

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee**

**Thursday, December 11, 2008**

**3:00 – 4:45 p.m.**

**600 McNamara Alumni Center, East Committee Room**

**Committee Members**

John Frobenius, Chair  
David Metzen, Vice Chair  
Clyde Allen  
Dallas Bohnsack  
Venora Hung  
Dean Johnson

**Student Representatives**

Jordan Bronston  
Adam Yust

**A G E N D A**

1. Enhancing Student / Community Relations - J. Morlock (pp. 2-4)
2. Panel on New Student Expectations: Learning, Trends, & Technology - B. Wahlstrom/L. Gurak (p. 5)
3. Consent Report - Review/Action - C. Carrier (pp. 6-7)
4. Information Items - C. Carrier (pp. 8-16)



**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs Committee**

**December 11, 2008**

**Agenda Item:** Enhancing Student/Community Relations

review       review/action       action       discussion

**Presenters:** Jan Morlock, Director, Community Relations

**Purpose:**

policy       background/context       oversight       strategic positioning

The appearance and quality of life in the neighborhoods is also a reflection on the campus. Thousands of students, parents, and campus visitors come to the campus area neighborhoods and business districts expecting to find a safe, attractive, vibrant community, to match their expectations of the University of Minnesota.

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

In response to concerns raised by students, neighborhood residents, and others who care about the campus and the quality of life in this part of the city, community relations has been working in partnership with others to address these challenges. Our initiatives focus on four areas:

- Improving quality of life in the neighborhoods near campus, for students and other residents.
- Student/neighbor civic engagement.
- Preserving and promoting homeownership and long-term investment.
- Influencing and shaping new development to create a premier place to learn, work, do business, and visit.

**Background Information:**

One of the pillars of our strategic positioning is “Exceptional Organization,” which describes the university’s desire to “be responsible stewards of resources, focused on service, driven by performance, and known as the best among our peers.” We recognize that the university is a part of the communities that surround our campuses, and we strive to enhance our relationships with both home owners and student renters in an effort to improve the quality of life in our surrounding neighborhoods.

**Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs Committee**  
**December 11, 2008**

**A Flagship Community for our Flagship Campus: Partnerships and Outreach**

Over the last five to ten years, there has been a growing concern about the physical conditions and quality of life in the neighborhoods adjacent to the campus in Minneapolis. As campus life has been enriched, and more students start their college career living on campus, the demand for rental housing in the neighborhoods has increased. An overheated real estate market attracted investors to purchase single family homes and convert them to rental properties. Rental property owners could maximize income by packing in tenants, practicing minimal management, and deferring maintenance. Many young adult tenants, living independently for the first time, signed leases without understanding their responsibilities to participate in the upkeep of the property. As more houses went into decline, many parts of the neighborhood reached a “tipping point” where long-term residents lost heart, sold their houses to investor owners, and fled the neighborhood. In one six-year period in the South East Como neighborhood, 17% of the single family homes were converted to rental properties. Without the long-term residents, who often serve as the “glue” and sentinels of the community, the neighborhood loses its voice—neighbors who support community institutions, who serve on crime watch, who call the police and the public works department when help is needed, who demand an adequate level of services.

As more property declined and a balance of long-term residents was lost, public safety has become more of a problem. More students, in their homes or walking on the street, have become victims of crime.

The neighborhoods within walking distance of campus were traditionally home to a great many University employees. Campus life and faculty collaboration extended through the residential communities surrounding campus. New freeways and suburbanization since the 1960s led many young families to relocate out of the center of the urban area, and the cycle of rental property conversions and disinvestment of the last 10 years has further contributed to a loss of University employees living close to campus. In 2006, roughly 30% of Twin Cities Campus employees still lived in the center cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, but only 3% lived in the five neighborhoods adjacent to the campus in Minneapolis. In a time of increasing traffic congestion and rising gas prices, and a greater concern for life/work balance and wellness, we have an opportunity to attract more University employees to spend less time in their cars and live closer to campus.

The appearance and quality of life in the neighborhoods is also a reflection on the campus. Thousands of student parents and campus visitors come to the campus area neighborhoods and business districts expecting to find a safe, attractive, vibrant community, to match their expectations of the University of Minnesota. With the opening of TCF Bank Stadium, we have the opportunity to reintroduce many more thousands of alumni and visitors to the campus area.

In response to concerns raised by students, neighborhood residents, and others who care about the campus and the quality of life in this part of the city, we are working in partnership with others to address these challenges.

The initiatives focus on four areas:

- Improving quality of life in the neighborhoods near campus, for students and other residents.
- Student/neighbor civic engagement.
- Preserving and promoting homeownership and long-term investment.
- Influencing and shaping new development to create a premier place to learn, work, do business, and visit.

Dynamic new partnerships are being developed among the University, local government, the neighborhoods, students and faculty, other local institutions, and private businesses and developers. This presentation will highlight key initiatives that will promote the areas of focus listed above.



**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
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**Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs Committee**

**December 11, 2008**

**Agenda Item:** Panel on New Student Expectations: Learning, Trends, & Technologies

review       review/action       action       discussion

**Presenters:** Billie Wahlstrom, Vice Provost, Distributed Education and Instructional Technology  
Laura Gurak, Professor, Writing Studies

**Purpose:**

policy       background/context       oversight       strategic positioning

The purpose of this presentation is to provide context to the Board regarding changes in the expectations and practices of communication that accompany recent advances in technology.

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

This presentation, based on 25 years of research on computer-mediated communication, will examine the social impacts of digital technology and explore how features such as speed, reach, anonymity, and interactivity have reshaped our social, school, and workplace interactions—for better and sometimes for worse. The presentation examines older technologies, such as email, and newer ones, such as Facebook and other social networking tools. In the second part of the presentation, we will discuss how the University is working with these technologies as we engage the “net generation.”

**Background Information:**

In past discussions the Board has expressed interest in learning about changes in the ways that faculty and staff communicate with students and one another, and the impact that these changes have on the learning and living experiences of students.



**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs Committee**

**December 11, 2008**

**Agenda Item:** Consent Report

review       review/action       action       discussion

**Presenters:** Vice President Carol Carrier

**Purpose:**

policy       background/context       oversight       strategic positioning

To seek approval of a statement affirming the University's intention to allow employees to pay contributions to the retirement program with pretax dollars.

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

**Faculty Retirement Plan**

The IRS has issued a revenue ruling that has clarified certain requirements for the Faculty Retirement Program. These requirements require an affirmative statement by the University that allows our employees who participate in the Faculty Retirement Program to continue to utilize pretax dollars to pay their 2 1/2% contribution to the Faculty Retirement Plan. The revenue ruling refers to this as contributions be "picked up" by the employer. This action does not increase any cost to the University and continues the program in its current manner.

**Background Information:**

On July 1, 1989, the University adopted the Faculty Retirement Plan. The Plan was most recently amended effective January 1, 2001. The current consent agenda item allows the University to comply with the recent IRS revenue ruling and continue the program in its current form.

**President's Recommendation for Action:**

The President recommends approval of the Consent Report.

**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs Committee**

**Consent Report**  
**December 11, 2008**

***Faculty Retirement Plan***

The Board of Regents adopted the University of Minnesota Faculty Retirement Plan on July 1, 1989 and amended that plan effective January 1, 2001. IRS Revenue Ruling 2006-43 has clarified certain requirements for the employee contributions to that plan within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code § 414(h)(2). Since the establishment of the Retirement Plan, the University has required employees to contribute 2 1/2% of their pay to the Retirement Plan and in accordance with IRS rules has allowed that 2 1/2% to be paid with pretax dollars. In order to continue to allow the employees to take advantage of pretax dollars for this payment, the University of Minnesota must take formal action in writing prior to January 1, 2009 to continue this practice. The continuation of this practice is revenue neutral for the University.

Accordingly, by approval of this consent item the Board of Regents approves that the 2 1/2% employee contribution required under Retirement Plan Section 3.2 shall be “picked up” within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code § 414(h)(2).



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**Agenda Item:** Information Items

review       review/action       action       discussion

**Presenters:** Vice President Carol Carrier

**Purpose:**

policy       background/context       oversight       strategic positioning

To inform committee members of noteworthy items, administrative actions, and local, regional, and national policy-related issues affecting University units and departments.

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

- University highlights
- Faculty and staff activities and awards
- Student activities and awards

**Background Information:**

This report appears as a regular item on the Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs Committee agenda.



# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## BOARD OF REGENTS

December 11, 2008

### Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs Committee Information Report

*This report does not capture and record a complete listing of the significant awards and activities of the University community but, rather, makes note of unit reported items in these areas. It also highlights reports and activities at the local, regional, and national level in the area of faculty, staff, and student affairs.*

#### **Highlights**

The first American Council on Renewable Energy's (ACORE) Campus Excellence Award for Outstanding Use of Renewable Energy was presented to the University of Minnesota, Morris on October 3. UMM's biomass gasification facility, a first-of-its kind, is an on-site biomass plant that will provide 80 percent of the campus heating and cooling needs. ACORE's goal is to promote comparable efforts by all U.S. colleges and universities in both teaching about and transitioning to renewable energy sources.

The Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) was one of 10 innovative employers recognized by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. The council chose the employers based on the selection criteria of providing direct employment to an individual with a developmental disability in a permanent year-round position. The award was presented to Brian Rodrigues, his supervisor Sergio Gonzales, and the VMC.

The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities shattered the Guinness World Record for the most flu shots given in a single day by dispensing 11,810 flu vaccines on October 28. More than 60 trained personnel from Boynton Health Service, school of nursing, college of pharmacy, Medical Reserve Corps, and the Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association dispensed flu shots. In addition to vaccinating so many people and raising awareness about the importance of flu vaccines, the mass one-day effort served as a test of the university's emergency response mechanism.

The University of Minnesota was recognized as a Champion of Sustainability in Communities in the 2009 edition of the College Sustainability Report Card. This is the third annual report card issued by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, a non-profit organization that provides comparative evaluation of campus and endowment sustainability activities. The university's overall grade was "B+", the highest grade among Big Ten schools. The University also received one of five Champions of Sustainability in Communities Awards in recognition of work done with the Sustainable Development Partnerships Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs). The CERTs program brings together community members to develop a vision for Minnesota's energy future

through greater energy efficiency and production from clean energy technologies including wind, biomass, biofuels, and solar power.

Parking and Transportation Services has been named one of The 100 Best Fleets in North America for 2008. Approximately 14,000 organizations are eligible for this award; 850 applied for this designation. Only four universities from around the country made the list.

The Bell Museum's Minnesota Minute project won an Emmy award from the National Television Academy's Upper Midwest Chapter in the community/public service campaign category. Minnesota Minute is a series of one-minute video spots honoring Minnesotans who have worked to protect and restore the natural landscape.

The Design Institute's DIGIFAB map, a guide to digital fabrication processes and facilities at the University of Minnesota and around the Twin Cities, has won a 2008 *Print* magazine Regional Design Annual Award.

The Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry will recognize Mortenson Construction and all the on-site workers for their excellence in safety management by designating the U of M TCF Bank Stadium project a MNSHARP Construction worksite. The Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program recognizes companies whose managers and employees work together to develop safety and health programs that go beyond basic compliance and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses. Since construction began in July 2007, the stadium project has acquired 830,000 work hours with up to 740 workers on-site at any given time.

### **Faculty and Staff Activities and Awards**

Jon Anderson, an instructor in the University's PhysTEC program, won second prize from the 2008 Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics Teachers Conference for the best presentation by a secondary school teacher on the subject of particle physics.

Professor emeritus R. K. Anderson, college of veterinary medicine and school of public health, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

School of nursing faculty members Melissa Avery, Margaret Moss, Carol O'Boyle, and Cheryl Robertson were inducted as fellows into the American Academy of Nursing. Fellows are selected for their significant contributions to nursing and health care at a national or international level and their potential for continued contributions.

Stephen Befort, law school, is the recipient of the 2008 Minnesota Justice Foundation Outstanding Service Award in the law professor category. The award honors a law professor who has shown exceptional public interest advocacy and who encourages students to become involved in public interest law.

Lynn Blewett, health policy and management, was elected to the AcademyHealth board of directors for a four-year term. AcademyHealth is a 4,000-member professional society for health services researchers and health policy analysts.

Donna Bliss, nursing, was elected co-chair of the Gerontological Nursing Research Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Tricia Bunten, development director for UMD's Swenson College of Science and Engineering, was recently elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Minnesota Planned Giving Council.

Ann M. Burkhart, law school, has been elected a Fellow in the American College of Mortgage Attorneys (ACMA). Membership in the College requires substantial and distinguished experience in real estate law and in publications, presentations, bar association activities, teaching, or participation in the legislative process. Only seven other Minnesota lawyers are ACMA fellows.

Laura Burrack, genetics, cell biology, and development, was recently awarded the Bernard N. Fields Prize in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics in recognition of her dissertation work at Harvard Medical School.

Jane A.K. Carlson, health, physical education, and recreation at UMD, received the Minnesota Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance 2008 Lou Keller Award, given to recognize the outstanding services and contributions by a Minnesota college/university professor or other professional worker in the fields of health, physical education, recreation or dance.

Pete Carr, chemistry, will receive the 2009 ACS Award in Analytical Chemistry at the American Chemical Society national meeting next March in Salt Lake City. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the science of analytical chemistry, pure or applied, carried out in the United States or Canada.

Christopher Carroll, electrical and computer engineering at UMD, has been selected to receive the 2008 Outstanding Educator award from the North Midwest Section of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). This award identifies an educator in the section who is recognized by colleagues as having contributed significantly to the educational mission addressed by ASEE.

Sandra Christenson, educational psychology, received the Minnesota School Psychologists Association 2007-08 Ysseldyke Best Practices Award, designed to honor professionals whose principles, standards, and dedication have enhanced the field of school psychology.

Jane Davidson, mechanical engineering, Donald Fosnacht, UMD Natural Resources Research Institute, and Lanny Schmidt, chemical engineering and materials science, were appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty to the 15-member Clean Energy Technology

Collaborative. The goal of the collaborative is to identify the most promising research and development relating to clean energy technology that may benefit Minnesota.

Jeffrey J. Derby, chemical engineering and materials science, has been elected to a three-year term as president of the American Association for Crystal Growth, a national organization that supports the technical and professional interests of approximately 600 members involved in crystal growth and characterization research.

Aaron Doering, curriculum and instruction, received the Crystal Award from the Association for Educational Communications and Technology. The award recognizes scholars who demonstrate innovation and outstanding achievement in the practice of distance learning.

Recipients of the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Florence Hall Award, 2008, include Jodi Dworkin, family social science, Extension educators Colleen Gengler and Kathleen Olson, and graduate student Chris Gonzalez. The group won for their evaluation of a fact sheet series for parents of 7th and 8th graders: "Teen Talk: A survival guide for parents of teens."

Ann Garwick, nursing, received the Senior Researcher Award from the Pediatric Research Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

David Guay, experimental and clinical pharmacology, is the recipient of the 2008 George F. Archambault Award, the highest honor of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. It is conferred in recognition of outstanding contributions to consultant and senior care pharmacy practice.

Robert Hecky, UMD Large Lakes Observatory and department of biology, was recently elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). The RSC is Canada's most prestigious scholarly organization and is equivalent to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Ben Johnson, concerts and lectures, has been selected to receive a special recognition award during Michigan's 23rd Annual Governor's Awards for Arts & Culture at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The award celebrates Johnson's contributions to arts education in his former role as Director of Education and Audience Development with the University Musical Society in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He joined the University of Minnesota in June 2007.

Laura Kalambokidis, applied economics, received the 2008 Individual Award for Excellence in Community Development Programming from the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals.

Jane Kirtley, journalism and mass communication, and Myron Orfield, law school, have been named by *MPLS/St. Paul* magazine as among the "best brains" in the Twin Cities.

Kim Klose, nursing, received the Gross Family Award for Management and Leadership Team Project for her collaboration on the Charities Review Council's Accountability Wizard, an online tool that assesses non-profit organizations' effectiveness in the areas of finance, board activities, and management.

Vipin Kumar, computer science and engineering, has been awarded the 2008 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (IDCM) Outstanding Service Award. The award was given to Kumar for his contributions that have promoted data mining as a field and ICDM as the world's premier research conference in data mining.

Karlee LaBreche, nursing, received the 2008 Nurses Clinical Practice Award from the International Society for Psychiatric Mental Health.

Barbara Leonard, nursing, received a Distinguished Alumni Citation from Gustavus Adolphus College in recognition of outstanding and exceptional professional achievements.

Linda Lindeke, nursing, was named president of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, a professional association for pediatric nurse practitioners and other advanced practice nurses who care for children.

Emily Litt, nursing, is president-elect of the Minnesota Public Health Association. Her one-year term will begin in July 2009.

UMM professor of computer science Nic McPhee, with co-authors Tyler Hutchison '07 and Brian Ohs '08, received the Best Paper Award at the EuroGP 2008 conference on genetic programming.

Mike Miller, multi-ethnic program at UMM, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Indian Education Association board of directors for his many years of service to Minnesota Indian students and American Indian initiatives.

Karen Monsen, nursing, was elected co-chair of the Public Health/Community Health Research Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS). She also received the Ph.D. Dissertation Award from the MNRS Informatics Research Section.

Randy Moore, biology, has been named winner of the National Association of Biology Teachers Evolution Education Award. The award, which is given for innovative classroom teaching and community education efforts to promote the understanding of evolution, is co-sponsored by the American Institute for Biological Sciences and the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study. The award is presented to one K-16 biology teacher annually.

Margaret Moss nursing, was named a 2008-09 Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow.

Lin Nelson-Mayson, Goldstein Museum of Design, was elected president of the board of the Association of Midwest Museums, an organization that provides resources to museums and cultural institutions and services to museum professionals in an eight-state region in the Midwest.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, law school, has been appointed as an expert to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's Working Group, Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism.

Michael Osterholm, center for infectious disease research and policy, has been appointed to the Pandemics Global Agenda Council, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, which was created to address preparedness for the next pandemic on a global level.

Two University of Minnesota employees have been knighted into Spain's Order of Isabella the Catholic, the highest civil honor granted by the Spanish Royal House and the only noble honor open to foreigners. Carla Rahn Phillips, history, has devoted her career to research and teaching about the history of Spain and its overseas connections. Holly Zimmerman-LeVoir, Learning Abroad Center, has worked for 25 years to develop and implement an international program in Toledo, Spain.

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has named William Riley, health policy and management, as its interim executive director. PHAB is a non-profit consortium of heads of local public health agencies whose mission is to develop, promote and oversee quality standards for public health agencies at the municipal, state, and federal levels.

Jaijeet Roychowdhury and Nikos Sidiropoulos, both from electrical and computer engineering, were elected fellows by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Roychowdhury was honored for his contributions to simulation and automated macromodeling of integrated circuits and Sidiropoulos was honored for his contributions to signal processing for communications.

Andrea Schokker, professor and head, department of civil engineering at UMD, was appointed to a three-year term on the American Concrete Institute Board of Directors.

Stephen Schondelmeyer, pharmaceutical care and health, has been selected as next year's Distinguished Person of the Year by Pharmacists Planning Service, Inc. PPSI offers continuing education programs and works with public health issues such as AIDS and smoking cessation.

Kathryn J. Sedo, law school, has been appointed vice chair of the American Bar Association's Committee on Low Income Taxpayers and will become chair in July 2009. The Committee lends an informed voice to matters that affect low-income taxpayers, such as earned income and other tax credits, personal-exemption deductions, dependent qualifications, and tax collections.

Debbie Sisson, UMD pharmacy program, has been appointed the 2008-09 Chair of the Section Advisory Group on Pharmacy Practice Experiences for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Section on Inpatient Care Practitioners.

Joanne Slavin, food science and nutrition, has been selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its 2010 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee.

David Tilman, ecology, evolution, and behavior, has been named the 2008 recipient of the International Prize for Biology, one of the most prestigious honors a scientist can receive. He was selected for research proving that biodiversity makes ecosystems more productive and resistant to drought, disease, and pests.

Sarah Westberg, pharmaceutical care and health, received the Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Pharmacists Association.

Bonnie Westra, nursing, is chair-elect of the Nursing Informatics Research Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

### **Student Activities and Awards**

MFA graduate student Heba Amin, interaction design, provided the illustrations for *Extraordinary Women from the Muslim World*, which won a National Best Books 2008 Award in the Religion: Islam category from *USA Book News*. The book also won the Moonbeam Peacemaker Award, established to honor the best children's book for promoting world peace and human tolerance.

A team made up of Caleb Braff, undergraduate student in electrical engineering, and recent graduates Matt Beckler and Patrick Delaney was among 12 teams of finalists for this year's National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation's annual Collegiate Inventors Competition. The trio developed a low powered device that can provide many hours of light to an area without electricity.

Two graduate students in nursing received dissertation awards from the Midwest Nursing Research Society: Ann Marie Dose, from the End of Life/Palliative Care Section, and Pamela Nelson, from the Health Seeking Behavior Research Section.

A three-student team from the Carlson School of Management (Elena Bloudek, marketing and risk management & insurance, Brian Hakk, finance and economics, and Adam Letson, finance) took third place among 24 teams from business schools around the country in the Fisher Biz Quiz. Hakk also finished third individually.

Vadim Lavrusik, college of liberal arts, is one of the 2008 Top Ten Scholars chosen by the Scripps Howard Foundation for their academic achievement, portfolio of work, demonstrated interest in journalism, and long-term career goals. Lavrusik, a journalism major, is co-publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Minnesota Daily*. The Scripps Howard Foundation is a leader in industry efforts in journalism education, scholarships, internships, literacy, minority recruitment/development and First Amendment causes.

Nursing graduate student Molly Secor-Turner received a predoctoral National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Nursing Research, NIH.

Lucas Sjostrom, college of food, agricultural, and natural resources sciences, recently won the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation's state college discussion meet and will advance to national competition in February.

Five horticulture students at University of Minnesota, Crookston (Kim Keunying, Kristine Neu, Stepheni Tietje, Kaarina Visness, and Jennifer Zoch) took first place at the annual Mid-America Collegiate Horticulture Society Competition. Zoch also was named first place individual overall. Competition consisted of a written horticulture knowledge exam, judging of all types of horticulture crops, and identification of both herbaceous and woody plants.

The Minnesota Pharmacy Student Alliance chapter (Twin Cities and Duluth campuses) recently won three awards from the American Pharmacists Association: the Region 5 Operation Diabetes Award; the Project CHANCE Stroke Prevention Award, and the Chapter Achievement Award for Division A, in recognition of the chapter's overall excellence and its effort in patient care projects, public health, legislative advocacy, and leadership.

Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity received the Outstanding Professional Program Award from the Professional Fraternity Association in recognition of the group's work at the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic. Fraternity members staff the pharmacy at the clinic every Monday night and are responsible for dispensing and counseling patients, maintaining inventory, and assisting student clinicians on medications.

Four students from the College of Biological Sciences and six from the Institute of Technology teamed up to develop projects for the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition held annually at MIT. The U of M team received second place for one of its "BioBrick" designs. BioBricks are standardized parts participants use to design and build genetic machines.

Teams from the University of Minnesota, Morris took first place in the primary competition during the 2008 Digi-Key Collegiate Computing Competition. This is the sixth consecutive year that a UMM team has placed in the top three at Digi-Key and the second win in three years. Competition involves both programming and word problems.