, what they might mean for the rest of the election. She specializes in American politics, national institutions, political parties, elections, and women and politics, with particular expertise in the U.S. Congress.

Paula O'Loughlin, political science professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris

O'Loughlin is an accomplished and nationally recognized scholar in political science and can give a historical perspective on national caucuses, as well as an analysis of the race.

To interview Pearson or O'Loughlin, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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January 3, 2008

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U OF M PHYSICIST READS THE HISTORY OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM IN GRAINS OF COMET DUST

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Four years ago, NASA's Stardust spacecraft chased down a comet and collected grains of dust blowing off its nucleus. When the spacecraft Comet Wild-2 returned, comet dust was shipped to scientists all over the world, including University of Minnesota physics professor Bob Pepin. After testing helium and neon trapped in the dust specks, Pepin and his colleagues report that while the comet formed in the icy fringes of the solar system, the dust appears to have been born close to the infant sun and bombarded by intense radiation from these and other gases before being flung out beyond Neptune and trapped in the comet. The research appears in the Jan. 4 issue of the journal Science.

The finding opens the question of what was going on in the early life of the solar system to subject the dust to such intense radiation and hurl them hundreds of millions of miles from their birthplace.

The studies of cometary dust are part of a larger effort to trace the history of our celestial neighborhood.

"We want to establish what the solar system looked like in the very early stages," said Pepin. "If we establish the starting conditions, we can tell what happened in between then and now." One early event was the birth of Earth's moon, about 50 million years after the solar system formed.

Also, the gases he studies have relevance even closer to home. "Because some scientists have proposed that comets have contributed these gases to the atmospheres of Earth, Venus and Mars, learning about them in comets would be fascinating," he said.

Comet Wild-2 (pronounced Vilt-two) is thought to have originated in the Kuiper Belt, a comet-rich region stretching from just inside the orbit of Neptune to well beyond Pluto. As it grew in this roughly -360 F region, it incorporated grains of dust and ambient gas.

The comet received a visit from the Stardust spacecraft in early January 2004, two years after its launch. Veering as close as 149 miles to the comet nucleus, Stardust used a spongy, ultralight glass-fiber material called aerogel to

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trap the dust. At the moment of encounter, the spacecraft exposed a sheet of aerogel -- supported by a framework -- to the stream of particles blowing off the nucleus.

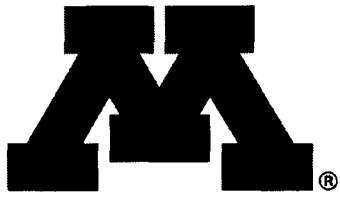
“It looked like a tennis racket,” said Pepin. “It was exposed for approximately 20 minutes.”

The aerogel trapped aggregates of fine particles that hit at 13,000 miles per hour and split on impact. The collisions left drumstick-shaped trails pointing inward from the surface of the aerogel.

After the collection, the spacecraft headed home and parachuted its payload safely back to Earth in January 2006. A few months later, Pepin received three sub-samples of particles and colleagues at Nancy University, France, received two others, all from the same particle “hit.”

Their task was to analyze gases locked in tiny dust grains about a quarter of a billionth of a gram in weight. As a first step, the researchers heated the grains to about 1,400 degrees C., liberating gases imprisoned for eons.

“The particles probably came from the first million years or even less, of the solar system’s existence,” Pepin said. That would be close to 4.6 billion years ago. If our middle-aged sun were 50 years old, then the particles were born in the first four days of its life.



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RECEIVES \$2 MILLION GIFT FOR LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES CHAIR

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota has received a \$2 million gift commitment from alumnus Dan Huebner for the creation of the Bonnie Westby Huebner Endowed Chair in Education and Technology in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). The endowment fund will support outstanding faculty in the field of school-based learning, with a strong emphasis on the value of technology in education.

Aaron Doering will be the first faculty member to hold the chair. Doering is an assistant professor in CEHD's department of curriculum and instruction and education director of GoNorth!, an adventure learning project for K-12 classrooms.

"I am honored, thrilled and incredibly thankful to Dan Huebner and his commitment to the college, education, technology and future scholars," said Doering. "This is the start of an incredible future for educational technology within the College of Education and Human Development. We will continue to make a difference within K-12 classrooms around the world as we rethink the way technology can transform education."

The Bonnie Westby Huebner Endowed Chair in Education and Technology was established to honor the memory of Bonnie Westby Huebner, who passed away in 2005. Bonnie, wife of Dan Huebner, graduated from the university in 1953 with a bachelor's degree in education with distinction, later becoming an elementary school teacher in Minnesota and California schools. Dan is a 1955 graduate of the university's Institute of Technology, having earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering.

"Bonnie was an enthusiastic advocate of excellence in learning and teaching," said Huebner. "The chair perpetuates her lifelong commitment to the primacy of education, representing an investment, in her memory, in teaching excellence through the advancement of technologies."

As holder of the Westby Huebner Chair, Doering will work to explore multidisciplinary approaches to research,

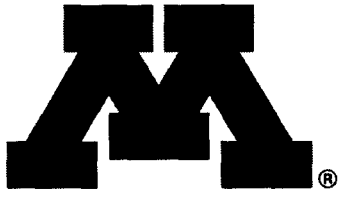
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teaching, technology and service. The endowed chair supports a variety of supplemental activities and benefits, including travel, equipment, graduate student assistants and ongoing research.

“Aaron is an ideal recipient of this extraordinary endowed chair,” said professor Ruth Thomas, chair of the department of curriculum and instruction. “Doering is committed to the study of technology in the service of teaching and learning. He creates and studies technology-based adventure learning environments that engage learners from across the world. He is an excellent teacher, a prolific writer, a researcher whose work is breaking new ground and a deeply caring world citizen.”

The new chair advances ongoing work in CEHD in the learning technologies field. Faculty are currently engaged in a number of projects in areas such as social networking, distance learning and instructional design.

“I am personally moved and we are all delighted by Mr. Huebner’s extraordinary gift,” said Darlyne Bailey, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. “The Westby Huebner endowment enables the college to greatly enrich and advance the critical partnership among the highest quality teaching, learning and technology. Dan’s investment today of his family’s commitment to these areas is an expression of their dream - one that I promise we will fulfill together.”



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MODERN DAY EXPLORERS FEATURED IN U OF M BELL MUSEUM'S NEW "ADVENTURE SCIENCE" SERIES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Biologists are the adventurers of our times: they travel to exotic places in search of rare, endangered -- and sometimes dangerous -- creatures and locations under extreme conditions. Meet Minnesota's own adventurers and hear their tales of exploration and day-to-day work in a new series for budding explorers beginning Sundays in February at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The five-part series includes the following:

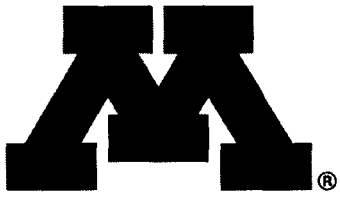
- "Samsam Villages and Clean Water in Ghana," 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10. Share in the travels of university conservation biology student Nicole Benjamin Fink who's working to protect the fragile traditional lifestyle of Africa's Ghana villagers and their natural ecosystem, while introducing modern measures to improve their health and water supply.
- "Listening for Frogs in Guyana," 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17. University conservation biology student and frog expert Beth Pettit will take visitors on a dazzling tour of the astonishing wildlife and scenic wonders of South America's best-kept secret -- the lush, tropical nation state of Guyana.
- "Sak Sak and Sing Sings: Field Work in Papua New Guinea," 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22. Join plant biology student Wendy Clement on a virtual trip to Pacific island county of Papua New Guinea and learn how to make sak sak (a food staple) from a palm tree and attend a sing sing celebration with natives.
- "10,000 Years and 50 Miles: Time Travel in Minnesota," 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 2. Whether or not you know Northern Minnesota well, you will see it with new eyes after this fascinating guided visual tour of the history of Minnesota's landscape with one of the university's most celebrated ecologists, author and Professor John Tester.
- "South African Landscapes and Animals," 2 p.m. Sunday, March 9. University conservation biology student Nicole Benjamin Fink has traveled the back roads of South Africa trying to understand shifting distributions of

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two kinds of wildebeest and the effect of different landscapes on those animals. Join her in this a close-up look at the daily life of a field biologist.

Tickets for each adventure are \$7; \$5 for museum members. Discount packages for the series are available for members and nonmembers. For more information on the series and package prices, call 612-624-9050 or visit www.bellmuseum.org. The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.



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January 4, 2008

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PROFESSOR DEBORAH DILLON AWARDED GUY BOND CHAIR IN READING

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) announced today that professor Deborah Dillon will fill its Guy Bond Chair in Reading.

One of the nation's leading reading education scholars, Dillon began her career as a classroom teacher in rural Nebraska working with students in grades four to six. She holds a doctoral degree from the University of Georgia and has taught in CEHD's department of curriculum and instruction since 2001.

Dillon is the author of several books, including "Kids InSight: Reconsidering how to meet the literacy needs of all students", the foundation book for the International Reading Association's (IRA) Kids InSight series. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the Bush Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services.

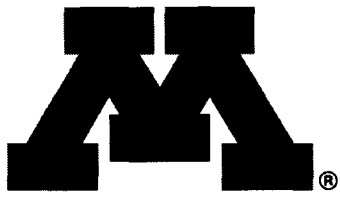
"Deborah Dillon is a tireless force in the reading field at both national and state levels," said professor Ruth Thomas, chair of the department of curriculum and instruction. "She informs policymakers of reading research to enhance the grounding of their policy in research-based understanding. She conducts collaborative research with scholars in other disciplines, and she provides leadership within the department, college, and university and within her profession and community. The Guy Bond Chair in Reading will enable Dillon to extend her work and enlarge its impact in these important areas."

In addition to her teaching duties, Dillon has served as president of the National Reading Conference, vice-chair of the English Language Arts Early and Middle Childhood Standards committee of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and chair of IRA's Studies and Research committee. She has also served as editor of the IRA Kids InSight series, associate editor of *The Reading Teacher* and associate editor of the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*.

She will occupy an endowed chair named for Guy Bond, a former university professor of reading from 1942 to 1971. An influential and prolific author in the field of reading instruction and learning theory, Bond is best

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1971. An influential and prolific author in the field of reading instruction and learning theory, Bond is best known for the 1967 project “The First Grade Studies.” This nationally renowned investigation examined issues that remain at the core of reading education to this day.



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January 7, 2008

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U OF M GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

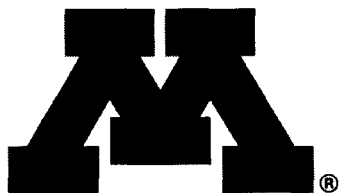
~ Surrounding neighborhoods can request funding for community projects ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Neighborhoods surrounding the University of Minnesota's new TCF Bank stadium can now apply for grants through the Good Neighbor Fund. Eligible applicants are neighborhood and business associations adjacent to campus and the Residential Housing Association that are members of the Stadium Area Advisory Group. All applications must be received by Tuesday, April 1.

The fund, made possible by a \$1.5 million endowment from the stadium project, seeks to preserve the beauty, serenity and security of communities that are impacted by the new stadium. Examples of what the grants may be used for are creating innovative approaches to public safety, mitigating parking impacts in neighborhoods and encouraging fans to patronize local businesses. Projects will be judged based on several characteristics such as how they effectively carry out the fund's purpose, how they mitigate gameday impacts and how they impact a broad geographical area over a long period of time. The Fund Management Committee for the Stadium Advisory Group will review applications and make funding recommendations in July.

This year, the endowment will allow for \$69,000 worth of grants, with no minimum or maximum threshold for individual projects. In the coming years, grant amounts will be determined by annual earnings of the endowment. To apply for the grant, view a list of eligible applicants and for more information on the fund, visit <http://www.community.umn.edu/gnf>

When it opens in September of 2009, TCF Bank Stadium will be the first on-campus football stadium for the University of Minnesota in more than two decades. Under construction since July, the stadium is now set to go vertical, with the first steel installation just weeks away. Fundraising is currently underway for the \$288.5 million structure and so far \$74 million has been raised towards the goal of \$86 million in donations and sponsorships.



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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M TO HOLD ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CONCERT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL The University of Minnesota will host 'From Every Voice,' the U's annual concert in honor of the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S. Minneapolis. The concert is sponsored by the Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music.

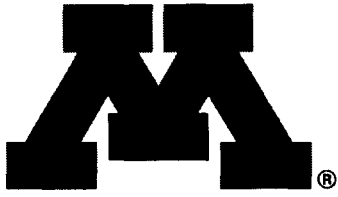
This year's concert will feature the Steeles, the award-winning Minneapolis gospel/soul quintet. A family group of five brothers and sisters, the Steeles have performed around the world with artists such as Prince, George Clinton, Mahalia Jackson and many others.

When the University of Minnesota's Martin Luther King Day concert debuted in 1980, it was the only tribute of its kind in Minnesota. The late Reginald Buckner, a professor in the School of Music and an accomplished performer, composer, and educator, founded the concert and began a tradition of celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. King through the performing arts.

"Professor Buckner's death in 1989 left us without his personal dedication and artistic genius, but not without an inspiring legacy--the annual celebration we present each year," said U of M Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity Rusty Barceló.

The concert is free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required. For more information about the concert, visit the event web site at <http://www.academic.umn.edu/equity/MLK2008.html> or call the Office for Equity and Diversity at (612) 624-0594.

WHO: The Steeles
WHEN: 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20
WHERE: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S. Minneapolis



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POLITICAL EXPERT AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY TO ANALYZE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY RESULTS

Senators Barack Obama and John McCain hold onto their leads in the polls as the race for their party nominations turns to the voters of New Hampshire. A University of Minnesota political expert who can give analysis of results as they come in today is:

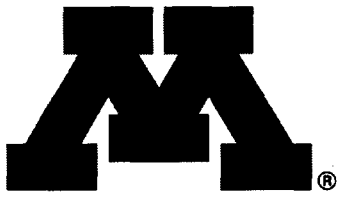
Paula O'Loughlin, political science professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris

O'Loughlin can explain why the state's primary rules hurt Obama and McCain, what a New Hampshire victory will mean for candidates and other aspects of the race. She is an accomplished and nationally recognized scholar in political science and can also give a historical perspective on national elections.

To interview O'Loughlin, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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Media Note: O'Loughlin is available only via phone except Thursday, Jan. 10 when she visits the Twin Cities.



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Contacts: Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M'S DOUG ARNOLD ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota professor Douglas Arnold has been elected president of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). Arnold's two-year term begins this month. SIAM is an international community of more than 11,000 members, including applied and computational mathematicians, computer scientists and other scientists and engineers. The society advances the fields of applied mathematics and computational science primarily by publishing premier journals and books and organizing conferences.

Arnold has served as the university's director of the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) and as a professor of mathematics since 2001. His seven-year term as IMA director will end in 2008. Arnold has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, serves on the editorial boards of many journals and has been designated as a Highly Cited Author by Thomson Scientific. His research interests include numerical analysis, partial differential equations, mechanics, and particularly, the interplay between these fields.

As president of SIAM, Arnold's goals include: actively engaging and supporting those who work in industry and throughout the scientific community; increasing SIAM's international presence and service to non-U.S. members; and welcoming, serving and growing its underrepresented groups.

"SIAM faces other challenges as well," Arnold said, "including remaining at the forefront of scientific communication in the face of rapidly changing technology and economic imperatives, and the always important, but difficult job of educating policy makers, the public and young people about the crucial -- and exciting -- role of mathematical research and development."

Arnold understands the challenges he faces and is enthusiastic about his new leadership role with SIAM. "It is a great honor and a formidable challenge to be selected to lead the world's foremost applied math professional organization," said Arnold. "My motivation in taking on this position is much like that which have motivated my work at the IMA over the last seven years: a passionate belief in the importance to our society of a robust, engaged, interdisciplinary mathematical research community. Certainly my election reflects the high esteem of

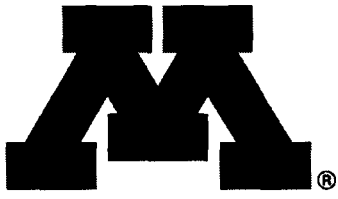
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the applied math community for the IMA at the U of M.”

Complete election results can be found at <http://www.siam.org/about/news-siam.php?id=1232>.

More information about SIAM is available at www.siam.org.



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January 9, 2008

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RANKED IN TOP 100 BEST FLEETS IN NORTH AMERICA

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota Parking and Transportation Services has been named as one of the 100 Best Fleets in North America for 2007. This is the third consecutive year it has received this honor.

This nationwide program awards outstanding, peak-performing fleet operations across the country. It was developed and sponsored by industry magazine Fleet Equipment, in publication since 1909; Faster Fleet Management Information and Services Company, CCG Systems, Inc.; and Tom Johnson, consultant and author.

The goals of the program are three-fold: to identify premier fleet operations for others to emulate, to promote ever-increasing levels of productivity and operational effectiveness through a series of ten seminars, and to promote pride in the industry.

"I'm pleased that the University of Minnesota is on this list. Testing biofuels and developing driver training programs are two examples of the creative approaches we take at our university," said Bill Roberts, Parking and Transportation Services associate director."

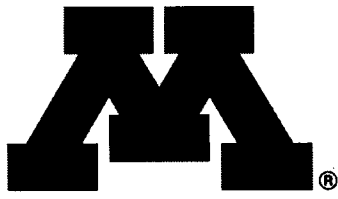
The University of Minnesota has a fleet size of 924 vehicles -- mostly cars, vans, trucks and SUVs -- including 37 hybrids. Each year, nearly 3.4 million miles are tallied by the 457 vehicles in the central motor pool. Along with its rent and lease services, Fleet Services conducts driver training programs for the university and maintains a full-service shop on campus. Fleet Services is also charged with fulfilling federal mandates concerning commercial vehicle and driver regulations, and Clean Air Act regulations pertaining to alternatively fueled vehicles.

The university recently completed testing a portion of its non-E85 fleet to run on E20, a new fuel proposed by the State of Minnesota that is 20 percent ethanol and 80 percent unleaded gasoline.

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As a national leader in converting portions of its fleet to Flexible Fuel Vehicles, the university is one of the greatest users of E85 fuel with more than 20,000 gallons pumped each year.



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MAY YOU BE WITH THE FORCE

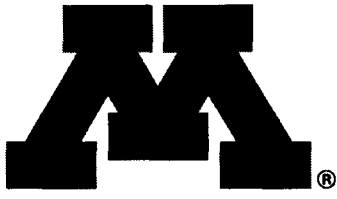
~ U of M's Physics Force presents unique mix of physics demonstrations and humor ~

The University of Minnesota's Physics Force will present a unique mix of physics demonstrations and humor in its annual "Physics Circus" at the University of Minnesota at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, in Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The show is suitable for adults and children of all ages. It is free and open to the public.

"We want to show that physics is fun and interesting and something that people can understand," said Dan Dahlberg, University of Minnesota physics professor. "People will be entertained and have a good time, and they'll be surprised at how much they learn."

The Physics Force consists of current and retired high school physics teachers -- Hank Ryan (Mounds View), Jack Netland (retired), Fred Orsted (Maple Grove) Aaron Pinski (Bloomington Kennedy) and Jay Dornfeld (Armstrong) -- along with Dahlberg. They have performed at Disney's Epcot Center, on public television's "Newton's Apple" and on the "Knoff-Hoff Show," a German television science program. The Physics Force has been performing since 1985.

Demonstrations include dropping one of The Force team from a 20-foot gantry while shooting a ball at him to demonstrate the effect of gravity on projectiles; collapsing a 55-gallon drum to show the force of air pressure; and Dahlberg propelling himself across the stage on a cart by emptying a fire extinguisher to demonstrate how forces come in pairs (for every force, there's an equal and opposite force). The Physics Circus is funded by the University of Minnesota. For more information, visit <http://www.physics.umn.edu/outreach/pforce/>.



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January 10, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CHIEF ECONOMIST TO VISIT U OF M

~ Will discuss U.S. interests in world trade, Doha Round negotiations ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Economists hoping to hear the latest in American agriculture policy from its highest authority will have a chance to do so when the chief economist for the United States Department of Agriculture visits the University of Minnesota this month. Ambassador Joseph Glauber will present "Whither U.S. Agricultural Trade Policy" as part of the Minnesota Lectures on Applied Economics and Policy. The lecture will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31 in the Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genetics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul.

As chief economist, Glauber is responsible for the department's agricultural forecasts and projections and for advising the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on economic implications of alternative programs, regulations and legislative proposals. He is responsible for the Office of the Chief Economist, the World Agricultural Outlook Board, the Office of Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Analysis, the Global Change Program Office and the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.

His lecture will focus on assessing the issues surrounding trade and protection as they relate to U.S. interests and those of other countries in the ongoing Doha Round multilateral trade negotiations. The Doha Round negotiations have been in the works since 2001 as a means to encourage free trade among countries worldwide.

From 1992 to 2007, Glauber served as deputy chief economist at the USDA. In 2007 he was named the Special Doha Agricultural Envoy at the office of the U.S. Trade Representative and continues to serve as chief agricultural negotiator in the Doha talks. In addition to his work in the Doha negotiations, he served as economic adviser at the Blair House agreements leading to the completion of the Uruguay Round negotiations. He is the author of numerous studies on crop insurance, disaster policy and U.S. farm policy. He has also served as senior staff economist for agriculture, natural resources and trade at the President's Council of Economic Advisors and as an economist at the Economic Research Service, USDA.

- more -

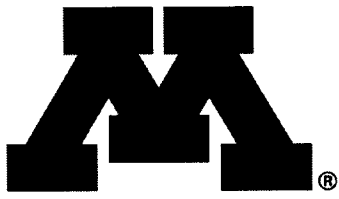
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The event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to register at www.apec.umn.edu/CochraneLecture08.html. There will be a reception following the lecture.

“Whither U.S. Agricultural Trade Policy” is sponsored by the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy and the Department of Applied Economics, a part of the U of M’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

WHEN: 3 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31

WHERE: Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul



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U OF M RESEARCHER HELPS DISCOVER ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES

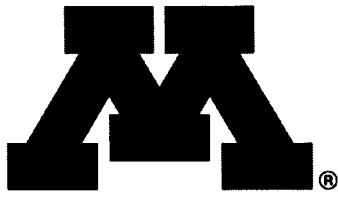
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A recent discovery by a multinational team including a University of Minnesota scientist, professor Michael Sadowsky in the department of soil, water and climate, could lead to more environmentally friendly manufacturing of electronic devices.

Sadowsky and co-researchers found that the bacterium *Shewanella* has the unique ability to convert arsenate into arsenic sulfide nanotubes, tiny filaments that may find use in the optical, medical and electronics industries. The arsenic sulfide nanotubes are both electrically conductive and photoconductive. The findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal in December, 2007.

When *Shewanella*, a type of bacterium found in soil and water, converts arsenate to arsenic sulfide, it leaves behind a yellow residue, which the researchers realized is a tangle of nanotubes. While the tubes don't conduct electrically at first, after eight days they become conductive as well as photoactive.

The scientists believe that this is the first time that these specialized arsenic-sulfide nanotubes have been produced by biological rather than chemical means. Nanotubes hold great promise, as they can be used to make fuel cells and batteries, biosensors for metals and other compounds in the environment and electronics industries, said Michael Sadowsky, a University of Minnesota professor in the department of soil, water and climate and one of the study's authors. "The exciting thing is that these nanotubes produced by biological means may eventually allow us to produce novel semiconductor devices that could not be made other ways," he said.

The research team, which is led by scientists from a South Korean university, expects to turn its attention next toward making the nanotubes smaller and more uniform, as well as looking for other unique properties. The study's lead author, Hor-Gil Hur, is spending this academic year as a visiting scholar at the University of Minnesota.



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STORY TIPS

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January 14, 2008

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EVER NOTICE YOUR BOSS ACTING LIKE SIMON COWELL OR DONALD TRUMP? A U OF M PROFESSOR'S NEW BOOK CAN HELP ANSWER WHY

Reality TV's marquee show, "American Idol," begins its seventh season tomorrow night and, with the ongoing writers' strike, networks are filling the airwaves with more and more unscripted, inexpensive reality programming. And, according to a University of Minnesota professor, watching the average Joe and Jane in primetime is creating vastly different social behavior standards.

In her new book, "Better Living Through Reality TV," communication studies professor Laurie Ouellette analyzes how reality TV enforces a new set of behavior norms for viewers to compare themselves to.

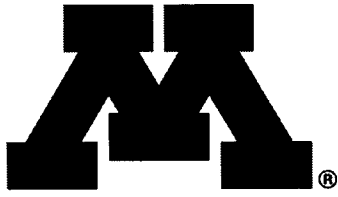
"Reality TV dispenses a powerful prescription on how to live and conduct ourselves," said Ouellette. "It teaches us to monitor, improve and 'work' on ourselves in accordance with these norms."

For example, when watching Donald Trump's boardroom tough-guy routine on "The Apprentice," viewers learn to be ruthless and competitive. Or, according to Ouellette, "American Idol" generates new expectations on how to judge people when it combines objectivity with entertainment.

Ouellette is available for media to discuss her book, as well as reality TV's evolution and how it has become so successful despite the predictions it would be a fad.

To interview Ouellette, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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January 14, 2008

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U OF M TO VISIT BROOKLYN PARK TO DISCUSS TODAY'S HUMAN RESOURCES CHALLENGES

~ "Quick Quotes Audio" available for media use ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- For organizations to gain and maintain competitive advantage in today's market, managers are being forced to look for new ways to develop their talent and create enthusiastic employees who feel a vested interest in their company. University of Minnesota work and human resource education professor Kenneth Bartlett will discuss the successful methods he has researched when he visits Brooklyn Park on Wednesday, Jan. 16.

The event starts at 7 a.m. at St. Andrew's Club, 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park. Bartlett's visit is part of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's year-long, state-wide speakers tour.

The purpose of the speakers tour is to help the citizens of Minnesota understand that the university touches and belongs to each and every one of the five million people in the state. The tour presentations will help show the people of Minnesota that the U of M trains the leaders of the state and nation who solve problems and can change the world.

"The University of Minnesota is an economic engine for our state and has a huge impact on the quality of life in Minnesota," said Margaret Carlson, UMAA CEO. "The university's leading educators, researchers and administrators have already traveled to 19 cities across the state, talking to community leaders about the great teaching, research and outreach that happens at the university every single day."

To see where the tour has been and where it is planning to go, visit:

http://www.alumni.umn.edu/UMAA_07-08_Tour.html

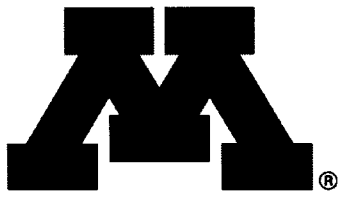
Quick Quotes Audio - a sound bites package of Carlson explaining the tour is available for media use:

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/margaret_speakers_tour_full.mp3 (2:31)

- more -

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Carlson has served as the UMAA's CEO and a university associate vice president since 1985. The UMAA is an independent, 64,000 member organization dedicated to connecting alumni, students and friends in lifelong support of the University of Minnesota and each other.



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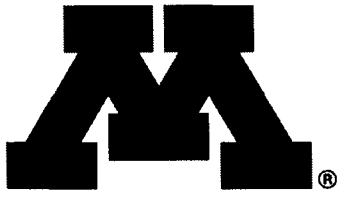
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U OF M PRESIDENT REACTS TO GOVERNOR'S BONDING RECOMMENDATIONS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks regarding Gov. Tim Pawlenty's 2008 bonding recommendations released today:

"We appreciate the governor's support of a number of our essential capital infrastructure priorities. His recommendations are a good starting point and we will be working with legislators throughout this session to build on them by funding all of our projects and fully funding HEAPR (Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement), which funds the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities.

"The governor's bonding recommendations also underscore the critical importance of developing a long-term, comprehensive transportation funding plan. The lack of such a plan is now clearly reducing investment other areas of the state's infrastructure, including higher education."



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HISTORIC U OF M BUILDING UP FOR LEASE

~ One of five original campus buildings available for non-university use ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A piece of U of M history is up for grabs, with one of the oldest campus buildings available for lease.

The Music Education building, also known as the SCA Building, was constructed in 1887, making it the second of five original buildings comprising the school. Originally home to the Student Christian Association (SCA), the building later served various university functions and departments, including the music education department from 1947 to 1997. Its only prior non-university inhabitant, the YMCA, held a lease from 1889 to 1911.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Music Education Building was built in a Richardsonian Romanesque style and has retained several of its original features. Typical of late 1800s building, it has highly ornate fenestration, hand-carved ornamental stonework on the façade and a castle-like tower. While the building occupies a total of 6,800 square feet, the usable space amounts to 4,700 square feet. It is located at the intersection of 14th Street S.E. and Pillsbury Drive in the Knoll area of campus, a popular spot for students.

Since entering a layaway state in 1996, the building has undergone multiple adaptive use studies and condition analysis reports. While university reuse has not proved viable, external reuse compatible with the building's historic character and with the university's goals and objectives is now being welcomed. Interested inhabitants must abide by preservation requirements for the building's external appearance in addition to financing renovations in excess of \$2 million. Renovation costs, while dependent on the nature of the proposed reuse, would cover roof repair, floor soundproofing, facilitating of handicap accessibility and the removal of lead paint and asbestos.

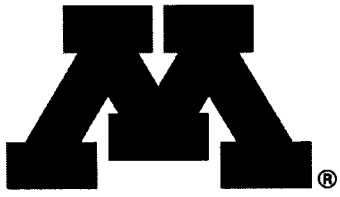
Proposals for reuse can be submitted at www.cppm.umn.edu/purchasing/rfp.html#MUSIC.

The University of Minnesota has long been committed to historic preservation, having invested over \$300

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million in rehabilitating its historic buildings and landscapes over the last three years. In 2006, the university received a distinguished award as an “Organization Devoted to Preservation” by the American Institute of Architects-Minnesota magazine. For the treatment and disposition of the Music Education Building, the university has been working closely with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office.



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U OF M RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY THE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN FIRST OF ITS KIND STUDY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- In the first study of its kind, the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) researchers have identified six key design strategies that will benefit communities when new transportation projects are implemented. The study was authorized by Congress in the 2005 transportation bill and funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The federal study examined cities across the United States to analyze the economic, environmental and public health benefits to transportation projects that successfully utilized innovative design strategies.

“The benefits of involving multiple disciplines were evident in this research as well as in design practice of each of the models - we are all excited about the results,” said CTS director Bob Johns.

The six “keys” of the findings include:

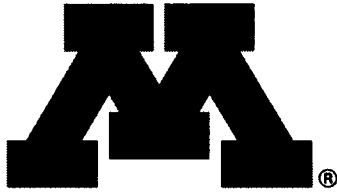
- The creation of human-scaled structures to manage transportation hubs
- Creating easy navigation maps and signs
- The use of three and four - dimensional objects to involve citizens
- Create designs that are durable and adaptable to community needs
- The inclusion of all community stakeholders
- Integrating the work of the planners, designers, transportation officials and builders

“It is quite incredible how much is taken into consideration when designing public transit systems -- it isn’t just getting someone from point A to point B, it is understanding the needs of the community and providing a solution that will serve their best interests,” said Lance Neckar, professor of landscape architecture and interim director of the Metropolitan Design Center in the College of Design.

CTS and the AIA suggest that involving the public in the design process increases the long-term satisfaction of the project provides communities with the services they need. The results of the study will help communities

- more -

the project provides communities with the services they need. The results of the study will help communities design better roads, mass transit systems and other modes of transportation to ensure community members interests are served.



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January 15, 2008

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ALGAE-TO-BIOFUELS RESEARCH RECEIVES BOOST

~ Xcel Energy provides \$150,000 for algae-to-biofuels research led by the University of Minnesota and the Metropolitan Council ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Xcel Energy has given a \$150,000 gift to the University of Minnesota that builds on their commitment to renewable energy in Minnesota. Of particular interest is a groundbreaking algae-to-biofuels project led by the University of Minnesota and the Metropolitan Council.

“This gift will not simply fill a gap, but will give us an opportunity to expand our research and development capacity and help launch larger efforts in this area,” said Robert Elde, dean of the University of Minnesota’s College of Biological Sciences and a leader in this project.

Researchers at the Metropolitan Council and the University of Minnesota’s Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) have teamed up to investigate the potential for algae-to-fuel technology. Since 2006, the Council and IREE have provided funding to research and implement this emerging technology.

The \$150,000 gift, issued from the Xcel Energy Chairman’s Fund, comes on the heels of a recent announcement that five University of Minnesota research projects have been recommended to receive more than \$4.5 million from the Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund.

“Environmental stewardship is a top priority for us,” said Dick Kelly, Xcel Energy chairman, president and CEO. “The innovative and new renewable technologies under development by researchers at the university will help us use the earth’s resources wisely, reduce our impact on the environment and deploy cleaner energy technologies for tomorrow.”

The algae-to-biofuels research team is studying specific types of algae consisting of up to 40 percent oil. The oils extracted from the algae can be used to produce biodiesel, while the remaining wet biomass can be processed to produce bio-oils and other bio-based products.

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The researchers are exploring an integrated approach for the efficient treatment and utilization of wastewater-stream based biomass, which would replace the current energy-intensive, drying-and-combustion treatment. Each day, the Metropolitan Council turns more than 250 million gallons of wastewater into clean water that is discharged into area rivers. The project team sees potential for cultivating vast amounts of energy-producing algae via the wastewater.

The Xcel funding will support a pilot system to produce algae for the development and improvement of harvest, extraction and conversion processes, as well as the collection of data necessary for further research and development.

“The traditional process of growing algae using large, open ponds works in warmer climates, but isn’t well-suited to colder locations like Minnesota,” explained Dick Hemmingsen, director of IREE. “A closed-loop system utilizing wastewater and the heat produced by treatment plants to grow algae for fuels production is of particular interest for northern regions of the country.”

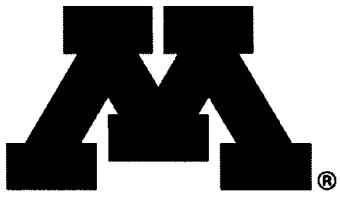
Another potential benefit of the algae research is reducing greenhouse gas emissions. At present, the wastewater solids incinerators at two of the Council’s treatment plants release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Along with nitrogen and phosphorous, the carbon dioxide could be captured and used to supplement the growth of algae at both facilities.

“In both our transit and wastewater treatment systems, the Met Council is strongly committed to protecting the environment and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels,” said Peter Bell, council chair. “Through our partnership with the university, we hope to develop new, homegrown sources of clean, renewable energy.”

The Xcel funding will also help the team leverage further investment in the commercialization of algae energy crop technologies. The partnership is seeking additional funding for a bench-scale study and a subsequent pilot-scale process demonstration over the next two years. During the study, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services plans to grow and harvest algae in a wastewater effluent flow of one-half liter per minute (about 180 gallons per day).

“The success of this technology is extremely significant since algae could completely replace our petroleum fuel use and improve our environment simultaneously,” said Roger Ruan, a University of Minnesota professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and a lead project investigator.

Building on a growing expertise in the field, the researchers will determine what kind of algae grows best in the effluent, measure its oil content and assess the potential for producing algae-based biofuels.



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RECEIVES GIFT TO ESTABLISH ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING CHAIR

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology has received a gift from chemical engineering alumna Rose Ling to establish the Joseph T. and Rose S. Ling Chair in Environmental Engineering. The \$2 million endowment fund will support outstanding faculty involved in environmental engineering research and education.

Efi Foufoula-Georgiou, a McKnight Distinguished Professor in the university's department of civil engineering, will be the first faculty member to hold the chair. Foufoula-Georgiou is co-director of the university's National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics funded by the National Science Foundation and is a former director of the university's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory.

"I am honored to be named as the inaugural Ling Chair in Environmental Engineering," said Foufoula-Georgiou. "The University of Minnesota offers unique opportunities to lead international efforts in solving environmental problems because of its cross-disciplinary approach to environmental research and education. I am proud to be part of the Institute of Technology faculty engaged in cutting-edge research at the interfaces of hydrology, eco-geomorphology, mathematics and environmental engineering."

Rose Ling recently established the new endowed chair in honor of her late husband, Joseph, who passed away in 2006. Joseph received his Ph.D. in civil engineering at the university in 1952. He later went on to a long and distinguished career as an environmental engineer at 3M. Rose received her master's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1951 and worked for many years as an engineer at General Mills.

This new gift for a college-wide chair builds upon support from the Ling family, including a previous gift to establish the Joseph T. and Rose S. Ling Professorship in the department of civil engineering.

"This gift to establish a new chair in environmental engineering continues our family's support of the university and provides a lasting legacy in an area of research that was Joe's lifelong passion," Ling said.

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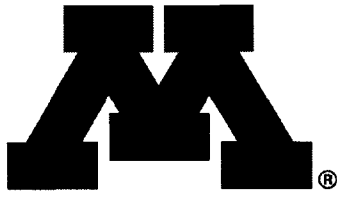
and provides a lasting legacy in an area of research that was Joe's lifelong passion," Ling said.

Joseph Ling pioneered the "Pollution Prevention Pays" program at 3M in 1975, a program still in place today aimed at preventing pollution at the source rather than removing it after it has been created. According to 3M, the program has prevented more than 2.6 billion pounds of pollutants and saved more than \$1 billion over the last 32 years. After his retirement from 3M in 1984, Ling spoke around the globe on the need to prevent pollution.

As the new Ling Chair in Environmental Engineering, Foufoula-Georgiou will work to strengthen research at the university on understanding the vulnerability and resilience of environmental systems in the natural and engineered environment. These include controlling environmental pollutants, floods and landslides, as well as improving ways to predict and manage environmental impacts from climate and land-use changes.

Foufoula-Georgiou holds a degree in civil engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering from the University of Florida. Her ground-breaking work on complex environmental systems has attracted attention from researchers in the United States and around the world. She has received numerous awards including the recent 2007 Hydrologic Sciences Award from the American Geophysical Union for her important and far-reaching contributions to space-time rainfall modeling and scaling analysis in hydrology.

"We are grateful for this gift to strengthen world-class research at the university in the important area of environmental engineering," said Steven Crouch, dean of the university's Institute of Technology, the college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics. "This support will help us focus more attention on solving the ever-increasing environmental problems facing our world today."



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Erin George, University Libraries, (612) 624-9338

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S 'ETHICSHARE' PROJECT PILOTS A GROUNDBREAKING APPROACH TO ETHICS RESEARCH

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Center for Bioethics, in partnership with the University of Minnesota Libraries and the department of computer science and engineering, has been awarded a \$517,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop and pilot "EthicShare," an online Web site and bibliographic database for ethics scholars to discover and share high quality digital articles and other materials -- scholarly and popular press articles, multimedia objects, pre-prints and archival documents.

During the pilot phase, the EthicShare team will develop features for users to rate, comment on and vet content, allowing EthicShare to establish new forms of editorial control and community participation in the growth and future of the Web site.

"EthicShare is a groundbreaking opportunity for scholars to work together to create a new approach to identifying and sharing the best materials in ethics," said Jeffrey Kahn, director of the University of Minnesota Center for Bioethics and one of the project's principal investigators. "The technologies we are putting to work will allow for detailed searching, including the ability to use reviews and quality ratings by colleagues as a way to find and select scholarly materials. EthicShare will also create a way for scholars to share works in progress and collaborate on new ideas."

The EthicShare pilot is a continuation of an earlier grant awarded to the University of Minnesota by the Council of Libraries and Information Resources (CLIR) with funds from the Mellon Foundation. EthicShare grows out of a planning partnership with Indiana University-Bloomington; Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis; the University of Virginia; and Georgetown University. This phase of EthicShare is bolstered by newly established relationships with the National Library of Medicine (NLM), OCLC and others.

EthicShare is part of a larger trend towards discipline-specific online communities that support the humanities, social sciences and the sciences -- all fields that play a role in practical ethics scholarship. Recent priorities of American Council of Learned Societies, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, as

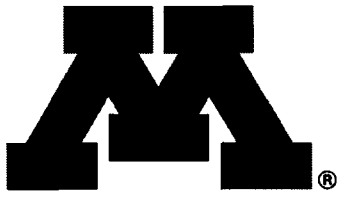
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well as the University of Minnesota, have included strategies to build community and support collaborative exchange among scholars distributed across the globe.

As a partnership between the Center for Bioethics, the department of computer science and engineering and the University Libraries, EthicShare is a unique interdisciplinary collaboration that brings together a diverse but deep commitment to innovation in the areas of information discovery, scholarly exchange, and dissemination. Wendy Pradt Lougee, university librarian, and computer science and engineering professor John Riedl, both co-principal investigators along with professor Kahn, are leaders in the fields of digital library development and social networking and collaborative filtering, respectively.

Kahn, Lougee and Riedl hope to develop a virtual community for scholars that serves as a model for scholarly research for fields beyond practical ethics.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2008

*Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Registration: (612) 626-9334, firsttuesday@umn.edu*

ECOLAB CEO AT U OF M TO DISCUSS SUSTAINABILITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROFITABILITY

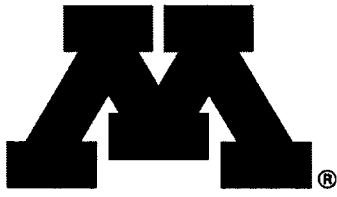
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Doug Baker, chairman of the board, president and CEO of Ecolab Inc., will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Baker will discuss the role of environmental stewardship and the corporation in his speech, "Can Sustainability and Profitability Coexist?" He will explain how Ecolab is effectively using sustainable business principles and actions to help the company continue creating improved shareholder value and discuss how sustainable corporations can see good profits, amplify shareholder value and enhance brand reputation.

Baker joined Ecolab in 1989 as marketing manager for distributor programs. Following a series of increasing management responsibilities in the United States and Europe, he became CEO in July 2004. In May 2006, Baker added chairman of the board to his title. Externally, Baker is a board member of the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation and serves on the executive advisory board of the National Center for Food Protection and Defense. He also serves as president of the Minnesota Business Partnership and is a member of the executive committee of the Capital City Partnership, the executive committee of the Minnesota Orchestra, the G100 and the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy.

Advance registration by Thursday, Jan. 31, is \$28 and \$35 for walk-ins. The fee includes lunch and parking in the Washington Avenue Ramp. Refund cancellations are required by Friday, Feb. 1. Register by calling (612) 626-9634, visiting www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or e-mailing firsttuesday@umn.edu.

WHO: Doug Baker, chairman, president, CEO, Ecolab Inc.
WHEN: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5
WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2008

Contacts: Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA REACHES TOP 10 FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

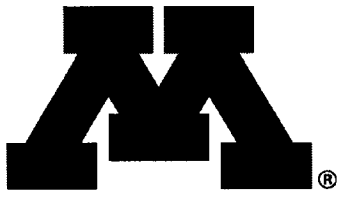
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota has moved up two spots this year in the number of graduates enrolling in the Peace Corps. In addition to reaching the ninth slot this year amongst the country's largest colleges and universities, the university has also become the 18th largest producer of volunteers of all time with 1,203 total alumni joining the ranks since the Peace Corps began.

There are currently 71 alumni serving in the Peace Corps in various parts of the world. The Learning Abroad Center (LAC) coordinates with the Peace Corps as part of the work, intern and volunteer abroad program.

"University of Minnesota graduates have a vested interest in international opportunities and it really shows when you look at how we continue to climb in the ranks," associate program director Scott Daby said.

The LAC offers students the chance to meet with Peace Corps staff and former volunteers once a week to have their questions answered and evaluate what type of volunteer work would best suit their future. This one-on-one approach motivates and inspires students and has helped the Peace Corps reach a 37-year record in volunteers.

University alumni who joining the Peace Corps do volunteer work in developing countries for two years serving in education, youth outreach, community development, health issues such as HIV/AIDS, agriculture and environment, business development or information technology.



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January 17, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

U OF M, STATE LAWMAKERS TACKLE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY ~ Mayor Rybak to attend this first of three annual policy breakfasts ~

Darlyne Bailey, dean of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and assistant to the president at the University of Minnesota, hosts the first of three annual policy breakfasts from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18. Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak will join other policymakers, legislators and leaders from nonprofit organizations at the breakfast to discuss the creation of effective youth development policy. It will be held at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

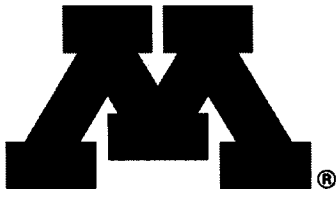
The breakfast will begin with a keynote speech from Karen Pittman. Pittman is the executive director of the Forum for Youth Investment, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. Afterwards a panel will respond to Pittman's keynote and take questions from the audience. The panelists are:

- **Dean Bailey:** Bailey is the first dean of the College of Education and Human Development. She also serves as assistant to the president and holds the Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development.
- **Assistant Dean Dale Blyth:** Blyth is the director of the Center for 4-H Youth Development. He also serves as the capacity area leader for youth development.
- **Senator Mee Moua:** Moua (DFL) is currently serving her third term in the Minnesota Senate representing District 67 in St. Paul. She is chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, with special legislative concerns in education, housing, economic development and safety.

An estimated 140 attendees are expected at the invitation-only event.

WHEN: 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18, 2008

WHERE: Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.



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January 17, 2008

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Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962, dswain@umn.edu

USDA AND FDA WAGE PUBLIC DEBATE ON SAFETY OF FOOD FROM CLONED ANIMALS

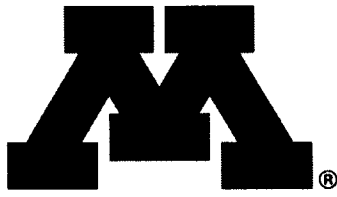
Two of the most powerful sources of American food regulations are at odds this week over the safety of food from cloned animals. Just after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommended to U.S. farmers a “voluntary moratorium” on selling cloned animal meat Tuesday, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) fired back and assured the public of the food’s safety. What are the potential risks of consuming meat from cloned animals? Which organization has the leg up in this debate? And, with some domestic farmers claiming that they’ve long sold meat from cloned animals, does the public need to be worried? A University of Minnesota expert who can answer these questions is:

Abel Ponce de León, professor of animal science at the University of Minnesota

Ponce de León, who has cloned a cow alongside scientists at the University of Massachusetts, supports the moratorium from the USDA. While he says that cloned animal product is safe to consume, he believes it should be banned from the U.S. market until there is more acceptance from the American public.

To interview Ponce de León, contact Luisa Badaracco at (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu; or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962, dswain@umn.edu.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 17, 2008

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, (612) 624-8770, dskelly@umn.edu

Registration: Keelii McCarty, (612) 626-7407, mcca0375@umn.edu

U OF M TO HOST FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ADDRESSES ACADEMIC, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND NONPROFIT CONCERNS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management will host the Fourth Annual Women's Leadership Conference entitled "Achieve It: Developing a Strategy for Success," from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, at Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. This premier Twin Cities' conference has been a sell-out since its inception in 2004 and has moved to a larger venue to allow more participation. Early registration is encouraged prior to Feb. 8.

Keynote speakers for the 2008 conference include Annie S. C. Wu, chair of the executive committee for the World Trade Centers Association in Hong Kong; Linda Babcock, the James M. Walton Professor of Economics and founder of the Program for Research and Outreach on Gender Equity in Society (PROGRESS) at the H. J. Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University; and Becky Roloff, CEO of the YWCA of Minneapolis. These three leaders bring perspectives from academic, nonprofit and international business sectors. Attendees will participate in breakout session topics such as the global corporate environment, financial management, leadership skills development and women's issues related to health care. State Farm Insurance is sponsoring this year's event.

With support from the Twin Cities business community, the Carlson School is committed to providing women with programs and resources to support and enrich their professional careers. The school has assembled one of the nation's most comprehensive set of initiatives aimed at helping women thrive in business leadership roles. Through exclusive networking opportunities, mentoring programs and the annual women's conference, the Carlson School supports the forward focus of businesswomen.

General admission for the conference is \$95 with a student rate of \$20. To register, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/wlc or contact Keelii McCarty at (612) 626-7407.

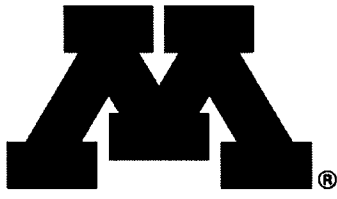
WHEN: Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Avenue S.E. in Minneapolis

- more -

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WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Avenue S.E. in Minneapolis



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January 18, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

LEADING EXPERT DISCUSSES RACE AND POLITICS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL AND EVE OF MLK DAY

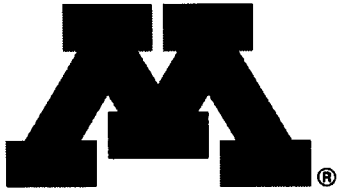
With the presidential election in full swing and on the eve of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the issue of race and politics is a timely topic. The University of Minnesota has one of the nation's leading experts on race and politics, who is available for interviews:

Guy-Uriel Charles, University of Minnesota Law School professor and co-dean

A frequent media commentator, Charles is the director of the Institute for Law and Politics at the University of Minnesota Law School. He teaches and writes in the areas of constitutional law, civil procedure, election law, law and politics and race. He has been published in *Race, Redistricting and Representation*; *Judging the Law of Politics*; and *Law, Politics and Judicial Review*. He is a former editor-in-chief of the *Michigan Journal of Race and Law* and was a member of the National Research Commission on Elections and Voting and the Century Foundation Working Group on Election Reform.

To interview Charles, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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January 18, 2008

Contacts: Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING BRINGS TOGETHER UNIVERSITY SUPPORTERS TO ADVOCATE FOR U PRIORITIES

~ Attendees invited to go out and share their personal U stories ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota will hold its annual Legislative Briefing and Reception from 5:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The Legislative Briefing brings together alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the university to share their stories and rally behind the U's 2008 legislative priorities, including the \$225.5 million capital request. Highlights of the request consist of investments in vital building preservation, as well as funding for a new Bell Museum of Natural History and the renovation of the historic Folwell Hall. Participants will be encouraged to increase their grassroots advocacy efforts on behalf of the U throughout the legislative session. The event is expected to draw 350 attendees.

The event will include remarks from Tom LaSalle, national president of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA), and a first ever, video presentation of the capital request by Robert Bruininks, president of the University of Minnesota. University Relations Vice President Karen Himle will conclude the evening by asking attendees to go out and share their stories about the university.

To view the 2008 Capital Request videos, visit: <http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/govrel/capitalrequest/videos.html>

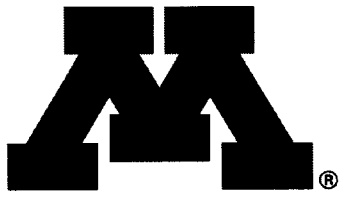
If passed by the legislature, the capital request would make a fundamental commitment to the educational and developmental experience of students. To benefit the state and remain a competitive research university, it would create opportunities for new groundbreaking discoveries. Additionally, it would support the land-grant mission of the university to connect knowledge to the needs of Minnesota communities by making strategic facility investments.

For more information about the University of Minnesota's Legislative Network, see www.supporttheU.umn.edu.

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The 2008 Legislative Briefing is sponsored by the UMAA and the Legislative Network. The UMAA is an independent, 64,000-member organization dedicated to connecting alumni, students and friends in lifelong support of the University of Minnesota and each other. For more information about the UMAA, visit www.alumni.umn.edu.



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January 18, 2008

Contacts: Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 770-3309, dswain@umn.edu

U OF M VICE PRESIDENT AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS MLK'S IMPACT

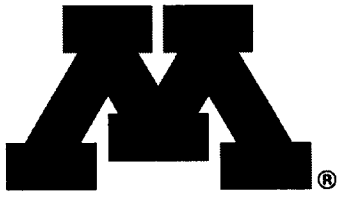
On Monday, Martin Luther King Day, one of only four individual commemoration federal holidays, will be celebrated for the 22nd time, marking the lasting influence Dr. King's civil rights fight has had on America. A University of Minnesota vice president who can discuss King's impact is:

Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, University of Minnesota Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity

Barceló, a nationally recognized leader on multiculturalism in education, can explain how King's civil rights work affected universities and paved the way for equity programs. With over 30 years of experience, she provides leadership and strategic planning on issues relating to faculty, staff and student equity and diversity across the University of Minnesota system.

To interview Barceló, contact Drew Swain at (612) 770-3309 or dswain@umn.edu.

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January 18, 2008

Contacts: *Gail Dennison, The Hormel Institute, (507) 437-9604*

U OF M HORMEL INSTITUTE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ON WEDNESDAY

The University of Minnesota Hormel Institute and city officials from Austin and Rochester will announce a new development in the expansion of the institute that is a “first of its kind” for a medical research facility in Minnesota. The announcement takes place at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 23.

Please enter the front part of the new building, located on 16th Avenue N.E., Austin.

WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 23, 10 a.m.

WHERE: The Hormel Institute, 801 16th Ave N.E., Austin



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January 22, 2008

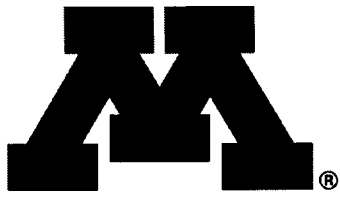
Contacts: Gail Dennison, The Hormel Institute, (507) 437-9604

CANCELLATION OF U OF M HORMEL INSTITUTE EVENT ~ The Wednesday event will be rescheduled ~

The event scheduled at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 23. at the University of Minnesota Hormel Institute has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled.

WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 23, 10 a.m.

WHERE: The Hormel Institute, 801 16th Ave N.E., Austin



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January 22, 2008

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801, matte016@umn.edu

U.S. REP. KEITH ELLISON TO DELIVER KEYNOTE FOR LAW SCHOOL'S COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM KICKOFF EVENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, University of Minnesota Law School Class of 1990 and representative of Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District, will be the featured speaker at the University of Minnesota Law School's community volunteerism kickoff at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 25 in Lockhart Hall (Room 25) at the Law School, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Ellison will present the keynote address at the Martin Luther King (MLK) Raise the Bar event. He will take questions from the audience at the conclusion of his talk.

All Law School students, faculty, staff members, alumni and friends are invited to attend the address. The address will also be available for viewing via webcast at www.law.umn.edu.

The MLK Raise the Bar organization was created in the spring of 2005 by law students to honor the spirit of Dr. King's message by pairing an inspiring speaker with a Day of Service at nonprofit organizations across the Twin Cities.

The Day of Service has expanded into an entire weekend of activities intended to put King's teachings and the Law School's dedication to public service into practice. At past Raise the Bar events, more than 100 law students, faculty and staff members volunteered their time and talents. This year's winter Weekend of Service is scheduled for Feb. 2 to 4.

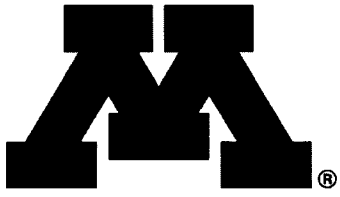
The keynote address is an important element in the Raise the Bar program. Speakers are chosen because they serve as examples of how King's beliefs can reside at the heart of a successful legal career. Speakers' experiences in advocating for underserved communities are often inspiring and encourage participation in volunteer activities.

When Ellison took office as Representative of the Fifth Congressional District, which includes Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs, he made history. He is Minnesota's first African American as well as the nation's first

- more -

person of the Muslim faith to serve in the U.S. Congress.

From 2003 to 2007, he served in the Minnesota State House of Representatives, where he worked to protect children from dangerous chemicals, restore the voting rights of ex-offenders and increase the state's minimum wage.



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For Immediate Release

January 22, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M CURA FORUM DISCUSSES MINNEAPOLIS' RESPONSE TO FORECLOSURE CRISIS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL How is the City of Minneapolis responding to the ailing housing market in the foreclosure crisis? That is the topic of the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) monthly forum from noon to 1:30 Friday, Jan. 25 at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management; Room L-110 (Honeywell Auditorium), 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

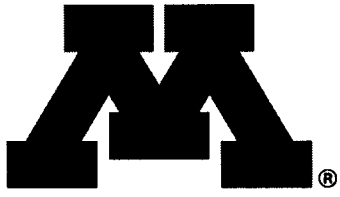
Mike Christenson, Director of the Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), will make a presentation on a case study of how the city is responding to the foreclosure crisis.

(CPED) was established by the city council in 2003. Its mission is to promote and advance the city's planning and community development goals through strategic partnerships and responsible management of resources, and to support the public interest through implementation of the city's plans and priorities.

The CURA Housing Forum is a monthly "brown bag" discussion of housing issues and research sponsored by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota.

WHEN: noon to 1:30 Friday, Jan. 25

WHERE: Carlson School of Management; Room L-110 (Honeywell Auditorium), 321 19th Ave. S.,
Minneapolis



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January 22, 2008

Contacts: Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612)624-0214

MORE U OF M STUDENTS HEADING SOUTH ... WAY SOUTH

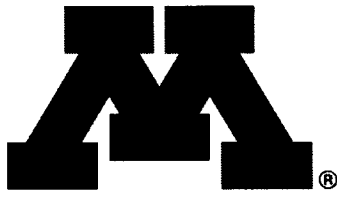
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL Students are filing into classrooms all over campus this week as the spring semester begins. At the same time, more University of Minnesota students will be flying to destinations across the globe to begin their semesters abroad. And a record number of them will be studying in Central and South America.

According to the Learning Abroad Center (LAC), the number of students studying abroad in Central and South America in the 2006 - 2007 academic year had risen 82 percent from the previous year. LAC hopes that the number will continue to rise through this academic year.

"Many students have a genuine interest in engaging with the world beyond campus, these programs offer them a way to improve language skills, work with local communities, study and travel," associate director Martha Johnson said. "It is all part of their University of Minnesota experience."

Programs in Argentina, Venezuela, Costa Rica and Ecuador make up the Latin American programs. The strength of the dollar, an enhanced state of political stability and a growing interest in the Spanish language has boosted the popularity of the region.

LAC has made an effort to create programs such as service learning tracks in Mexico, the Minnesota Studies in International Development program in Ecuador, which places students with families in small communities, and a language-learning program for people with lower Spanish proficiency in Argentina. The programs are also attractive for university faculty and staff leading groups because the travel distance is shorter than other regions.



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January 23, 2008

Contacts: Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

FIRST STEEL FOR TCF BANK STADIUM TO BE INSTALLED MONDAY

~ Latest step signifies the construction "going vertical" ~

TCF Bank Stadium is about to get a big delivery.

Over the next six months, the future home of the Golden Gophers will receive 8,800 tons of steel in daily shipments for the stadium's frame. The shipments will be put to use starting next week, when the first steel installation occurs at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 28 at the stadium site, 23rd Ave. S.E. between 6th Street and University Avenue.

Media are welcome at the event but, due to the hazardous nature of the work being performed, must wear site-appropriate clothing such as long pants and boots. Check in will be at the 23rd Ave. S.E. gate between 7 and 7:15 a.m. Access to the site will end at 8 a.m.

In total, the stadium will receive the steel in 10-15 daily shipments between now and late July. It will be used to shape the upper bowl, suites and press box structures in addition to supporting the scoreboard. Three cranes will hoist the steel beams, which will then be connected to anchor bolts in the pile caps, connected to pipe piles that run down to bedrock.

Minnesota-based LeJeune Company, along with American Structural Metals, is the steel fabricator and Amerect, also based in Minnesota, will erect the steel. More than 85 percent of the construction projects for the stadium have been awarded to Minnesota-based firms.

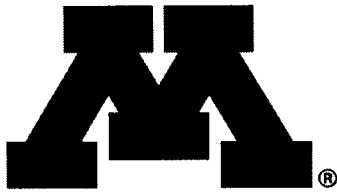
With 598 days to go before the first kickoff, the future home of Gopher football is on schedule and on budget. Fundraising is currently underway for the \$288.5 million structure and so far nearly \$75 million has been raised towards the goal of \$86 million in donations and sponsorships. When it opens in September of 2009, TCF Bank Stadium will be the first on-campus football stadium for the University of Minnesota in more than two decades.

WHEN: 7 to 8 a.m., Monday, Jan. 28

WHERE: 23rd Ave. S.E. gate between 6th Street and University Avenue

- more -

To obtain copies of the steel rendering, please contact Luisa Badaracco at luisab@umn.edu or 612-624-1690.



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January 24, 2008

Contacts: *Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436*
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

FORMER DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS PRESIDENT JAMES ORBINSKI WILL TALK ABOUT MEDICAL HUMANITARIANISM AT THE U OF M HUMPHREY INSTITUTE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The Sawyer Seminar series continues with a lecture on "Humanitarianism and Civil Society" by professor James Orbinski at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Orbinski is a professor of public health at the University of Toronto and the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize winner as president of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières. His talk will look at the citizen movements to deliver medicine to those in need. The event is free and open to the public.

A medical doctor with extensive field experience with Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières, Orbinski served as international president of the organization from 1998 to 2001. He launched the organization's global Access to Essential Medicines Campaign in 1999, later accepting the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières for its pioneering approach to medical humanitarianism. Orbinski also serves as co-founder and chair of the board of directors of Dignitas International, a medical humanitarian organization working with communities to dramatically increase access to life-saving treatment and prevention in areas overwhelmed by HIV/AIDS.

The Sawyer Seminar is funded through a grant from the Mellon Foundation. It is organized by the University of Minnesota in partnership with various units, including the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the department of political science and the College of Liberal Arts. The Sawyer Seminar provides a critical exploration of the historical development and practices of international humanitarianism. In addition to public programming, the Sawyer Seminar supports a postdoctoral fellowship and two doctoral fellowships. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/humanitarianisms/Sawyer.html.

WHO: James Orbinski, public health professor and 1999 Nobel Peace Prize winner as president of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières

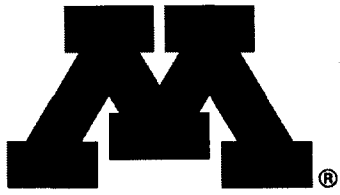
- more -

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Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières

WHEN: 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6

WHERE: Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M CHOSEN TO COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL SOLAR DECATHLON

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The U.S. Department of Energy announced today that it has chosen the University of Minnesota as one of only 20 international teams to compete in the next Solar Decathlon in 2009. The University of Minnesota is the first and only Minnesota team to ever participate in this competition.

The Solar Decathlon is a unique international competition that brings together student teams from universities across the United States, Europe and Canada to compete in designing, building and operating highly energy-efficient, completely solar-powered houses. The teams assemble their homes on the National Mall in front of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and open the houses to the public. Last fall, more than 120,000 people toured the homes on the National Mall.

The house is limited in size, but must use only sunlight for power. The home is equipped with appliances, a bathroom and cooking facilities. Each house must generate enough energy from the sun to operate a household, a home-based business and related transportation needs. Teams are judged in 10 different categories, seven of which focus on energy efficiency; others include the design and comfort of the house. The team with the most points -- the most energy-efficient and innovatively designed house -- wins.

“We think the Solar Decathlon is a good fit with the University of Minnesota’s goal of becoming a leader in renewable energy research and allows students and faculty to work collaboratively with others across the university to solve problems using solar technology,” said Steve Crouch, dean of the Institute of Technology, the university’s college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics.

“The Solar Decathlon also provides an unparalleled opportunity for students to showcase their depth of abilities in sustainable design and construction on an international stage,” said Thomas Fisher, dean of the university’s College of Design, which includes academic majors in architecture, environmental design and housing studies.

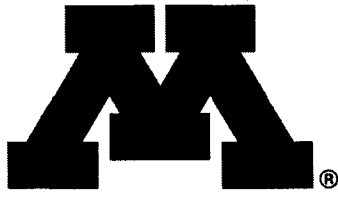
After the initial fabrication and testing of the house in various university labs, the team hopes to construct the house on the mall area of the Twin Cities East Bank campus in spring 2009. This exercise would give the U of M

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

team valuable practice in the final disassembly and reconstruction of the house as part of a solar village on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. during the competition in fall 2009.

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$1 million. In addition to the Department of Education \$100,000 grant award and a \$100,000 match from the university's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, the university will seek an additional \$800,000 in funding and in-kind gifts from businesses and alumni.



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For Immediate Release

January 24, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, luisab@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

STRUTTING FOR SUSTAINABILITY: 40TH ANNUAL U OF M FASHION SHOW TO HIGHLIGHT ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY CLOTHING

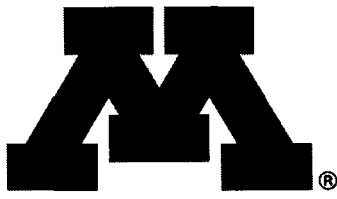
A bit of Milan will come to Minnesota next month, when the University of Minnesota's College of Design hosts "Abandon Your Threads," a fashion show exhibiting the work of 17 graduating seniors and the clothing industry's newest designers. A wide variety of design will be showcased during the event, including wedding gowns, post-apocalyptic men's wear and -- one of fashion's biggest buzz words -- sustainable clothing. Shows will be held at 5 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2 in the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Among the sustainable clothing to be featured on the catwalk is a clothing line for young women using organic natural-fiber fabric. Franchesca Rojas-Zelenka, the line's designer, also utilized a technique so that waste from fabric dye was minimized. Two other lines featured in the show, from Hilary Falk and Joan Hector, use discarded garments to eliminate fabric costs. Falk and Hector faced numerous challenges during the design phase as they had to work with fabric already cut and shaped for existing garments.

A sell-out is expected for the annual fashion show, now in its 40th year. With few tickets available at the door, people are encouraged to buy tickets in advance. For ticket information and other details of the event, visit <http://www.umnseniorfashion.com>.

WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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January 25, 2008

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Rachael Mann, University of Washington Press, (206) 221-4995

VETERAN POLITICAL OBSERVER TED VAN DYK WILL SPEAK AT THE U OF M HUMPHREY INSTITUTE

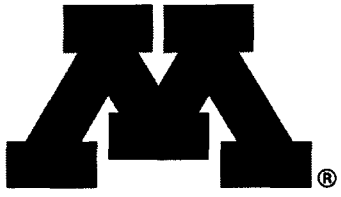
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL Political observer Ted Van Dyk, author of “Heroes, Hacks, and Fools: Memoirs from the Political Inside” (University of Washington Press 2007), will discuss his book at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. He will talk about his long career as a presidential candidate adviser and offer his take on the 2008 presidential race.

Since 1960, Van Dyk has served as a senior adviser to presidential candidates Humphrey, McGovern, Carter, Ted Kennedy, Mondale, Hart and Tsongas. Van Dyk’s memoir includes several untold stories that cast fresh light on many watershed events in American history. He captures brilliant and not-so-brilliant leaders as well as politics’ darker side.

Van Dyk has been a regular contributor to national publications such as the New York Times and Wall Street Journal and wrote an opinion column for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer from 2001 until 2007. In addition to being a political analyst, he enjoyed a long career in foreign policy work. Van Dyk was a Pentagon intelligence analyst during the Berlin Crisis of 1961 and an aide to Jean Monnet and other leaders of the European movement before serving in the Johnson White House as Vice President Humphrey’s senior adviser.

The event is free, but seating is limited. Please RSVP by calling (612) 625-5002. Books will be available for purchase.

WHO: Ted Van Dyk, former presidential adviser, political analyst and journalist
WHEN: 5:30 p.m. reception; 6 p.m. program Tuesday, Feb. 12
WHERE: Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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January 28, 2007

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Justin Ware, University News Service, (612) 626-1720

UMC PROFESSOR TO LAY OUT CASE FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

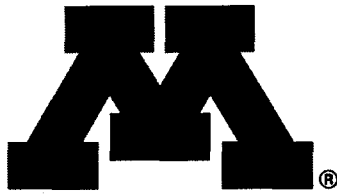
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Daniel Svedarsky, head of the natural resources department at the University of Minnesota, Crookston and president of the The Wildlife Society will take part in a news conference calling for legislation that would protect and restore wildlife and ecosystems harmed by global warming. The news conference will take place from 9 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 29 at the National Press Club, 529 14th St. N.W., Washington, DC.

Svedarsky specializes in farmland and prairie wildlife management at the university's Northwest Research and Outreach Center, focusing on tallgrass prairie restoration and prairie bird management, especially for greater prairie chickens.

The event is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation upon the release of a letter supporting the legislation with over 600 signatures of leading scientists and groups, including the 8,000-member Wildlife Society.

Along with three other speakers, Svedarsky will give an overview of what wildlife managers can do to moderate effects of climate change on wildlife resources and ecosystems. The proposed legislation would reduce greenhouse gas pollution and generate dedicated funding to protect and restore wildlife and ecosystems harmed by global warming.

All four speakers will be available for comment immediately following their remarks. Or, contact Elizabeth Tollefson at (218) 281-8432, ltollefs@umn.edu, to schedule an interview with Svedarsky.



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Drew Swain, University News Service, dswain@umn.edu, (612) 625-8962

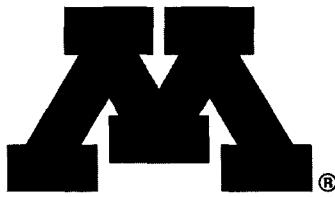
HUCKABEE ON HYBRIDS, BARACK ON BIOFUELS AND MORE: A U OF M CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT ANALYZES ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

It's one of the most talked about stories of our time, garnering Nobel Peace Prizes, entire new industries and innovative pieces of legislation. But where is the environment in the quest for U.S. president? The candidates spar back and forth on the Iraq War, the struggling economy and the debate on illegal immigrants while largely ignoring this other issue on the forefront of many American minds. A U of M climate change expert available to speak about this issue is:

Elizabeth Wilson, professor in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota Wilson can expose the candidates' projected policies and espoused beliefs on the environment. A former environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, she has a unique background in public policy and environmental research. Her areas of expertise include energy and environmental policy, regulatory and legal analysis of emerging technologies, climate change and public perception of emerging technologies. She will be available to analyze the candidates' policies and beliefs from now until the November election.

To interview Wilson, contact Luisa Badaracco at (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu; or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu.

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SETH SHOSTAK OF THE SETI INSTITUTE TO SPEAK AT U OF M ABOUT THE SEARCH FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE ELSEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE

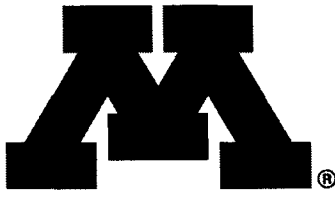
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Could there be intelligent life elsewhere in the universe? Hundreds of billions of planets may be scattered throughout the vast starfields of the Milky Way. How many of these other worlds sport life able to send messages into space, or perhaps to travel between the stars?

Seth Shostak of the SETI Institute will speak at the University of Minnesota about the search for intelligent life elsewhere in the universe at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan 31, in Room 150 of the Tate Lab of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. This lecture is free and open to the general public.

In the next two decades, a radically new instrument, the Allen Telescope Array, will scrutinize the vicinities of hundreds of thousands, and eventually millions, of stars, looking for a faint radio signal that would indicate intelligent beings elsewhere. In addition, researchers are using conventional optical telescopes to search for pulsed laser light from other worlds, a sure sign of another society. Shostak will discuss these efforts and more.

Founded in 1984, the SETI Institute is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to scientific research, education and public outreach. Research at the Institute is anchored by two centers: the Center for SETI (Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence) Research and the Carl Sagan Center for the Study of Life in the Universe.

WHO: Seth Shostak, SETI Institute
WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31
WHERE: Room 150 of the Tate Lab of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis



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January 28, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, luisab@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SCIENTIST HONORED BY SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Renowned University of Minnesota scientist Anne Kapuscinski is one of five recipients of the international Society for Conservation Biology's Distinguished Service Award for 2008.

Kapuscinski, a professor in the department of fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology, is being honored for her "extraordinary contributions to conservation research, teaching and conservation policy, particularly related to effects of biotechnology policy on aquatic species," the society said. The awards will be presented in July.

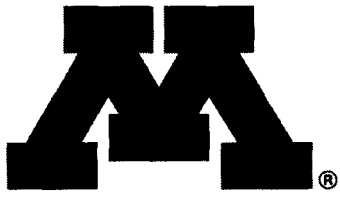
The organization presents up to five Distinguished Service Awards each year to organizations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to advancing the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity. Past award winners include the Nature Conservancy and documentary filmmaker Sir David Attenborough.

Kapuscinski is well-known for her expertise in biosafety policies and science, ecological effects of genetically engineered organisms and genetically engineered fish and other marine organisms. She is a founding fellow of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and directs the Institute for Social, Economic and Ecological Sustainability.

"I am humbled and honored to receive an award previously given to truly amazing scientists and organizations in the field of conservation biology," Kapuscinski said. "Such recognitions result not just from one person's work, but also from the intellectual, emotional, professional and material support provided by a larger community."

The Society for Conservation Biology has more than 10,000 members in 128 countries and is regarded as the leading professional society for those seeking to conserve biological diversity.

- more -



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January 28, 2008

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GOV. PAWLENTY TO SPEAK AT U OF M OPEN HOUSE FOR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Gov. Tim Pawlenty and University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will attend an annual open house for the business community. The open house will run from 3 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, University Enterprise Laboratories, 1000 Westgate Dr., St. Paul, and Pawlenty is scheduled to speak at 3:45 p.m. For more information, visit www.business.umn.edu or call (612) 626-3438. The event is hosted by the Academic and Corporate Relations Center (ACRC) and University Enterprise Laboratories (UEL).

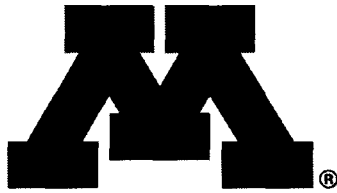
More than 250 investors, business executives, university administrators and community members have registered for the event, which will showcase 25 University of Minnesota centers, colleges and institutes, as well as UEL tenants.

The University of Minnesota and the business community share common interests of attracting and retaining quality staff, expanding knowledge, and enhancing research and innovation. ACRC's mission is to enhance the ability of the worldwide business community to connect and collaborate with the University of Minnesota's rich lodes of expertise, technology, and talent.

WHO: Gov. Tim Pawlenty; University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks

WHEN: 3:45 p.m. Weds., Jan. 30

WHERE: University Enterprise Laboratories, 1000 Westgate Dr., St. Paul



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U OF M "ELECTIONS 2008" EXPERTS DIRECTORY

~ Faculty available to discuss variety of topics starting with today's Florida primary ~

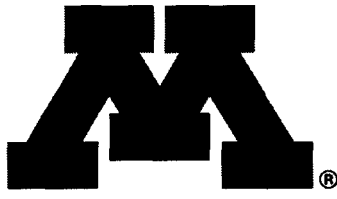
Free checks from the government? International incidents with Iran? And Chuck Norris breaking into politics? The University of Minnesota News Service has created a directory of experts available this political season to analyze the latest issues and trends emerging from the halls of Washington, D.C. to your local precinct.

Available here:

<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/politics2008.html>

To interview any of the experts, contact us at (612) 624-5551, unews@umn.edu.

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January 29, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

DESTINED TO LIE, CHEAT OR STEAL? NEW RESEARCH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FINDS THAT BELIEVING IN FREE WILL CAN KEEP US HONEST

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- In an age where cheating scandals plague all levels of governments and major corporations are brought down by unethical actions, the debate about the origins and nature of how and why decisions are made play into a larger debate about genetic determinism and free will.

It is well established that changing people's sense of responsibility can change their behavior. But what would happen if people came to believe that their behavior was the inevitable product of a causal chain beyond their control -- a predetermined fate beyond the reach of free will?

In two recent experiments, psychologists Kathleen Vohs of the University of Minnesota and Jonathan Schooler of the University of British Columbia explored the link between fatalistic beliefs and unethical behavior. The results of these experiments are reported in the January issue of *Psychological Science*, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science.

Vohs and Schooler set out to see if otherwise honest people would cheat and lie if their beliefs in free will were manipulated.

The psychologists gave college students a mathematics exam. The math problems appeared on a computer screen, and the subjects were told that a computer glitch would cause the answers to appear on the screen as well. To prevent the answers from showing up, the students had to hit the space bar as soon as the problems appeared.

In fact, the scientists were observing to see if the participants surreptitiously used the answers instead of solving the problems honestly on their own. Prior to the math test, Vohs and Schooler used a well-established method to prime the subjects' beliefs regarding free will: some of the students were taught that science disproves the notion of free will and that the illusion of free will was a mere artifact of the brain's biochemistry whereas others got no such indoctrination.

- more -

such indoctrination.

The results were clear: those who were induced to have weaker convictions about their power to control their own destiny were more apt to cheat when given the opportunity as compared to those whose beliefs about controlling their own lives were left untouched.

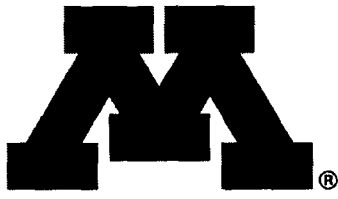
Vohs and Schooler then went a step further to see if they could get people to cheat with unmistakable intention and effort. In a second study, the experimenters set up a different deception: they had the subjects take a very difficult cognitive test. Then, the subjects solved a series of problems without supervision and scored themselves. They also "rewarded" themselves \$1 for each correct answer; in order to collect, they had to walk across the room and help themselves to money in a manila envelope.

The psychologists had previously primed the participants to have their beliefs in free will bolstered or reduced by having them read statements supporting a deterministic stance of human behavior. And the results were just as robust. This study shows that those with a stronger belief in their own free will were less apt to steal money than were those with a weakened belief.

Although the results of this study point to a significant value in believing that free will exists, it clearly raises some significant societal questions about personal beliefs and personal behavior.

Author Contact: Kathleen Vohs carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/kvohs

For a copy of the article "The Value of Believing in Free Will: Encouraging a Belief in Determinism Increases Cheating" please contact Rebecca Monro at (612) 626-7940 or rmonro@umn.edu.



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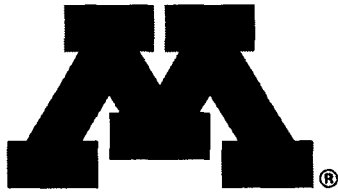
U OF M PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS IRON RANGE LEADERS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will address Iron Range educators, superintendents, community college presidents and students as part of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools reception on Thursday evening. Bruininks will discuss the university's impact on the region as well as the importance of investing in the state's human capital infrastructure, including education.

Local legislators and other Iron Range leaders are expected to attend the event at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 31 at the Coates Hotel, 502 Chestnut Street, Virginia.

Bruininks will be available before and after the event for media interviews.

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 31, 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Coates Hotel, 502 Chestnut Street, Virginia



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January 30, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

SPUTNIK SCHMUTNIK - EXPLORER 1 DISCOVERED SOMETHING

~ 50th anniversary of America's first trip to space ~

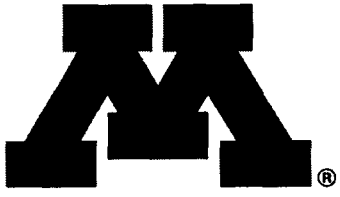
While the launch of Sputnik by the then U.S.S.R. might have won the race to space, its scientific value was next to nothing for the space community. In comparison, America's Explorer 1 launch 50 years ago tomorrow led to the discovery of harmful radiation belts in the solar system. A University of Minnesota professor who can explain the groundbreaking launch is:

Bill Garrard, aerospace engineering and mechanics professor at the University of Minnesota

Garrard says that, while Sputnik was more of a "publicity launch with a few radio transmitters," Explorer 1, equipped with more instrumentation, led to the discovery of Van Allen Belts, intense bands of radiation. The belts, if unavoided, were found to damage satellites and other spacecraft. The find was considered one of the most outstanding of the International Geophysical Year.

To interview Garrard, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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January 30, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

U OF M, UPTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PARTNER TO FIGHT HEART DISEASE

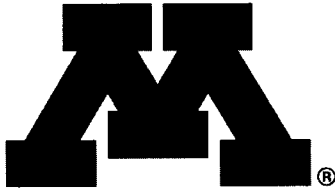
Uptown will be redder than usual this Valentine's season, and Cupid need look no further than the University of Minnesota to extend his adoring thanks. Students in the College of Design's retail merchandising class, teaming up with the Uptown Business Association, will decorate store windows for the month of February as part of a collaborative project with the American Heart Association (AHA). All the decorations will feature a red dress as part of AHA's "Go Red for Women" campaign.

"This is a great project on many levels and we are honored to be working with the American Heart Association for it," said class instructor Jaeha Lee of the department of design, housing and apparel. "When students are able to directly connect community service with their academic curriculum, they are able to consider how their skills, their education, their time and their effort can truly make a visible impact on those around them."

The 85 students participating in the project will use a combination of the retailers' merchandise and the red dress to attract customers and raise awareness about heart disease. Sixteen retailers in and around the Lake Calhoun area will be participating. The displays will be up between Feb. 8 and early March.

About Go Red for Women:

Since 2004, Go Red For Women has captured the energy, passion and intelligence of women to work collectively to wipe out heart disease -- the number one killer of women. Today, the American Heart Association wants millions of women across America to take heart disease personally. Using the simple platform "Love Your Heart," Go Red For Women engages these women -- and the men who love them -- to embrace the cause.



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For Immediate Release

January 30, 2008

Contacts: *Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082*

U OF M TO HOST LANGUAGE IMMERSION CELEBRATION

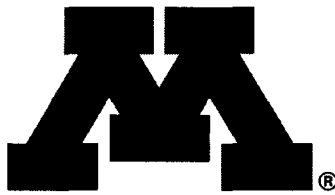
~ More than 1,000 students from 18 schools will attend ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL More than 1,000 students from 18 Twin Cities schools will attend the Language Immersion Celebration from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 5 at the University of Minnesota Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E. Minneapolis. Participating students ranging in grades from pre-kindergarten to 12 are learning French, Spanish, Chinese, German, Dakota and Ojibwe.

“This celebration showcases a commitment to and appreciation for world language learning and indigenous language and culture revitalization,” said Diane Tedick, event coordinator and director of graduate studies in the University of Minnesota department of curriculum and instruction. “We invite the community to come and enjoy the global atmosphere as students take the stage to perform native dances, folklore, poetry and theatrical storytelling and blend their voices in multilingual harmony.”

The Four Humors Theater Troupe will also be performing in between acts.

The event is being sponsored by CEHD's second languages and cultures education program, the Minnesota Advocates for Immersion Network and the University of Minnesota's Institute for Global Studies, Office of International Programs and the Consortium of Post-secondary Academic Success.



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EXPERT ALERT

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January 31, 2008

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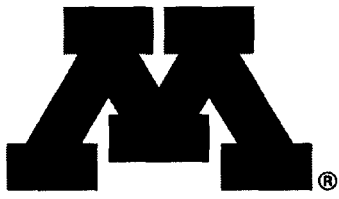
THOSE WHO PREFER THE COMMERCIALS IN LUCK DURING THIS YEAR'S SUPER BOWL

While watching the Super Bowl this Sunday, you might notice a few more or longer commercial interruptions when the cameras break from the field. That's because Fox Television is jamming a record 63 commercials on the air, five more than normally seen. A U of M expert who can explain million-dollar advertising is:

John Eighmey, University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication professor Eighmey says network executives have found unique ways to cram more time in for commercials, and advertisers continue to use "hype, humor and laughs" to sell. Eighmey is the Raymond O. Mithun Land Grant Chair in Advertising, a former member of the Federal Trade Commission and a national authority on advertising, marketing and mass communication.

To interview Eighmey, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu.

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January 31, 2008

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Gordon Leighton, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, (612) 626-7240

NEW ADVISORY PANEL APPOINTED TO UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PROFESSIONAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION GRADUATE PROGRAM

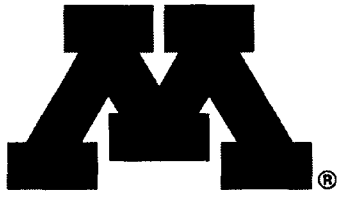
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The Professional Master of Arts in Strategic Communication program in the University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication has appointed an inaugural eight-member advisory panel, comprised of some of the Twin Cities' top advertising and public relations professionals. The panel will serve as a recommending, consultative body, helping to shape the strategic communication program to meet the needs of the Twin Cities professional community.

The advisory panel will work toward continuous improvement and refinement of the program with Mithun Chair of Advertising professor John Eighmey, program coordinator Gordon Leighton and other strategic communication faculty. Eighmey said of the inaugural advisory panel, "We are thrilled about this new relationship with some of the Twin Cities' and the nation's top communications professionals. They will provide great insight and thoughtful feedback as our program evolves."

Members of the panel include: Dean Adams, director, corporate brand management at 3M; Kelly Groehler, senior manager, corporate public relations at Best Buy Co., Inc., Margaret Ann Hennen, system director, communications at Fairview Health Services; John Himle, principal, Himle Horner; Judy Kessel, president, StoneArch Creative; Mary Meehan, executive vice-president and co-founder, Iconoculture; Doug Spong, president, Carmichael Lynch Spong and Steve Wehrenberg, CEO, Campbell Mithun.

Launched in the fall of 2005, the Professional M.A. in Strategic Communication provides advanced strategic thinking capabilities for early career professionals. The program is tailored to provide the best foundation for future communication leaders, recognizing that the communication industry is changing rapidly. Each year, the program welcomes approximately 20 high-caliber students from a diverse range of professional backgrounds. Unlike any other in the nation, the program focuses exclusively on meeting the needs of the Twin Cities business community. In May 2007, the program graduated its first cohort of 17 students. Today, there are nearly 45 students enrolled. The University of Minnesota is one of only a handful of institutions to offer a professional master's program in strategic communication designed for the busy working professional. More information can

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January 31, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu*

U OF M FIRST IN THE MIDWEST TO OFFER ECOTOURISM CERTIFICATE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The International Ecotourism Society has granted the University of Minnesota permission to offer the prestigious University Consortium Field Certificate. Students who fulfill the certificate's requirements will be better prepared to serve the tourism industry's demand for the adoption of sustainable tourism practices. The university is one of a handful of universities nationwide and the first in the Midwest to offer the certificate.

According to Ingrid Schneider, associate professor in the department of forest resources and director of U of M's Tourism Center, the certificate program fits with both the university's commitment to sustainability and recent local and national emphasis on sustainable tourism. "Tourism businesses in other parts of the world are far ahead of the U.S. in adopting sustainable tourism practices," Schneider said. "Our commitment to the tourism industry and international education make this certificate a natural fit for our program."

The achievement recognizes the strength of the university's recreation resources management program in the department of forest resources and the organization's commitment to enhancing the program.

Graduates are in high demand as the concept of sustainable tourism sweeps through the industry. "There is interest on the part of both the tourism industry and consumers for ecotourism education. I am very pleased to see the University of Minnesota stepping up to the plate with the University Consortium Field Certificate," said John Edman, director of Explore Minnesota Tourism, Minnesota's state tourism promotion office.

Other universities participating in the University Consortium Field Certificate are North Carolina State University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Florida, California Polytechnic State University and West Virginia University.

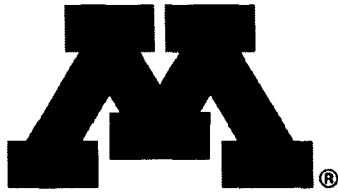
The International Ecotourism Society aims to harness the connection between communities, conservation and sustainable tourism, and to promote sustainability practices worldwide through ecotourism. For more information, go to www.ecotourism.org/.

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The university's recreation resource management degree prepares students to plan and manage natural and non-urban recreational land and water, as well as manage the people and organizations that depend on these important resources.

The major and department of forest resources are part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. More information is available at www.cfans.umn.edu.



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January 31, 2008

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MET COUNCIL TO HEAR PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED CENTRAL CORRIDOR LIGHT RAIL LINE AT U OF M LISTENING SESSION, FEB. 6

Members of the Met Council will be at the University of Minnesota from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, in the Shepherd Room of the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Parkway, Minneapolis, for a listening session on the proposed Central Corridor project.

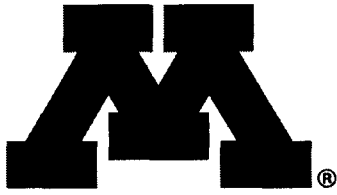
University of Minnesota students, faculty, staff, alumni and local business and community members are expected to provide testimony regarding the Central Corridor directly to Met Council Chairman Peter Bell and members of the Met Council. Individual comments will be limited to three minutes.

The Central Corridor project is an 11-mile, east-west light rail line between downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis that is designed to run through the University of Minnesota campus. The project is a joint effort of city, regional and statewide agencies.

This is one of three listening sessions to be held in the Twin Cities. The Met Council is scheduled to take a vote on the approved route on Feb. 27.

WHEN: Noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6

WHERE: Shepherd Room, Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Parkway, Minneapolis



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January 31, 2008

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U OF M WORKSHOP OFFERS HOLISTIC, PRACTICAL APPROACH TO MANAGING FINANCES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- According to the 2006 Ecumen "Age Wave" study, more than half of Minnesota's baby boomers have concerns about maintaining their financial independence as they approach traditional retirement age. To help set boomers on the track to financial well-being, Mark Fischer of the financial planning firm Fischer on Finance will offer a three-session financial planning workshop at the University of Minnesota. It will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 19 through March 4.

Unlike many financial planning seminars, Fischer's workshop focuses on more than just accumulating monetary wealth. Instead, participants engage in a holistic approach to financial planning that begins with participants' life situation; continues with their goals, life direction and resources, both human and financial; and comes full circle to a financial plan for the life they want.

"Figuring out what [participants'] passions are is one of the biggest challenges. It's not just about having more money, it's about having a better life," Fischer said.

Just talking about money, Fischer said, "is the wrong emphasis. It should be more on the 'so what' -- what are you going to get from it, what's the point" of accumulating wealth.

While the class is part of the LearningLife program, which is primarily designed for baby boomers approaching retirement, anyone can benefit from the kind of long-term planning the workshop encourages.

The course consists of three two-hour class sessions, along with a set of online assessments meant to focus thinking, dig into goals while acknowledging obligations and guide decision-making. Instructor Fischer is independent of any financial services company.

Mark Fischer, a certified financial planner, is the owner of Fischer on Finance. A former chemistry professor, Fischer holds both a doctorate and a master's degree, has taught at several universities and has done seminars

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with numerous organizations and associations.

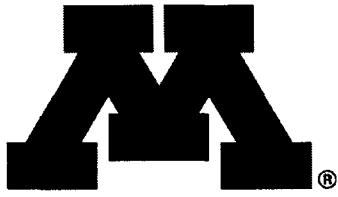
The cost for the workshop is \$225. To register, visit www.learninglife.umn.edu or call (612) 624-4000.

LearningLife is a new learning community within the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Designed for baby boomers, LearningLife offers an array of online and in-person programs that will connect learners with University of Minnesota faculty and with a community of peers. Programs for spring 2008 include sessions on “creating your future”; an online Read-In, in which Learning “Lifers” will read and discuss nonfiction books of current interest with U of M faculty experts; seminars on how to harness your own creativity; and much more.

Through the University of Minnesota’s College of Continuing Education, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops, and retreats to credit certificates and bachelor’s and master’s degrees. For more information about the college, please call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

WHEN: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 19 through March 4

WHERE: Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul



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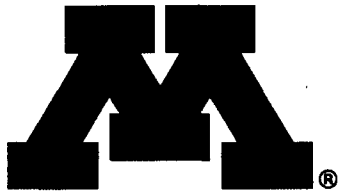
Contacts: *Jen Keavy, School of Journalism & Mass Communication, (612) 625-8095*
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

TIME, WASHINGTON POST, THE NEW YORK TIMES AND OTHER MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS JOIN FORCES WITH THE U OF M TO TACKLE ONLINE NEWS DESIGN ISSUES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The New York Times, Yahoo!, Time, Washington Post, USA Today and six other national newspapers with online editions, including the Star Tribune, will convene at the University of Minnesota from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, for the first-ever research collaborative to address online news page design issues. The news organizations, invited by co-researchers Nora Paul, director of the university's Institute for New Media Studies, and Laura Ruel, journalism professor from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, will be partners in an Eyetracking Research Consortium. Consortium members will generate specific design questions that will become research projects as part of a new round of studies for the Institute of New Media Studies' Digital Storytelling Effects Lab (DiSEL) project.

DiSEL provides pertinent guidance for journalists making daily online storytelling decisions. Using a combination of eyetracking and other research methods, the consortium's efforts will focus on how multimedia news design decisions affect user behavior, information retention and attitudes toward the news organizations. The research results will be made public in forums and publications to help inform the news industry worldwide.

The Institute for New Media Studies, housed in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, is a center for creation, innovation and examination of content and messages and the effects of new media technologies and techniques on their forms and functions. The goal is the imagining and testing of innovative forms, development of new knowledge about functions and generation of greater understanding of the impact of changes in the media landscape.



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For Immediate Release

February 1, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M BLACK STUDENT UNION KICKS OFF AFRICAN HISTORY MONTH WITH MEDIA PANEL

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL The University of Minnesota's Black Student Union kicks off its African Cultural History Month schedule with a panel discussion, "Black Portrayal in the Media," at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4, in room 209, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

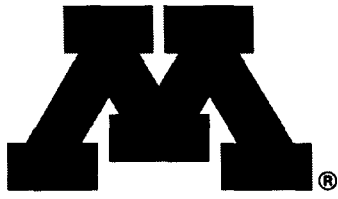
Robyne Robinson of Fox 9 news will be the guest panelist and she will join students and staff in a discussion about how the mainstream media paint a picture of the black community and what role the community press play.

Robinson is the first African-American to anchor a local prime-time newscast and the first black woman appointed senior anchor at a Twin Cities news organization. Regarded as one of the Twin Cities' top broadcasters, Robinson has worked for eight years at Fox 9. She received the 2005 Upper Midwest Emmy for Best Anchor and numerous other honors, including the Minneapolis NAACP Television Industry Award for Outstanding Contributions to Broadcasting. She was named a Hubert H. Humphrey Public Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota and has been lauded by the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota for her involvement in creating awareness about the disease she's lived with for over 20 years.

The Black Student Union and African Student Union have planned many other events throughout the month. For a complete listing go to the Black Student Union Web site at <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~bsu/main.html>.

WHEN: 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4

WHERE: Room 209, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis



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February 4, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RECEIVES GRANTS TO IMPROVE STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Two programs at the University of Minnesota have received more than \$60,000 in matching grants to focus on increasing high school graduation rates, college participation and academic success among students. The Minnesota Office of Higher Education awarded the grants to organizations that demonstrated an effective plan to address key factors supporting college access and success. These factors include raising students' aspirations for college, improving academic preparation for college, easing the initial transition to college and providing more support for students once in college.

Associate professor Ernest Davenport in the department of educational psychology in the College of Education and Human Development received more than \$23,000 to fund an ACT/SAT preparation course for at-risk students. The course is designed to increase student knowledge in key content areas to better prepare them for successful college experiences. About 150 high school students will have large and small group instruction on the topics assessed on college admission tests. Practice tests and informational sessions on topics such as course-taking, test preparation, college admissions and financial aid will also be given.

Davenport sees the program as a natural extension of his work. "I have volunteered my time and talent to helping at-risk students prepare themselves for college since 1991, because I believe that the effects of a good education last for several lifetimes," Davenport said.

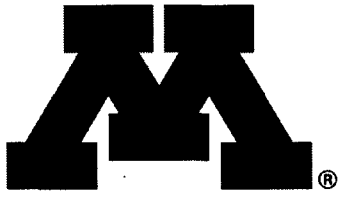
The Office for Equity and Diversity's Maadaadizi (Start a Journey) program received more than \$36,000. Through the program, 60 American Indian students from two St. Paul high schools will participate in career and college planning sessions with Indian Education licensed school counselors and university staff. The students will also participate in college visits and field trips to college fairs; receive individual assistance in ACT preparation, high school course selection and college and financial aid application; and participate in mentoring sessions with current college students. In addition, the program will offer information to parents on advanced high school courses and college admissions.

- more -

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“The Office for Equity and Diversity is excited about the grant for a number of reasons,” said Rickey Hall, assistant vice president. “We know that success in attracting American Indian students to postsecondary education institutions begins by making sure the students are adequately prepared to do college-level work.”

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education’s competitive grant program supports state educational institutions and nonprofit organizations that help students in grades six through college increase their chances for participation and success in higher education. Through the grant program, 24 projects received a total of \$696,000. Grant funds were made available under the Minnesota Higher Education Omnibus Bill of 2007.



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Contacts: *Gail Dennison, The Hormel Institute, (507) 437-9604*

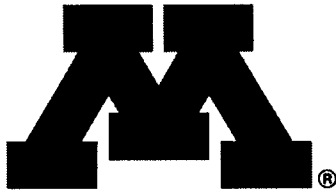
U OF M HORMEL INSTITUTE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ON WEDNESDAY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL The University of Minnesota Hormel Institute and city officials from Austin and Rochester will announce a new development in the expansion of the institute that is a "first of its kind" for a medical research facility in Minnesota. The announcement takes place at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6 at the Hormel Institute, 801 16th Ave N.E., Austin, Minn.

Please enter the front part of the new building, located on 16th Avenue N.E.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6

WHERE: The Hormel Institute, 801 16th Ave N.E., Austin



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EMBARGO: 2 P.M. (ET) THURS., FEB.

February 5, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA STUDY: DESTROYING NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS FOR BIOFUEL CROPS WILL WORSEN GLOBAL WARMING

~ Findings have major implications for climate change policy ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Turning native ecosystems into “farms” for biofuel crops causes major carbon emissions that worsen the global warming that biofuels are meant to mitigate, according to a new study by the University of Minnesota and the Nature Conservancy.

The work will be published in Science later this month and will be posted online Thursday, Feb. 7.

The carbon lost by converting rainforests, peatlands, savannas, or grasslands outweighs the carbon savings from biofuels. Such conversions for corn or sugarcane (ethanol), or palms or soybeans (biodiesel) release 17 to 420 times more carbon than the annual savings from replacing fossil fuels, the researchers said. The carbon, which is stored in the original plants and soil, is released as carbon dioxide, a process that may take decades. This “carbon debt” must be paid before the biofuels produced on the land can begin to lower greenhouse gas levels and ameliorate global warming.

The conversion of peatlands for palm oil plantations in Indonesia ran up the greatest carbon debt, one that would require 423 years to pay off. The next worst case was the production of soybeans in the Amazon, which would not “pay for itself” in renewable soy biodiesel for 319 years.

“We don't have proper incentives in place because landowners are rewarded for producing palm oil and other products but not rewarded for carbon management,” said University of Minnesota Applied Economics professor Stephen Polasky, an author of the study. “This creates incentives for excessive land clearing and can result in large increases in carbon emissions.

“This research examines the conversion of land for biofuels and asks the question ‘Is it worth it?’,” said lead author Joe Fargione, a scientist for The Nature Conservancy. “And surprisingly, the answer is no.”

Fargione began the work as a University of Minnesota postdoctoral researcher with Polasky, Regents Professor

- more -

of Ecology David Tilman; he completed it after joining the Nature Conservancy. They, along with university researchers Jason Hill and Peter Hawthorne, also contributed to the work.

“If you’re trying to mitigate global warming, it simply does not make sense to convert land for biofuels production,” said Fargione. “All the biofuels we use now cause habitat destruction, either directly or indirectly. Global agriculture is already producing food for six billion people. Producing food-based biofuel, too, will require that still more land be converted to agriculture.”

These findings coincide with observations that increased demand for ethanol corn crops in the United States is likely contributing to conversion of the Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado (tropical savanna). American farmers traditionally rotated corn crops with soybeans, but now they are planting corn every year to meet the ethanol demand and Brazilian farmers are planting more of the world’s soybeans. And they’re deforesting the Amazon to do it.

The researchers also found significant carbon debt in the conversion of grasslands in the United States and rainforests in Indonesia.

Researchers did note that some biofuels do not contribute to global warming because they do not require the conversion of native habitat. These include waste from agriculture and forest lands and native grasses and woody biomass grown on marginal lands unsuitable for crop production. The researchers urge that all fuels be fully evaluated for their impacts on global warming, including impacts on habitat conversion.

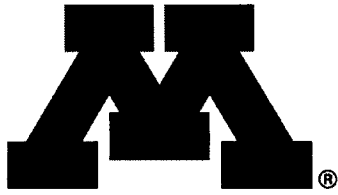
“Biofuels made on perennial crops grown on degraded land that is no longer useful for growing food crops may actually help us fight global warming,” said Hill. “One example is ethanol made from diverse mixtures of native prairie plants. Minnesota is well poised in this respect.”

“Creating some sort of incentive for carbon sequestration, or penalty for carbon emissions, from land use is vital if we are serious about addressing this problem,” Polasky said.

“We will need to implement many approaches simultaneously to solve climate change. There is no silver bullet, but there are many silver BBs,” said Fargione. “Some biofuels may be one silver BB, but only if produced without requiring additional land to be converted from native habitats to agriculture.”

The work was supported by the University of Minnesota’s Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment and the National Science Foundation.

Embargo: 2 p.m. (ET) Thursday, Feb. 7



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U OF M TO RELEASE VIRTUAL TOUR OF TCF BANK STADIUM, LIST OF 2008 RECRUITS

The University of Minnesota athletics department will unveil a virtual tour of TCF Bank Stadium 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6 in the team room of the Gibson-Nagurski Football Complex, 600 15th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Athletics Director Joel Maturi and head football coach Tim Brewster will be available for comment.

DVD copies of the virtual tour will be made available to media outlets for use in newscasts and on Web sites.

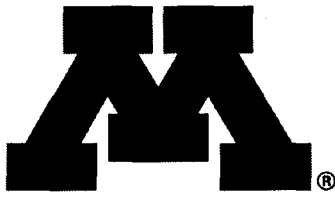
Immediately prior to the virtual tour release, at 3p.m., the Minnesota football program and coach Brewster will announce its 2008 recruiting class. A news release announcing the class along with biographies for all confirmed Letter-of-Intent signees will be made available to the media prior to this news conference, also held in the team room of the Gibson-Nagurski Football Complex. The news release will also be posted on www.gophersports.com and provided to media outlets via e-mail.

Media outlets interested in attending either news conference should park in the marching band lot, which is located behind the bleachers of the Bierman Outdoor Track & Field Stadium.

WHEN: Recruit List: 3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6

Virtual Tour: 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Gibson-Nagurski Football Complex, 600 15th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis



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February 5, 2008

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Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO VISIT RAMSEY TO DISCUSS URBAN PLANNING IN TODAY'S CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

~ "Quick Quotes Audio" available for media ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- With city infrastructure in decay across the country and environmental concerns emerging as a vital part of all municipal development, innovative and effective methods of land use planning are becoming as important as ever. University of Minnesota landscape architecture professor Lance Neckar will discuss his research and new methods in urban planning when he visits Ramsey on Wednesday, Feb. 6.

The event starts at noon at the Wells Event Center, 6139 West Highway 10, Ramsey. Neckar's visit is part of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's year-long, state-wide speakers tour which has already traveled more than 2,000 miles.

The purpose of the speakers tour is to help the citizens of Minnesota understand that the university touches and belongs to each and every one of the five million people in the state. The tour presentations will help show the people of Minnesota that the U of M trains the leaders of the state and nation who solve problems and can change the world.

"The University of Minnesota is an economic engine for our state and has a huge impact on the quality of life in Minnesota," said Margaret Carlson, UMAA CEO. "The university's leading educators, researchers and administrators have already traveled to 19 cities across the state, talking to community leaders about the great teaching, research and outreach that happens at the university every single day."

To see where the tour has been and where it is planning to go, visit:

http://www.alumni.umn.edu/UMAA_07-08_Tour.html

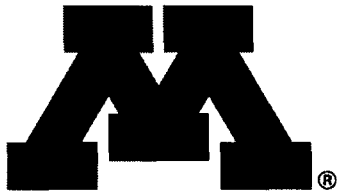
Quick Quotes Audio - a sound bites package of Carlson explaining the tour is available for media use:

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/margaret_speakers_tour_full.mp3 (2:31)

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

- Carlson has served as the UMAA's CEO and a university associate vice president since 1985. The UMAA is an independent, 64,000 member organization dedicated to connecting alumni, students and friends in lifelong support of the University of Minnesota and each other.



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February 5, 2008

Contacts: *Paul Magnuson, Minnesota Center for Reading Research, (612) 626-6344*
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

U OF M CENTER FOR READING RESEARCH TO HONOR SCHOOLS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN READING

Nineteen Minnesota schools will be honored for their achievement in reading by the Minnesota Center for Reading Research in a presentation and ceremony 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 22 at the University of Minnesota's Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Schools chosen for the honor are those that made adequate yearly progress in reading under No Child Left Behind during school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 after failing to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) in previous years.

Administrators from three schools will present specific actions their schools undertook to turn reading achievement around.

The recognition of accomplishment in reading will be preceded by a keynote presentation by Donald Leu, a literacy and technology professor at the University of Connecticut, on the new literacies of online reading comprehension.

The event is open to the general public. A private luncheon for honored guests will follow the presentation and award ceremony. The schools to be honored are:

Anoka Senior High (Anoka-Hennepin)
Anthony Middle School (Minneapolis)
Battle Creek Middle (St. Paul)
Buffalo Community Middle (Buffalo)
Centennial Middle (Centennial)
Coon Rapids Middle School (Anoka-Hennepin)
Eastern Heights Elementary (St. Paul)
Friedell Middle (Rochester)
Hastings High School (Hastings)

- more -

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Hastings High School (Hastings)
John Marshall Senior High (Rochester)
Milaca Secondary High (Milaca)
Moorhead High School (Moorhead)
Murray Junior High (St. Paul)
Partnership Academy (Partnership Academy)
Prairie Elementary (Worthington)
Robbinsdale Armstrong (Robbinsdale)
Valley Middle (Rosemount)
Waite Park Elementary (Minneapolis)
Wayzata High School (Wayzata)

The Minnesota Center for Reading Research is part of the College of Education and Human Development. For more information, visit www.cehd.umn.edu/reading or call (612) 624-9147.

WHEN: 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 22

WHERE: Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul



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February 5, 2008

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 625-8510

U OF M BOARD OF REGENTS TO MEET THIS WEEK

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will meet on Thursday and Friday of this week at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Included on the agenda is a work session on graduate education and the student experience, review of the schematic design for the new Science Teaching and Student Services building on the Twin Cities campus and an update on the university's sustainability efforts and discussion about tuition, fees and the cost of attendance.

The schedule for the meeting and highlights of committee agenda are as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 7

8 - 9 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room.

8:30 - 9:30 a.m., Litigation Review Committee, W.E. Peterson Conference Room.

9:45 - 11:45 a.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will review and take action on schematic designs for the Science Teaching and Student Services building on the Twin Cities campus, renovation of the Community Services building on the Morris campus and repurposing of the Carlson School of Management building once the new Hanson Hall opens. The committee will also receive its annual presentation on energy and utilities, which costs the university approximately \$100 million per year. In addition, the committee will receive the annual report on the university's sustainability efforts.

9:45 - 11:45 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will be updated on the university's implementation of the new enterprise financial system (EFS) and receive the annual report on central reserves.

1:30 - 3:15 p.m., Board of Regents work session, Boardroom. Graduate School Dean Gail Dubrow and Vice Provost for Student Affairs Jerry Rinehart will present on the academic and student experience in graduation

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

education at the university.

3:30 - 3:45 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will take action on the appointment of David Wippman as dean of the Law School.

3:30 - 3:45 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. The committee reviews and takes action on a resolution relating to the Area Health Education Center.

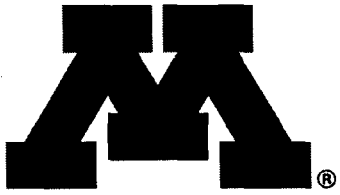
Friday, Feb. 8

9 - 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents meeting, Boardroom. In his report, President Robert Bruininks will provide the board with an update on the university's sustainability efforts. In addition, Bruininks will provide a presentation on tuition, including national trends, financial aid and recently enacted tuition reforms.

More information on the Board of Regents meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 7 - Friday, Feb. 8

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E.



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February 5, 2008

Contacts: *Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754*
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

STATE ECONOMIST, U OF M PROFESSOR TO DISCUSS MINNESOTA'S FINANCES

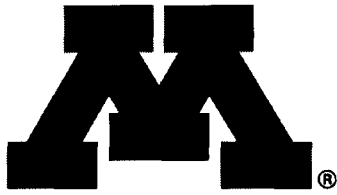
State economist and University of Minnesota associate professor Tom Stinson will discuss "Minnesota's Economy: Short Term Concerns and Longer Term Challenges" at the Twin Cities Ag Issues Roundtable, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Four Points Sheraton, 1330 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis.

Stinson, who is on the faculty in the department of applied economics, is renowned for his expertise on state and federal economic policies, as well as his knowledge and understanding of Minnesota's economy. Most recently, he's been making headlines because of his statements that Minnesota is already in a recession, an opinion that some state leaders dispute. His talk at the roundtable will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The Twin Cities Agricultural Issues Roundtable brings together experts from the fields of economics and agriculture several times a year to discuss current issues. Advance reservations are necessary by Feb. 8 for the Feb. 13 event. Cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch. To reserve a space, contact Sue Pohlod at (612) 625-8779 or spohlod@umn.edu.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 13

WHERE: Four Points Sheraton, 1330 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2008

Contacts: Christopher Clark, co-author, (612) 308-2737
Mark Cassutt, University of Minnesota News Service, (612) 624-8038

FOSSIL FUELS AND NITROGEN FERTILIZERS MAY BE SLOWLY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PLANT SPECIES GLOBALLY, U OF M STUDY SAYS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The number of plant species worldwide may be dwindling from the effects of chronic low levels of nitrogen on terrestrial ecosystems, according to a University of Minnesota study.

The study, conducted by David Tilman, Regents Professor of Ecology, and former university graduate student Christopher Clark, will be published in the Feb. 7 issue of *Nature*. Research was carried out at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, a field station operated by the university's College of Biological Sciences.

Loss of biodiversity from high levels of atmospheric nitrogen has been reported in parts of Europe and the United States, but this is the first long-term study of the impact of much lower levels of nitrogen deposition over much of the developed world.

"Even at low levels, comparable to nitrogen deposition over many industrialized nations, we lost about one plant species in six at our test site [17 percent over 23 years]," Clark said. Rare species were more vulnerable to loss than common species.

But Clarke and Tilman also discovered some good news -- that the loss of species can be reversed. Thirteen years after addition of nitrogen was stopped, species numbers had recovered.

"Many ecosystems worldwide may be losing plant species because of nitrogen deposition from fossil fuel combustion and agricultural fertilizers," said Tilman. "But with a rapid, coordinated national and international effort, we can likely stem or reverse these losses of biodiversity."

Over the past 60 years, fossil fuel combustion and agricultural fertilizers have doubled the amount of nitrogen inputs to terrestrial ecosystems worldwide. The level could double again as nations in Asia and South America industrialize.

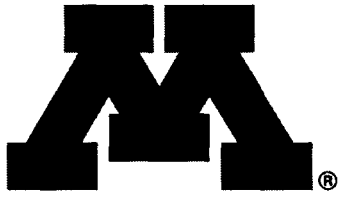
Nitrogen is an essential nutrient for plant growth, but too much causes a few species to flourish at the expense of

- more -

Nitrogen is an essential nutrient for plant growth, but too much causes a few species to flourish at the expense of their competitors. Within an ecosystem, species have different roles that contribute to the productivity and stability of the community. When some species are missing, the functioning of the ecosystem as a whole is impaired.

The study was performed in three prairie-like grassland ecosystems at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. All of the plots were treated with varying levels of nitrogen addition from 1982 to 1991. Treatments to half of the plots in one of the fields were stopped after 1991, but nitrogen addition has been continued in all other plots.

The study was funded by the National Science Foundation.



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February 7, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

U OF M PROFESSORS CHEW ON 21ST CENTURY FOOD ISSUES

Quality, availability, accessibility and the cost of healthy foods all play a major role in human health. But for consumers, competing viewpoints can make choosing “healthy” a confusing proposition. A symposium next week at the University of Minnesota offers the opportunity to learn about the consequences of the debates over organic versus conventional food systems, local versus global production and how new food ingredients can influence human health.

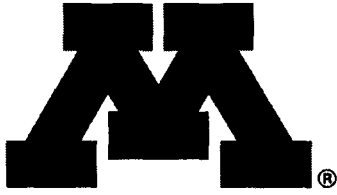
The Solution-Driven Science Symposium, “Food Systems and Human Health,” will be held 12:30 to 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14, at the St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Speakers include internationally known food policy expert Katherine Clancy, who is currently a visiting scholar at the university; the university’s Food Industry Center director Jean Kinsey; Vince Fritz, a professor of horticultural science who works with enhancing the nutritional value of vegetables; and Francisco Diez, a food science and nutrition professor who specializes in the safety of fresh foods. Short presentations by each speaker will be followed by a panel discussion covering all four themes.

For more information including registration and an agenda for the symposium, visit www.cfans.umn.edu/Solution-Driven_Science_Symposium.html

The Solution-Driven Science symposia are an ongoing series sponsored by the University of Minnesota’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

WHAT: “Food Systems and Human Health”
WHEN: 12:30 to 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14
WHERE: St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul



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February 7, 2008

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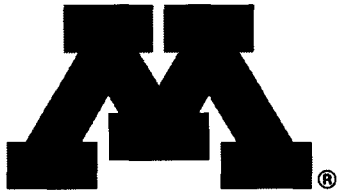
TCF BANK STADIUM ALREADY HELPING BREWSTER BRING IN TOP-LEVEL RECRUITING CLASSES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL TCF Bank Stadium, set to open September 2009, is one of the reasons why Gophers Football Head Coach Tim Brewster said he was able to recruit one of the top classes of football players in 2008.

To watch and/or download a video on the new stadium's impact on the recruiting class, as well as the newly-released virtual tour of TCF Bank Stadium, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/stadium-vtour.htm

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For Immediate Release

February 7, 2008

Contacts: *Irma McClaurin, executive director, Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center, University of Minnesota, (612) 624-2798*
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8028

A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CURRENT MORTGAGE CRISIS AND HOW IT IMPACTS NORTH MINNEAPOLIS AT U OF M FEB. 13

The University of Minnesota's Institute for Advanced Studies, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center and its community partners -- the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council and the University Northside Partnership -- will hold a conversation about the current mortgage crisis as it impacts North Minneapolis, an area which has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the state.

The meeting, which will take place from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13 in Room 306 Folwell Hall, 9 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis, is an opportunity for interested and concerned faculty, staff, community leaders, organizations and residents, as well as city and county officials, and applicable non-profits to share information about their experiences, knowledge, research and programs related to the mortgage crisis in North Minneapolis.

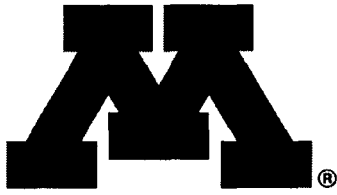
The goal of the conversation is to attain a better understanding of how this crisis has had a negative impact on individual residents, property values and the stability and viability of North Minneapolis.

Organizations working on this topic are invited to bring materials and handouts for a resource table.

For more information about the mortgage crisis conversation call (612) 626-5149.

WHEN: 2:30 - 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13

WHERE: Room 306 Folwell Hall, 9 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2008

Contacts: *Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770*
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

ACTIVIST DANIEL ELLSBERG VISITS THE U OF M FOR A "GREAT CONVERSATION" WITH POLITICAL EXPERT

~ Civil disobedience also subject of "Peace Crimes," a co-production of the Minnesota History Theatre and U of M theatre department ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Daniel Ellsberg risked imprisonment by leaking the top-secret Pentagon Papers and helping end the Vietnam War. This month, he discusses his insights about the roles of citizens in a democracy, particularly with regard to today's war in Iraq, with University of Minnesota professor Larry Jacobs in "American Democracy in Dissent." The discussion, the first of three "Great Conversations" in 2008 from the College of Continuing Education, will take place 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

The event will be held in conjunction with the world premiere of a play, "Peace Crimes," a co-production of the university's theatre and dance department and Minnesota History Theatre. The play, which premieres Thursday, Feb. 21, grounds the debate over civil disobedience in the history of the Minnesota 8, a group of local dissidents who served jail time for non-violent resistance activities during the Vietnam War.

About Great Conversations' "American Democracy in Dissent"

Since its inception in 2002, "Great Conversations" has connected more than 15,000 Minnesotans with thought leaders, risk takers and peacemakers for energetic conversations that bring issues into sharp focus. Each event features an outstanding university scholar in public dialogue with a guest of their choice.

Political science professor Larry Jacobs holds the university's Walter and Joan Mondale Chair for Political Studies and is director of the Center of the Study of Politics and Governance at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Daniel Ellsberg is a former U.S. military analyst who precipitated a national uproar in 1971 when he leaked the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret study of the U.S. government's decision-making during the Vietnam War. The publication of this document set in motion a chain of historic events that ended both the Nixon presidency and the Vietnam War.

- more -

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the Vietnam War.

A dessert reception follows the discussion. Remaining events in the 2008 Great Conversations series are: Kerry Kennedy and Barbara Frey on “Defending Human Rights” (May 13) and Daniel Pink and Darlyne Bailey on “Revenge of the Right Brainers” (June 3).

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.cce.umn.edu/conversations or call (612) 624-2345.

About “Peace Crimes”

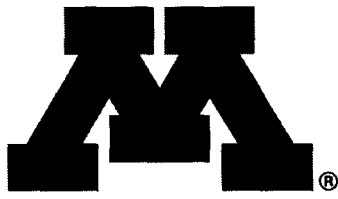
Directed by Ron Peluso and starring an energetic mix of area professional actors and University of Minnesota students, “Peace Crimes” examines the price of protest and patriotism in a divisive time in American history that, in some ways, parallels our current cultural dialogue -- and in other ways is shockingly different. The lives of the eight young men known as the Minnesota 8 were never the same, nor were their family’s lives or the lives of hundreds of thousands of others touched by the draft and the Vietnam war.

Were they sentenced for heroic acts of civil disobedience or were they terrorists? Were they patriots or traitors? Were their crimes “peace crimes” or just felonies?

More information and show times are available at historytheatre.com/press.asp

WHEN: Great Conversations:
7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26

WHERE: Great Conversations:
Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214

TARONE NAMED DIRECTOR OF CARLA AT U OF M

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Elaine Tarone has been selected as the full-time director of the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), after an extensive international search. Tarone is the current director of CARLA and professor in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program. She will begin her full-time position on August 1.

Tarone received her master's degree and a doctorate in speech science (Interdisciplinary Program in Applied Linguistics) from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a diploma in applied linguistics from Edinburgh University in Scotland. She joined the University of Minnesota in 1979 as an assistant professor in the linguistics department and became a professor in 1990. She now serves as a faculty member in the ESL program. She was founding director of CARLA in 1992-93 and has been director since 1996.

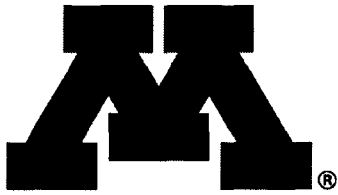
In 2000, she received the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Post baccalaureate, Graduate and Professional Education and received the TESOL Distinguished Research Award in 2007. She is the author or co-author of eight books and dozens of papers in scholarly journals.

She served as president of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in 1991-92, after organizing AAAL's first independent international conference. She is an internationally recognized speaker on the topics of social and cognitive aspects of second language learning.

CARLA is one of 15 national Language Resource Centers (LRC), whose role is to improve the nation's capacity to teach and learn foreign languages effectively. Beginning in 1993 with United States Department of Education (USDE) Title VI Language Resource Center program funding, CARLA has sponsored a number of research and action initiatives designed to advance the quality of second language teaching, learning and assessment. Current CARLA initiatives focus on immersion education and research, less commonly taught languages, second language assessment, web-based grammar strategy instruction for Spanish and using technology in second language teaching.

- more -

In addition to its research initiatives, CARLA supports the professional development of second language teachers through an annual summer institute program and a wide array of international conferences and regional seminars. CARLA also offers a number of resources to language teachers across the globe.



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February 8, 2008

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801*

NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP ARTIST ALISON BECHDEL TO SPEAK AT THE U OF M

~ Dykes To Watch Out For creator to deliver McNaron Lecture ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Nationally syndicated comic strip artist and graphic novelist Alison Bechdel will deliver the Ninth McNaron Lecture in Arts & Culture at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6 in Cowles Auditorium at the Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The Steven J. Schochet Endowment for GLBT Studies & Campus Life is pleased to present this lecture as part of the University of Minnesota's Steven J. Schochet Distinguished Lecture Series. This event is free and open to the public.

Alison Bechdel, whose memoir *Fun Home* was No. 1 on TIME Magazine's 10 Best Books of 2006, is also the author of *Dykes To Watch Out For* (DTWOF), a comic strip syndicated in over 50 alternative newspapers and publications nation-wide. It is also available in several languages and has been collected into a book series with over 250,000 copies in print.

Notably, "Madwimmin Books" in DTWOF is based on Amazon Bookstore Cooperative here in south Minneapolis, according to Barb Wieser of the cooperative.

Fun Home "must be the most ingeniously compact, hyper-verbose example of autobiography to have been produced," said the New York Times.

The New York Times also hailed *Fun Home* as a "pioneering work, pushing two genres (comics and memoir) in multiple new directions, with panels that combine the detail and technical proficiency of R. Crumb with a seriousness, emotional complexity and innovation completely its own," enabling the "magic of the graphic format" to shine through.

Bechdel was a St. Paul resident in the late eighties. "It is odd to be at a party with Alison, and later find some

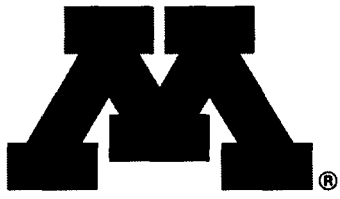
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Bechdel was a St. Paul resident in the late eighties. “It is odd to be at a party with Alison, and later find some ridiculous thing you've said come out of the mouth of one of her characters,” said Linnea Stenson, dean of Academic Affairs at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Stenson was a program director of the former Schochet Center at the University of Minnesota.

This lecture is named after Toni McNaron, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Minnesota and multiple award winning teacher and scholar who has worked with graduate and undergraduate students for more than 35 years at the University of Minnesota.

Following the lecture, the University of Minnesota's Office for University Women invites members of the public to a reception for Alison Bechdel and book signing.



EXPERT ALERT

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February 11, 2008

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Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612)
626-5754, bbeyers@umn.edu

A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE ON CHOCOLATE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

~ "Quick Quotes" sound bites available ~

Valentine's Day means flowers, hearts ... and chocolate. Nearly everybody likes chocolate and Americans consume more than 3 billion pounds of it each year. But why does chocolate come in so many different forms and flavors? A University of Minnesota expert who can explain why is:

Gary Reineccius, professor of food science and nutrition at the University of Minnesota

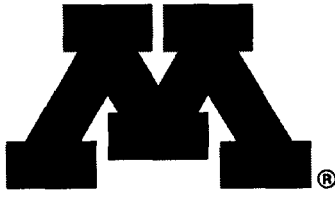
Reineccius (Re-NEX-sis) is an expert on how chocolate is manufactured and how flavor is formed in it. He can explain where chocolate comes from, its nutritional content, current trends in the market and the differences in quality and price in chocolates.

"Quick Quotes" sound bites package with Reineccius:

<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/chocolateQQ.mp3>

To interview Reineccius, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Becky Beyers at (612) 626-5754 or bbeyers@umn.edu.

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For Immediate Release

February 11, 2008

Contacts: *Black Student Union, (612) 624-8938*
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M BLACK STUDENT UNION TO HOST LECTURE ON BLACKS IN AMERICAN COMEDY

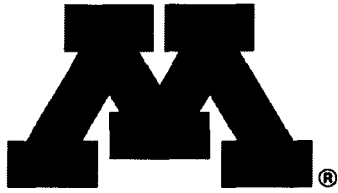
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL The University of Minnesota's Black Student Union continues its African Cultural History Month celebration with a lecture on blacks in comedy from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 in room 12, Murphy Hall, 206 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Bambi Haggins, a University of Michigan professor, will deliver the lecture titled: "White Like Me? Dave Chappelle's Performance of Whiteness and the Comic Discourse of Racial Representation."

Haggins has written a popular book, "Laughing Mad: The Black Comic Persona in Post Soul America," which examines the place of blacks in comedy as comedic social discourse in American popular consciousness. Haggins' current research includes examinations of "for us, by us" about blacks in comedy and the significance of insider laughter. Her past work includes black audiences' reading of the "American Dream" on television, and media literacy projects with high school students.

The Black Student Union and African Student Union have planned many other events throughout the month. For a complete listing go to the Black Student Union Web site at <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~bsu/main.html>.

WHEN: noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15
WHERE: Room 12, Murphy Hall, 206 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis



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February 11, 2008

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

U OF M PRESIDENT BRUININKS TO TESTIFY AT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE HEARINGS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL In the next two weeks, University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will appear before both a Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate committee regarding the U of M's 2008 capital request. More information, including a video feature about the university's request can be found at: www.capitalrequest.umn.edu

Bruininks' hearing schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 14

12:30 - 2 p.m.

House Higher Education and Workforce Development Policy and Finance Division

Room 5, State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, St. Paul

Thursday, Feb. 21

Senate Higher Education Budget and Policy Division

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

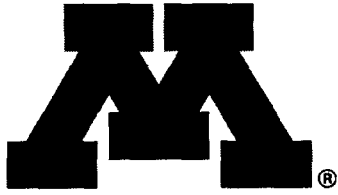
Senate Higher Education Committee

Room 123, State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, St. Paul

WHEN: 12:30 - 2 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 14 and 12:30 - 1 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 21

WHERE: Feb. 14: Room 5, State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, St. Paul

Feb. 21: Room 123, State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, St. Paul



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February 12, 2008

Contacts: *Michael McCarthy, Center for Transportation Studies, (612) 624-3645*
Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214

THE FUTURE OF VEHICLE SAFETY IS AT THE U OF M

The most advanced piece of technology isn't your cell phone, television or iPod. You may be surprised to learn that it is most likely your car.

Every year, vehicles are becoming more technologically advanced to make you safer. Now, the Winter Luncheon at the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) will highlight the future of transportation technologies and how those high tech tools are being developed between the government, the auto industry and researchers to make these advances.

Ronald Medford, the senior associate administrator for vehicle safety at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation, will be the featured speaker at the event from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13 at Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis.

Medford will discuss how the NHTSA works with CTS to research advances in driver behavior monitoring technologies to prevent crashes. He will also discuss one of the newest research collaborations to develop in-vehicle technologies to combat impaired driving, which has quickly become a top policy priority in Washington and Minnesota.

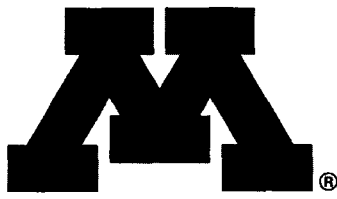
The Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute, part of CTS, sponsors the event.

Registration is available online at: http://register.cce.umn.edu/Course.pl?sect_key=181178

WHAT: CTS Winter Luncheon
WHEN: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13
WHERE: Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis

- more -

**Media interested in attending should contact Mike McCarthy, Center for
Transportation Studies, (612) 624-3645**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2008

Contacts: *Jeff Heegaard, executive director of 1000 Friends of Minnesota, (651) 312-1000*
Edward Goetz, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, (612) 624-8737,
egoetz@umn.edu
Mike Green, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), (612) 625-7501

1000 FRIENDS OF MINNESOTA, U OF M CENTER FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS, AND THE HUMPHREY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS LAUNCH "COMMUNITY GROWTH OPTIONS," A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO ASSIST FAST-GROWING MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES

~ The \$1.9 million in McKnight Foundation Grants Mark the Beginning of a Six-Year Project to Change How Communities Plan for Development ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The McKnight Foundation recently awarded two complementary grants to project partners 1000 Friends of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) and the U of M Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs to fund Community Growth Options (CGO), a joint project to help Minnesota communities address the challenges of rapid growth. 1000 Friends of Minnesota, a statewide nonprofit membership organization working on connections between development patterns, the health of our communities and the environment, received a two-year grant of \$1.5 million to work with 10 rapidly growing Minnesota communities. CURA and the Humphrey Institute received a two-year grant of \$400,000 to engage urban planning faculty and graduate students in research that will serve both the participating communities and the educational community.

The McKnight Foundation grants support the first two years of a planned six-year demonstration project that will focus on the specific needs of rapidly growing Minnesota communities. CGO will work with 10 communities to help foster greater choices in how they grow. Through direct financial assistance, CGO will support selected communities in their work with local planning firms to develop a shared vision for their community, create and revise ordinances to support that vision and develop implementation procedures and the technical infrastructure to make these local visions come alive.

"The funding of this project by the McKnight Foundation represents an important shift in how Minnesota plans for its future," said Jeff Heegaard, executive director of 1000 Friends of Minnesota. "At the conclusion of the six-year project, we will have demonstrated a process whereby growing communities can develop their vision and then implement that vision to ensure the healthiest future for their community—one that addresses livability, local identity, physical well-being and planned open space and conservation." Ideally the project will foster and

- more -

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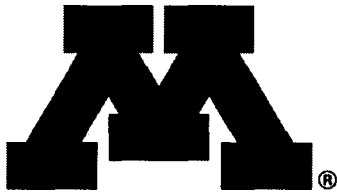
sustain long-term demand for a balanced growth approach to community development in the participating communities.

In addition to the financial assistance the selected communities will receive, they also will have access to educational programming and tools that most small communities could not otherwise afford. The university partners in the project will help identify tools and techniques to manage growth on the edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area in ways that make development more sustainable, environmentally responsive and economically efficient. The project partners also will learn from the participating communities and refine best practices that can be reproduced in cities and counties across the state.

“Communities at the metropolitan edge generally welcome assistance that helps them identify the problems and possibilities that come from growth, and that helps citizens and decision makers plan for the long term and respond to immediate issues and pressures,” said Jim Solem, CGO advisory committee chair. “The University of Minnesota can be a great resource in this regard if the assistance can be structured to meet the needs of local communities. CGO will provide the right combination of resources and people to really help growing communities understand and respond to the issues that lie ahead.”

Faculty and graduate students who participate in the project will also benefit directly from the collaboration. “The Community Growth Options program provides a wonderful teaching, research and outreach opportunity for the University,” said professor Ed Goetz, director of the Urban and Regional Planning program at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. “Our students will be able to supplement their classroom experience with direct involvement in the growth challenges facing communities on the rapidly developing fringe of the metropolitan area. Faculty will have the opportunity to pursue research with direct applicability to the needs of edge communities. And communities will benefit from the expertise, energy and insights of university students and faculty.”

CGO will officially begin in March 2008, when interested communities are invited to submit proposals to participate in the project. Ten communities will be selected to take part in the six-year process. The full Request for Proposals will be posted on the 1000 Friends of Minnesota Web site at www.1000fom.org once the RFP is finalized. Communities that would like to apply for the program or receive more information about the process are encouraged to contact Lisa Bigaouette, associate director, 1000 Friends of Minnesota at (651) 312-1000 or cgo@1000fom.org.



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February 13, 2008

Contacts: Martha Douglas, University of Minnesota Foundation, (612) 626-9712

JACK SCANLAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED AT THE U OF M

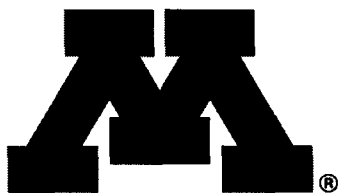
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Foundation has announced that a scholarship in memory of Thief River Falls native, university alumnus and distinguished American diplomat Jack Scanlan has been established and efforts are underway to raise funds to endow the scholarship.

The Jack Scanlan Memorial Student Project for Amity among Nations (SPAN) Scholarship will provide scholarships for students in the SPAN program, an international learning experience in which students travel abroad to conduct research on a self-chosen topic. Scanlan participated in the program as an undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota and counted the experience as one factor that led to his foreign service career. He went to Turkey as a student in 1954 and to Yugoslavia as a faculty advisor in 1955.

Scanlan, who died Nov. 20, 2007, was born and raised in Thief River Falls. He earned his bachelor (1952) and master (1955) degrees from the University of Minnesota and went on to a distinguished career as a foreign diplomat in Russia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Uruguay and other countries. He was ambassador to Yugoslavia from 1985-1989.

SPAN is Minnesota's oldest study abroad programs and is open to students from all Minnesota colleges and universities. Since the program began in 1947, more than 2,500 students have visited 93 countries.

For more information or to contribute to the scholarship fund, contact Mimi Tung at the University of Minnesota Foundation at (612) 624-3333.



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February 13, 2008

Contacts: *Adrienne Hannert, CURA, (612) 625-2086*
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M HOUSING FORUM TO DISCUSS SENIOR CITIZENS AND HOUSING

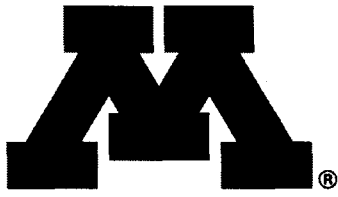
Senior citizens and the housing market will be the topic of discussion at the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) monthly housing forum from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 in room L-110, Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Kathryn Roberts, CEO and President of Ecumen, Minnesota's largest senior housing and aging services company, will give a talk on "The Age Wave of Opportunity." She will discuss the changing housing needs/desires of seniors and how Ecumen is addressing these changes.

The CURA housing forum is a monthly bag lunch discussion of housing issues and research sponsored by CURA.

WHEN: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15

WHERE: Room L-110, Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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February 13, 2008

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Registration: (612) 626-9334, firsttuesday@umn.edu
Mark Cassutt, University news service, (612) 624-8038

**JIM MCREYNOLDS OF CATERPILLAR GLOBAL PAVING AT U OF M TO
PRESENT "WACKO" LEADERSHIP TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE EMPLOYEE
PERFORMANCE**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Jim McReynolds, president of Caterpillar Global Paving, will speak at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

McReynolds, who has been with Caterpillar since 1981, will discuss unique ways to get an employee's attention, improve employee performance and keep staff from checking their minds at the office door. Over his 27-year career with Caterpillar, McReynolds has developed simple rules for encouraging high performance and a desire for continuous improvement among employees. "Managers today have to balance providing a fun work environment, while encouraging hard work and risk-taking and helping their staff achieve success," said McReynolds.

McReynolds techniques or "wacko" rules, as he calls them, have produced a history of success. His teams have received five consecutive J.D. Powers and Associates customer satisfaction awards and earned two Caterpillar Chairman's awards for most improved engagement and highest employee engagement.

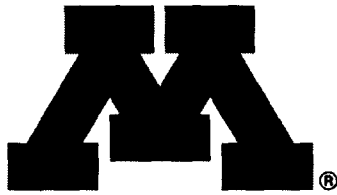
McReynolds received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Indiana University in 1979, and an MBA in 1980 from the University of Missouri. He also completed the advanced management program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

Advance registration by Thursday, Feb. 28, is \$28 and \$35 for walk-ins. The fee includes lunch and parking in the Washington Avenue Ramp. Refund cancellations are required by Friday, February 29. Register by calling (612) 626-9634, visiting www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events or e-mailing firsttuesday@umn.edu.

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHO: Jim McReynolds, president of Caterpillar Global Paving
WHEN: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 4
WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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February 13, 2008

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Justin Ware, University News Service, (612) 626-1720*

UMC RESEARCHERS DEVELOPING EQUIPMENT TO GET DOUBLE DUTY OUT OF BIOFUELS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota, Crookston researchers are developing equipment that would allow farmers to have their biofuels and let their animals eat it, too. A project led by Paul Aakre, assistant professor in agriculture, examines opportunities for individual farmers or farm groups to produce their own biodiesel from crops like canola and sunflowers and use the byproduct of that biodiesel production to feed their animals.

“Implementation and use of bio-fuels from oil seed crops and grain crops have the potential to curb the price gush of petroleum and at the same time provide a steady economic boost to the agricultural economy world wide,” said Aakre.

The biodiesel facility has the capability to handle canola, sunflower or soybean oil, and, by use of a twin screw press, produce crude vegetable oil. The oil will be made into bio-diesel by a process know as transesterification.

The transesterification process reduces the cold flow and the filter plugging associated with vegetable oils and also reduces the typical varnish build up in the combustion chamber of the diesel engine, making the oil more conducive for use in conventional compression ignition engines.

The vegetable oil could also be sold in the food grade market if specific standards are met.

The canola-meal pellets, which result from crushing the seed and removing the oil, will be researched as a possible dairy feed supplement by Harouna Maiga, UMC associate professor in animal science.

Northwest Manufacturing, Inc., from Red Lake Falls, Minn., will test the pellets as a source of fuel for burning in corn stoves as well as for emissions and efficiency.

For more information on the project, contact Elizabeth Tollefson at (218) 281-8432 or ltollefs@umn.edu.



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February 14, 2008

*Contacts: Rebecca Monro, Carlson School, (612) 626-7940
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

U OF M CARLSON SCHOOL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR KATHLEEN VOHS RECEIVES 2008 SAGE YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management assistant professor Kathleen Vohs has been named one of the five 2008 SAGE Young Scholars. The award -- new this year -- is granted by the Foundation for Social and Personality Psychology and SAGE Publications to recognize outstanding early career researchers in personality and social psychology.

The first-ever winners were announced at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology's Ninth annual conference in Albuquerque, N.M., on Feb. 7. Five awards were presented to outstanding young academics who have demonstrated exceptional individual achievements in social or personality psychology. The honor recognizes research that places these early career scholars at the forefront of their peers.

Vohs' research on self-control and self-esteem has been widely published, having appeared in *Science*, *Scientific American Mind* and top academic journals in psychology and marketing. She has published more than 40 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has co-authored four books in the seven years since earning her doctoral degree in psychological and brain sciences.

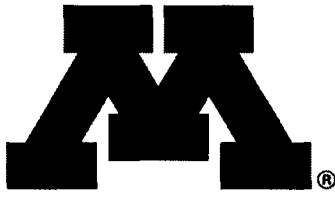
Vohs is distinctive among the inaugural group of SAGE Young Scholars in that she is also a faculty member in a business school. In 2007, Vohs was awarded a University of Minnesota McKnight Land-Grant Professorship, the most competitive university-wide award available to junior faculty members.

In accepting the SAGE Young Scholar Award, Vohs said, "It is an honor and a delight to receive the award, which also recognizes my students, collaborators and mentors, without whom my research would be severely impoverished."

Award winners were selected by a subcommittee of the Board of the Foundation for Personality and Social Psychology, a newly-formed organization established to raise funds and sponsor philanthropic activities advancing the discipline.

- more -

More information on Vohs can be found at carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/kvohs.



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February 15, 2008

*Contacts: Nina Shepherd, sociology media relations, (612) 599-1148
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

AWARD-WINNING NATIONAL MAGAZINE "CONTEXTS" MOVES EDITORIAL OFFICES TO U OF M; INAUGURAL ISSUE AVAILABLE THIS MONTH

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- "Contexts," the award-winning national magazine that looks at the "whys" behind social behavior — from such trends as gourmet comfort foods and suicide bombers, to drag queens and colorblindness in the American court system — has a new editorial home at the University of Minnesota.

A journal of the American Sociological Association, "Contexts" is geared toward a general audience, with cutting-edge science delivered in a lively writing style. The University of Minnesota's department of sociology won the bid for editorial leadership of the magazine last year and is unveiling its inaugural issue of the 7-year-old magazine, which will be on newsstands this month.

"If you're fascinated by social behavior or just enjoy a provocative point of view, you'll want to pick up a copy of the magazine," said Doug Hartmann, associate sociology professor, who with fellow co-editor professor Chris Uggen, likens the magazine to "Psychology Today," and a sort of "Popular Mechanics" for American society.

Their first issue features articles on the growing presence of religion and its study on college campuses, a study on the relationship between crime and immigration by Harvard University sociology professor Robert Sampson, America's hero worship of firefighters and Disney's "Ratatouille" as a study in social hierarchy. In addition to the latest research findings on hot-button topics, the magazine will regularly feature book and culture reviews and photographic essays by established scientists and emerging scholars.

The editors aim to dramatically increase the magazine's circulation among the general public, as well as its reach into high school and college classrooms across the country with its Contexts in the Classroom program, which provides discounted subscriptions and teaching resources to instructors. They also plan to position the magazine's Web site as a portal for the media to access sociologists working on a variety of topics, as well as a forum for practitioners and lay people interested in pop culture and social life.

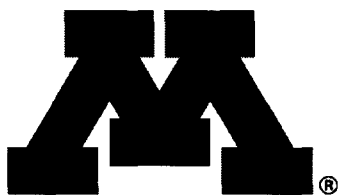
John Rash, pop culture expert and author of "The Rash Report," will speak at a launch party for the magazine at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at the University of Minnesota Bookstore in Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at the University of Minnesota Bookstore in Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

Contexts is available at University of Minnesota Bookstores, at www.contexts.org and select Barnes & Noble bookstores in the Twin Cities area. For more information, call Contexts Managing Editor Amy Johnson Conner at (612) 624-0245.



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February 15, 2008

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

**STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT BRUININKS ON NORTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY TRAGEDY**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks issued the following statement to university students this morning:

Dear students:

Today's headlines hold another painful example of human tragedy on a college campus. This one hits close to home as it is here in the Midwest. Our thoughts and support go out to the students, faculty and staff of Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois.

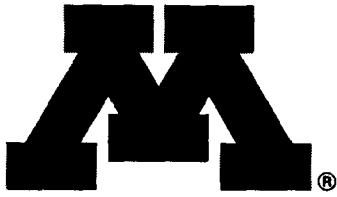
As an educational psychologist by trade, I always seek to learn from these kinds of experiences to better understand the human condition. With this kind of senseless act, however, it is difficult to understand why.

The University of Minnesota has a number of resources available to you if you're experiencing increased stress, depression or struggling to come to terms with these recent tragedies. We are all conditioned to seek out help with our physical health when it's challenged, but unfortunately seem less likely to do so with our mental and emotional well-being.

Please visit www.mentalhealth.umn.edu to learn more about counseling and support services available to you.

Although we may never be able to understand tragedies like the one at NIU, we can learn from them, both as institutions and individuals.

Sincerely,
Robert H. Bruininks
President



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February 15, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

U OF M BUYS NORTHSIDE PLYMOUTH PENN SHOPPING CENTER PROPERTY TO USE FOR NEW URBAN RESEARCH AND OUTREACH/ENGAGEMENT CENTER

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota has purchased the Plymouth Penn Shopping Center property at 2001 Plymouth Ave. N. in North Minneapolis. The property was acquired from the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, Inc. (NRRC) on Feb. 6 at a cost of \$1,125,000. The property comprises 2.19 acres and features a 21,374 square foot structure.

The existing building on the property will be renovated and house the university's newly created Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC). Expected to anchor the university's presence in the community, the center will coordinate and facilitate new and existing university research, outreach and engagement activities related to North Minneapolis, such as the University Northside Partnership, and provide residents easier access to university programs and services.

Three years ago, as part of launching its Urban Agenda, the university identified North Minneapolis as an urban neighborhood with which it could partner to enhance the area's social and economic environment. The University Northside Partnership (UNP) was created as a mechanism to convene the following partners: university representatives, community organizations and residents, and city and county government officials to see how they might leverage their resources to "build healthier families and stronger communities together" in North Minneapolis. The UNP sponsored a series of listening sessions to seek community input into the kinds of activities the UROC would include.

"The purchase of this strategic location on the Northside is the foundational piece of the university's vision to create new and support successful existing partnerships between the community and the university," said Robert Jones, senior vice president for system academic administration. Irma McClaurin, associate vice president for system academic administration and executive director of the Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center added, "by investing university resources to address real world issues like education, economic development, employment, poverty and health -- while affirming and supporting community strengths and assets -- together we hope to enhance the quality of life in North Minneapolis."

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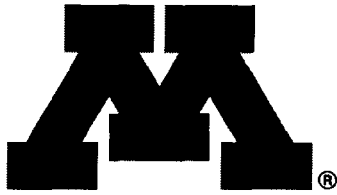
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

we hope to enhance the quality of life in North Minneapolis.”

Current plans call for renovating the exterior of the building, including new landscaping, parking lot, roof, heating and air conditioning system, wood siding, store fronts and glass and painting.

The existing interior will be gutted and replaced. In total all exterior and interior renovations are expected to cost up to an additional \$2.1 million.

Renovation work will start after two remaining tenants have vacated the building over the next two months. It will take approximately three months to design and program and up to another six months to complete the renovations. Occupancy is tentatively scheduled for December 2008.



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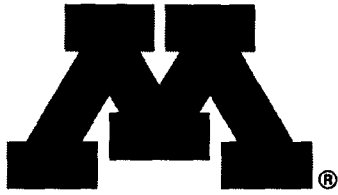
Contacts: Jamie Proulx, University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute

WASHINGTON POST COLUMNIST E.J. DIONNE TO SPEAK ON FAITH AND POLITICS AT THE U OF M.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne will talk about his new book, *Souled Out: Reclaiming Faith and Politics after the Religious Right* (Princeton University Press 2008), from 3 to 4:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 18, at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

In his new book, Dionne writes about the historical relationship between politics and religion and highlights today's changing dynamic between these two forces. He will talk about this relationship and the fading political power of the religious right. Professor Larry Jacobs will moderate the discussion.

This presentation is free and open to the public and books will be available for purchase. The program is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance.



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For Immediate Release

February 15, 2008

Contacts: *Linda M Roberts, Assistant Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, (612) 626-7857*
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF EQUITY AND DIVERSITY TO HOST BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST

~ 200 elementary students to visit with Gopher coaches, athletes ~

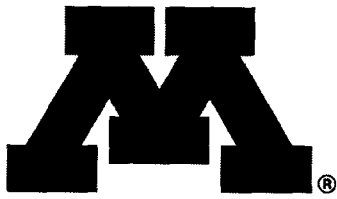
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL The University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics Department and the Office of Equity and Diversity will host 200 students from Maxfield Elementary School in St. Paul and Richard Green Central Park School in Minneapolis for an essay contest from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19 at Williams Arena, 1925 University Ave. S.E. Minneapolis.

The essay contest is part of the U of M's Black History Month celebration. The students, grades 5 to 6, have been assigned a writing task: to write an essay about a famous African American in Minnesota history. They will submit the essays before Feb. 19 and U of M athletes will read and select the winners.

On Feb. 19, students will meet with Gopher athletes at 11 a.m. At 11:45, Gopher basketball coaches Tubby Smith and Pam Borton, Vice President and Vice Provost of Equity and Diversity and associate athletic director Leo Lewis will welcome the students. After lunch, the visitors will tour Williams Arena and the Sports Pavilion. The essay contest winners will be announced at about 1:30 p.m.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19

WHERE: Williams Arena, 1925 University Ave. S.E. Minneapolis



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February 15, 2008

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PANEL AT U OF M TO EXPLORE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF A WAR-TORN KENYA

The University of Minnesota's department of family social science, in partnership with the Center for Victims of Torture, will be exploring the effects of the current social upheaval in Kenya 5:30-7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 22 in Room 33 of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

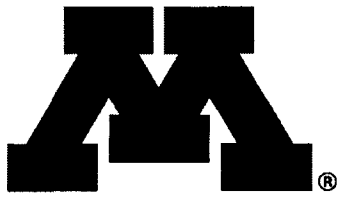
The focus of the event is to create dialogue around what people may be experiencing physically, emotionally and psychologically due to current events in Kenya. This event will reflect on self-care and healing, and how we can help those here and in Kenya. Panelists will also share information on community resources for individuals and families.

Moderator Liz Wieling, a professor in the department of family social science, brings a wealth of knowledge in multiculturalism, disparities in mental health and treatments for mass trauma. Rounding out the panel are Pauline Boss, a professor in the department of family social science and a pioneer in the interdisciplinary study of family stress; Paul Orieny, a Kenyan-born doctoral candidate in the department of family social science who is researching healing practices in family therapy; Patricia Shannon, a professor and psychologist from the Center of Victims of Torture; and Alice Tindi, a social worker with the Center of Victims of Torture and a developer of Minnesota's first African food shelf.

To provide a safe context for participants, panelists will not discuss the political aspects of Kenya's unrest. Parents are encouraged to bring children to the discussion. This event is free and open to the public.

WHEN: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 22

WHERE: Room 33, McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul



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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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For Immediate Release

February 15, 2008

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BUILDS I-35W BRIDGE MODEL FOR NTSB

University of Minnesota civil engineering junior Rachel Gaulke will showcase a 1/200th-scale model of the former I-35W bridge she built for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) at a special viewing from 2-3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19 in room 129 (enter through room 122), Civil Engineering Building, 500 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Minneapolis.

The model, approximately five feet long, will be shipped in a large crate to Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, Feb. 20 where it will be used by engineers at NTSB for various presentations to help visualize and explain information related to the bridge collapse and its causes. NTSB contracted the University of Minnesota to produce the model because of its familiarity with the bridge. The budget for the model was about \$6,000, including labor and materials.

Civil engineering professor Carol Shield received the call from NTSB and chose Gaulke for the project because of her attention to detail and excitement for working on the project. "This is a terrific opportunity for one of our undergraduate students to contribute to the profession," Shield said. Gaulke estimates that she has spent more than 100 hours over the last two months building the model.

"I believe that the most important and useful thing I have learned in doing this project is time management. It has taken a lot longer to complete than I had ever expected," Gaulke said. "I also learned the importance of precision and accuracy, and what can go wrong if measurements and calculations are not perfect."

Gaulke used bridge plans and computerized drawings to make her calculations. The model is made primarily of model railroad parts and painted to identify tension and compression members of the bridge to illustrate the structural forces affecting the bridge.

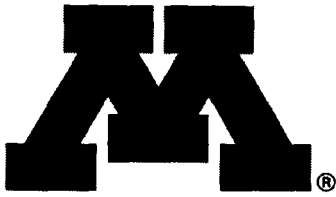
WHAT: University of Minnesota undergraduate student unveils a 1/200th-scale model of the former I-35W bridge she built for NTSB

WHEN: 2-3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHERE: Room 129 (enter through room 122), Civil Engineering Building, 500 Pillsbury Drive S.E.,
Minneapolis



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXPERT ALERT

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February 18, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

U.S. INTERESTS HINGE HEAVILY ON THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S PAKISTANI ELECTIONS

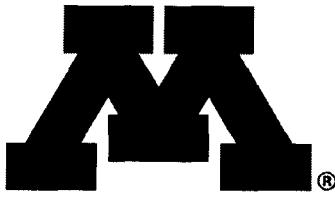
After being delayed by the assassination of former premier Benazir Bhutto in December, Pakistanis will go to the polls today in parliamentary elections. Much is to be determined for the U.S. with these elections as the stability of Pakistan is considered an important part of anti-terrorism strategy. A University of Minnesota expert who can analyze the country and its politics is:

William Beeman, University of Minnesota chair and professor of anthropology

Beeman says, as a nuclear weapons carrying nation with alleged ties between its intelligence agency and the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, a more chaotic Pakistan would, in simple terms, "be very bad." Also at play is the multi-ethnic nature of the population, the large disparity gap in income levels and unresolved conflicts with India.

To interview Beeman, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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February 18, 2008

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

'SUPPORT THE U DAY' AT THE CAPITOL IS WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

~ State Auditor Rebecca Otto will be the featured speaker ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota students from around the state will rally at the Minnesota State Capitol at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 20. The annual event brings together students, alumni and other supporters from all five university campuses -- the Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, Crookston and Rochester -- to meet with legislators, share their personal U stories and discuss the importance of the U to the state of Minnesota.

“‘Support the U Day’ is a great opportunity for students, faculty and staff and all U boosters to participate in the legislative process,” said Emma Olson, president of the Minnesota Student Association. “This day helps to create a sense of community among university supporters behind the capital request and shows how they can truly make a difference for the U.”

Attendees will literally get the chance to show their support as they amass in the Rotunda, hoisting up giant block “M” cut-outs.

In attendance will be University President Robert Bruininks, university student leaders and State Auditor Rebecca Otto, a university alumnus, who will give the keynote speech on the role education has played in her life and highlight the importance of higher education in the state of Minnesota.

“A strong U is vital to a strong economy in Minnesota,” said Otto. “Good facilities are necessary to deliver high quality education. These bonding requests are part of making wise investments as a state to keep our economic engine running smoothly in the future.”

Before the rally, at 11:30 a.m., 60 fifth-graders, their teachers and parents from Pratt Community School in Minneapolis will gather in the Rotunda for a special presentation to Minnesota Rep. Alice Hausman for her support of the Bell Museum of Natural History request. The students will be carrying a large handmade sculpture of a moose and wolf (representing the life-size bronze moose and wolves outside the current Bell Museum), along with a homemade thank-you card for Hausman and an oversized petition in support of the Bell

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Museum's legislative request.

For more information on the U's capital request, including a first-ever video feature, visit:

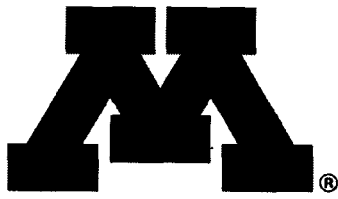
<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/govrel/capitalrequest/videos.html>

The schedule of events is as follows:

Noon - Rally in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda

12:45 p.m. - Lunch in the Great Hall, Minnesota State Capitol

1:00 p.m. - Meetings with legislators



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February 18, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEGAL SERVICE AND COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER OFFER CAREERS IN LAW FORUM

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University Student Legal Service, together with the Career and Community Learning Center, (CCLC) is sponsoring a Careers in Law Forum from 12-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Coffman Memorial Union Great Hall, 300 Washington Ave. S.E. Minneapolis. The event is free and open to all university students as well as others interested students in the Twin Cities area.

From 12 to 2:00 p.m. individuals will have an opportunity to meet with the law school admissions counselors as well as representatives from various law-related agencies to discuss career and educational opportunities. In addition to law schools, participants include paralegal certification programs, corrections and law enforcement. Students will also be able to gather information about law school test preparation and pre-law advising.

Law schools attending will include: California Western School of Law, University of San Diego School of Law, University of Wisconsin School of Law, University of Minnesota School of Law, St. Thomas University School of Law, Willamette School of Law, Hamline University School of Law, University of North Dakota School of Law, University of Oregon School of Law, University of Iowa School of Law, University of Colorado School of Law, William Mitchell College of Law, Michigan State University School of Law, Notre Dame Law School and Marquette University School of Law.

Other agencies that will be present include: Minnesota Department of Corrections, St. Paul Police Department, Minnesota State Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hamline University Legal Studies, Test Preparation Resources, U.S. Probation Department, Minnesota Department of Human Resources and Minnesota Paralegal Institute.

From 2:00 until 4:30 p.m. there will be breakout sessions with the law schools and agencies allowing students to meet and learn about various options in greater detail.

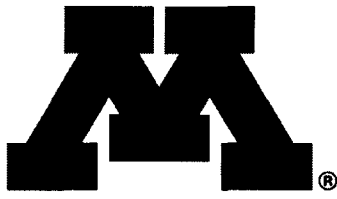
WHAT: Careers in Law Forum

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHEN: 12-4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 27

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union Great Hall, 300 Washington Ave. S.E. Minneapolis



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February 19, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M COLLABORATES WITH THE LOCAL NATIONAL FORUM FOR BLACK PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS TO CELEBRATE BLACK FEMALE LEADERS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Some of the top female African American leaders in Minnesota's public and private sectors will participate in a University of Minnesota Black History Month forum from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S. Minneapolis.

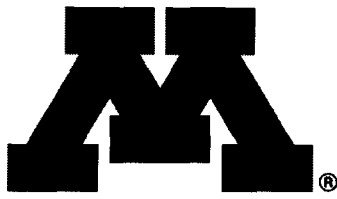
The theme of the conference is: SHEROES -- Standing Tall and Walking Proud Through It All. Conference organizer Lawrencina Oramalu said the purpose of the event is to recognize the accomplishments of the current leaders and honor the contributions of leaders who came before them.

Confirmed panelists include Hennepin County Juvenile Court Judge Tanya Bransford; Chief Resolution Officer of Medtronic, Inc. Dolores Fridge; former University of Minnesota Regent Dr. Josie Johnson; Equal Opportunity Director of the Metropolitan Council Wanda Kirkpatrick; Minnesota Department of Human Rights Commissioner Velma Korbel; Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Executive Director Cora McCorvey; and GMAC-ResCap Managing Director and former Mayor of Minneapolis Sharon Sayles-Belton.

The university's Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice and the Office of the Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration are co-sponsoring the event.

WHEN: 4 to 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21

WHERE: Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.



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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

A CUBA WITHOUT CASTRO

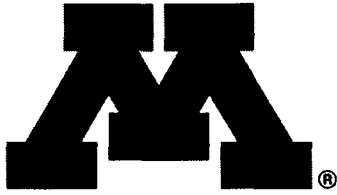
The modern face and voice of communism, Fidel Castro, resigned this morning as Cuba's president. A University of Minnesota expert who can discuss the repercussions is:

David Samuels, political science professor at the University of Minnesota

Professor Samuels is a specialist in the area of Latin American politics. He can comment on Castro's legacy and influence, as well as the past and current relations between the United States and Cuba. He can also give insight into what could develop with Castro's departure.

To interview Samuels, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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February 20, 2008

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Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962, dswain@umn.edu

NWA AND DELTA CARRIER UNLIKELY TO LEAD TO MORE PROFITS

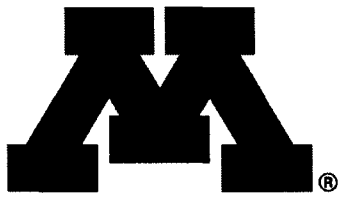
With a merger between Minnesota-based Northwest Airlines and Delta appearing imminent, discussion will soon turn towards the viability of the proposed new carrier. A University of Minnesota expert who can discuss this issue is:

J. Myles Shaver, professor and department chair of Strategic Management and Organization at the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota

Shaver's research interests include corporate expansion through diversification and mergers and acquisitions. Shaver feels a new Delta-NWA carrier will struggle to be profitable because, "it's unlikely to solve the root cause of the problems that are hurting the profitability of airlines, most notably high oil prices and competition from existing carriers."

To interview Shaver, contact Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552 or mathre@umn.edu; or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu

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Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

U OF M PRESIDENT BRUININKS TO VISIT SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will visit a number of Southwest Minnesota communities on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 21 and 22. As part of his visit, Bruininks will meet with community and business leaders and alumni, visit the university's Southwest Research and Outreach Center and tour a number of businesses in the region.

"From renewable energy to livestock production, the university plays an important role in supporting Minnesota's communities and quality of life," said Bruininks. "In my visit to Marshall, Lamberton and Worthington, we'll look at how the U is already working in this important region and seek out new opportunities to involve our research, education and outreach partnerships."

The public portions of Bruininks' schedule include the following:

Thursday, Feb. 21 - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Reception with alumni and community leaders
Prairie Event Center
1507 East College Drive
Marshall, Minn.

Friday, Feb. 22 - 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Tour of U of M Southwest Research and Outreach Center
23669 - 130th Street
Lamberton, Minn.

12:45 - 1:15 p.m. (when event opens to press)

Roundtable discussion with community leaders
Dayton House
1311 - 4th Avenue
Worthington, Minn.



QUICK QUOTES

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February 20, 2008

Contacts: Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

QUICK QUOTES AUDIO: U OF M STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS RALLY AT THE CAPITOL

University of Minnesota students from around the state rallied today at the Minnesota State Capitol for the annual "Support the U Day." The event brought together students, alumni and other supporters from all five university campuses -- the Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, Crookston and Rochester -- to meet with legislators, share their personal U stories and discuss the importance of the U to the state of Minnesota. President Robert Bruininks spoke on the following topics:

The following audio clips are available for media:

Full sound bites package (1:15)

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/supportU_full.mp3

Capital request is investment in future (:26)

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/capital_req1.mp3

Investment in infrastructure across Minnesota (:12)

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/MN_infrastructure2.mp3

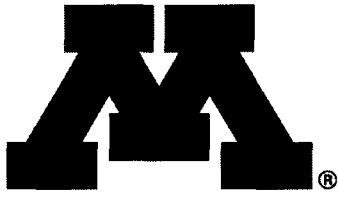
Higher education infrastructure as important as roads and bridges (:18)

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/higher_ed_importance3.mp3

Leadership in world economy and research (:18)

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/leadership_economy_research4.mp3

Quick Quotes are audio clips featuring research, events, announcements and breaking news at the University of Minnesota. They are available for all types of media. For an archive and other useful media services, visit www.unews.umn.edu.



NEWS SERVICE VIDEO

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February 21, 2008

Contacts: Justin Ware, University News Service, (612) 626-1720

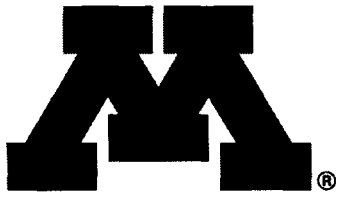
STUDENTS AND STAFF FROM ALL FIVE U OF M CAMPUSES RALLY AT THE STATE CAPITAL ON SUPPORT THE U DAY

University of Minnesota students from around the state rallied at the Minnesota State Capitol on Wednesday. The annual "Support the U Day" event brings together students, alumni and other supporters from all five university campuses -- the Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, Crookston and Rochester -- to meet with legislators, share their personal U stories and discuss the importance of the U to the state of Minnesota.

To watch a video from the 2008 Support the U Day, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/supportU2008.htm

News Service Video and Audio is free and available to news organizations for broadcast and Web use. Multiple formats are available. For more format options or HTML scripts, contact Justin Ware, University News Service, at (612) 626-1720 or ware@umn.edu



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For Immediate Release

February 22, 2008

Contacts: *Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552*
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA UNVEILS NEW EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEB SITE FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

**~ University Police will hand out free coffee and doughnuts from 9-11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 25 to
promote Web site and campus safety and security ~**

The University of Minnesota will unveil a new emergency preparedness Web site on Monday. The site (www.umn.edu/prepared) is where members of the university community can go to find a convenient, central reference for campus health, weather and safety emergency information.

Ensuring the safety and security of the university community is one of the university's top priorities.

To raise awareness about the role the entire university community plays in campus safety and security, members of the University of Minnesota Police Department will serve up doughnuts, coffee and conversation from 9-11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 25 on the East bank end of the Washington Avenue Bridge.

"On Monday, we'd like to say thanks to those who partner with us in community safety," said Greg Hestness, University of Minnesota Police Chief.

Along with donuts and coffee, university police will also be handing out wallet-sized emergency preparedness cards containing important safety phone numbers, "alert" whistles and bottles of hand sanitizer. U President Robert Bruininks and Goldy will make an appearance at the event.

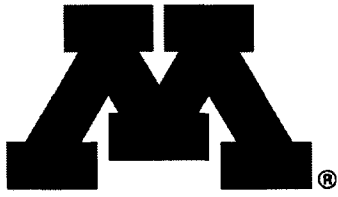
Creating a comprehensive emergency preparedness Web site is one of the latest efforts in continually improving safety and security efforts on campus. In November, the U of M launched TXT-U Emergency Notification System. TXT-U is used to notify students, staff and faculty of emergencies and campus closings. More than 12,000 people have registered for TXT-U since last fall.

A new emergency voice message line is also newly established. 301-SAFE (612-301-7233) provides recorded information about health, safety or weather emergencies on campus.

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHAT: Prepared-U kickoff event
WHEN: 9-11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 25
WHERE: East bank end of Washington Avenue Bridge, Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis



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February 22, 2008

Contacts: *Michael Moore, National Center on Educational Outcomes, (612) 626-0546*
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

U OF M NATIONAL STUDY FINDS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES DO BETTER AFTER RECEIVING SAME DIPLOMA AS CLASSMATES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- In a study of the nation's high school graduation requirements and diploma options, the University of Minnesota has found that some graduation policies may prevent students with disabilities from pursuing the same educational and life opportunities that their classmates have. A report on the study, "Revisiting Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Youth with Disabilities" from the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO), recommends that schools nationwide reassess the underlying assumptions of their graduation requirements and ensure that students with disabilities have sufficient opportunities to learn the material presented on state exit exams.

The study was undertaken to update the status of graduation policies across the nation. It follows up on previous work from NCEO, the last study having been conducted in 2002, just after the implementation of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or the "No Child Left Behind" Act.

Results of the current study indicate some changes in graduation requirements and diploma options since the previous survey was taken. For example, fewer states seemed to be using exit exams as part of their requirements. In addition, states seemed to be decreasing the use of some diploma options, such as the IEP diploma, while increasing others, such as honors diplomas. IEP diplomas, sometimes given to students receiving special education, are often perceived as mere diplomas of attendance, and numerous colleges do not accept them.

The full report is available at <http://cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/Tech49/TechReport49.pdf>

The study reports that more students with disabilities are participating in the general education curriculum and achieving results, and that preparation for adult life and future independence is improved by accessing postsecondary education and employment. In 12 states surveyed, differences between general education and special education students are reduced, that is, all students are held to the same standards, are required to pass the same exams and receive the same diploma.

While there continue to be an array of diploma options available to students with disabilities, the study found

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

While there continue to be an array of diploma options available to students with disabilities, the study found that multiple diploma options may or may not benefit students with respect to future opportunities for postsecondary access and employment. Almost 14 percent of school-age children in America -- some 6.6 million -- receive special education.

“This study raises crucial questions that every state must ask,” said David Johnson, an associate dean at the U of M’s College of Education and Human Development and a lead author of the report. “Do all of our diplomas have value and recognition within our state? Do any prevent students from pursuing post-secondary education or other life opportunities? We’re dealing with some very serious implications here.”

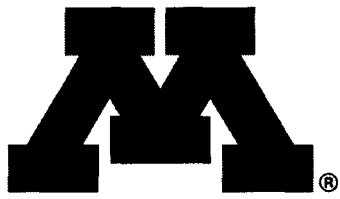
As a result of the study, NCEO recommends that schools:

- Clarify the assumptions underlying state graduation requirements and diploma options
- Ensure students with disabilities have the opportunities to learn materials presented in state and local tests
- Make high school graduation decisions based on multiple indicators of students’ learning and skills
- Clarify implications of granting alternative diploma options for students with disabilities

All 50 states plus the District of Columbia participated in the online survey, which was conducted between May 2006 and April 2007. State directors of special education or their designees were asked varying questions about exit exams and the intended and unintended consequences of single versus multiple degree options. The return rate was 100%.

About the National Center on Educational Outcomes

The National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) is part of the University of Minnesota’s College of Education and Human Development. It was established in 1990 to provide national leadership in designing and building educational assessments and accountability systems that appropriately monitor educational results for all students, including students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency.



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February 22, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M SCHOOL OF MUSIC PIANIST TO PERFORM AS SOLOIST WITH THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA AS PART OF PROGRAM OF RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN MUSIC, FEB. 28 TO MARCH 2

~ St. Paul native Andrew Staupe appears with Minnesota Orchestra for third time ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota music student Andrew Staupe will perform with the Minnesota Orchestra in four concerts featuring Russian and American music from the 19th and 20th centuries. Associate Conductor Mischa Santora leads the program, which includes Staupe's solo turn in Rachmaninoff's "First Piano Concerto," Shostakovich's "Fifth Symphony" and "Blue Cathedral" by contemporary composer Jennifer Higdon.

The concert will be performed three times at Orchestra Hall: 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 28; 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 29; and at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 1. Ticket prices range from \$21 to \$83. For tickets, call Minnesota Orchestra Ticket Services at (612) 371-5656 or visit the orchestra's Web site minnesotaorchestra.org. An additional performance takes place at the Benedicta Arts Center at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 2. For tickets to this concert call (320) 363-5777.

The Friday night performance will be carried live on Classical Minnesota Public Radio. Listeners in Greater Minnesota can listen to the concert by going online at minnesotapublicradio.org. Just click on the green tab for "Classical" and then click on "Listen."

St. Paul native Staupe has appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra on two previous occasions. In March 2005 he played Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals" at Young People's and Adventures in Music Concerts, and at Sommerfest 2006 he performed Liszt's "Second Piano Concerto" under Osmo Vänskä's direction.

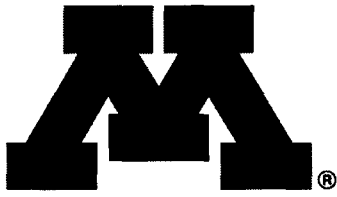
Staupe, the winner of the 2006 WAMSO Young Artist Competition, is currently pursuing a D.M.A in piano performance at the University of Minnesota School of Music, where he has studied with Lydia Artymiw since 2001. He has been featured on A Prairie Home Companion and has given solo performances with the St. Paul Civic Symphony, Kenwood Chamber Orchestra, Bloomington Symphony Orchestra and University of

- more -

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Minnesota Symphony Orchestra.

There will be a question and answer session with Santora after the March 1 performance.



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February 22, 2008

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U OF M CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WINS FUNDS FROM MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The Research and Transition Center on Community Living (RTC) was one of 17 projects to receive funding as part of the MacArthur Foundation's first-ever Digital Media and Learning Competition. RTC received \$72,000 to build a Web site for people with disabilities.

The competition was funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and administered by the Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC). Selected from a pool of 1010 applications, the winning projects are expected to produce promising innovations in the use of digital media for formal and informal learning.

"The ubiquitous nature of digital media has profound implications for learning that we are only just beginning to understand," said Jonathan Fanton, president of the MacArthur Foundation. "The 17 winners represent the best thinking from many disciplines and professions working to harness the power of the Web for learning, and we look forward to the insights they will provide."

RTC's winning project -- "Self-Advocacy Online" -- is an educational and networking Web site for teens and adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities, targeted at those who participate in organized self-advocacy groups. In supporting greater networking, peer exchange, collaboration and communication to a general public, Self-Advocacy Online will extend the reach and interaction among people with disabilities so that they can more effectively speak up for themselves and make their own decisions.

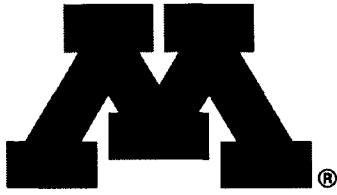
As RTC Project Coordinator Jerry Smith noted, "Self-Advocacy Online is a project we've been developing over the past four years. This grant will help us accelerate development and roll out the Web site within the year." Over the next 12 months the RTC team will post 5 to 7 lessons on self-advocacy topics and create a "site builder" feature, enabling other self-advocacy groups to develop their own Web sites based on Self-Advocacy Online.

- more -

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Competition winners were celebrated at an event in Chicago on Feb. 21. As part of their prize, recipients will receive special consultation support on everything from technology development to management training. They will also be invited to showcase their work at a future conference that will include venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, educators and policymakers seeking the best ideas about digital learning.

The Research and Training Center on Community Living provides research, evaluation, training, technical assistance and dissemination to support the aspirations of persons with developmental disabilities to live full, productive and integrated lives in their communities. It is a part of the College of Education and Human Development's Institute on Community Integration. For more information, visit www.rtc.umn.edu



EXPERT ALERT

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February 25, 2008

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VETOING THE VETO: THE RARE OCCURRENCE OF AN OVERRIDE

It's a tense day at the Capitol as Minnesota lawmakers vie for enough votes to override Governor Pawlenty's transportation bill veto. Minnesota has only seen 13 such gubernatorial overrides since 1939. A University of Minnesota expert who can give some perspective on the issue is:

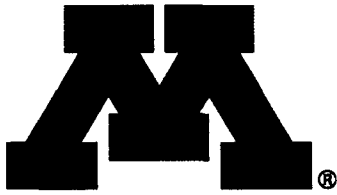
Paula O'Loughlin, University of Minnesota, Morris political science professor

O'Loughlin can explain how unusual veto overrides are and what one today would mean for the rest of the legislative session. She can also give perspective on the public response to an override.

To interview professor O'Loughlin, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

MEDIA NOTE: Professor O'Loughlin is available only via phone.

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For Immediate Release

February 25, 2008

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U OF M HOSTS FORMER BLACK PANTHER BOBBY SEALE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL Former Black Panther Bobby Seale will be the keynote speaker at the University of Minnesota Black Student Union's African Cultural History Month celebration Wednesday, Feb. 27.

Seale, who co-founded the Black Panther Party with Huey Newton in 1966, will give a keynote speech from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Coffman Union Theater. Seale will join U of M students and community people at a dinner in the Humphrey Institute Atrium at 7 p.m. that evening.

Initially formed to protect local communities from police brutality and racism, the Black Panthers had chapters in several major cities and ran medical clinics and provided free food to school children. At its peak, it had a membership of over 2,000. It eventually developed into a Marxist revolutionary group.

WHEN: 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27

WHERE: Coffman Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.



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STORY TIPS

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February 26, 2008

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U OF M RELEASES ANNUAL "10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE U"

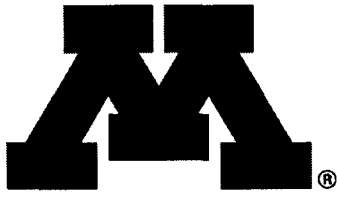
It was founded seven years before Minnesota was even a state and more than a century and a half later it has awarded 13,691 degrees in one year, the most ever. The University of Minnesota recently released its "10 things you need to know about the U," a list of important university facts, stats and fun tidbits.

View the top 10 here:

<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/downloads/10things08.pdf>

For more information or to interview someone about the list, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

Story Tips is a service provided by the University News Service. Delivered regularly, it provides unique story ideas about U research, students and campus life. For an archive and other useful media services, visit www.unews.umn.edu.



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February 26, 2008

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U OF M SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES THREATS OF EXOTIC SPECIES

Invasive species are an important threat to biodiversity and a growing concern to Americans -- their management alone costs the U.S. more than \$138 billion each year, by some estimates. A symposium next week at the University of Minnesota will explore the ecological, economic and policy aspects of pest control, biological control, energy use and conservation. It will be held 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday, March 3 at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Renowned ecologist David Pimentel of Cornell University will be the keynote speaker at the three-day symposium, which is open to the public on Monday. Other public sessions on Monday will address invasive species such as Eurasian water milfoil, the emerald ash borer and soybean aphid. The symposium also features scientific discussions with international biodiversity experts from a variety of scientific disciplines. It is the first in a series of ongoing University of Minnesota dialogues with the public about the research, training and outreach needed to address invasive species concerns.

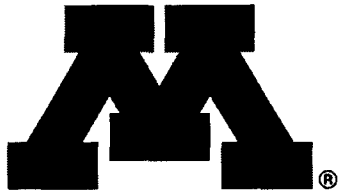
Several faculty members involved are available for pre-seminar interviews on specific invasive species.

Sponsors of the program include the Minnesota Futures Project; the graduate training program in risk analysis for introduced species; the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the College of Biological Sciences. For more details about the seminar, visit <http://isg-igert.umn.edu/symposium>

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday, March 3

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

Media access is available on Monday only. Pimentel's talk is at 9 a.m.; he and other panelists are available for interviews 11-11:30 a.m.



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February 26, 2008

Contacts: Mark Cassutt, University of Minnesota News Service, (612) 624-8038

A STATEMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ON THE CENTRAL CORRIDOR LIGHT RAIL LINE ALIGNMENT

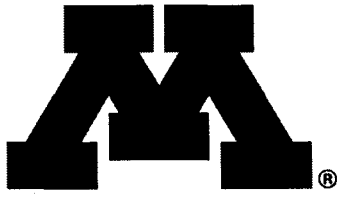
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Tomorrow, Wednesday, Feb. 27, the Metropolitan Council will vote on the route alignment for the Central Corridor Light Rail Line. Kathleen O'Brien, vice president for University Services, released the following statement on the alignment:

"The University of Minnesota is truly a transit oriented community with two thirds of its commuters using bus, carpool or walking options. Over the last 20 years, the university has successfully developed an integrated transportation system that serves all members of the university community, including more than 20,000 students and 2,000 faculty and staff who utilize the university-subsidized mass transit programs. The university alone is expected to generate one third of the daily riders on the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line. Clearly, the university and the Twin Cities need a metropolitan transit system that is reliable, affordable, convenient and safe.

The university's preferred alternatives have been the Northern Alignment and a tunnel under Washington Avenue. Recognizing the schedule and financial constraints on the CCLRT project, the University of Minnesota will continue the Northern Alignment study and explore the design and planning of a Washington Avenue alignment with a pedestrian only mall and no traffic.

Creating a pedestrian mall on the university's east bank campus with traffic diverted from Washington Avenue between the east end of the Washington Avenue Bridge and Walnut Street would require significant mitigations. Specific mitigations must be analyzed and a plan developed that identifies both reliable cost estimates and funding sources, and that is supported by the university, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and the university neighborhoods. In addition, the design and quality of the Washington Avenue mall must result in a vibrant urban environment.

The university is committed to work with our CCLRT partners on this project to address issues and lay a sound foundation for the project."



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February 27, 2008

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ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA FOUNDER TO SPEAK AT U OF M ON MARCH 4

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Bernard Amadei, founding president of Engineers Without Borders-USA, will present a public lecture at the University of Minnesota at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4 in Van Vleck Auditorium, Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. A reception will precede the event at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is recommended at www.it.umn.edu/ewb.

In his lecture, Amadei will discuss the importance of integrating engineering with non-engineering disciplines when addressing the health care, energy, food, land, water, transportation and sanitation needs of developing communities. He will also present the challenges and opportunities associated with practicing engineering in developing nations and the education of engineers and scientists through organizations such as Engineers Without Borders-USA.

Amadei is a professor in the University of Colorado's department of civil, environmental and architectural engineering. He also serves as the director of the Engineering for the Developing Communities Program. Earlier this month, Amadei was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering for the creation of Engineers Without Borders, leadership in sustainable development education, and research on geomechanics.

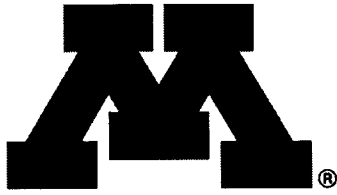
After Amadei's speech, students involved in the University of Minnesota's student chapter of Engineers Without Borders will present information on various projects they are working on around the world.

The event is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology Alumni Society. To register or for more information, visit the Institute of Technology Web site at www.it.umn.edu/ewb.

WHO: Bernard Amadei, founding president of Engineers Without Borders-USA
WHEN: 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4
WHERE: Van Vleck Auditorium, Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Amadei is available for media interviews from 3-4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4.
Call (612) 626-7959 to schedule an interview.**



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February 27, 2008

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gara0030@umn.edu
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082*

U OF M STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SPONSOR WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL EXHIBITION AT HALFTIME OF GOPHER GAME

The University of Minnesota Disabled Student Cultural Center (DSCC) and Office of Disability Services will host a wheelchair basketball exhibition game at halftime of the Gopher women's basketball game against Indiana around 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at Williams Arena, 200 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

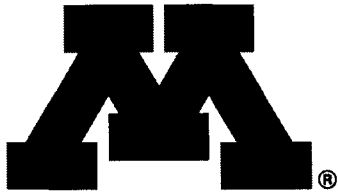
The game will feature a team from Courage Center made up of athletes with disabilities and a team from the U of M Adapted Sports Club, made up of students with or without disabilities.

“One of the objectives of the game is to raise awareness about opportunities on campus for people with disabilities to become more physically active and to participate in recreation and sports,” said DSCC President Rachel Garaghty.

The Adapted Sports Club plays wheelchair basketball every Friday at the U of M Recreation Center. The Adapted Sports Club was formed last spring, becoming the first recreation club at the university designed for students, faculty and staff with or without disabilities.

WHEN: 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28

WHERE: Williams Arena, 200 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis



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February 27, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PROFESSORS RECOGNIZED AS TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO RESEARCH ON SERVICE OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A recent article in *Production and Operations Management* journal recognized the University of Minnesota as ranked third in service operations management research productivity. The article, entitled, "A note on the growth of research in service operations management," provided a historical perspective on the research trends of this emerging field during a time when service sector employment increasingly dominates the global economy. The U ranked only behind Columbia University and MIT in the study. The Carlson School of Management's Operations and Management Science Department and Joseph M. Juran Center for Leadership in Quality played a critical role over the years in the University of Minnesota's research in service operations management. The following professors were cited among the top 27 most productive individual researchers out of 799 individuals in the sample pool.

Professor Arthur Hill, the John & Nancy Lindahl Professor and a faculty affiliate of the Joseph M. Juran Center, and his doctoral student Julie Hays, a Juran Fellow, whose research focus is in service guarantee and service recovery.

Associate Professor Susan Meyer Goldstein, a Juran Scholar, whose research focus is on healthcare service quality.

Professor Kingshuk K. Sinha, the Carlson Family Foundation Professor and director of the Joseph M. Juran Center, whose research is in the quality of information goods, e-service quality, customer loyalty in Internet retailing.

Three other Carlson School doctoral students supported the research of these professors. They are Greg Heim, now assistant professor at Texas A & M's Mays College; Joy Field, now associate professor at the Carroll School of Management at Boston College; and Sriram Thirumalai, now an assistant professor at the David Eccles School of Business at the University of Utah.

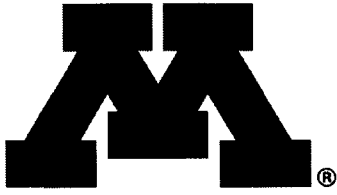
The *Production and Operations Management* Journal article appeared in the November-December 2007 issue and looked at papers published from 1990 to 2006 in top-tier journals including the *Journal of Operations Management*, *Manufacturing and Service Operations Management*, *Production and Operations Management*,

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Management, Manufacturing and Service Operations Management, Production and Operations Management,
Management Science and Operations Research.





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February 28, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PROFESSOR EXAMINES THE PRICE OF DEMOCRACY WHEN FOREIGN INVESTORS “VOTE” WITH THEIR DOLLARS

~ Study indicates foreign investment influenced by voters choices at the ballot box ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A new study by University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management professor Paul Vaaler indicates that when emerging-market countries hold elections they may be determining more than their new government.

Vaaler's research concludes that other foreign constituencies, or multinational corporations (MNC) considering multi-million dollar investments, respond quite predictably to shifting partisan political tides during election years in emerging-market countries. The study is featured in the February issue of the *Academy of Management Journal*.

Vaaler found that when the likely partisan swing is to the right-wing, MNCs announce more deals to build factories, hotels, roads, hydroelectric dams and other projects promoting economic growth, employment and modernization. When political tides swing to the left-wing, new MNC investment projects can decrease dramatically. The prospect of less “investor-friendly” left-wing policies after the election means a slow-down in MNC deals to invest billions and contribute to an emerging democracy's economic development.

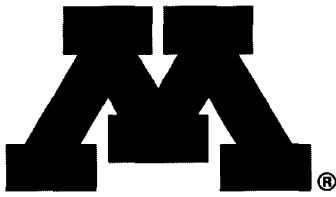
Vaaler, an associate professor of strategic management and organization, drew these conclusions after analyzing more than 400 MNC project investment announcements worth about \$200 billion in 18 emerging-market countries holding 35 presidential elections between 1987 and 2000. His previous research had shown that other foreign financial actors responded to likely partisan shifts after elections in these same countries.

“When I started studying MNCs and their investment decisions I wasn't sure that these same trends would surface,” Vaaler said. “MNCs building new road or water treatment systems are looking at projects with life spans measured in decades. They might not care about temporary policy swings driven by elections. Results show that MNCs care deeply about these swings and respond by increasing or decreasing investments vital to economic development.”

- more -

Such investment trends, says Vaaler, are depicted in recent international elections. In 2000, Mexican voters fed up with the ruling party's 70-year monopoly on presidential power, elected former Coca-Cola executive Vicente Fox, who promised economic policies favoring privatization, deregulation and greater foreign investor protection. MNCs responded that same year with a deluge of new investment projects. On the other hand, in 2006, Bolivian voters frustrated by the lack of broad-based economic improvement after implementing many of the same "free-market" policies, elected left-wing populist Evo Morales. His promises to take greater political control over the country's energy and financial sector won votes at the ballot box, but have also stifled MNC investment.

"Ultimately, there is a price to democracy when elections lead to parties and policies less favorable to foreign investors," concludes Vaaler. "Local candidates, parties and voters in developing countries need to understand these election-year foreign investment trends."



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February 29, 2008

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DARK MATTER EXPERIMENT AT U OF M SOUDAN STATION RETAKES THE LEAD IN COMPETITIVE RACE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Scientists of the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search experiment recently announced that they have regained the lead in the worldwide race to find the particles that make up dark matter. The CDMS experiment, conducted a half-mile underground in a University of Minnesota-operated mine in Soudan, Minn., again sets the world's best constraints on the properties of dark matter candidates.

"With our new result we are leapfrogging the competition," said Blas Cabrera of Stanford University, co-spokesperson of the CDMS experiment, for which the Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory hosts the project management. "We have achieved the world's most stringent limits on how often dark matter particles interact with ordinary matter and how heavy they are, in particular in the theoretically favored mass range of more than 40 times the proton mass. Our experiment is now sensitive enough to hear WIMPs even if they ring the 'bells' of our crystal germanium detector only twice a year. So far, we have heard nothing."

WIMPs, or weakly interacting massive particles, are leading candidates for the building blocks of dark matter, which account for 85 percent of the entire mass of the universe. Hundreds of billions of WIMPs may have passed through your body as you read these sentences.

"We should not be surprised that we still have not detected a WIMP; our limit only eliminates models that predict high densities of dark matter particles in our neighborhood. Most models say that we will have to wait another couple of years before one or two WIMPs interact with our detector (out of the billions that pass through each second without interacting)," said Priscilla Cushman, University of Minnesota physics professor on the project. "Meanwhile, seeing zero events means that our background is under control and ensures our success in identifying the WIMPs when they do appear."

If they exist, WIMPs might interact with ordinary matter at rates similar to those of low-energy neutrinos, elusive subatomic particles discovered in 1956. But to account for all the dark matter in the universe and the gravitational pull it produces, WIMPs must have masses about a billion times larger than those of neutrinos. The CDMS collaboration found that if WIMPs have 100 times the mass of protons (about $100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$) they collide with one kilogram of germanium less than a few times per year; otherwise, the CDMS experiment would have detected them.

"The nature of dark matter is one of the mysteries in particle physics and cosmology," said Dennis Kovar, acting

- more -

associate director for high energy physics in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science. "Congratulations to the CDMS collaboration for improved sensitivity and a new limit in the search for dark matter."

The CDMS experiment is located in the Soudan Underground Laboratory, shielded from cosmic rays and other particles that could mimic the signals expected from dark matter particles. Scientists operate the ultrasensitive CDMS detectors under clean-room conditions at a temperature of about 40 millikelvin, close to absolute zero. Physicists expect that WIMPs, if they exist, travel right through ordinary matter, rarely leaving a trace. If WIMPs crossed the CDMS detector, occasionally one of the WIMPs would hit a germanium nucleus. Like a hammer hitting a bell, the collision would create vibrations of the detector's crystal grid, which scientists could detect. Not having observed such signals, the CDMS experiment set limits on the properties of WIMPs.

"Observations made with telescopes have repeatedly shown that dark matter exists. It is the stuff that holds together all cosmic structures, including our own Milky Way. The observation of WIMPs would finally reveal the underlying nature of this dark matter, which plays such a crucial role in the formation of galaxies and the evolution of our universe," said Joseph Dehmer, director of the Division of Physics for the National Science Foundation.

The discovery of WIMPs would require extensions to the theoretical framework known as the Standard Model of particles and their forces. On Feb. 22, the CDMS collaboration presented its result to the scientific community at the eighth UCLA Dark Matter and Dark Energy symposium.

"This is a fantastic result," said UCLA professor David Cline, organizer of the conference.

The CDMS result tests the viability of new theoretical concepts that have been proposed.

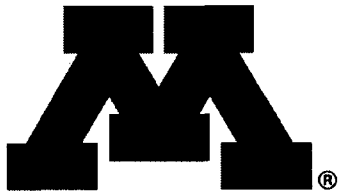
"Our results constrain theoretical models such as supersymmetry and models based on extra dimensions of space-time, which predict the existence of WIMPs," said CDMS project manager Dan Bauer, of DOE's Fermilab. "For WIMP masses expected from these theories, we are again the most sensitive in the world, retaking the lead from the Xenon 10 experiment at the Italian Gran Sasso laboratory. We will gain another factor of three in sensitivity by continuing to take more data with our detector in the Soudan laboratory until the end of 2008."

Fermilab is a DOE Office of Science national laboratory operated under contract by the Fermi Research Alliance, LLC. The DOE Office of Science is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the nation.

NSF is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to more than 1,700 universities and institutions.

Photos and videos are available at:

http://www.fnal.gov/pub/presspass/press_releases/CDMS_Photos2008/index.html



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February 29, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

U OF M LAW SCHOOL'S THEATRE OF THE RELATIVELY TALENTLESS PRESENT "ROBIN HOOD, ESQ."

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Law School's Theatre of the Relatively Talentless (TORT) will be performing its sixth annual musical, "Robin Hood, Esq.," March 7 and 8 at Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis. Like all TORT productions, the musical was written by U of M Law School students.

"Robin Hood, Esq.," is the tale of one law student's transformation -- from a jerk to a champion of justice and free appetizers for the Merry People of the Law School. Opposed at every turn by Interim Dean John, Sherri F. Nottingham, and the hockey team, Robin and the Merry People must endure such harrowing events as an interviewing contest to determine "America's Next Top Law Student."

Tradition dictates cameo appearances by faculty and prominent members of the legal community in each production. Past participants include former Vice President Walter Mondale, former Attorney General Mike Hatch, eighth circuit Chief Judge James Rosenbaum and Senator Amy Klobuchar.

TORT was formed in 2002 with the modest goal of providing a creative outlet for law students and faculty. Each year, more than 70 Law School students shed their serious, studious demeanor to showcase hidden talents of wit, song and dance.

Tickets (\$15 for the general public; \$10 for students with a school ID) are available through Ticketmaster or at the Pantages Theatre box office. University students should email tort@umn.edu for on-campus ticketing. Theater doors open at 6 p.m. and performances start at 7 p.m.

For information on group or special accommodations, email tort@umn.edu or call (612) 309-4468.

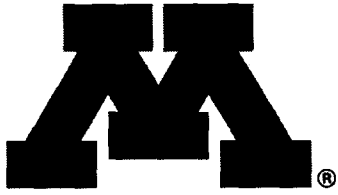
WHAT: "Robin Hood, Esq."

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHEN: 7 p.m., March 7 and 8

WHERE: Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, 55403



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 29, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

U OF M TEAMS UP WITH XCEL ENERGY IN GROUNDBREAKING WIND-TO-BATTERY PROJECT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Xcel Energy, in partnership with the University of Minnesota, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Great Plains Institute, will soon begin testing a cutting-edge technology to store wind energy in batteries.

The research partners will test a one-megawatt battery storage technology to demonstrate its ability to store wind energy and move it to the electricity grid when needed. Fully charged, the battery could power 500 homes for six and one-half hours. Xcel Energy will purchase a sodium-sulfur battery from NGK Insulators, Ltd. that will be an integral part of the project.

“Energy storage is key to expanding the use of renewable energy,” said Dick Kelly, Xcel Energy chairman, president and CEO. “This technology has the potential to reduce the impact caused by the variability and limited predictability of wind energy generation.”

The 50-kilowatt battery modules, 20 in total, will be roughly the size of two semi trailers and weigh approximately 60 tons. They will be able to store about 6.5 megawatt-hours of electricity, with a charge/discharge capacity of one megawatt. When the wind blows, the batteries are charged. When the wind calms down, the batteries supplement the power flow.

“This project is important in determining the feasibility of using chemical batteries to store electricity,” said Ned Mohan, a research collaborator for the project and a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Minnesota. Mohan’s group is conducting related research on storing energy in flywheels.

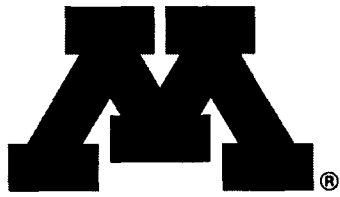
The project will take place in Luverne, Minn., with the battery installation beginning this spring adjacent to a nearby 11-megawatt wind farm owned by Minwind Energy, LLC. S&C Electric Company will install the battery and the associated interconnection components. The battery is expected to be installed and operational by October 2008.

- more -

Xcel Energy is testing emerging technology and energy storage devices as part of its overall Smart Grid strategy, which modernizes and upgrades the grid to allow for easier integration of renewable energy sources.

The project has been selected to receive a \$1 million grant from Minnesota's Renewable Development Fund, pending Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approval this spring. The University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) will be providing additional financial support for this research.

"The wind-to-battery project is a telling example of how the university is working with industry leaders to make a lasting impact across the region," said Dick Hemmingsen, director of IREE. "Through this kind of forward-looking, integrative research, we'll continue to improve and sustain the region's economy, ecosystems and energy security."



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March 3, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

FROM CHINA TO CHATTANOOGA, STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD COLLABORATE IN UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S ADVENTURE LEARNING SERIES

~ Third year of circumpolar expedition promotes online learning with Polar Husky sled dogs ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota, in collaboration with NOMADS Adventure & Education, announced on Monday the launch of the 2008 GoNorth! adventure learning expedition. The third in the five-year adventure learning series, this year's live program will take Team GoNorth! on a 1000-mile, 14-week scientific and cultural voyage traversing the Arctic's most developed region: Fennoscandia, the Arctic regions of Sweden, Norway, and Finland. The free K-12 education program began on Feb. 10, 2008.

Traveling by dog team, GoNorth! gives up-close and personal insights to environmental issues and Arctic realities, including the drastic Arctic climate change. Reports from the trail are then used to help validate current scientific research on climate change.

The largest K-12 adventure learning program in the world, GoNorth! is used in more than 3,300 classrooms in 50 U.S. states and on six continents in 29 countries around the world, including Australia, China, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Pakistan, Brazil, Sweden and Canada.

"It is an incredibly diverse online community of learners, learning not only from the curriculum and topic experts, but maybe most importantly learning from each other in the many collaborative opportunities within the online learning environment," said series education director Aaron Doering, an associate professor of Learning Technologies in the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development and a pioneer in the educational theory of adventure learning. Throughout his time on the expedition, Doering will collect and distribute video of interviews and research via satellite.

The international team for GoNorth! Fennoscandia 2008 is being lead again by world-renowned explorer Paul Pregont. In the past 15 years, Pregont has spent more than 900 days in the expedition tent, traveling 15 extensive expeditions in the circumpolar Arctic - an unmatched feat. He will be joined in the expedition's entirety by GoNorth! program director and Danish native Mille Porsild and Finnish native Aksana Kurola. Doering and Los Angeles-based teacher Wendy Gorton will be traveling for two weeks of the expedition.

GoNorth! Fennoscandia 2008 seeks to answer the question of deforestation -- the significance

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

GoNorth! Fennoscandia 2008 seeks to answer the question of deforestation -- the significance of forests in our daily lives and our role as consumers in pursuing sustainable development. Driven by the adventure learning expedition and in collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), field studies focusing on the realities of climate change will engage more than three million students in real-world social and natural science.

Equipped with high-speed satellite communication equipment, GoNorth! will provide indigenous communities along their route the opportunity to communicate online with its worldwide audience young and old. Though the journey will cross the borders of three nations, it will take place in the realm of one people - the Saami - in their ancestral lands of Sapmi. An area the size of Montana (approximately 150,000 square miles), Sapmi is believed to have first been settled at the end of the last ice age, roughly 11,000 years ago. The last nomadic herders in Europe today still migrating with their reindeer, the Sami people are the only ethnic group in Europe to be recognized as a native people. Today the Sami Council and the Sami parliaments of Finland, Norway and Sweden are advocating for the Sami people to freely determine their own economic, social and cultural development and control their own natural resources.

"The main purpose is for the team and the panel of scientists to monitor climate change and other environmental issues," said IT Coordinator Robin Finlay of Brisbane, Australia, "but GoNorth! has opened it up so students all over the world can benefit. It is a unique opportunity which every school on the planet should take up."

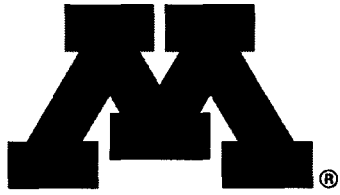
For more information about GoNorth! Fennoscandia 2008 visit the GoNorth! Web site at www.polarhusky.com.

About NOMADS

NOMADS Adventure & Education is a forerunner in the concept of adventure learning. For the past 14 years, NOMADS has given students worldwide opportunities to collaborate and learn while participating in Arctic exploration.

About the College of Education and Human Development

The College of Education and Human Development is a world leader in discovering, creating, sharing, and applying principles and practices of multiculturalism and multidisciplinary scholarship to advance teaching and learning and to enhance the psychological, physical, and social development of children, youth, and adults across the lifespan in families, organizations and communities.



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March 3, 2008

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Fisca Villaseñor, University of Minnesota Law School Amnesty International Student

ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE: WHAT CAN ZIMBABWEANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY EXPECT OF THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

~ Zimbabwean lawyer to speak at U of M Law School ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Zimbabwean lawyer Otto Saki will speak on the current political situation in Zimbabwe and its upcoming elections at 12:15 p.m., Monday, March 10 in Room 50, Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Law School Amnesty International Student Chapter and the Human Rights Center.

Zimbabweans will decide whether current President Robert Mugabe will continue his 27-year rule in the country's March 29 elections, which many speculate will be far from free and fair. The elections come after months of highly guarded talks between the Zimbabwean government and opposition leaders, mediated by South African President Thabo Mbeki.

Southern African leaders have been compelled to address the Zimbabwean crisis because of mounting concern about an economy on the verge of collapse, an absence of the rule of law and numerous human rights violations. The fate of the Zimbabwean people and the situation's potential threat to regional peace and security are of concern to the entire international community.

Saki is currently on sabbatical study leave as a human rights fellow pursuing an LL.M. at Columbia University. He is the National Program Coordinator and manager of the International Litigation Project at Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and oversees implementation of all ZLHR projects, including coordination of the national offices with regional offices in Bulawayo and Mutare. In 2006, he received the Reebok Human Rights Award, and in 2007, he was nominated by Junior Chamber International as one of top 10 young persons in Zimbabwe working in the legal and human rights arenas.

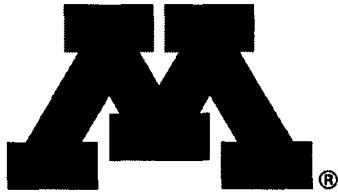
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WHAT: Zimbabwean lawyer Otto Saki speech on the current political situation and its upcoming elections in Zimbabwe

WHEN: 12:15 p.m., Monday, March 10

WHERE: Room 50, Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave., S., Minneapolis



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March 3, 2008

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Daniel Bond, McKnight Land Grant Professor, BioTechnology Institute, (612) 624-8619

U OF M RESEARCHERS DISCOVER KEY FOR CONVERTING WASTE TO ELECTRICITY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Researchers at the University of Minnesota studying bacteria capable of generating electricity have discovered that riboflavin (commonly known as vitamin B-2) is responsible for much of the energy produced by these organisms.

The bacteria, *Shewanella*, are commonly found in water and soil and are of interest because they can convert simple organic compounds (such as lactic acid) into electricity, according to Daniel Bond and Jeffrey Gralnick, of the University of Minnesota's BioTechnology Institute and department of microbiology, who led the research effort.

"This is very exciting because it solves a fundamental biological puzzle," Bond said. "Scientists have known for years that *Shewanella* produce electricity. Now we know how they do it."

The discovery means *Shewanella* can produce more power simply by increased riboflavin levels. Also, the finding opens up multiple possibilities for innovations in renewable energy and environmental clean-up. The research is published in the March 3 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The interdisciplinary research team, which included several students, showed that bacteria growing on electrodes naturally produced riboflavin. Because riboflavin was able to carry electrons from the living cells to the electrodes, rates of electricity production increased by 370 percent as riboflavin accumulated.

Scaled-up "microbial fuel cells" using similar bacteria could generate enough electricity to clean up wastewater or power remote sensors on the ocean floor.

"Bacteria could help pay the bills for a wastewater treatment plant," Bond said.

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But more ambitious applications, such as electricity for transportation, homes or businesses, will require significant advances in biology and in the cost-effectiveness of fuel cell materials.

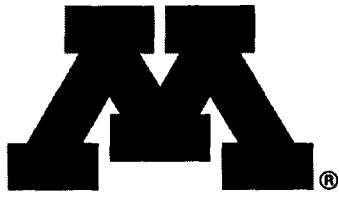
Why do these bacteria produce electricity? In nature, bacteria such as *Shewanella* need to access and dissolve metals such as iron. Having the ability to direct electrons to metals allows them to change their chemistry and availability.

“Bacteria have been changing the chemistry of the environment for billions of years,” said Gralnick. “Their ability to make iron soluble is key to metal cycling in the environment and essential to most life on earth.”

The process could be reversed to prevent corrosion of iron and other metals on ships. Bond and Gralnick were each recently awarded funding from the U.S. Navy to explore this and other potential applications.

This research was funded by the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and Cargill.

The university’s BioTechnology Institute is co-sponsored by the College of Biological Sciences and the Institute of Technology.



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March 4, 2008

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Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathra, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

U OF M GRAD AND SUPPORTER JOSEPH M. JURAN DIES **~ Pioneer in quality control passes away at age 103. ~**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Joseph M. Juran, a University of Minnesota graduate and namesake of the Joseph M. Juran Center for Leadership in Quality at the U of M's Carlson School of Management, passed away on Feb. 28, 2008, from natural causes. He was 103.

Juran is known throughout the world for his groundbreaking theories on quality management and business efficiency. His "Quality Control Handbook," first published in 1951, revolutionized how companies around the world made and sold products.

A 1924 graduate in electrical engineering from the U of M, Juran became the university's chess champion during his college years.

After college he started his career in Chicago at Western Electric Co. working to resolve product defects. During World War II Juran worked in Washington, eliminating bottlenecks that hindered timely equipment shipments to U.S. allies overseas. He later spent much of his life consulting companies on how to come up with quality control standards.

In 1979 Juran founded the Juran Institute, an organization aimed at providing companies with research and advice on managing quality. Juran transferred the Juran Foundation and its assets to the University of Minnesota in 1998. He described the newly named Joseph M. Juran Center as "a place where leaders engage with scholars to shape critical questions, where new knowledge is developed, translated and disseminated, and, above all, where quality scholars are trained."

The University of Minnesota Joseph M. Juran Center has served as a resource to leaders, scholars and students of quality. Most significantly, Juran's support allowed the center to create a fellowship program for doctoral students conducting research in quality. Over the last 10 years, 50 Juran Fellows have been named, many of

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

whom are now faculty at leading research universities.

“During the past century, Joseph Juran put forth a vision for a world made better through a commitment to quality,” noted KK Sinha, director of the Joseph M. Juran Center. “With the heightening of a need to better manage the quality of goods and services with the globalization of economies and supply chains, The Joseph M. Juran Center, given its distinguished track record of designing and executing research and education initiatives, is uniquely positioned to address these issues.”

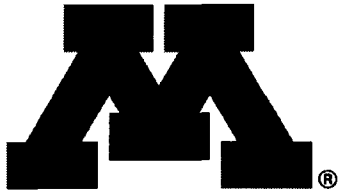
In his autobiography, “The Architect of Quality”, Juran proudly acknowledged the role of the center in undertaking an ambitious initiative “to stimulate formation of a national movement toward leadership in quality.”

Juran also transferred his professional memorabilia and papers to the University of Minnesota. The memorabilia includes more than 100 framed plaques, trophies and medals, including the Order of the Sacred Treasure, which was conferred upon Juran in 1981 by the Emperor of Japan for his development of quality control in Japan and the facilitation of friendship between the United States and Japan.

“Joseph Juran was undoubtedly one of the most influential U of M graduates in the history of the university,” said Jim Buckman, executive director of the Joseph M. Juran Center. “His groundbreaking theories on quality and business efficiency are still being taught and followed to this day.”

“Juran had a strong affiliation to the university and the state of Minnesota,” Buckman added. “He was a product of the Minneapolis school systems, a proud U of M graduate and consulted with many Minnesota companies throughout his life including Medtronic, Hormel and Hutchinson Technology.”

Juran is survived by his wife, Sadie; his children, Donald, Charles, Robert and Sylvia; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.



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March 4, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

\$1.7 MILLION PLEDGED TO FIGHT OBESITY AND CANCER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

~ Grants will support the first projects of newly created Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Three projects focused on food safety and identifying food components that could prevent obesity and cancer have been awarded a total of \$1.17 million over the next three years by the University of Minnesota's Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute.

The grants are the first to be awarded by the institute since it was created last year. The awards include:

- A project intended to increase scientists' understanding of how bacteria survive on vegetables and how farm practices could prevent outbreaks of food-borne illness. The effort, led by professor Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, was awarded \$578,005 over three years.
- A study on how consumption of cruciferous vegetables (such as broccoli, cabbage and brussels sprouts) and apiaceous vegetables (such as carrots, parsley and dill) could reduce the risk of colon and liver cancers. The project, led by assistant professor Sabrina Peterson, was awarded \$297,834 over three years.
- A study of how the anti-obesity, anti-diabetic properties in anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin might also be found in food. The research, led by assistant professor Doug Mashek and professor David Bernlohr, was awarded \$300,000 over two years.

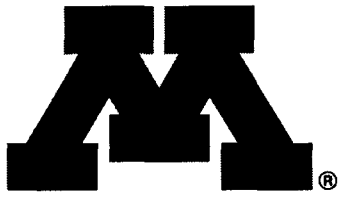
"The high quality of these proposals reflects the university's enormous strengths in the area of food and health," said Mindy Kurzer, director of the institute. "We are particularly delighted that such diverse groups of talented researchers have been organized to work at the cutting edge of food safety and cancer and obesity prevention. This work will contribute to the recognition of the University of Minnesota as a national leader in food and health research."

Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives, created in 2007, combines the University of Minnesota's research and outreach from areas as wide-ranging as medicine, agriculture and public health. The scientists involved in the projects are

- more -

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from six units within the university: the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; the School of Public Health; the Medical School; the College of Veterinary Medicine; the College of Biological Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.



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March 4, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES AND JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND WORK OF MAX LOWENTHAL

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Libraries and The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest (JHSUM) will mark the recent release of the Max Lowenthal Papers at the University of Minnesota Archives with a presentation and reception at 4 p.m., Friday, March 14, at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave., Minneapolis.

Lowenthal was a lifelong defender of civil liberties and a prolific writer whose papers include correspondence relating to his 1950 expose of the abuses of power in J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, his work on railroad bankruptcies and sedition laws and his key role behind the Truman administration's recognition of Israel.

"Although he worked primarily behind the scenes, Lowenthal was present at a remarkable number of pivotal moments in 20th century American history, as a close associate of such figures as Louis Brandeis, Felix Frankfurter and Harry Truman. He grew up in Minneapolis and graduated from the University of Minnesota before attending Harvard Law School. He was by far Minnesota's most important Zionist figure," said Beth Kaplan, university archivist.

The event will honor Harold Rosenthal, a relative of Lowenthal's, and his family members whose philanthropic gifts allowed the university to process the archives and make them accessible for scholarly and general research.

The presentation will feature remarks from David Lowenthal on his father's career and memories of Minneapolis. David Lowenthal is professor emeritus, department of geography, University College London, and the author of many works dealing with issues of history, heritage, place and perception.

Susan Hoffman, who processed the Lowenthal Papers on contract to University Archives, will highlight several items from the collection. Hoffman is archivist at the JHSUM.

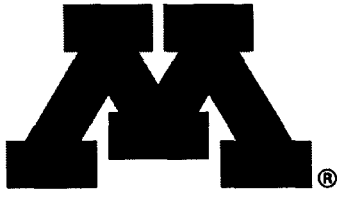
WHAT: Out of the Boxes and into the Archives: Celebrating the Life and Work of Max Lowenthal

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHEN: 4-6 p.m. Friday, March 14

WHERE: Room 120, Elmer L. Andersen Library,
222 21st Ave. South, Minneapolis



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March 4, 2008

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BRUININKS TO DELIVER 6TH "STATE OF THE U" ADDRESS ON THURSDAY

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will deliver his sixth "State of the University" Address at 3 p.m., Thursday, March 6 at the Mayo Auditorium, 425 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis.

The speech, "The Challenge of Change," will address the attributes of the University of Minnesota as a top public research university, and the renewal of the entrepreneurial spirit to meet the challenges of the future. The speech will also highlight the university's long partnership with the state of Minnesota and its crucial role in the state's future.

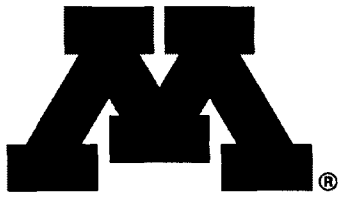
The address will be telecast in locations on the university's Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester and St. Paul campuses. The telecast locations include:

- o 220 Dowell Hall, Crookston
- o 410 Library, Duluth
- o Science Auditorium, Morris
- o Room 397, Rochester
- o Magrath Library #4, St. Paul

Bruininks' speech will also be webcast live at <http://www.umn.edu/pres/stateoftheu2008.html>

WHEN: 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 6

WHERE: Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis



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March 5, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

FEDERAL GRANTS WILL BOOST BIOFUELS RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Three ongoing research projects at the University of Minnesota have been awarded approximately \$2.27 million over the next three years as part of a joint effort by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to encourage biomass research and development.

The agencies said the awards, part of a national \$18.4 million investment, are aimed at addressing barriers to making production of biomass more efficient and cost-effective, with the eventual goals of reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil and mitigating climate change. The University of Minnesota was the only institution to receive more than two grants.

The Minnesota projects include:

- Developing scalable distributed biorefining processes for conversion of cellulosic biomass to bio-oils with microwave-assisted pyrolysis and other systems, which will receive up to \$975,676. The project leader is Roger Ruan, a professor in the department of bioproducts and biosystems engineering.
- Exploring sustainable pathways to achieving U.S. bioenergy policy goals, identifying economically viable and environmentally benign options for biofuel development, and identifying potential technological bottlenecks and policy instruments to meet the national bioenergy goals. The project, which will receive up to \$715,340, is led by Sangwon Suh, an assistant professor in the department of bioproducts and biosystems engineering.
- Researching how brown rot fungi extract and metabolize carbohydrates from biomass without destroying lignin, which has implications for biorefining plant tissues. The project, which was awarded up to \$576,368, is led by Jonathan Schilling, an assistant professor in the department of bioproducts and biosystems engineering.

All three principal investigators are from the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. The research projects have also received significant financial support from the University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE).

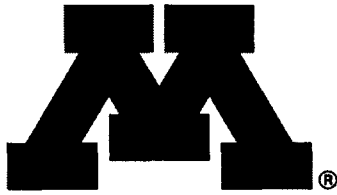
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“These investments in bio-based technologies and bio-resource use will greatly strengthen our pursuit of innovative research in renewable energy” said Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. “The selection of these projects by the USDA and DOE reflects the leadership of our university and state in this arena.”

“This is indeed a recognition of outstanding research by our faculty and it will help propel Minnesota’s efforts to be a leader in developing a sustainable bio-based economy,” said Shri Ramaswamy, head of the department of bioproducts and biosystems engineering.

Funding for the projects is contingent on Congressional approval and on each project matching 20 percent of the award through other funding sources.



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March 5, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

U OF M STUDENTS TO RECEIVE AWARD FRIDAY FOR WORK TO END CHILD ABDUCTIONS IN SUDAN

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A University of Minnesota student, who is leading a human rights trip to Sudan to work towards ending the wave of child abductions that swept up his own nieces, is receiving some much needed financial assistance. Gabriel Solomon-- a former "Lost Boy" of Sudan-- and two other U of M students, Robyn Skrebes and Kaitlin Dougherty, will travel to South Sudan next week.

The Sullivan Ballou Fund and the University of Minnesota Human Rights Program will honor the students with a ceremony and reception at 5 p.m. this Friday, March 7, at the law firm of Faegre & Benson, 2200 Wells Fargo Center, 90 Seventh St. S., Minneapolis.

Solomon's nieces --Yar, then 3, and Ajak, then 18 months-- were abducted from their home in the village of Liliir last October. His family crisis became a campus-wide student movement at the U last fall has received extensive media coverage. With the ceremony on Friday, the greater Twin Cities community will show its strong support.

The Sullivan Ballou Fund will officially award its Sullivan Ballou Award to Solomon in recognition of the courage and personal determination that he has brought to the advocacy campaign. The honor includes a \$1,000 award that Solomon will put toward defraying the cost of airfare to Sudan. In an unprecedented step, the fund will award a second \$1,000 to be split by Skrebes and Dougherty to defray their costs of travel.

The Minneapolis-based Sullivan Ballou Fund, founded in 2003 by Elissa Peterson and Hennepin County District Court Judge Bruce Peterson, has honored more than 30 Minnesotans who "act from the heart."

Local attorneys and human-rights practitioners at the event will be encouraged to donate to cover remaining costs. The law firm of Faegre & Benson LLP is lending its facilities for the ceremony and a reception to follow. Members of the public who would like donate can send checks to: "Yar's Campaign to End Child Abduction," 214 Social Sciences Building, 267 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

- more -

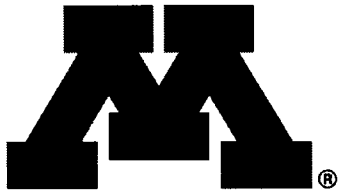
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The event also serves as a launch by the University of Minnesota Human Rights Program for the student's advocacy trip. The program's director, Barbara A. Frey, has supported the student campaign against child abduction and helped them obtain special travel permission from the University of Minnesota.

Gabriel Solomon, 27, of St. Paul, a master of liberal arts candidate in the U of M College of Continuing Education, is scheduled to depart March 10 for the South Sudan capital of Juba and return this summer. Robyn Skrebes, 27, of St. Paul, a master of public policy candidate in the U of M Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, is scheduled to depart March 12 and return March 25, as is Kaitlin Dougherty, 21, of Hershey, Pa., a sophomore in the U of M College of Liberal Arts.

The students are members of Yar's Campaign to End Child Abduction (formerly the Save Yar Campaign), a campus and community coalition supported by the U of M Human Rights Program. Information and photos are available at www.Save-Yar.org.

WHAT: Ceremony and reception awarding three U of M students Sullivan Ballou Awards
WHEN: 5 p.m., Friday, March 7
WHERE: Faegre & Benson, 2200 Wells Fargo Center, 90 Seventh St. S., Minneapolis



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STORY TIPS

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March 5, 2008

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U OF M'S MCNAMARA ALUMNI CENTER NAMED BEST MEETING VENUE IN MINNESOTA

Thanks to stunning architecture, superior audiovisual offerings and top customer-service rankings, the University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center has earned the Best Meeting Facility (Non-Hotel) Award at the annual "BEST OF" event at the new Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington on Feb. 28.

Roughly 250 meeting and event professionals toasted the finest of their industry, in 21 categories, at the annual event hosted by Minnesota Meetings + Events magazine, the premier event industry magazine with a circulation of 18,000 Minnesota event planners and related suppliers. A total of 445 ballots were tallied with the largest percentage in the Best Meeting Facility (Non-Hotel) category devoted to the U of M McNamara Alumni Center.

"We are thrilled to be recognized by our peers," said Amy Leyden, marketing manager of McNamara Alumni Center, crediting the beautiful facility and the creative and hard-working team for the award. In 2007 staff members coordinated a whopping 489 meetings. All staff are employees of United Properties/NorthMarq Corporate Solutions, the management company for the McNamara Alumni Center.

According to Leyden, long-time McNamara client, Allina Hospitals and Clinics, has consistently recommended the facility. "The McNamara Alumni Center is a tremendous location for a conference. It is conveniently located, the meeting rooms have distinguishing characteristics and the service is outstanding!"

In 2002 Minnesota Meetings + Events awarded the McNamara Alumni Center with the Best Reception Facility Award.

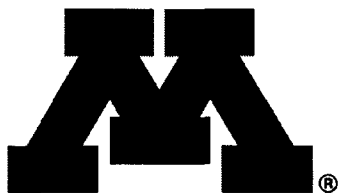
For a list of all the 2007 awards, visit: <http://www.BestofWinners.com>

To interview Leyden about the center and award, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu.

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March 6, 2008

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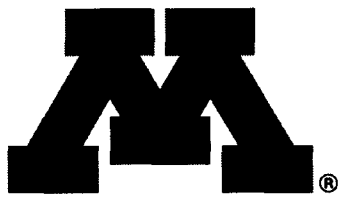
U OF M STUDENTS HEADING TO SUDAN ON ONE-OF-A-KIND HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION

A University of Minnesota student is leading a human rights trip to Sudan to work towards ending the wave of child abductions that swept up members of his own family. Gabriel Solomon -- a former "Lost Boy" of Sudan -- and two other U of M students, Robyn Skrebes and Kaitlin Dougherty, will travel to South Sudan next week.

To watch a video of Solomon and Skrebes talk about the upcoming trip, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/sudanmission.htm

News Service Video and Audio is free and available to news organizations for broadcast and Web use. Multiple formats are available. For more format options or HTML scripts, contact Justin Ware, University News Service, at (612) 626-1720 or ware@umn.edu



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March 6, 2008

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U OF M'S CARLSON SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND HUMPHREY INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS LAUNCH MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DUAL DEGREE

~ Degree will prepare leaders who can address global, societal and environmental issues ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, two nationally ranked professional schools, announce a Master of Public Policy and Master of Business Administration (MPP/MBA) dual degree in response to students and employers interest demand.

The degree was approved by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents at its February meeting and will be available for full-time students beginning in September, 2008.

"The MPP/MBA dual degree is a unique opportunity for the Carlson School and the Humphrey Institute to further the intersection between the public and private sectors and to impact the common good," said Brian Atwood, dean of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Carlson School Dean Alison Davis-Blake adds, "Through the creation of the dual degree, we desire to inspire and prepare leaders who can address the societal and environmental issues facing our global economy. Our schools are located in a vibrant business, philanthropic and politically engaged community. This is an excellent opportunity to develop leaders to serve across these arenas."

The University of Minnesota joins four accredited institutions that offer a dual MPP/MBA degree, including the University of Michigan, University of Maryland, Pepperdine University and UCLA.

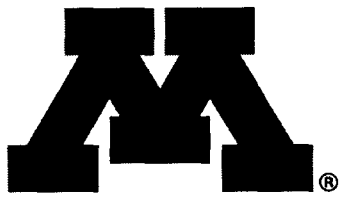
Demand for the program is high. The two schools have seen an increase in the numbers of business and public policy students enrolling in both programs' courses and an increase in graduates who take jobs that require cross-sector knowledge.

- more -

“As companies become more interested in corporate responsibility, dual degree students will be a good fit and especially well-situated to take advantage of the growing professional subfields of corporate compliance and corporate social responsibility,” said Davis-Blake.

“There is an increased blurring of boundaries between government agencies, nonprofits and private companies,” added Atwood. “Public services are contracted to nonprofits or the private sector, and government officials become contract managers and program evaluators more than service providers.”

Prospective students must apply to both the Carlson School and the Humphrey Institute. For more information, contact Jeff Bieganeck, director of Admissions & Recruiting, MBA Programs, Carlson School of Management, at (612) 625-5555; or Julie Harrold, director of admissions and recruiting, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, (612) 626-9749.



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March 6, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PROFESSOR STEPHEN FEINSTEIN DIES AT 65

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Stephen Feinstein, the director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) and adjunct professor of history at the University of Minnesota, died suddenly on Tuesday, March 4. He was 65.

Feinstein joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota in 1997, serving first as the acting director of the CHGS and then being named director two years later.

From its founding in 1997, Feinstein built the university's CHGS into a premier educational, research and outreach institution that has an international reputation for excellence. From its very beginning, he ensured that CHGS engaged with a broad range of crimes against humanity and human rights issues in addition to the Holocaust.

Feinstein was known around the world as an advocate for Holocaust survivors and genocide education, and in particular, for his expertise on artistic expression and genocide. He trained Polish teachers on Holocaust education, spoke at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and frequently commented in the media on anything Holocaust- and genocide-related. Educators, scholars and survivors from around the world have been deeply influenced by Feinstein and are sending messages of condolence to his family and to the university.

Most recently Feinstein was instrumental in securing funding for and creating programming around the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibition "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race," currently showing at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

In addition to his CHGS responsibilities and activities, Feinstein served as an art consultant and guest curator for numerous museums, universities and art galleries in Minnesota, Florida, New York and Washington, D.C.

Prior to teaching at the University of Minnesota, Feinstein spent 30 years on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin - River Falls where he most recently served as the chair of the history department. Feinstein received his doctoral degree in Russian and European history from New York University in 1971. He earned an

- more -

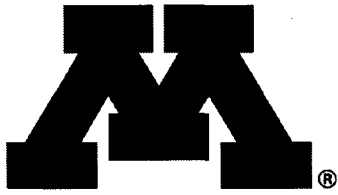
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undergraduate degree in economics from Villanova University in 1964.

“Steve was a good friend as well as a colleague, and the news is devastating,” said Eric Weitz, chair of the University of Minnesota department of history. “He had an amazingly generous nature and could get things accomplished that no one had ever conceived or thought was possible. He was generous, humorous and deeply committed to the issues at the heart CHGS’s mission. More than anything else, he was a great humanitarian who believed that knowledge of the past could prevent atrocities in the future.”

Feinstein is survived by his wife Sue, two children, Jeremy and Rebecca, and two grandchildren. Funeral services for Feinstein will at 2 p.m. Friday, March 7, at Beth-El Synagogue, 5224 West 26th St., St. Louis Park, Minn.

**A photo can be downloaded here:
<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/images/Feinstein.jpg>**



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March 7, 2008

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U OF M'S NCAA RECERTIFICATION SELF-STUDY AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

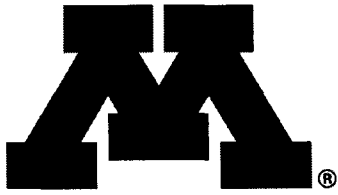
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- As part of its NCAA Division I athletics recertification, the University of Minnesota has conducted a yearlong, campus-wide study of its athletics programs. The draft self-study is now available for public review and comment.

“We hope members of the university community will take the time to offer their thoughts on this important matter,” said University Auditor Gail Klatt, who is chairing the committee responsible for the study. “We’ve involved numerous students, faculty, staff and community members, but additional public input adds to the richness and vitality of this study.”

Certification programs are common in colleges and universities, but this is the only one that focuses solely on athletics. This will be the university’s second certification. The first was completed in February 2001. Its purpose is to ensure the institution’s commitment to integrity in athletics by opening athletics to the entire university community and the public. It is also an opportunity to review the alignment and integration of athletics with University mission.

The specific areas examined in the self-study include academic integrity, governance, commitment to rules compliance, equity and student-athlete well being. A broad cross-section of university administrators, faculty, staff, alumni, student-athletes and community members were involved in the process.

The draft self-study will be available for review and community until March 24, 2008. It can be viewed at <https://www.myu.umn.edu/metadot/index.pl?iid=3114248>. The final report will be submitted to the NCAA on May 1, 2008.



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March 10, 2008

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SCIENCE MUSEUM CEO TO DISCUSS MISSION AND MONEY AT UPCOMING U OF M CARLSON SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT'S FIRST TUESDAY EVENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Eric Jolly, president and CEO of the Science Museum of Minnesota, will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. Jolly will discuss "The double bottom line: How mission and money come together at the Science Museum."

The Science Museum of Minnesota welcomes more than one million people each year with a unique combination of cutting-edge technology, high-tech entertainment and a world-class collection of fossils and artifacts spanning billions of years of the Earth's history. The Science Museum is the most visited museum in the Upper Midwest and consistently ranks first in Twin Cities rankings for favorite museums and favorite family outings. In addition, the museum manages business partnerships and programming across the nation and in more than 20 countries worldwide. Jolly will talk about how the margins from these diverse industries are maximized to help advance the mission of the institution and how the Science Museum of Minnesota balances the double bottom-line, mission and margin.

Jolly joined the Science Museum in 2004. He was previously the senior scientist and vice president for the Education Development Center in Newton, Mass. He has advocated and led many science education initiatives through work with the National Science Foundation, the National Academies of Science, the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics and the National Science Teachers Association.

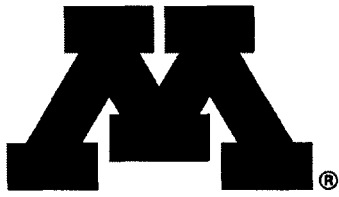
Jolly has also been extensively involved in youth and community organizations such as Youth Alive!, the Innovation Center, the American Youth Policy Forum, the American Museum of Natural History community outreach division, the Open Society Institutes, Youth Media Programs and the AAAS Healthy Families 2010 project.

- more -

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A frequently published author, Jolly has written scholarly articles and books on the importance of science education in the contemporary world and has advocated for widespread participation in STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-and Math). His works include “Bridging Homes and Schools,” a comprehensive resource for teachers of Limited English Proficiency students, and “Beyond Blame: Reacting to the Terrorist Attack.” Jolly’s published curricula for students and teachers are currently used in more than 16 countries and reach an estimated 400,000 classrooms worldwide.

WHAT: Carlson School First Tuesday Luncheon Series
WHEN: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 1
WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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March 10, 2008

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GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN RECEIVES BOOST TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Treasured objects and artifacts held by the the University of Minnesota will be preserved for future generations with help from the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf -- a core set of conservation books, DVDs and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal funding of the nation's museums and libraries. The Goldstein Museum of Design is among the first to receive this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for care of its collections.

"We are pleased to announce the first group of IMLS Bookshelf recipients," said Anne-Imelda Radice, director of IMLS. "These small libraries and museums are taking up the charge to care for America's heritage. A recent national study tells a sobering story about the state of America's library and museum collections. Without immediate action we stand to lose important collections that are at the heart of the American story."

IMLS and its cooperator, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), will award a total of 2,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf by the end of 2008. The Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness and culturally specific conservation issues.

"We are thrilled to receive the Bookshelf and valuable resources as we have a large and diverse collection that actively contributes to our mission of teaching, research and exhibition of design," said Lin Nelson Mayson, director of the Goldstein Museum of Design. "We are continually looking for ways to maintain and enhance our collection -- the core of our institution."

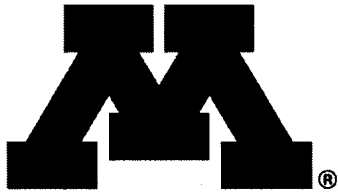
The IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, a conservation initiative that the Institute launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study by Heritage Preservation documenting the dire state of the nation's collections. The study, "A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections," found that 190 million objects need

- more -

Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections," found that 190 million objects need conservation treatment and 80 percent of collecting institutions lack an emergency plan for their collections and trained staff to carry it out. The multi-faceted, multi-year Connecting to Collections initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America's collections, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections. For more information on the conservation initiative, visit <http://www.imls.gov/collections/>

About The Goldstein Museum of Design

The Goldstein Museum of Design, the only design museum in the upper Midwest, is part of the University of Minnesota and housed in the College of Design. Founded in 1976, the museum's foundations lie in the work and collections of Harriet and Vetta Goldstein, professors in the university's Design Department from 1910 to the late 1940s. Exhibition topics cover the breadth of design -- from clothing and textiles to decorative art and graphic design. Most exhibitions are accompanied by public programs for university and community audiences.



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March 10, 2008

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Cheryl Jones, U of M Alumni Association, (612) 626-4707*

THE HEART OF DISCOVERY: U OF M ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2008 ANNUAL CELEBRATION FEATURES ITS OWN GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCHER

~ Tickets on sale now ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- World-renowned stem cell researcher and lead scientist of the University of Minnesota's breakthrough discovery that created a beating heart in a laboratory, Doris Taylor, will be the keynote speaker for the 2008 U of M Alumni Association's Annual Celebration. The event takes place on Thursday, May 29 at Northrop Mall and Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. Alumnus Earl Bakken, '48, founder and long-time CEO of Medtronic, is a featured guest.

The night begins at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and dinner on Northrop Mall. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in Northrop Auditorium. Individual and group tickets are available for the dinner and program, or tickets can be purchased for the program only. Tickets are on sale now.

Taylor is a leading heart researcher whose recent discovery could lead to growing new hearts for cardiac patients. "We have opened the door to the notion that any organ can be made," said Taylor. "Until now, it's really been just science fiction."

Bakken will introduce Taylor. She holds the Medtronic Bakken professorship in the University of Minnesota Medical School. Bakken became famous for creating the world's first transistorized cardiac pacemaker, a device that revolutionized heart care.

To watch a video of Dr. Taylor's heart growth work, visit:
http://www.stemcell.umn.edu/stemcell/faculty/Taylor_D/home.html

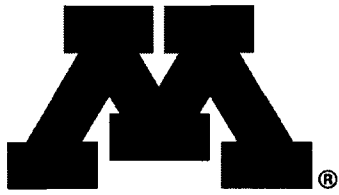
"We are delighted to celebrate university discovery and innovation on May 29," said Tom LaSalle, '72, volunteer president of the Alumni Association national board of directors and president of LaSalle Group. "Taylor and her team of researchers now believe that one day they will be able to create new kidneys, livers, lungs and pancreases, saving millions of lives."

- more -

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Tables of 10 are \$600 for Alumni Association members and \$750 for nonmembers. Individual tickets for the dinner and program are \$70 for Alumni Association members and \$85 for nonmembers. Individual tickets for the program are \$30 for members, \$40 for nonmembers, and \$10 for students. Complete ticket pricing and event information is available at www.alumni.umn.edu.

The 2008 Annual Celebration is sponsored by the Medtronic Foundation. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is an independent, 64,000-member organization dedicated to connecting alumni, students and friends in lifelong support of the University of Minnesota and each other.



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March 10, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M TO HOST 13TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The 13th annual International Women's Day Celebration will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 15 at the University of Minnesota's Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public. This year's theme is Women Leading for Global Justice.

Keynote speaker Robin Morgan will present "Global Feminisms - The Politics of the 21st Century." Morgan is an award-winning poet, novelist, political theorist, feminist activist, journalist, editor and best-selling author of books such as "Sisterhood Is Powerful and Sisterhood Is Global." In addition to a keynote speaker, there will be a plenary panel, "Women and Indigenous Communities: The Struggle for Human Rights." Panelists are Sen. Mee Moua, human rights advocate Teresa Ortiz, and writer Laura Waterman Wittstock.

Workshops throughout the day will include topics such as girls' empowerment, women in armed conflict, immigrant women's health, women and religion, sexual violence against indigenous women and women and the global water crisis. Luella Greene's photo exhibition, "Voices and Images of Women," will be on display. Singer Maria Isa will close the day with a performance.

Inspired by the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, this event is designed to celebrate the diversity of Minnesota women, to increase understanding and tolerance in our community, to encourage activism and to highlight advancements and challenges in women's rights and equality. Presented by The Advocates for Human Rights and the Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota, this event is the Midwest's largest celebration of International Women's Day. The celebration will include speakers, panels, workshops, vendors including artists and craftspersons, performances, film and information from more than 65 co-sponsoring organizations.

The Advocates for Human Rights (formerly Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights) is a non-governmental, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. With the help of over 600 volunteers, the organization investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents immigrants and refugees in our community who are victims of human rights abuses, trains and assists groups that

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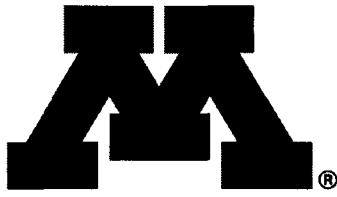
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immigrants and refugees in our community who are victims of human rights abuses, trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy in Minnesota to engage the public, policy makers and children about human rights and cultural understanding. The Advocates for Human Rights holds special consultative status with the United Nations. www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org

The Human Rights Program provides academic, research and internship opportunities in human rights for University of Minnesota students, especially in the College of Liberal Arts. To achieve its goals, the program works cooperatively with faculty and other programs across the university, as well as with international human rights professionals in Minnesota and around the world.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 15

WHERE: Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis



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March 10, 2008

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Rolf Willy Hansen, Norwegian Consul General in Minneapolis, (612) 332-3338
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL VISIT THE HUMPHREY INSTITUTE ON MARCH 26

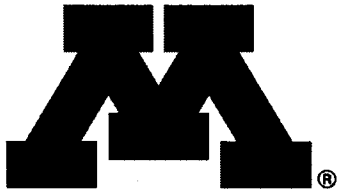
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jonas Gahr Støre will address the relationship between "Norway and the United States in the 21st Century" from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Støre's visit is presented in partnership with the Royal Norwegian Consulate General, the Minnesota International Center and the Humphrey Institute.

In his presentation, Støre will address Norway's relationship with Minnesota and the Upper Midwest and talk about specific initiatives tied to each country's success in the 21st century. He will talk about Norway's role as a major energy exporter, his country's climate change initiatives and Norway's engagement in the High North.

Støre began his career as a teaching fellow at Harvard University Law School, followed by a stint as a researcher at the Norwegian School of Management. Since 1989, he has held a number of senior posts with the Norwegian government and spent nine years working in the Office of the Prime Minister. From 1998 to 2002, Støre was chief of staff at the World Health Organization. Before taking up his current post, he was secretary-general of the Norwegian Red Cross from 2003 to 2005. Støre became Norway's minister of foreign affairs in 2005. He holds a degree in political science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris.

Admission to the public forum is free, but advance registration is requested. Please register online at www.micglobe.org or call (612) 625-4421.

WHAT: Public forum with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs about Norway's relationship with the United States
WHEN: 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, March 26
WHERE: Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

WALTER MONDALE AND POLITICAL SCHOLARS TO EXAMINE PICKING A VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE IN U OF M HUMPHREY INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

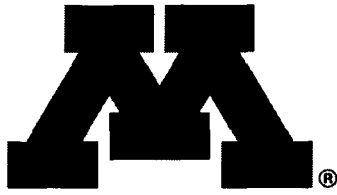
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Vice President Walter Mondale will join local and national political scholars to discuss the political, personal and institutional considerations in selecting vice presidential nominees. The conference, "Picking the Vice Presidential Nominees," will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, March 24, at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Those joining Mondale in this discussion will include former governor Tommy Thompson (via teleconference); Richard Moe, Mondale's former chief of staff and now director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and national scholars on the office of the vice president. They will answer such questions as: What should we look for in the next vice president? What political factors might influence the selection of a running mate in 2008? What is important in a modern vice president?

The full conference agenda is available online at www.politicsandgovernance.org/events/Vice_Presidency_Selection.pdf.

The program is presented in partnership by the Humphrey Institute's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance and Presidential Studies Quarterly. There is no charge to attend, but registration is requested at cspg@umn.edu. Additional questions can be directed to Lea Chittenden at (612) 625-2530.

WHAT: Conference on the vice presidency
WHEN: 8:30 a.m.-noon Monday, March 24
WHERE: Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave S., Minneapolis



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March 12, 2008

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

U OF M PRESIDENT BRUININKS TO VISIT BEMIDJI AND CROOKSTON

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will visit Bemidji and Crookston, Minn. on Thursday and Friday, March 13 and 14.

In Bemidji, Bruininks will meet with Beltrami County commissioners and community leaders and tour a local pharmacy and North Country Regional Hospital. In Crookston, he will meet with students, faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota, Crookston and conduct a public roundtable with business, community and alumni leaders.

“From quality health care to renewable energy, the university plays an important role in supporting Minnesota’s communities and quality of life,” said Bruininks. “In my visit to Bemidji and Crookston, we’ll look at how the U is already working in this important region and seek out new opportunities to involve our research, education and outreach functions.”

The public portions of Bruininks’ schedule include the following:

Thursday, March 13

Meeting with U of M Extension partners and Beltrami County commissioners

2 - 3 p.m.

County Administration Building

4225 Technology Dr. N.W.

Bemidji

Visit Iverson Corner Drug

3 - 3:45 p.m.

401 Beltrami Ave. N.W.

Bemidji

Visit and Tour North Country Regional Hospital

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

4 - 5 p.m.

1300 Anne St. N.W.

Bemidji

Friday, March 14

Public roundtable discussion with business, community and alumni leaders hosted by the Crookston Chamber of Commerce

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Prairie Room, Student Center

University of Minnesota Crookston

Crookston

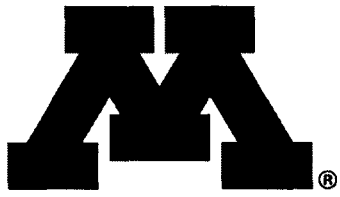
2:30 - 3 p.m.

Media Availability

Prairie Room, Student Center

University of Minnesota Crookston

Crookston



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March 12, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Services, (612) 624-8038*

U OF M OFFERS RARE GLIMPSE INTO CUTTING-EDGE LABS DURING “EMERGING DIGERATI” WEEK

The University of Minnesota will be opening state-of-the-art simulations labs in the areas of anthropology, architecture, surgery and traffic engineering to the public. On each evening of March 31 - April 3, an open house tour and demonstration of one lab will be offered as part of the Institute for New Media Studies' Spring 2008 Emerging Digerati program. Then from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 4, the week-long program culminates in a day-long exhibition at Weisman Art Museum, featuring presentations and projects from Emerging Digerati presenters representing the use of digital technologies in the arts and sciences. (According to the Rainwater online dictionary the word “digerati” is a play on the word “literati” and describes the hip, knowledgeable people at the cutting edge of all things digital.)

“For the past six years we've used the Emerging Digerati series to showcase the ways new media techniques are being applied to the study and presentation of artistic and scientific work across the University of Minnesota campus,” said Nora Paul, director of the Institute for New Media Studies. “This event will be a rare opportunity to actually go inside the labs where this work is being done. The Friday event will be a reunion of past presenters and a chance to see new and exciting projects. We hope we get a great turnout from both the university and the Twin Cities community.” The lab open house schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 31 5:30-7:30 p.m. - **Minnesota Traffic Observatory**, 790 Civil Engineering Bldg., 500 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis. Drop 150 feet into a mine in the Civil Engineering building where engineers watch vehicular movement (crashes and near misses) on 16 simultaneous feeds from 300 cameras located throughout the Twin Cities' freeway system.

Tuesday, April 1 5:30-7:30 p.m. - **SimMan or StanMan**, SimPORTAL A509 Mayo, 420 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis. Watch him breathe, gag and go into cardiac arrest in the Medical School's SimPORTAL facility. No longer do health professional students need to drill, poke and prod each other to hone their diagnostic skills or surgery techniques now that they have these lifelike, computerized mannequins.

Wednesday, April 2 5:30-7:30 p.m. - **Evolutionary Anthropology Laboratory**, 355 Blegen, 269 19th Ave. S.,

- more -

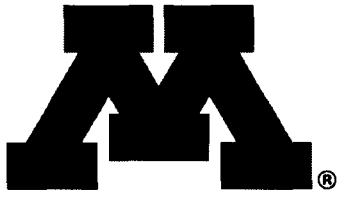
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Wednesday, April 2 5:30-7:30 p.m. - **Evolutionary Anthropology Laboratory**, 355 Blegen, 269 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Dig into ancient archeological artifacts and see the latest 3-D scanning tools used to cast a whole new light on Lucy -- the most complete and earliest discovered hominid -- Bronze Age axes, stone tools, and more.

Thursday, April 3 5:30-7:30 p.m. - **Digital Design Consortium**, 107 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis. Don a computerized "welder's helmet" and walk around a virtual building construction site. But don't fall off the steel beam optical illusion at a unique lab research collaboration between architecture and computer science.

Friday, April 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Join other Emerging Digerati at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Parkway, Minneapolis, for an all-day showcase of cutting-edge work hosted by the Institute for New Media Studies.

The Institute for New Media Studies, housed in the School of Journalism & Mass Communication, is a center for creation, innovation and examination of content and messages and the effects of new media technologies and techniques on their forms and functions. The goal is the imagining and testing of innovative forms, development of new knowledge about functions, and generation of greater understanding of the impact of changes in the media landscape. They have sponsored the Emerging Digerati series since Fall 2002. For information about the Institute for New Media Studies, go to <http://www.inms.umn.edu>. For information about Emerging Digerati, go to <http://www.inms.umn.edu/digerati/>



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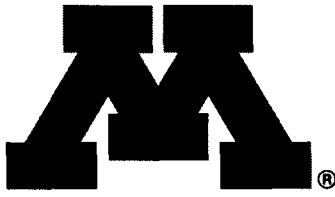
U OF M'S INSTITUTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT TACKLING ONE THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FACING THE PLANET

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment focuses on the greatest environmental challenges facing the globe today. The Institute uses the waters, wildlife, prairies, forests, resource industries and agricultural landscapes of the upper Midwest to showcase environmental solutions that can serve the region, the nation and the world.

To watch a video on the Insitute that highlights some of the U of M's on-going environmental work, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/IonE.htm

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2008

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Martha Douglas, University of Minnesota Foundation, (612) 626-9712

U OF M PRESENTS HONORARY DEGREE TO GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM PIONEER JACK DANGERMOND

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Jack Dangermond, founder and president of ESRI, the world's leading GIS software company, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota on Wednesday, April 2.

Dangermond will receive the degree before delivering the inaugural John Borchert Lecture, in honor of the late John Borchert, University of Minnesota Regents Professor in Geography and member of the U.S. National Academy of Science. The award ceremony and lecture, "The Geographic Approach -- A Cross-Cutting Methodology," will begin at 4:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Dangermond is the ideal speaker to kick off the Borchert lecture series because of the influence Borchert had on Dangermond's vision to develop computerized mapping. Dangermond earned a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota in 1968, with a focus on landscape architecture and urban planning. He took courses from Borchert, who, Dangermond said, "was the first to introduce me to the concepts and theories of quantitative geography and the fascinating notion that we could use models to explain how things worked."

From the U of M, Dangermond went to Harvard, where he earned a master's degree in landscape architecture in 1969 and then founded the Environmental Systems Research Institute (now known as ESRI), a company focused on developing and using computerized mapping to make better land-use decisions. Today, his company employs 4,000 staff and has users in more than 200 countries. The pioneering research and technology developed by ESRI has been used in such diverse areas as marketing, surveying, vehicle routing, economic development, cancer risk analysis, timberland management and hurricane response management.

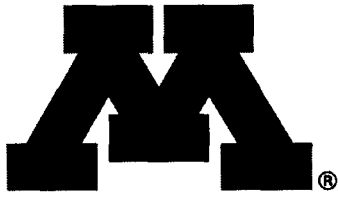
Dangermond also collaborates with academic and professional scientists in many fields and has become known in the science and GIS communities as a visionary and a teacher who has made a significant difference in responding to real-world problems. His ESRI User Conference has become one of the largest professional conferences in the world, now attracting 13,000 people from 120 countries. Dangermond works to build bridges between academia,

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

world, now attracting 13,000 people from 120 countries. Dangermond works to build bridges between academia, government and environmental organizations, aimed at helping attain peace, prosperity and a more sustainable world.

The presentation and lecture are free and open to the public. A public reception follows the lecture.



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March 13, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-40-82

CUBAN-COLOMBIAN AUTHOR AND EDITOR DAISY HERNÁNDEZ TO SPEAK AT THE U OF M WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LECTURE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- What is feminism really about? Can it have anything to do with your own life? Come listen to a discussion and reading by writer and editor Daisy Hernández on her own experiences with feminism, on how gender and race have shaped her identity as a feminist and what it means to connect feminism to the communities we call home.

Hernández will deliver the University of Minnesota Women's History Month lecture entitled, "Bringing Feminism Home" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27 in 125 Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Fierce, fresh and smart, Hernández writes about race, gender, sexuality and other issues affecting young women of color. A graduate of William Paterson University and New York University, Hernández grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Fairview, N. J. Her essays have appeared in publications including *Without a Net* (Seal Press) and *Border-line Personalities* (HarperCollins Rayo). She is co-editor of "Colonize This! Young Women on Today's Feminism (Seal Press)," and is the managing editor of *ColorLines*, a national news magazine on race and politics. She has written for a range of publications, including *The New York Times*, *National Catholic Reporter* and *Ms. magazine*.

Hernández's personal essays focus on familia, feminism, sexuality and cultural identity. She believes that writing (be it blogs or books), helps her generation talk about the ways that racism manifests itself today in America. This is the focus of *Colonize This!*, an anthology of young women's stories about their experiences of feminism and race in the context of such topics as immigration and AIDS. *Colonize This!* has sold more than 17,000 copies and is taught in collegiate womens' studies courses around the country.

A reception and book signing with Hernández will follow the lecture.

Hernández's lecture is sponsored by the Office for University Women (OUW), a unit of the university's Office for Equity and Diversity. Co-sponsors include department of Chicano studies, department of English, School of

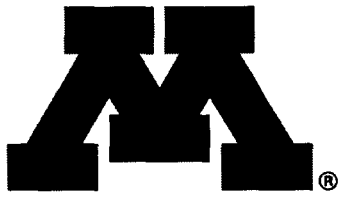
- more -

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for Equity and Diversity. Co-sponsors include department of Chicano studies, department of English, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, TCF Bank, University Women of Color and the Women's Student Activist Collective. For more information about the event, visit <http://www.umn.edu/women>.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27

WHERE: 125 Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis



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March 13, 2008

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service (612) 625-0552

U OF M'S CARLSON SCHOOL'S CHAPTER OF NET IMPACT SECURES GRANT TO PROMOTE SMALL BUSINESS IN CEDAR RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Minneapolis' Cedar Riverside neighborhood has morphed many times in the last century to its current status as one of the largest Somali enclaves in the U.S. It is also home to the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, a top ranked business school. Increasing the Carlson School's community engagement is what drove Ben Schein to apply for a seed grant that will help the school build stronger relationships and trust with this vibrant community.

Schein is a second year MBA student and president of the Carlson School's chapter of Net Impact, an international network of MBAs committed to socially responsible and sustainable business. Schein applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from the University of Minnesota's Office for Public Engagement.

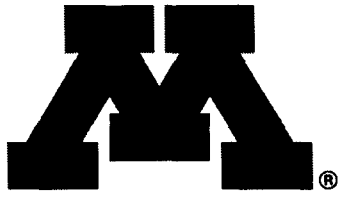
The Carlson School's chapter of Net Impact has worked with other community oriented MBA student groups to form a Community Impact Alliance dedicated to having a positive impact on the broader community. In recent years, the Carlson School has also developed increasing expertise and programs around entrepreneurship such as the Carlson Ventures Enterprise and the Gary S. Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship. Schein feels this entrepreneurial focus creates potential synergies with the many small business entrepreneurs in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

The seed grant will allow the Community Impact Alliance to create the Carlson Community Small Business Fellows program where MBA and potentially undergraduate students will learn about a specific small business in the immediate community and consult with the business to address key challenges. The end product of the grant will be a booklet of formal case studies on the selected small businesses and a planned community forum to discuss the challenges the businesses are facing.

Schein hopes this process will help the Carlson School become a center for research and understanding of community businesses and especially the immigrant business experience. He feels the Cedar Riverside

- more -

neighborhood is an incomparable asset. "This opportunity can create a competitive advantage for the Carlson School as a place that can engage and learn from its community from a business perspective," said Schein.



EXPERT ALERT

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March 13, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

HARD-LINERS AND REFORMISTS BATTLE IN IRAN'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

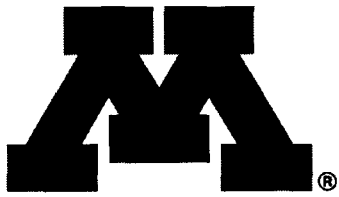
An unpopular President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and an ailing economy have put Iranian hard-liners in a tough spot as the country enters tomorrow's parliamentary elections. But their rival reformists have problems of their own as they battle among themselves. A University of Minnesota expert who can give some perspective on the situation in Iran is:

William Beeman, University of Minnesota chair and professor of anthropology

Beeman says the political competition is fierce right now but predicts "there will be a gradual political evolution as the demographics change, and the U.S. will be pleased as more moderate younger people come to power." On the other hand, while a continuation of a conservative regime may anger the U.S., if it means a more stable nation, "it is what is necessary."

To interview Beeman, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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March 13, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu*

LEADERSHIP EXPERTS TO DISCUSS HOW TO ADDRESS THE COMPLEXITIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT THE U OF M'S HUMPHREY INSTITUTE

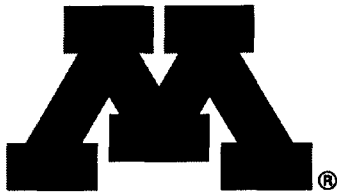
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The public health crises around the world present complex challenges with no easy answers. Internationally renowned leadership expert Ronald Heifetz will lead a conversation about using adaptive leadership techniques to effectively tackle public health issues. All are invited to this free program from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Heifetz is the King Hussein bin Talal senior lecturer in Public Leadership and the founding director of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard university's Kennedy School of Government. Known for his seminal work during the last two decades on the practice and teaching of leadership, his research focuses on how to build adaptive capacity in societies, businesses and nonprofits. His book "Leadership Without Easy Answers" currently is in its 13th printing and has been translated into many languages. He coauthored the best-selling book "Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading" with Marty Linsky.

Heifetz will be joined in conversation by Jan Malcolm, Courage Center CEO, and Jay Kiedrowski, University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute Senior Fellow and board member for UCare Minnesota. Patrick Marx, a leadership consultant and facilitator, will moderate the discussion.

The program is co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Center for Integrative Leadership and the Humphrey Institute's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance. For more information and disability accommodation, contact the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at (612) 625-8330.

WHAT: "Leading on Health Care: A Dialogue on Adaptive Leadership"
WHEN: 12:30–1:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 26
WHERE: University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S.,
Minneapolis



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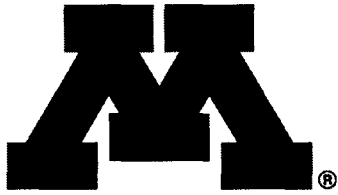
A STATEMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA REGARDING NUTRITION SUPPLEMENT STUDIES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The following is a statement from University of Minnesota General Counsel Mark Rotenberg:

The University of Minnesota is investigating allegations that the results of several pilot studies of the health benefits of nutrition supplements may have been based on false data. The investigation is focused on research conducted by a former university research scientist, Joel Pins, who is no longer employed by the university.

While the university's investigation is ongoing, it has been determined that one of the pilot studies completed in 2002 was falsified by Mr. Pins and should not be relied upon by anyone. That study considered whether BioZate® 1 - Hydrolyzed Whey Protein Isolate, a highly purified whey protein produced by Davisco Foods International, Inc., had the potential to be a viable treatment option to reduce blood pressure.

In light of the university's determination that the Biozate pilot study was falsified, the university has retracted the published article that reported the study findings. In addition, the university has apologized to Davisco, which funded the pilot study, and to Davisco's owners, the Davis family, and has refunded the amounts provided by Davisco to sponsor the study. The Davis family has a long history of strong support for the university and its research mission. The university is thoroughly investigating the other studies as to which the integrity of research by Mr. Pins has been questioned, and will take appropriate follow-up actions.



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March 17, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

ROBOTICS EXPERT FEATURED AT U OF M ADA COMSTOCK DISTINGUISHED WOMEN SCHOLARS LECTURE SERIES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota professor and associate head of the department of computer science and engineering Maria Gini will deliver the Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Winter Lecture at 4 p.m. Monday, March 31, at the Humphrey Institute's Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Gini is an internationally renowned faculty member and researcher on artificial intelligence and robotics. Her lecture is titled: "Robots: A New Type of Companion."

Named Distinguished Scientist by the Association for Computing Machinery in 2006, Gini is the author of hundreds of publications and enthusiastically provides robotic demonstrations for elementary and high school students to encourage the next generation of scientists. She is especially active in recruiting girls to study science and mathematics in college.

The free lecture series, held twice during the school year, honors the exceptional research, scholarship and leadership contributions of female University of Minnesota faculty who are recipients of prestigious honors such as the Distinguished Women's Scholar Award, the Regents Professorship and the McKnight Distinguished Professorship. It is named after Comstock, a university alumna, former assistant professor and dean at the university. Comstock left Minnesota in 1912 when she was named the dean of Smith College, thus becoming the first female university president in the United States. Later she served as president of Radcliffe College. She is one of the few people in the world to have residence halls named after her at three universities -- Minnesota, Smith and Radcliffe. Comstock Hall, which used to be the second of Minnesota's two residence halls for women, salutes her as a distinguished member of the Minnesota faculty.

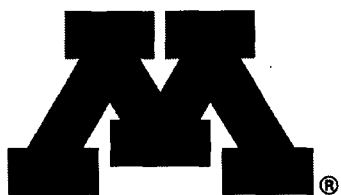
The lecture series is sponsored by the university's Graduate School, the Office for University Women, the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHEN: 4 p.m. Monday, March 31

WHERE: Humphrey Institute's Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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March 18, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690*

AWARD-WINNING U OF M CAREER COACH JANET PELTO TO PARTNER WITH ST. PAUL AUTHOR JOE BAILEY FOR LIFE CHANGE WORKSHOP

~ Audience will learn how to overcome the Top 10 fears and assumptions that prevent us from achieving life change ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Award-winning University of Minnesota career coach and lifework planning specialist Janet Peltó will join forces with St. Paul-based author and psychologist Joe Bailey to present "Fear Less: The Key to Reaching Your Professional Potential," an event designed to help adults move past their fears and create the life and career that they've dreamed of. The free event, which is open to the public, will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 25 at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

The evening will include an exercise from Peltó, who has identified a "Top 10" list of fears and assumptions that people face when considering a lifework change. Audience members will have the opportunity to debunk these common beliefs and discuss how to ensure their own assumptions don't stand in the way of their desired life changes. In Bailey's portion, he will discuss how motivated adults can "fearproof their life" by transcending their fears and anxieties in order to clarify and achieve their personal and professional goals.

University staff will be available throughout the evening to discuss educational and career services opportunities geared toward enhancing personal, professional and academic goals.

Light refreshments will be served. To register, call the College of Continuing Education at (612) 624-4000 or visit cce.umn.edu/reach. Walk-ins are also welcome.

About Janet Peltó

Janet Peltó is a licensed psychologist who holds a master's degree in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota, where she has worked for 16 years in the College of Continuing Education. She is an active member of Minnesota Women in Psychology and the Minnesota Career Development Association (MCDA), where she has served on the board of trustees and as president. In 2004, the MCDA awarded Peltó the prestigious Marty Dockman Award for outstanding contributions to the field of career development.

About Joe Bailey

Joe Bailey is a nationally recognized expert on helping people find fulfillment in career, relationship and life changes. His books include "Fearproof Your Life: How to Thrive in a World Addicted to Fear;" "The Speed Trap: How to Avoid the Frenzy of the Fast Lane;" and "Slowing

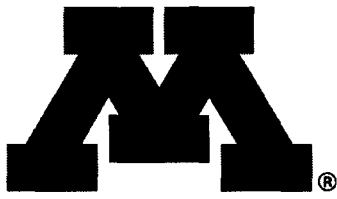
- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Down to the Speed of Life" (written with Richard Carlson). His work has drawn attention in USA Today, The Chicago Tribune, The St. Paul Pioneer Press, Newsweek, Family Circle, Shape and Reader's Digest, among others. His television credits include the CNBC Nightly News with Brian Williams and the morning shows of New York City's NBC affiliate and Boston's Fox affiliate.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2008

WHERE: Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu

U OF M'S "CLASSES WITHOUT QUIZZES" OFFERS SEMINARS ON EVERYDAY SCIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Biofuels, chocolate, gardening and Minnesota's changing demographics are among the featured topics at this year's "Classes Without Quizzes." The forum will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 5 on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. Classes are designed for the general public, including students of all ages.

Nationally recognized experts from the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences will present mini-seminars on the latest scientific research and how it affects our daily lives. Participants can attend two of the eight hour-long mini-seminars.

This year's keynote speech, "Improving Biofuels: The Nexus of Policies and Technologies" will be presented by University of Minnesota economist Doug Tiffany.

The eight mini-seminars include:

All About Chocolate. America's favorite sweet treat has a long history and a wide-ranging influence. It can also be healthful.

Trout Stream Health. Learn how researchers are using insects as a sign of stream health in the wake of devastating floods in southeastern Minnesota last summer.

Tough Plants for Your Garden. From shade to slopes to sandy soils, one plant doesn't work everywhere.

Aging Minnesota: Economic Challenges and Opportunity. The baby boomers of our state are aging and changing the Minnesota economy. How will that affect all of us?

Where Did the Bees Go? Bee populations are declining and they are facing more challenges each year.

- more -

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One Milk: So Many Choices. Choosing a gallon of milk has never been so difficult -- the options and choices seem endless. Learn how to read labels and make educated decisions at the dairy case.

Benefits of Soy. Soybeans have long been known as a versatile crop, and soy is found in many modern foods. What makes soy so special?

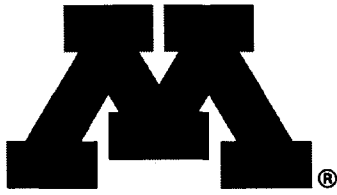
Landscaping Your Shoreline to Protect Water Quality. Increasing development near shorelines can threaten water resources and natural habitats. What are some of the ways we can protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams?

Cost for Classes Without Quizzes is \$25 for the public, \$20 for University of Minnesota Alumni Association members and \$10 for students. An optional lunch following the seminars is \$10. An optional walking tour of the St. Paul campus is also available.

For information and to register, go to www.cfans.umn.edu/cwq or call (612) 624-0822.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 5, 2008

WHERE: University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus



EXPERT ALERT

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March 18, 2008

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Drew Swain, University News Service (612) 625-8962; dswain@umn.edu

U.S. SUPREME COURT TO REVIEW HANDGUN BAN CASE AND “THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS”

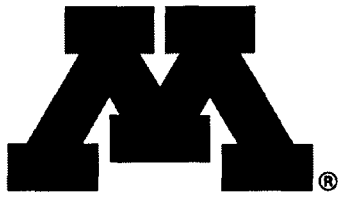
The Supreme Court will hear arguments today in a case that will examine the meaning of the Second Amendment’s “right to bear arms.” The case, District of Columbia v. Heller, tests the constitutionality of a handgun ban in Washington, D.C., where in 1976 legislators imposed one of the nation’s strictest gun-control laws in response to alarming levels of gun violence. A U of M expert who can speak on this case is:

Dale Carpenter, University of Minnesota, Law School Professor

Carpenter can discuss the arguments in this benchmark case and the potential ramifications that the ruling could have on both federal and state gun laws.

To interview professor Carpenter, contact Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552 or mathre@umn.edu; or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu.

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For Immediate Release

March 18, 2008

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, (612) 626-1094 or marsh396@umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS MONTEVERDI'S "THE CORONATION OF POPPEA," APRIL 10-13

The University of Minnesota Opera Theatre completes its 2007-2008 season with Monteverdi's "The Coronation of Poppea (L'incoronazione di Poppea)." The realities of Roman court life take center stage in this intriguing baroque opera, complete with decadent emperors, manipulative statesman, political posturing and alluring courtesans. The Coronation of Poppea is as relevant today as it was in 1642.

Performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10 and Saturday, April 12, and at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday April 13. All performances will be at Ted Mann Concert Hall, West Bank Campus, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

In describing this production, director David Walsh, said, "I consider 'The Coronation of Poppea' to be the first great opera of all time. It's exceptional in that its protagonists are not immortal gods and heroes, as had been customary in early opera, but flesh and blood historical people, engaged in very human behavior and actions. Essentially, Poppea is an immoral tale in that wrong conquers in the name of love. Monteverdi was, perhaps, the first composer to envision opera as a 'drama in music,' a depiction of human psychology. Poppea is seldom produced because of its large cast, which we consider our strength as it allows greater opportunity for our young voice artists."

Matthew Mehaffey, assistant professor of music and associate director of choral activities, will conduct the performances. A pre-performance discussion with Walsh begins 45 minutes before each performance in the lobby of the concert hall. Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Photographs available upon request. E-mail all requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu.

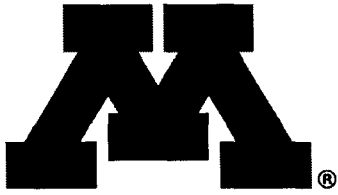
Tickets are \$20 for the general public \$20 and \$10 for U of M students (with ID). Call the University Arts Ticket Office at (612) 624-2345 or purchase online at www.tickets.umn.edu.

For more information, visit www.music.umn.edu/enscomp/opera.

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10 and Saturday, April 12; 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 13
WHERE: Ted Mann Concert Hall, West Bank Campus, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis



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STORY TIPS

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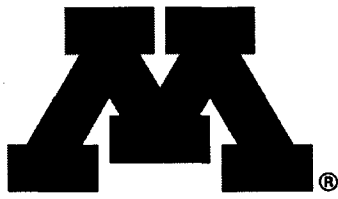
UNIVERSITY STUDENT ESTABLISHES CHARITY TO RESTORE RAVAGED COMMUNITIES IN KENYA

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAULUniversity of Minnesota global studies student Kathryn Nelson is returning to Kenya this summer to run her charity, The Nafula Foundation - which helps repair communities that have been destroyed by the ongoing violence that has killed more than 1,500 people and displaced 600,000 since December 2007.

Nelson established The Nafula Foundation last summer and aims to provide clothing, food and books to orphaned children who have otherwise been left for dead.

The Nafula Foundation, which means "she came in the rain" in Swahili, is a joint venture between Nelson and native Kenyan, Pastor Daniel Makecho. They have raised more than \$1,000 in donations and plan to spend their time walking door to door to educate Kenyans about HIV, malaria and typhoid. In addition, they are developing plans to implement inexpensive water systems that would provide communities with clean drinking water.

Learn more at: www.NafulaFoundation.org



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March 18, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu*

U OF M CONFERENCE LOOKS AT FOOD BRANDING IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Why do consumers choose certain food brands, and how are those preferences changing in a global economy? Experts at the University of Minnesota's Food Industry Center will tackle those questions at their spring conference, "Branding Without Borders." The conference takes place 1:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. Food industry professionals, students and faculty are invited to attend.

Speakers at the conference include Zata Vickers, a professor in the university's food science and nutrition department, who will address brand preferences and how culture affects preference; Jean Kinsey, director of the Food Industry Center, who will address the global impact of brand preferences; and marketing professor Carlos Torelli, who will speak about how research from other countries might explain U.S. consumer behavior.

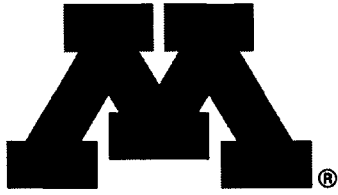
The Food Industry Center is a multidisciplinary effort that involves university faculty and staff from the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences as well as the Carlson School of Management. Through research, educational programs and industry collaboration, it is a leading source of knowledge on how food reaches consumers efficiently and contributes to safe and healthy lives.

Cost for the conference is \$45, but students and representatives of Food Industry Center sponsoring companies may attend at no cost. "Branding Without Borders" is co-sponsored by General Mills, SuperValu, CHS and Nash Finch Co. To register, or for more details about the conference and the center, visit

<http://foodindustrycenter.umn.edu>.

WHEN: 1:30 to 5 p.m., Thursday, March 27

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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March 19, 2008

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U OF M'S COLLEGE OF DESIGN AND NORTHSIDE ORGANIZATIONS HOST EVENT TO SELECT NEXT PUBLIC PROJECT

~ Public is invited to choose next arts-based project for North Minneapolis ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's College of Design, along with Juxtaposition Arts, the Hawthorne Area Community Council, and the West Broadway Coalition, present the Great Idea! Exchange from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 27 at the Bean Scene Coffeehouse, 2220 West Broadway, Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

At the Great Idea! Exchange, a new Northside youth-arts collaborative will present a slate of youth-focused or art- and design-based projects for the public to vote on. Each project builds on the unique strengths of the collaborative's partners and uses the arts and design to benefit the Northside community. The winning project will be announced that night and implemented later this year. It will also receive funding.

The collaborative includes Juxtaposition Arts, Avenues for Homeless Youth, Homewood Studios, Hawthorne Area Community Council, Kwanzaa Church and the Northside Arts Collective.

Suggested projects so far include a free art supply store with donated supplies from local artists and businesses and a "Talking Picture," where community members use photos to record the current state of their neighborhood and imagine its future.

Hosted by Minneapolis Council Member Don Samuels and community member Tish Jones, the event will also showcase the ongoing collaborative work of Streetlife/Remix, an interdisciplinary partnership between Juxtaposition Arts and the U of M's College of Design that strives to understand the complex problems and opportunities along the West Broadway corridor.

"We have an abundance of youth, non-profit organizations and creative ingenuity in North Minneapolis," said DeAnna Cummings, executive director of Juxtaposition Arts, a youth-focused, minority-directed urban visual arts center based in North Minneapolis. "Some of the most effective organizations that are doing high-impact and

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relevant work on the Northside are grassroots groups often working under the radar with small budgets and limited capacity.”

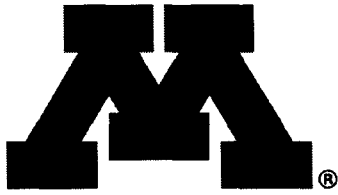
“It’s exciting to see such a committed and talented group of organizations teaming up to benefit their community,” said Kristine Miller, associate professor of landscape architecture at the U of M. “There will be an amazing set of projects presented during the event.”

For more information about the Great Idea! Exchange, visit

<http://di.design.umn.edu/projects/GreatIdeaExchange.html>

WHEN: 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, March 27

WHERE: Bean Scene Coffeehouse, 2220 West Broadway, Minneapolis



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March 19, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M'S SEVENTH ANNUAL DESIGN OF MEDICAL DEVICES CONFERENCE TO BE HELD APRIL 15-17

**~ The conference will address major trends in medical device design, policy, engineering,
education and commercialization ~**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Seventh Annual Design of Medical Devices Conference (DMD) will be held April 15-17, at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The conference, designed to attract top leaders from industry and academia, will address major trends related to medical device design, policy, engineering, education and commercialization.

"The momentum this conference continues to generate clearly demonstrates the evolving interest and expertise in this field," said Art Erdman, University of Minnesota professor of mechanical engineering and DMD conference co-chair. "Seven years ago we had a vision to establish an event where leaders from academia and industry would converge to share the latest in medical device design. This vision has become a successful reality and continues to exceed even our own expectations. More than 900 attendees are expected this year."

The conference includes two days of technical sessions, including topics such as cardiovascular engineering, neuroengineering, nano/MEMS devices, medical electronics, tissue engineering, human factors, orthopedics, imaging, surgical technology, legal and regulatory issues, computer-aided design and rehabilitation technology. Conference attendees will also be able to observe a live surgery that will be broadcasted via videoconference from the University of Minnesota Medical Center Fairview. There will also be a scientific poster session that showcases emerging topics in biomedical engineering and medical device design.

Day three of the conference includes the President's 21st Century Interdisciplinary Conference: "Lifelong Learning of the Medical Device Engineer." John Raabo Nielsen, senior vice president of global R&D, Coloplast Corp; Brian Brown, vice president R&D, cardiovascular division, Boston Scientific; Dave Garshelis, fisheries/wildlife/consrv biol, DNR Wildlife Research and Alice Seagren, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will be among the keynote presenters.

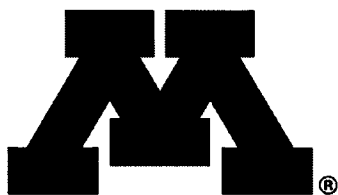
The conference is presented by University of Minnesota's Office of the President, Academic Health Center,

- more -

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The conference is presented by University of Minnesota's Office of the President, Academic Health Center, Institute of Technology, department of mechanical engineering and the Institute for Engineering in Medicine. A record number of industry partners are sponsoring the event, including Boston Scientific, Coloplast, Medtronic, St. Jude Medical, SIMULIA, MSC Software, Fredrikson and Byron, P.A., 3M, Hutchinson Technology Life Science Alley, Minnetronix and Oppenheimer.

For more information on the Design of Medical Devices Conference or to register visit www.dmdconf.org. Online registration ends April 6, walk-ins welcome but pre-registration is recommended.



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March 20, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

SIEHL PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE SEEKS NOMINATIONS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture is requesting nominations for the 2009 awards for outstanding contributions to agriculture and the alleviation of world hunger. In the past, awards were given in alternating years, but under a revised system, up to three awards will be made annually.

The University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences administers the awards. The renewed awards were announced today in conjunction with National Agriculture Day.

Recipients are chosen in three categories: knowledge (teaching, research and outreach), production agriculture and agribusiness. Recipients receive a \$50,000 award as well as a sculpture and lapel pin designed by Minnesota artist Thomas Rose specifically for the Siehl Prize.

The Siehl Prize was created in the early 1990s by a generous gift from New Ulm-area livestock breeder and businessman Eldon Siehl, a dedicated philanthropist who had a lifelong interest in agricultural systems. Siehl was concerned that people were losing touch with their agrarian roots and wanted his gift to ensure that achievements in agriculture would be recognized and celebrated. Past winners include Jennie-O founder Earl Olson and former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland.

"The new awards structure was created because there are so many outstanding individuals to recognize and we wanted to honor as many of them as possible," said Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

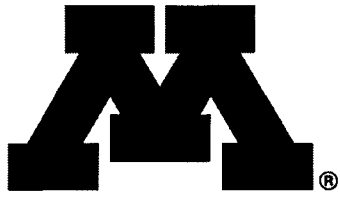
Nominee(s) must reside or have resided in Minnesota for at least five years or hold a degree from the University of Minnesota. Individuals and teams of people are eligible. Self-nominations and nominations of relatives are not allowed.

Nomination instructions are available online at <http://www.cfans.umn.edu/siehlprize>. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 1, with award winners expected to be announced during the spring of 2009.

- more -

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Oct. 1, with award winners expected to be announced during the spring of 2009.



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March 20, 2008

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GUTHRIE EVENT SERIES AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U OF M TO HONOR AND EXPLORE THE WORK OF PLAYWRIGHT TONY KUSHNER

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota and Guthrie Theater will celebrate the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner with a unique collaboration that includes a program (classes and a production) at the university and a landmark series of productions at the Guthrie in the spring of 2009.

At the heart of the activities surrounding the collaboration is a spring-semester course at the university focusing on the work of Kushner. The Guthrie and the University will also collaborate to compile and make accessible to the public a collection featuring original manuscripts by Kushner, set and costume designs, models, photographs and videos from his past productions. During this same period, the University Theatre will present a production of Kushner's 1985 play, "A Bright Room Called Day." In addition to the university-based programs, the Guthrie will host a full calendar of pre- and post-play discussions, Inside Look workshops, Saturday morning gatherings featuring local artists and university faculty, major speaking engagements and a series of other education and outreach programs.

In addition to presenting the previously announced Guthrie commission, tentatively titled "The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures," director Joe Dowling also announced plans for productions of "Caroline, or Change" on the Wurtele Thrust Stage and a collection of Kushner's short plays in the Dowling Studio as part of the upcoming 2008-09 Season. These three simultaneous productions will join a series of speakers, scholars and other special events designed to fully examine and celebrate Kushner's body of work.

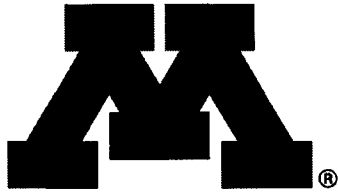
The University Theatre will present Kushner's "A Bright Room Called Day" as part of the 2008-09 University Theatre Subscriber Series, a program of the department of theatre arts & dance at the University of Minnesota.

"Kushner is one of the most important voices in American theater today and it's appropriate and exciting to be able to devote the Guthrie's talent and resources to producing three of his plays simultaneously," Dowling said. "We're particularly pleased to be able to complement the productions with a series of events that will provide insight into his work."

- more -

“The Guthrie is truly legendary, one of the cradles of the serious residential theater movement that revolutionized American drama,” Kushner said. “And the new building is what theaters look like in Heaven. I’d be thrilled and honored to have just one play on at the Guthrie, but three? I’m triply thrilled and honored!”

This line-up of special events is designed to present to the local, national and international community with opportunities to expand and enhance their understanding of and appreciation for the many issues raised in Kushner’s work.



QUICK QUOTES

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March 25, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

QUICK QUOTES AUDIO: ECONOMIC DESPAIR IN AMERICA

~ University applied economist comments on current situation ~

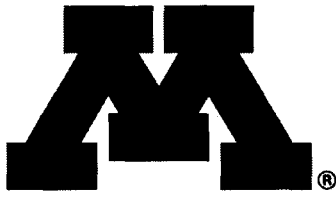
A subprime mortgage mess, the dollar in a free fall and oil on the way up -- there's little good news when it comes to today's American economy. University of Minnesota associate professor of applied economics Joe Ritter helps explain the economic climate the nation is experiencing.

Full sound bites package (2:23)

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/ritter_economy_QQ.mp3

1. Intro
2. Causes of the current situation (0:06)
3. Unemployment numbers (0:48)
4. Ripple effect of downfall of financial institutions (1:24)
5. Why cut interest rates? (2:03)

Quick Quotes are audio clips featuring research, events, announcements and breaking news at the University of Minnesota. They are available for all types of media. For an archive and other useful media services, visit www.unews.umn.edu.



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March 25, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

U OF M AIDS FARMERS IN FIGHT AGAINST BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- As livestock producers work to protect their herds from bovine tuberculosis, University of Minnesota Extension has activated a coordinated system of web and toll-free phone line resources and will sponsor 10 statewide meetings aimed at answering farmers' questions in the fight against the disease.

A total of 11 cattle herds have been discovered with the disease since July 2005 - including four since October 2007 - mostly in northern Minnesota's Roseau and Beltrami counties. Bovine TB poses little threat to humans but could greatly endanger Minnesota's cattle industry.

"The university is partnering with state agencies to help farmers contain and respond to bovine TB," said Extension Dean Bev Durgan. "We hope to reach as many producers as possible through the outstate meetings. Extension educators are also available through the Farm Information Line with timely responses to questions about the disease."

Extension's bovine tuberculosis Web site, www.extension.umn.edu/TB, and the toll-free phone service provide livestock producers with the most up-to-date information on bovine TB, including clinical signs of the disease, deer hunter and safe game handling and neighboring state shipping requirements. The Web site and phone service can also help producers get in touch with appropriate state and federal agencies if additional information is needed.

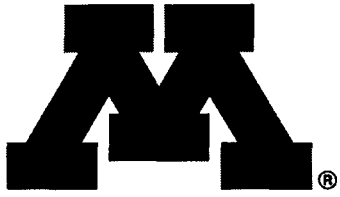
Extension's Farm Information Line, (800) 232-9077, staffed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., connects producers with Extension educators prepared to answer questions about bovine TB. Questions at other times of the day and on weekends can be left on voice mail and will be returned during staffed hours. In addition, questions can be e-mailed to the Farm Information Line at fil@umn.edu, and a written response will be returned.

The bovine TB informational meetings will take place in: Browerville (March 25); Zumbrota (March 25); Jackson (March 26); New Ulm (March 26); Aitkin (March 27); Montevideo (April 2); Ottertail (April 8);

- more -

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Detroit Lakes (April 8); Iron (April 16); and Carlton (April 17). For a complete schedule, including times and locations, visit www.extension.umn.edu/TB/StateTBMeetings.html.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2008

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LEGAL AID SOCIETY HONORS U OF M LAW PROFESSOR

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota Law School Professor Laura Cooper will be honored at the 27th Annual Law Day Testimonial Dinner on May 1 at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center, 307 Seventh St. S., Minneapolis.

The annual Law Day Dinner is held to recognize honorees for outstanding contributions over their careers, thank them for helping improve and enrich the world and present them as examples to their peers, said Jeremy Lane, executive director of Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance (MMLA). "Laura has been probably the best example over many years of what a law professor can do to help poor people."

The event, co-sponsored by the Fund for the Legal Aid Society and the Hennepin County Bar Association, raises money to support the work of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis (LASM). LASM provides free civil legal services to poor and disadvantaged persons in Hennepin County and people with disabilities statewide through the Minnesota Disability Law Center.

Cooper, a founding and continuing member of the fund board, has worked with LASM, its corporate parent MMLA, and Central Minnesota Legal Services for nearly 30 years. She was a member of the LASM board for 24 years where she also served as president.

Cooper's public service also included a decade enforcing a consent decree for equal opportunity for women faculty at the University of Minnesota, participation in gender-fairness studies of state and federal courts and membership on various other boards.

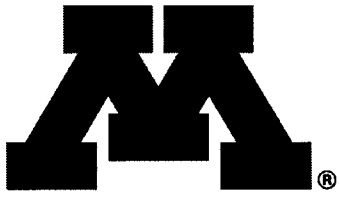
She is currently the J. Stewart and Mario Thomas McClendon Professor in Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Law School. In recognition of her leadership in the field, she was elected a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers in 2006.

Tom Goldstein, who has argued 18 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court over 13 years of legal practice, will give

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the dinner's keynote address, "An Insider's View of the Supreme Court." He co-heads the Supreme Court practice at Akin Gump in Washington, D.C.



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March 25, 2008

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FOUNDATION PRESIDENTS TO SPEAK ABOUT PHILANTHROPIC INTEREST IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT U OF M FORUM

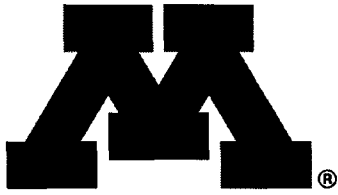
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The new presidents of two of the largest philanthropic foundations in Minnesota will discuss their organizations' commitment to the provision of affordable housing at the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) monthly housing forum from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 28 in room 250 Anderson Hall, 257 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Sandra Vargas, President of The Minneapolis Foundation, and Kate Wolford, President of The McKnight Foundation, will engage in a discussion titled: Margins to the Mainstream; Philanthropic Interests in Affordable Housing.

The CURA Housing Forum is a monthly bag lunch discussion of housing issues and research sponsored by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota.

WHEN: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 28

WHERE: Room 250 Anderson Hall, 257 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CELEBRATES 1/4 MILLIONTH U-PASS SALE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota Parking and Transportation Services has surpassed the 1/4 million mark in U-Passes sold to students at the University of Minnesota since the discounted unlimited-ride transit pass program began in 2000.

To mark this milestone, the U-Pass Prize Team recently surprised Cassie Klebig -- the purchaser of the 1/4 millionth pass -- with balloons and prizes, including a gift certificate that reimburses her for the record-breaking U-Pass this semester and gives her a free fall 2008 U-Pass, courtesy of Metro Transit. Klebig, a U of M sophomore, purchased her pass during the first week of spring semester.

The U-Pass program began with federal funding from a \$5.5 million Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grant aimed at improving air quality and reducing congestion on Twin Cities roadways. Administered through the Metropolitan Council, the grant funded the initial two-year trial part of the program. Today, the program is fully supported by U-Pass customer fees and a mandatory student transportation fee.

Since the introduction of U-Pass, the Twin Cities campus has experienced a 319 percent increase in the number of people riding the bus to campus. At the program's start, approximately 7,000 people took the bus to campus each day. Today, that number has grown to more than 20,000.

"Students know a good bargain when they see it," said Bob Baker, executive director for Parking and Transportation Services. "U-Pass is a vital tool for students to get around the metro as well as to and from campus itself."

The effects of this program also have environmental benefits. The university has experienced a significant reduction in vehicle miles traveled; the estimate is more than 114,000 miles a day. The university also calculates a reduction in carbon monoxide emissions of more than 1,500 tons since September 2000.

The program's initial goal was to achieve a 40 percent increase in bus ridership by spring 2002. That goal was

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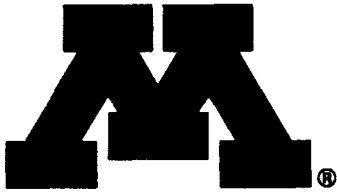
reached and even doubled.

The University of Minnesota's U-Pass program has been honored with a 2000 Metro Commuter Service Commuter Choice Award for outstanding leadership and demonstrated commitment to innovative commuter transportation programs as well as a 2002 Minnesota Governor's Award of Excellence in Waste and Pollution Prevention.

Baker encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation. "If we plan to preserve our environment yet keep our cities growing and moving into the 22nd century, future generations will need to embrace better ways of commuting," Baker said. "The way to foster that is by shaping transportation patterns early in life. With U-Pass, we make that happen."

U-Pass is optional for all students at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus and costs only \$64 per semester, a 70 percent savings over the average monthly bus pass price. The pass is valid on all Twin Cities metro buses and light rail.

For more information about the U-Pass program, visit the Web site at <http://www.pts.umn.edu/upass.htm>



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March 26, 2008

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ROBOTICS COMPETITION REDEFINES 'MARCH MADNESS'

~ More than 50 high school teams to compete at the University of Minnesota March 28-29 ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- An arena full of screaming fans and more than 50 high school teams from Minnesota and surrounding states are creating a new kind of "March Madness" at the first-ever Minnesota Regional FIRST Robotics Competition 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 28-29 at the University of Minnesota's Williams Arena and Sports Pavilion, 1925 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. The championship matches are 1-3 p.m., Saturday, March 29. The event is free and open to the public.

Borrowing a page from the sports playbook, the robotics competition uses the excitement of sports to promote science, technology, engineering and math in a fun and interactive way.

The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition challenges each team of high school students and their mentors to build a robot in six weeks and enter the robot in competitions designed by a committee of engineers and other professionals. The competing robots are nearly 3 feet by 4 feet and stand almost 5 feet tall. Some robots will unfold to be 9 feet tall.

This year's game, named FIRST Overdrive, is based on the simple concept of robots racing around a 27-foot-by-54-foot carpeted circular track. For every lap around the track that each member of a three-team alliance completes, points will be added to that team's score. Complicating matters are four, 40-inch diameter, eight-pound inflatable "trackballs" that start the match elevated 78 inches above the field on girders called the Overpass. These trackballs can be knocked off their starting position on the Overpass, pushed around the field, and then lifted or hurdled back over the Overpass or rolled underneath for additional points. A video simulation of this year's game is available on the Minnesota FIRST Regional Web site at www.mnfirstregional.org.

Winning teams from the regional event will advance to the national championship April 17-19 in Atlanta.

Just two years ago, there were only two FIRST Robotics teams in Minnesota. Due to sponsorships from the University of Minnesota and corporations such as Medtronic, Boston Scientific, 3M, St. Jude Medical,

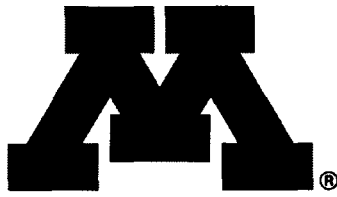
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Lockheed Martin, General Mills, Cargill, Best Buy, BAE Systems and others, the number of robotics teams in Minnesota has more than tripled from 16 teams last year to 54 teams this year. Worldwide there are more than 1,500 FIRST Robotics teams.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 28-29; championship rounds 1 to 3 p.m., March 29

WHERE: University of Minnesota Williams Arena and Sports Pavilion, 1925 University Ave., S.E.,
Minneapolis

Media can photograph teams setting up and conducting practice rounds 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 27 in Williams Arena.



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA HELPS CELEBRATE MINNESOTA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- In "Commemorating Discovery: Our Past and Our Future," the U of M will help Minnesota celebrate its sesquicentennial with a month-long series of panel discussions, highlighting the past 150 years and looking ahead to future challenges and opportunities.

University faculty will present and lead discussions on issues facing Minnesota -- past, present and future. The series will tackle the evolution of the suburbs, natural resources, demographic changes and protecting the public's health.

The series begins with "The Arts and the Built Environment: Changes in Suburban Life," at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at the Twin Cities Campus Club, Coffman Memorial Union, 200 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. A social hour will precede the panel at 5:30 p.m.

"We welcome all members of the public to join us for these thought-provoking discussions," said university president Robert Bruininks. "As we pause to honor Minnesota's 150th birthday, it is also appropriate that we acknowledge the role of the university. We are proud to play a critical role in generating new knowledge to benefit the state and its citizens, and we are equally proud to participate in this great celebration."

Other panel topics are as follows:

- "Agriculture and Forestry in the Natural World," 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10
- "Changing Demographics: Snapshots of a New Minnesota and a New America," 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17
- "A Changing World: Past and Present Threats to the Public's Health," 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24

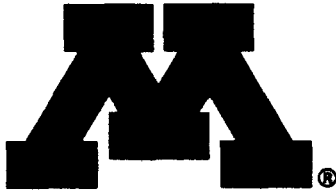
The panel presentations are free and open to the public but registration is required. All take place at the Twin Cities Campus Club on the fourth floor of Coffman Memorial Union. Social hours with refreshments and a cash bar will be held before every panel at 5:30 p.m.

To register, and for complete details, including a campus map, visit the official university sesquicentennial site,

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<http://www.umn.edu/sesqui> .



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U.S. REP. JIM OBERSTAR WILL HEADLINE U OF M'S 2008 FREEMAN LECTURE ON U.S. WATER POLICY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Water quality impacts everything - from our food and our health to the environment and the economy. The 2008 Freeman Lecture will focus on the implications and complexities of policy decisions made about water resources. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

U.S. Rep. James Oberstar, chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, will deliver the morning keynote address from 9 to 11 a.m. Oberstar's committee has jurisdiction over America's inland waterway system, international maritime commerce, U.S. Corps of Engineers' support of the nation's water resources and the federal clean water program. Prior to his election to the Eighth district, Oberstar staffed the Congressional committee that drafted the original federal Clean Water Act in 1972.

Steve Morse, executive director of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, will follow Oberstar's remarks with a luncheon address. The program will conclude with afternoon panel discussions about water policy issues in Minnesota, such as the Great Lakes Compact, regional water access and the quality of water resources throughout the state.

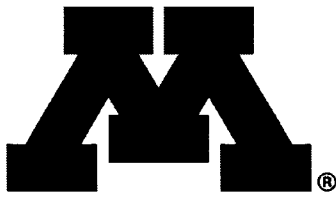
The Freeman Lecture is free and open to the public, with a nominal charge for lunch (\$20 for the general public; no charge for high school and college students). Seating is limited, so pre-registration for the program and lunch is required. Please register by March 31 online at www.freemanforum.org. Questions can be directed to (651) 645-9403.

The Freeman Lecture was established by the University of Minnesota in 2003 to honor Orville L. Freeman, Minnesota's first Democratic-Farmer-Labor governor. Freeman, who also served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in the cabinets of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, died in 2003. The lecture series examines policy issues related to Freeman's work in agriculture. For more information on the lecture program, visit www.freemanforum.org.

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WHAT: Daylong program on state and federal water policy questions
WHEN: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 8
WHERE: Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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U OF M HOSTS SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONFERENCE IN DULUTH

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota will host "Stepping Up to Sustainability," the third Conference on Sustainable Tourism, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 15 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC), 350 Harbor Drive, Duluth.

Sustainable tourism attempts to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate income, employment and the conservation of local ecosystems.

Hosted by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center, the conference is intended for tourism business owners and community leaders, as well as students and other members of the public who are interested in research-based sustainable tourism practices. Attendees will learn hands-on, practical tools and implementation of these practices, such as conducting an energy audit, creating a "green roof," "greening" your community event and others.

"It's an exciting challenge, but we've already seen benefits to our bottom line," Nikki Anderson, manager of the Inn on Lake Superior, said of sustainable tourism practices. "From ordering recycled products and purchasing locally whenever possible to having staff use Nalgene water bottles instead of disposable cups, our customers are paying attention and holding us accountable."

Like most destinations, Minnesota relies on its natural and human resources for tourism, which generates more than \$10 billion in sales and employs more than 240,000 people in the state.

Research also shows that travelers recognize and desire sustainable tourism practices. According to the Travel Industry Association of America, one-third of American travelers say they are influenced by a company's actions to preserve the environment, history and culture of destinations.

The conference kicks off with keynote speaker Joel Makower, a specialist in green business practices and co-founder of Greener World Media, Inc., which produces GreenBiz.com, ClimateBiz.com and

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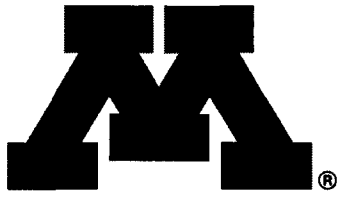
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co-founder of Greener World Media, Inc., which produces GreenBiz.com, ClimateBiz.com and GreenerComputing.com.

Registration is \$95 per person, and \$35 for students. For more information and to register, visit www.tourism.umn.edu.

A source of tourism research and education in the state and beyond, the Tourism Center is a collaboration of University of Minnesota Extension and the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS).

The University of Minnesota also offers a newly-created minor in sustainability studies through CFANS.



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U OF M'S SAWYER SEMINAR CONCLUDES WITH THREE EXPERTS ON THE INTERSECTION OF RELIGION AND HUMANITARIANISM

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The Sawyer Seminar series will conclude with three lectures on religious influences in humanitarianism. All events take place from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the U of M's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The lectures are free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Wednesday, April 9-- "Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State"

Visiting scholar Mark Juergensmeyer, the director of the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies and professor of sociology and religious studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is an expert on religious violence, conflict resolution, and South Asian religion and politics. Juergensmeyer's widely read book, "Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence," is based on interviews with violent religious activists around the world — including individuals convicted of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, leaders of Hamas and abortion clinic bombers in the United States.

Thursday, April 10 -- "The Crisis in Sudan and the Humanitarian Response"

Visiting scholar Andrew Natsios, is the distinguished professor in practice of diplomacy, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, managed the U.S. Agency for International Development's reconstruction programs in Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan from 2001 to 2006. President George Bush also appointed him special coordinator for International Disaster Assistance and special humanitarian coordinator for the Sudan.

Thursday, April 17 -- "The Global Role of Muslims in Humanitarian Aid"

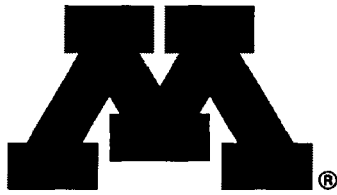
Hany El-Banna is the co-founder and president of Islamic Relief, the largest Western-based international Muslim relief and development NGO. Islamic Relief aims to provide rapid relief in the event of human and natural disasters and to establish local development projects to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and disease.

The Sawyer Seminar is organized by the University of Minnesota in partnership with various units with the U,

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The Sawyer Seminar is organized by the University of Minnesota in partnership with various units with the U, including the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the department of political science, and the College of Liberal Arts. The Sawyer Seminar provides a critical exploration of the historical development and practices of international humanitarianism. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/humanitarianisms/Sawyer.html.



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ARBORETUM CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENT, ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER CORRELATION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The healing power of nature is more than a poetic platitude. This month at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, researchers from the University of Minnesota and other institutions will present a definite link between exposure to green spaces and healthy childhood development. The findings will be presented at "Nature, Children and Families: A Necessary Connection," a public policy conference held 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 4 in the arboretum's MacMillan Auditorium, 3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska.

Renowned behavior researcher Andrea Faber Taylor will share groundbreaking research from the famed Landscape and Human Health Laboratory at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, specifically addressing her own studies of two populations -- children living in impoverished public housing and children coping with attention deficit disorder. In recent national research, Faber Taylor and colleague Frances Kuo found that children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, experienced a significant reduction in symptoms after they participated in activities in green settings -- whether it was playing soccer or doing homework under a tree. Other research found that inner-city girls who had views of greenery from their windows possessed a greater degree of self-discipline than girls who did not.

"The facts are startling," said Mary Vidas, director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Public Policy Program. "Eighty percent of the population lives in a municipal setting. By 1990, the radius around the home where children were allowed to roam on their own had shrunk to a ninth of what it was in the 1980s. As a result, children are not provided the same opportunities to engage in free play, develop their creativity and critical thinking skills and ultimately benefit from connecting to the natural world around them."

The conference will also feature Martha Farrell Erickson of the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Family Consortium. In her presentation, "Healing the Broken Bond between Children and Nature," Erickson will discuss today's relationship between children and the outdoors and the importance of a strengthening that bond. Erickson is a former director of the university's Children, Youth & Family Consortium and a founding member of the board of directors of the Children and Nature Network, a national nonprofit established to bring people

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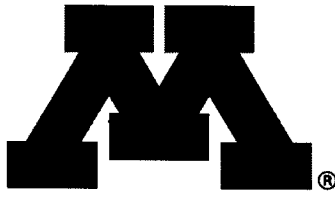
together around the issue of children and nature.

Conference attendees will have an opportunity to learn about national and regional developments and educational and community models designed to engage children of all ages with the natural environment. Break-out sessions will provide opportunities for networking with experts in the field.

Professional education credits are available.

The registration fee of \$90 for Arboretum and MCFR members or \$120 for non-members includes lunch, entrance fee and an arboretum tour. For more information, visit the arboretum's Web site at www.arboretum.umn.edu and select "Public Policy Programs" from the Learn tab or contact the arboretum's education office at (952) 443-1422. The event is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Council on Family Relations and the Arboretum's Public Policy Programs.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is the largest public garden in the Upper Midwest and a premier northern arboretum. Part of the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, it is a community and national resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education. The arboretum is disability accessible.



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TIM PENNY AND JOEL BARKER TO HEADLINE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Former U.S. Rep. Tim Penny and futurist Joel Barker will headline the 2008 University of Minnesota Center for Integrative Leadership conference, "Making Communities Work: Leadership across Public, Private, Nonprofit and Geographic Boundaries," Monday and Tuesday, April 21-22 at Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Presented in partnership with University of Minnesota Extension, the conference will provide community leaders, scholars and community development professionals with an opportunity to examine how communities can come together to address some of the most pressing and complex societal problems such as coping after a factory leaves town; tapping technology for economic growth; and putting a rural community on the map.

The conference will also provide a platform for analyzing how theories of leadership and community development inform the concept of integrative leadership.

"Integrative leadership encourages leaders from different perspectives to come together and generate new ways of solving some of the most pressing problems in communities," said U of M Extension Dean Bev Durgan. "As the university's major outreach arm, Extension is pleased to support these efforts in Minnesota communities, and help connect leaders to the U's research base in leadership and public affairs."

Barker, the first person to popularize the concept of paradigm shifts for the corporate world, has worked with global business leaders and visionaries for nearly three decades. Author of the book "Future Edge" and former director of the future studies department of the Science Museum of Minnesota, Barker will deliver the conference's keynote address, "Innovation and Implications: New Responsibilities for 21st Century Leaders," April 21 at 4 p.m.

The presentation by Penny, president of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and a senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute, will take place April 22 at 10:15 a.m. Penny's speech is titled, "Reinventing Minnesota:

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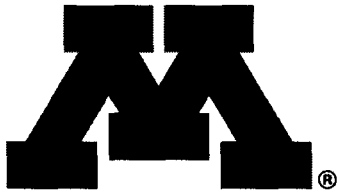
Crossing Traditional Boundaries to Create Change.”

The conference runs from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on April 21 and from 8 to 11 a.m. on April 22. Registration for the two-day event is \$80 per person, including lunch, evening appetizers and beverages (April 21), and breakfast (April 22). Register online at www.extension.umn.edu/MakingCommunitiesWork.

The Center for Integrative Leadership is a university-wide initiative that explores how leaders in the public, private and nonprofit sectors can work together across traditional boundaries to solve problems and promote the common good. Its oversight is shared by the Carlson School of Management and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The university’s Extension Center for Community Vitality works across the state in communities to examine the social, economic, civic and technological future.

For more information about the conference, visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/MakingCommunitiesWork> or contact Joyce Hoelting, Extension Center for Community Vitality, at 612-625-8233.

WHAT: University of Minnesota Center for Integrative Leadership conference
WHEN: Monday and Tuesday, April 21-22
WHERE: Hubert H. Humphrey Center Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu

INSTITUTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS MORE THAN \$20,000 TO STUDENT GROUPS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment has awarded more than \$20,000 in grants to student organizations university-wide, the institute announced Thursday. The grants will support projects or activities in spring 2008 that promote sustainability and the environment.

The institute sought proposals from official student organizations on all University of Minnesota campuses. The primary criteria for funding included project feasibility, innovation, reach, the quality of the project and the potential impact in the community and/or on campus.

"Our goal is to build on the important environmental work that many student groups are already engaged in," said Elizabeth Wilson, a professor in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and an Institute on the Environment founding fellow who led the review panel. "After receiving such a great response to our first call for proposals, we're now looking at ways the program might grow in the future to support research projects, travel grants and other campus sustainability initiatives."

In total, the review panel selected six groups to receive the full amount requested, and provided partial funding to six additional groups. The projects will be featured on the institute's Web site and the awardees may be asked to present their final reports at an upcoming institute-sponsored event.

The 12 grant awardees include:

- Active Energy Club for the Institute of Technology Energy Audits: The club will buy the equipment necessary to gather data on the energy usage of a typical university building, and use the results to promote more economic energy use.
- Cedar Humphrey Action for Neighborhood Collaborative Engagement (CHANCE) Center for Integrative Leadership for the Bluff Street Park Walking Tour and Dialogue: Participants can join a walking tour as well as a facilitated conversation to learn about efforts to preserve this space as a park.

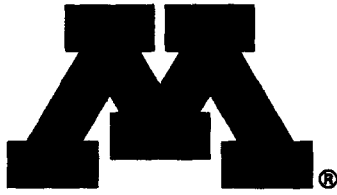
- more -

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facilitated conversation to learn about efforts to preserve this space as a park.

- Council of Graduate Students Committee for the Promotion of Sustainability for travel to and accommodations during the 2008 Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference in College Park, Md.
- Compassionate Action for Animals (CAA), EcoWatch and Minnesota Public Interest and Research Group (MPIRG) for the event, “From Farm to Fork: The Environmental Impacts of Animal Agriculture.”
- Corporate Environmental Management (CEM) Network for the event, “Workforce Development - Developing a Green Economy”: A panel of speakers will discuss how the transition to a green economy has affected the desired skill sets of university graduates, through the eyes of industry.
- University of Minnesota, Duluth Earth Club for the Respect Your Mother Earth Day Festival: Now in its third year, this event includes music, vendors, artists and activities to celebrate and promote environmentalism in the local community.
- Engineers without Borders for Uganda Water Supply, Sanitation and Renewable Energy: This project aims to provide adequate, hygienic, locally sustainable rain water harvesting; ecological dry composting sanitation; and solar-powered energy supply for the Hope Integrated Academy in Mulobere, Uganda.
- Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology Club for the Sarita Wetland re-vegetation: This project will include the planting of shrubs and other wetland plants.
- The University of Minnesota, Morris gardening club for an on-campus organic farm: The funding will go toward seeds, equipment and tiller rental.
- University of Minnesota, Crookston horticulture club for a native plant demonstration area: This hands-on learning opportunity will show students and the community how to implement sustainable practices by using native plants in landscaping.
- Minnesota Public Interest and Research Group (MPIRG), biology club and organic garden club for a pilot composting project on the Morris campus.
- Substance at UMN for an environmentally themed sustainable music festival and poetry slam.

Visit www.environment.umn.edu for more information.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2008

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U OF M FORUM TO FEATURE STATE DEMOGRAPHER ON MINNESOTA'S RAPIDLY SHIFTING POPULATION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Minnesota has experienced profound demographic changes over the years, affecting sectors of society such as the economy, the environment and the workplace. While demographic change normally progresses on a gradual scale, the pace and impact of some of these changes, especially in the workforce, will start to rapidly accelerate this year, according to Minnesota State Demographer Tom Gillaspy. Gillaspy will speak about these changes at the upcoming Strategic Leadership Insights breakfast and forum, 7-9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 2 at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Gillaspy will address the interrelationships between some of these trends, including the aging and diversity of the workforce. He will provide a model for business leaders to consider these changes in terms of their economic impact and to make strategic choices for success in the new environment.

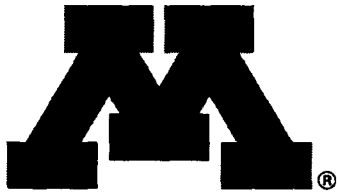
He will also discuss which of Minnesota's assets will help the state as a whole be successful in the new business paradigm and will offer perspective on Minnesota's situation in relation to the rest of the country and the world.

Tickets are \$50 and are available by calling (612) 624-4000 or visiting cce.umn.edu/leadershipinsights. Breakfast starts at 7 a.m.; Gillaspy's talk will be from 8-9:30 a.m.

The Strategic Leadership Insights breakfast series from the university's College of Continuing Education is an engaging forum geared toward Twin Cities area upper-management professionals. Each session is an opportunity to hear from nationally recognized business experts on key workforce trends, and then to engage in a moderated discussion on these important issues.

WHEN: 7 - 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 2

WHERE: Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul



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March 31, 2008

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UNIVERSITY REVEALS WINNING APPLE NAME

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The wait is over. The University of Minnesota on Tuesday announced the winning name of its newest apple, Frostbite.

Formerly known as "MN447," Frostbite dates back to 1921 when the cross-pollinating of two apple blossoms was made at the university's Horticultural Research Center (HRC), now in its 100th year. The apple is actually a grandparent of the most famous U of M apple, Honeycrisp, and joins a long line of successes including Haralson, Zestar and Snowsweet apples. The center is also responsible for several new grape varieties, including the LaCrescent and Frontenac, and plants such as the northern-hardy "Lights" azaleas.

The naming of the apple was chosen following a contest at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum that saw more than 7,000 entries worldwide. Eight Minnesotans who independently submitted the winning name are Lisa Rolf of Eden Prairie, Ted and Caroline Larson of Chaska, Ann Stout of Woodbury, Bonnie Winzenburg of Brainerd, Matt Zitzow of Roseville, Dianne Brackett of Wayzata and Linda Davis of Coon Rapids. They will each receive a certificate of congratulations and a basket of Frostbites.

"We're excited to finally have a name," said Jim Luby, a professor in the university's department of horticultural science. "The public interest in this naming was tremendous."

Luby and David Bedford, an apple scientist at HRC, coordinated the judging process. The committee selected two runners-up: "Munchkin" and "Small Wonder."

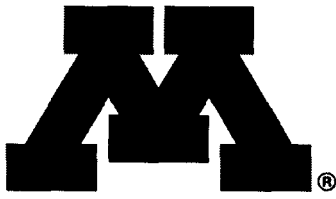
"It was an exhausting process, but we're very happy with the results," said Bedford.

Frostbite is a specialty apple with striking characteristics -- it is small in size; it has an unusual, almost tropical, flavor; and it is the most winter hardy apple ever released by the university. It is suited for home gardeners and orchards that market directly to consumers.

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While the Frostbite name is here, consumers will have to wait to eat the apples. Commercial nurseries will soon start propagating the trees, which will be ready for gardeners and orchards to plant in one to two years. The first trees will then bear fruit to sell around 2014.



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March 31, 2008

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HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SPRING SNOW

Several inches of heavy snow are expected to blanket the metro area today with more coming overnight. While late-March and early-April snow isn't unusual, a snowstorm of over eight inches this late in the year has not occurred in over 20 years. A U of M expert who can speak on today's Spring snow is:

Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota Extension Climatologist

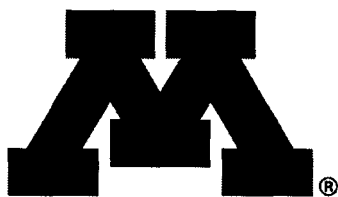
Seeley can provide a historical perspective on today's springtime snowstorm. He is also the author of "The Minnesota Weather Almanac."

For video of Seeley discussing snow visit

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/snowscience.htm.

To interview Seeley, contact Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552 or mathre@umn.edu; or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu.

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April 1, 2008

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U OF M'S HUMPHREY INSTITUTE RANKED SIXTH AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs is ranked sixth among schools of public affairs at public universities (ranked 14th overall), according to the 2008 U.S. News & World Report rankings released today. The institute has moved up from the magazine's previous rankings in 2004 when the school was tied for 21st overall. Public affairs graduate programs are ranked by U.S. News every three to four years through peer assessment surveys completed by deans, directors and department chairs.

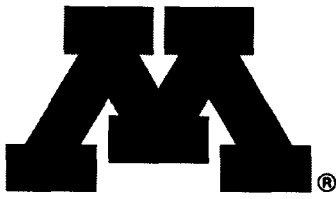
Humphrey Institute Dean J. Brian Atwood credits the institute's many new faculty hires, increased public programming and nationally recognized research for the increased acknowledgement from its peers.

"The Humphrey Institute has maintained a strong commitment to teaching, research and outreach, with an overall goal to improve the student experience," said Atwood. "Over the past few years, we have hosted several national meetings, and our faculty members have continued to present their research to colleagues across the country. Today's ranking is recognition of these ongoing efforts."

The Humphrey Institute also is highly regarded at the programmatic level. The institute's nonprofit management program ranks sixth; the health policy program ranked 16th (tying with the University of Chicago); the public management program is ranked 17th (not previously ranked); social policy ranks 15th (previously ranked 17th); and public policy analysis is ranked 18th (not previously ranked).

"As gratifying as it is to be recognized through national rankings, this doesn't change our efforts to keep advancing the mission of the Humphrey Institute," said Atwood. "Our programs and research have always been exceptional, and we collaborate with other top University of Minnesota programs."

For more information on the U.S. News rankings and the survey methodology, visit <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/grad/public-affairs.html>



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April 1, 2008

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RALPH RAPSON, FORMER HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, DIES AT 93

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Ralph Rapson, celebrated architect and Head of the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota for 30 years, died at his home on Saturday. He was 93.

As the architect of many important Twin Cities buildings, including the original Guthrie Theater (1963), the Philip W. Pillsbury House (1965) and Cedar Square West (now Riverside Plaza, 1973), Rapson had a national and international reputation, designing award-winning buildings across the United States as well as the American embassies in Stockholm and Copenhagen. He also designed numerous single- and multi-family housing, churches and institutional buildings, such as the Rarig Center for the Performing Arts (1972) on the Twin Cities campus and the Humanities and Fine Arts Building (1973) on the Morris Campus of the University of Minnesota. One of the last of the second generation of Modern architects in America still practicing, Rapson was at the drawing board the day of his passing.

Rapson's achievements at the University of Minnesota included ushering in a new era of modern design, a dramatic departure from the Beaux Arts tradition that had formerly characterized architectural education at the university. Rapson's vision of an integrated approach to design led him to establish the program in landscape architecture and to advocate for all of the design disciplines being in one unit, something that the university achieved with the College of Design in 2006. He served as the head of the School of Architecture from 1954 to 1984, and Rapson Hall -- home of the College of Design's School of Architecture, department of landscape architecture and other units -- is named in his honor. Rapson also helped establish the Ralph Rapson Traveling Fellowship, which enables university graduates and local architects to travel and continue their architectural studies.

"While Ralph lived long enough," said College of Design Dean Thomas Fisher, "to see the demolition of some of his many outstanding buildings -- the Guthrie Theater, the Pillsbury House, the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church -- he also saw a widespread revival of interest in his work over the last decade or two, especially in his low-cost, prefabricated housing ideas and in his light-weight furniture designs. His architecture reflected his personality: modest and unassuming and, at the same time, playful and inventive. Ralph's passing represents the end of an

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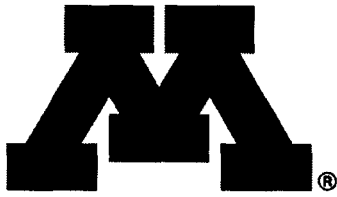
modest and unassuming and, at the same time, playful and inventive. Ralph's passing represents the end of an era, not just for Minnesota's design community, but also for American architecture. One of our last living links to the first generation of Modernists, such as the famous Finish architect Alvar Aalto, is now gone."

A graduate of the University of Michigan and Cranbrook Academy, Rapson was a colleague of mid-century modern designers such as Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen, and a fellow educator with Aalto at MIT. Rapson also led the architecture department of the New Bauhaus School in Chicago, before coming to Minnesota in 1954, where, in addition to heading the architecture school, he established the firm, Ralph Rapson and Associates, Inc., in Minneapolis. His architect-son, Toby, who graduated from the University of Minnesota and is now the firm's president, eventually joined Rapson. Recent projects by the firm include the State of Minnesota Centennial Building, the Mixed Blood Theater and the Conservatory at the University of Minnesota's Landscape Arboretum.

Rapson's career and his many contributions to the communities he worked in are chronicled in a 1999 book, "Ralph Rapson: Sixty Years of Modern Design," co-authored by Rapson's son, Rip Rapson, Jane King Hession and Bruce Wright. In the introduction, the authors identify the intrinsic spirit that characterized all of Rapson's pursuits -- teaching, design practice, mentoring of students and faculty and community involvement. His drawings, they write, are:

"...always full of people -- not the required scale figures one usually sees in architectural rendering but people with personalities. Indeed, over the course of his career, Ralph Rapson may well have drawn more people than any other architect past or present... This focus is telling, because it shows that he has never lost sight of the fact that architecture is first and foremost, about the people who use it."

Numerous awards have been bestowed upon Rapson, including five national American Institute of Architecture (AIA) awards, the ACSA/AIA Topaz Medal for Educational Excellence, and five Progressive Architecture awards.



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April 1, 2008

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U OF M SPONSORED QUARKNET TEAM WINS TRIP TO GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, TO OBSERVE WORLD'S LARGEST PHYSICS EXPERIMENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A University of Minnesota QuarkNet team from Centennial Senior High School was one of 6 chosen from the United States to travel to the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland. They will report on the preparations of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), soon to be the world's highest energy particle accelerator. The team consists of high school seniors Peter Solfest, Jim Peterman and Jon Schmidt, together with their physics teacher and Minnesota QuarkNet leader Jon Anderson. Their blog will be available at <http://www.lhcscience.org/journalists>.

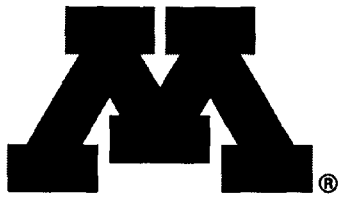
The team will document the LHC activity using video, photographs and blogs during their April 4-6 visit. At CERN they will meet with the University of Minnesota physicists helping to build the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector. They will also interview physicists from the 94 universities and national laboratories in the United States and from 40 countries around the world working on the accelerator and its massive detectors. The Minnesota team will fly into Geneva on April 3 and post their first blog the next day. The six teams from five states across the United States were the winners of a competition sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science and the National Science Foundation. Each team consists of a teacher and three students who will combine their expertise in physics, communications and video production to communicate the science and excitement of preparing for the grand experiment.

The LHC is a proton accelerator seven times more powerful than the Fermilab Tevatron in Batavia, Ill., the current high energy champion. It is essentially a 27-kilometer circle of superconducting magnets installed 100 meters underground the border between Switzerland and France. Threading through the centers of the magnet circle are two vacuum pipes, each containing a powerful beam of protons speeding along with more than 200 million times the energy of electrons hitting the screen of a traditional color TV. These protons collide head-on 40 million times a second at the center of two huge detectors, CMS cms.cern.ch and ATLAS atlas.ch. Physicists will use the data collected from the detectors to investigate the basic forces of the universe. They have designed the accelerator and its detectors to find the origin of mass, explore the existence of extra dimensions of space, look for microscopic black holes and determine the composition of dark matter.

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Centennial High School is located in Blaine, Minn. It offers a full range of physics courses including “College-in-the-Schools” physics, from which the team was drawn. Jon Anderson is an award winning teacher, QuarkNet Lead Teacher, a member of the University of Minnesota Physics Force demonstration team, a teacher-in-residence at the University of Minnesota School of Physics and Astronomy in the PhysTEC program, and a physics teacher resource agent of the American Association of Physics Teachers. The three students all plan to attend college next year. Peter Solfest is an accomplished trombone player and is planning to major in physics, Jim Peterman is a three-sport athlete who plans attend to be an elementary teacher and Jon Schmidt plays lacrosse and plans to major in a science- or math-related field.



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April 2, 2008

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U OF M'S "HEADLINERS" FOCUSES ON FORECLOSURE CRISIS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The rise in mortgage foreclosures has sparked a sharp downturn in the state's economy and has forced thousands of Minnesota families from their homes. Worried by this trend, Minnesota politicians are borrowing a page from Depression-era lawmaking and considering several bills that would stem the tide and protect homeowners, renters and neighborhoods from its devastating consequences. This month, University of Minnesota law professor Prentiss Cox, who has played a central role in crafting state laws pertaining to the foreclosure crisis, will speak about the legal issues behind the foreclosure problem at this month's Headliners, 7p.m. Thursday, April 3 at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Professor Cox will address the growing debate about what the ripple effects of this complicated problem are and how much the government should do to protect its citizens from financial distress. Professor Cox is in a unique position to discuss these issues, having played a central role in crafting the state's anti-predatory lending law and the Minnesota Subprime Foreclosure Deferment Act.

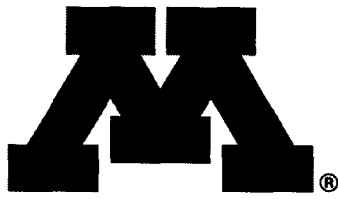
A frequent speaker on consumer protection issues, Cox was an Assistant Attorney General and manager of the Consumer Enforcement Division in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office prior to joining the U of M faculty. He holds a law degree from the U of M Law School and has prosecuted numerous nationally-recognized cases involving predatory lending, subprime mortgage lending, credit card practices and telemarketing fraud.

Tickets are \$10. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.cce.umn.edu/headliners or call (612) 624-4000.

Headliners, offered through the U of M's College of Continuing Education, is a chance to meet once a month with university and community experts as they share firsthand knowledge of the day's most intriguing stories -- the medical breakthroughs, culture clashes, social trends and foreign affairs that are making headlines.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 3

WHERE: Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul



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April 2, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES EXHIBIT EXAMINES 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BURNING OF THE HIRSCHFELD LIBRARY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- May 10 marks the 75th anniversary of the burning of the Magnus Hirschfeld Library by the National Socialists (Nazis) in Opernplatz, Berlin. The University of Minnesota Libraries will display actual materials that survived the Hirschfeld Library's destruction and tell the history of this tragic event. The "75th Anniversary of the Burning of the Hirschfeld Library," exhibit is free and open to the public from March 24 to May 16 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library Gallery, 222 -21st Ave S., Minneapolis.

Magnus Hirschfeld was a German physician, sexologist and Gay rights advocate. His Institute for Sexual Research housed the largest collection of books on sexual science at that time and also provided educational services and medical consultations. It is estimated that Nazis destroyed nearly 20,000 books and journals and 5,000 photos and works of art during the burning of the Hirschfeld Library on May 10, 1933.

"The significance of an exhibit like this is to help us remember that libraries, which are the repositories of our cultural heritage, are never truly safe from those who would destroy them for whatever reasons," said University of Minnesota GLBT Collection Specialist Nickolaus Jean Tretter.

Among the many unique items that will be on display are an actual book saved by a street cleaner after the book burning, and an authentic SS officer uniform. Both items are part of the U of M Libraries Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies.

"Though the burning of the Hirschfeld Library took place 75 years ago, hopefully the exhibit will remind viewers of more recent events, such as the destruction of the National Museum and Library of Iraq in 2003 and of the ancient Buddha statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan in 2001," said Kris Kiesling, Elmer L. Andersen Director of Archives and Special Collections.

Exhibit hours are from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Wednesday and Friday, and from 8:30a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

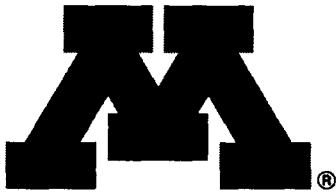
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WHAT: University of Minnesota Libraries Exhibit on the 75th Anniversary of the burning of the Hirschfeld Library

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Wednesday and Friday, 8:30a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays, March 24- May 16

WHERE: Elmer L. Andersen Library 222 -21st Ave S., Minneapolis



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April 2, 2008

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40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATION: U OF M PROFESSOR EXPLORES PARALLELS BETWEEN THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AND BARACK OBAMA

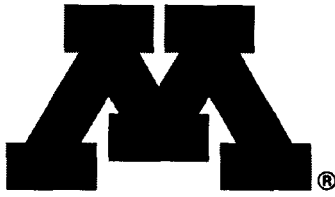
Friday marks the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King. A University of Minnesota political communications expert analyzes the parallels between the civil rights pioneer's legacy and presidential hopeful Barack Obama:

Kirt Wilson, University of Minnesota communication studies associate professor

Wilson says that both share the same tone of inspirational speeches and also recognize that “rhetoric must be coupled with political work and even compromise.” Additionally, both have understood the “extremely complex” nature of race in American public life. Wilson's academic research centers around presidential, political and African American rhetoric.

To interview Wilson, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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April 2, 2008

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FIRST BRICK OF TCF BANK STADIUM TO BE LAID ON MONDAY

~ 100-year-old Hilding Mortenson worked on original Memorial Stadium ~

The once and future campus home to the University of Minnesota Gophers football team will be bridged next week when Hilding Mortenson -- who helped construct Memorial Stadium as a 16-year-old and is an uncle to Mort Mortenson Jr., of the Mortenson construction family -- will lay the first brick on TCF Bank Stadium. The ceremony will take place 2-2:30 p.m. Monday, April 7 at the stadium site, 23rd Avenue S.E. at 4th St S.E., Minneapolis.

Due to the hazardous nature of the construction site, media must wear site-appropriate clothing such as long pants and boots. Check in will be at the 23rd Ave. S.E. gate between 1:30 and 2 p.m. Access to the site will end at 3 p.m. For safety reasons, the event will be closed to the public.

Athletics Director Joel Maturi will be on hand to usher in this next stage of the construction phase, which comes just under a year and a half before the stadium's opening in September 2009. Goldy Gopher and members of the U of M's marching band will also be present as will Mort Mortenson Jr., chairman of Mortenson Construction, the builder of TCF Bank Stadium.

"Mortenson Construction has celebrated many construction milestones with the university over the years," said Mort Mortenson, "but this milestone is especially meaningful to me and the Mortenson family. My grandfather, my father and my uncles Hilding and Carl all worked on the Memorial Stadium. So it is truly an honor for Hilding to be chosen to place the first brick on the new stadium."

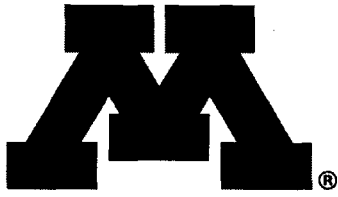
The event will center around 100-year-old Hilding, who worked as a bricklayer on Memorial Stadium as a high school student. A presence in university athletics events for decades, he was also in attendance for the 1992 ceremonial opening of a time capsule during the demolition of Memorial Stadium. A time capsule for TCF Bank Stadium will be planted closer to the stadium's opening.

TCF Bank Stadium will be the first on-campus football stadium for the University of Minnesota in more than

- more -

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two decades. Under construction since July of 2007, the stadium is currently undergoing steel installation, a stage that is expected to be completed this summer. Fundraising is underway for the \$288.5 million structure and so far \$75.5 million has been raised towards the goal of \$86 million in donations and sponsorships.



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April 2, 2008

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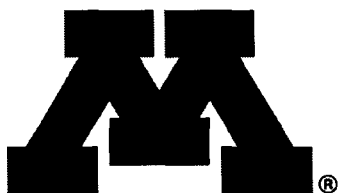
GOV. PAWLENTY TO DELIVER 2008 U OF M LAW SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty will deliver the Commencement Address at the University of Minnesota Law School's 120th commencement ceremony on May 17th. The ceremony for the Class of 2008 will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Northrop Memorial Auditorium, 84 Church St., S.E.

A 1986 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, Pawlenty practiced law and was an Eagan City Council member before being elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1992. He served in the House until 2002, when he was elected governor. He was re-elected in 2006.

The public is welcome and no tickets are necessary. Northrup Auditorium doors will open at 9:15 a.m. Elderly and people with disabilities should enter through the east doors.

The ceremony will last approximately two hours and a reception will follow on Northrop Terrace Plaza.



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April 2, 2008

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U OF M MORRIS CHANCELLOR TO TESTIFY AT U.S. SENATE

University of Minnesota, Morris Chancellor Jacquie Johnson will be one of three university leaders nationwide to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works in Washington, D.C. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, who is a member of this committee, invited Johnson to testify on Thursday, April 3, during the Senate committee hearing on "Examining Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions at U.S. Colleges and Universities." Klobuchar visited Morris in January to tour facilities at UMM, the West Central Research and Outreach Center and the USDA Soils Lab.

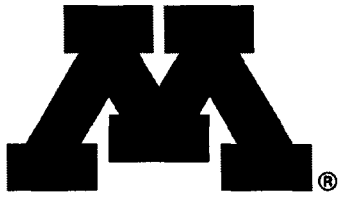
The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. CDT in the Dirksen Senate Office Building and may air on C-SPAN. Visit www.c-span.org for program updates.

Chancellor Johnson's remarks will highlight UMM's efforts to eliminate the campus' carbon footprint by 2010. Her testimony will draw from the intellectual energies of UMM's students, faculty and staff in telling the story at the national level and articulating the achievement of national distinction for a rigorous public liberal arts mission.

Yale University President Richard Levin and University of California, Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau will also testify.

WHEN: 9 a.m. CDT, Thursday, April 3

WHERE: 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington D.C.



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April 3, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

TRANSFORMING TRANSPORTATION POLICY TO BE TOPIC OF UPCOMING OBERSTAR FORUM

The University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies' Oberstar Forum on Transportation Policy and Technology will closely examine federal transportation policy and discuss ways to better meet U.S. transportation needs. It will be held at 12:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, in the main ballroom at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

U.S. Rep. James Oberstar, chair of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, will be joined by U.S. Rep. Tim Walz to examine how the transition from SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) in 2009 will potentially bring dramatic changes in some federal transportation programs.

Transportation experts from a variety of fields will be on hand to discuss the latest national challenges. In addition, representatives from the National Surface Transportation and Revenue Study Commission will discuss their latest report, which recommends dramatic institutional reform and revamping of federal transportation programs and policy.

The Oberstar Forum is free, but space is limited. Attendees are encouraged to register.

Register online at: www.cts.umn.edu/exit.php?launch=register.cce.umn.edu/Course.pl?sect_key=180556

To register by mail, download the registration material and mail to: Information Center, University of Minnesota, 20 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-6069. Participants can also send their registration by fax to (612) 624-5359.

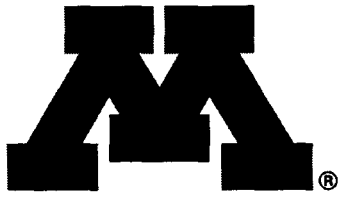
More information, including a detailed program schedule, can be found at www.cts.umn.edu/oberstarforum.

WHEN: 12:30 p.m. Monday, April 7

- more -

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WHERE: Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis



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April 3, 2008

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SEN. PATRICK LEAHY TO DELIVER U OF M LAW LIBRARY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE APRIL 7 TO CELEBRATE LIFE AND CAREER OF WALTER MONDALE

~ Exhibit highlighting Mondale's public service will open in conjunction with lecture ~

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) will deliver the Law Library Distinguished Lecture, "A Celebration of the Life and Career of Vice President Walter Mondale," at 12:15 p.m. Monday April 7. Minnesota's Senator Amy Klobuchar will also speak briefly on Mondale's public service.

The lecture will take place in Room 25, Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The event is not open to the public but will be open to pre-approved press. Media interested in attending this event should contact Katherine Hedin, (612) 625-7323 or Cynthia Huff (612) 625-6691.

Provost Thomas Sullivan will deliver remarks at a reception and birthday celebration in the Dorsey and Whitney Foyer following the lecture.

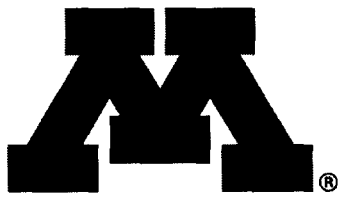
In conjunction with lecture and in celebration of Mondale's 80th birthday (Jan. 5, 2008), the University of Minnesota Law School's Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center is opening the exhibit "A Voice of Wisdom, Compassion, and Hope: A Celebration of the Life and Career of Walter Mondale."

The exhibit will open Monday, April 7 and feature photographs and documents from the Library of Congress, the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum in Atlanta, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

The Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center is located in Walter F. Mondale Hall, subplaza level, Room N-30. Its regular hours are Monday 1-4 p.m., Wednesday 1-4 p.m. and Thursday 1-4 p.m. It is also open by appointment.

- more -

Members of the press interested in attending the lecture should contact Katherine Hedin (612) 625-7323 or Cynthia Huff (612) 625-6691.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2008

Contacts: *Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389*
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M BELL MUSEUM HOSTS FOUR-DAY “SEEING CLIMATE CHANGE” ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Climate change and its affect on the environment are the subjects of “Seeing Climate Change,” a four-day film festival and series of related events Thursday, April 24 through Sunday, April 27 at the University of Minnesota’s Bell Museum of Natural History’s auditorium, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis and other select Twin Cities venues.

Thursday’s opening night features “Everything’s Cool,” a 2007 documentary that mixes humor with urgency in its look at what it takes to rouse the public and federal government into action on climate change. A reception at the museum will follow the screening featuring fare from Minneapolis’s first LEED-certified restaurant, The Red Stag Supper Club, and live music by the eclectic accordion/saw duo, Dreamland Faces.

Day two includes the museum’s first Green Shorts Showcase -- first-time screenings of short films and videos from local filmmakers looking at environmental issues and solutions -- and an exclusive slide presentation on Antarctica’s Larson Ice Shelf by National Geographic writer, author and explorer Jon Bowermaster. Audience members will get a chance to meet Bowermaster and local directors at a post-event social gathering at the Kitty Kat Club in Dinkytown.

Day three features “Arctic Tale” (2007) and “From Sea to Rising Sea” (2005) followed by panel discussions on how to organize for climate change solutions; “Kilowatt Ours” (2004) followed by a discussion on creative conservation techniques; and a showing of the fictional drama, “The Last Winter” (2006).

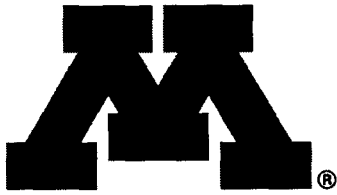
The festival concludes Sunday morning with a “breakfast” Café Scientifique on “Food and Climate Change” at The Red Stag Supper Club, 509 First Ave. N.E. in Minneapolis. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the restaurant at (612) 767-7766.

The festival is co-sponsored by The Will Steger Foundation, The Red Stag Supper Club, Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, The Nature Conservancy, Green Drinks and the University of Minnesota’s Sustainability Studies Minor.

- more -

Minnesota's Sustainability Studies Minor.

All films are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, seniors and museum members. The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. For a complete list of "Seeing Climate Change" events and programs visit, www.bellmuseum.org.



QUICK QUOTES

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April 3, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

U OF M CELEBRATES MINNESOTA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL: 150 YEARS OF A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

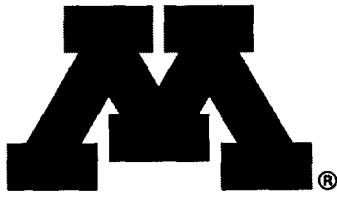
Throughout April, the University of Minnesota will be helping the state celebrate its 150th anniversary by hosting a series of panel discussions that address the challenges ahead for all of Minnesota. University historian Ann Pflaum is coordinating the event and says, in the world of state-sponsored higher education, Minnesota and the U of M have had a unique and productive relationship the past century and a half.

The following audio clips are available for all media use:

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/mn150_pflaumQQfinal.mp3

1. Intro (0:00)
2. U of M and Minnesota vital to each other (0:06)
3. 150 years celebration discussions (0:20)
4. Unique premium placed on education in Minnesota (0:36)
5. Land grant advantage (0:59)
6. Strong feelings for education in Minnesota according to former president Peter Magrath (1:11)

Quick Quotes are audio clips featuring research, events, announcements and breaking news at the University of Minnesota. They are available for all types of media. For an archive and other useful media services, visit www.unews.umn.edu.



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April 3, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

U OF M ROCHESTER INAUGURATING FIRST CHANCELLOR AT FORMAL ACADEMIC CEREMONY FRIDAY, APRIL 4

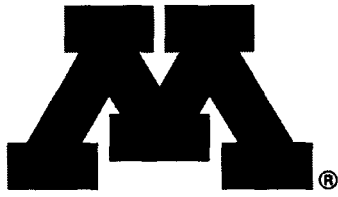
The University of Minnesota Rochester will be inaugurating the first chancellor in the history of the newest U of M campus at 5 p.m. Friday, April 4 in the Phillips Hall, Siebens Building, Mayo Clinic Campus, 200 First Street S.W., Rochester.

The formal academic ceremony to install Stephen Lehmkuhle will be the first of its kind in Rochester. The ceremony will include a presentation by Elson Floyd, president, Washington State University and Robert Bruininks, president of the University of Minnesota.

The ceremony will be initiated with a procession of university leadership and faculty in full academic regalia. The procession is led by the University of Minnesota Mace that leads all formal academic activities for the university. As part of the ceremony Lehmkuhle will receive the medallion of the Chancellor for the University of Minnesota Rochester. The medallion represents the chancellor's roles and responsibilities. The event will conclude with Lehmkuhle's vision for the future of UMR.

Members of the press are welcome to attend the event and are asked to follow all Mayo Clinic procedures for being on campus.

To interview Lehmkuhle between 1-3 p.m. Friday afternoon, contact Jay Hesley, UMR public relations, at (507) 280-2837.



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April 4, 2008

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U OF M TAKES NEXT STEPS IN AWARDING FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE CONTRACTS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota is recommending its Board of Regents approve four contracts awarding 10- and 12-year contracts for food and beverage service for several of its campuses.

“These new contracts are designed to enhance healthy food and beverage options, sustainability and customer service,” said Leslie Bowman, director of University Dining Services contract administration. “To maximize the benefits for our students and the entire university system, we've used an inclusive, competitive, single-enterprise approach to these contracts.”

The recommendations, which are worth \$696 million to the vendors over the next decade, are a result of a lengthy process that involved the active engagement of more than 120 University of Minnesota students, faculty and staff.

The contracts include the following:

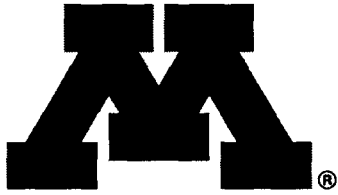
- o Aramark - 12-year, \$616 million contract to provide dining services on the Twin Cities campus. Estimated \$96 million value to the university.
- o Sodexo - 10-year, \$36 million contract to provide dining services on the Crookston and Morris campuses. Estimated \$7 million value to the university.
- o Taher, a Minnesota-based company - 10-year, \$8.9 million contract to provide non-beverage vending services on the Morris, Rochester and Twin Cities campuses. Estimated \$2.7 million value to the university. Includes new provision requiring 25 percent of food options be healthy.
- o Midwest Coca-Cola Bottling Company, a Minnesota-based company, and Coca-Cola - 10-year, \$35 million contract to provide beverage service to all five university campuses. Estimated \$38 million value to the university.

“Over the past decade, the university’s contracts for food and beverage service have improved customer choice and satisfaction as well as provided millions of dollars to support student services and our academic mission,”

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said Bowman. “These new agreements are focused on healthy options, customer service and continuing our commitment to sustainability and encouraging socially responsible business practices.”



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April 7, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

FORMER NBA PLAYER TO SPEAK AT UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S DESIGN OF MEDICAL DEVICES CONFERENCE APRIL 17

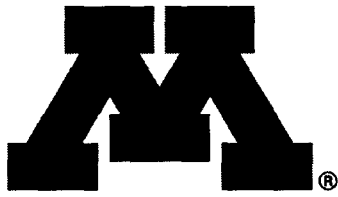
~ Fred Hoiberg will share his experience as an NBA player and heart surgery patient ~

Fred Hoiberg, assistant general manager for the Minnesota Timberwolves, will share his experience as an NBA player and as a heart surgery patient as he delivers the keynote address at the University of Minnesota's Seventh Annual Design of Medical Devices Conference (DMD). The conference will be held April 15-17, at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Hoiberg, who had cardiac surgery in 2005 to repair an enlarged aortic root, will deliver the keynote address at the President's 21st Century Interdisciplinary Conference: "Lifelong Learning of the Medical Device Engineer," Thursday, April 17. Hoiberg played 10 seasons in the NBA for the Timberwolves (2003-05), Bulls (1999-2003) and Pacers (1995-99). In his final season, he led the NBA in three-point shooting accuracy at 48.3 percent.

The DMD conference is designed to attract top leaders from industry and academia to address major trends related to medical device design, policy, engineering, education and commercialization. The conference is presented by the Institute for Engineering in Medicine's Medical Devices Center, Institute of Technology, Office of the President and the Academic Health Center.

For more information on the DMD Conference visit www.dmdconf.org. Online registration is closed but walk-ins are welcome.



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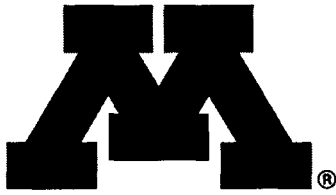
Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, 612-625-8510

A STATEMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT ROBERT BRUININKS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks regarding the governor's action today on the state capital investment bill:

"We're pleased with a number of provisions included in the state capital investment bill signed today. Most importantly, our biomedical science research program will provide reliable, long-term funding for essential research infrastructure that will advance Minnesota's global economic leadership and contribute to our quality of life for generations to come. Minnesota's elected leaders and business community deserve a great deal of credit for working with us and embracing this idea, which is one of the most forward-looking state investments in recent years.

"We're disappointed that the governor chose to veto the Bell Museum of Natural History, which is our state's natural history museum. The Bell conducts critically important research on our natural environment and provides thousands of school children and university students an opportunity to use this valuable educational resource to learn more about our state's natural history and environment. We have already raised millions of dollars in private donations and will continue to pursue state funding for this critically important investment."



EXPERT ALERT

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April 8, 2008

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BLOWING OUT THE TORCH ON CHINA'S OLYMPICS

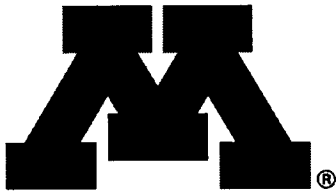
The Olympic torch run across the world is becoming an 85,000 mile publicity campaign for supporters of Tibet and human rights activists protesting against this year's host country, China. But despite the negative publicity and international pressure, China has not made any concessions. A University of Minnesota expert who can analyze the situation is:

Ted Farmer, University of Minnesota history professor

Farmer can explain why, despite the poor public image the pre-Olympic events are creating, the Chinese will be very inflexible when it comes to dealing with its issues. He can explain the genesis of the conflict with Tibet and put it in context with American history.

To interview Farmer, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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April 8, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

U OF M GRADUATE SCHOOL HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH SHOWCASE

~ Public is invited to view research from the university's top Ph.D candidates ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Graduate School will host the first annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (DDF) Research Showcase noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, 2008 in the Mississippi Room of Coffman Union, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis. More than 30 of the top recipients of the 2007-08 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships will showcase their research, which covers roughly 25 different fields from engineering to English.

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are given to outstanding final-year Ph.D. candidates making timely progress toward the degree. Candidates are nominated by their graduate program's director of graduate studies to an all-university competition. This year 114 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships were awarded. The awards are handed out by the Fellowship Office of the Graduate School.

"The Graduate School is proud to provide an opportunity for some of our best Ph.D. candidates to present their research to the public," said Graduate School Dean and Vice Provost Gail Dubrow. "What makes this showcase so exciting is that these graduate students represent a diverse sampling of the work being conducted across the institution. Clearly, both our faculty and graduate students are contributors to the research mission of the University of Minnesota."

Participants in the research showcase include:

- Crystal Austin, astrophysics. By using two methods to simulate dark matter halos -- large reservoirs of invisible mass around galaxies and clusters of galaxies -- Austin attempts to explore the evolution and exact properties of the mysterious bodies.
- Erik Carlson, neuroscience. Carlson is researching the structural, molecular, biochemical and behavioral alterations in cells of the brain due to iron deficiency (ID), the most prevalent micronutrient deficiency in the world and an especially serious condition for infants.

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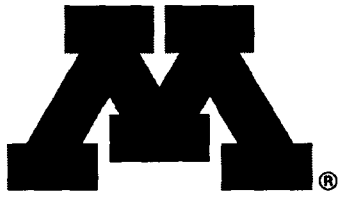
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- Sabrina Curran, anthropology. Using cervid (deer) remains, Curran is reconstructing paleoenvironmental conditions to test various hypotheses about human evolution.
- Cassandra Scharber, curriculum and instruction. To better understand how literacy and learning can be improved outside the classroom, Scharber has performed a case study on an online, summer book club for girls in grades four through six offered through a metropolitan library.
- Kelly Pennington, conservation biology. Pennington looks at the potential genetic effects if farmed fish -- genetically engineered for faster growth -- were to escape and breed with wild fish.
- Ramji Venkatasubramanian, mechanical engineering. Stemming from a need to look into alternative techniques to treat people suffering from atherosclerosis (a disease of arterial blood vessels), Venkatasubramanian is looking to improve the efficacy of heating and freezing therapies as well as replacing the diseased arteries through preserved arterial grafts by understanding the mechanical property changes involved in these processes.

The showcase is free and open to the public. Registration is requested and may be submitted at <http://www.grad.umn.edu/postersession> or (612) 626-6104.

The Graduate School offers more than 140 majors through programs on the Twin Cities, Duluth and Rochester campuses, and awards more than 700 doctoral and nearly 2,000 master's degrees each year. The DDF Research Showcase is supported by the biomedical laboratory supplier Beckman Coulter.

Selected students are available for pre-event interviews by appointment.



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April 8, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRESENTS BACH FESTIVAL 2008, APRIL 20

The University of Minnesota School of Music presents Bach Festival 2008, "The Agony and the Ecstasy!," featuring the University of Minnesota Chamber Singers (Kahty Saltzman Romey and Emilie Sweet, conductors), members of the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra and The Cantiamo String Quartet. This program features two of Bach's greatest motets: "Singet dem Herren ein neues Lied" and "Komm, Jesu, Komm," paired with "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major," and British composer Tarik O'Regan's new cantata "The Ecstasies Above." The concert will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 20 at the First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave. N.E., Columbia Heights. Tickets are \$7 at the door. For more information, visit music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094.

Artists' biographies

Born in London in 1978, two-time British Composer Award winner Tarik O'Regan was educated at Oxford University and completed his postgraduate studies at Cambridge, where he was subsequently appointed Composer in Residence at Corpus Christi College. Described as "beautifully-imagined" (Financial Times, London), his compositions have been performed internationally by, among others, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, BBC Singers and Los Angeles Master Chorale. O'Regan divides his time between Trinity College, Cambridge, where he is Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts, and New York City, where he has held the Fulbright Chester Schirmer Fellowship in Music Composition at Columbia University and a Radcliffe Institute Fellowship at Harvard. He is currently working on an operatic version of Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," in collaboration with the artist Tom Phillips, which is in development with American Opera Projects in New York and OperaGenesis at the Royal Opera House, London.

The Cantiamo String Quartet

Comprised of four musicians from the Minneapolis area, the Cantiamo String Quartet has been playing together since 2003. The quartet was formed at the University of Minnesota School of Music, where the Cantiamos studied extensively with Thomas Rosenberg, formerly of the Chester String Quartet and the Artaria String Quartet of Boston. The quartet has also been privileged to work with the renowned pianist Lydia Artymiw and has performed in masterclasses for many distinguished artists, including the 1998 Naumburg Chamber Music Award-winning Pacifica Quartet, the Borromeo String Quartet and Paul Katz of the Cleveland String Quartet. Musicians include: Erik Rohde, violin, Katie McMullen, violin, Jacob Tews, viola and Lars Krogstad, cello.

Kathy Saltzman Romey is director of Choral Activities at the University of Minnesota, where she oversees the graduate conducting program and directs choirs. She is also artistic director of the 200-voice symphonic chorus, The Minnesota Chorale, which serves as principal chorus for the Minnesota Orchestra. She has prepared the Chorale for performances with both the Minnesota Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Founder and Artistic Director of The Alchemy Project, conductor Emilie Sweet is a graduate student in conducting

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

at the University of Minnesota. She has a master's degree in choral conducting from the University of Arizona and a bachelor's degree in voice from Indiana University. Emilie currently conducts the university Women's Chorus. She is also senior choir director at Richfield Evangelical Lutheran Church. Active as a freelance choral artist, Emilie has performed with many of the finest choral ensembles around the country.

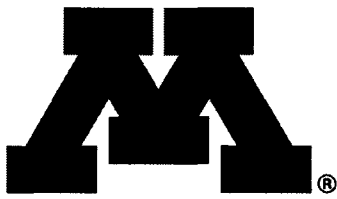
Carol A. Traupman-Carr, Ph.D. is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and an Associate Professor of Music at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Penn. A recognized pedagogue and a scholar with wide-ranging interests, she has written articles for the Harvard Dictionary of Musicians, edited two books on Moravian musical topics, and published numerous arrangements for brass quintet. She is the author of Bach 101, and has contributed annually to that site since 1997.

University of Minnesota Chamber Singers

University of Minnesota Chamber Singers is a mixed chorus of 32 singers that performs music ranging from intimate unaccompanied pieces to works with instrumental accompaniment. In the annual University of Minnesota Bach Festival, the Chamber Singers perform major works by Bach. These concerts are broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio. Chamber Singers have presented several world premiere performances and in 1996 gave the American premiere of Scottish composer James MacMillan's "Seven Last Words from the Cross."

WHEN: 4 p.m. Sunday, April 20

WHERE: First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave. N.E., Columbia Heights



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April 8, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M STUDY FINDS YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR WITH ONLINE Q & A SITES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A new study by University of Minnesota computer science and engineering researchers revealed that the answer quality provided by online question-and-answer Web sites, such as Yahoo! Answers and Google Answers, depends on two factors--how much you pay and how many people contribute to your answer.

The results of the study are reported in the academic research paper titled "Predictors of Answer Quality in Online Q&A Sites." The paper was published in the Association for Computing Machinery's 2008 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2008) proceedings, and presented at the conference in Florence, Italy, April 8. To view this paper visit: <http://www.grouplens.org/node/243>

The University of Minnesota study posed 126 questions across a variety of Q&A sites and found that paying \$10 or more to get your question answered at the now-closed Google Answers site yielded the highest-quality answers as judged by a panel of evaluators. These answers were long and detailed, with many links to source material.

Surprisingly the Web site Yahoo! Answers, which provides answers for free, performed as well as Google Answers when the fee was low (\$3) and outperformed reference librarians and an "ask-an-expert" site. Researchers attributed this success to the large online community that contributes to that site's answers.

University of Minnesota researchers involved in the study include computer science and engineering professor Joseph Konstan and graduate student Max Harper. Their study examined a variety of questions eliciting facts, opinions and advice on topics spanning entertainment, technology and business. Examples of some of the questions posted are:

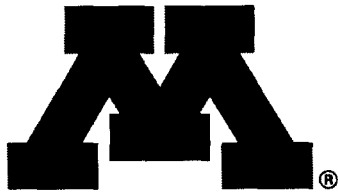
- Which actress has the first female line in a talking movie? I found on Wikipedia that Al Jolson had the male line, but I can't find any record of which female had the first line.

- more -

- What is the best technique for making BBQ spare ribs? I'll cook it if you can find me a recipe that's really worth the time and effort.

Of the findings, Konstan said, "Solutions that simply direct questions to a single individual don't achieve results as well as those that open the question and answers to a larger community."

Both researchers are currently out of the country and available for phone interviews only.



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U OF M BOARD OF REGENTS TO DISCUSS CENTRAL CORRIDOR AT MEETING THIS WEEK

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting this week at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis. The agenda includes a presentation on the Central Corridor Light-Rail Line that will include initial findings of a study of the northern alignment that would take the line off of Washington Avenue and run it north of campus.

“Our Twin Cities campus is one of the most transit-oriented communities in the entire state of Minnesota,” said university President Robert Bruininks. “From the beginning, we have maintained that however this line is built, it needs to improve our transportation system as a whole. We’re eager to see how this northern alignment alternative might alleviate the problems with the Washington Avenue route.”

In addition, the board’s educational planning and policy committee will hear a presentation on the university’s college readiness initiatives from Senior Vice President Robert Jones, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development Darlyne Bailey and Executive Director of the Consortium for Postsecondary Academic Success Kent Pikel.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, April 10, 2008

8 - 10 a.m., Board of Regents work session, Boardroom. The board will receive a strategic positioning update on the Academic Health Center from Senior Vice President Frank Cerra.

10:15 - 11:45 a.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. The committee is presented with an update on the university’s college readiness initiatives from Jones, Bailey and Pikel.

10:15 - 11:45 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will receive an update from University Auditor Gail Klatt on the NCAA recertification process underway. Action

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

will also be taken on three collective bargaining agreements. In addition, the committee will hear a report on leadership development initiatives for university employees.

1:45 - 3:45 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. Action will be taken on a number of facilities use agreements, real estate transactions and capital budget amendments for the Medical Bioscience Building research equipment and remodeling of floors 9-12 of Heller Hall on the Twin Cities Campus. Schematic plans will be acted upon for renovation of Malosky Stadium on the Duluth campus. Also, the committee will act upon a resolution to conduct an environmental review for potential future activities at UMORE Park in Rosemount. The university's historic preservation policy will also be reviewed.

1:45 - 3:45 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will act on a number of resolutions approving the purchase of goods and services, including the university's new food and beverage contracts.

4 - 5 p.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room. Acting Director of Compliance Susan Rafferty will provide the annual report of the university compliance officer.

4 - 5 p.m., Litigation Review Committee, W.R. Peterson Conference Room. The committee will take action on a resolution to conduct a non-public meeting to discuss attorney-client privileged matters.

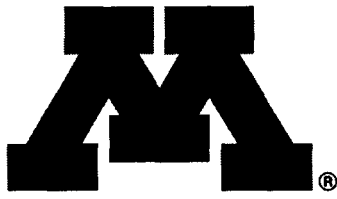
Friday, April 11, 2008

9 - 11 a.m., Board of Regents, Boardroom. The board will recognize the new dean of the Law School, David Wippman, and the new Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education, Robert McMaster. In addition, Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien will present on the study of the proposed Central Corridor northern alignment around campus.

More information on the Board of Regents meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents. The Friday meeting will be webcast on that site beginning at 9 a.m.

WHEN: Thursday, April 10 - Friday, April 11, 2008

WHERE: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis



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U OF M STUDENT WEB SITE NOMINATED FOR “WEBBY AWARD”

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota computer science graduate student Jesse Vig's Web site, GeoGreeting.com, has been nominated for the Best NetArt Web site as part of the 12th annual Webby Awards. Vig's site was nominated in this category last year as well. The winners will be announced May 6 and will be honored at the Webby Awards ceremony in New York City.

Vig's Web site uses satellite images of letter-shaped buildings from Google Maps, which users can form into messages and can email to friends. The site boasts more than 1.2 million visitors.

Vig started the Web site, GeoGreeting.com, for a class project, but the site grew to receive international notoriety and he has continued to make improvements to it. Vig recently changed the look of the site and also added letters sent in from new site users. “More and more of the letters these days are found by users, and the site would not be what it is today without that help. I'm always amazed at the amount of time people are willing to contribute,” he said.

The Webby Awards are the Internet's most respected symbol of success, according to its Web site, Webbyawards.com. The 2008 Webbys received nearly 10,000 entries from more than 60 countries. For each category there is a people's choice award and anyone can vote. Voting will occur until May 1 and can be done at www.pv.webbyawards.com.



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NATURE/NURTURE RESEARCHER ANNE FAUSTO-STERLING TO SPEAK AT THE U OF M

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Noted author and biologist Anne Fausto-Sterling will be speaking at the University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Study at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in Room 125 of the Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Minneapolis. Her talk, "Emergent Difference: How to avoid the nature/nurture trap while maintaining respect for the sciences of biology, psychology, sociology, history and anthropology" relates to her research into understanding the origins of human variation -- whether gender, sexuality or race -- through the lens of the nature vs. nurture argument.

Fausto-Sterling is a professor of biology and gender studies in the department of molecular and cell biology and biochemistry at Brown University. She is the author of scientific publications in developmental genetics and developmental ecology and has achieved recognition for works that challenge entrenched scientific beliefs while engaging with the general public.

Fausto-Sterling is applying dynamic systems theory to the study of human development. While newspapers are filled with reports of genes for various complex human traits (obesity, alcoholism, homosexuality, gender differences in math and science) a great divide exists between people who accept biological explanations of human difference and those who reject biology in favor of social explanations.

Fausto-Sterling's hopes to restructure divergent conversations -- inside the academy, in public discourse, and ultimately, in the framing of social policy -- in order to enable an understanding of the inseparability of nature/nurture. Dynamic systems theory helps in understanding how cultural difference becomes bodily difference. Fausto-Sterling's current case studies in this area examine sex differences in bone development and the emergence of gender differences in behavior in early childhood.

Her books include "Sexing the Body: Gender Politics" and the "Construction of Sexuality and Myths of Gender: Biological Theories About Men And Women."

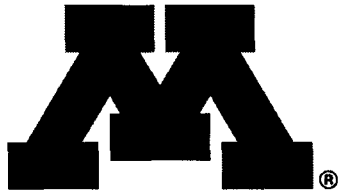
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WHO: Anne Fausto-Sterling, author of *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality* and Professor of Biology and Gender Studies at Brown University

WHEN: 4 p.m. Thursday, April 24

WHERE: U of M Institute for Advanced Study, 125 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Minneapolis



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U OF M PRESENTS HONORARY DEGREE TO 17TH SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, DR. RICHARD CARMONA

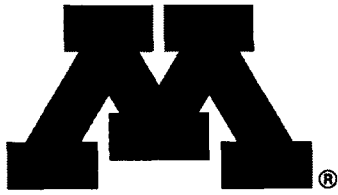
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Richard Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., the 17th Surgeon General of the United States (2002-2006), will receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree, in recognition of his contributions to public service, from the University of Minnesota, the evening of Thursday, April 10.

Carmona will receive the degree before addressing a gathering of alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The award ceremony and keynote address, "Prevention, Plagues, Preparedness and Politics: The Life of the Surgeon General," will take place at 6 p.m. at the Nicollet Island Pavilion, 40 Power St., Minneapolis.

"Richard Carmona has long been a strong, outspoken advocate for public health," said John Finnegan Jr., dean of the School of Public Health. "He is most deserving of the honorary degree and an obvious choice for us to have address this important audience of public health leaders."

President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Carmona to the position of surgeon general in March 2002. Prior to that post, Carmona served as clinical professor in public health, surgery and family and community medicine at the University of Arizona. He was also medical director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety Air Rescue Unit, department surgeon and SWAT training officer at the Pima County Sheriff's Department, and the attending surgeon at the University of Arizona Student Health Center. Carmona currently is vice chairman of Canyon Ranch, an Arizona-based life enhancement company. He is also president of the non-profit Canyon Ranch Institute. He continues to serve on the faculty of the University of Arizona.

The event is by invitation only. Carmona is not available for media interviews.



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U OF M STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

~ Recipient's older brother won same award four years ago ~

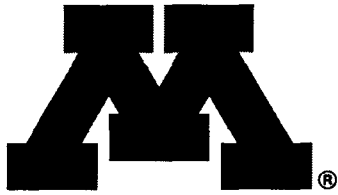
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota Institute of Technology student Angela Holmberg has been named a 2008 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar. The prestigious national Goldwater Scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding sophomores and juniors in mathematics, science and engineering who intend to pursue graduate study and research-oriented careers. Junior-level winners receive a scholarship of \$7,500 for their senior year of college. Sophomore-level winners receive a two-year scholarship of \$7,500 per year.

Holmberg is a sophomore honors student majoring in chemistry and chemical engineering. Her long-term goals include earning a doctorate degree and pursuing a career in polymer chemistry research and college teaching. Holmberg grew up in Circle Pines, Minn., and graduated from Centennial High School in 2006. Holmberg is the second person from her family to win a Goldwater Scholarship while pursuing an undergraduate degree. Her older brother Vincent Holmberg was a 2004 Goldwater Scholar. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2006 with degrees in chemical engineering and chemistry.

"I plan to go to graduate school and find a job in research. Receiving this scholarship should help me reach those goals," Holmberg said. "One of the things that likely helped me win this scholarship is my current research project, which I started half way through my freshman year at the University of Minnesota. That's an experience you might not find in your first year at some smaller schools."

In addition to Holmberg's scholarship, a Goldwater honorable mention was awarded to University of Minnesota junior honors student David Christle, a physics and mathematics double major in the university's Institute of Technology.

This year 321 Goldwater Scholars were selected from a field of 1,081 nominees from colleges and universities nationwide. To date, 38 University of Minnesota-Twin Cities students have been named Goldwater Scholars.



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April 10, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

~ Tony Diggs Excellence Awards honor former adviser ~

The University of Minnesota Student Unions & Activities will honor outstanding student groups at its second annual Tony Diggs Excellence Awards reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 in the Coffman Union Great Hall, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

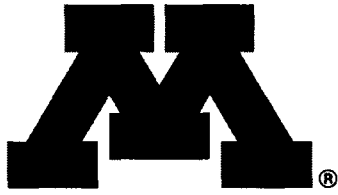
The Tony Diggs Excellence Awards recognize student groups for innovation, philanthropic efforts, outstanding events and overall achievements of both new and established student organizations.

Awards to be announced at the banquet include: Outstanding Program/Event, Outstanding Service/Philanthropic Project of the Year, Innovation Award, Outstanding Rookie Organization, Rookie Campus Life Program (CLP) of the Year, Outstanding Undergraduate Campus Life Program of the Year, Outstanding Undergraduate Registered Student Organization of the Year, Outstanding Graduate or Professional Organization of the Year, Outstanding Undergraduate Student Organization Advisor and Outstanding Graduate/Professional Student Organization Advisor.

Diggs was the former Director of the Student Activities who passed away after a long battle with cancer in 2006. He began his career at the University of Minnesota 18 years ago, first as an adviser and director of the African American Learning Resource Center for many years and later as the Director of the Student Activities Office (SAO) from 2003-2006. Known for his advocacy for students, student organizations and cultural centers, Diggs was instrumental in establishing many programs that still benefit student groups today.

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15

WHERE: Coffman Union Great Hall, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis



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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

WASHINGTON POST COLUMNIST E.J. DIONNE TO SPEAK ON FAITH AND POLITICS AT THE U OF M

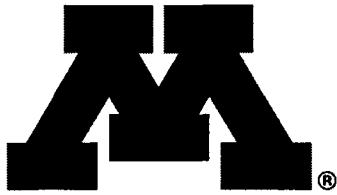
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne will talk about his new book, "Souled Out: Reclaiming Faith and Politics after the Religious Right" (Princeton University Press 2008), from noon to 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. This program is rescheduled from an earlier date this spring.

In his new book, Dionne writes about the historical relationship between politics and religion and highlights today's changing dynamic between these two forces. He will talk about this relationship and the fading political power of the Religious Right. Professor Larry Jacobs will moderate the discussion.

This presentation is free and open to the public and books will be available for purchase. Registration is not required. The program is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance.

WHAT: Political discussion on faith and politics
WHEN: Noon-1:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 22
WHERE: Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

This program is rescheduled from the original Feb. 18 event.



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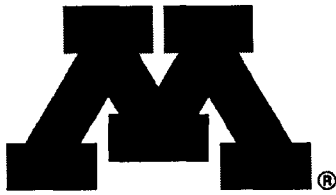
SAFE DRINKING WATER PIONEER, ULRIC GIBSON, TO RECEIVE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Ulric Gibson, a pioneer in helping developing countries establish and maintain safe drinking water supplies, will be presented with the university's highest honor for alumni, the Outstanding Achievement Award, before a gathering of his fellow alumni of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The event will take place the evening of Thursday, April 10, at the Nicollet Island Pavilion, 40 Power St., Minneapolis.

A native of Guyana, Gibson came to the University of Minnesota in 1961 to pursue a master's degree. While here, he was selected to lead a United States AID project on establishing a safe drinking water supply. In the process, he became the author of *Water Well Manual*, a plainly written guide that, for the first time, helped families in developing countries create their own sources of clean drinking water. After finishing his doctorate degree, Gibson returned to Guyana and founded the Guyana Water Authority, which brought running water to many Guyanese homes for the first time. Later, he worked with numerous non-governmental organizations, including the World Health Organization, and private companies in the United States, overseeing environmental safety projects. He retired in the late 1990s.

"Dr. Gibson's work has contributed to the health and advancement of countless communities around the globe," said John Finnegan Jr., dean of the School of Public Health. "We are honored to call him a School of Public Health alumnus and eager to bestow upon him the recognition he so richly deserves."

Gibson's name will join 1,200 others on the alumni wall of honor on the plaza outside the McNamara Alumni Center on the university's east bank campus. Those 1,200 honorees make up a fraction of the more than 400,000 living alumni of the University of Minnesota.



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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu*

HARRY BOYTE TO DISCUSS "HOW TO SAVE DEMOCRACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY" AT THE U OF M

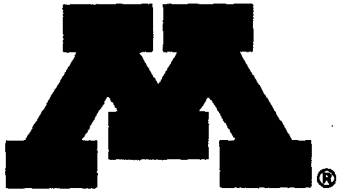
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Harry Boyte, University of Minnesota professor, has been working for democracy since his days with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as field secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. For the past 20 years, Boyte has developed methods and concepts to empower citizens and promote democracy. In "How to Save Democracy in the 21st Century," Boyte will talk about what is important for an effective democracy and things the next generation should know about citizenship. Boyte's presentation will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Rd., Minneapolis, as part of the museum's exhibition Who is a Citizen? What is Citizenship?

Boyte is co-director of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship (CDC) at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. In his presentation, he will talk about the concept of public work and CDC's role in promoting active citizenship. He will reflect on the center's successful efforts such as Public Achievement, an international youth civic engagement initiative; the Jane Addams School for Democracy, a citizenship and education program for immigrant families and college students located on the West Side of St. Paul; and the statewide Warrior to Citizen campaign, which helps to reintegrate veterans into community life.

"In recent years, scholars and observers have documented a sharp decline in America's civic health. Their trust in institutions and in each other has dropped precipitously. Eighty percent of Americans say that the nation is headed in the wrong direction," said Boyte. "But among the discouraging signs, recent national surveys show the Millennial Generation- -persons born roughly between 1980 and 2000- -voicing a strong desire for active citizenship and change."

All are invited to attend this free program and view the Weisman Art Museum's displays on citizenship, power and democracy. For more information, visit www.publicwork.org.

WHAT: A lecture on active citizenship and democracy in the 21st Century
WHEN: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 17



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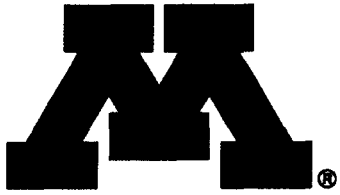
LAW SCHOOL TO HOLD 6TH ANNUAL RACE FOR JUSTICE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 13

~ Proceeds to benefit Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Law School will hold its 6th Annual Race for Justice, a 5K Fun Run and Walk, at 11 a.m on Sunday, April 13. Starting from historic Nicollet Island, dipping into downtown, and winding its way back across the Stone Arch Bridge, the Race for Justice celebrates the advent of Spring and serves as the University of Minnesota Law School's largest public interest fundraiser. As in past years, proceeds from the 6th Annual Race will benefit law graduates through the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) of Minnesota. By subsidizing education debts for dedicated, low-paid public interest attorneys, LRAP helps meet the legal needs of low-income Minnesotans across the state.

Scheduled to coincide with the University of Minnesota Law Alumni Weekend, the 6th Annual Race for Justice promises to be the largest yet. This year the race is expanding to include a short Kids Dash preceding the 5K for its youngest participants. Since its inception in 2002, the race has expanded into a favorite annual activity for members of Minnesota's legal community and beyond. Last April, about 1,000 participants helped raise more than \$20,000 in registration fees and donations for LRAP.

For information about the race, contact Amber Fox at 612-624-9721 or amberfox@umn.edu. Go to www.raceforjustice.org for race details and registration information.



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U OF M REGENTS REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN ALIGNMENT FOR CENTRAL CORRIDOR LIGHT RAIL LINE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Board of Regents reaffirmed its 2001 call for a northern route for the proposed Central Corridor light rail line, during its meeting on the Twin Cities campus today. During a presentation on the proposed "northern alignment," Regents also learned that the route would result in a savings of \$16 to \$18 million in project costs, reduce travel time on the Central Corridor by more than a minute and eliminate the need for tens of millions of dollars in mitigation costs to the approved Washington Avenue route.

A northern alignment would take the light rail line north of campus, through the Dinkytown area, across a former railroad bridge and on current railroad right-of-way. The line also would go north of university athletics facilities (TCF Bank Stadium, Mariucci Arena, Williams Arena) and the university's new East Gateway district, which will be the largest expansion of the Twin Cities campus since the addition of the West Bank in the 1960s.

"The university is a leader in transit -- we champion it, inform it and use it," said Board of Regents Chair Patricia Simmons. "The U is projected to provide more than a third of the ridership for the new light rail line. We support strong public transit, including the Central Corridor. This northern alignment makes a lot of sense as it uses existing rail lines, fully integrates in the transit-oriented university community and reduces the negative impacts on campus and our neighborhoods."

University officials told the board that they have been working with the Metropolitan Council and Central Corridor planning staff on mitigating the impact of the proposed at-grade Washington Avenue alignment, but that they are far from having critical traffic, safety and environmental issues addressed. Additionally, the congestion caused by inadequate mitigation of the Washington Avenue route could result in a loss of as much as \$100 million in revenue to university medical facilities annually, Regents learned.

"This is a billion dollar investment that has the potential to dramatically transform transportation in this region," said university President Robert Bruininks. "It is critical that the Central Corridor improve the transportation system and not worsen it. The northern alignment has the potential to do that and deserves every consideration.

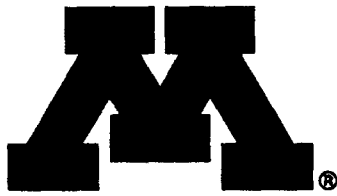
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The university will do everything in its power to ensure that happens.”

In other matters, the Board:

- o Approved a series of 10- and 12-year contracts worth \$696 million for dining and beverage services across the system;
- o Approved a 15-year, \$113.9 million extension of its agreement with Learfield Communications, to include the sale of sponsorships and broadcast rights for the new TCF Bank Stadium.



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April 14, 2008

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GIRLS IN SPORTS AT RECORD HIGH, YET MANY FAIL TO MEET MINIMAL STANDARDS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA REPORT SAYS

~ Media: Report embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT, Monday, April 14 ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A report released today by the University of Minnesota's Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport shows that girls are participating in sports in record numbers, but their participation in physical activity outside of organized sports is declining, especially as they move from childhood into adolescence. The report will be highlighted in an upcoming lecture 7-9 p.m., April 22, in the Cowles Auditorium of the Hubert Humphrey Center, 301 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis.

The report, "Developing Physically Active Girls: An Evidence-based Multidisciplinary Approach," summarizes the most recent research pertaining to the physical, psychological, social and cultural benefits girls derive from participation in sport and physical activity, the barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential and the kinds of environments in which girls learn how to develop and foster the best parts of themselves both on and off the playing fields.

Results of the study will be discussed at the Borghild-Strand Distinguished Lecture, which will join the study's four authors to summarize the report's key findings and recommendations. It is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://cehd.umn.edu/tuckercenter/lecture>

"The research within the report confirms that many good things are happening when it comes to girls and physical activity. Girls are participating in organized sports more than ever and at all levels -- from organized youth sports, to interscholastic sports and up through Olympic competition," said Nicole LaVoi, researcher and associate director of the Tucker Center and a report author.

The report outlines the benefits girls' reap from physical activity such as:

- Regular physical activity can improve health and reduce girls' risk of obesity and chronic diseases such as Type II diabetes, osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease.

- more -

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- Girls' participation in physical activity can result in positive youth development, including social, psychological and motor skill benefits.
- Athletic girls perform better academically and have lower dropout rates than do their non-athletic counterparts.
- Girls participate not only for competitive reasons, but to get in shape, socialize with their peers, develop physical skills and to have fun.

However, despite the breadth of knowledge specific to girls' physical activity and the variety of positive outcomes that can accrue through participation, many barriers, stereotypes and gender inequities are firmly in place that limit girls, according to the report.

“Poverty substantially limits many girls' access to, and participation in, physical activity and sport, especially for girls of color who are overrepresented in lower socioeconomic groups. So while some girls are physically active, many girls fail to meet minimal standards of physical activity needed to accrue developmental and health benefits, or worse, they are completely sedentary. There remains a great deal of work left to be done,” LaVoi said.

The report also found:

- Girls' participation rates in all types of physical activities consistently lag behind those of boys and girls' dropout rates are higher.
- Girls' experiences are shaped by the quality and expertise of the adults who make decisions, manage, govern, deliver and coach physical activity programming, many of whom have minimal -- if any -- formal training.
- Outdated, stereotypical standards of femininity and masculinity continue to influence the extent to which girls participate in or shun physical activity.
- Female athletes continue to be trivialized through the popular media's widespread sexualization of women.
- Traditional models of physical education organized around competition, team sports, power, strength, aggression and focuses on the “motor elite” rather than skill development disadvantage girls (and boys) who are less skilled to begin with, which may contribute to a lack of enjoyment and a shunning of lifelong participation in physical activity.

What can be done to ensure that all girls have opportunities to increase physical activity?

“The United States as a whole -- from parents and coaches to school administrators and community leaders to policy makers -- needs to make a commitment to eliminating the barriers girls in this nation face when it comes to engaging in sports and physical activity,” said Mary Jo Kane, director of the Tucker Center. “Physical activity is

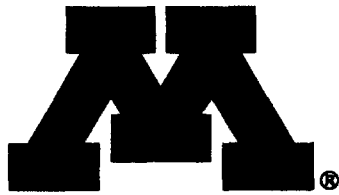
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not an 'add-on' but rather is a core value and principle for healthy and effective living.”

The Tucker Center report is designed to provide a road map that puts the nation on the path to ensuring that every girl has ample opportunity to fully engage in sport and physical activity. “Often, research done by sports scholars sits on the shelves and practitioners -- such as coaches, parks and recreation directors, and physical education teachers -- view the research as having no practical application,” said University of Minnesota Associate Professor Diane Wiese-Bjornstal, another of the report’s authors. “This report aims at bridging the gap between theory and practice by detailing the best sports and activity programs for girls and how to implement those programs.”

For a copy of the report, go to: www.tuckercenter.org.

Media: Report embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT, Monday, April 14



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April 14, 2008

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U OF M TO HOST LECTURE ON "CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS: SNAPSHOTS OF A NEW MINNESOTA AND A NEW AMERICA"

Minnesota's relatively homogeneous population is changing, and new populations are affecting the state's educational system, economy and cultural and social institutions. Projections indicate that people of color will comprise 16 percent of the population by 2030. Projected population increases between 2000 and 2015 indicate an 11 percent rise for whites; 32 percent rise for American Indians; 64 percent increase for African Americans; 69 percent increase for Asians and Pacific Islanders; and 98 percent increase for Minnesota's Latino population.

Such statistics are the backdrop for a University of Minnesota lecture titled: "Changing Demographics: Snapshots of a New Minnesota and a New America." Hosted by President Robert Bruininks and moderated by Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity Rusty Barceló, the lecture will take place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17, in Coffman Union's Campus Club.

The lecture and a discussion that follows will offer a thought-provoking conversation with four University of Minnesota faculty whose wide-ranging research reveals a recurrent theme of exclusion, adversity and disparity for indigenous people, immigrants and descendants of former slaves. Those faculty include:

Rose Brewer

Professor of African and African American Studies Rose Brewer will highlight findings from her book, "The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide," that clearly indicates the persistence of an economic color line in 21st century America.

Erika Lee

Associate Professor in History and Asian American Studies Erika Lee will discuss immigration laws and debates of the last century. She also will note the racialized rhetoric and xenophobia that turned the United States into a "gatekeeping nation" in the past and that threaten to do so again today.

Linda LeGarde Grover

- more -

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Linda LeGarde Grover

University of Minnesota-Duluth assistant professor of American Indian studies Linda LeGarde Grover is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. She will offer points of reflection from her qualitative research on the effects of federal and state Indian education policy on Ojibwe children, families and communities.

Louis Mendoza

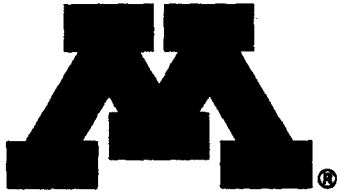
Fresh from a bicycle trip across the United States, associate professor of Chicano studies Louis Mendoza will offer findings and insights about his travels and Chicano history and culture. He will also address several challenging questions about immigrants and immigration policy.

The lecture is held in commemoration of Minnesota's sesquicentennial. It is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Registrations will be accepted until the program is full. Visit the registration page, <http://www.academic.umn.edu/equity/changingdemog.html>.

For more information about the program, contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at (612) 624-0594 or oed@umn.edu.

WHEN: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17

WHERE: Coffman Union's Campus Club, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.



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April 14, 2008

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GUGGENHEIMS AWARDED TO THREE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FACULTY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Three faculty members at the University of Minnesota have received 2008 Guggenheim Fellowships in the 84th annual U.S. and Canadian competition sponsored by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. This is the first time since 1980 that University of Minnesota faculty have won multiple Guggenheim Awards in consecutive years (university faculty won four Guggenheim Fellowships last year).

The 2008 Guggenheim Fellows from the university's College of Liberal Arts (CLA) are Kathryn Sikkink, a professor in the department of political science, and Robin Stryker, a professor in the department of sociology. The third Fellow is Douglas Arnold, a professor in the Institute of Technology's (IT) School of Mathematics. They received funding based on distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

"Kathryn Sikkink, Robin Stryker and Douglas Arnold are three of our very finest scholars. They amply deserve the important national recognition of a Guggenheim Fellowship for their wide-ranging and extraordinary achievements. The three awards underscore the remarkable breadth and depth of faculty at the University of Minnesota. On behalf of the university I congratulate each," said Thomas Sullivan, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Kathryn Sikkink, a Regents Professor and a McKnight Distinguished University Professor, was heralded by the Guggenheim Foundation for her work on the origins and effects of human rights trials in the world. Her research also includes U. S. human rights policy; women's rights; transnational advocacy networks; social justice; political activism; Latin America politics; grassroots politics; war crimes tribunals; and international human rights norms and law. She is author of "Restructuring World Politics: Transnational Social Movements, Networks, and Norms;" "Activists Beyond Borders;" "Ideas and Institutions: Developmentalism in Brazil and Argentina;" and "Mixed Messages: U.S. Human Rights Policy and Latin America."

Robin Stryker was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in recognition of her work in social science in government regulation of equal employment opportunity. In general, Stryker's areas of focus include law and society,

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political sociology, economic sociology, comparative and historical sociology, theory, stratification, historical methods and culture. She is the author of "Social Science in Government Regulation of Equal Employment Opportunity," which was funded by the National Science Foundation, and nine other recent publications, including "Half Empty, Half Full or Neither;" "Law, Inequality and Social Change;" "Law and Economy," with Lauren Edelman; "The Strength of a Weak Agency: Early Enforcement of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Expansion of State Capacity," with Nichol Pedriana; and "Political Culture Wars 1990s Style: The Drum Beat of Quotas in Media Framing of the Civil Rights Act of 1991," with Martha Scarpellino and Mellisa Holtzman.

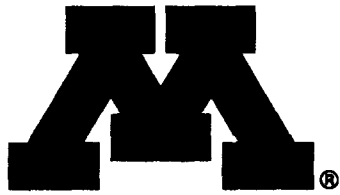
Douglas Arnold, is director of the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA). His research focuses on developing and understanding mathematical algorithms that enable the computer simulation of physical phenomena ranging from the deformation of elastic plates and shells to the collision of black holes. He is the initiator of a burgeoning new approach known as the Finite Element Exterior Calculus, which builds on sophisticated theoretical tools from pure mathematics. With the support of the Guggenheim Fellowship, he will spend the next year working on the Finite Element Exterior Calculus with collaborators in Italy and Norway. This June, Arnold will complete a seven-year term as director of the IMA and assume the position of McKnight Presidential Endowed Professor of Mathematics. He is also the president-elect of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, the leading professional organization for applied mathematicians, computational scientists and engineers.

The 2008 Fellowship winners include 190 artists, scholars, and scientists selected from almost 2,600 applicants for awards totaling \$8,200,000. Decisions are based on recommendations from hundreds of expert advisors and are approved by the Guggenheim Foundation's board of trustees. What distinguishes the Guggenheim Fellowship program from all others is the wide range in interest, age, geography and institution of those it selects as it considers applications in 75 different fields, from the natural sciences to the creative arts. The new Fellows include writers, playwrights, painters, sculptors, photographers, film makers, choreographers, physical and biological scientists, social scientists and scholars in the humanities.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation was founded in 1925 by Mr. and Mrs. Simon Guggenheim in memory of their son, who died April 26, 1922. The organization awards Guggenheim Fellowships to professionals who have demonstrated exceptional ability by publishing a significant body of work in the fields of natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and the creative arts, excluding the performing arts.

The full list of 2008 Fellows may be viewed at <http://www.gf.org>

Photos available upon request.



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April 14, 2008

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U OF M CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEAUTIFUL U DAY BY GIVING AWAY 10,000 COMPACT FLORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

~ Events also include "waste free lunch" and ReUse Warehouse auction ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Since its inception in 1997, Beautiful U Day has advanced the University of Minnesota's commitment to campus beautification and sustainability. On Thursday, April 17, the U will continue this tradition by giving away 10,000 compact florescent light bulbs to the campus community. This is just one of the many activities that will occur throughout the day as the university celebrates its 10th anniversary of helping promote sustainability and the revitalization of the physical campus.

University President Robert Bruininks and Vice President of University Services Kathleen O'Brien will lead a Beautiful U Day 2008 kick off event at 8:30-9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 17 at the University ReUse Center, 883 29th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The University of Minnesota's ReUse Warehouse is a depot for used university property. As an alternative to spending money to transport items to a landfill, the ReUse program stores and sells usable furniture and campus leftovers at the warehouse. The ReUse Warehouse will daily hold public auctions that will begin on Beautiful U day from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. where members of the public can make bids on items up for auction. A complete list of auction items will be posted Wednesday, April 16 on the ReUse Web site, www.reuse.umn.edu.

Other Beautiful U Day events include:

A ceremonial jack-hammering of the concrete on the East Entrance of the Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, will occur from 10:30 - 11 a.m. This will mark the beginning of a project where almost 10,000 square feet between the Humphrey Institute and Ferguson Hall will be converted from hard, non-permeable surface to green, sustainable plantings.

At the Northrop Plaza and St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, faculty, students and staff can enjoy a "Zero Waste Lunch," receive a compact florescent light bulb and learn more about sustainability

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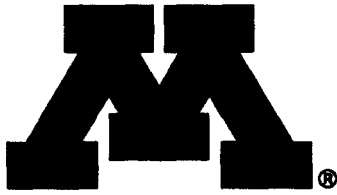
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efforts underway throughout the university from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Classroom Management and Facilities Management will co-sponsor the Beautiful Building and Beautiful Classroom Awards from 4 - 5 p.m. at the Tate Lab Auditorium, 116 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Beautiful U day will end with an open house highlighting the work done in the area of Como Ave. and 29th St, Minneapolis. The university community and neighbors are invited to learn more about printing services, fleet services, the university ReUse Center, recycling and landcare.

For a complete list of Beautiful U Day activities and for more information, go to www.buday.umn.edu.



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April 15, 2008

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Kate Sophia, China Center, (612) 624-5075

U OF M CHINA CENTER HOSTS ANNUAL CHINA DAY FOR LOCAL MIDDLE- AND HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS

In its sixth year, China Day will bring nearly 900 middle - and high-school students to the University of Minnesota to discuss the upcoming summer Olympics in Beijing and encourage the study of the Chinese language. The China Center, which hosts the event, will bring more students than any year previous for the event.

The event is at 9 a.m., Friday, April 18 at Northrop auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, and will include a variety of presentations ranging from Chinese culture to the athletes competing in Beijing.

Students from Blake School, Breck School, Minneapolis South High School, Minnetonka High School, St. Paul Central High School, Wayzata High School, Saint John's Preparatory School, Highland Park and Patrick Henry High School will be in attendance.

The Office of the President and the Institute of Global Studies sponsors the event.

The Program is as follows:

- 9:00 - 9:20 a.m.: Slide show of area school in Chinese classes

- 9:20 - 10:20 a.m.: Speakers Welcoming, Meredith McQuaid, dean, Office of International Programs; Dr. Yongwei Zhang, director, China Center
Keynote: Professor Chris Isett and Professor Doug Hartmann will discuss the upcoming Olympics in China.

- 10:25 - 11:05 a.m.: Jeopardy
Olympics themed game with five categories: facts, sports, athletes, culture and venues.

- 11:05 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.: Lunch with prize drawing and photo exhibit of Chinese cities.

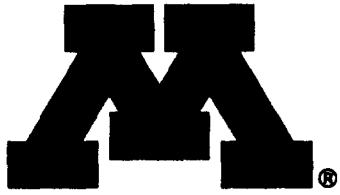
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- 12:20 - 12:40 p.m.: Student representatives from each school discuss their Chinese projects
- 1:00 p.m.: Return to buses

WHEN: Friday, April 18, 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis



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U OF M'S ECONOMICS CHALLENGE SHOWCASES STUDENTS' FINANCIAL LITERACY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- High-school students from across the state will display their financial and economic expertise in the "Economics Challenge" 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 at the North Star Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Students work individually and in teams of four to answer multiple-choice questions related to micro-, macro- and international economics. A final fast-paced buzzer round pits the two highest-scoring teams against each other for top honors. Wednesday's winning team advances to regional competition, where the winner qualifies for the national event. Minnesota teams have advanced to the national competition in five of the past seven years.

Schools participating in the competition are: Moorhead, Eden Prairie, Edina, St. Cloud Technical, St. Paul Central, St. Thomas Academy, Mounds View, Rosemount, Bemidji, Little Falls, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, Barnesville, Proctor, Lake Crystal- Wellcome Memorial and Red Lake Falls.

Financial literacy, especially among young people, was spotlighted last week in a speech by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke, who said that understanding a complex financial marketplace and being able to make wise decisions are "critically important" in light of the recent economic downturn.

A survey by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy released on the same day as Bernanke's remarks found that while Minnesota high school seniors scored higher than the national average, almost half still incorrectly answered questions about personal finance and economics. The Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE), which contributed to the Jump\$tart survey, organizes and sponsors the Economics Challenge.

Based in the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences' department of applied economics, the MCEE aims to provide Minnesotans with the economic and personal financial understanding

- more -

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they need to function effectively in a complex, global environment. Through a network of university affiliates throughout the state, the council provides economic training and curricula to teachers and organizes student financial literacy events and competitions.

WHEN: 12:45 to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 16

WHERE: North Star Ballroom, University of Minnesota's St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave.,
St. Paul

Teams compete in quiz bowl between 12:45 and 1:30. Teacher and student interviews may be arranged after.



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For Immediate Release

April 15, 2008

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U OF M PROFESSOR TO DISCUSS CARBON DEBT OF LAND CLEARED FOR BIOFUEL PRODUCTION

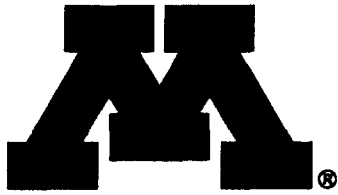
University of Minnesota Professor Stephen Polasky will discuss “Biofuels and the Environment” at the Twin Cities Ag Issues Roundtable, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22 at the Four Points Sheraton, 1330 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis.

Polasky is a co-author of a recent publication in *Science* titled “Land Clearing and the Biofuel Carbon Debt.” The research findings present estimates of the “carbon debt” that is created when new land is cleared for various types of biofuel production. It shows that biofuels made from waste biomass or from perennials grown on degraded land incur little or no carbon debt and can offer immediate carbon savings. The research has been widely discussed in Minnesota and nationwide. The session will include a presentation by Polasky about the recent findings as well as time for questions and discussion.

The Twin Cities Agricultural Issues Roundtable brings together experts from the fields of economics and agriculture several times a year to discuss current issues. Advance reservations are necessary by April 18 for the April 22 event. Cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch. To reserve a space, contact Sue Pohlod at (612) 625-8779 or spohlod@umn.edu.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22

WHERE: Four Points Sheraton, 1330 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis



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Erin George, University Libraries, (612) 624-9338*

ACCLAIMED AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS TO HEADLINE FOURTH ANNUAL NOMMO AUTHORS SERIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The Givens Foundation for African American Literature and the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries will present the final two events of the NOMMO African American Authors Series at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, and Wednesday, April 30 at Cowles Auditorium in the Hubert Humphrey Center, 309 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The NOMMO African American Authors Series is a three-event series featuring acclaimed contemporary African American writers: Randall Kenan, Lucille Clifton, and Amiri Baraka. Clifton, a poet and National Book Award winner will appear at the April 24 event while playwright, poet and political activist Baraka will be featured on April 30. Kenan was featured at the first NOMMO series event on Feb. 7.

Each event features a writer reading from his or her work and engaging in spirited dialogue with host Alexs Pate, University of Minnesota professor and author of the novel "Amistad."

Pate says the authors in the series create magic through their writing. "When I was asked by the Givens Foundation to list the writers I would love to talk with about writing and the state of African American literature, Randall Kenan, Lucille Clifton and Amiri Baraka were at the top of the list," said Pate. "It is an honor to have the opportunity to engage these writers in a public discussion that will explore issues of excellence in the craft of writing and in the nature and significance of African American expression. Both of these writers have made monumental contributions to our culture and will bring vast experience, knowledge and wisdom as well as exuberance to our discussion."

Tickets are available for \$10 per event and can be obtained by calling 612-624-2345 or visiting <http://www.tickets.umn.edu>.

About Lucille Clifton

Lucille Clifton is one of the most beloved and respected figures in American poetry today widely acclaimed for her powerful explorations of race, womanhood, spirituality and mortality. A major voice since her debut

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her powerful explorations of race, womanhood, spirituality and mortality. A major voice since her debut collection "Good Times" (1969), she has continued to portray the experiences of being an African-American, a woman and a human with clarity and elegance. She received the National Book Award for Poetry for her book *Blessing the Boats* (2000). Her most recent book of poems is *Mercy* (2005). Her work has been included in close to 200 anthologies of poetry. She served as distinguished Professor of Humanities and holder of the Hilda C. Landers Endowed chair in the Liberal Arts at St. Mary's College of Maryland until her retirement in 2005.

About Amiri Baraka

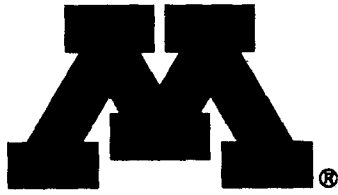
Amiri Baraka, born in 1934, in Newark, New Jersey, is the author of over 40 books of essays, poems, drama and music history and criticism, a poet icon and revolutionary political activist who has recited poetry and lectured on cultural and political issues extensively in the United States, the Caribbean, Africa and Europe. He has taught at Yale, Columbia and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Baraka is known as the founder of the Black Arts Movement in Harlem in the 1960s — a movement that became the virtual blueprint for a new American theater aesthetics. The movement and Baraka's published and performance works such as the signature study on African-American music, "Blues People" (1963) and the play "Dutchman" (1963) were key works of that revolutionary American milieu. "The Essence of Reparations" (2003) is Baraka's first published collection of essays and explores the interrelated issues of racism, national oppression, colonialism, neo-colonialism, self determination and national and human liberation. He is professor emeritus at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

About the Series Sponsors

The Givens Foundation for African American Literature enriches cultural understanding through programs that advance and celebrate African American literature and writers. Their work is inspired by and honors the tremendous wealth and range of literature held in the Givens Collection of African American Literature at the University of Minnesota. More information is available at <http://www.givens.org>.

The series is also sponsored by the University of Minnesota Libraries.

WHAT: Fourth annual NOMMO African American Authors Series
WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Thursday April 24, and Wednesday, April 30
WHERE: Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey Center, 309 19th Ave., S. Minneapolis



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April 16, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

WHOSE DEMOCRACY IS IT? TWO DISCUSSIONS ABOUT U.S. DIPLOMACY AND DEMOCRACY PROMOTION AROUND THE WORLD APRIL 28 AND 29 AT THE U OF M HUMPHREY INSTITUTE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Two complementary discussions at the U of M will unravel the U.S. policies of diplomacy and democracy building around the world. How is democracy achieved and sustained? What role can and should America play in these efforts? Join scholars and U.S. diplomats for analysis and insider perspectives on the benefits and challenges of building democratic societies around the world, April 28 and 29 at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Monday, April 28, 6–7 p.m.

Amidst the ongoing foreign policy challenges of extremism, weak or failing states and regional instability, United States' efforts to encourage democratic reform abroad remain controversial, but little understood. Is it possible to balance both our strategic interests in stability with our national values? Senior officials from three nonpartisan organizations — the National Democratic Institute, International Republican Institute, and the American Academy of Diplomacy (AAD) — will reveal what it takes to promote and sustain democracy abroad. Ambassadors and on-the-ground personnel from such regions as the Middle East, Latin America and Yemen will give first-person accounts of their work and its challenges. This is the first program in a series of AAD outreach events focused on encouraging a dialogue about the challenges and opportunities to promote sustainable democratic development abroad. The program is presented in partnership with the Minnesota International Center.

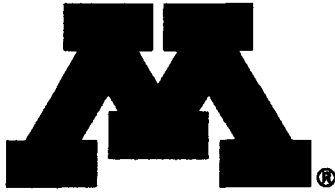
Tuesday, April 29, Noon–1:30 p.m.

Political scholar Larry Diamond, a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, will talk about his new book, "The Spirit of Democracy." One of America's preeminent experts on democracy, Diamond will give his analysis on future prospects for freedom around the world. A panel discussion among Diamond, Humphrey Institute Dean Brian Atwood, and University of Minnesota political scientists Lisa Hilbink and August Nimitz will follow. The program is presented in partnership with the university's department of political science's Pro-Seminar in Comparative Politics.

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The programs are free and open to the public. Registration is requested at (612) 625-5002. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu*

**SATURN GENERAL MANAGER JILL LAJZIAK IS FEATURED GUEST
AT THE NEXT U OF M CARLSON SCHOOL "INSIDE THE BOARDROOM"
EVENT**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Jill Lajdziak, general manager of Saturn Corporation, will be the featured guest at the Carlson School of Management's "Inside the Boardroom" event scheduled 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 2, at the Carlson School's 3M Auditorium, 321 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis.

The bi-annual "Inside the Boardroom" series, developed and hosted by Marilyn Carlson Nelson, showcases high profile women leaders from around the country.

Lajdziak was part of Saturn's startup team in 1986 that created the brand's lauded dealership network with its "no haggle, no hassle" selling philosophy. Over the next decade, she took on more strategic roles and projects, achieving the appointment of Saturn Division General Manager in 1999. She is currently responsible for the Saturn brand's sales, service and marketing operations. Through one-on-one conversations with a panel of leaders, this event provides a unique forum for guests to share her insights and business experiences with the public.

Lajdziak literally grew up in the car business. Her father was a Chevy-Oldsmobile dealer in a small Wisconsin town, and she remembers washing cars at a very early age. Lajdziak began her paid career in the automotive industry when she joined General Motors in 1980 as district sales manager. She quickly moved to strategic merchandising activities for GM passenger cars, prior to her focus with the Saturn line. Lajdziak earned a bachelor of science degree in business marketing and management from the University of Wisconsin.

The program will air on Twin Cities Public Television and is sponsored by the Carlson School chapter of the National Association of Women MBAs.

Registration starts at 5:30 p.m. and a reception follows. The event is free and open to the public. Because of limited seating, please register in advance on the Web site www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/insidetheboardroom by

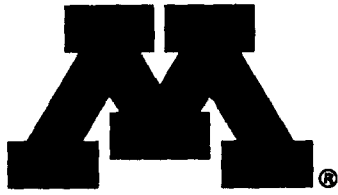
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Friday, April 25. For additional questions, call (612) 626-7407.

WHEN: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., May 2

WHERE: 3M Auditorium, Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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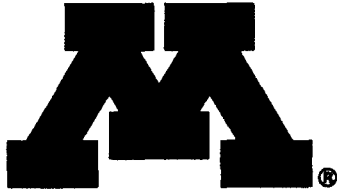
THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CHINA CENTER HONORS CARLSON SCHOOL PROFESSOR MAHMOOD ZAIDI

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Mahmood Zaidi, founding director of the International Program Office and human resource and industrial relations professor at the Carlson School of Management, was honored recently by the University of Minnesota China Center for his years of service as president and member of the China Center Advisory Council (CCAC) and because of his efforts to encourage faculty and student exchange, expand research and professional collaboration and strengthen the bridges between the University and mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Zaidi served on the CCAC under three center directors including professors Patricia Needle, David Pui and Hong Yang.

While Zaidi was developing and delivering the Warsaw MBA program for the Carlson School, he became interested in China because, like Poland, China was also in transition from a command and control economy to a market economy. His interest led to an invitation to serve on the China Center's advisory council.

"Serving on the council not only gave me an opportunity to serve with other colleagues from the university and the Twin Cities community, but also provided me with an opportunity to meet and host dignitaries from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong," said Zaidi. All those contacts made it possible to develop and begin delivering the China Executive MBA program which now boasts over 200 alumni.

"I was invited to a Chinese New Year celebration at the China Center and did not know that this award was forthcoming, but I'm very pleased to receive it," said Zaidi, who will become an emeritus faculty member in May 2008. "I want to share this honor with my past and present colleagues in the Carlson School's International Programs office as well as colleagues at the China Center who helped me to carry out my responsibilities as a council member and president of the center's Advisory Council."



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April 16, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

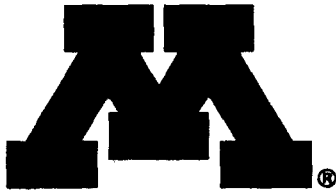
U OF M HOUSING FORUM TO DISCUSS MANDATORY ZONING

The pros and cons for cities considering mandatory inclusionary zoning will be the topic at the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs Housing Forum from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 18 in room 210 Anderson Hall, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

A panel of housing experts will explore three perspectives on how city plans could ensure the provisions of additional affordable housing in new developments. Presenting are Jack Cann, Housing Preservation Project; Michael Noonan, Builders Association of the Twin Cities; and Paul Merwin, League of Minnesota Cities.

The housing forum is a monthly bag lunch discussion of housing issues and research sponsored by CURA, an all-university applied research and technology center at the university that connects faculty and students with community organizations and public institutions working on significant public policy issues in Minnesota.

WHEN: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 18
WHERE: Room 210 Anderson Hall, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis



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For Immediate Release

April 16, 2008

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Christen Gard, College of Design, (651) 491-2838*

U OF M TO RING IN EARTH DAY WITH ECO EXPO 2008

The University of Minnesota's College of Design will host Eco Expo 2008, a fair highlighting Twin Cities and university vendors that sell eco-friendly products and services. It will be held on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Rapson courtyard, 89 Church St. SE, Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

The fair is being organized by College of Design student Christen Gard, who selected and invited the vendors based on alternatives they offer to current college purchasing habits. Each vendor is required to bring their own reusable table cloth as a design opportunity as well as a representation of their ecological values. To offset the use of paper printed and given away at the fair, Gard will be donating three trees to a local tree habitation.

Some of the vendors to be showcased are: The University of Minnesota Solar Decathlon, University Dining Service, ReUse Center, Caribou Coffee, Xerox and Ten Thousand Villages. For a complete listing of vendors, visit:

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/cdescomm/cdes_memo/2008/04/eco_expo_on_earth_day.html

In addition to showcasing the 26 vendors, the Eco Expo will offer three workshops throughout the day to educate participants in living an environmentally-friendly life. All will be held in Rapson courtyard. Details are as follows:

- **Reduce your Carbon Footprint**, 9 - 10 a.m.: Ramy Selim, owner of Sunny Day Earth Solutions and a certified solar assessor, explains simple, inexpensive and some not-so-inexpensive solutions to reducing our strain on the earth and environment.
- **Alternative Housing: A Lifestyle Building from the Heart and Spirit, not the Head**, 11 a.m. - noon: Mark Morgan (Bear Paw Design), a carpenter for 30 years -- with more than 15 years experience in straw-bale construction -- helps us rethink how we are building and living and explores the difference between needs and desires.
- **The Reality of Energy Efficiency and Solar Energy**, 1 - 2 p.m.: For his second workshop of the day, Ramy Selim gives realistic answers about the feasibility of using solar energy to make your life and home more energy efficient.

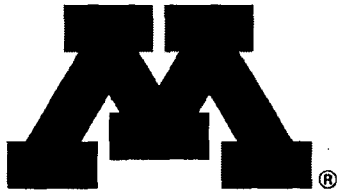
For more information, contact Christen Gard at christen.gard@gmail.com or (651) 491-2838.

WHEN: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 22

- more -

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WHERE: Rapson Courtyard, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis



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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

U OF M'S ANNUAL SPRING JAM TO SET SAIL THIS MONTH

~ Ben Kweller and Michael Ian Black to perform during week-long event ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota will hold its annual Spring Jam, a week-long event created by students for students, April 21-26. This year's celebration features numerous entertainment and philanthropic events, including a blood drive, 5K and performances from national recording artist Ben Kweller and comedian Michael Ian Black. All university students, staff and faculty are invited to attend.

Spring Jam 2008 will incorporate the theme "Across the Sea," evoking images of the ocean, sailing and tropical paradise. This theme helps to bring the warmth to campus that all Minnesotans crave after cold winters. Each participating team in Spring Jam is encouraged to incorporate theme-related elements -- islands, beaches, travel -- into their competition.

Some of this year's events include:

- Monday, April 21

Spring Jam Blood Drive, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Sponsored by Memorial Blood Centers, the Spring Jam Blood Drive helps those in need during natural disasters and personal tragedies that often require the gift of blood. Please help your community by donating blood in Coffman Union's Great Hall . Register online at www.springjam.umn.edu.

Spring Jam Kick-Off, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m: A joint campus kick-off of Spring Jam 2008 will be held on the Garden Terrace of the St. Paul Student Center (St. Paul) and the front plaza of Coffman Union (Minneapolis). The St. Paul celebration will feature free Raising Cane chicken fingers, cookies and Fuse drinks. The Minneapolis celebration will feature free Mesa pizza and cookies, music and rockclimbing.

- Tuesday, April 22

"Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl," 8 p.m: Grab your blankets and pillows and head to the Riverbend Plaza behind Coffman for a free outdoor screening of Pirates of the Caribbean starring Orlando Bloom

- more -

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and Johnny Depp. University Dining Services (UDS) will provide free cookies and lemonade. There will also be free chips provided by Qdoba Mexican Grill as well as samples of Fuse drinks.

- Wednesday, April 23

An Evening with Michael Ian Black, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m: Join us for an evening with comedian, actor and comedy writer Michael Ian Black in the Coffman Memorial Union Theater. He is perhaps most recognized for his comic commentary on VH1's "I Love the '70s/'80s/'90s" series. Black will keep you entertained as he chronicles life as a C-list celebrity and gives you a peek inside the Hollywood food chain. This event is free.

- Thursday, April 24

Frisbee Golf, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.: Bring your friends for a game of frisbee golf at the St. Paul Mall. No sign up or registration necessary. This event is free.

- Friday, April 25

Spring Jam Softball Competition, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m: Get your game on for this year's free softball competition at Bierman Fields. Get a group of friends together and form a team. Register your team at:

http://www.sua.umn.edu/events/springjam/_team_registration_2008.php

Ballyhoo Dance Competition, 7-10 p.m: Show off your dancing skills in the Ballyhoo Competition at Coffman Union's Riverbend Plaza. In this competition, groups send their Ballyhoo team up on stage to perform a choreographed dance to their own music mix. There will be free chips provided by Qdoba Mexican Grill as well as samples from Caribou Coffee. Register your team at:

http://www.sua.umn.edu/events/springjam/_team_registration_2008.php

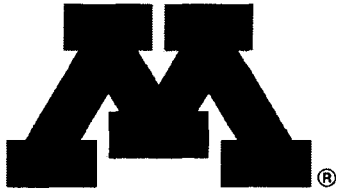
- Saturday, April 26, 8am

Spring Jam 5K: Gather your friends together and run or walk the YMCA 5K on the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus. The race benefits the University YMCA and its programs. The registration fee is \$15. Register in advance at www.springjam.umn.edu. T-Shirts will be distributed at the entrance of the race. The run starts and ends at Coffman Memorial Union.

Spring Jam Block Party featuring Ben Kweller, Noon - 10 p.m: The Block Party kicks off with a student band competition and features jewelry and food vendors and musical and artistic performances throughout the day. The Block Party will be held on Coffman Memorial Union's Riverbend Plaza. Ben Kweller will take the stage at 9 p.m. after the Battle of the Bands winner.

For a full list of events, visit: www.springjam.umn.edu.

Spring Jam is planned by the Minnesota Programs & Activities Council (MPAC). MPAC is the main campus-wide programming board of the Student Activities Office. Its programming committees are responsible for initiating, developing and implementing a comprehensive and diverse activities program that anticipates and



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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

**U OF M CARLSON SCHOOL “BRAND MATTERS” PRESENTS STEPHEN MOSS,
VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER FOR IMATION CORP.**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Stephen Moss, vice president and chief marketing officer for Imation Corp., will be the Brand Matters featured speaker 8 a.m. Friday, May 2 at the Carlson School’s Honeywell Auditorium, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

In his presentation, “Transforming to a brand-centric culture: A missionary’s perspective,” Moss will discuss how Imation Corp. is infusing brand-focused thinking into daily company culture. Helping employees, executives, investors and customers understand Imation's strategic shift is no easy task. Moss will divulge his approach of “re-skilling” marketing teams in all regions of the world and tackling ongoing changes at Imation.

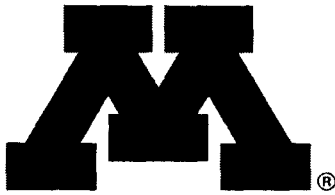
Offered jointly by Yamamoto Moss Mackenzie, the Carlson School of Management, and Twin Cities Business, Brand Matters is a powerful speakers’ forum that provides tools and insights to help companies build their brands.

The public can register by Monday, April 28 online at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, e-mailing brandmatters@umn.edu or calling Susan Markgraf at (612) 625-5348. The event includes breakfast and costs \$25 online with credit card or cash or credit card payment at the door.

WHAT: 8- 9:30 a.m., Friday, May 2

7 a.m. Check-in, 7:30 a.m. Breakfast

WHEN: Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis



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April 17, 2008

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Marvin Marshak, undergraduate research, 612-624-1312, marshak@umn.edu

U OF M UNDERGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATES STUDENT CREATIVITY, PERFORMANCE AND RESEARCH

More than 250 University of Minnesota undergraduate students will participate in the 2008 Undergraduate Symposium from noon - 5 p.m. Friday, April 18, at Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

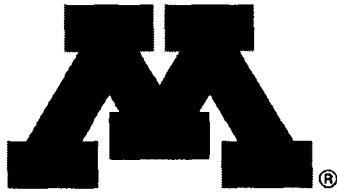
Research ranging from the fine arts to physical and life sciences will be highlighted at this year's symposium, which also features cash prizes sponsored by Sigma Xi and Phi Beta Kappa.

The list of participants in the 2008 Symposium and their poster times and locations are available at:
<http://www.research.umn.edu/undergraduate/2008symposium/participants.html>.

“As the U of M strives to be one of the top three public research universities in the world this is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate some of our cutting-edge discovery and research,” said Marvin Marshak, professor and director of undergraduate research.

The symposium is free and open to the public. For more information, visit:
<http://www.research.umn.edu/undergraduate> or contact Vicky Munro at 612-625-3853 or munro001@umn.edu.

Media interested in interviewing students should ask for Marvin Marshak at the registration desk.



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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

U OF M COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS FACULTY MEMBER WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Hisham Bizri, College of Liberal Arts (CLA) faculty member at the University of Minnesota, has been selected as a recipient of the 112th annual American Academy in Rome Prize Competition. The academy officially announced the award recently in the New York Times.

Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship a year ago, Bizri, an assistant professor in the department of cultural studies and comparative literature and a filmmaker, received the award in the Rome Prize's visual arts category on the basis of his work to develop his film "The Last Day of Summer" from a screenplay he wrote.

"I didn't expect to win, really, especially considering past winners such as artist Elliot Carter," said Bizri. "I am from Lebanon, a small country, where I spent most of my life living in wars and never dreaming of joining the American Academy in Rome. But, I've had and have so much love in my life -- family, friends and colleagues -- so, maybe it is not so unexpected. I am very honored."

The Rome Prize is an annual award for artists and scholars to further develop both intellectually and artistically. Fellowship winners travel to Rome and are provided a stipend, a study or studio, and room and board for a period of six months to two years. Bizri will be living at the academy in Rome for all of next year.

"This is an extraordinary honor for Hisham and a continuing affirmation of the exceptional quality of his work and the lasting impact that his work is having among so many diverse audiences," said James Parente Jr., interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "Hisham continues to make us very proud that he is on our faculty and contributing in so many important ways to promote film studies and digital film-making."

A practicing filmmaker from Lebanon, Bizri presented in 2006 a first-of-its-kind symposium on film and culture in the Arab world. He is the co-founder of the Arab Institute of Film in Amman, Jordan. Bizri's films have been shown internationally including the Louvre, Cairo Opera House, Biennale des Cinema Arabes (Paris), Milan Film Festival (Italy), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris), Harvard Film Archives

- more -

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Festival (Italy), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris), Harvard Film Archives (Cambridge), Museum of Modern Art (New York), Cinémathèque Française (Paris) among others.

Much of his work may be viewed as meditations on the themes of exile and melancholy. These visual meditations are shaped by his personal experience of interceding between the Middle East of his Arab-Muslim upbringing and Anglo/European art and culture. Emerging from this personal context, his work reflects political and social concerns with contemporary Arab politics and culture and aesthetic concerns with painterly values and the poetics of modern life.

About the American Academy in Rome

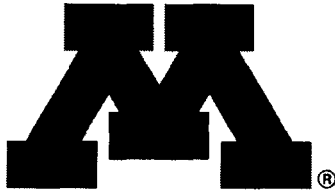
Established in 1894 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the American Academy in Rome is a center that sustains independent artistic pursuits and humanistic studies. It is situated on the Janiculum, Rome's highest hill. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to up to 30 individuals emerging artists (working in architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, literature, musical composition, or visual arts) and scholars (working in ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and early Modern, or Modern Italian Studies).

For information on Hisham Bizri:

www.cscl.umn.edu/people/facExp.php?UID=hbizri

www.hishambizri.com/

WHO: Hisham Bizri, department of cultural studies and comparative literature assistant professor and filmmaker.



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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

**JEFF GREENFIELD TO SPEAK AT U OF M CARLSON SCHOOL OF
MANAGEMENT
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Jeff Greenfield, senior political correspondent for CBS News and host of PBS's CEO EXCHANGE, will speak on "Business & the Media" at the Carlson School of Management commencement ceremonies 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on May 19 at Northrop Memorial Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

In CEO EXCHANGE, Greenfield interviews major business leaders about some of the most pressing business issues of our times and explores their strategies for success. Greenfield's guests have included business leaders such as Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com, Brad Anderson of Best Buy, E. Neville Isdell of Coca-Cola, Michael Dell of Dell Computer, Jack Welch of GE, Ed Zander of Motorola, Marc Andreessen co-founder of Netscape, Jim Donald of Starbucks and Anne Mulcahy of Xerox.

CEO EXCHANGE is produced on the campuses of major business schools around the country, including NYU's Stern Business School, Goizueta Business School at Emory University, Harvard Business School, Northwestern University, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas.

Greenfield's news and political analysis career includes nine years with CNN and 14 years with ABC. Currently with CBS News, Greenfield contributes his political analysis to the Early Show, CBS Evening News and other programs. Greenfield is author of "Oh, Waiter! One Order of Crow! Inside the Strangest Presidential Election Finish in American History," a popular analysis of the 2000 presidential election.

At the May 19 ceremonies, Greenfield will address the graduate class at 9 a.m. and the undergraduate class at 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/commencement.

WHO: Jeff Greenfield, CEO EXCHANGE host and senior political correspondent for CBS News

- more -

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WHAT: 2008 Carlson School of Management Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement
WHEN: Monday, May 19 (9 a.m. for graduate ceremony; 1 p.m. for undergraduate ceremony)
WHERE: Northrop Memorial Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis



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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

U OF M ENGINEERING STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AWARD FOR WORK IN HAITI

~ Engineers Without Borders group helps bring recycling and sanitation to one of Haiti's poorest areas ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota student chapter of Engineers Without Borders has been awarded a \$25,000 grand prize advocacy award from the KEEN footwear company for the students' work to bring recycling and sustainable sanitation to Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world. The project was chosen from among hundreds of award entries nationwide.

To see what the EWB students have to say about the project and the award, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/keen.htm

The University of Minnesota students are partnering with the Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (SOIL) in Haiti on the project in the Shada neighborhood of Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second largest city. The more than 20,000 inhabitants of this densely populated neighborhood live without access to clean water, sanitation or garbage collection.

The project, which was initiated last fall, aims to clean up the streets by finding a way to recycle discarded plastic into useful items for the residents. Most Haitians transport their water in plastic sachets (similar to heavyweight plastic bags) that are thrown into the streets when empty.

"Our idea is to get them to think of plastics not as waste, but potentially as a material they can use to produce useful products," said Brian Bell, a University of Minnesota civil engineering student and president of the student chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

The students are currently researching water sachet properties and initiating designs of a re-melting system to be tested in Minneapolis over the next year. Students plan to travel to Haiti this summer for an assessment trip and will return to Haiti in 2009 to help the local people fully implement the ideas.

The group's original idea was to recycle the plastic into footwear for Haiti's children, but recent research by chemical engineering students in the group found that if plastic waste was melted and reused, the material would be too stiff for shoe soles. Instead, the plastic will likely be recycled into sporting equipment for youths or for affordable toilet molds to establish a much-needed sanitation system.

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"We have some of the world's brightest minds in materials research right here at the University of Minnesota," said David Gasperino, a U of M chemical engineering Ph.D. graduate who now is serving as a professional mentor on the project. "I was drawn to this project because of its focus on using the research expertise we have to help make a difference in another country."

Beyond addressing the needs of waste disposal and sanitation, the students hope to help local Haitians find a way to transform the pervasive plastic waste into a profitable recycling enterprise.

"Small ideas turn into a big difference in many of these types of projects. If we develop a use for the plastic, there will be a financial incentive to clean up and resell it to be recycled," Bell said. "This means people there could start a business and earn money to support their families."

The students say the prize money from Keen will help fund the research to overcome huge technological barriers.

"In this country there would be an expensive, high tech way to recycle this plastic," Bell said. "But in Haiti, we will basically have a flame and garbage. We will need to research very innovative ways to make this happen."

About 20 University of Minnesota students are involved in the Haiti project and are split into two work groups—one focused on indoor sanitation and another on plastics recycling.

"There's a huge disconnect between life here in Minnesota and life in many countries around the world," Bell said. "Getting involved in projects like this is really a sign of what the students who are involved care about, and that is helping people in need."

For more information about the project, visit the University of Minnesota Engineers Without Borders Web site at www.tc.umn.edu/~ewb/

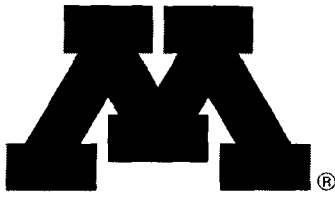
About Engineers Without Borders-University of Minnesota

Engineers Without Borders-University of Minnesota (EWB-UMN) partners with disadvantaged communities around the world to improve their quality of life by implementing engineering projects that prove environmentally and economically sustainable. The University of Minnesota chapter was founded in fall 2005 and now boasts more than 40 active members working on projects around the world. Engineering programs at the University are part of the Institute of Technology, the college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics.

About KEEN, Inc.

Keen is a manufacturer of hybrid footwear and outdoor equipment. Founded in 2003, KEEN was first recognized for its Newport sandal, which featured patented toe protection technology. The company's STAND initiative gives cash prize awards to innovators who are making a difference through sustainability projects.

Bell is available for media interviews between 1-2 p.m. on Friday, April 18 at the U of M, Room 5, Lind Hall, 207 Church St., S.E., Minneapolis.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082*

U OF M NAMES RECIPIENTS OF 2008 JOSIE R. JOHNSON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Office for Equity and Diversity has named Ananya Chatterjea, associate professor of theatre arts and dance, and Ross Neely, graduate student in social justice education, as the recipients of the 2008 Josie R. Johnson Human Rights and Social Justice Award. The winners will receive their awards at a celebration banquet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E. Minneapolis.

The Josie R. Johnson Award honors University of Minnesota faculty, staff and students each year whose work creates respectful and inclusive living, learning and working environments. The award is named for Johnson, former associate vice president of the university's Office of Multicultural and Academic Affairs and the first African American to serve on the university's Board of Regents. The award was established in 1997 in recognition of Johnson's lifelong contributions to human rights and social justice, including her work in the civil rights movement, years of community service and tenure at the university.

ANANYA CHATTERJEA

Chatterjea, a faculty member of theater arts and dance at the university since 1998, is an internationally recognized dancer, teacher, scholar, writer and choreographer whose work in dance focuses on the promotion of social justice. Using dance as a tool, she brings together people of different cultures to express and address social problems and injustices.

Chatterjea is an active member in the community, the university and the world in paving the way for multicultural change. She created the Ananya Dance Theatre Company in Minneapolis, which explores the issues of minority women's groups through dance and performance. She was one of the founders of the Faculty of Color Initiative, an organization that is committed to the recruitment and retention of faculty of color in the College of Liberal Arts. Dance Magazine recently highlighted her work, calling her a "choreographer for change."

"Her work as an artist and scholar challenges the continuation of discrimination within the context of public space, touching and reflecting on issues of class, gender and race," wrote Rachmi Diyah Larasati, assistant

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

space, touching and reflecting on issues of class, gender and race,” wrote Rachmi Diyah Larasati, assistant professor in the department of theatre arts and dance, in her letter of nomination for Chatterjea. “To embrace this notion of injustice publicly, though staging a narration of exclusion requires bravery and political commitment to which I assign great respect.”

ROSS NEELY

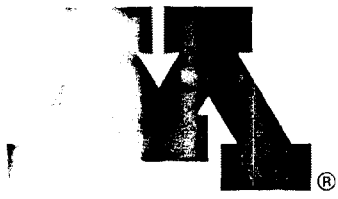
Neely is a graduate student and a staff member in the university's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally Programs Office. He is pursuing a master's degree in the master of liberal studies program in the College of Continuing Education, where he is studying the intersection of sexuality, age, ability, race, class and gender and the need for equality among all social identities. Through both his scholarship and his professional capacity, he works to fight all forms of oppression.

Neely is involved in a wide range of community service organizations and initiatives working towards social equality. Through the GLBTA Programs Office, he has worked closely with the Transgender Commission, the Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance, and Pride @ Work. He was one of the main organizers of the MN OUT! Campus Conference in 2006 and is also an Ally Trainer, working with colleges, units and departments across the university to help dispel myths and stereotypes about the GLBTA community. His work with the GLBTA Programs Office works to address social inequality around gender and sexuality, and also addresses how these inequalities intersect with those of race, class, ability, age and culture.

“Ross's commitment to, and understanding of, issues of oppression and social justice rival that of any person with whom I have ever worked,” said Anne Phibbs, director of the GLBTA Programs Office, in her nomination letter for Neely. “Scholar/activists like Ross play an important role in how we understand, describe and envision our work.”

WHEN: Tuesday, April 22

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center



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April 18, 2008

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 or University News Service, (612) 625-0552

LEARN ABOUT LOIS QUAM AT THE U OF M TO DISCUSS HOW SHE OBTAINED INFORMATION OF A \$25 BILLION BUSINESS

MINNETONKA, MINN. (PAUL) -- Lois Quam, known as one of the most successful businesswomen of her generation, will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 6, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

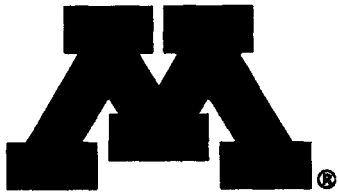
In her speech, "How I did it: In one year my company tripled in size Hitting \$25 Billion," Quam will discuss her experience in the management and growth of Ovations, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group.

Under Quam's leadership, Ovations grew to offer the broadest set of Medicare products, while its Part D offering became the most successful new business launch in UnitedHealth Group's history. As a growth-oriented executive, Quam brought Ovations' complex senior-focused businesses to scale and was recognized for developing innovative and effective responses to major health care challenges, as well as working effectively with government.

Quam rose from a small company in growing companies to areas of high-growth potential at Piper Jaffray where she worked on developing new investment offerings and extending the firm's global capabilities in the clean energy and health care sectors.

Advanced tickets for Thursday, May 1, is \$28 and \$35 for walk-ins. The fee includes lunch and parking in the Washburn Center. Refund cancellations are required by Friday, May 2. Register by calling 612-625-9600 or visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events or e-mailing firsttuesday@umn.edu

WHO: Lois Quam, director of alternative investments at Piper Jaffray
WHAT: Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon Series
WHEN: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 6, 2008
WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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April 21, 2008

Contacts: Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214

U OF M TO BE PART OF DISTANCE LEARNING MEMORANDUM TO BE SIGNED THIS WEEK

The American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC), a non-profit organization composed of approximately 65 state universities, including the University of Minnesota, land-grant colleges and international affiliates, and the President of the Chinese Central Agricultural Broadcasting Television School (CABTS), the largest distance education organization in the world will sign a cooperative agreement at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 22 at the Hilton Hotel, Symphony Ballrooms two and three, 1001 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis.

The signing is part of ADEC's annual meeting, scheduled from Monday through Wednesday, April 21 - April 23. The Chinese CABTS President, Zeng Yichun will be joined by Jan Poley, ADEC president and CEO, to sign the memorandum of understanding and foster additional relationships for distance learning opportunities.

"This agreement will create enormous opportunities for the University of Minnesota and for all the land grant university members of ADEC," said Robert Rubinyi, Extension professor who helped create the CABTS relationship. "United States and Chinese faculty and staff will be able to work together on joint content development projects and educational research studies in both countries."

About ADEC

ADEC is a non-profit distance education consortium composed of approximately 65 state universities and land-grant colleges. The consortium was conceived and developed to promote the creation and provision of high quality, economical distance education programs and services to diverse audiences, by the land grant community of colleges and universities, through the most appropriate information technologies available.

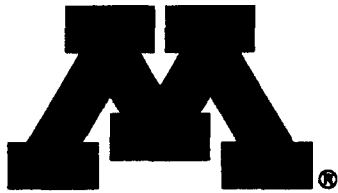
About CABTS

CABTS, is the largest distance education organization in the world, with a five level teaching and learning system that provides both teaching enhancement as well as direct information and education for farmers and rural residents in China. CABTS has 2509 training centers around China and 46,000 tutors stationed in townships and villages in agricultural production areas of the country.

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WHEN: 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22

WHERE: Hilton Hotel, Symphony Ballrooms two and three, 1001 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis



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April 21, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MOVING FORWARD ON THE URBAN RESEARCH AND OUTREACH/ENGAGEMENT CENTER IN NORTH MINNEAPOLIS

~ Names Archie Givens to coordinate renovations of former shopping center ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota has named Archie Givens to serve as the owner's representative to coordinate the renovations to the former shopping center at 2001 Plymouth Ave. N. in Minneapolis, which will serve as the headquarters for the university's new Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC).

Givens, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota, is nationally known for his work in affordable housing and health care administration. He is currently the CEO and director of Legacy Management & Development Corporation and managing partner of Rainbow Development Corporation.

"The hiring of Archie Givens to serve as the university's representative throughout this renovation will ensure that the project will be a transparent process overseen by someone who has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the community of North Minneapolis in particular, and to urban and under served communities in general," said Irma McClaurin, executive director of UROC.

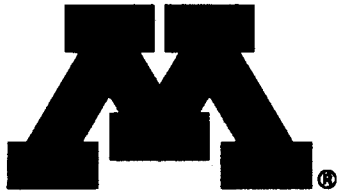
The university purchased the Plymouth Avenue building in February 2008 to house its many new and existing North Minneapolis research, outreach and engagement activities, facilitate collaborations with city, county and community partners, and make university programs and services more accessible to residents. The university has sought community input about the services and programs to be offered through public listening sessions and by working with the University Northside Partnership (UNP).

The UNP was formed three years ago to bring together public and private organizations dedicated to leveraging their resources to "build healthier families and stronger communities together" in North Minneapolis. Partners include the university, the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, Northpoint Health and Wellness Center, Phyllis Wheatley Center, Northway Community Trust and the Council of Black Churches.

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The hiring of Givens and the recent departure of the shopping center's last remaining tenant, Snow Foods, allows the renovation of the center to begin. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued in the next few months for architectural and general construction services and minority- and women-owned businesses will be especially encouraged to submit bids. The process will be coordinated by the university's Capital Planning Project Management Purchasing Department. It is expected to take approximately nine months to design and complete the renovations, and occupancy is tentatively scheduled for December 2008. Information about the RFP will be posted on the Purchasing Bid Information Services Web site at:
<http://purchasing.umn.edu/vendor/bis.php> when it is becomes available.

In addition to moving forward on the UROC renovations, the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Volunteers of America and the Residents Council have partnered to provide transportation twice a month to Cub Foods on West Broadway Avenue for residents who live in the Rainbow Terrace building.



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April 22, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH NANOTECHNOLOGY COMPANY IN FLOOD-DEVASTATED RUSHFORD

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Just seven months ago the southeastern Minnesota town of Rushford was ravaged by flash floods. Today, an agreement between the University of Minnesota and local company Rushford Hypersonic is a hopeful sign that the town is well on its way to recovery. Under the agreement, nanoparticle film deposition technologies developed at the university will be used by Rushford Hypersonic on products in the industrial tooling and coating applications industries. The company eventually expects to create 40 to 60 jobs at its facility in Rushford.

The agreement will be marked at an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 23 at the Rushford Hypersonic facility, 1000 Technology Drive in Rushford. Representatives from the university, Rushford Hypersonic, the city of Rushford and the state of Minnesota will be on hand.

"The University of Minnesota produces some of the world's best nanotechnology, and we are very pleased to sign this agreement with them," said Daniel Fox, Rushford Hypersonic's chief executive officer. "The university worked closely with us throughout the entire process and helped structure the agreement so that we can bring these technologies to market very quickly."

"The university aims to be an effective partner with industry," said Jay Schrankler, executive director at the university's Office for Technology Commercialization (OTC). "This agreement with Rushford Hypersonic is a great example of how we can make it easy for companies to find what they're looking for at the university and establish long-term partnerships."

The nanoparticle film deposition technologies were developed over the past decade by professors Steven Girshick, Joachim Heberlein and Peter McMurry in the university's mechanical engineering department, William Gerberich in chemical engineering and materials science and Nagaraja Rao, formerly in mechanical engineering.

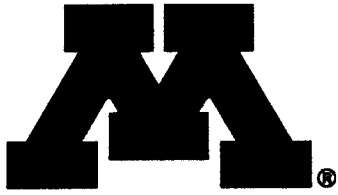
"The processes provide a variety of coating technologies that are harder, more wear resistant and less heat

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

“The processes provide a variety of coating technologies that are harder, more wear resistant and less heat generative than standard coatings used in the industrial tooling industry today,” said Eric Hockert, technology marketing manager at OTC. “Rushford Hypersonic will use these processes to coat and sell industrial tooling and develop coating applications for materials that can benefit from the improved hardness and friction reduction that these processes offer.”

Rushford Hypersonic will manufacture parts locally in Rushford and employ the area's skilled work force. They will use Web-based technology to market and sell their products, and will partner with a global distributor. Expansion into other markets will take place as new applications are developed for industrial and automotive surfaces (e.g., camshafts, valves, bearings) and medical applications, such as the ball and socket in an artificial hip. The company also will join forces with the university by providing funding for a graduate research assistantship in the nanotechnology research program.



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April 22, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082*

U OF M TO HONOR OUTSTANDING WOMAN SCHOLARS, EMPLOYEES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Office for University Women will celebrate the contributions and achievements of outstanding female employees and scholars at an award banquet from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24 at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The event, "Celebrating University Women," will open with welcome speeches by OUW interim director Peg Loonquist and School of Nursing associate professor Margaret Moss. The awards acknowledge and honor the accomplishments of outstanding University of Minnesota women faculty members. Selection criteria for the two annual awards include: exceptional scholarly or creative achievements; impact of the scholar on her field; national and international scholarly reputation; distinctive service in undergraduate and graduate education; and contributions to the university, one's profession and wider community.

This year's award recipients are:

Distinguished Women Scholars Award in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences: professor Ruth Mazo Karras.

Karras is a distinguished scholar of European medieval social history and has a reputation as one of the nation's most distinguished medievalists. At the university, Karras' impressive record of scholarship has been accompanied by generous mentoring of students and junior colleagues and substantial contributions in the realms of professional service and public pedagogy. Karras is currently serving as the department's director of graduate studies and led history's effort to reassess graduate education. Karras served as a consultant for the Minnesota Science Museum, the History Channel, and to K-12 history teachers. Nationally, Karras has held numerous prestigious fellowships, including an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Distinguished Women Scholars Award in Science & Engineering: professor Stephanie Valberg

Valberg is an internationally known researcher in exercise physiology, neuromuscular disorders in large animals, and equine genome mapping and nutrition. She has been a faculty member in the College of Veterinary Medicine

- more -

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since 1993. Valberg developed a premier, world-recognized research program in the area of the clinical, physiological and genetic basis of equine neuromuscular disease, its diagnosis and its treatment. In so doing, she has changed the way that the entire field of veterinary medicine thinks about a diverse set of very common diseases. Veterinarians around the world now evaluate and test horses with muscle disorders using the tools developed through Valberg's innovative research. An outstanding teacher as well, Valberg has been selected several times as Mentor of the Year as well as receiving a Teaching Inventive Award. In addition to her research and teaching activities, Valberg has been the director of the University of Minnesota Equine center since 2004. Under her leadership, a new 60,000 square foot world class, state-of-the-art facility opened in October 2007, providing outstanding service beyond the University to the state equine community.

The Mullen-Spector-Truax Women's Leadership Award: professor Roberta Humphreys

This award honors Humphreys' outstanding contributions to women's leadership development from undergraduate students to faculty members. As associate dean for academic affairs in the Institute of Technology, Humphreys founded and directed a program which works to encourage, recruit, and retain women graduate students in the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering. The "IT Program for Women" places a female graduate student coordinator in each of the 12 different departments to organize networking activities for academic and personal support and recruitment. As a result of Humphreys' leadership, countless women graduate students in IT have learned from distinguished women scientists and engineers as speakers, attended Graduate Women in Science National meetings, attended lunches with faculty and alumnae of the School of Physics and Astronomy, participated in outreach activities with young girls and been provided with support and mentoring for their careers.

In addition, Humphreys' initiatives to raise the number of female undergraduates in IT, resulted in a 33% increase. An advocate for faculty women as well, Humphreys organized forums, workshops, social events, retreats, and an annual "Dinner with the Deans" to encourage professional and social interactions. At the department level, Humphreys worked to educate department heads about barriers to women's success. Her most recent efforts to implement lasting change at the university involve serving on the Women's Faculty Cabinet, and the coordination of a university-wide team to write a National Science Foundation ADVANCE proposal.

Civil Service and Bargaining Unit (CSBU) Staff Awards: Fran Stark and Ellen Woo

Stark, an administrative assistant for the TRIO Program in the College of Education and Human Development, provides critical support for low-to-modest income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities. Fran serves as advisor to the TRIO Student Leadership Board, and has taken students to the National Conference on Student Leadership. A graduate of the U of M and an employee for more than 20 years, she is also chair of the Social Concerns Committee for Student Services in CEHD and contributes to the greater Twin Cities community as vice chair of the board for Head Start. Stark is given this award for her continuing efforts to help improve the environment for CSBU women across campus. She has served as one of the co-chairs of the CSBU Women's Action Network for three years, and is currently working with the other committee

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

members to strengthen the group's mission and focus for increased effectiveness in the coming years. In addition, Stark was actively involved with the "Take Your Daughters To Work" Program so that girls could visit the campus and have meaningful experiences.

Woo is a personnel document analyst in the graduate assistant office in the Office for Human Resources. Woo, a U alum, has been an employee of the university for more than 30 years. Woo is given this award for her sustained efforts to help improve the environment for CSBU women across campus. She has served as the co-chair of the CSBU Women's Action Network for three years, and is also working to re-imagine the mission and the focus of the network for the future. She is also chair for the University Women of Color (UWOC), which sponsors events to support and connect women of color across campus. This year, she assisted in selecting and presenting the UWOC Tapestry Award for promoting excellence in diversity on campus.

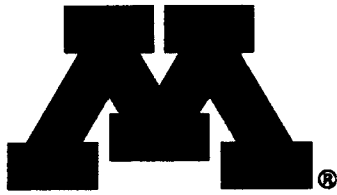
Sharon L. Doherty Awards: Rachel Raimist and Kelly Cannon

Raimist, a doctoral candidate in feminist studies, is recognized for her commitment as a volunteer on behalf of the department of gender, women and sexuality studies (GWSS), women on the university campus, and women and girls in the Twin Cities community. In addition to teaching undergraduate classes in GWSS, English, and African-American Studies, Raimist actively works with non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities. She is currently mentoring young spoken word artists and video makers through the Walker Teen Arts Council and the Walker artist residency, has co-led her daughter's Girl Scout troop and worked with South Minneapolis junior high and high school aged girls in "Articulating Our Voices Now". She co-founded and curated "B-Girl Be: A Celebration of Women and Hip-Hop," a multidisciplinary festival that brings international, national and local girls and women in hip-hop together in Minneapolis for dialogues, performances and mentorship.

Cannon, a doctoral candidate in computer science and engineering (CSE), is recognized for her outstanding outreach to women and members of underrepresented groups. She has held leadership roles in numerous programs and activities, including helping to found the Digital Technology Center. She also founded the Kids Technology Day Camp, geared at exposing middle school age children to a collegiate atmosphere and encouraging young people -- girls in particular -- to become interested in pursuing computer science and technological careers. Since its creation in 2005, the camp has grown in attendance to 25 students and approximately 30 CSE graduate student volunteers. In this capacity, Cannon has not only been successful in inspirational volunteer outreach to women and youth, but also in urging her fellow graduate students to become more involved in outreach efforts. Cannon has also worked as a volunteer with and executive board member of the Tronix Team, an after-school electronics program for middle-school boys and girls. Each year, she speaks to the Minnesota High Tech Girls Society and prospective University of Minnesota Institute of Technology (IT) students.

WHEN: 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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April 22, 2008

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HAYES LECTURE AT U OF M SPOTLIGHTS ROLE OF AFRICAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Female scientists, especially those in developing countries, are underrepresented in agricultural research, but the speaker at a University of Minnesota lecture is working to enhance their roles.

Vicki Wilde, director of the gender and diversity programs for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), will speak at the 35th annual Hayes Memorial Lecture on the university's St. Paul campus at 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 25. The lecture will be in the Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul.

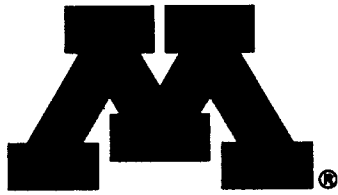
Through 15 agricultural research centers around the world, CGIAR distributes new seeds, stocks fisheries and introduces new methods of farming to help feed an ever-growing population. Under Wilde's direction, the consortium's gender and diversity program holds workshops, conducts research, develops policy and provides a communication forum on issues of diversity.

Her program pays particular attention to African women scientists. "I am so tired of the image of African women as downtrodden," Wilde said. "I see them as the solution. We are not going to address issues of poverty without them."

The Hayes lecture, sponsored by the department of agronomy and plant genetics, honors H.K. Hayes, one of the leading plant breeders of the 20th century who led the department to international prominence. At Friday's event, the winner of this year's Hayes Graduate Student Award, Haiyan Jia, also will be honored.

WHEN: 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 25

WHERE: Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul



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April 22, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M TO HOST CELEBRATION OF MULTICULTURAL GRADUATES

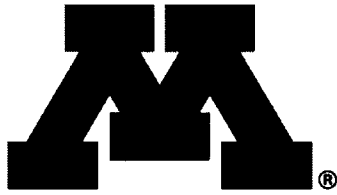
The University of Minnesota will kick off its spring commencement season with the Multicultural Graduates celebration from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26 at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

Organized by the university's Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, the event will celebrate the graduation and accomplishment of first-generation students and students of color. About 1,000 students and family members are expected to attend.

The celebration will include entertainments by a Mariachi band, Hmong dancers and African singers. Each student's name and degree earned will be announced and several university deans will present each graduate with an African stole that symbolizes unity, wisdom and connection.

WHEN: 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 26

WHERE: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis



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April 24, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

ARTHUR B. SCHULTZ FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES MBA FELLOWSHIPS AT THE U OF M CARLSON SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- U of M Carlson School of Management alum and global philanthropist Arthur B. Schultz (BSB '51) has established- through his foundation-Carlson School MBA fellowships for full-time MBA students to study micro-finance and micro-enterprises.

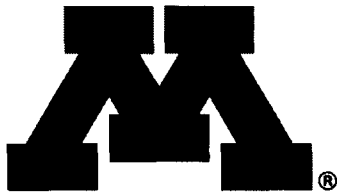
The Arthur B. Schultz Foundation (ABSF) will provide full-tuition fellowships (approximately \$100,000 annually) for full-time MBA students interested in micro-finance and micro-enterprise, with a particular focus on international students who are committed to returning to their native countries to direct or manage a micro-enterprise. "We hope that students will take the knowledge they gain here back to their own countries," said Erik Schultz, ABSF director. "We want this to come full circle from where it all began."

Approximately 30 percent of the Carlson School's full-time MBA students come from other countries to study at the school, where they engage in rich, hands-on learning opportunities and interaction with global and entrepreneurial companies.

"These fellowships will fit perfectly with our growing global and experiential learning opportunities and the increasing interest in social enterprises in our current and prospective students," said Carlson School Dean Alison Davis-Blake. "We couldn't be more pleased."

About Arthur B. Schultz and the ABSF

Carlson School alum Arthur B. Schultz began his foundation in 1985. Since its inception, the foundation has supported educational initiatives large and small, both overseas and in the U.S. The Foundation has funded many scholarships designed to help students in under-developed countries gain access to a Western-oriented business curriculum. For more information about the foundation, visit <http://www.absfoundation.org>.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2008

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Gayla Marty, Graduate School, (612) 626-3314, marty001@umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Graduate School has named Dean Tsantir as director of admissions, effective June 9. Tsantir, who brings strong expertise in international recruitment and electronic application systems, was selected after a national search.

"One of our priorities in the coming year is implementing the transition to electronic applications for graduate education across the university," said Gail Dubrow, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School. "Dean Tsantir's background in communication technology will be a key asset in making improvements to the system that increase its usefulness on the Duluth, Rochester and Twin Cities campuses."

The University of Minnesota is both a national and global leader in graduate education, and one of the top producers of doctoral degrees in the United States. The office of admissions in the Graduate School receives more than 13,000 applications a year from nearly every country in the world and, working closely with individual college faculty and staff, admits approximately 4,600 students to 132 academic programs.

As assistant to the director for the past year, Tsantir has worked extensively with the Apply Yourself online application system, represented the admissions office on a number of university committees and task forces, and recruited in India.

Before coming to the Graduate School, Tsantir previously worked with international student service and recruitment at International Student and Scholar Services at the university.

After earning his bachelor's degree in communication at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Tsantir worked two years for the Japanese Board of Education in Chiba City, Japan, an experience that broadened his international perspective and solidified his interest in the field of international education. From Japan, he applied for graduate school and earned a master's degree in comparative and international development education at the University of Minnesota, with research focusing on the emerging field of international recruitment.

"Recruiting and retaining the most diverse and talented graduate-student body possible to meet the challenges of this century is a major goal for the university," said Tsantir. "I look forward to working with the graduate education community and with the staff across the Graduate School on the challenges and opportunities ahead of us."

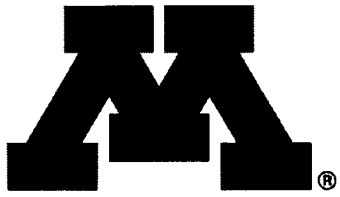
- more -

School on the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.”

Tsantir will succeed Andrea Scott, who retires June 6 after a career of distinguished service in graduate admissions at the University of Minnesota. Scott led the Graduate School through a period that included the debut of the Apply Yourself electronic application system, the onset of international recruitment in the increasingly competitive higher education environment and the emergence of the admissions office as a national leader in graduate admissions.

About the Graduate School

The Graduate School, established in 1905, offers more than 140 majors through programs on the Twin Cities, Duluth and Rochester campuses, and awards more than 700 doctoral and nearly 2,000 master's degrees each year. It is part of the university's Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, with central offices located on the Twin Cities campus.



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April 24, 2008

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U OF M SUBMITS NCAA CERTIFICATION SELF-STUDY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- As part of its NCAA Division I athletics certification, the University of Minnesota has conducted a yearlong, campus-wide study of its athletics programs. After receiving public comment on the self-study, it was submitted to the NCAA on April 24.

“This self-study process has been a very positive exercise for the university community,” said university Auditor Gail Klatt, who is chairing the committee responsible for the study. “It shows that over the last decade, we’ve made a great deal of progress in rules compliance, academic integrity, the well-being of student athletes and equity. But just as important, it has identified for us additional steps that need to be taken to ensure strong athletic programs in the future.”

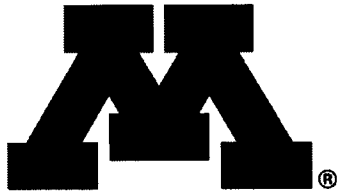
Certification programs are common in colleges and universities, but this is the only one that focuses solely on athletics. This will be the university’s second certification. The first was completed in February 2001. Its purpose is to ensure the institution's commitment to integrity in athletics by opening athletics to the entire university community and the public. It is also an opportunity to review the alignment and integration of athletics with university mission.

The specific areas examined in the self-study include academic integrity, governance, commitment to rules compliance, equity and student-athlete well being. A broad cross-section of university administrators, faculty, staff, alumni, student-athletes and community members were involved in the process.

The final self-study report submitted to the NCAA can be viewed at

<https://www.myu.umn.edu/metadot/index.pl?iid=3114248>

The next step in the process is a peer review visit to campus in October and a final decision by the NCAA Certification Committee in February 2009.



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U OF M PRESIDENT'S AWARDS HIGHLIGHT OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADERS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Recipients of the President's Student Leadership and Service Awards will be recognized at the annual President's Awards Banquet at 5-8 p.m. Monday, May 5 in Coffman Union's Great Hall, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis. As part of the awards process, eight undergraduate students will receive the 2008 University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) Student Leadership Awards, two undergraduate students will receive the 2008 Donald R. Zander Award for Outstanding Student Leadership and two graduate/professional students will receive the 2008 Mary A. McEvoy Award for Public Service and Leadership. Each of these three awards is accompanied by a financial scholarship of \$500-\$1000.

Facilitated in coordination with the Office of the President, Office for Student Affairs, University of Minnesota Alumni Association and the Student Activities Office, these annual awards recognize the accomplishments and contributions of many outstanding student leaders at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Over 160 undergraduate, graduate and professional students were nominated by colleagues, faculty, students and staff for this prestigious award and 42 recipients have been chosen.

Recipients of the three awards that carry a financial scholarship are:

2008 UMAA Student Leadership Award Recipients

- Annie Hanauer, College of Liberal Arts
- Jarrod Muneer Karcher-Ramos, College of Liberal Arts
- Ann Miron, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Science
- Emma Olson, Carlson School of Management
- Virginia Pollock, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
- Bobbi Ross, Carlson School of Management
- Eve Shapiro, College of Liberal Arts
- Amanda Steepleton, College of Liberal Arts

2008 Donald R. Zander Award Recipients

- Jeremy Larson, College of Liberal Arts
- Anh Tran, College of Biological Sciences

2008 Mary A. McEvoy Award Recipients

- more -

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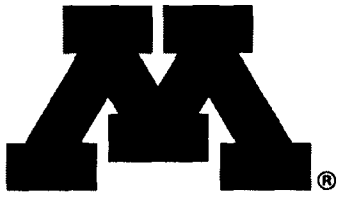
2008 Mary A. McEvoy Award Recipients

- Daniel Bernard, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs
- Shefali Mehta, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Science

For a complete list of the President's Student Leadership and Service Awards recipients, contact Luisa Badaracco at luisab@umn.edu or (612) 624-1690.

WHEN: 5-8 p.m. Monday, May 5

WHERE: Coffman Union's Great Hall, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis



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April 25, 2008

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CHANCE COLLABORATIVE RECEIVES OUTSTANDING PARTNER IN ENGAGEMENT AWARD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- West bank CHANCE (Cedar-Humphrey Action for Neighborhood Collaborative Engagement), an initiative to strengthen the relationship between the University of Minnesota West Bank campus and the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, received an Outstanding Partner in Engagement Award on April 22 as part of the University of Minnesota's Public Engagement Day.

CHANCE is a student-led initiative that allows students to put their passion for public policy and advocacy to work in the surrounding neighborhood. CHANCE operates through the Center for Integrative Leadership, a cooperative undertaking of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the Carlson School of Management. Several students and faculty members from the Carlson School of Management, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the University of Minnesota Law School, Augsburg College, as well as other businesses and organizations are involved in CHANCE.

"CHANCE is a perfect example of integrative leadership in action," said Anna Lloyd, executive director of the Center for Integrative Leadership. "CHANCE has created new and effective partnerships between the university and the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and strengthened local networks committed to engagement in our neighborhood. The students, faculty members and community partners have worked across boundaries and are truly making a difference."

Merrie Benasutti, CHANCE coordinator of community partnerships, is pleased that the university's Office of Public Engagement created a new award category this year to recognize initiative such as CHANCE that aim to build lasting community relationships. "CHANCE is a collaborative that goes beyond traditional service learning to civic engagement," said Benasutti.

Since its inception in 2006, CHANCE partners have:

Designed and launched a one-year public engagement course that provides future professionals with an opportunity to work with the public to reach a common good and sustain campus/community collaboration in

- more -

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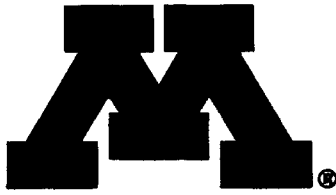
opportunity to work with the public to reach a common good and sustain campus/community collaboration in the Cedar-Riverside community.

Designed and launched a capstone project for graduate students that includes community-based research projects in the neighborhood. Current projects include an arts initiative, exploring the feasibility of a park and addressing neighborhood safety concerns.

Sought and secured funding from the Office of Public Engagement at the university to implement a Small Business Fellows Program in collaboration with Carlson Net Impact, the African Development Center and the Cedar-Riverside Business Association. Through this program, Carlson MBA students and faculty members will partner with immigrant businesses in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood to develop case studies and identify key challenges for businesses.

Partnered with the Brian Coyle Community Center to organize a neighborhood basketball showcase in which local youth have challenged the graduate students.

For more information, visit <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/projects/chance/about.html>, or contact Merrie Benasutti at (612) 624-8300 or Benas021@umn.edu.



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April 25, 2008

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U OF M'S ANNUAL LECTURE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY TO EXPLORE HEALTH AND ECONOMICS OF GLOBAL ECOSYSTEMS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences hosts the third annual Philip M. Raup lecture on Land and Environmental Policy at 3 p.m., Thursday, May 1 in the Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul. The lecture, "Ecosystem Services: A New or Old Paradigm within Environmental Economics" will be given by Kathleen Segerson, a professor in the department of economics at the University of Connecticut. It is free and open to the public.

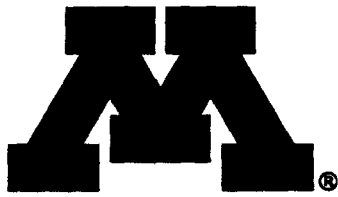
Segerson will discuss the current health and economics of ecosystems, which provide numerous and varied services to human populations through a wide range of ecological functions and processes but are currently threatened by human activities significantly affecting the flow of ecosystem services around the globe. Recently the focus of scholars in a variety of fields, ecosystem services and the recognition of their importance has been called "a new paradigm" in environmental economics. This lecture will look at the extent to which the study of ecosystem services from an economic perspective is similar to traditional issues addressed within the field of environmental economics.

Currently a member of the Chartered Executive Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board (SAB) and the vice-chair of the SAB's Committee on Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services, Segerson's research focuses on the incentive effects of alternative environmental policy instruments. Specific research areas include: the impact of legal liability for environmental damages in a variety of contexts, including groundwater contamination, hazardous waste management, and workplace accidents; land use regulation and the takings clause; voluntary approaches to environmental protection; the impacts of climate change on U.S. agriculture; and incentives to control non-point pollution from agriculture.

To register for the event, visit: <http://www.apec.umn.edu/RaupLecture08.html>. Reception to follow lecture.

WHEN: 3 p.m., Thursday, May 1

WHERE: Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul



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April 28, 2008

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ROBOTS TAKE OVER U OF M WALTER LIBRARY AT SC IMAGINE! EVENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Walter Library will host students and researchers from the department of computer science & engineering (CSE) in this year's SCImagine! event, the library's annual science showcase. Students, parents and the public are welcome to join in the event from 3:30-5 p.m., Friday, May 9, at Arthur Upson Rm. 102, Walter Library, 117 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis to see the latest creations of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics from the CSE department. A variety of robot demonstrations will follow exciting presentations by the students who helped create them. Light refreshments will be served.

The robotics and AI group is led by CES professors Maria Gini, Nikolaos Papanikolopoulos and Stergios Roumeliotis. The research group's primary focus is distributed, mobile robotics. As in any good sci-fi movie, by combining forces, robots can accomplish things more efficiently than completing tasks alone. Teams of miniature robots can cooperate to accomplish tasks related to urban search and rescue, reconnaissance missions and space exploration. To achieve this, not only are the robot's physical designs important, but the research group must also focus on advanced sensors and a wireless communication network. It is the communication between robotic agents that allows robots to work together to complete a common task.

To learn more, visit the department of computer science & engineering Web site that highlights the department's "40 years of excellence" and the robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) group:

http://www.cs.umn.edu/research/research_areas/robotics_and_ai.php

The SCImagine! coincides with the university's Institute of Technology commencement ceremonies and provides a welcome opportunity for family and friends of graduates to visit the historic Walter Library located directly off the Mall area of campus. For a map and location directions, visit <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/WaLib>.

SCImagine emphasizes the Science & Engineering Library's role as an intellectual gathering place on campus. Each spring the Library showcases university teaching, learning and research in the physical sciences and engineering by offering fascinating presentations and lively discussions. To learn more visit:

- more -

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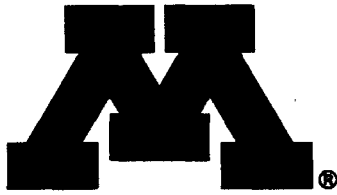
engineering by offering fascinating presentations and lively discussions. To learn more visit:
<http://sciweb.lib.umn.edu/SCImagine>

For interviews with Maria Gini, contact Robyn White, Communications Coordinator of the department of computer science and engineering at news@cs.umn.edu or (612) 625-2424.

WHAT: SCImagine! 2008

WHEN: 3:30-5:00 p.m., Friday, May 9

WHERE: Arthur Upson Room 102, Walter Library, 117 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2008

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U OF M'S SPLIT ROCK ARTS PROGRAM CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

~ Registration now open for summer workshops in creative writing, visual art and design ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Split Rock Arts Program will hold its 25th season of workshops in creative writing, visual art and design from June 15 through Aug. 1. Workshops will range from three-day "Split Rock Shorts" to weeklong programs, on topics such as book arts, fashion design and writing a "coming of age" story. Workshops are held on the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus and at the Cloquet Forestry Center.

Instructors for 2008 will include writers Kyoko Mori, Philip Gerard and Catherine Watson, nature photographer Craig Blacklock, visual artist Gaela Erwin and surface designer Ana Lisa Hedstrom. Workshops cover a variety of subjects including photography, painting, portraiture, knit and crochet, scarf making, poetry, memoir writing and fashion. For a complete list of the more than 40 instructors and 42 workshops offered in the summer 2008 season, visit cce.umn.edu/splitrockarts.

"This is absolutely the best learning situation I've been a part of," said Craig Blacklock, who has taught for the program since its inception. "The best instruction comes from working artists, and Split Rock fosters a tremendous learning atmosphere. Almost every class becomes a family by the end of the week."

Blacklock's goal -- and the overall goal of the program -- is to go beyond the standard "classroom" experience. "When I started in the early 1980s, there was a real disconnect between what was being taught in college art photography classes and what photographers actually needed to know to make meaningful images," he said.

Split Rock Director Anastasia Faunce, who has spent nearly seven years with the program, continues to marvel at the unique combinations of people and what they bring to the program.

"When the workshops are in session, it's remarkable. To hear the laughter, witness the camaraderie of artists working in the studio, feel the earnestness of writers reading during open mic and even see faculty and

- more -

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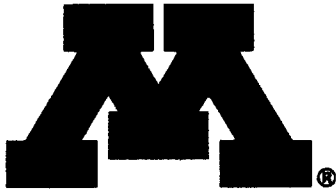
participants' tears when the end of the week inevitably comes -- these are the moments when I feel the energy, the incredible buzz of Split Rock most," said Faunce.

Beyond workshops, Split Rock Soirées are also available to access the vibrancy of the Split Rock Arts community. Soirées feature five evenings of readings and artists' talks that celebrate the energy, talent and accomplishment of Split Rock's 2008 faculty.

Open to the public, each soirée is followed by a meet-the-artists reception. Dates and locations for the 2008 Split Rock Soirées are June 24 at McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul; and July 8, July 15, July 22 and July 29 at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Rd., Minneapolis. Tickets are \$5.

Participants in the Split Rock Arts Program must be over the age of 18. For more information about the program, including workshops, soirées and cost, visit cce.umn.edu/splitrockarts or call (612) 625-8100.

The Split Rock Arts Program is part of the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Through the College of Continuing Education, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, please call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.



EXPERT ALERT

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April 29, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

FED MONEY ON THE WAY: A U OF M EXPERT EXPLAINS HOW TO PRIORITIZE WINDFALLS

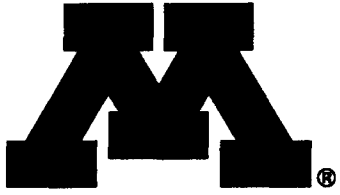
This week, the first deposits from the Economic Stimulus Act will arrive in Americans bank accounts in an attempt to catalyze the troubled economy. But, as a consumer, what are the best ways to spend or save that windfall?

Rosemary Heins, University of Minnesota Extension educator, family resource management

Heins can discuss the best ways to prioritize the spending of windfalls, whether it be towards reduction of debt, savings or pure consumer spending. She also stresses to be vigilant of scam artists claiming to be with the IRS and needing personal information. As a family resource management educator, she can also explain how to get out of debt and use credit wisely.

To interview Heins, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552 or mathre@umn.edu.

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For Immediate Release

April 29, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082*

U OF M'S COUNCIL OF AMERICAN INDIAN ELDERS WILL OPEN AMERICAN INDIAN MONTH WITH SUNRISE CEREMONY

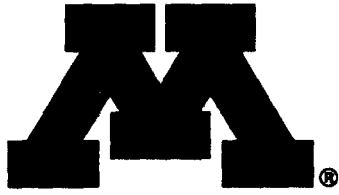
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL The University of Minnesota's Council of Elders will open Minnesota's American Indian Month with a sunrise ceremony Thursday, May 1. The ceremony will begin around 6:30 a.m. at the East River Flats park area next to the Mississippi River on East River Road.

The sunrise ceremony will include traditional American Indian prayers and a tobacco-burning ceremony in which all attendees may participate. A continental breakfast will be served after the ceremony's completion. The sunrise ceremony kicks off Minnesota's annual American Indian month, which will include a wide range of events and activities across the state, including Pow Wows, parades, chili feeds, paper lantern making and job fairs.

The Council of American Indian Elders is a group of indigenous elders from five tribes in Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Kansas. The group provides cultural, spiritual, and personal counsel to American Indian students attending the university. The Council of Elders helps the university engage with Indian communities, recruit American Indian students, and teach American Indian culture and history. Each of the Elders brings knowledge and experience to the group and is involved in the community both on and off their reservation.

WHEN: 6:30 a.m. Thursday, May 1

WHERE: East River Flats park area next to the Mississippi River on River Road.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2008

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ROBOTICS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AT THE U OF M FOCUSES ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- More than 60 robotics teams from around the world will compete Friday and Saturday, May 2-3, in the first-ever High Tech Kids FIRST LEGO League International Open at the University of Minnesota Williams Arena and Sports Pavilion, 1925 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. The theme of the competition is renewable energy.

Opening ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 1 and the competitions run from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2 and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 3. All events are free and open to the public.

Teams competing in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League international competition are from nine countries in North America, Europe, South America and Asia. Teams from more than 20 U.S. states will compete, including 13 teams from Minnesota. Some Minnesota teams have ongoing partnerships with teams in Mexico, and they will be reunited with their partners at this tournament.

The competition theme of renewable energy challenges students (ages 9-14) to build small robots from a kit of more than 1,000 parts, including LEGO pieces and elements such as sensors, motors and gears, to demonstrate energy management and conservation. Each team's robot will compete on a 4-foot-by-8-foot, table-top playing field simulating tasks such as placing solar panels on a roof, moving wind turbines, building a hydro-dam and planting trees. Each team earns points based on the robot's performance. The students compete as an individual team and as part of international alliances. Several rounds of competitions will occur simultaneously on the Williams Arena floor.

In addition to the performance rounds, students are judged on their research project, technical quality and teamwork. These elements of the competition will take place at the Radisson University Hotel-Minneapolis, 615 Washington Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. This year's research task is a student-led energy audit of a building in the team's community. Based on that research, the student team outlines their recommendations for improving energy efficiency in the building.

- more -

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All competition elements are judged by professional engineers and scientists. The three teams with the most accumulated points across all categories will receive championship awards. The Seagate International Alliance Award will be given to the top-ranked international alliance and the University of Minnesota Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) Award will be given to the team with the research project outlining the best use of alternative energy.

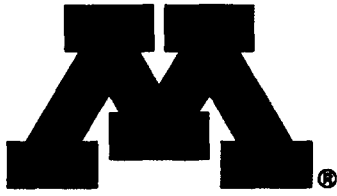
Organized by the Minnesota nonprofit group Innovations in Science and Technology Education (INSciTE), the High Tech Kids FIRST LEGO League International Open is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), 3M, Seagate, Stratasys, Cargill, Honeywell and the ADC Foundation.

Throughout the past year, more than 100,000 children in 38 countries have competed in hundreds of qualifying LEGO League competitions. In Minnesota, 320 teams competed in LEGO League competitions this year.

For more information about LEGO League and the High Tech Kids FIRST LEGO League International Open, visit www.hightechkids.org.

WHEN: Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3

WHERE: Williams Arena and Sports Pavilion, 1925 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RECOGNIZES "OUTSTANDING PARTNERS IN ENGAGEMENT"

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- As part of its second annual Public Engagement Day on Tuesday, April 22, the University of Minnesota acknowledged five individuals, one organization and one collaboration as "Outstanding Partners in Engagement."

These awards are presented to community partner organizations and U of M faculty, staff and students who meet three criteria: participation in reciprocal partnerships based on respect, responsiveness and mutual accountability; engagement in sustained partnerships that demonstrate a long-term commitment; and leadership in engaging peers and colleagues in collaborative work for the public good.

This year's recipients were:

Sara Axtell (university staff), community-campus health liaison, for facilitating more than 70 new collaborations between individual and organizational partners to enhance the education of health professionals at the U and to improve the health of Minnesota communities.

Mary Kennedy (undergraduate-level faculty), associate professor of speech-language-hearing sciences, for integrating service-learning into her department's curriculum through the major project course required of all graduating seniors.

Cathy Jordan (graduate-level faculty), assistant professor of neurology and director of the Children, Youth and Family Consortium, for her long-term partnership with the Phillips Neighborhood Healthy Housing Collaborative to reduce childhood lead poisoning and to foster ongoing community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects in this South Minneapolis neighborhood.

Adam Maleitzke (graduate student), College of Design and Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, for working with the Audubon Neighborhood Association in northeast Minneapolis to engage residents in developing a streetscape plan to create a pedestrian-friendly, safe and livable corridor along 29th Ave.

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streetscape plan to create a pedestrian-friendly, safe and livable corridor along 29th Ave.

Amber Ruel (undergraduate student), College of Liberal Arts, for mentoring Native American youth, contributing to the revitalization of the Ojibwe language through study and teaching and for facilitating anti-racism workshops across campus.

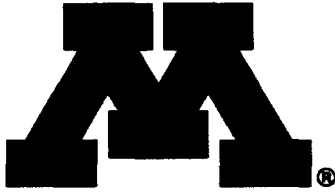
Jane Addams School for Democracy (community partner), for hosting dozens of U of M service-learning students and volunteers and providing a model for community-based democratic education that other organizations are now implementing in their work with adult English language learners.

Cedar-Humphrey Action for Neighborhood Collaborative Engagement (CHANCE), for developing a new model of public engagement work and fostering partnerships between residents and organizations in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and faculty and staff from the U's west bank professional schools (Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, Carlson School of Management and the Law School). CHANCE has launched several initiatives in the past year, including the development of a year-long public engagement course, three community-based research projects, a Small Business Fellows Program and a neighborhood Basketball Showcase. A new award category for outstanding collaboration was added this year to recognize CHANCE.

The Campus Community Coordinators Alliance (CCCA), a network of staff from across the Twin Cities campus who coordinate public engagement programs and activities, developed these awards in 2006. "Two of the primary goals of the CCCA are to become more aware of the full array of partnerships between the U and our Minnesota communities, and to increase visibility and support for these efforts," said Laurel Hirt, the U of M's director of community involvement and Service-Learning and founder of the CCCA. "By soliciting and reviewing nominations for the Outstanding Partners in Engagement Awards, we have the opportunity to learn about and celebrate the individuals and organizations whose public engagement work is most exemplary. We are extremely proud not just of this year's recipients, but of all the nominees whose work impressed and inspired the selection committee"

The University of Minnesota hosts Public Engagement Day events to provide a deeper understanding of what public engagement means to the university and its community partners, to showcase examples of partnership work that others can learn from, to inspire greater interest in public engagement and to foster new relationships between campus and community partners. This year's events included keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops and an Open House Celebration of Community-University Partnerships hosted by the CCCA, at which the Outstanding Partners in Engagement Awards were presented.

For more information, visit <http://www.engagement.umn.edu> or contact Monica Siems at (612) 624-6574 or msiems@class.cla.umn.edu.



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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ANNOUNCES SPRING COMMENCEMENTS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- World-renowned primatologist Jane Goodall, PBS anchor/journalist Ray Suarez, political pundit Jeff Greenfield and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty are among the speakers at this year's spring commencement ceremonies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

About 7,000 students will earn their undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. The university's largest college, the College of Liberal Arts, will honor 1,500 graduates in two ceremonies. The Program of Mortuary Science is holding its 100th commencement ceremony.

This year's commencements are:

Medical School

2:30 p.m. Friday, May 2

Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

Speaker: Dr. Jordan Cohen, president emeritus of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

College of Continuing Education

10 a.m. Saturday, May 3

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Seitu Jones, an environmental artist whose work in public spaces unites community and culture.

College of Veterinary Medicine

7 p.m. Saturday, May 3

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Dr. Jane Goodall, best known for her study of chimpanzees and her establishment of the Jane Goodall Institute to protect chimpanzees and their habitats.

Graduate School

1 p.m. Friday, May 9

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Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Peter Reich, Regents Professor of forest resources.

Institute of Technology

7 p.m. Friday, May 9

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Eric Jolly, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota.

College of Pharmacy

1 p.m. Saturday, May 10

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Tracy Anderson-Haeg, an alum of the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy and a clinical pharmacy specialist in kidney transplantation at Hennepin County Medical Center.

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

2 p.m. Sunday, May 11

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Mark Seetin, senior vice president for Government Affairs for the American Stock Exchange.

College of Education and Human Development

7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Elizabeth "Libba" Pinchot, an executive coach, consultant and co-author of the book *The Intelligent Organization*.

School of Nursing

2 p.m. Thursday, May 15

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Jan Malcolm, CEO of Courage Center.

Program of Mortuary Science

3 p.m. Friday, May 16

Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E. Minneapolis

Speaker: Kenneth G. Peterson, U of M Mortuary Science Class of 1976, President-Elect of the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association, and owner of Johnson-Peterson Funeral Homes in St. Paul.

School of Dentistry

2 p.m. Friday, May 16

Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis

Speaker: General John William Vessey, Jr., former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and the recipient of

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numerous honors, including the Purple Heart and, in 1992, the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

College of Design

3 p.m. Saturday, May 17

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Kaywin Feldman, director and president of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

College of Biological Sciences

7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Steven Burrill, a pioneer in the biotechnology industry.

Law School

10 a.m. Saturday, May 17

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

2 p.m. Sunday, May 18

Ted Mann Concert Hall

Speaker: Fred de Sam Lazaro, director of the Project for Under-Told Stories at St. John's University, in Collegeville, Minn., and former journalist with The NewsHour at PBS.

College of Liberal Arts

11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 18

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Ray Suarez, senior correspondent with The NewsHour, PBS.

Carlson School of Management

Monday, May 19, 9 a.m. for graduate ceremony; 1 p.m. for undergraduate ceremony

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Political commentator Jeff Greenfield.

School of Public Health

5 p.m. Monday, May 19

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Sanne Magnan, Health Commissioner of Minnesota.

Physical Therapy Program

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10 a.m. Saturday, June 21

McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E. Minneapolis

Speaker: Shirley Sahrman, retired professor of physical therapy.

WHEN: May 2 to June 21



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U OF M ENGINEERING DESIGN TEAM TAKES FIRST PLACE IN SAE INTERNATIONAL HEAVY LIFT COMPETITION

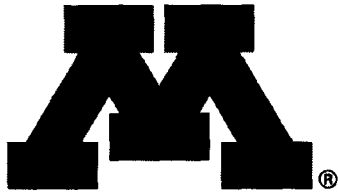
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Two teams from the University of Minnesota's department of aerospace engineering and mechanics (AEM) recently competed in the SAE International Heavy Lift competition in Ft. Worth, Texas. The contest -- Aero Design West -- in which dozens of teams from the United States, as well as several from Poland, Mexico and Venezuela, requires students to utilize the whole of their aerospace engineering and mechanics education to produce an aircraft that meets design goals and specifications, namely to carry a payload substantial when compared to aircraft weight.

AEM teams competed in the micro class and regular class. The university's micro class team took first place overall when their 17 ounce plane carried approximately twice its weight. The regular class team took 11th place overall.

The competition served as a culmination of AEM's Senior Design class series, in which students choose from a number of projects in the fall semester of their senior year, often designing an aircraft or fulfilling design objectives related to flight, like autonomous refueling, under guidance from industry mentors.

"Both university SAE Heavy Lift teams were excellent representatives of the AEM," said Gary Balas, department head. "Our success at the competition is another indicator of the quality of our undergraduate education in aerospace engineering and students."

Photos available on request.



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SPRING LAWN CARE TIPS FROM U OF M EXTENSION EXPERT

Warm weather is (finally) creeping back into the upper Midwest and that means a lot of homeowners will be heading out to get started on spring lawn care. A University of Minnesota expert with tips on how to get your lawn into shape quickly and environmentally is:

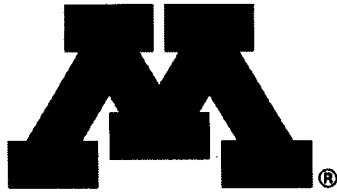
Bob Mugaas, University of Minnesota Extension

Mugaas has tips on everything from re-seeding bare spots to maintaining a chemical-free lawn.

For video tips with Mugaas, visit:

<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/expertalert/ea-live.html>

Expert Alert Live is designed to connect university experts to today's breaking news and current events. Live interviews are free and available to news organizations for broadcast and Web use. Multiple formats are available. For more format options or HTML scripts, contact Justin Ware, University News Service, at (612) 626-1720 or ware@umn.edu



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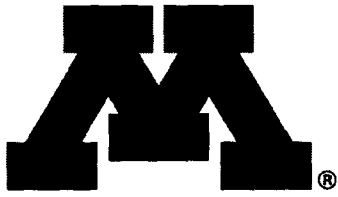
NOTED CHILDREN'S AUTHOR WALTER DEAN MYERS AT U OF M TO BE HONORED WITH KERLAN AWARD

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Author Walter Dean Myers will be honored along with author/illustrator Robert Kraus (posthumously) as the recipients of the 2008 Kerlan Award. The Kerlan award luncheon will begin at noon, May 10, in Room 120 of the Elmer Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. A ceremony will follow at 1 p.m. at 125 Willey Hall, 225 19th Avenue S, Minneapolis.

Since 1975, the Kerlan Award has been presented annually in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children's literature and in appreciation for generous donation of unique resources to the Kerlan Collection for the study of children's literature.

Myers has been writing since childhood and publishing since 1969 when he won the Council on Interracial Books for Children contest which resulted in the publication of his first book for children, "Where Does the Day Go?" Since then he has published over 70 books for children and young adults. He has received many awards for his work including the Coretta Scott King Award, five times. Two of his books were awarded Newbery Honors.

Prior to the Kerlan Award luncheon and ceremony on May 10, the University Libraries will be holding a Kerlan professional development morning from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Elmer Andersen Library. At the event, author Lise Lunge-Larsen will discuss her collaboration with Betsy Bowen on "The Troll with No Heart in His Body." Following her presentation, participants will discover more about how a book is created by exploring original materials from the Kerlan Collection. Tours of the Andersen Library storage caverns will be available.



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U OF M PRESENTS "EXTREME CENSORSHIP: BURNED, BANNED AND BATTERED BOOKS"

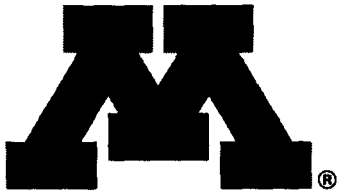
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- 2008 marks the 75th anniversary of the burning of Magnus Hirschfeld's Berlin Institute for Sexual Science and similar incidents of extreme censorship under the Nazi regime. To examine this event, the Tretter Collection in GLBT studies will host Heino Beckmann, honorary consul, Federal Republic of Germany, who will examine this episode within the context of modern Germany.

Along with Beckmann, Jean Tretter, Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies will talk specifically about the burning of the Hirschfeld library in 1933 and Marie Harvat, Children's Literature Research Collections, will share stories about burned and censored children's books.

The event takes place from noon to 1 p.m., Friday, May 2, Elmer L. Andersen Library 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. It is free and open to the public.

Each month's First Fridays presentation is based on materials in the University Libraries Archives and Special Collections. Featured presenters include archivists, curators and scholars from the University community and beyond. First Fridays is made possible by a generous gift in honor of Dr. Edward B. Stanford by Governor and Mrs. Elmer L. Andersen.

WHAT: First Fridays event, "Extreme Censorship: Burned, Banned and Battered Books"
WHEN: Noon to 1 p.m., Friday May 2
WHERE: Elmer L. Andersen Library 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.



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NEW RESEARCH FROM THE U OF M ON PUBLIC OPINION AND HEALTH CARE FINDS A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANT REFORM BUT CAN'T AGREE ON REFORM PROPOSALS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- U.S. health care reform has not advanced on the political agenda since the 1992 presidential election, and presidential candidates will face a similar electorate in 2008, according to Professor Larry Jacobs, director of the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. In new research published in the May 1, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Jacobs argues that presidential candidates must understand the complexities of public opinion on health care if they expect to woo voters. At the end of the 1992 primary season, as now, Americans ranked health care among the four most important problems facing the country, making public opinion on this issue as critical as ever.

“The current moment in U.S. health care reform is eerily reminiscent of the lead-up to the 1992 election. Then, as now, the country was facing an economic downturn and had been engaged in a war in the Middle East that threatened to distract attention from domestic matters,” said Jacobs. “But there also was unusually broad agreement among Americans and the presidential candidates that our health care system needed reform—a negative consensus that still holds today.”

Though 90 percent of Americans (polled between 1991 and 2007) consistently agree that the U.S. health system needs reform, there is no convergence on reform proposals. Adding to the confusion, surveys have found that when given a choice between a new government-run system and the current, mostly privately managed health care system, respondents have chosen to keep what they have. Even supporters of reform were swayed when presented with possible downsides of a new system—greater cost sharing, limited choice, and increased waiting times.

“There are no easy answers that address what Americans want in theory and what Americans will accept in practice. Discussion of the public’s attitude towards health care reform too often misses these contradictory strains,” said Jacobs. “An accurate assessment requires recognition of Americans’ multiple and competing considerations, which will affect the debate over the government’s role in health care during the presidential campaign.”

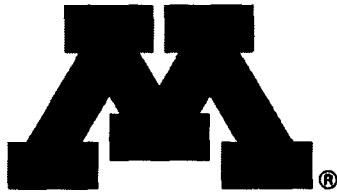
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campaign.”

So what are we to do? Jacobs finds that without dramatic change in public sentiment, Democrats and Republicans face daunting obstacles in rallying broad support for particular reforms. Yet, public opinion may be overruled by visionary leadership.

“Although public opinion influences legislators’ agendas, legislators themselves still must choose to overcome differences and work together on this issue,” said Jacobs. “Broad agreement on a reform proposal- -and on the details- -is critical among policymakers. It is worth remembering that Medicare was passed in 1965 with only 46% of the public’s support.”

The full article may be found in the May 1 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. For more information, visit <http://content.nejm.org/>.



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May 1, 2008

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**U OF M CARLSON SCHOOL'S STUDENT RUN
FUNDS ENTERPRISE REACHES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH \$25 MILLION
WORTH OF INVESTMENTS**

~ Student-run growth fund consistently outperforms Russell 2000 Growth Index ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Since its inception in 1998, the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management's Carlson Growth Fund has consistently outperformed the Russell 2000 Growth Index, and is currently worth approximately \$10 million. As a result of being successfully managed by more than 200 students over the course of the past decade, the Carlson Funds Enterprise is celebrating with lab renovations and a new fundraising campaign.

The Carlson Growth Fund, a small-cap growth fund, is one of two partnerships managed by students at the Carlson School as part of the Carlson Funds Enterprise, a program designed to give students real-world experience analyzing companies and investing in their securities. The Carlson Fixed Income Fund, the other fund in the program, is celebrating its five-year anniversary. The Carlson Funds Enterprise has more than \$25 million distributed between the two funds.

The Carlson Funds Enterprise was launched on May 4, 1998 with \$3.5 million in initial investments from Alliance Capital Partners, Ameriprise Financial, U.S. Bancorp and Wells Fargo & Co. to be used for the Carlson Growth Fund (originally named the Golden Gopher Growth Fund). Since then, the fund has gained Securian Financial Group, Inc., Piper Jaffray & Co. and two individuals as participants.

As of March 2008, the Carlson Growth Fund had grown 134.76 percent since 1998. On a compound annual rate, the fund has increased at 8.99 percent per year, while the Russell 2000 Index has returned 1.7 percent per year.

Students in the Funds Enterprise research potential investments and consult with Program Director Joe Barsky and expert mentors several times per semester. In the end, the students decide on where to invest the money. "To give students the opportunity to make decisions on where to invest real money and have industry leaders

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offer them advice is an unmatched experience,” said Barsky.

The Carlson Funds Enterprise program has become one of the school’s distinguishing trademarks due to its great success. The most notable success in the Carlson Growth Fund’s history came five years ago with the investment in Intuitive Surgical Inc., an obscure medical equipment firm.

Avanish Vellanki and Christian Lundsgaard, two MBA students at the time, recommended the stock, not knowing how successful it would become. A small portion of the stock was purchased for \$15.60 per share in December 2003, and a larger portion was bought at a similar price in 2004. As of April 8, 2008, Intuitive Surgical stock had risen to \$347.10 per share, with the fund having realized profits of more than \$1 million since the original purchase.

“It is very rare to identify, invest in and hold on to a stock that has risen twenty-fold in five years,” said Barsky.

To celebrate the impressive growth of the two funds over five and 10 years, respectively, the Carlson Funds Enterprise has initiated a fundraising campaign to raise \$7 million to fund a lab remodeling, a fellowship program, investments in portfolio management and accounting systems and an endowment fund to cover annual operating expenses to reach the goal of becoming self-sustaining.



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**PUBLIC BROADCASTING PIONEER AND CO-FOUNDER OF AFS
INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS TO BE HONORED AT U OF M HUBERT H.
HUMPHREY PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Ward Chamberlin, public broadcasting pioneer and co-founder of AFS Intercultural Programs, will receive the dean's award at the 2008 Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards on June 3 at McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis. The public leadership awards honor individuals, organizations or projects that have made contributions to the common good through public leadership and service. The annual ceremony was inaugurated in 2003 to mark the 25th anniversary of the institute. Previous dean's award winners include Madeleine Albright, Lee Hamilton and Jim Thompson of the 9/11 Commission and former Sen. George Mitchell (D-Maine). Chamberlin will be honored along side local leaders to be selected this spring through a nomination process.

Chamberlin has dedicated his career to public service. He played a critical role in the development of the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR). He also is a founding member of the AFS Scholarship Programs--now known as AFS Intercultural Programs--one of the world's largest not-for-profit, community-based volunteer organizations providing intercultural learning opportunities to help people develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world.

"I am delighted that Ward Chamberlin has agreed to receive the Dean's Award," said Humphrey Institute Dean Brian Atwood, chairperson of the AFS International Board of Trustees. "This is a great opportunity to honor his very distinguished career as a WWII veteran, a public broadcasting leader and a founder of AFS, the best and largest youth exchange program in the world. Ward is a great global citizen."

"I am thrilled to be chosen for this award," said Chamberlin. "Hubert Humphrey has long been a hero of mine, and the Humphrey Institute carries forward his concept of liberal democracy. Minnesota and Minneapolis were early and enthusiastic supporters of the AFS student program and of public television and radio."

Chamberlin served as the operating officer for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting since its inception in 1967 and in that capacity, he played a major role in the creation of PBS and NPR. In the past 30 years he has held key

- more -

and in that capacity, he played a major role in the creation of PBS and NPR. In the past 30 years he has held key positions in this industry as vice president and managing director of public television station 13/WNET in New York, a member of NPR's board of directors, and president and CEO of WETA public television and radio in Washington, D.C.

Individual tickets to the dinner and program are \$125. Table purchase and sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Julie Lund at (612) 624-1190 or julie@umn.edu for more information.



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May 2, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

NASA'S 50TH BIRTHDAY BUT NO TIME TO CELEBRATE

~ U of M professor looks at the work and possibilities ahead ~

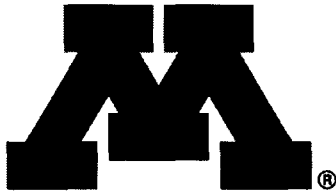
With 50 years under its belt, NASA is exploring what the next 50 might bring in the limitless expanse of space. Another Moon landing, trip to Mars or "infinity and beyond?" A University of Minnesota aerospace professor has some insight:

Bill Garrard, aerospace engineering and mechanics professor at the University of Minnesota

Garrard can discuss the past and future of human space flight both here in the United States and abroad. With the many non-human space activities such as satellites and robotic missions to the planets, Garrard can explain what they have accomplished and what lies ahead.

To interview professor Garrard, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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U OF M CONFERENCE EXAMINES SINGLE PAYER HEALTH SYSTEMS

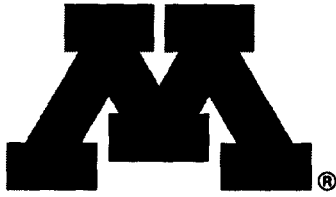
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- A two-day conference at the University of Minnesota will examine the true workings of single payer health systems. The event will be held May 9-10 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis.

A host of policy makers will be joined by preeminent national experts at the event including Adam Oliver from the London School of Economics, James Monroe, Columbia University and Carolyn Tuohy from the University of Toronto. Presentations will include topics such as what makes up single payer health systems, the connection between quality health care and healthy populations and the role that insurers play in a single payer system

The conference is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center and Center for the Study of Politics and Governance in partnership with the Journal of Health Policy, Politics and Law.

For a detailed conference agenda, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/cspg. The conference fee is \$89.00 (\$29.00 for students with valid id) payable by credit card or check. Fee is inclusive of meals during the conference and all materials. For more information, contact Lea Chittenden at (612) 625-2530.

WHAT: Two-day conference on single payer health systems
WHEN: Thursday, May 8 and Friday, May 9
WHERE: Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis



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U OF M STUDENT WINS 2008 UDALL NATIVE AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Hannah Lussier, a student in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota and a student in the University Honors Program, has been awarded a 2008 Udall Native American Congressional Internship by the Morris K. Udall Foundation. She is one of 12 students nationwide chosen to receive this fully supported, highly competitive Washington, D.C. summer internship.

Lussier, a member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and from Minneapolis, is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in American Indian studies. Lussier is actively involved in American Indian cultural celebrations and with the student cultural center at the university. She plans to attend law school following her undergraduate studies. Through the fields of public policy and law, Lussier's goal is to strengthen tribal sovereignty and promote healthy communities while retaining cultural traditions.

"My career goal is to work in public policy as an advocate and representative for American Indians," Lussier said. "This internship is one of the best ways to show I take my school and career very seriously. It certainly will be one of the most exciting life experiences in my 21 years, and will give me opportunities to meet people and see how the American government system works."

The 12 Udall interns will complete an intensive, 10-week internship, working full-time in congressional offices or federal agencies and observe the federal legislative process first-hand. Special enrichment activities will provide opportunities to meet with key decision-makers.

Since its inception in 1996, 149 Native American/Alaska Native students from 98 tribes have participated in the program. Internship recipients were selected by an independent review committee of nationally recognized Native American educators and tribal policy leaders on the basis of demonstrated commitment to careers in tribal policy and academic achievement.

The Morris K. Udall Foundation was authorized by Congress in 1992 to honor Congressman Udall's legacy of public service. The foundation is supported by a trust fund in the U.S. Treasury and contributions from the

- more -

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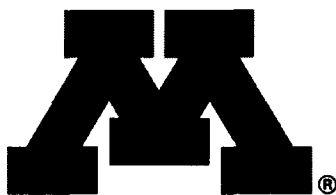
public service. The foundation is supported by a trust fund in the U.S. Treasury and contributions from the private sector.

Udall served in the United States House of Representatives for three decades, a career distinguished by civility, integrity and consensus. He championed the rights of Native Americans and Alaska Natives, using his leadership in Congress to strengthen tribal self-governance and national environmental policy.

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For information on the Udall Internship Program and a photo of Lussier,
<http://www.udall.gov/udall.asp?link=300>

WHO: Hannah Lussier, undergraduate student in the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2008

Contacts: Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu

**AT&T/OPERATION HOMEFRONT GRANT TO SUPPORT STUDENT VETERANS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

~ Grant to be given at ceremony coinciding with Military Appreciation Month ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Military Appreciation Month will be recognized at the University of Minnesota this month, when the university's Veterans Transition Center accepts a \$40,000 grant from AT&T/Operation Homefront. A check for the grant will be presented during a ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 6 at the center, Room 302 of Wesbrook Hall, 77 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis. Leaders of the university and local military and government community are expected to attend.

The funds for the student-run Veterans Transition Center will go towards new furniture, carpeting, computers and other technology for the '08-'09 academic year. Currently, the center offers Internet access, TV and refreshments to veterans of the United States Armed Forces and non-veteran students, staff and faculty wishing to extend their support. It aims to be a place where students veterans can meet each other and share their stories, in addition to making their transition from military to civilian life as smooth as possible.

**To watch a video on the U's commitment to helping veterans transition to campus life, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/vets.htm**

"As a student veteran at the University of Minnesota, the Veterans Transition Center has enabled me to make a near-seamless transition from the military life into student life, provided me with resources that have helped me get my Veterans Education benefits up and running and has shown me where to find people to talk to when I want someone who understands how I feel," said Alex Dowds, vice president of the Veterans Transition Center. "Most importantly, it has provided me with a way of giving back to other service men and women who have performed amazing feats, both at home and abroad in service of our great nation."

News of the grant has enabled the two-year old center to make plans for the future.

"The Veterans Transition Center has been overwhelmed by the generosity and contribution from AT&T/Operation Homefront," said Justin Riechers, co-president of the Veterans Transition Center. "This

- more -

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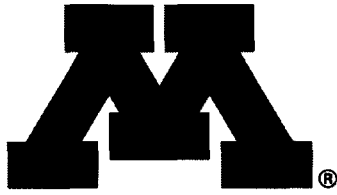
donation will be vital in the funding of various campus events and VTC events alike -- strengthening the ideal of providing a welcoming place for veterans to earn their degree and again become part of their community.”

The grant comes from Operation Homefront, a grassroots, volunteer-based community that matches troops and military families with the charitable outreach of local volunteers and businesses, and AT&T Foundation, which has provided more than \$6 million in grants and contributions since 2000 to organizations that serve active military members and veterans, including the United Service Organizations (USO), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American G.I. Forum.

“AT&T is proud to support Operation Homefront and the University of Minnesota in further establishing this much-needed Veterans Transition Center,” said Beth Canuteson, the director of external affairs at AT&T and presenter of Tuesday’s grant. “We are honored to give back to veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country. This grant cannot adequately repay these veterans for their service but, in a small way, it expresses our gratitude for their patriotism and service.”

Limited space is available at Tuesday’s event, so members of the public wishing to attend are encouraged to arrive early. The event is free and light refreshments will be served.

Several resources in addition to the Veterans Transition Center are currently in place for the more than 600 student veterans at University of Minnesota campuses. One Stop Student Services provides information for students in the newly created Veterans Services office and through the Veterans Services website, veterans orientations, newsletter and emails. The Veterans Certification office assists students with veteran and military educational benefits. One Stop also sponsors the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs’ higher education veterans programs by providing a resource center that offers a wide range of information on other benefit programs for military members, veterans and their families.



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May 2, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

COMPANIES AND A U OF M CAREER CENTER REPORT HIGH INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATES

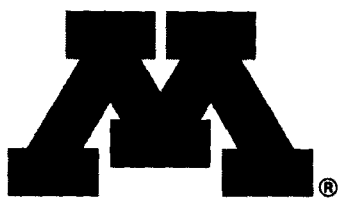
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- As college graduation nears, some University of Minnesota students may be worried about an uncertain future due to talk of a recession. But the demand for computer science graduates is on the rise and worker shortages in technical fields are making computer science and engineering a hot degree.

“Eight out of 10 employers who recruit on campus are interested in computer science (students),” said Darren Kaltved, associate director of the University of Minnesota’s Career Center for Science and Engineering. In the past few years, he said the demand for computer science students has nearly doubled and students often have three or four jobs to choose from upon graduation.

Derek Straka, a computer science senior, is preparing to graduate in May and already has a job lined up at Lockheed Martin in Eagan, Minn. He said he went on 14 job interviews and had five offers to choose from before accepting the position at Lockheed Martin. This is not an unusual story. “There is an incredible demand for our students. We are besieged by constant inquiries from businesses in search of our students,” said University of Minnesota computer science professor Mats Heimdahl.

Available job data supports this demand. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that of the top six fastest growing occupations, three are computer science related jobs. Also, data from the Computing Research Association's Web site shows that in 2007, computer science and computer engineering jobs ranked in the top five for average starting salary offers to college graduates, with offers averaging \$53,051 and \$55,920, respectively.

Maryanne Gay, Quality Engineering and Internal Auditing Manager with General Dynamics, said she sees the shortage and is concerned. “I want to be able to retire someday,” she said. To help address the issue, Gay and a group of industry members are working with the university’s computer science and engineering department on strategies to meet the future demands of industry. “It’s crucial that we have enough computer science workers to meet the future job demands,” she said.



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May 2, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S ADULT LEARNING COMMUNITY CELEBRATES "RENEWABLE LIVES" AT UPCOMING SPRING FEST

~ Travel writer Catherine Watson and life coach Richard Leider to give keynote addresses ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Type "renewable" into Google and the search engine will return over 22 million hits; ask a number of people about what living a "renewable life" means and you will get just as many answers. At a Spring Fest from the University of Minnesota's new adult learning community LearningLife, participants from all walks of life will have the chance to think about what it means to live a "renewable life." The LearningLife Spring Fest will be held 9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17 at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St Paul.

Before the fest begins, LearningLife will be asking for the public's thoughts about what living a "renewable life" means through a blog housed on the LearningLife Web site. To view and contribute to the blog, visit learninglife.umn.edu/Fest and click on the blog link at the bottom of the page.

At the May 17 event, attendees will start the day with renowned life coach Richard Leider as he gives guidance on navigating the challenges of midlife to find our true calling. Leider's interactive presentation will be followed by breakout sessions covering all forms of renewal, including the fall and rise of the I-35W bridge, creating your future and the rewards of giving back, a special session presented by the Greater Twin Cities United Way, LearningLife's new community partner.

After lunch, travel writer Catherine Watson will share insights from her personal journey through retirement from "the best job in the world" (editor of the Star Tribune travel section) to self-reinvention. Finally, the day will conclude with some special visitors from the University of Minnesota Raptor Center. Staff from the center will explain what the university is doing to help endangered species renew themselves, and attendees will be able to visit with a bald eagle, a peregrine falcon and an owl.

The cost for the daylong fest is \$65 per person, which includes lunch and parking. Tickets are available by calling (612) 624-4000 or by visiting learninglife.umn.edu/Fest.

- more -

About LearningLife and the College of Continuing Education

LearningLife is a new learning community within the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Designed for baby boomers and all citizen-learners, LearningLife offers an array of online and in-person programs that connects lifelong learners with University of Minnesota faculty and with a community of peers. The College of Continuing Education provides motivated adults with learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

WHEN: 9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17

WHERE: Continuing Education & Conference Center 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul



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May 2, 2008

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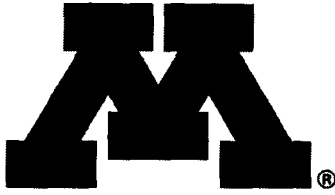
B-ROLL AND INTERVIEW FROM HIGH TECH KIDS FIRST LEGO LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION AT THE U OF M

More than 60 robotics teams from around the world are competing this Friday and Saturday, May 2-3, in the first-ever High Tech Kids FIRST LEGO League International Open at the University of Minnesota Williams Arena and Sports Pavilion, 1925 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. The theme of the competition is renewable energy.

To download b-roll and an interview for use in a news or Web cast, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/lego.htm

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EXPERT ALERT

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May 5, 2008

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Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu

LATE NIGHTS, PIZZA FOR BREAKFAST AND DISAPPEARING CARS: WHAT PARENTS CAN EXPECT WHEN STUDENTS COME HOME FOR SUMMER

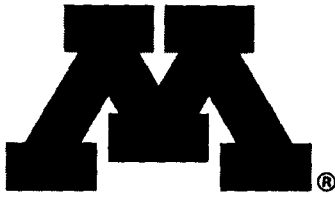
Finals Week can be a stressful time for students, but does the end of the school year also mean hardship for parents? While most anticipate their children's homecoming as a happy occasion, many parents are surprised by the number of conflicts that arise as a result of new habits, schedules and attitudes. A University of Minnesota psychologist who can explain these scenarios and provide advice to parents is:

Scott Slattery, psychologist at the University of Minnesota

A senior psychologist at the University Counseling & Consulting Services, Slattery has developed a list of helpful suggestions for parents to keep in mind as their college-age children return home for the summer. He suggests that parents talk to their children about re-entry into the family, keeping in mind that all parties involved will have differing expectations about sleep schedules, use of the car, household chores, missing college friends who may be states away and the common exhaustion students experience after returning from the end of finals.

To interview Slattery, contact Luisa Badaracco at (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu; or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu.

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May 5, 2008

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U OF M INDIA CENTER INITIATIVE CO-SPONSORS EVENT ON INDIA'S BUSINESS AND LEGAL CLIMATE

The University of Minnesota's India Center Initiative will co-sponsor a program with Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. to discuss the latest in business and law in India on 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7, Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis.

This dynamic program will feature speakers from Fulbright & Jaworski, the university and local business and political figures who will share their insight into the current booming business and legal climate on the South Asian subcontinent and that region's connection to Minnesota businesses.

These highly experienced panelists from diverse backgrounds, spanning industries and practice areas, will address how recent developments in India's government, legal and social sectors are influencing foreign and domestic investment in Indian businesses.

Panel discussion topics include foreign and domestic investments, legal developments in international transactions and financing and the structure of India's government.

Speakers include Gregg Harris and Jeremy Sheldon, partners, Fulbright & Jaworski, Kentaro Toyama, co-founder and assistant managing director of Microsoft Research India and Law School professor of ethics Richard Painter.

The program is free, but seats are limited so please register at:
http://www.fulbright.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=seminars.register&eventID=4039&site_id=492

The schedule is as follows:

Registration and lunch
12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction
12:30 p.m. - 12:40 p.m.

Doing Business on the Sub-Continent: The Business Perspectives
12:40 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.

Doing Business on the Sub-Continent: The Legal Perspectives
1:55 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

- more -

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Break

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Structure of India's Local and State Government

3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Professional Responsibility, Corporate and Securities Law Concerns for Multinational Business Transactions

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Minnesota Businesses with an Indian Footprint

5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

5:30 p.m.

Reception

Featuring Remarks from Representative Erik Paulsen

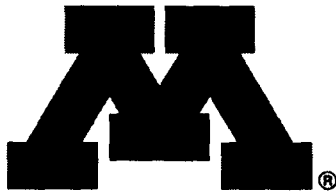
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

About the India Center Initiative:

The India Center Initiative is exploring the creation of a center focusing on India and its geographical neighbors. Initiated through legislation, the India Center is envisioned to serve as a builder of bridges between the university and the state of Minnesota and various academic, intellectual, cultural and business interests in South Asia. (MORE: <http://www.international.umn.edu/india/index.php>)

WHEN: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7

WHERE: Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis



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May 5, 2008

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U OF M STUDY SAYS U.S. TEENS ADOPTED AS INFANTS APPEAR TO HAVE MODERATELY INCREASED ODDS OF MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Although most adopted American teens are psychologically healthy, adoptees appear to be at greater risk for emotional and behavioral problems than non-adoptees, according to a report from researchers at the University of Minnesota that appears in the May issue of Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, one of the JAMA/Archives journals. They are also more likely to have contact with a mental health professional.

Approximately 120,000 American children are adopted each year and there are about 1.5 million adoptees under age 18 in total, according to background information in the article "The Mental Health of U.S. Adolescents Adopted in Infancy." As domestic adoptions have decreased, the number of international adoptions has increased. "Worldwide, approximately 40,000 children per year are moved between more than 100 countries through adoption. Despite the popularity of adoption, there is a persistent concern that adopted children may be at heightened risk for mental health or adjustment problems."

University of Minnesota researcher Margaret Keyes and colleagues assessed 540 non-adopted adolescents, 514 internationally adopted adolescents and 178 domestically adopted adolescents (ages 11 to 21) to determine if adopted adolescents were at a higher risk for behavioral and emotional problems. Assessments were based on child and parent reports of attention-deficit/hyperactivity, oppositional defiant, conduct, major depressive and separation anxiety disorders, teacher reports of psychological health and contact with mental health professionals.

Adoptees scored moderately higher on continuous measures of behavioral and emotional problems.

"Nevertheless, being adopted approximately doubled the odds of having contact with a mental health professional and of having a disruptive behavior disorder [attention-deficit/hyperactivity, oppositional defiant, or conduct disorder]. Relative to international adoptees, domestic adoptees had higher odds of having [a disruptive] disorder," the authors write. "Focusing on internalizing problems, teachers reported that international adoptees were significantly more anxious than non-adopted adolescents and their parents reported significantly

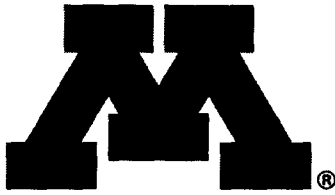
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more symptoms of internalizing disorders, specifically major depressive disorders and separation anxiety disorders.”

“Although most adopted adolescents are psychologically healthy, they may be at an elevated risk for some externalizing disorders, especially among those domestically placed,” the authors conclude. “This excess of clinically meaningful behavioral problems in adopted adolescents has significance for researchers who examine the effect adoption has on individual functioning, for adoption agencies and their workers who counsel and advise members of the adoption triad and for physicians who are dealing with an overrepresentation of adoptees in their clinical practices.”

(Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2008;162[5]:419-425. to the media at www.jamamedia.org.)

Editor’s Note: This study was supported by a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.



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May 6, 2008

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NATIONAL POLITICS CENTER STAGE IN MINNESOTA

~ University of Minnesota political scientist breaks down the races ~

Minnesota will be a busy place this fall. Hosting the Republican National Convention, possibly seeing one of its own as a vice presidential candidate and home to not only a contentious Senate race, but three Congressional contests, as well. Not to mention, experts predict it will be one of November's "swing states." To analyze all this is University of Minnesota political science assistant professor, and frequent national and local media commentator, Kathryn Pearson.

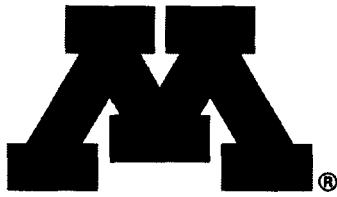
The following audio clips are available for all media use:

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/minnesota_politicsQQ.mp3 (2:16)

1. Minnesota will be a swing state (0:00)
2. Competitive Senate race, playing field, strengths and weaknesses (0:16)
3. What Gov. Pawlenty as vice presidential candidate brings to ticket (0:32)
4. What to look for in a VP candidate (0:52)
5. Negative campaigning unavoidable (1:12)
6. RNC will bring excitement and attention to Minnesota (1:27)
7. The House race to watch (1:53)

To interview professor Pearson, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

Quick Quotes are audio clips featuring research, events, announcements and breaking news at the University of Minnesota. They are available for all types of media. For an archive and other useful media services, visit www.unews.umn.edu.



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HIGH TECH KIDS FIRST LEGO LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION AT THE U OF M

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May 6, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

AWARD-WINNING ENTREPRENEUR MONICA NASSIF AT U OF M TO DISCUSS HOW SHE BUILT A LUXURY BRAND IN HOUSEHOLD CLEANING THEN SOLD IT TO A BILLION-DOLLAR COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Monica Nassif, president and founder of the Caldrea Company, will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. In her speech, "Dirt is Always in Style: Building and Selling a Luxury Brand in Household Cleaning," Nassif will discuss her experience developing and growing the Minneapolis-based Caldrea Company and its distinctive products that include household cleansers, premium cleaning tools and gifts. She also will talk about her role in selling the Caldrea Company to S.C. Johnson & Son Inc., which recently announced it would add the Caldrea and Mrs. Meyer's brands to its lineup of products. S.C. Johnson is part of the Johnson Family Enterprises which generates annual sales of more than \$11 billion.

The advance registration deadline is Thursday, May 29. A fee of \$28 includes lunch and parking in the Washington Avenue Ramp. The fee for walk-ins is \$35, but space is limited. Refund cancellations are required by Friday, May 30. There are three ways to register: call 612-626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events or send an e-mail to firsttuesday@umn.edu

Under Nassif's leadership, the Caldrea Company has expanded its distribution to more than 5,000 stores and the Internet through three major brand strategies: Caldrea, an upscale brand for high-end specialty gift, gourmet and home furnishings stores; Mrs. Meyers' Clean Day, a premium mass brand for grocery, hardware and mass markets; and private-label products for leading home and culinary retailers in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. The Caldrea Company's products are known for making household chores more enjoyable through superior freshness, fragrance and cleaning performance.

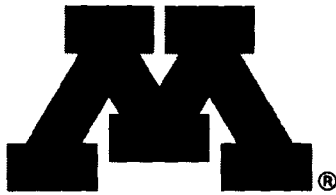
Since launching the Caldrea Company in December 1999, Nassif has earned national recognition for her business success including the Ernst & Young Retail Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2003 and Good Housekeeping's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2003. Nassif was named one of "30 People to Watch in 2003" by Twin Cities Business magazine. Prior to founding the Caldrea Company, Nassif served for more than 18 years as a

- more -

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Cities Business magazine. Prior to founding the Caldrea Company, Nassif served for more than 18 years as a brand-builder for leading retailers and consumer product companies. She serves on the Minnesota Advisory Board of M&I Bank, the Undergraduate Business Advisory Board for the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and the Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable. Nassif is the author of two books, "Spring Cleaning" and "Laundry."

WHO: Monica Nassif, CEO and founder, the Caldrea Company
WHAT: U of M Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon Series
WHEN: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, 2008
WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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May 6, 2008

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U OF M BOARD OF REGENTS TO MEET THIS WEEK, DISCUSS BUDGET FOR 2009-10

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting this week. The agenda includes presentation of university President Robert Bruininks' proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2009 as well as the proposed annual capital improvement budget. There will also be a public forum, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 21.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

2 - 3:30 p.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will be updated on the university's enterprise financial system project.

Thursday, May 8, 2008

9:45 - 11:45 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review a variety of issues related to the president's recommended FY2009 operating budget, annual capital improvement budget and six-year capital improvement plan. In addition, it will also be updated on the enterprise financial system implementation.

9:45 - 11:45 a.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will discuss a variety of issues related to the president's recommended annual and six-year capital improvement budgets. It will also take action on the purchase of property at 516 Ontario St. S.E. in Minneapolis.

2:15 - 3:45 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. The meeting is focused on international education, including a review of the board's policy on international education and a review of the university's goals and policies.

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

2:15 - 3:45 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will hear comparison and analysis of the university's compensation for faculty. Additionally, it will take action on a retirement incentive option program.

4 p.m., Board of Regents awards ceremony and reception, boardroom. Awards will be presented to Distinguished McKnight University Professors, Academy of Distinguished Teachers awardees and recipients of the John Tate Awards for Undergraduate Advising, the Josie R. Johnson Award for Human Rights and Social Justice, the Outstanding Community Service Awards and the President's Award for Outstanding Service.

Friday, May 9, 2008

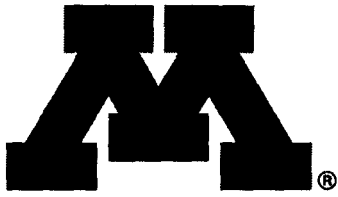
9 a.m. - noon. Board of Regents, Boardroom. The board will hear a presentation from Vice Presidents Richard Pfitzenreuter and Kathleen O'Brien on the president's proposed annual and six-year capital budget. In addition, President Robert Bruininks will present a recommended operating budget for FY2009. The board will take action on a budget in June.

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents public forum, boardroom. The board holds a public forum on the President's proposed FY2009 operating budget.

More information on the Board of Regents meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents. The Friday meeting will be web cast on that site beginning at 9 a.m.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 7 - Friday, May 9, 2008, and Wednesday, May 21
WHERE: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2008

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GREG LINDSEY NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE U OF M'S HUMPHREY INSTITUTE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs has named Greg Lindsey associate dean of the college. He will serve as both chief academic officer and chief research officer of the institute. He will begin August 1.

"The Humphrey Institute has enjoyed positive growth and renewed academic focus over the last few years, and we have begun a vigorous examination of the roles and responsibilities of a public affairs school in the 21st century," said Dean Brian Atwood. "Greg Lindsey has the experience, respect and vision to help the Humphrey Institute move these efforts forward and respond to the changing world facing public affairs students and researchers."

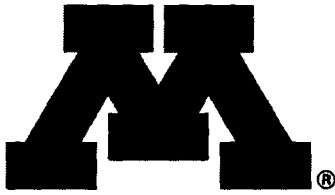
Lindsey joins the Humphrey Institute after serving as a professor and an associate dean with Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), a multi-campus school that recently tied with Harvard University as the second best public affairs school in the country (2008 U.S. News & World Report). Lindsey led SPEA's academic programs on the Indianapolis campus, held a named chair in land-use policy and was the inaugural recipient of IUPUI's highest award for civic engagement. He also served as a Senior Fulbright Scholar at National Fisheries University in Nha Trang, Vietnam.

"As an administrator and professor, I have long admired the academic and professional reputation of the Humphrey Institute. I am honored to be joining such a well-respected school composed of faculty members and fellows who are leaders in their respective fields," said Lindsey. "The Humphrey Institute truly offers extraordinary opportunities for students and researchers in the areas of public policy, planning and public affairs. I am an advocate of experiential approaches to education that can take advantage of the University of Minnesota's urban location and proximity to state and local policymakers. I look forward to supporting Institute faculty members in their efforts to strengthen the fine programs that now exist."

Lindsey earned a doctorate in geography and environmental engineering from the Johns Hopkins University. He received a master's degree in geography and environmental studies from Northeastern Illinois University. His

- more -

received a master's degree in geography and environmental studies from Northeastern Illinois University. His research focuses on environmental planning and land-use management at the state and local levels. He has directed research projects for the state of Indiana on water infrastructure finance, greenway use, annexation policy and erosion and sediment control programs. His current research, which has been supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, focuses on elements of urban design that influence use of urban pedestrian infrastructure, such as multi-use trails.



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May 6, 2008

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U OF M SOLAR CAR TEAM UNVEILS NEW CAR MAY 8

~ New team, new car gear up for race across America in July ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project team will provide a sneak preview of its newest car at a special event for the media and sponsors at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 8 on the McNamara Alumni Center Plaza, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. Those attending will see the car take its first test drive, view the inner workings of the car and hear from members of the team about their upcoming race.

This is the first public viewing of the car in preparation for the 2008 North American Solar Challenge, a 2,400-mile race from Dallas, Texas, to Calgary, Alberta, July 13-22. The University of Minnesota is one of only 26 international teams competing in designing, building and driving a solar-powered car in this year's cross-country event sponsored by Toyota. The last North American Solar Challenge was in 2005.

The general public is invited to view the car and talk with members of the team from 2:30-3:45 p.m. Friday, May 9 in the courtyard east of Lind Hall, 207 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. If raining, the car will be available for viewing in Room 1136, Mechanical Engineering Building, 111 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The University of Minnesota's car, named Centaurus, is a completely new generation design from the university's previous seven solar vehicles. The most noticeable change is that the design meets new race requirements for the driver to sit more upright in the car compared to previous vehicles. The current car is just over 3 feet tall, about 16 feet long and nearly 6 feet wide. It weighs about 420 pounds.

The 30 students on the team are all from the Institute of Technology, the University of Minnesota's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics. Team members estimate that they've collectively spent more than 30,000 hours over the last year planning and building the solar car. Materials for the U of M's solar car were funded through cash donations and in-kind donations of parts and materials.

Major sponsors of the University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project include 3M, Advanced Circuits, AIRTech International, Caterpillar, Digi-key, DuPont, EMJ Metals, Empro Shunts, Freescale Semiconductor, Future

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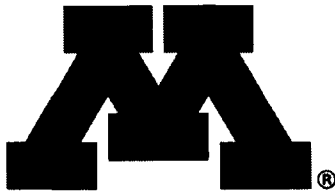
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Lighting Solutions, General Plastics, Lockheed Martin, Magnetics Inc., Noritake Inc., Northwest Airlines, PaR Systems, Philips, Remmele Engineering, Sal Clear, Stevens Urethane, University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment and Vicor.

Visit www.svp.umn.edu to learn more about the University of Minnesota's Solar Vehicle Project.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Thursday, May 8

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center Plaza, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.



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May 6, 2008

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FORMER DEAN OF U OF M HUMPHREY INSTITUTE REGENTS PROFESSOR EMERITUS G. EDWARD SCHUH, DIES AT 77

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Regents Professor Emeritus G. Edward Schuh, who retired from the University of Minnesota in 2006, died Sunday due to complications following heart surgery. He was 77 years old.

An expert in the areas of economics and agriculture, with particular interest in agricultural and food policy, economic development, international trade and exchange rate policy, Schuh held joint appointments in the university's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, department of applied economics, and department of economics. He served as head of the then-department of agricultural and applied economics from 1979 to 1984 and as dean of the Humphrey Institute from 1987 to 1996. In the intervening period, he was the director of agriculture and rural development for the World Bank in Washington, D.C. from 1996 until his retirement in 2006, Schuh served as director of the Orville and Jane Freeman Center for International Economic Policy in the Humphrey Institute.

Schuh held a variety of positions in university settings and governmental organizations. Schuh held both faculty and administrative positions in the department of agricultural economics at Purdue University and in the department of agricultural and applied economics at the University of Minnesota. He also served as program advisor to the Ford Foundation in Brazil, as senior staff economist on President Ford's Council of Economic Advisors, as deputy under secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and as the World Bank's director of agriculture and rural development.

Schuh held a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Purdue University, a master's of science degree in agricultural economics from Michigan State University, and a master's of arts and a doctoral degree in economics from the University of Chicago. He has received five professional awards from the American Agricultural Economics Association: (1) best Ph.D. dissertation, in 1961; (2) best published research, in 1971; (3) best journal article, in 1974; and (4) contributions to policy analysis, in 1979; and (5) publication of enduring value, in 1988. He was named Professor Honoris Causis at the Federal University of Vicosa in 1965 and received the degree of Doctor of Agriculture, honoris causis, from Purdue University in 1992.

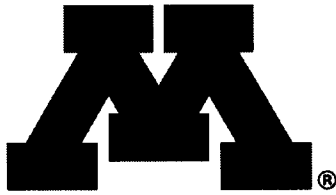
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In the spring of 1998 Schuh was elected a Regents Professor, the highest academic honor that can be bestowed on a faculty member at the University of Minnesota. In 1998 Schuh also had a classroom named after him in the department of agricultural economics and rural sociology at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil for his contributions to the university.

For his work in developing agricultural economics research and teaching institutions in Brazil, Schuh was named the first “Legendary Member” of the Brazilian Society of Rural Economics and Sociology in 2004. He also received Brazil’s highest scientific award, the National Order of Scientific Merit, Gra Cruz, the equivalent of the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom. Just last week, Schuh was named a recipient of the President’s Outstanding Service Award. He will be recognized at the Board of Regents meeting on May 8.

Schuh is survived by his wife and three daughters. A visitation will be held on Thursday, May 8, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Mueller Bies Funeral Home, 2130 N. Dale St. (Dale at Co. Rd. B) in Roseville. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 9, at St. Jerome’s Catholic Church, 380 E. Roselawn Ave. in Maplewood.



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May 6, 2008

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U OF M CENTER FOR GERMAN & EUROPEAN STUDIES TO PRESENT MAJOR HEALTH CARE FORUM

**~ Experts from Germany and the United States will discuss quality in health care and
universal care ~**

The Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota will present a forum on access and quality in health care on Monday and Tuesday, May 19 and 20 at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E. Minneapolis. Participants are experts from Germany and the United States, representing government, business, insurance, health care providers and health educators, among others.

With the U.S. presidential election only a few months away, comprehensive health care coverage remains one of the top domestic policy issues. Rising costs put pressure on individual citizens, employers, insurance companies and state and federal government. Massachusetts introduced new mechanisms to provide coverage for all; other states including Minnesota are seeking to optimize the existing system. This creates new opportunities but also new challenges. Expanding the number of consumers will significantly increase the market for providers of services and products. At the same time, any system that mandates universal coverage must develop mechanisms that assure long-term financial sustainability. As a result, the benefits and costs of drugs, services and procedures draw close scrutiny. In Germany and elsewhere in Europe this trend has fully unfolded; in the United States it is accelerating.

The May 19 sessions will address universal health care possibilities; May 20 will focus on health technology assessment in the pharmaceutical industry. Expected outcomes include an understanding of where health technology assessment is moving, a comparison of how the two countries use evidence-based medicine and an examination of what structures are most conducive to ensuring high-quality health care for all.

The German delegation includes the key decision makers for health care policy in Germany. U.S. speakers include Dr. Frank Cerra (AHC, University of Minnesota), Commissioner Cal Ludeman (Minnesota Department of Human Services) and Dr. Steven Sheingold, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Regular registration fee is \$850. State and government employees may register at the reduced rate of \$150.

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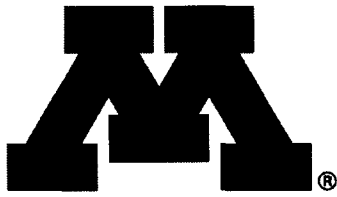
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Registration information, along with full program schedules and speaker biographies, is available at www.cges.umn.edu.

The Center for German & European Studies at the University of Minnesota promotes trans-Atlantic dialogue on public issues of major common concern and is considered one of the nation's top centers for innovative interdisciplinary teaching and research on Germany and Europe.

WHEN: Monday-Tuesday, May 19-20

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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May 7, 2008

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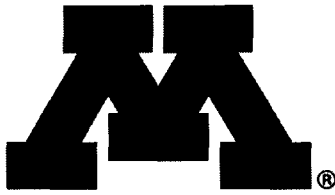
FORMER DROP-OUT, TEEN PARENT WILL BE HONORED MAY 7 ON STATE CAPITOL STEPS

Sara Stevens dropped out of high school and had a baby daughter, now 8 years old. But Stevens, 27, always hoped that she could return to school. Thanks to Blue Sky, a virtual charter school, she has returned to school. Tomorrow, May 7, she will be honored on the Minnesota State Capitol Steps as the grand prize winner in Minnesota's 5th annual charter public school writing contest. This year's contest drew more than 900 entries from throughout the state, according to Joe Nathan, director of the Center for School Change, Humphrey Institute, whose organization sponsors the contest. "We were deeply moved by Steven's eloquence, courage and persistence", said Nathan Nathan.

Stevens will receive her award at 10:45 a.m. on the south steps of the State Capitol (in case of rain, the award ceremony will be in the Capitol Rotunda).

The contest will honor approximately 20 other students from throughout the state, who competed in various divisions. Thanks to the TCF Foundation, students will receive cash awards.

The contest is being held as part of National Charter Public School Week. The charter public school movement started in Minnesota in 1992, and now has spread to 40 states and the District of Columbia. In 1992 there was only one charter public school enrolling less than 100 students. Today, according to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, more than 1.2 million students attend a total of more than 4000 charter public schools.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M BELL MUSEUM HONORS STATE'S 150TH BIRTHDAY WITH "MINNESOTA MINUTE" SERIES APPEARING ON TV STATIONS AROUND THE STATE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The State of Minnesota's 150th birthday celebration gets star treatment with "The Minnesota Minute," a series of 60-second TV spots and companion video blog commemorating Minnesota's natural history and environmental heroes.

The 13-part series of public service announcements is written, directed and produced for the state's sesquicentennial by the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History's Emmy-award winning TV production unit, Bell Museum Productions.

The series is scheduled to air in prime time slots on Twin Cities Public Television and commercial television stations throughout the state beginning Minnesota Statehood Week, May 11, through the sesquicentennial's finale August 30.

The spots feature beautifully filmed footage of Minnesota's most legendary outdoor places including Lake Superior and Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park and the state's most iconic species including the white pine and American bald eagle. The spots are framed by interviews of extraordinary Minnesotans who range from business people to retirees and artists to scientists, all working to preserve the state's last remaining wild places for the next 150 years.

The series hosts a companion Web site with a video blog and a contest for amateur and professional filmmakers throughout the state to share their own environmental-related videos and stories.

Prizes will be awarded each week to randomly selected winners and a new video camera will be awarded at the end of the contest as a grand prize.

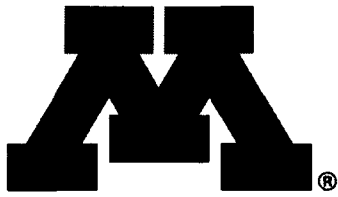
The Minnesota Minute is made possible by grants from the Blandin Foundation, the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission and the university's Office of the President.

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Commission and the university's Office of the President.

For information on the TV series and video contest rules, visit www.bellmuseum.org.



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May 7, 2008

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U OF M TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The U of M Carlson School of Management's Medical Industry Leadership Institute and the Minnesota Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), will host the 6th Annual Health Information Technology Institute, "The Future of IT, Implementation of Technology" conference from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8. The conference will be held at the Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The event brings together IT professionals, hospital and health plan executives, nurses, physicians and academics for a wide range of topics relevant to today's healthcare industry.

The conference will feature two keynote speakers. Dr. Holly Miller of the Cleveland University Hospital and Health System will discuss "Personal Health Records: Status, Challenges, Rewards and Future Directions." James Bradley, former CEO of RxHub, the organization responsible for retrieving lost medical data for the chronically ill immediately following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, will speak on "e-Prescribing." Breakout session presenters include representatives from Medtronic, Mayo Clinic Rochester, MedNet USA, SMCD Health System, Boston Scientific, and Wells Fargo among others.

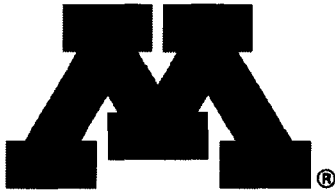
Conference attendees will learn new innovations to realize the potential of health information technology. In a recent study, by the Institute of Medicine, health IT was singled out as a critical area for improvement in order to prevent over 90,000 fatal medical errors per year in the United States. Within the last five years, federal and state governments have contracted billions of dollars of new business to consultancies, technology firms, universities and healthcare providers, to address this problem. Attendees will hear about the leaders of local and national initiatives the success stories generated and opportunities that remain.

The cost for the event is \$100 for HIMSS members; \$130 for non-members; \$25 full-time students. Registration fee includes parking, continental breakfast and lunch. To register for the event, or for additional information, visit <http://www.himss-mn.org>

- more -

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WHAT: 6th Health Information Technology Institute
WHEN: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., May 8
WHERE: Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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EXPERT ALERT

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May 8, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

TARGET MARKET: MOTHERHOOD

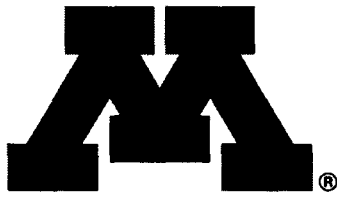
This Mother's Day, marketers and politicians alike might be reminded of the powerful demographic of moms. A University of Minnesota expert who can explain more is:

Mary Vavrus, University of Minnesota Communication Studies professor

Vavrus can discuss how mothers are viewed as a niche market and are precisely targeted by advertisers and marketers. Additionally, they often work as a swing voting bloc during political campaigns. Vavrus can also dissect how media representations of mothers and mothering has changed over time.

To interview professor Vavrus, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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May 8, 2008

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BEYOND UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE: A U OF M PANEL TO EXPLORE THE THEORY OF SYNDEMICS

~ CDC's Coordinator of Syndemics Prevention Bobby Milstein will discuss ways to reduce health care costs and quality by attaining civic equality ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Boynton Health Service will host a discussion this month on the theory of Syndemics, an emerging public health perspective that tackles why certain people and communities face poor health conditions due to their socioeconomic status and other societal challenges. The event will take place 3 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at Coffman Union's Theatre, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The theory of Syndemics captures what many in the health field have intuitively known for years but have been unable to put into words. While the concept of Syndemics is used to describe two or more afflictions occurring simultaneously and feeding off each other to make symptoms worse, the theory of Syndemics focuses on looking beyond treatment of these conditions (health care) to the structure of communities -- housing, education, transportation, etc. By focusing the problem on a societal level, it is believed that community members will identify what societal changes they want to see, which will in turn improve their overall health conditions. The optimal result is a collaborative environment where community members fight for desired changes and health professionals serve not only as providers but advocates and liaisons to social policymakers as well.

"This is all about transforming how we practice our professions," said Jeanne Ayers, director of Boynton's Occupational Health Clinic. "Syndemics gives us a new lens to view our world in a deeper way that reveals how all these issues are linked. The University of Minnesota is the perfect setting to provide a forum for a discussion about how every individual in our community can help create the conditions for a healthier world."

On hand to discuss Syndemics' latest developments and insights at Tuesday's event will be Bobby Milstein, the coordinator of Syndemics Prevention Network at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/syndemics/>). Milstein will address health challenges and raise the question of what each of us can do, across our respective spheres of influence, to create the conditions for a healthier future. He will share how serious engagement in navigating health future could reveal plausible pathways for crafting a health system

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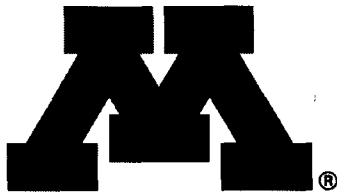
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that elevates our collective health status at lower cost and with greater fairness. Dr. Anthony Iton, the director and health officer of California's Alameda County Public Health Department and who is featured in the recent PBS series "Unnatural Causes" (<http://www.unnaturalcauses.org>), will provide a response. Ed Ehlinger, the Director of Boynton Health Service, will provide opening remarks, and Joan Cleary, vice president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation, will make closing remarks.

Numerous efforts at the U of M are currently underway to encourage democratic engagement in hopes of affecting conditions to support healthy communities. The Citizen Health Care Program, within the university's College of Education and Human Development, works to bring community members beyond their roles as health care consumers and into roles as health care co-producers for themselves and their communities. The program is working on numerous projects, including one with local providers and representatives of the St. Paul Hmong community to understand and improve the lives of refugees struggling with psychological difficulties associated with relocation; one that partners diabetic teens and their parents with others who have experienced the disease; and one that engages low-income American Indians to improve the health and well-being on American Indian people.

The Citizen Health Campaign, an initiative from the university's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, recognizes that health is not merely a state of physical and mental well-being but a product of social, economic and environmental factors such as culture, the environment, education, income and housing. Its tasks include engaging student athletes to improve health in the East Como neighborhood, coaching the U of M's Somali Student Association as they create healthy after-school opportunities for Somali youth and working with the Cedar Humphrey Action for Neighborhood Collaborative Engagement to organize efforts to improve health and safety and build social connection in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.

Tuesday's event is free and open to the public. To R.S.V.P., e-mail cuchal@bhs.umn.edu by May 12. The event is sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation and ISALAH, a non-profit interfaith network of 90 congregations in the greater Minneapolis, St. Paul and St. Cloud areas that works to establish racial and economic justice in communities.



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May 8, 2008

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U OF M HOSTS "GREEN CHEMISTRY IN MINNESOTA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR LEADERSHIP"

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The green revolution has a new and unexpected business partner -- the chemical products industry. Known as green chemistry, business leaders and researchers around the country are pursuing innovative ways to introduce environmentally friendly practices into the design, manufacture and application of chemical products. The University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute's Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy will co-sponsor "Green Chemistry in Minnesota: Opportunities and Challenges for Leadership" to discuss how Minnesota can integrate green chemistry into its policies and industries. The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

"Green Chemistry in Minnesota" will bring together researchers, teachers, business leaders, policy advocates and policymakers to discuss Minnesota's opportunities and challenges in becoming a significant green chemistry contributor. The agenda will feature panel presentations, participant discussions and a video conference roundtable with three national leaders in green chemistry.

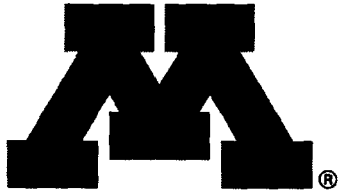
The speakers include Paul Anastas, director of the Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale University; Terry Collins, director of the Institute for Green Science at Carnegie Mellon University; state representative Kate Knuth (DFL-New Brighton), former environmental educator and vice chair of the House, Game, Fish and Forestry Division; and John Warner, director of the Center for Green Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

Registration for the conference is \$25. For more information and to register, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/stpp/events/green_chemistry/

WHAT: Conference on "Green Chemistry in Minnesota"

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 28

WHERE: U of M Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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NEWS SERVICE VIDEO

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May 9, 2008

Contacts: Justin Ware, University News Service, (612) 626-1720

U OF M SOLAR CAR GEARING UP FOR INTERNATIONAL RACE

The University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project team unveiled its new solar car on the McNamara Alumni Center Plaza Thursday morning. The U of M is one of 26 international teams competing in designing, building and driving a solar-powered car in the 2008 North American Solar Challenge, a 2,400-mile race from Dallas to Calgary, Canada, July 13-22.

To watch a video on today's unveiling, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/solar_car.htm

News Service Video and Audio is free and available to news organizations for broadcast and Web use. Multiple formats are available. For more format options or HTML scripts, contact Justin Ware, University News Service, at (612) 626-1720 or ware@umn.edu



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May 9, 2008

Contacts: Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

UPCOMING GOLDSTEIN EXHIBIT AT THE U OF M TO HIGHLIGHT TEXTILES OF THE FUTURE

~ **“Techno Textiles: Inner Space to Outer Space” features cardio-monitoring sports bras, cold-water rescue suits and technology used on the Mars Rover** ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota’s Goldstein Museum of Design presents “Techno Textiles: Inner Space to Outer Space,” a new exhibit featuring innovative, specialty textiles from companies worldwide. It runs Friday, May 16 through Thursday, July 17 in the Goldstein Museum Gallery, 241 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul. The public is invited to attend an opening party and panel discussion 7-9 p.m Thursday, May 15. The party and discussion will also be held at the Goldstein Museum.

The world of specialty textiles has been changing at a rapid pace with new materials, technologies and innovations in production around the world. “Techno Textiles: Inner Space to Outer Space” examines many of these innovative materials and how they are being used by leading designers from around the globe.

“The exhibition examines the use of specialty textiles in many areas of society, including space exploration,” said Bruce Wright, one of the exhibit’s curators. “Our premise is that all parts of our culture and many industries rely on textiles to improve performance, enhance technical capabilities and extend the human reach, from the molecular level of the human body to beyond Earth’s atmosphere. The examples in the exhibition show how design makes use of these techno textiles to improve today’s world.”

Some of the textiles on display include the NuMetrex (TM) Heart Rate Monitoring Sports Bra, which incorporates a lightweight heart monitor woven into the fabric for a comfortable way of monitoring the user’s heart health. The Zoombang (TM) uses a textile that instantly rigidifies upon contact with a blunt object or blow. Eventually easing after a time period has lapsed, the product provides soldiers and athletes with added protection. Stearns, Inc. Cold Water Immersion Suit is aimed for use in rescue operations occurring in extreme water conditions. With sealed seams, attached gloves, a pocket for ice picks and an overall fabric that increases buoyancy and insulation, it is just one example of how these innovative materials can be not only convenient but life-saving as well.

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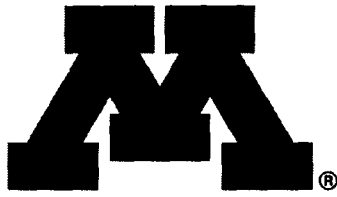
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The exhibit also features a product that compresses several layers of Nomex (R) and Kevlar (R) to overcome weight and temperature challenges, the same technology used on NASA's exploration on Mars.

Both the exhibit and opening party and panel are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served at the party. For more information, including hours of operation, visit: <http://goldstein.cdes.umn.edu>

About The Goldstein Museum of Design

The Goldstein Museum of Design, the only design museum in the upper Midwest, is part of the University of Minnesota and housed in the College of Design. Founded in 1976, the museum's foundations lie in the work and collections of Harriet and Vetta Goldstein, professors in the university's Design Department from 1910 to the late 1940s. Exhibition topics cover the breadth of design -- from clothing and textiles to decorative art and graphic design. Most exhibitions are accompanied by public programs for university and community audiences.



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May 9, 2008

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GREAT CONVERSATIONS: KERRY KENNEDY & BARBARA FREY TO SPEAK ON "DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS"

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Kerry Kennedy, daughter of the late Robert F. Kennedy and author of "Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who are Changing our World," will join Director of the U of M's Human Rights Program Barbara Frey, for "Defending Human Rights," the final Great Conversations of the 2008-2009 series. It takes place 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

Growing up in the Kennedy family, Kerry Kennedy was exposed early to the need for justice in the world. "My father was Attorney General at the time that African Americans were being banned from college, tossed in jail, lynched for exercising their constitutional rights, and our house was constantly filled with people who were on the forefront of the efforts to create change," she said in a recent interview.

Together, Kennedy and Frey will discuss their views on human rights and standing up to oppressive regimes in our world today. Both share a belief in the power of individuals to make a difference.

Kerry Kennedy started working in human rights as a college intern with Amnesty International, documenting abuses committed by U.S. immigration officials against refugees from El Salvador. In 1988, in honor of her father, Kennedy established the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, a division of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial. Kennedy has led 40 human rights delegations to 27 countries worldwide. In 2000, she published "Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who are Changing our World" and has since produced a play of the same name.

Barbara Frey is the director of the U of M's Human Rights Program, an interdisciplinary research center housed in the Institute for Global Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. An international human rights advocate for more than two decades, she founded the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and served as its executive director for 11 years. Under Frey's leadership, Minnesota Advocates grew from a small volunteer group to the largest human rights organization in the Midwest. In 2002, the United Nations appointed Frey to study how countries could prevent human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons.

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could prevent human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons.

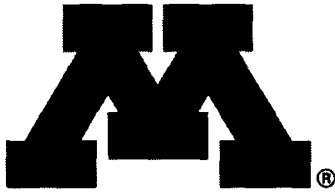
Tickets are \$28.50, or \$23.50 for U of M faculty, staff and students, Minnesota Public Radio members and University of Minnesota Alumni Association members. For more information about Great Conversations or to purchase a ticket to this event, call the Northrop Auditorium Box Office at (612) 624-2345 or visit cce.umn.edu/conversations.

Since 2002, Great Conversations, hosted by the College of Continuing Education, has enabled more than 20,000 Minnesotans to take part in groundbreaking discussions between prominent U of M faculty and their distinguished guests from around the world. Media sponsors for the 2008 Great Conversations series are Minneapolis St.Paul Magazine and Minnesota Public Radio.

Through the University of Minnesota's College of Continuing Education, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and conferences to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, please call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13

WHERE: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis



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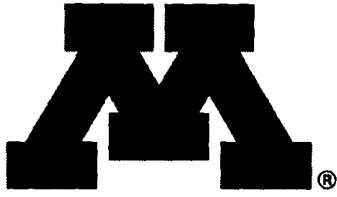
BRIAN BUHR NAMED HEAD OF U OF M'S APPLIED ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Respected agricultural economist Brian Buhr has been named head of the department of applied economics at the University of Minnesota.

He will begin his new role on July 1. In addition to his research, teaching and extension duties at the university, Buhr is well-known in the agricultural and agri-business communities as an expert on a variety of topics related to commodity marketing and information systems, and as a speaker on agricultural economic issues.

"I'm looking forward to this new opportunity to serve the department of applied economics and to engage the broader community by addressing the pressing food systems' economic and public sector policy issues posed by rapid global growth and development, trade and the resulting increased demands on resources and the environment," he said.

Since joining the department in 1992, Buhr has been recognized for his teaching skills as well as his research. In 2007, he was awarded the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences' Distinguished Teaching Award. His recent research projects have included evaluating the economic value of traceability for implementing quality improvement in the meat and livestock supply chain and an evaluation of the economic value of animal agriculture in Minnesota.



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EXPERT ALERT

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May 12, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

7.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS CHINA

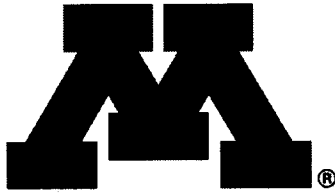
With the death toll expected to reach into the thousands, China is searching for survivors after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the western part of the country. A University of Minnesota earthquake expert is:

Justin Revenaugh, University of Minnesota Geology and Geophysics professor

Revenaugh can explain the cause of earthquakes and discuss the history of large earthquakes in western China and why they occur there.

To interview professor Revenaugh, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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May 12, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

**NEW RESEARCH CO-AUTHORED BY U OF M FINDS STATE HIGH SCHOOL
EXIT EXAMS HARM THOSE WHO FAIL; PROVIDE NO BENEFIT FOR THOSE
WHO PASS**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- As approximately three million U.S. high school seniors prepare to graduate, tens of thousands of their classmates have put their own graduation on hold because they have yet to pass state-mandated high school exit exams.

**To view a video interview with the researcher, John Robert Warren, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/exit_exam.htm**

New research by sociology professors John Robert Warren at the University of Minnesota and Eric Grodsky at the University of California, Davis challenges the value of state exit examinations, both to the students who are denied diplomas and to the general public which foots the bill to develop, administer and score the tests. They find that state exit exams reduce high school completion rates but neither boost academic achievement nor improve graduates' post-high school labor market prospects.

State high school exit exam policies have been implemented in recent decades to ensure that graduates have the skills required to succeed in college and in the 21st century global economy. The exams -- popular among politicians, policy makers and business leaders nationwide -- are in place in 23 states and affect about two of every three students in the class of 2008.

In a study to be published in an upcoming issue of Educational Policy, the researchers found that state exit exams -- including more rigorous exams implemented in some states in recent years -- have no measurable impact on 13- to 17-year old students' reading or math achievement levels. In a companion study published in Sociology of Education, Warren and Grodsky found that young people who earned their diplomas in states that required exit exams experienced the same chances of employment and the same wage rates as those who were not required to pass exit exams.

As a result, the researchers argue, state exit examinations deny diplomas to students who do not pass them without doing any good for those who do, and thus should either be greatly modified to achieve their goals or abandoned entirely.

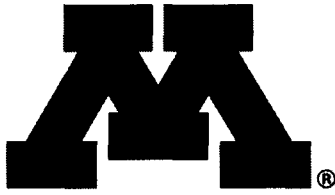
"For many people denying diplomas to some students in order to more broadly boost academic achievement is an acceptable trade-off," said Warren. "But there's no evidence that exit exams

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boost the academic achievement or workplace preparedness of U.S. high school students.”

The researchers believe the reason that states’ exit exams fail to boost student achievement or workplace preparedness has to do with the low standards most states set for passing the tests. Unwilling to deny diplomas to large, politically unpalatable numbers of students, most states align their exit exams to standards that do not produce measurable gains in academic achievement or workplace preparedness.



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May 13, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

HR MANAGEMENT EXPERT MIKE LOSEY TO SPEAK ON “WHY YOUR EMPLOYEES REALLY ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET”

As part of the Strategic Leadership Insights series at the University of Minnesota, human resource management expert Mike Losey will explore which current workplace trends employers should be aware of and will explain what actions employers should take. Losey will speak at 8 a.m., Wednesday, May 14, at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

With more than 45 years of experience in human resource and general management, including 10 years as the CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Losey has gained a solid perspective on key workplace trends and what to do about them.

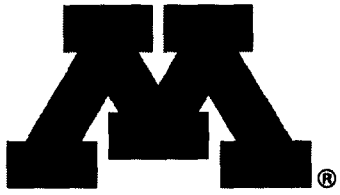
Tickets are \$50. Continental breakfast is included. Breakfast starts at 7 a.m.; the talk begins at 8 a.m. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.cce.umn.edu/leadershipinsights or call (612)624-4000.

Strategic Leadership Insights is a series presented by the University of Minnesota's College of Continuing Education. The 2007-08 series, “Transforming the Workforce,” has included talks by talent management expert Ed Gubman and Minnesota State Demographer Tom Gillaspay.

Through the University of Minnesota's College of Continuing Education, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and conferences to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

WHEN: 8 a.m. Wednesday, May 14

WHERE: Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul



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May 13, 2008

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552*

U OF M POLICY FELLOWS PROGRAM SEEKS EMERGING LEADERS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance (CSPG) at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs is now accepting applications for the Policy Fellows leadership development program.

Now in its 18th year, the Policy Fellows program offers practical training in public affairs leadership for emerging leaders from government, private and nonprofit sectors from around the state. The program equips participants with the skills to inspire, organize and work effectively with others to advance the public good.

"The Policy Fellows program is truly unique. Fellows meet with experienced practitioners from Minnesota and beyond to learn how they can affect positive change across sectors," said Larry Jacobs, director of the program and CSPG. "Best of all, fellows connect and work with a remarkable group of emerging leaders, as well as a network of over 500 program alumni, to further the common good."

Policy Fellows represent a variety of personal and professional backgrounds and communities around the state. Beginning in September and concluding in June, fellows meet monthly to explore fundamental aspects of leadership through presentations by local and nationally recognized experts. Fellows' sessions combine seminars and hands-on skill-building practice. Past fellows have met with Vice President Walter Mondale; Chief Supreme Court Justice John Roberts; Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; Governor Arne Carlson; Norm Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute; columnist E.J. Dionne of the Washington Post; Ronald Heifetz of Harvard University, co-author of *Leadership on the Line*; Kerri Miller, host of MPR's *Midmorning* and *Talking Volumes*; and others.

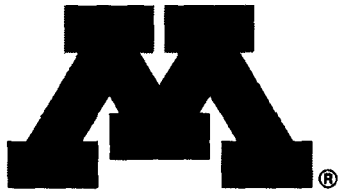
The full program description and application materials are available online at www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/cspg. Complete applications must be postmarked by June 16, 2008. Individuals from Greater Minnesota are especially encouraged to apply; Policy Fellows from Greater Minnesota are reimbursed for program-related travel expenses.

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Launched in 1990 by Vice President Mondale and Ambassador Geri Joseph, the Policy Fellows program was directed for a dozen years by former congressmen Tim Penny and Vin Weber. Today, Jacobs directs the program, continuing the tradition of training the best and brightest emerging leaders in Minnesota.

The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance works to develop practical solutions to pressing political and policy challenges. The Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs ranks among the top 15 professional schools of public affairs at public universities in the country. The Institute is widely recognized for its role in examining public issues and shaping public policy at the local, state, national and international levels.



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May 14, 2008

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO HOST WORLD'S LARGEST CONFERENCE ON EVOLUTION; AUTHOR, COLUMNIST OLIVIA JUDSON HEADLINES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- More than 1,400 of the world's top experts on evolution will gather in Minnesota June 20 through 24 for "Evolution 2008," the world's largest annual gathering of evolutionary biologists. The conference, the premier international event for scientists to share research related to evolution, is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, the university's College of Biological Sciences and Minnesota Citizens for Science Education.

Headlining the event is Olivia Judson, evolutionary biologist, New York Times columnist and author of the 2005 best-selling book, "Dr. Tatiana's Sex Advice to All Creation," which caused a pop sensation and spawned a hit TV-series in Britain. Judson's guide to the evolutionary biology of sex in the animal kingdom takes a lighthearted look at some usual and not-so-usual animal habits such as necrophilia, virgin birthing and peculiar dining rituals during mating. Judson will give a public talk on "The Art of Seduction: Evolution, Sex and the Public" at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 22 at the university's Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2106 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

The conference will also feature five days of academic presentations, poster sessions, a workshop for K-12 teachers and panel discussions on topics related to evolution and communicating science to the general public. Conference participants include members of the Society for the Study of Evolution, Society of Systematic Biologists and the American Society of Naturalists.

"This is a very exciting time for the science of evolution, thanks to new discoveries that range from uncovering the deep history of life on our planet to understanding the biological processes that shape our world today," said conference organizer, Bell Museum Curator and associate professor of plant biology George Weiblen. "At the same time, our science is misunderstood, especially as it relates to religion. 'Evolution 2008' is about communicating science at many levels that we hope stirs the interest of students, educators and the general public in evidence over ideology."

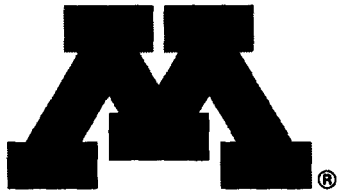
Judson's talk is free and open to the public; doors open at 3 p.m. for early seating. For more information and a complete list of conference activities, visit www.bellmuseum.org.

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complete list of conference activities, visit www.bellmuseum.org.

The Bell Museum, Minnesota's natural history museum, is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and is located at 10 Church St. S.E. in Minneapolis on the university's Minneapolis campus.



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May 14, 2008

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Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M CURA FORUM DISCUSSES MINNESOTA'S HOUSING STRATEGIC PLAN AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS EFFORTS

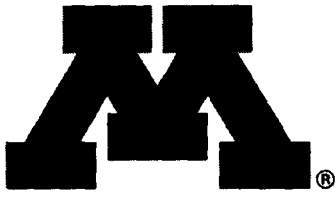
Minnesota's housing strategic plan and economic stimulus efforts will be the topic of the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) housing forum from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 16 in room 1-147 Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Minnesota Housing Commissioner Tim Marx will discuss the agency's strategic plan and current housing market conditions.

The housing forum is a monthly bag lunch discussion of housing issues and research sponsored by CURA, an all-university applied research and technical assistance center that helps the University of Minnesota fulfill its land grant and urban missions by connecting faculty and student researchers with nonprofit organizations, businesses, neighborhoods, local governments and state agencies in Minnesota. CURA supports research and publishes policy-oriented reports on a wide range of urban and regional issues.

WHEN: Noon to 1:30 Friday, May 16

WHERE: Carlson School of Management; 1-147, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis



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May 14, 2008

Contacts: *Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-5551*
Mike McCarthy, Center for Transportation Studies, (612) 624-3645

EVALUATING OPTIONS OTHER THAN THE BUS: U OF M CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION STUDIES TO EXAMINE ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES TO LOWERING CARBON FOOTPRINT

Efficiency and mass transit are the most-often suggested approaches for lowering the carbon footprint of the transportation sector, but are there other options? Cleaner transportation solutions, such as plug-in hybrids, transportation-related policy changes and communities designed to reduce urban sprawl while improving accessibility, may help to solve the problem.

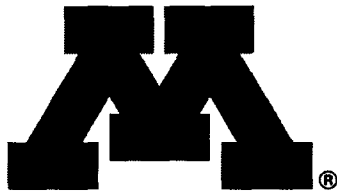
The University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies will examine these green solutions at a luncheon seminar held in conjunction with their Annual Transportation Research Conference, 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 20 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul.

Featured presenter Stephen Schneider will highlight promising technology and policy options that other states and countries are pursuing to reduce the impacts of climate change from transportation.

Schneider, Senior Fellow in the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University, is internationally recognized for research, policy analysis and outreach in climate change and has been involved with the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 1998. Schneider and four generations of IPCC authors received a collective Nobel Peace Prize for their joint efforts in 2007.

Other sessions at the two-day transportation research conference will share findings about driver behavior, rural safety, roundabouts, precast bridge girders, privacy implications for transportation technology and how well designed transportation projects can enhance communities.

WHAT: Center for Transportation Studies Spring luncheon
WHEN: 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 20
WHERE: Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul



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May 14, 2008

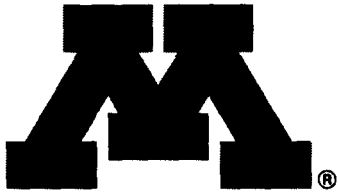
Contacts: *Kong Lingtian, FACSS president, (612) 250-6297*
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

U OF M CHINESE STUDENT GROUP TO HOLD FUNDRAISER FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The University of Minnesota Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars (FACSS) will hold a fundraiser for victims of the earthquake in China from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16 at Coffman Union. FACSS members will set up a table at the lower level next to the bookstore. Donations of cash and checks are accepted.

One of the worst earthquakes to hit China in three decades Monday's 7.9 earthquake devastated a hilly region of small cities and towns in Sichuan province. Thousands have been killed and the death toll is rising daily.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16,
WHERE: Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E. Minneapolis.



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May 14, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu*

U OF M RESEARCHER DISCOVERS THE STARTING POINT OF SUN-INDUCED SKIN CANCER

~ ~ EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 A.M. CT THURSDAY, MAY 15 ~ ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- According to a new study from the University of Minnesota, the earliest event in the development of sun-induced skin cancer may have been identified. The researchers found that the point of entry for skin cancer in response to sun exposure is in receptor molecules, molecular "hooks" on the outer surface of cells that also pull cannabinoid compounds found in marijuana out of the bloodstream. The research appears in the May 15 issue of *Cancer Research*.

"The question at the core of this research was, 'Why does ultraviolet light induce skin cancer?'" said lead researcher Zigang Dong, a professor of cellular and molecular biology and director of the university's Hormel Institute, which supported the study. "The idea is to find an agent that can prevent skin cancers after exposure to the sun."

The receptor molecules are protein structures that are components of cells's outer membranes. Acting like receiving docks, their function is to catch specific compounds from the blood and enable the cells to engulf or otherwise interact with the compounds. Receptors have been identified for many substances, including hormones and other chemical signals that regulate what cells do.

The researchers found that two receptors for cannabinoids also responded to UV light. They made the discovery during a search for the initial interaction between UV light and human skin cells.

The researchers began their search with plant cells because plants must interact with UV light in order to harness its energy for photosynthesis. They concluded that the UV receptors in plants ought to be similar to any found in humans, and, therefore, the genes for the plant and human receptors must also be similar. When they compared plant genes for UV receptors to human genetic material, they found that the human genes for cannabinoid receptors matched.

- more -

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If cannabinoid receptors are important in the initiation of skin cancer by UV light, then animals that lack the receptors should be relatively protected from the ravages of the light. Working with mouse embryos, the researchers removed the genes for the cannabinoid receptors. They found that the skin of the resulting adult mice, which lacked the receptors, was resistant to the development of UV-induced inflammation and skin tumors called papillomas.

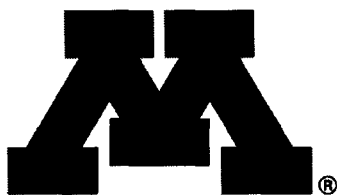
Also, when they exposed cannabinoid receptors to UV light, the receptors changed from an inactive to an active state, indicating they had absorbed and responded to the light.

Why should evolution have produced receptors that respond to both UV light and cannabinoids?

“That we don’t know,” said Dong.

The Hormel Institute is a collaborative research unit of the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic. The work was supported by the Hormel Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 A.M. CT THURSDAY, MAY 15



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EXPERT ALERT

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May 14, 2008

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CYCLONE-RAVAGED MYANMAR REFUSING FOREIGN AID, EARTHQUAKE STRICKEN CHINA WELCOMING IT

~ U of M Humphrey Institute dean and former diplomat available to comment on differing responses ~

A cyclone in Myanmar and a massive earthquake in China have killed tens of thousands and left millions homeless, hungry and stranded. Massive international efforts to send food, medicine and aid workers are quickly finding their way to the nations, but, while China is accepting the help with open arms, the ruling military authorities in Myanmar are refusing almost all outside assistance. A University of Minnesota foreign policy and aid expert who can discuss the two different situations is:

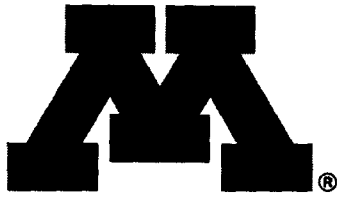
J. Brian Atwood, dean of the U of M Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Atwood has extensive experience in the fields of foreign policy and aid and can explain why humanitarian efforts to Myanmar are facing such stiff roadblocks compared to China's. He can also give first-hand insight into the logistical and diplomatic process of coordinating aid work.

Before serving as dean, Atwood served for six years as Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) during the administration of President Bill Clinton. He has led presidential delegations to Haiti, El Salvador and East Africa and was a special presidential envoy to Eastern Zaire during the exodus of refugees caused by the Rwandan genocide. He was the first American official to meet with Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, foreign minister Peres and chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasir Arafat, after Arafat's return to Gaza and the West Bank in 1994. During the Kosovo Crisis he was President Clinton's humanitarian relief coordinator.

To interview dean Atwood, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552 or mathre@umn.edu.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2008

*Contacts: Justin Christy, department of theatre arts & dance, (612) 625-5380
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038*

MINNESOTA CENTENNIAL SHOWBOAT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH A SUMMER FULL OF EPIC HEROES, DASTARDLY VILLAINS AND AMAZING ARTISTRY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- This summer the University of Minnesota Showboat Players tell the tale of Edmund Dantes and his epic quest of love, betrayal and retribution to becoming the powerful and cunning "Count of Monte Cristo." This play, based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas, follows the unique showboat tradition of turn-of-the-century vaudeville theatre, complete with audience participation (booing the villains and cheering the hero), signature olios (musical interludes) and zany costumes, with stirring lyrics of a simpler time, the Players will transport audiences to a bygone era.

Celebrating 50 Years of Entertainment and Education

The Minnesota Centennial Showboat is proud to mark 2008 as its 50th year as one of Minnesota's most unique theatre venues, entertaining audiences in a Victorian-style presentation and educating students first-hand in the rigors and trials of life as a full-time performer. This year we will be celebrating by inviting showboat alumni as well as past designers, directors and collaborators from over the past 50 years to a join in a night of remembering the showboat's great legacy. In addition, the showboat will be presenting a long time favorite "Minnesota Olio," to commemorate the state's sesquicentennial.

Originally commissioned by Frank Whiting in 1958, the Minnesota Centennial Showboat began its life as a commemorative gift between the University of Minnesota and the State of Minnesota, celebrating the state's 100th birthday. As one of Minnesota's longest-running theatre venues, the Showboat has hosted patrons from every state in America and a handful of other nations. Every year, the Showboat Players greet audiences with an easy and inviting demeanor, present an evening of family-friendly entertainment that all ages can enjoy and thank patrons for their time as they disembark.

On the other side of the curtain, actors and technicians are offered a rare educational experience as Showboat Players. Productions run for 10 weeks, with eight shows per week. Performers learn how to maintain their bodies, voices and spirits for the entire run. Players are compensated for their efforts; the Showboat offers one of the highest-paid, non-union gigs in the Twin Cities -- and it's only offered to University of Minnesota students. For 50 years, the Showboat has offered a professional-caliber theatre education.

Production team

- more -

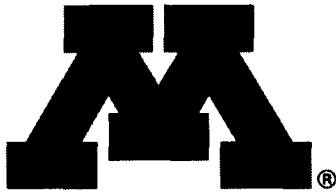
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For "The Count of Monte Cristo," director Peter Moore will add the Minnesota Centennial Showboat to a prolific career in the Twin Cities theatre community, including directing credits at the Guthrie Theater, Actors Theatre of Minnesota, Hennepin Stages, History Theatre, Torch Theatre, Illusion Theater, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, Theatre in the Round and Park Square Theatre. Moore is also a renowned stunt coordinator, with high-profile credits such as the Broadway run of Disney's "The Lion King" and the films "Factotum" and "Embrace of the Vampire."

Joining Moore will be Olio Director Vern Sutton, who has become part of the Showboat lexicon, having trained under Robert Moulton on the Showboat's sister-venue, the Stagecoach Players, and directed the Showboat's signature olios for the past decade - his 2006 Showboat production of George Cohan's "Forty-Five Minutes From Broadway" was a personal tribute to the Moulton's presentational style and artistry. A professor emeritus in the U of M School of Music, Sutton has performed in countless musicals, operas and revues in nearly every state, most recently appearing in the Guthrie's "1776" and "A Christmas Carol."

"The Count of Monte Cristo" will mark the end of a three-decade commitment to theatrical education and the artistry of suspending disbelief for two University of Minnesota faculty members, Lance Brockman and Jean Montgomery. In 1973, the University of Minnesota's department of theatre arts moved across the Mississippi River into Rarig Center, located on the West Bank campus where these two young theatre designers were hired as resident technical director and resident lighting designer. The department soon promoted Brockman to resident scenic designer. For the past 35 years, both of them have mentored countless university theatre students, become high-profile names in USITT (United States Institute for Theatre Technology) circles and designed more than 250 University Theatre productions.

For more information on "The Count of Monte Cristo" or Showboat's 50th season, please contact Justin Christy, communications manager in the department of theatre arts and dance, at (612) 625-5380 or justin@umn.edu. Publicity photos, in studio performances and interview opportunities with the artistic team, and comp tickets are available.



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May 16, 2008

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

U OF M'S EAST GATEWAY DISTRICT INFRASTRUCTURE WORK TO CAUSE ROAD CLOSURES BEGINNING MAY 19

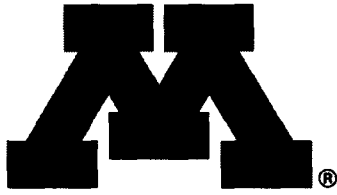
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Infrastructure work in the University of Minnesota's East Gateway District will lead to road closures in the weeks ahead, according to U of M Parking and Transportation Services.

Westbound University Avenue

Westbound University Avenue between 23rd Avenue Southeast and Oak Street will close beginning Monday, May 19 and is expected to remain closed for about one to two weeks. Westbound vehicular traffic will be diverted around the football stadium construction site – north on 23rd Avenue Southeast, west on Sixth Street Southeast, south on Oak Street to Fourth Street Southeast where traffic can continue to travel in a westbound direction. *Pedestrian and bike access will remain open through that stretch of roadway.*

23rd Avenue Southeast

Infrastructure work will also impact the section of 23rd Avenue Southeast between the Transitway and Fay Thompson Center for Environmental Management. That work is scheduled to begin Tuesday, May 27 and continue for approximately 30 days. The street will remain open but will be reduced to one lane in each direction throughout the duration of the project. Pedestrian and bike access will remain open. Due to this project, Parking and Transportation Services may have to temporarily move the Campus Connector bus stop slightly north. Signs will be posted.



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May 19, 2008

Contacts: *Mary Kay Delvo, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, (612) 626-1417*
Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TO VISIT MOORHEAD TO DISCUSS LOCAL FOODS ISSUES

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- For health and environmental reasons, many Americans are turning to their local food stores instead of the standard grocery chain. University of Minnesota, Crookston math and physics professor David DeMuth will discuss the successful methods he has researched to connect consumers of local foods with producers and growers when he visits Moorhead on Tuesday, May 20. He will also highlight the issues of public responsibility and sustainability.

The event starts at 11:45 a.m. at the Moorhead Rotary, 2101 River Dr. N., Moorhead. DeMuth's visit is part of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's year-long, state-wide speakers tour which has already traveled more than 3,000 miles.

The purpose of the speakers tour is to help the citizens of Minnesota understand that the university touches and belongs to each and every one of the five million people in the state. The tour presentations will help show the people of Minnesota that the U of M trains the leaders of the state and nation who solve problems and can change the world.

"The University of Minnesota is an economic engine for our state and has a huge impact on the quality of life in Minnesota," said Margaret Carlson, UMAA CEO. "The university's leading educators, researchers and administrators have already traveled to 46 cities across the state, talking to community leaders about the great teaching, research and outreach that happens at the university every single day."

To see where the tour has been and where it is planning to go, visit:

http://www.alumni.umn.edu/UMAA_07-08_Tour.html

Quick Quotes Audio - a sound bites package of Carlson explaining the tour is available for media use:

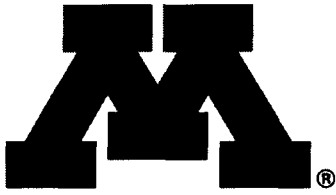
http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/2007/12/u_of_m_alumni_association_on_t.html (2:31)

Carlson has served as the UMAA's CEO and a university associate vice president since 1985. The UMAA is an

- more -

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Carlson has served as the UMAA's CEO and a university associate vice president since 1985. The UMAA is an independent, 64,000 member organization dedicated to connecting alumni, students and friends in lifelong support of the University of Minnesota and each other.



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May 19, 2008

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A STATEMENT FROM UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT ROBERT BRUININKS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks in response to the end of the 2008 legislative session:

“This was an outstanding legislative session for the university. Our biomedical science research program, enacted earlier this year, will go down in history as one of the most forward-looking state policy decisions in a generation. It will create jobs and help maintain Minnesota’s competitive advantage in one of the most rapidly areas of science and discovery.

“While budget cuts are never easy, the university appreciates the enormous challenge the legislature and governor faced this year in balancing the state budget. We’re optimistic that the final budget cut to the U will be managed with spending reductions and the previously anticipated tuition increase.

“Additionally, the university is pleased to see the Central Corridor funded and is committed to working with all of our partners to find a workable solution for this important regional infrastructure project.”



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May 20, 2008

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Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962*

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CEO TO VISIT SAVAGE TO DISCUSS WHAT'S NEW AT THE U

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Groundbreaking heart growth research, students building a state of the art solar car and a new football stadium rising from the ground -- it's been a busy spring at the University of Minnesota. U of M Alumni Association CEO Margaret Carlson will discuss what's new at the U when she visits Savage on Thursday, May 22.

The event starts at 12:15 p.m. at the local Perkins Restaurant, 14435 Highway 13 S., Savage. Carlson's visit is part of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's year-long, state-wide speakers tour which has already traveled more than 3,000 miles.

The purpose of the speakers tour is to help the citizens of Minnesota understand that the university touches and belongs to each and every one of the five million people in the state. The tour presentations will help show the people of Minnesota that the U of M trains the leaders of the state and nation who solve problems and can change the world.

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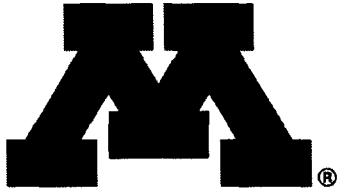
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Carlson has served as the UMAA's CEO and a university associate vice president since 1985. The UMAA is an independent, 64,000 member organization dedicated to connecting alumni, students and friends in lifelong

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independent, 64,000 member organization dedicated to connecting alumni, students and friends in lifelong support of the University of Minnesota and each other.



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May 20, 2008

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Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu

DECIPHERING THE FACT AND FICTION OF INDIANA JONES

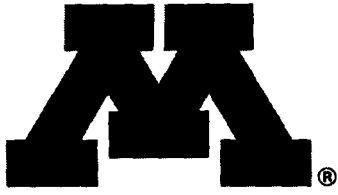
~ "Archaeology" and crystal skulls explained ~

While booby traps and whip cracking are what make up the fictitious profession of archaeology in the "Indiana Jones" movie series, the subject of its latest installment -- crystal skulls -- are part of a very real cult activity. A University of Minnesota expert who can comment on the real and not so real of aspects of Indy's adventures is:

William Beeman, professor and chair of the department of anthropology at the University of Minnesota Beeman can explain where the films veer off course when it comes to real-life archeology. He says that many in the fact-finding profession still enjoy the Indiana Jones adventures, "even as we know how far it is from what we do." Additionally, Beeman can discuss how crystal skulls, as portrayed in the fourth film, do exist as cult relics but are more likely products of 19th century Europe and not ancient Mayan artifacts.

To interview Beeman, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

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EMBARGO: 5 P.M. PDT, MAY 27

May 20, 2008

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ACCORDING TO U OF M RESEARCHER'S ANALYSIS U. S. MEDIA OFTEN DO A POOR JOB OF REPORTING ABOUT NEW MEDICAL TREATMENTS

~ Journal editors say "alarming report ... is a wake-up call" ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Most medical news stories about health interventions fail to adequately address costs, harms, benefits, the quality of evidence and the existence of other treatment options, finds a new analysis in this week's open access journal PLoS Medicine. The analysis was conducted by Gary Schwitzer from the University of Minnesota School of Journalism & Mass Communication.

The high rate of inadequate reporting found in this study, said Schwitzer, "raises important questions about the quality of the information U.S. consumers receive from the news media on these health news topics."

For a full-length, video interview followed by cutaway shots of Schwitzer, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/health_journalism.htm

Schwitzer publishes an online project called HealthNewsReview.org (www.HealthNewsReview.org) that evaluates and grades media stories about new health interventions, notifying journalists of their grades. The project monitors news coverage by the top 50 most widely circulated newspapers in the United States; the morning and evening newscasts of ABC, CBS and NBC television; the most widely used wire service (Associated Press); and the three leading weekly news magazines — TIME, Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report. Each news story is given a grade from 0 to 10, according to a set of criteria that include whether a story adequately quantifies the benefits of an intervention, appraises the supporting evidence and gives information on the sources of a story and the sources' competing interests.

For his analysis in PLoS Medicine, Schwitzer reviewed the ratings for 500 U.S. health news stories that were published or aired over a period of almost two years, and found that 62 percent to 77 percent of stories had major failings in the quality of reporting. Schwitzer gives examples of particularly poor reporting. ABC World News, for example, was graded only 2 out of 10 for a TV report about a new test for prostate cancer, a test that the show claimed was "more accurate" than existing tests. This poor grade reflected the fact that ABC World News failed to discuss the enormous controversies surrounding the risks and benefits of prostate cancer

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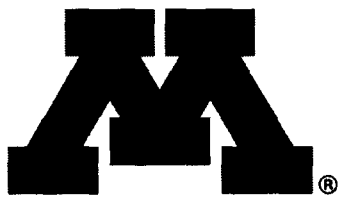
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screening, failed to discuss any evidence that the new test was superior and failed to mention that the principal investigator of the new test receives a share of the royalties received on sales of the test.

In an editorial discussing the analysis, the PLoS Medicine editors explore some of the reasons why the quality of health news reporting is often poor, including reporters' inadequate training in understanding health research, the tendency of the 24-hour news cycle towards sensationalism, and the "complicit collaboration" between scientists, reporters and medical journals in hyping a new study.

"Schwitzer's alarming report card of the trouble with medical news stories is a wake-up call," said the editors, "for all of us involved in disseminating health research -- researchers, academic institutions, journal editors, reporters, and media organizations -- to work collaboratively to improve the standards of health reporting."

Embargoed until 5 p.m., PDT, May 27



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May 21, 2008

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Diane Cormany, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-5650

NEW U OF M RESEARCH CENTER TO STUDY WAYS TO IMPROVE EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota is one of three schools nationwide partnering to create a research and development center that aims to improve lifetime academic success by monitoring and providing intervention to promote children's reading skills as early as age 3. The project is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Education.

The Center for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood (CRTIEC) will attempt to reduce the number of children with reading problems by increasing the number of children entering school with knowledge and skills in early literacy and language. When it starts its 5-year operation in July, the center will conduct tests on current literacy assessment practices to both identify children in need of intervention and to build and test the effectiveness of several standard, easy-to-implement interventions. Eventually, the center will test their new practices in classrooms across the country, with the ultimate goal of improving literacy skills in these classrooms.

"It is essential that we find ways to help all children become proficient readers," said Scott McConnell, an education psychology professor in the university's College of Education and Human Development and co-investigator and director of the Minnesota site. "This center will develop new ways for teachers and parents to help during preschool -- a time we know is essential to the development of early literacy skills, the foundations of later reading."

The need for the center is based on research that children who read well in the early elementary grades are more likely to be academically successful and thrive later in life. Children who acquire literacy and language skills before entering kindergarten are more likely to read well in later grades. While much is known about early literacy and language and how to promote their development, identification of literacy and language delays comes too late, resulting in life-long reading problems.

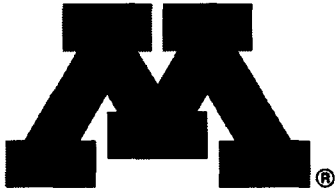
Assessments for monitoring the preschoolers' literacy skills take two minutes to administer and will be performed by classroom teachers at least every quarter. They will be based on Individual Growth and

- more -

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

performed by classroom teachers at least every quarter. They will be based on Individual Growth and Development Indicators (or IGDIs), a set of tools for monitoring preschoolers' language and literacy skills first developed at the University of Minnesota.

The project is a collaboration between the U of M, the Universities of Kansas and Florida State, and the Dynamic Measurement Group, a company that specializes in developing assessment tools for schools. It is supported by a \$10 million grant from the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education. The University of Minnesota will receive \$2 million over five years.



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STORY TIPS

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May 21, 2008

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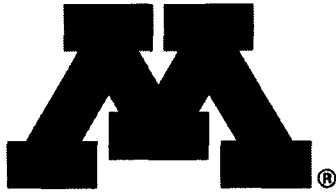
THE SECRET TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA'S GREEN CAMPUS

Mowing and mulching are just the beginning for how the University of Minnesota maintains its beautiful campus. It is more than just planting Wave Petunia's every spring and picking up trash - it is using green practices to get the job done.

With 10,000 trees and more than 6.5 million square feet of grass, there are plenty of hands getting dirty every day. In fact, it is the hands of approximately 100 student workers that mow, dig, mix and water from Folwell Hall to River Bend Hill to the St. Paul mall.

The green practices they use are a crucial part of the university's efforts to be sustainable. Recycling organic waste that can be used in plant beds, utilizing waste wood for mulch, running efficient irrigation systems based on evaporation/transpiration rates and driving around on electric carts instead of gas operated vehicles are all part of these efforts.

It takes a lot to keep the wax begonias blooming and prevent the Dog Strangle Vine from taking over - but with an arsenal of dedicated workers, the campus continues to look magnificent under the sun - just in time for graduation.



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May 21, 2008

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LTC Curt Cooper, U of M Army ROTC, (612) 624-2583

U.S. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF TO OFFICIATE U OF M ROTC COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

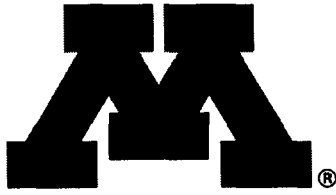
Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey, will officiate the Commissioning Ceremony for the cadets of the University of Minnesota ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp) at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 22 in Northrup Auditorium, 84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis. Casey is a 4-star general officer and the highest ranking officer in the U.S. Army. Prior to his posting in the Pentagon, Casey served as the Commanding General of all Coalition Forces serving in Iraq.

The "Commissioning Ceremony" is the culmination of years of preparatory leadership and tactics training -- in this case, through the ROTC. With more than 270 ROTC programs across the nation conducting similar ceremonies, it is noteworthy that Casey chose the University of Minnesota. This event is open to the public.

During the ceremony, ROTC cadets are officially and formally inducted into the Army as second lieutenants and ensigns of their respective services. The ceremony is steeped in military tradition, customs and courtesies that are not soon forgotten for those who witness them.

Following some brief remarks from the General, the cadets from the various services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines) will recite their respective Oaths of Office and receive their Commission Certificates.

In 2007, the U of M ROTC was recognized by the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA) as the top-rated ROTC program in the country.



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THE U OF M CONTINUES HISTORY OF SERVING THE U.S MILITARY WITH SERVICES FOR STUDENT VETERANS

The men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces are on our mind even more this Memorial Day, as the U.S. Senate tries to reach consensus on a new and controversial G.I. Bill. At the University of Minnesota, where more than 600 student veterans are enrolled throughout all university campuses, veterans are not only dealing with the transition from combat to civilian life, but also with funding their education. The G.I. Bill used to cover their education fully but now only subsidizes it by 60 to 70 percent. Many student veterans have been away from home for years and have not had access to income from summer or part-time jobs.

As a result, universities like the University of Minnesota are finding ways to support and retain their student veterans. The U of M has several resources available, such as the newly-created Veterans Services Office that holds veterans orientations and distributes a veterans newsletter. The Veterans Certification Office helps students with the process of receiving their veterans and military benefits. A Veterans Transition Center on campus provides financial information to students and a venue for veterans to socialize.

As is the case for many students, university scholarships are also available to help veterans fund their education. Lakeville resident John Silva, a student veteran in the College of Continuing Education's (CCE) construction management program and a combat engineer who served in Afghanistan, credits a CCE scholarship with funding what the federal government didn't provide.

"Receiving any kind of support and earning recognition for your hard work in life is great and something like this really makes a difference," said Silva. "It relieves a lot of the pressure and worry about trying to make ends meet and pay tuition.

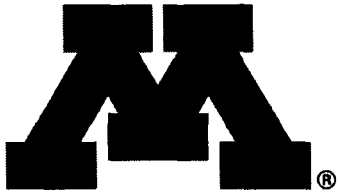
The University of Minnesota has a long history serving the U.S. Military, having contributed more nurse cadets than any other institution during World War II.

To interview Silva about his experience as a student veteran or someone from veterans services at the U of M, contact Luisa Badaracco at (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or

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contact Luisa Badaracco at (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu.

Story Tips is a service provided by the University News Service. Delivered regularly, it provides unique story ideas about U research, students and campus life. For an archive and other useful media services, visit www.unews.umn.edu.



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May 22, 2008

Contacts: Justin Ware, University News Service, (612) 626-1720

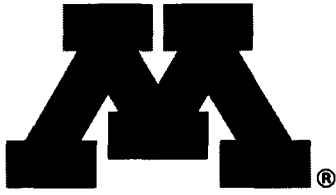
MORE TRAVEL BUSINESSES GOING GREEN THIS MEMORIAL DAY WITH HELP FROM U OF M TOURISM CENTER

From water conservation to eco-landscaping, there are many ways for a tourism-based business to go green. And the benefits those businesses receive are as much economical as they are environmental.

Research shows that sustainable tourism practices are recognized and desired by travelers. According to the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), one-third of all U.S. travelers say they are influenced by a company's actions to preserve the environment, history and culture of destinations.

For a video on how the University of Minnesota Tourism Center helps businesses go green, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/eco_tourism.htm

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2008

Contacts: *Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389*
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

NEW FAMILY OF GECKO DISCOVERED BY RESEARCHERS FROM THE U OF M AND VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

~ Discovery has implications for technology and the environment ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Researchers at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History and Pennsylvania's Villanova University have discovered a new family of gecko, the charismatic large-eyed lizard popularized by car insurance commercials.

Scientists have long been interested in geckos and their evolution because they are key biodiversity indicators and are found on nearly every continent. Researchers are also interested in the gecko because of the animal's sticky toe pads, which allow them to scale rough and smooth surfaces -- a characteristic that may have human application in medicine, emergency rescue service and military industries.

Graduate students Tony Gamble from the University of Minnesota and Aaron Bauer from Villanova sequenced DNA from 44 species of gecko and used this genetic data to reconstruct the animals' family tree. The resulting new classification is different from previous classifications, which are based solely on foot structure.

"A classification based solely on foot structure will track selective pressure on the feet and not represent actual evolutionary history," said Gamble, who believes his discovery will add to a more accurate gecko family tree that, in turn, will allow scientists to better understand how sticky toe pads have evolved.

The researchers have named the new family "Phyllodactylidae," referring to the leaf-shaped toes of many of the species in this group (phyllo meaning "leaf;" dactyl meaning "toe"). The new family consists of 103 species found in semiarid and tropical regions of North Africa, the Middle East, North and South America and the Caribbean.

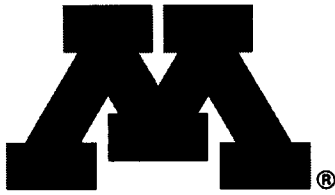
Gamble and Bauer's research was funded by the National Science Foundation as part of a funding push by the agency to construct a family tree for 1.7 million known species of plants, animals and microbes. Gamble and

- more -

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Bauer's study will be published in the forthcoming issue of *Zoological Scripta: An International Journal of Systematic Zoology*.

The Bell Museum is part of the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and is located at 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. For more information, visit www.bellmuseum.org.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2008

Contacts: *Laura Weber, College of Design, (612) 625-6566*
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

LALLY WEYMOUTH DONATION OF DESIGNER DRESS COLLECTION TO BE DISPLAYED AT U OF M'S GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Designer gowns and shoes from American journalist and heir Lally Weymouth will be displayed at the University of Minnesota's Goldstein Museum of Design, the university's College of Design announced Friday. The collection will debut at the annual Goldstein Garden Party, 5:30-9 p.m. Thursday, May 29 at the Goldstein Museum, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

In total, 36 garments and four pairs of shoes will be donated and carry designer names such as Oscar de la Renta, Yves Saunt Laurent, James Galanos, Halston and Emanuel Ungaro. The largest collection is from de la Renta.

The donation comes after Weymouth was informed of the large designer dress collection at the Goldstein Museum. In total, the Goldstein has more than 18,000 costume objects from designers such as Coco Chanel, Christian Dior, Missoni and Versace. Housed in the university's College of Design, it is the only museum of design in the upper midwest and features numerous exhibitions ranging from clothing and textiles to decorative art and graphic design.

Like the other pieces of the Goldstein's costume collection, Weymouth's items will be available to College of Design students to study for technique and inspiration. They also can be featured in future exhibitions.

Weymouth is the senior editor of Newsweek and heir to the Washington Post media fortune. She has also freelanced and served as contributing editor for numerous publications, ranging from New York magazine, The New York Times Magazine and Atlantic Monthly.

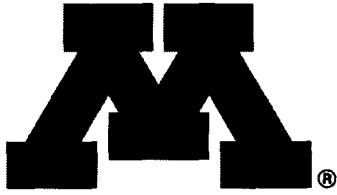
In addition to the collection, the Goldstein's Garden Party will include live music, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, vintage wine, watercolor classes and an informal discussion of the design process with three local artists. It is open to the public. Tickets are \$40, with proceeds going to the Goldstein Museum of Design. To R.S.V.P., call (612) 624-7434 or e-mail goldstein@umn.edu.

WHEN: 5:30-9 p.m. Thursday, May 29

- more -

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WHERE: Goldstein Museum of Design, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul



QUICK QUOTES

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May 23, 2008

Contacts: *Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962, dswain@umn.edu or Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214, egiorgi@umn.edu*

QUICK QUOTES AUDIO: MINNESOTA CENTENNIAL SHOWBOAT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

For the past 50 years, the university's Minnesota Centennial Showboat has been educating students first-hand to the professional world of theatre while providing audiences with outstanding performances within the unique venue. Sherry Wagner-Henry, managing director of university theatre and the Minnesota Centennial Showboat programs, explains what the Showboat has been offering students and audiences for a half-century.

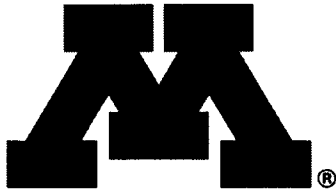
The following audio clips are available for all media use:

<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/showboat50QQ.mp3> (2:16)

1. Intro (0:00)
2. One of oldest theatres in Minnesota (0:07)
3. Accomplishments in educating theatre students (0:42)
4. First professional experience for students (1:04)
5. Showboat's signature "Oleos" (1:19)
6. Celebrating 50 years (1:44)

For additional audio or to interview Wagner-Henry, contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu; or Elizabeth Giorgi at (612) 624-0214 or egiorgi@umn.edu.

Quick Quotes are audio clips featuring research, events, announcements and breaking news at the University of Minnesota. They are available for all types of media. For an archive and other useful media services, visit www.unews.umn.edu.



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May 23, 2008

Contacts: Tom Misa, director, Charles Babbage Institute, (612) 624-5050
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

WOMEN AND PROGRAMMING NOT COMPUTING; UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CONFERENCE EXPLORES GENDER GAP IN COMPUTING PROFESSIONS

Women were active participants in the early days of computer programming. How, then, has it come to pass that computing today is one of the most gender-segregated domains of modern life—despite unprecedented amounts of federal funding to reverse the trend? This pivotal question will be creatively explored Friday, May 30, at the Charles Babbage Institute, 211 Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, during an all-day international conference at the University of Minnesota on gender and computing. It is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by the U of M's renowned center of computer-history scholarship -- the Charles Babbage Institute -- the conference brings together international scholars from six countries, as well as local specialists. Together they will examine gender and the diverse uses of computing in offices, libraries, schools, mass media and the computing profession.

To see a conference schedule go to: <http://www.umn.edu/~tmisa/gender/>

A poster session showcases additional views and innovative projects. A new Anderson Library exhibit opening May 28, "Gendered Bits: Identities, Practices and Artifacts in Computing," explores how gender has shaped professional identities and material culture.

Story sources available for interviews prior to and during the May 30 event:

- Caroline Hayes, University of Minnesota professor of mechanical engineering and robotics specialist, is speaking on "Women and Computing: Where Have We Been, and Where are We Now?" Contact: hayes@me.umn.edu See Hayes' bio: www.me.umn.edu/research/faculty/hayes.shtml

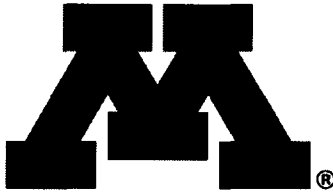
- Arvid Nelsen, archivist, Charles Babbage Institute can speak on the "Gendered Bits" exhibit. Contact: nels0307@umn.edu See Nelsen's bio: www.cbi.umn.edu/about/nelsen.html

- Tom Misa, director, Charles Babbage Institute, is a historian specializing in the interactions of technology and

- more -

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- Tom Misa, director, Charles Babbage Institute, is a historian specializing in the interactions of technology and modern culture who can explain the significance of this topic-past, present and future. Contact: tmisa@umn.edu
See Misa's bio: www.cbi.umn.edu/about/misa.html



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May 23, 2008

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Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962, dswain@umn.edu

WITH MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND COMING UP, CONSIDER WAYS TO UTILIZE SKILLS AND LEADERSHIP OF MINNESOTA VETERANS

As Minnesotans honor those who have fallen for their country over this long weekend it also is a good time to examine ways to tap into the new skills and experiences recent veterans have to offer. A University of Minnesota expert who can help citizens at the community level to help veterans make the transition from “warrior” to “citizen” is:

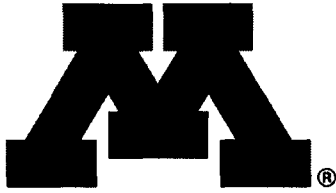
Dennis Donovan, organizer with the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the U of M’s Humphrey Institute

Donovan can give background on the Warrior to Citizen Campaign, a statewide grassroots effort that provides community support to returning soldiers and their families and challenges Minnesotans to think creatively about how returning veterans can contribute their new skills and experiences as citizens. Donovan can provide concrete examples of what the campaign has achieved and ways in which citizens in every corner of the state can utilize leadership and participation of local veterans.

The Warrior to Citizen campaign is organized by the Center for Democracy and Citizenship as part of its Minnesota Works Together initiative.

To interview Donovan, contact Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552 or mathre@umn.edu; or Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu.

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May 27, 2008

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

U OF M TCF BANK STADIUM UNVEILS FIRST COUNTY SIGNS

~ Three-ton tributes recognize support of all Minnesota citizens ~

To recognize that the future home of the Golden Gophers is a statewide facility and to pay tribute to the support of all Minnesota citizens, the names of each of the 87 state counties will be cast in stone around the perimeter of TCF Bank Stadium's first level. To mark the installation of the first of these signs, a media event will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 29 at the stadium site, 2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Media check-in will be at the 23rd Ave. S.E. gate between 6th Street and University Avenue, from 1:30-2:00 p.m. U of M athletics director Joel Maturi and other university and stadium officials will be available to answer questions after the county sign unveiling.

Each county's name will be engraved in a piece of cast stone that is 16' by 5'4" and weighs 6500 lbs. The signs will be placed within the Memorial Wall, which forms the exterior wall of the stadium building.

The May 29th event will include the installation of the Pope, Ramsey, Red Lake, Redwood and Renville county signs. Up to ten signs will be placed each month during the next ten months until all signs are installed by March of 2009.

New Ulm-based American Artstone is producing the county signs. More than 85 percent of the construction projects for the stadium have been awarded to Minnesota-based firms. Minneapolis-based M.A. Mortenson Company is the project's general contractor.

In addition to the unveiling of the first county signs, an announcement will be made regarding the statewide tour in which the university will visit all 87 counties in Minnesota over the next 15 months. The first statewide tour event will include appearances by Coach Tim Brewster, Goldy, the U of M marching band and cheerleaders and will be held from 2:00-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 3, at the Highland Park Dairy Queen, 1959 Ford Pkwy., Saint Paul.

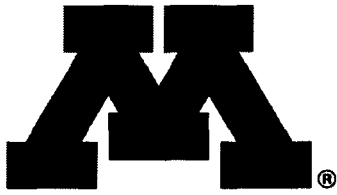
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Stadium Construction Update

Erection of the steel stadium structure has been underway for several months and masonry work on the exterior of the building has begun. The Stadium will be fully enclosed by fall 2008 when interior finishing will begin. The TCF Bank Stadium is slated for completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on September 12, 2009.

**To obtain an image of the county signs contact Ryan Mathre at
mathre@umn.edu**



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May 27, 2008

*Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690*

FARM POLICIES, GROWING ORGANIC AND THE U.S. FOOD SYSTEM: “OMNIVORE’S DILEMMA” DISCUSSION KICKS OFF NEW ONLINE BOOK CLUB FROM THE U OF M

~ “Beyond the Book” connects community with university experts for multi-week online discussion and dinner ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- An online book club from the University of Minnesota will make its debut next month, when university applied economist Robert King sits down with plant pathology department head Kathryn VandenBosch to discuss Michael Pollan’s bestselling novel, “The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals.” This first series of the “Beyond the Book” program runs June 19 through July 17 and is capped off with an optional dinner and discussion with King, VandenBosch and other members of the online discussion group. The dinner will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 24 at the Campus Club in Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Each Beyond the Book program will begin with a four-, five- or six-week online discussion where the program’s hosts post weekly discussion questions, conversation starters and personal thoughts. Participants can read the book before or during the discussion period. After the online discussion ends, participants can choose to attend a dinner and discussion with the program hosts.

There is no charge for the online discussion. The dinner costs \$45 and will be a chef-prepared meal of organic and local foods from the U of M’s Campus Club.

For next month’s discussion, readers will use Pollan’s novel as a starting point to explore alternative paths for the U.S. food system, including “conventional” agriculture and food distribution systems, organic agriculture and local foods. Additional topics will include the domestication of the corn plant, the reasons and rationale for current farm policies, the sustainability of “big organic” production and distribution systems, the challenges in developing local food systems and the joys of foraging for wild foods.

For additional program information, or to view the online discussion and register for the dinner event, visit learninglife.umn.edu, click on “participate” and click on “Beyond the Book.” Registration and information is also

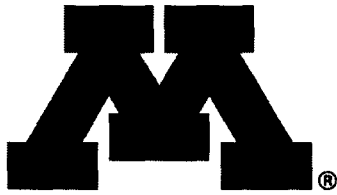
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learninglife.umn.edu, click on “participate” and click on “Beyond the Book.” Registration and information is also available at (612) 624-4000.

Future events in the Beyond the Book series include a discussion of “Something to Live For: Finding Your Way in the Second Half of Life,” a new book by Richard Leider and David Shapiro. Leider, senior fellow at the university’s Center for Spirituality and Healing, will lead the online discussion of his book starting July 31 through Aug. 21 and will host a dinner on Sept. 4 at the Campus Club.

Beyond the Book is program within LearningLife, a new learning community within the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. LearningLife offers an array of online and in-person programs that connects lifelong learners with University of Minnesota faculty and with a community of peers. For more information about LearningLife, visit learninglife.umn.edu or call (612) 624-4000.



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Contacts: Justin Ware, University News Service, (612) 626-1720

U OF M TCF BANK STADIUM UNVEILS FIRST COUNTY SIGNS

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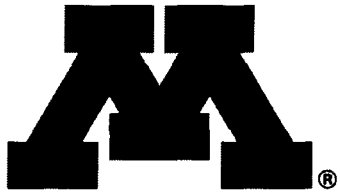
For b-roll footage of the county sign unveiling event, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/stadium_signs_broll.htm

For interviews and sound bites from Maturi and Gopher Quarterback Adam Weber, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/stadium_signs_interviews.htm

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May 30, 2008

*Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690*

REVENGE OF THE RIGHT BRAINERS: DANIEL PINK AND DARLYNE BAILEY TO DISCUSS PINK'S BESTSELLING BOOK, "A WHOLE NEW MIND"

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- In the final installment of this year's Great Conversations series, author Daniel Pink and Darlyne Bailey, dean of the U of M's College of Education and Human Development, will discuss the ideas at the center of Pink's best-selling book "A Whole New Mind." The discussion takes place 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 3 in the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

In "A Whole New Mind," Pink theorizes that the future belongs to a very different kind of person with a very different kind of mind. According to Pink, the era of "left brain" dominance, and the Information Age that it engendered, are giving way to a new world where "right brain" qualities -- inventiveness, empathy, meaning -- predominate. Pink and Bailey will discuss this change, and its implications for individuals, business and education.

Daniel Pink is a best-selling author and expert on innovation, competition and the changing nature of work. Pink's first book, "Free Agent Nation" (2001), was a worldwide best-seller that identified emerging social trends transforming the business world. A "free agent" himself, Pink's last "real" job was for the White House, where he served as chief speechwriter for Vice President Al Gore from 1995-97 and as an aide to Secretary of Labor Robert Reich.

Darlyne Bailey was named dean of the University of Minnesota's new College of Education and Human Development and assistant to University President Robert Bruininks in 2006. Also a professor in social work, and work and human resources, Bailey is the first holder of the Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development. She is the author of numerous articles and books on human resource management and human service organizations as well as the forthcoming book "Sustaining our Spirits: Women Leaders Thriving for Today and Tomorrow."

Pink and Bailey's conversation will be followed by a dessert reception and book signing with the authors.

Tickets are \$28.50 or \$23.50 for U of M faculty, staff and students, MPR members and UMAA members. For

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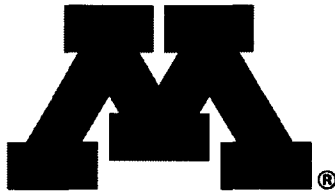
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Tickets are \$28.50 or \$23.50 for U of M faculty, staff and students, MPR members and UMAA members. For more information about Great Conversations or to purchase a ticket to this event, call the Northrop Auditorium Box Office at (612) 624-2345, or visit cce.umn.edu/conversations.

Media support for the 2008 series has been provided by Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine and Minnesota Public Radio.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 3

WHERE: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis



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Contacts: Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

U OF M PRESIDENT ROBERT BRUININKS EXPERIENCES A PULMONARY EMBOLISM WHILE ON VACATION

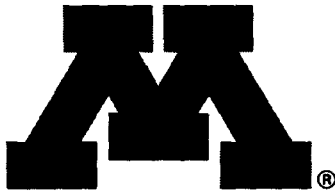
MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks is recovering comfortably from a leg blood clot and a pulmonary embolism he experienced while hiking in the mountains in Washington State. Bruininks was vacationing with his family at the time.

“A pulmonary embolism is a sudden blockage in a lung artery. The cause is usually a blood clot in the leg called a deep vein thrombosis that breaks loose and travels through the bloodstream to the lung,” said Dr. David Ingbar, director of the Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care and Sleep division of the University of Minnesota Medical School. “This is an uncommon, but increasingly recognized, complication of a long plane flight. Simply getting up and walking briefly once an hour and keeping hydrated during a flight likely reduces the risk.”

Treatment for the embolism temporarily prohibits travel and Bruininks will stay in Washington with his family while he is being initially treated. A full recovery is expected.

“Everyone knows what an avid sportsman and athlete Bob is,” said Provost Tom Sullivan. “While we’re sure his family is enjoying the extra time with him in Washington, we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to his return.”

Bruininks plans to return to Minnesota in the next seven to 10 days.



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May 30, 2008

Contacts: *Sue Wilson, Carlson School of Management, (612) 626-5904*
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

FAIRVIEW HEALTH PRESIDENT AND CEO MARK EUSTIS TO DISCUSS LEADING ONE OF STATE'S LARGEST NOT-FOR-PROFITS AT U OF M

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Mark Eustis, president and CEO, Fairview Health Services, will speak at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 1, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. In his speech, "Coming Home," Eustis will discuss his experiences returning to Minneapolis to assume the top leadership position at Fairview after living and working for 30 years in other parts of the country. He also will talk about the evolution and future of Fairview's 10-year pioneering partnership with the University of Minnesota and the benefits of bringing together academics, research and clinical practice for patients and the community.

Two key hallmarks of Eustis's 30-year career have been integrating academic medicine into community hospitals and strengthening relationships between the community, academic faculty and physicians. He joined Fairview in August 2007 from Ascension Health in St. Louis, where he was president of Regional Ministry Operations. Prior to that, he served as senior executive officer at Barnes Jewish Christian HealthCare and an adjunct faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis. He also served in roles of increasing responsibility at Detroit Medical Center and St. John Health in Detroit.

A native of Minnesota, Eustis attended the University of Minnesota, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in hospital and health care administration. He has been active in national and local health care-related organizations, including the American Hospital Association and Mid-America Transplant Services.

The advance registration deadline is Thursday, June 26. A fee of \$28 includes lunch and parking in the Washington Avenue Ramp. The fee for walk-ins is \$35, but space is limited. Refund cancellations are required by Friday, June 27. There are three ways to register: call 612-626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or send an e-mail to firsttuesday@umn.edu.

WHO: Mark Eustis, president and CEO, Fairview Health Services

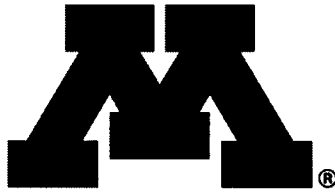
WHAT: Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon Series

- more -

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WHEN: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 1

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis



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May 30, 2008

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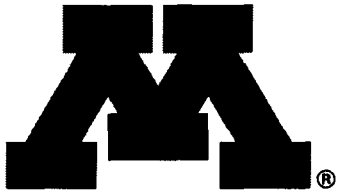
U OF M ATHLETICS LAUNCHES STATEWIDE COUNTY TOUR IN RAMSEY COUNTY

~ Kickoff event at St. Paul Highland Park Dairy Queen will feature appearances by coach Tim Brewster, U of M band and Goldy ~

With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will resound across campus and new game-day traditions will be born with a sense of pride felt among Gopher fans across the state. The U of M is proud to represent all 87 counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour that will kickoff in Ramsey County from 2-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 3, at the Highland Park Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, 1959 Ford Pkwy St. Paul.

The first county tour event will feature Gopher football coach Tim Brewster, Goldy, the U of M band, cheerleaders and the "Gopher Wagon." It will give Ramsey County Gopher fans the opportunity to meet Coach Brewster and to be a part of the ultimate homecoming with the opening of TCF Bank Stadium in September 2009.

WHO: Coach Tim Brewster, Goldy, cheerleaders, band and the Gopher Wagon
WHAT: Kickoff of University of Minnesota 87-county tour to promote participation in TCF Bank Stadium
WHEN: 2-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 3
WHERE: Highland Park Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, 1959 Ford Pkwy, Saint Paul



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DEDICATES NEW ECOLOGY RESEARCH FACILITY AT CEDAR CREEK ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE RESERVE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota will dedicate the Raymond Lindeman Research and Discovery Center and Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve with a program and tours at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 5 at Cedar creek, 2660 Fawn Lake Dr., Bethel, Minn.

Speakers will be Regents Professor David Tilman, Dean Robert Elde, Regents Professor Peter Reich and Gerald Fischer, president of the University of Minnesota Foundation. Tours of the building and experiment sites will follow the dedication program.

The Raymond Lindeman Research and Discovery Center provides critically needed space for ecosystem science research, education and public outreach. The facility consists of a large multipurpose room for lectures and meetings, laboratories and classrooms. It doubles the capacity for faculty and students and will make it possible to offer public education programs on ecosystem science, particularly for K-12 students.

The ceremony also marks the renaming of the field station from Cedar Creek Natural History Area to Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, which more accurately reflects its purpose.

In the early 1940s Raymond Lindeman, a University of Minnesota graduate student, used research conducted at Cedar Creek to show how energy and nutrients flow through ecosystems. His revolutionary insights shifted the focus of ecology from individual species to the relationship between organisms and their environment.

Sadly, Lindeman didn't live to see the impact of his achievements. He died from a rare liver disease in June 1942 and his seminal research was published in the journal *Ecology* in October 1942. But his work has inspired generations of ecologists in Minnesota and far beyond.

One of those ecologists is Tilman, who conducted his landmark studies on the value of biodiversity within ecosystems at Cedar Creek during the 1990s. More recently, Tilman has applied his knowledge of biodiversity

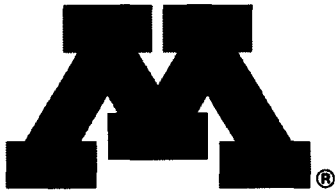
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ecosystems at Cedar Creek during the 1990s. More recently, Tilman has applied his knowledge of biodiversity and the environment to developing sustainable biofuels. Another heir to the Lindeman legacy is Peter Reich, who studies the impact of carbon dioxide and climate change on ecosystems.

Cedar Creek is a 5,400-acre field station owned by the University of Minnesota and operated by the College of Biological Sciences. It is located in East Bethel, 30 miles north of the Twin Cities. The area is valuable for ecology research because it encompasses plants, animals, habitats and natural features representative of three prominent North American biomes: eastern deciduous forest, northern coniferous forest and western prairie. Cedar Creek was discovered in 1930 by U of M Botany professor William Cooper, who became a founder of the Nature Conservancy. The Minnesota Academy of Sciences acquired the property during the 1930s and turned it over to the University of Minnesota in 1942.

For more information about Cedar Creek, go to <http://www.cedarcreek.umn.edu/>. For information about attending the dedication, call Rebecca Brzezinski at 612-624-4770.



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STORY TIPS

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June 3, 2008

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U OF M JOURNALISM STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLONG TRAINING EXERCISE AT CAMP RIPLEY WITH MINNESOTA SOLDIERS

During the Iraq War journalists have experienced unprecedented access to the battlefield. Allowed to be “embedded” within specific military units, journalists have been able to bring war coverage home to the public like no other war before it. Due to a unique partnership between the U of M’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Center for Democracy and Citizenship and the Minnesota National Guard, several U students will get their own “embed” experience from June 2 through June 7 as they participate with Army National Guard members training at Camp Ripley near Little Falls.

The weeklong program was designed with the help of National Guard Lt. Col. Kevin Olson. Six University of Minnesota students will be embedded with the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment during training. Like “real” embedded journalists, the U students will sign safety waivers and contracts restricting what they can report. The students will write, produce and edit stories on their experiences.

The “embed” is the brainchild of Lt. John Hobot, an Iraq War veteran and now full-time Minnesota National Guard member. Hobot saw firsthand how difficult it was to be exposed to media for the first time during battle and felt soldiers could benefit from media training.

Hobot contacted Dennis Donovan, a research fellow at the U of M's Humphrey Institute and lead organizer of the Warrior to Citizen Campaign, a program designed for a statewide grassroots effort that provides community support to returning soldiers and their families and challenges Minnesotans to think creatively about how returning veterans can contribute their new skills and experiences as citizens.

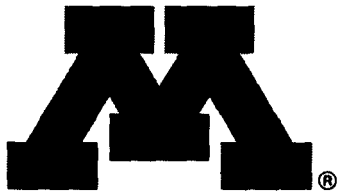
One of the students participating in the “embed” is Kevin Keen. “As a journalism student I could not have asked for a better real-world experience”, said Keen. The broadcast journalism and Spanish major hopes to put together a story on how young soldiers prepare to go to war and plans to develop it into his senior project.

To interview Keen or Donovan about the “embed” contact Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552, or mathre@umn.edu, or Ellen Tveit at (612) 626-1147 or tvei0002@umn.edu.

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June 3, 2008

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U OF M ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FIRST 20 STATEWIDE TOUR STOPS

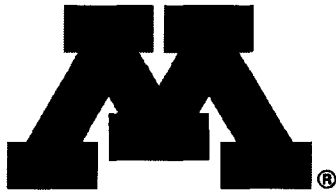
To celebrate the Golden Gophers' new outdoor, on-campus football stadium as a gathering place for all Minnesotans, athletics director Joel Maturi recently announced that the Minnesota Athletics Department will be visiting all 87 counties in the state of Minnesota over the next 15 months during a statewide tour to promote the opening of TCF Bank Stadium in the Fall of 2009.

Tuesday, athletics department officials announced the first 20 stops on the statewide tour, dubbed the Ultimate Homecoming.

Each tour stop will include appearances by members of the athletics department, games and prizes. The Gopher Wagon, completely decked out in maroon and gold, will be a part of many of the stops, which will also include virtual tours of the new facility and information on getting involved with TCF Bank Stadium.

The Ultimate Homecoming will kick off just a stone's throw from campus in Ramsey County at the DQ Grill & Chill on Ford Parkway in St. Paul on Tuesday, June 3 at 2 p.m. Head football coach Tim Brewster will headline the stop, which will also include an appearance by Goldy Gopher and members of the U of M cheer squad.

Other county events scheduled for the month of June include gatherings in Olmstead County (June 16), Dodge County (June 16), Morrison County (June 25), Todd County (June 25), Otter Tail County (June 26), Hubbard County (June 26), Cass County (June 26), Itasca County (June 27) and Kandiyohi County (June 28). For a complete listing of dates, times and locations for the first 20 statewide county tour events, visit www.gophersports.com to find out when the Gophers are coming home to your county.



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June 4, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

U OF M RESEARCHER SHOWS HOW WORLDWIDE FOOD CRISIS DISPROPORTIONATELY HITS LOWER INCOME AMERICANS

~ Poor not only spend a much larger percent on their income on food, but rising food prices increase that percentage more ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Recognizing that most of the attention surrounding the worldwide food crisis is focused on the hunger and starvation of foreign countries, a University of Minnesota applied economist has focused her efforts on the crisis' impact on U.S. households and food consumption. Jean Kinsey, a professor in the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), has found that Americans in the lowest income class have seen a greater increase percentage-wise in food expenditure than Americans have in higher income classes. This reality is worsened by the fact that lower-income Americans spend a greater percentage of their income on food to begin with.

"Some Americans have the luxury of an elastic expenditure -- they'll switch to hamburger when the price of higher quality meat goes up," said Kinsey, a professor and co-director of CFANS Food Industry Center. "But, if you're living in poverty to start with, a rise in food cost can be devastating to your lifestyle."

Kinsey found that Americans in the lowest income class (those who earn a household income of less than \$10,579) spent an average of 31.5 percent of their income on food in 2005 and 33 percent in 2008, a 1.63 percentage point increase. At the other end of the spectrum, those in the highest income class (those who earn a household income of over \$167,525) spent an average of 6.8 percent of their income on food in 2005 and 7.2 percent in 2008, a 0.4 percentage point increase.

"The increase in percentages mean that low-income families are spending \$38 more for food each month," said Kinsey. "With a (pending) economic recession, rising unemployment and millions of households facing impossible mortgage payments, an extra \$38 a month for food could break the budget."

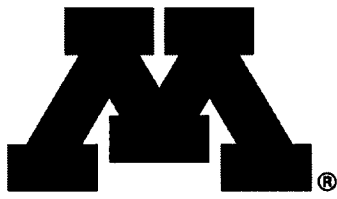
Evidence of this difficulty is seen in a dramatic increase in demand at food shelves. Minnesota FoodShare reports an increase of 200 visits per month in some of their 260 locations in 2008.

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The percentage increase for upper-income Americans means an increase of \$125 for food each month, which hasn't made a significant impact. Evidence of this is found in reports that sales of organic foods, which are generally more expensive, are steady and upscale restaurants are doing well. Even with a 15 percent increase in food prices since 2005, upper-income families' eating patterns change little, as they have more opportunities to substitute cheaper food in their shopping cart if prices are a concern.

Called the "silent tsunami," the worldwide food supply crisis stems from an 83 percent increase in food cost in the past three years, as estimated by the World Bank. In the United States, there has been a 9.5 price percent increase over the two years of 2007 and 2008. Explanations of the price increases range from the rising demand for diets with more meat and poultry in emerging nations which deplete the stock of grains used from feed, to an increase in oil cost, which increases the cost of energy, transportation, packaging and eventually food.

For her study, Kinsey used data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to update the Consumer Expenditure Survey data on food expenditures and inflate both income and food expenditures for low and high income consumers.



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June 4, 2008

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PUBLIC DEMAND PROMPTS U OF M TO MAKE AN ONLINE CLASS ON ALCOHOL USE AVAILABLE TO ALL PARENTS

~ Class designed as a tool to help parents change the culture of drinking ~

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- With tragic alcohol-related deaths of teenagers in the news and reports of high-risk drinking among college and high school students, the University of Minnesota is offering a tool to parents to help prevent their students from making bad decisions when it comes to drinking.

The tool is the online course "Seminar for Parents: Alcohol Use on Campus." The class was originally targeted to parents of U of M, Twin Cities' students three years ago, but many other universities started turning to the U of M for the course, and now public demand has also grown, said Marjorie Savage, university Parent Program coordinator. Savage developed the alcohol use class in conjunction with U of M family social science professor Jodi Dworkin, who specializes in youth development.

One of the largest challenges facing higher education as well as high schools today is alcohol misuse and abuse, so schools must try many different approaches to reduce high-risk drinking, Savage said.

"Recently there has been a national call for engaging parents of college students as partners in alcohol education. We at the University of Minnesota have taken on this challenge and developed an online course for parents to change the culture of drinking on college campuses," Savage said. The U of M was the first university in the nation to offer an online class to parents regarding student life. In fact, many colleges and universities including Georgia Tech, North Carolina State and Hamline University have turned to the U of M to help create a course that would be specific to their campus.

Reaching out to the parents of high school students through this class is important, Dworkin said.

"Research has found that young adults who were first drunk before age 19 are significantly more likely to become alcohol dependent, report frequent high-risk drinking and suffer severe injuries as a result of drinking," Dworkin said.

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The high school years are a critical time for parents to intervene and prepare their students for college, Dworkin said. Even students who don't drink are impacted by the negative consequences of alcohol use when their friends or roommates drink or when others drive under the influence of alcohol, she said.

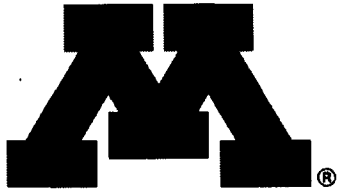
The U of M online course provides tips for family conversations about alcohol, advice from other parents and college students, statistics on college drinking and a list of available resources. "This class gives us one more way to reach students and that is through their parents," Savage said.

Today's parents of college students are much more involved in their child's life compared with a generation ago, so offering this course to parents is important, Savage said.

"While we know that parents cannot monitor a student's drinking on a regular basis, research shows that parents continue to influence their child's behavior during the college years," Savage said.

Parents do have an impact, Dworkin said. "Providing parents with research-based information that has been proven effective in preventing alcohol use and abuse empowers them as effective alcohol educators," Dworkin said. "They can tailor the content and the timing of content delivery to meet the needs of their student."

This program is confidential, it can easily be disseminated to parents at a low cost and it can quickly and easily be kept up-to-date. Parents can take the online course at their convenience. The course can be purchased for \$20. To get started, visit: <http://projects.cehd.umn.edu/parentseminar/onlinePortal/>



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June 6, 2008

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U STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE MORE THAN \$200M IN SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS NEXT YEAR

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Scholarship and grant assistance to University of Minnesota students on all campuses will reach a new high-water mark next year at more than \$200 million.

The projected amount is roughly double the \$104 million in grant and scholarship assistance students received in 2000-01. In addition, the university's student payroll will again surpass \$200 million. Scholarships, grants and student employment opportunities are considered critical forms of student assistance because they can reduce the need for low-interest student loans.

More than \$130 million will come directly from university resources, including scholarship endowments in the University of Minnesota Foundation and the Minnesota Medical Foundation. Approximately \$75 million in grant and scholarship expenditures will be funded by state and federal grant programs and external agencies.

Undergraduate students and their families will benefit most, receiving approximately \$145 million, with half coming from university resources. The university's graduate and first professional students will receive the rest. In 2008-09, more than 40,000 students on all campuses at all student levels will receive some form of grant or scholarship assistance, including tuition waivers.

According to university President Robert Bruininks, these numbers reflect a deep commitment to ensuring affordable access to a university education.

"Although tuition is usually the topic of greatest interest in the university's annual budget plan, a careful analysis of financial aid resources is always an important part of the budget process," Bruininks said. "As the level of grant and scholarship assistance indicates, the University of Minnesota is very committed to ensuring that it remains affordable for students from all income levels at all student levels."

Bruininks added that record levels of private giving, the success of the Promise of Tomorrow Scholarship Drive (which to date has raised roughly \$230 million), and the university's ground-breaking Founders Free Tuition

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Program have energized university leaders and the broader community around issues of access and affordability.

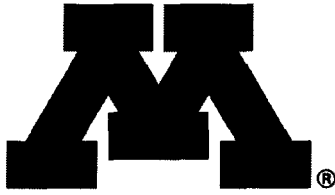
In fact, nearly all of the increase in university grant and scholarship assistance for undergraduate students in 2008-09 will be targeted to low-income Minnesota residents via a fully implemented Founders program. This program guarantees grant and scholarship assistance in an amount at least equal to tuition and required fees for Pell-eligible Minnesota students. The program will benefit 4,700 students in 2008-09 -- as a result, a full 12 percent of university students statewide will attend classes with free tuition this year.

With the university's student payroll, the total amount of debt and interest-free student assistance provided next year will be more than \$400 million. The student payroll will surpass \$200 million due in part to a long-standing university policy that reserves all non-academic jobs with an appointment of less than 75 percent for students.

Graduate students with appointments as teaching or research assistants are the major beneficiaries of student employee programs, but thousands of undergraduate students also benefit. Each year the university employs more than 12,500 undergraduate students and more than 8,500 graduate and professional students.

Bruininks likes what he sees in these numbers, but said there is more work to do.

"Now that founders has been implemented for low-income students, our next priority is to provide more need-based grant and scholarship support to students from higher income levels," Bruininks said. "We must also continue to control costs, improve productivity and provide incentives and support for timely graduation. All of these things can make a dramatic difference in keeping higher education affordable for all students."



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June 6, 2008

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DIPLOMAT, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS LEADER AND U OF M EDUCATOR, HARLAN CLEVELAND, DIES AT AGE 90

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- Founding U of M Humphrey Institute Dean Harlan Cleveland died on May 30 from natural causes. He was 90 years old.

Cleveland enjoyed a long career in public service, international affairs, global humanitarian relief and education. He began his career in the 1940s as an economic warfare specialist in Washington, D.C, and United Nations relief and rehabilitation administrator in Italy and China.

From 1961 to 1965, he served as assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs in the administration of President John F. Kennedy. As the intermediary between U.N. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, he was involved with the Cuban missile crisis and the Congo crisis. In 1965, Cleveland was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as U.S. Ambassador to NATO, serving in that post until 1969.

The recipient of a strong education, Cleveland remained a strong advocate for education and international affairs. He brought his experience to higher education many times. He served as dean of Syracuse University's Maxwell Graduate School for Citizenship and Public Affairs (1956 to 1961); was president of the University of Hawaii (1969 to 1974); and led the international affairs program of the Aspen Institute (1974 to 1980). From 1980 to 1987, Cleveland helped develop and lead the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In his later years, he served as president of the World Academy of Art and Science.

Among his many awards, Cleveland received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor for meritorious service, in recognition of his commitment and dedication to this country. In 2007, he was recognized by the Humphrey Institute with the Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award.

Cleveland is survived by his wife of 66 years, Lois and by his three children, Zoë, Melantha and Alan. A memorial will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday June 19. at Falcon's Landing in Sterling, Virginia.



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June 6, 2008

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Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

U OF M'S INITIATIVE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT ANNOUNCES RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL -- The University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) -- in partnership with the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) -- has selected nine projects as part of the U of M's first renewable energy scholarship program.

The scholarship winners will receive a stipend of up to \$1,700 each. The students must assist with a faculty member's research or carry out their own projects under faculty supervision. The selected projects include:

- "Characterization of the Mechanisms of Nanoparticle Oxidation, Hydrogen Yield and Recovery of Zinc Oxide" - Yi Cheng Ng, with faculty advisor Jane Davidson, mechanical engineering. Ng aims to benefit the technology for solar hydrogen production via a two-step water splitting thermochemical cycle.
- "Design of Integrated Reaction Separation Processes for Biorefinery Applications" - Alison Cozad, with faculty advisor Prodromos Daoutidis, chemical engineering. Cozad will explore a range of methods to model, predict and optimize the outcomes of biorefinery applications.
- "An Enzyme Activity Roadmap: Cellulolytic Activities of Fungi" - Benjamin Carrier, with faculty advisor Jonathan Schilling, bioproducts and biosystems engineering. Carrier will look at how fungal cellulases might be more effectively used in commercial, bio-refining applications.
- "Extraction of Oil from Microalgae" - Leo Kucek, with faculty advisor Roger Ruan, bioproducts and biosystems engineering. As part of a new generation of sustainable energy research, Kucek will investigate the use of microalgae for the production of biofuels.
- "Mass Production of Biodiesel Using Algae" - Steven Biorn, with faculty advisor Roger Ruan, bioproducts and biosystems engineering. Biorn will conduct experiments in algal species selection, media specification and lighting administration for potential biofuel applications.

- more -

- “Plastic Transistors Based on Perylene Diimides” - Andrew McDaniel, with faculty advisor Daniel Frisbie, chemical engineering. McDaniel will take a systematic approach to solving some of the challenges related to organic semiconductors.
- “The Role of Methenamine in the Synthesis of Zinc Oxide Nanowires Used in Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells” - Jillian Schmidt, with faculty advisor Eray Aydil, chemical engineering. Schmidt will investigate the role of methenamine in the synthesis of zinc oxide nanowire arrays to improve the efficiency of solar cells.
- “Studying the Rate of Reaction in Biomass-Deoxygenation and Alkane-Dehydrogenation in the Production of Synthetic Fuels” - Derek Jones, with faculty advisor Aditya Bhan, chemical engineering. Jones aims to optimize reaction conditions to produce the maximum amount of hydrocarbon fuel.
- “Understanding the Open-Circuit Voltage in Plastic Solar Cells” - Ahmad Ahmad Hazmi, with faculty advisor Russell Holmes, chemical engineering. Hazmi’s goal is to learn how to manipulate organic molecules, and how to apply this knowledge to photovoltaics technology.

Dick Hemmingsen, director of IREE, says the new scholarship allows U of M students to participate in IREE’s mission of promoting statewide economic development, sustainable and diverse ecosystems, and national energy security.

“We were very impressed by the applicants’ broad range of expertise,” said Hemmingsen. “Each project shows a high level of complexity and relevance, which speaks to the U of M’s breadth and depth in renewable energy research and education.”

To fulfill the scholarship objectives, the projects must focus on expanding the green economy and on providing practical solutions for the industry and community. Upon completion, the students must give at least one presentation at an upcoming IREE meeting or conference.

“Our goal is not only to help students become involved in research, but also to strengthen their connections both on and off campus,” said UROP coordinator Vicky Munro. “Through the renewable energy scholarship, these students will build an intellectual, professional and social network that will benefit them long after graduation.”

Proceeds for the scholarship fund come from the annual E3 -- Energy, Economic and Environmental -- conference. E3 2007 received generous support from Piper Jaffray, Faegre & Benson LLP, and numerous other sponsors and supporters.

Led by IREE, the E3 conference focuses on the intersection of innovative technologies, visionary policies, environmental benefits and emerging market opportunities in the renewable energy sector. This year’s conference takes place Nov. 18 at the St. Paul RiverCentre, St. Paul.